



REENTRY National Media Outreach Campaign

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SAVE THE DATE! -- Reentry Campaign Documentary, EVERY CHILD IS BORN A POET, Wins New Film Festival Award

Reentry Campaign documentary, EVERY CHILD IS BORN A POET, will receive the Paul Robeson Award for Best Documentary at the Newark Black Film Festival on **Wednesday, August 4, 2004**. Reentry campaign participants in the New Jersey area are invited to attend the following events to celebrate this prestigious honor.

Wednesday, August 4

5:00 p.m. – Awards Ceremony
Special Speaker: Paul Robeson, Jr.
The Newark Museum
Billy Johnson Auditorium
49 Washington Street, Newark, NJ

6:00 p.m. – Reception (open to the public)
The Newark Museum
Engelhard Court

7:00 p.m. – Film Screening
Newark Screens on Springfield Ave.
360-394 Springfield Avenue, Newark, NJ

Thursday, August 5

7:30 p.m. — Second Screening
New Jersey State Museum Auditorium
205 West State Street, Trenton, NJ

In more EVERY CHILD news, filmmaker Jonathan Meyer Robinson is featured in an extensive article about the making of the film on the Apple.com Web site. Read the full article at <http://www.apple.com/pro/video/robinson/>.

EVERY CHILD IS BORN A POET (a recent community screening offering) is an incendiary mix of documentary, poetry, storytelling, drama, and performance that explores the life and work of Piri Thomas, the 75 year-old Afro-Cuban-Puerto Rican author of the classic autobiographical novel, Down These Mean Streets (1967). The film traces Thomas' path from childhood to manhood in New York City's Spanish Harlem, El Barrio, from the 1930's through the 1960's: his parents' immigrant experience, home life during the Great Depression, membership in barrio youth gangs, his struggle to come to terms with his mixed-racial identity, travels as a teen-age merchant marine, his heroin addiction, his notorious armed robbery of a Greenwich Village nightclub, his six years spent in prison, and his emergence as a writer. Learn more about this powerful film and download the free, accompanying resource guide at <http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/ec.htm>.



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For more information, or to sign up for the Reentry bi-monthly e-newsletter, please contact:

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In response to Reentry Campaign participants' requests, Outreach Extensions has added four new documentaries to its repository of film resources. These four films are described in greater detail on the Reentry Web site (www.reentrymediaoutreach.org). Soon we'll be adding notes from the producers, Core Results, video clips, and companion guides for each film. Details on tape distribution opportunities for community screenings will be featured in upcoming email alerts!

DEADLINE

aired on Dateline/NBC on Friday, July 30th

Illinois, fall 2002: Governor George Ryan faces shocking findings about flaws in his state's capital punishment system that call his long-held beliefs into question. Suddenly, he must make one of the most difficult decisions of his life—to ignore this disturbing evidence, or to transform the entire Illinois capital punishment system. The stakes of this decision are the lives of over 170 people, and Ryan's own political career. And he has only until January to issue his final decision.



DEADLINE (www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/deadline.htm) captures the ensuing dramatic series of events as they unfold. **DEADLINE** was directed by Katy Chevigny and Kirsten Johnson, Big Mouth Productions.

RED HOOK JUSTICE

will air in 2005 on PBS

Each year, America's courts process over 11 million low-level crimes, many of which involve repeat offenders. In 2000, an experimental court opened its doors in Red Hook, Brooklyn—a neighborhood plagued by a cycle of unemployment, poverty, and crime. This new court seeks to stop the cycle of crime, and heal the surrounding community. It is at the center of a legal revolution—the community justice movement. **RED HOOK JUSTICE** (www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/redhook.htm) profiles nearly two years of the daily activities of the Red Hook Community Justice Center, a pilot project in Brooklyn that houses a court and an array of social services. Before resorting to jail, the Red Hook judge mandates extensive drug treatment, job training and community service. The Justice Center has an unprecedented involvement in

defendants' lives, and cases that would be closed quickly in traditional courts can extend over many months. **RED HOOK JUSTICE** was produced by Meema Spadola and will appear on PBS's acclaimed series Independent Lens in 2005. Independent Lens is presented by the Independent Television Service (ITVS) with funds provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

BORDERLINE

will air in 2005 on PBS

BORDERLINE tells the story of Eunice Baker, a borderline mentally retarded woman who was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison for murdering a young child, despite evidence that the death was accidental. After nearly five years in prison, The New York State Appellate Court recently reduced Eunice's sentence to criminally negligent homicide, and she was released on time served. (www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/borderline.htm). **BORDERLINE** was created by Slawomir Grunberg, Log In Productions.

WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS

previously aired on PBS

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(www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/bough.htm) explores the emotional impact on children whose mothers are imprisoned for non-violent crimes, particularly drug-related prostitution and theft. Three Missouri families tell their stories as the children are bounced among social workers, foster parents, grandparents, and visits with their mothers in prison. This intimate documentary



reveals how entire families are punished when mothers are imprisoned. These youngsters are often left in the custody of extended family members where their needs are misunderstood, where poverty prevails, and where they suffer emotional neglect and abuse. With prison populations quadrupling and more than a quarter million children left behind, responsibilities confronting our society become real through their young, articulate voices. A presentation of the Independent Television Service, the film was produced by Jill Evans Petzall and directed by Deeds Rogers.

SMALL BITES – REENTRY INITIATIVES AROUND THE NATION

In less than three months, Alvaro Vargas has gone from a prison cell to managing the Ben & Jerry's ice cream shop in Hillcrest. His path from felon to employee was speeded by the social mission of Second Chance, a San Diego nonprofit organization that provides housing and job training to the homeless, and by Ben & Jerry's. The two entities recently joined in a ten-year partnership to steer young graduates of the tough-love Second Chance/STRIVE job readiness program into jobs at the ice cream shop, giving them their first experiences back in the work world. Read more about the Second Chance program here: www.secondchanceprogram.org.



MASS Inc., in Dallas, TX, was formed in 1989 when Joyce Ann Brown was released from prison after serving more than nine years for a crime she did not commit. Her initial goal was simply to nurture change in an inequitable judicial system by supporting the wrongfully convicted. Her passion to support others who had lost their voices in the community soon led her to expand the mission of the organization to include two divisions within its service organization. **The Innocence in Prison Program** was created to provide support to the wrongfully convicted and bring public awareness to this troubling issue.

The Reintegration to Society Program was designed initially for individuals who were formerly incarcerated and their families who were seeking to overcome economic hardship and a host of other social stigma and become law-abiding, productive citizens. The program was expanded to include the families of incarcerated offenders and those on probation.

MASS Inc. services are based upon a multidisciplinary approach in which case managers serve as mentors in assisting clients with needed counseling, education, job placement, and housing. The goal of these programs is to strengthen and maintain the bond between participants and the families while providing an avenue for economic independence and self-sufficiency. You can learn more about MASS Inc. on its Web site: <http://www.massjab.org>

Over the last few months, Outreach Extensions has made several films available to community organizations that apply to use the documentaries in local outreach activities. Documentaries in the Reentry campaign have helped organizations around the country to educate their constituents, inspire critical thinking, and promote action-oriented solutions to critical reentry challenges. More than 70 reentry programs, faith-based organizations, government agencies, and institutions of higher education submitted reports on their events using A JUSTICE THAT HEALS, EVERY CHILD IS BORN A POET, and MANHOOD AND VIOLENCE: FATAL PERIL. Selected comments are summarized below. **Please note that detailed applications and final usage reports are required from organizations wishing to use complimentary reentry campaign documentaries in their work.** These requirements will be outlined in detail in the next community tape offer, coming soon!

Community Works, the sole provider of arts education in the San Francisco County Jail System, showed EVERY CHILD IS BORN A POET to a group of 12- to 16-year-old male juvenile offenders at San Francisco's Youth Guidance Center. The screening was followed by a poetry workshop inspired by themes from the film. After the screening, the youth were asked about their favorite scenes and which they could most identify with. Remarked workshop leader, Laleh Khadivi, "At first the activity seemed difficult, but with time, the boys were writing without talking and eager to read their work."

