

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Patrick Kowalczyk (patrick@mkpr.com)

MKPR, 212.627.8098

For high-res film images and artwork, contact scott@mkpr.com, patrick@mkpr.com

What: Arts Engine 10th Anniversary Retrospective
When: Friday, May 2 – Sunday, May 4, 2008
Cost: Regular admission: \$10
Special: third day is free for 3-day attendees
Students: \$8
Children (under 14): \$5
Where: The Paley Center for Media, 25 West 52 Street, New York, NY
Web: www.paleycenter.org/events/ny-events.htm

THE PALEY CENTER FOR MEDIA HOSTS SPECIAL 10-YEAR

RETROSPECTIVE OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS FROM ARTS ENGINE

*“Deadline,” “Nuyorican Dream,” and “Election Day” Headline
Three Days of Award-Winning Documentaries*

www.artsengine.net

www.paleycenter.org/events/ny-events.htm

New York, NY (April 3, 2008) – A pioneering force behind the current boom in independent film and social activism will be the focus of a 10-year retrospective at The Paley Center for Media (formerly the Museum of Television and Radio) in New York City from May 2 – 4.

From the Emmy Award-nominated film “Deadline,” a gripping look at capital punishment in the United States, to “Outside Looking In,” which explores the impact of transracial adoption, the retrospective will showcase eight award-winning documentaries created by Arts Engine’s production arm, Big Mouth Films.

The retrospective will also feature favorite short films from Arts Engine’s eight Media That Matters Film Festivals (www.mediathatmattersfest.org), a global showcase of short films that tackle today’s most pressing social issues. More than one million people participated in the festival last year, either by viewing the films online or attending one of the more than 100 local screenings held around the world.

Other highlights of the retrospective include “Election Day,” the newest Big Mouth film, which follows eleven Americans as they go to the polls and has its national broadcast premiere July 1 on PBS’s *P.O.V.* series, “Innocent Until Proven Guilty,” a harrowing look at race and the U.S. criminal justice system, and Laurie Collyer’s directorial debut “Nuyorican Dream,” which chronicles a Puerto Rican family in Brooklyn struggling to overcome poverty. Collyer recently

directed “sherrybaby” starring Maggie Gyllenhaal. (See full screening schedule below.) All eight documentaries will be available as part of an Arts Engine 10th anniversary boxed DVD set to be released in October 2008.

“Over the past ten years, we’ve seen documentary film evolve into an influential force for change as more and more people are able to use media to share their ideas, stories, and opinions,” said Katy Chevigny, co-founder and executive director of Arts Engine. “Seeing Big Mouth and Media That Matters films together in a series of public screenings is a rare and special opportunity. We hope this retrospective entertains, inspires, and motivates audiences.”

The May 2 – 4 schedule for the Arts Engine 10-Year Retrospective is as follows:

Friday, May 2nd, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Journey to the West: Chinese Medicine Today

(2001, 58 min., dir. Katy Chevigny)

Shot in the People's Republic of China and the U.S., *Journey to the West* depicts the wide range of traditional Chinese medical practices in China and shows their influence in the U.S. today. Premiered at: Asia Society and Museum, New York.

Featured Media That Matters films: *Spring in Awe*, *Luckiest Nut in the World* and *Recycle*

Friday, May 2nd, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

Brother Born Again

(2000, 76 min., dir. Julia Pimsleur)

Brother Born Again portrays a Jewish woman's search for her brother who converted to Christianity and joined a separatist Christian community on a remote island in Alaska. Premiered at: South by Southwest Film Festival.

Featured Media That Matters films: *Asparagus! (A Stalk-umentary)* and *Popaganda*

Saturday, May 3rd, 2008, 12:00 p.m.

Innocent Until Proven Guilty

(1999, 67 min., dir. Kirsten Johnson)

Innocent Until Proven Guilty takes a critical look at the U.S. criminal justice system through the eyes of a young black public defender in Washington DC at a time when an astonishing number of African American men are under criminal justice supervision.

