



**[C] COMMUNITY  
CINEMA**

**ENGAGING COMMUNITIES  
THROUGH FILM**



**[i]NDEPENDENTLENS**



PRESENTED BY

**[ITVS]**

## COMMUNITY CINEMA

Community Cinema, produced by the Independent Television Service (ITVS), is a free monthly screening series featuring films from the Emmy Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*.

### 1. CATALYST FOR CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Every month between September and May, Community Cinema presents an upcoming *Independent Lens* program. We work with leading organizations, local communities and public television stations to provide community engagement around the important social issues raised in the films. After each screening, we feature panel discussions with leading community-based organizations, special guest speakers, information, resources and other programming designed to help people learn more and get involved.



### 2. NATIONAL FORUM FOR PRESSING SOCIAL ISSUES

ITVS convenes thousands of community members nationwide for dialogue, education and awareness around hard-to-tackle issues such as the death penalty, homophobia, racism, globalization and freedom of religion. Participants walk away educated and empowered with resources and action steps. Last season, Community Cinema produced 450 events, worked with more than 1000 partner organizations and welcomed more than 40,000 participants to events around the country.



### 3. SHOWCASE FOR ENTERTAINING AND IMPACTFUL DOCUMENTARIES

Community Cinema provides a chance to explore the world of the acclaimed PBS series *Independent Lens* outside your living room. *Independent Lens* takes you on a journey to unexpected places to meet ordinary people living extraordinary lives; stories not told anywhere else on television. The award-winning series features documentaries and a limited number of fiction films, each one bringing to light unforgettable stories about a unique individual, underrepresented community or moment in history.



**“HIP HOP: BEYOND BEATS & RHYMES WAS THE BEST-ATTENDED COMMUNITY CINEMA WE HAVE OFFERED SINCE JOINING THIS NATIONWIDE NETWORK IN FEBRUARY 2006. PEOPLE SAT ON THE FLOOR, STOOD AGAINST THE WALLS, AND STUCK AROUND UNTIL 10:00 PM ON A COLD FRIDAY NIGHT TO DISCUSS AND DEBATE THE ISSUES RAISED IN (AND LEFT OUT OF) THE FILM.”**

**—LESLIE JONES, S.T.A.M.P.'S GUERRILLA GRIOTS COLLECTIVE, ITHACA, NY**



## Highlights of Recent Community Cinema Screenings

### CRIPS AND BLOODS: MADE IN AMERICA



**Los Angeles, CA**  
**April 14, 2009**  
**Barnsdall Park**

Community members crowded into the theater at Barnsdall Park, a Los Angeles landmark, to watch *CRIPS AND BLOODS*, a film that examines the conditions leading to the devastating gang violence among young African Americans growing up in South Los Angeles. After the screening, Val Zavala, anchor and reporter of SoCal Connected, led a panel discussion that touched on the root causes of gang violence in South Los Angeles, the actions being taken by local government and community groups and the shared outlook for what may change. The panel included the film's director, Stacy Peralta, Deputy Mayor, Reverend Jeff Carr and community organizer (and film subject) Skipp Townsend. The discussion was streamed live on the ITVS blog, where the online audience submitted questions to the panelists.

### TAKING ROOT



**St. Louis, MO**  
**March 5, 2009**  
**Missouri History Museum**

Over 250 community members attended this screening of *TAKING ROOT*, which tells the story of Wangari Mathaai's leadership of a nationwide environmental and social justice movement in Kenya. The discussion focused on the impact that can be made on society when you connect people to the land through planting trees, cultivating gardens and creating green spaces in the community. One audience member commented, "Wow! I had no idea all this was going on. I will be back to see more films and learn more about my world!" To encourage the audience to get involved, local partner The Green Center gave out small tree saplings to lucky audience members.

### ARUSI PERSIAN WEDDING



**Chicago, IL**  
**February 21, 2009**  
**Chicago Cultural Center**

Set against the turbulent relationship between the United States and Iran, *ARUSI* captures the struggle and excitement of Alex and his bride Heather as they plan a traditional Persian wedding in Iran. Many audience members were Iranian-Americans eager to discuss the various cross-cultural issues in the film with other Americans. The panel discussion clarified misconceptions that some Americans have about life in Iran. One attendee expressed surprise to see so many women in the film not wearing headscarves. Panelist Norma Moruzzi, a professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, explained the wide variety of viewpoints and religious practices that coexist peacefully in Iran. The event ended with many audience members wanting to continue the conversation. It was at least another hour of excited discussion in the reception area before the Cultural Center staff could turn out the lights!



Meet some of the Regional Outreach Coordinators and Producing Partners who organize and present Community Cinema screenings all over the nation.

"BRINGING PUBLIC TELEVISION INTO A PUBLIC ARENA INCREASES OUR EXPOSURE TO IDEAS, AND ISSUES AND CONNECTS US WITH THE PERSONAL AND THE LOCAL."



