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**BROOKLYN ARTS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES LINE-UP FOR
May 2010 SCENE: BROOKLYN SERIES**

***Diverse Slate Features a Sneak Preview of
Strange Powers: Stephin Merritt and The Magnetic Fields***

BROOKLYN, NY - March 30, 2010 Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC) unveiled today the line-up for its second annual *Scene: Brooklyn* May film series. Featuring curated evenings of independent film screenings and filmmaker discussions, the series includes documentaries, narrative shorts, animation, music videos and other experimental work. The program opens with *Good Fortune*, a feature length documentary examining the real-world impact of international aid. *Scene: Brooklyn* will also present a sneak preview of *Strange Powers: Stephin Merritt and The Magnetic Fields*, a screening and panel discussion of St.Clair Bourne's acclaimed *Making 'Do The Right Thing'* held in the Bedford-Stuyvesant community, plus more than twenty five short films, as well as a retrospective of the rising star and visionary director Ray Tintori.

The series runs from May 8 through May 14 at venues across the borough including BAMcinémathèque, Galapagos Art Space, UnionDocs, The Bell House and Billie Holiday Theatre.

Launched in May 2009, *Scene: Brooklyn* is the cornerstone of BAC's film and media arts activities, showcasing the diverse talent based in Brooklyn and bringing independent Brooklyn filmmakers together to share their work with other artists and new audiences. In addition to this signature May series, *Scene: Brooklyn* also hosts workshops, special screenings, seminars for filmmakers and social events throughout the year.

"We have expanded this year's program and given more context and framing to innovative work from both established and young, up-and-coming artists," said Deirdre Corley, *Scene: Brooklyn* Programmer. "It really shows off and celebrates the variety of personalities, cultures and neighborhoods in Brooklyn."

"Brooklyn has become home to one of the country's greatest concentrations of independent film and media artists," added Tricia Mire, BAC Managing Director. "Audiences are more interested than ever in experiencing the work of local artists and connecting with them personally, right here in Brooklyn. BAC is the premiere organization giving Brooklyn artists a platform to exhibit their work across formats and genres, and fostering a sense of community."

A new addition to *Scene: Brooklyn* this year is the Best of *Scene: Brooklyn* Audience Award. Audience members will have the opportunity to vote on-site for their favorite film at the Electric Picture Show and Framing Fiction screenings. The filmmaker from each of the two programs

with the most votes wins a \$250 cash prize and a pair of round trip travel vouchers from JetBlue Airways.

BK Art Lovers get free and discounted tickets to *Scene: Brooklyn* screenings and events. Check out brooklynartscouncil.org/bkartlovers for details about this new program.

Brooklyn Arts Council, a nonprofit organization founded in 1966, is the leading group serving Brooklyn artists and arts groups in all disciplines, offering a wide array of resources, funding and career support to Brooklyn's independent performing, visual, film, media and literary artists. In addition, BAC helps them connect to and create meaningful relationships with cultural groups, projects and activities in the area. The organization strives to ensure that Brooklyn residents of all ages and backgrounds have access to affordable arts experiences.

COMPLETE SCHEDULE FOR SCENE: BROOKLYN 2010

DOCUMENTARY FILM: CATCHING THE CRITIC'S EYE

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 4-6PM

Panel Discussion. \$7 suggested donation. *UnionDocs, 322 Union Ave.*

The past decade witnessed an explosion of documentary film production. Non-fiction films are being distributed more widely, and exhibited in grander settings than ever before. Filmgoers across the country are hungrier than ever for docs of every stripe, dealing with any range of subjects. But the growth in documentary production has not been met by a reciprocal growth in documentary criticism. Richard Brody (*The New Yorker*), Ed Halter (*Light Industry*) and other experts in the field will discuss the challenges of getting documentaries critically reviewed and brainstorm solutions during this lively panel.

GOOD FORTUNE

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 7:30PM

Dir. Landon Van Soest; Producers: Jeremy Levine & Landon Van Soest. Followed by Q & A with the filmmakers. \$7 *UnionDocs, 322 Union Ave.*

Through the personal stories of two Kenyans battling to save their homes from large-scale development organizations, *Good Fortune* explores ways in which massive international efforts to alleviate poverty in Africa may be undermining the very communities they aim to benefit. *Recipient of 2007 Sundance Documentary Fund grant and Winner of the 2007 Fledgling Fund Award for Socially Conscious Documentaries.*

STRANGE POWERS: STEPHIN MERRITT AND THE MAGNETIC FIELDS

MONDAY, MAY 10, 7PM DOOR; 7:30PM SHOWTIME

Sneak Preview - Intimate documentary portrait of songwriter Stephin Merritt and his band the Magnetic Fields. Followed by Q & A with Kerthy Fix and special guests. Dirs. Kerthy Fix and Gail O'Hara. \$10 *The Bell House, 149 7th St.*

Scene: Brooklyn presents a sneak preview of *Strange Powers*, an intimate portrait of songwriter Stephin Merritt and his band the Magnetic Fields fresh off its recent World Premiere at SXSW. With his unique gift for memorable melodies, lovelorn lyrics and wry musical stylings that blend classic Tin Pan Alley with modern sounds, Stephin Merritt has distinguished himself as one of contemporary pop's most beloved and influential artists. The film explores Merritt's songwriting and recording process, and focuses on his relationships with his band mates and longtime manager Claudia Gonson, revealing an artist who has produced one of the most engaging and

confounding bodies of work in the contemporary American songbook.