Premiered at: Berlin International Film Festival.

Featured Media That Matters films: *Vision Test* and *A Girl Like Me*

Saturday, May 3rd, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Nuyorican Dream

(2000, 82 min., dir. Laurie Collyer)

Nuyorican Dream chronicles five years of the struggles and aspirations of a New York Puerto Rican family as they contend with the devastating effects of urban poverty.

Premiered at: Sundance Film Festival

Featured Media That Matters films: *I Promise Africa* and *Slip of the Tongue*

Saturday, May 3rd, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

Election Day

(2007, 84 min., dir. Katy Chevigny)

In a triumph of documentary storytelling, *Election Day* combines eleven stories into one cross-country portrait of American democracy in action. Factory workers, ex-felons, harried moms, Native American activists and diligent poll watchers, from South Dakota to Florida, take the process of democracy into their own hands. The result is an entertaining, inspiring and sometimes unsettling story of citizens determined to vote on one fateful day. Premiered at: South by Southwest Film Festival; National broadcast premiere July 1 on PBS's P.O.V. series.

Featured Media That Matters film: *Battleground Minnesota*

Sunday, May 4th, 2008, 12:00 p.m.

Outside Looking In: Transracial Adoption in America

(2001, 56 min., dir. Phil Bertelsen)

Introducing three families with transracially adopted children of three different generations, *Outside Looking In* explores the effects of white parents adopting African American children, as seen through the eyes of director and transracial adoptee Phil Bertelsen. Premiered at: Hollywood Black Film Festival.

Featured Media That Matters films: *A Girl Named Kai* and *Something Other Than Other*

Sunday, May 4th, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Arctic Son

(2006, 75 min., dir. Andrew Walton)

In the tiny village of Old Crow, 80 miles north of the Arctic Circle, a father and his son are reunited after almost 25 years apart. They share a name and a bloodline, but the worlds they know and the lifestyles they lead are as different as their respective hometown climates.

Premiered at: Full Frame Documentary Film Festival. National broadcast premiere: *P.O.V.* series, PBS, 2007.

Featured Media That Matters films: *Garbage Dreams*

Sunday, May 4th, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

Deadline

(2004, 90 min., directors Katy Chevigny and Kirsten Johnson)

What would you do if you discovered that thirteen people slated for execution had been found innocent? That was exactly the question that Governor George Ryan faced in his final days in office as Illinois' top politician. *Deadline* is a compelling look inside America's prisons, highlighting one man's unlikely, courageous and historic actions. Premiered at: Sundance Film Festival.

Featured Media That Matters film: *Pizza Surveillance Feature*

About Arts Engine

Now celebrating ten years of producing, supporting and distributing social-issue media, Arts Engine consists of three principal programs: Big Mouth Films, the Media That Matters Film Festival and MediaRights.org. As a major innovator and contributor to the current independent media culture, Arts Engine's vision for the next decade is to shape and define that culture with reverence for the great tradition of social-issue documentaries as well as an eye toward the future

of new technologies and new media. Katy Chevigny, co-founder and Executive Director of Arts Engine, recently directed the film *Election Day*, which will be broadcast by P.O.V. on July 1, 2008.

About The Paley Center for Media

The Paley Center for Media, with locations in New York and Los Angeles, leads the discussion about the cultural, creative, and social significance of television, radio, and emerging platforms for the professional community and media-interested public. Drawing upon its curatorial expertise, an international collection, and close relationships with the leaders of the media community, the Paley Center examines the intersections between media and society. The general public can access the collection and participate in programs that explore and celebrate the creativity, the innovations, the personalities, and the leaders who are shaping media. Through the global programs of its Media Council and International Council, the Paley Center also serves as a neutral setting where media professionals can engage in discussion and debate about the evolving media landscape. Previously known as The Museum of Television & Radio, the Paley Center was founded in 1975 by William S. Paley, a pioneering innovator in the industry. For more information, please visit www.paleycenter.org.

###