

A world-renowned series of Media Makers to visit CSU San Marcos in North San Diego.

January 12, 2009, For immediate release:

CSU San Marcos is proud to present a free series of influential media makers presenting their work on campus in North County, San Diego. The series opens with a visit by Brave New Films, who will show and discuss their amazingly successful viral media campaigns. Artists will personally present their work -- award-winning, aesthetic, yet uncompromising visions of Hurricane Katrina, the Iraq War, California Industry, and Women & Aging.

All screenings are on campus in ARTS 240 or MARK 125 and are free and open to the public.

Wed., Feb 4, 4PM, MARK 125 Brave New Films presents their media and methods Brave New Films, a new media company that uses moving images to educate, influence, and empower viewers to take action around issues that matter.

Robert Greenwald is a producer, director and political activist. Greenwald is the founder and president of Brave New Films. Under his direction they have produced a series of short and enormously successful viral videos, including the *Fox Attacks* and *Real McCain* campaigns that have been viewed over thirty-five million times in the past two years. These videos motivated hundreds of thousands to get involved in political and community action. Greenwald has produced and directed feature documentaries and fiction, including "Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers" (2006), "Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price" (2005), and "Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism" (2004).

Before working at Brave New Films, **Christopher Sprinkle** created some forty radio & video documentaries on subjects ranging from political party conventions to reformed drug dealers. He created *This Brave Nation* - a five-part video documentary-series that "brought together the most intelligent, passionate and creative voices of one generation with the activists, journalists and artists of the next (*The Nation*)." Recently, he wrote, directed and produced spots for American Rights At Work, Rock The Vote, and SEIU.

Note: Robert Greenwald will be appearing via teleconference to CSUSM, with producer Christopher Sprinkle appearing in-person.

Wed., March 11 5.30-8.30PM MARK 125 Lee Anne Schmitt presents *California Company Town* (2008)

California Company Town casts a probing, clear-eyed gaze at the landscape of California towns abandoned by the industries that created them—onetime boom-towns now haunted by the twilight of the American promise.

Lee Anne Schmitt is a versatile multidisciplinary artist whose practice extends from film and performance to photography and writing. A member of the faculty of CalArts' graduate Film Directing Program, Schmitt creates evocative, deeply felt works that consider everyday elements

of American life as cultural ritual, including a series of cinematic investigations of the intersections of landscape with personal memory (*Las Vegas*, 2000), with the history of the American Left (*Awake and Sing*, 2003), and with urban development (*The Wash*, 2005).

Tues., March 17, 6-9PM ARTS 240 Ellen Spiro presents *Body of War* (2007) *Body of War* is an intimate feature documentary about Tomas Young, a 25 years old who was paralyzed from a bullet to his spine after serving in Iraq for less than a week. The documentary is his coming home story as he evolves into a new person, dealing with his disability and finding his own unique and passionate voice against the war. The film parallels his story with sobering facts about U.S. policy and the war in Iraq. Produced and Directed by Phil Donahue and Ellen Spiro. Featuring music by Eddie Vedder.

Ellen Spiro is an Associate Professor in the Department of Radio-Television-Film at the University of Texas in Austin. Her documentaries include *Diana's Hair Ego* (91), *(In)Visible Women* (92), *Greetings from Out Here* (93), *Roam Sweet Home* (96), *Are the Kids Alright?* (co-director, 04), *Troop 1500* (05) and *Body of War* (co-director, 07).

Co-director Phil Donahue is renowned talk show host; this is his first film.

Tues, Mar 24, 2-4PM and 6-8PM ARTS 240 Chris Munch presents a distribution talk workshop in UNIV 439 at 2PM, plus *Sleepy Time Gal* (2008) in ARTS 240 at 6PM. A quiet and subtle drama about a woman facing death in her fifties, *The Sleepy Time Gal* is not a conventional narrative, but neither is it inaccessible. Frances, played by Jacqueline Bisset, is an unglamorous fifty something woman dying of cancer and trying to set her tumultuous past right. Featuring Seymour Cassel and Martha Plimpton the film shines with questions as much as answers. Sundance curator Trevor Groth wrote, "Munch brings a level of sophistication to his characters rarely seen in young directors."

Chris Munch has made four distinguished feature narrative films as writer, director, and editor. Self-taught Munch is one of the pioneers of American New Queer Cinema.

Tues., April 7, 6-9pm Dr. Sharon Elise of Sociology will introduce **Cauleen Smith, who will present *In the Fullness of Time* (2008) in MARK 125.** Smith's groundbreaking work repurposes the languages of physicists and astronomers to decode the rage and grief, elation and hope that surround the contemporary reality of New Orleans. A "sister from another planet" is sent to earth to explore the terrain and learn our ways. In the process she must make sense of the passage of time, the enormity of loss, and the new landscapes of New Orleans.

Filmmaker Cauleen Smith is best known for Afro-futurist works that weave intimate narratives of love, yearning, and the dream-world with known histories, imagined landscapes, and broader cultural symbols to activate collective memory.

This event is co-sponsored by the Ethnic Studies program and IRA Mediamaker Series

Friday, May 8th, 7PM ARTS 240 3rd Annual Student Media Festival A popular, competitive celebration of students' work from various departments around campus. Friends, colleagues and family welcome at this end of year celebration.

The 2009 Mediamaker Series has been made possible via funding from the Instructionally Related Activities Fee and produced with the generous support of the departments of Communication and Visual and Performing Arts, Film Studies and Ethnic Studies Program. The series is curated and directed by Kristine Diekman, Jonathan Berman, and Minda Martin.

For information about the campus call 760-750-4000, or visit www.csusm.edu. CSUSM is at 333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road San Marcos, CA 92096.