

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREMIERE OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS CREATED BY “WORLD CREW” STUDENTS AT JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER

Pleasantville, NY – December 22, 2009 – The Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC), a cultural arts institution with a dual mission of film and education, announced today the premiere of two documentary films created by college students through the WORLD CREW program at the JBFC’s Media Arts Lab. The premiere screening will be held on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at 7:00 pm at the JBFC Theater. The event includes a post-screening discussion and Q&A with the student filmmakers and faculty of WORLD CREW, moderated by JBFC Executive Director Steve Apkon, followed by a reception.

The students of WORLD CREW produced and directed two documentary films focused on Queens, NY; the home of more immigrant groups than any other area of the United States. *Taiwan, Next Door* follows a community of Taiwanese senior citizens who gather almost every day at the Taiwan Cultural Center in Queens, a place that



represents home in their new country. *National Street* centers on a six-block area near Corona Plaza where a Mosque, a Hindu Temple, and a Dominican barbershop line the very same street. This screening is open to the public and free of charge, but RSVP is required. To RSVP, please contact Alana Benoit at abenoit@burnsfilmcenter.org or 914.773.7663, ext. 423.

WORLD CREW gives college-aged students the opportunity to explore the world through the craft of documentary filmmaking. The program is dually committed to promoting cross-cultural understanding and teaching filmmaking, and was successfully piloted in Uganda in 2007, when college students documented several remarkable stories about grassroots peace initiatives in a 55 minute film titled *Shooting for Peace*. The curriculum includes conducting and sharing research; learning how to operate sound and camera equipment through collaborative filmmaking exercises;

scouting and filming in the field; editing; and group critique. Students are accepted through a competitive application and interview process. WORLD CREW is made possible by SONY. For more information about WORLD CREW, contact Susan Todd at stodd@burnsfilmcenter.org or 914.773.7663, ext. 427.

The Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) is a nonprofit cultural arts organization dedicated to: presenting the best of independent, documentary, and world cinema; promoting 21st century literacy, and making film a vibrant part of the community. Located on a 47,500 sq. foot, three-building campus in the center of Pleasantville, the JBFC is just 30 miles outside of New York City. Since the opening in 2001, over 1,000,000 people have seen over 3,000 films from more than 40 countries. The campus includes the 27,000 sq. Media Arts Lab, the JBFC’s state-of-the-art education center, a creative and educational community for storytellers in the digital age, offering one-time workshops, intensive courses, and weekend programs for children and adults of all ages. To learn more about the Jacob Burns Film Center and Media Arts Lab, visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

###

Contact: Rob Sampogna (rsampogna@burnsfilmcenter.org)
Abby Popper (apopper@burnsfilmcenter.org)
914.773.7663, ext. 434/424