MAKING DO THE RIGHT THING

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 6PM ORAL HISTORIES/PIZZA PARTY; 7PM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

\$5 Billie Holiday Theatre at Restoration Plaza, 1368 Fulton St. Presented as part of Black Brooklyn Renaissance in conjunction with The Brooklyn Chapter of the Links

Directed by St.Clair Bourne, the late, acclaimed Brooklyn-based documentary filmmaker who recorded American black culture and produced portraits of eminent African-Americans, *Making 'Do the Right Thing'* is a fascinating behind the scenes look at Spike Lee's seminal 1989 film and the Bedford-Stuyvesant community. The documentary features interviews with cast and crew, including Ossie Davis, Danny Aiello, Giancarlo Esposito, Ruby Dee, Melvin Van Peebles and many others.

Monty Ross, co-producer on groundbreaking productions such as *School Daze*, *She's Gotta Have it*, *Do the Right Thing*, *Jungle Fever*, *Malcolm X* and *Crooklyn*, moderates a post-screening panel with special guests including Sam Pollard, acclaimed filmmaker and also a frequent Lee collaborator.

*This program is part of Brooklyn Arts Council's **Black Brooklyn Renaissance: Black Arts & Culture, 1960-2010** sponsored by MetLife Foundation and presented in partnership with Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation. This year-long project celebrates the contributions of Black artists in Brooklyn over the five seminal decades of 1960-2010. It includes more than 50 events in music, dance, visual arts and film produced in collaboration with dozens of cultural and community organizations in Brooklyn and Manhattan, a major conference with Brooklyn College, oral histories and an archive.*

brooklynartscouncil.org/blackbrooklynrenaissance

ELECTRIC PICTURE SHOW: ANIMATIONS FROM BROOKLYN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12; 4:30, 6:50 & 9:15PM

Whimsical shorts and music videos (Yeastayer, Animal Collective and more) by some of the most exciting filmmakers of today, who all hail from Brooklyn.

\$12; \$8 BAM Cinema Club Members; \$9 Seniors & Students. Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), 30 Lafayette Ave. Presented with BAMcinématek

- *Dock Ellis and the LSD No No* – Directed by James Blagden
- *Birth* – Directed by Signe Baumann
- *Huck on the Gowanus* – Directed by Christina Kelly
- *ShadowBoxing* – Directed by Matthew K.
- Animal Collective's *In the Flowers* – Directed by Abigail Portner
- *Morning Always Comes* – Directed by Bailey Edwards
- *GreenHeart* – Directed by Jeanne Wilkinson
- *Omar and His Skyhook* – Directed by Doug Purver
- *Things That Smell Like Things That Aren't OK; 99¢ Travelogue; After You Leave* – Trio of films directed by Molly Schwartz
- Yeastayer's *Wait For the Summer* – Directed by Mixtape Club
- J Dilla's *Nothing Like This* - Directed by Mixtape Club
- *Looking Thru the B-Sides* – Directed by Golden Lucky

- The Bravery's *Slow Poison* - Directed by Ryan Honey and Orion Tai

RAY TINTORI: A PREMATURE RETROSPECTIVE
THURSDAY, MAY 13, 7:30PM

Followed by Q & A with Tintori.

\$5 Galapagos Art Space, 16 Main St.

Acclaimed shorts and music videos (MGMT, Chairlift and more) from up-and-coming director Ray Tintori, who will also screen clips of films that have influenced his work.

Tintori's undergraduate thesis film *Death to the Tinman*, premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival where it received an Honorable Mention for Short Filmmaking, and screened at SXSW and the New York Film Festival. His previous project *Jettison Your Loved Ones* premiered at the 2006 Slamdance Film Festival. Ray has collaborated on four videos with MGMT as well as projects with The Killers, Cool Kids and Chairlift. In 2009, he received a VMA Nomination at the MTV Awards for Best Breakthrough Video (Chairlift) and has won two MVPA Awards for Best Directorial Debut and Best Direction of a New Artist (MGMT). He is currently working with Spike Jonze on the adaptation of Shane Jones' novel *Light Boxes*.

FRAMING FICTION

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 7PM SHOWTIME; 9:30PM AWARDS; 10PM AFTERTARTY

A selection of narrative shorts by some of Brooklyn's most interesting filmmakers working in this format—from a story about a young runaway living on a Brooklyn rooftop to a film about an aspiring young photographer who finds inspiration in his Bed-Stuy neighborhood. Followed by the Best of Scene: Brooklyn Awards and Afterparty featuring DJ Ben Allen of East Village Radio.

\$10 Galapagos Art Space, 16 Main St.

- *One Thousand Cranes* – Directed by Zach Carver
- *Turban* – Directed by Gabriel Gomez & Kahiem Davis-Simms
- *Lorimer* - Directed by Michael Lannan
- *Little Accidents* – Directed by Sara Colangelo
- *Tripoli, Quiet* – Directed by Rania Attieh, Daniel Garcia
- *Mariachi* – Directed by Elena Greenlee
- *Silent Heart* – Directed by Robert E. Moore
- *Love Seat* – Directed by Jennie Allen
- *Monroe St.* – Directed by Durier Ryan

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SCENE: BROOKLYN AND OTHER BAC PROGRAMS, PLEASE VISIT BROOKLYNARTSCOUNCIL.ORG/SCENEBROOKLYN.

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Scene: Brooklyn is made possible, in part, by the Experimental Television Center's Media Arts Technical Assistance Fund and Presentation Funds, the Henry Nias Foundation, JetBlue Airways, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. The Experimental

Television Center's Funds are supported by the Electronic Media and Film Program of the New York State Council on the Arts.