**MICHON BOSTON** *ITVS Regional Outreach Coordinator, Washington, DC*

Community Cinema puts me face to face with interesting people and gives me a sense of what my community thinks and cares about. Our screening events are held at Busboys and Poets, a unique gathering space of minds, ideas and visions over appetizing and affordable food and beverages. Located in the historic U Street corridor of Washington, D.C., it is a tribute to famed Harlem Renaissance poet/writer Langston Hughes who was discovered in Washington, D.C. while working as a busboy.



**SYDNEY MEYER** *KETC/Channel 9, Producing Partner, St. Louis*

In St. Louis, the Community Cinema Series builds connections among diverse communities of individuals, leading community organizations who work on a wide range of important social issues and KETC/Channel 9. In 2008-09 the screenings brought together more than 2,000 people together to inform, encourage and inspire them to make real contributions on a wide range of social issues. The History Museum is a perfect partner with Channel 9 for the Community Cinema Series because both institutions strive to provide our city with opportunities to participate in informative discussions that make our region a better place to live.



**NAOMI WALKER** *ITVS Regional Outreach Coordinator, Chicago*

Community Cinema gives me an avenue to connect with amazing organizations throughout Chicago that are doing inspiring work. I love collaborating with these groups on utilizing film as a tool for education, activism and awareness. The post-screening discussions are naturally the most exciting and rewarding part of the events. It's always great to watch the films with others and observe their reactions. The Chicago Cultural Center is our home for Community Cinema. It is a beautiful building that is the Chicago tourism base, full of gallery spaces, performance space, a screening theater and the offices of the Department of Cultural Affairs.



**CINDY BURSTEIN** *ITVS Regional Outreach Coordinator, Philadelphia*

Community Cinema screenings draw people who share an interest in film as a valuable tool to educate, inspire, motivate and learn more about their communities and the global world they live in. Audience-goers enjoy the camaraderie and lively exchanges, as well as connecting with new organizations and enacting lessons learned after events. Community Cinema-Philadelphia rotates locations, serving a cross-section of the city and its surrounding areas. From the studios of WHYY to the experimental culture of the Rotunda to the National Constitution Center, the diversity of environments connects new audiences with Independent Lens programming and introduces Philadelphians to the services and resources offered by public institutions in their hometown.

"I REALLY ENJOY SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE WISDOM OF "JOHN & JANE CITIZEN" DURING THE COMMUNITY CINEMA DISCUSSION PANELS."



**JERALD WHITE** *Charitable Film Network, Producing Partner, New Orleans*

I'm constantly amazed by the wealth of knowledgeable and talented individuals we have working in our own backyard! It's really rewarding to highlight the efforts of regular people who are making a difference locally. New Orleans Community Cinema is about connecting, collaborating and community building. Community Cinema screenings provide regular opportunities to introduce old and new residents to engage in meaningful dialogue about local matters, with local activists and leaders who are addressing important community concerns.

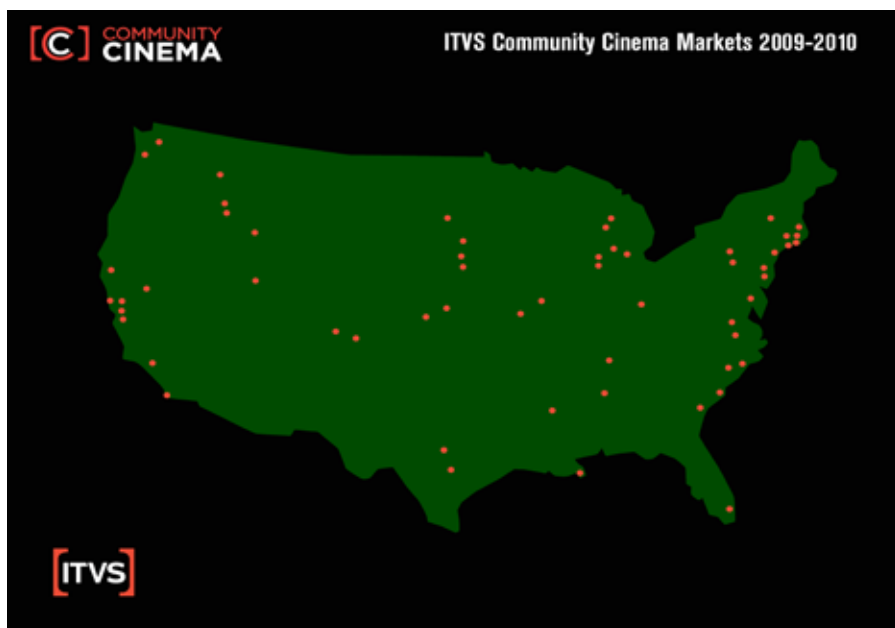


**PATRICK BAROCH** *ITVS Regional Outreach Coordinator, Seattle*

With ITVS Community Cinema the audience gets to talk back to the screen. The panel discussions, live demonstrations, and performances provide a unique "two-way street" for participants. If the viewer is moved by what they see at an event, I can put them in direct and immediate contact with organizations in my area that are working on topics covered by the featured film. Community Cinema has also brought many local organizations together. Many of my event co-sponsors now regularly work together on local community projects as a result of their work together on Community Cinema.



