



Our City Film Festival **NEWS RELEASE**

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Third Annual Film Festival Promotes Pride for Local Washington, Returns on Valentine's Day 2010.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 28, 2009) – The third annual Our City Film Festival, the only showcase of independent films that examine the Washington, D.C. area's rich local history, culture and personalities, will be held from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday, February 14, 2010 at the Goethe Institute, 812 7th St., NW, in downtown Washington.

Presented and organized by Yachad, Inc., a non-profit that promotes community development and affordable housing, the Festival will screen 14 films whose common denominator is D.C.-area communities and the lives of people within them. This year, festival documentaries and narratives touch on subjects such as:

- a man's love affair with the Anacostia River
- a biography of acclaimed local chef, Nora Pouillon
- the fascinating history of Washington, D.C.'s unique go-go music scene
- the art workshop in St. Elizabeth's Hospital maximum security ward
- a look at the history of Jews in Washington
- a gay Washingtonian couple struggling for acceptance
- the Capital Pool Men's Checkers Club in the Shaw neighborhood
- the history of the Silver Spring train station
- many more...

In addition to public screenings of the films, live Q&A sessions with the films' directors, and various other activities and celebrations of D.C. and its culture, each screening block will conclude with award ceremonies for winning films in categories of best short narrative and documentary, best mini-documentary, and best feature documentary. A panel of 12 judges – local filmmakers and experts – are responsible for the award selections.

Tickets are on sale now at www.ourcityfilmfestival.com and are \$10 for a screening block and \$35 for an All Day Pass. Tickets will be available for purchase at the door for a small raise in price, but none are guaranteed, so people are urged to buy in advance online.

Yachad, whose programmatic focus is on local Washington, initiated the Our City Film Festival three years ago as a way of building deeper understanding and appreciation for the common

culture, issues and historical heritage that influence the D.C. area. “It is a recognition that the D.C. area is more than a place of national politics and monuments, which is how news and entertainment media portray it disproportionately,” said Kendra Rubinfeld, Yachad’s program coordinator who conceived the Festival and runs it today. “Rather, this is a metro area with many great stories to tell and people and places to highlight. Unlike any other, that’s what this Festival is about.”

In addition to Yachad, the Festival is supported by the Humanities Grant of Washington, Last Name Left Productions, and On Location Tours. Promotional partners include American University’s SOC, Speakeasy DC, Women in Film and Video, DC Film Alliance, Docs and Progress, The Documentary Center and more.

For a complete list and more information about the festival and the films, visit www.ourcityfilmfestival.com.

About Yachad

Yachad, Inc., is a non-profit organization that mobilizes the resources of the Washington-area Jewish community to repair and rebuild lower-income neighborhoods. We engage construction and real estate professionals and hundreds of volunteers to repair housing, renovate storefronts, and create safer community spaces. Yachad works with individuals, nonprofits, churches and synagogues to broaden the impact and expand the good work that is accomplished. For more information, go to: <http://www.yachad-dc.org>.