Here are selected poems completed during the workshop.

Everybody's Doing Time

*Everybody's doing time in the ghettos
When the sun goes down in the hood and the violence
comes out to creep
Dope fiends be out smokin' rocks while I sleep*

*I look out the window and watch the man peddle his poison
not knowing or not caring that they're on their way to prison
The ghettos are like doing time 'cus you only buying time
before you return*

*I like to warn the dope man, spittin' them rocks and servin'
them knocks
Maybe today, maybe tomorrow, one day
You gettin' caught and put in a box of sorrow*

As I Live

*As I live my life
Thinkin' in the light
Thinkin' real hard
As the light goes by
It is now the time of night
When the moon shines over my night light
I'm thinkin' to myself
Prayin' so I won't go to hell*

*The way life goes
Nobody knows
But the One upstairs
The One that makes everything fair
Life is odd
And the One up above
It's the man we pray to
Our Lord and Savior
The man called God*

Community Works focuses on at-risk and in-risk youth because they are a largely ignored population. Screening EVERY CHILD IS BORN A PEOT to juvenile male offenders is part of the organization's long-term goal of using the arts to inspire and encourage youth away from violence and incarceration. Combining the screening with a poetry workshop allowed the boys to realize that if words could help change Piri Thomas' life, then words might, over the long term, help change their lives as well. The film makes a point of demonstrating that Piri used art to influence his life path, and Community Works seeks to use media outreach programs such as this to inspire the same understanding.

Kairos Horizon Communities in Prison in Winter Park, FL, used MANHOOD AND VIOLENCE in medium and maximum security prisons in four Kairos faith-based programs in Florida, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Texas. In some cases, it was shown to men currently in the program; in others, it was shown to graduates. The subject matter presented in MANHOOD AND VIOLENCE surfaced time and again within small group sessions for weeks after the men viewed the program. (Kairos Horizon programs are volunteer-facilitated in small groups of eight men.)

The video, in one man's words, "... helped me look at me. It helped me believe I can make it." In another's, "The understanding that I am a violent man, and it can be controlled at any level, once understood."

You can read more report summaries on the Reentry Web site's COMMUNITY ACTIVITY section at <http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/activity.htm>.

SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC TELEVISION STATION, KLRN, HOSTS REENTRY PANEL

More than 80 guests attended KLRN/San Antonio's most recent Reentry event on Thursday, July 29th. The event was held on campus at the University of Texas—San Antonio (UTSA). UTSA's Department of Criminal Justice, a project partner, co-sponsored the screening. KLRN screened a segment from the Reentry campaign documentary, *MANHOOD AND VIOLENCE: FATAL PERIL*, and the segment on local organization and project partner, *Woman at the Well House Ministries*, featured in the *Outside the Walls: A National Snapshot of Community-Based Prisoner Reentry Programs* video. Complimentary tapes of *MANHOOD AND VIOLENCE: FATAL PERIL* and *Outside the Walls* were distributed to the participants.

The *Outside the Walls* video profiles 23 reentry

programs around the country. This video is free and can be requested by completing the order form here:

www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/otworder.htm.

Following the screening, a panel moderated by Professor John Byrd from the university's Department of Criminal Justice commented on local reentry issues and film segments presented. Included in the panel was Dr. Mike Gilbert, a former warden, and the chair of UTSA's Department of Criminal Justice. Others on the panel were Anthony Barber, a former inmate now working with the Texas Justice Network and the NAACP; Mike Lozito, director of the Texas regional parole office; Priscilla Murguia, director of *Woman at the Well House Ministries*; and Manuel Diosdada Castillo, Executive Director of San Anto Cultural Arts.

Guests at the event included San Antonio faith leaders, reentry delivery programs, and social activists. One of KLRN's goals was to provide attendees with media resources to frame significant issues about reentry and to empower them to take key messages about reentry back to their communities.

KLRN has developed an extensive reentry Web component (<http://www.klrn.org/reentry/>) as part of the station's existing Web site. The reentry component will continue to feature scheduled events, downloadable features, and broadcast information.