Screening in a city near you! Community Cinema is currently producing monthly screenings in collaboration with partner organizations and local public television stations in over 50 markets nationwide, and growing! Community Cinema is currently in the following markets, with new partners joining our network every month.



Community Cinema screenings are held at premier venues around the nation including:

- California State University East Bay, Hayward, CA
- Pacific Design Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Oakland Asian Cultural Center, Oakland, CA
- San Diego Public Library, San Diego, CA
- Rice Cinema, Houston, TX
- Starz Film Center, Denver, CO
- Seattle International Film Festival Cinema, Seattle, WA
- Boise State University Student Union, Boise, ID
- Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL
- Zeitgeist Multi-disciplinary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA
- Boston Public Library, Boston, MA
- The Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, Grand Rapids, MI
- Missouri History Museum, St. Louis, MO
- WHYY Civic Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Nashville Public Library, Nashville, TN
- Busboys and Poets, Washington DC
- John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI

## ARIZONA

- Tucson

## ARKANSAS

- Little Rock

## CALIFORNIA

- Eureka
- Hayward
- Los Angeles
- Oakland
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Jose
- San Rafael
- West Hollywood

## COLORADO

- Denver
- Grand Junction

## FLORIDA

- Miami

## GEORGIA

- Athens
- Statesboro

## IDAHO

- Boise
- Caldwell
- Pocatello

## ILLINOIS

- Chicago
- Evanston

## INDIANA

- Indianapolis
- Evansville

## IOWA

- Des Moines

## LOUISIANA

- New Orleans

## MASSACHUSETTS

- Boston
- Jamaica Plain
- New Bedford

## MICHIGAN

- Detroit
- Grand Rapids

## MISSOURI

- St. Louis
- Kansas City

## NEBRASKA

- Lincoln
- Omaha
- Scottsbluff

## NEW YORK

- Ithaca
- Saratoga Springs

## NORTH CAROLINA

- Charlotte

## OHIO

- Dayton

## PENNSYLVANIA

- Glenside
- Philadelphia

## SOUTH CAROLINA

- Charleston

## SOUTH DAKOTA

- Rapid City

## TENNESSEE

- Nashville

## TEXAS

- Austin
- Houston

## UTAH

- Salt Lake City

## VERMONT

- Brattleboro



## COMMUNITY CINEMA

### ABOUT ITVS COMMUNITY

ITVS Community is the national community engagement program of the Independent Television Service (ITVS) and the Emmy Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*. Through our innovative educational product Community Classroom and our flagship community outreach program Community Cinema, ITVS Community works to bring communities together and connect them with information, resources and opportunities for education, engagement and positive change. ITVS Community builds on our 15-year legacy of community engagement activities and makes public broadcasting into a powerful resource for individuals, communities and organizations working on key social issues around the country.

[www.pbs.org/independentlens/getinvolved](http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/getinvolved)

### ABOUT INDEPENDENT LENS

*Independent Lens* is an Emmy Award-winning weekly series airing Tuesday nights at 10:00 PM on PBS. Hosted this season by Terrence Howard, the acclaimed anthology series features documentaries and a limited number of fiction films united by the creative freedom, artistic achievement and unflinching visions of their independent producers. *Independent Lens* features unforgettable stories about a unique individual, community or moment in history. Presented by ITVS, the series is supported by interactive companion websites, and national publicity and community engagement campaigns. *Independent Lens* is jointly curated by ITVS and PBS, and is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), a private corporation funded by the American people, with additional funding provided by PBS and the National Endowment for the Arts. The series producer is Lois Vossen. [www.pbs.org/independentlens](http://www.pbs.org/independentlens)

### ABOUT ITVS

The Independent Television Service (ITVS) funds and presents award-winning documentaries and dramas on public television, innovative new media projects on the Web and the Emmy Award-winning weekly series *Independent Lens* on Tuesday nights at 10:00 PM on PBS. ITVS is a miracle of public policy created by media activists, citizens and politicians seeking to foster plurality and diversity in public television. ITVS was established by a historic mandate of Congress to champion independently produced programs that take creative risks, spark public dialogue and serve underserved audiences. Since its inception in 1991, ITVS programs have revitalized the relationship between the public and public television, bringing TV audiences face-to-face with the lives and concerns of their fellow Americans. ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private corporation funded by the American people. [www.itvs.org](http://www.itvs.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COMMUNITY CINEMA, VISIT:  
[www.communitycinema.org](http://www.communitycinema.org)

### Upcoming Community Cinema Presentations:



October 2009: **COPYRIGHT CRIMINALS**



March 2010: **DIRT! THE MOVIE**



December 2009: **YOUNG@HEART**