For more information about KLRN's upcoming Reentry activities in San Antonio, TX, please contact Charlie Hess at 210.270.9000.



LOCAL PUBLIC TELEVISION STATION REENTRY WEB SITES ARE UP AND RUNNING!

Local public television stations around the country are actively participating in the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign. More on their activities can be found on the Reentry Web site (www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/activity.htm). Check back often to read updates on Reentry Campaign events in your area.

Detroit Public Television has launched its Reentry content on the DPTV site (<http://detroitpublictv.org/reentry/index.shtml>). Here you'll find information on Reentry documentaries scheduled to air in Detroit, as well as descriptions of local partners and additional resources.

Maryland Public Television has launched a statewide reentry media effort (www.mpt.org/reentry/home.html). On MPT's site, you can learn about reentry statistics unique to Maryland and how the state is offering transitional services to soon-to-be-released and formerly incarcerated men and women.

"The issue of reentry goes beyond crime and punishment. For formerly incarcerated individuals, it's about coming home. For communities, it's often about uniting families."
— KLRN screening participant

The Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) is supporting the **Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign** as part of the Making Connections Media Outreach Initiative (MCMOI), which is designed and managed by Outreach Extensions. This vital effort links media broadcasters to local stakeholders and their diverse constituencies, providing outreach strategies and media resources that support their efforts to strengthen youth and families and build effective communities.

The Making Connections Media Outreach Initiative offers media support to local coalitions that are part of AECF's *Making Connections*, a multi-faceted, long-term effort to improve the life chances of vulnerable children by helping to strengthen their families and neighborhoods. The Foundation's intent is to stimulate and support a local movement that engages residents, civic groups, political leaders, grassroots groups, public and private sector leadership, and faith-based organizations in an effort to help transform tough neighborhoods into family-supportive environments.

This E-Newsletter is an electronic publication intended to keep you informed about news and events relating to the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign. **Please let us know how we're doing through the feedback form on the Reentry Web site (<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/contactus.htm>).**



The Annie E. Casey Foundation

REENTRY PROGRAM PROFILE – Centerforce

This month's reentry program profile is **CENTERFORCE** in San Rafael, CA (also profiled in *Outside the Walls* [http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/sp_health.htm]). The organization also has offices in Fresno and Oakland. Centerforce's mission is to strengthen individuals and families affected by incarceration through a comprehensive system of education and support. Centerforce provides services for prisoners, former prisoners, and family members of prisoners through direct services; its annual conference; and through consultation and training for government agencies, community-based organizations and correctional facilities across the country and internationally. Centerforce has been actively engaged in the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign, using the documentary, **MANHOOD AND VIOLENCE: FATAL PERIL** in its *No More Tears* program in San Quentin State Prison. *No More Tears* is an ongoing forum of inmates and concerned community leaders, which addresses the issues of violence and crime in local communities. The forum focuses on understanding obstacles and developing solutions.

Stakeholders in the Bay Area are invited to the **2004 Centerforce Summit - Inside/Out: Models for Change - Delivering Successful Programs to Those Affected by Incarceration, September 13-15, 2004** at the San Francisco Airport Marriot, Burlingame CA. Designed to extend vital services to this underserved population from the perspective of corrections, parole/probation, public health, children and family services, and direct community service providers, this will be the organization's fifth annual forum. Featured sessions for this year's Summit include: *Children and Family Services; Community Reintegration Services; Prevention & Education; CDC National Correctional Model Projects; Effects of Incarceration on Women; and Successful Model Programs*. Registration information can be found at <http://www.rdlent.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=conference&cid=48>

Centerforce has also developed some useful media resources of its own. Two short videos, **INSIDE-OUT** and **WHAT DOES HE DO IN THERE?** focus on the testimonies of men who have been incarcerated and the impact on their families. More information on these films, as well as purchase information, can be found on the Centerforce Web site: <http://www.centerforce.org/edMaterials/videos.cfm>.

Have you missed an issue of the Reentry e-newsletter? Past issues can be found on the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign Web site (<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/enewsletter.htm>)!