



POST OFFICE BOX 1632

GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA 30503-1632

TELEPHONE: 770.534.2787

FAX: 770.534.2973

EMAIL: [info@theartscouncil.net](mailto:info@theartscouncil.net)

WEB: [www.theartscouncil.net](http://www.theartscouncil.net)

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONTACT:** Nairika K. Cornett

Voice: 770.534.2787

Email: [nairika@theartscouncil.net](mailto:nairika@theartscouncil.net)

### **THE ARTS COUNCIL, INC. & GAINESVILLE STATE COLLEGE ANNOUNCE *SOUTHERN CIRCUIT TOUR OF INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS***

The Arts Council, Gainesville State College and South Arts proudly present the 2011-2012 Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers. The tour is a unique interactive program that will bring six (6) award-winning independent films and their filmmakers into Gainesville and Hall County.

The films in this series are *A Bird of the Air* directed by Margaret Whitton; *Louder than a Bomb* directed by Greg Jacobs and John Siskel; *Ahead of Time* directed by Robert Richman; *Barbershop Punk* directed by Georgia Sigumura Archer and Kristin Armfield; *A Gift for the Village* directed and produced by Tom Landon and Jenna Swann; and *You Don't Know What I Got* (screened with *We Shall Not Be Moved: The Nashville Sit-ins* and *We Shall Not Be Moved: The Chattanooga Sit-ins*) directed by Linda Duvoisin. Each film will include a 'Meet the Filmmaker Question and Answer Session'. **Series tickets are \$38 per person for the six films** and include dinner prior to *A Bird of the Air* and all meet the filmmaker receptions at the end of each of the other films. Individual film tickets include a reception, after the screening, with the filmmaker for questions and answers.

Opening the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers series will be the screening of *A Bird of the Air* on **September 15, 2011** at the **Arts Council Smithgall Arts Center**. To kick off the independent film series, we invite you to join us for a dinner before the film, catered by The Holbrook of Lake Lanier. **Dinner will start at 6:30PM and the movie will follow at 7:30PM.** *A Bird of the Air* is a comic romance based on Joe Coomer's highly acclaimed novel, "The Loop," about a bird that leads an assuming pair to each other. Lyman

(Jackson Hurst) is a loveable loner whose job patrolling highways at night, aiding stranded motorists and injured animals, keeps him at a distance from most people. When an extremely rare and highly talkative parrot flies into his home one day, Lyman needs to figure out where the bird comes from and tries to decode its often cryptic and highly literary utterances. Enlisting the aid of Fiona (Rachel Nichols), a sexy librarian who is as interested in Lyman's secrets as she is in the bird's, the pair set off on a search that doesn't always lead them where they think they're going, but which gradually leads them to one another. **Tickets include dinner: \$15 Adults; \$13 Student/Seniors**

The second film in this series *Louder than a Bomb* will be screened **October 20, 2011 at 7:30PM at Gainesville State College**. It is a film about passion, competition, teamwork, and trust. It's about the joys of being young, and the pains of growing up. It's about speaking out, making noise, and finding your voice. It also just happens to be about poetry. This is not "high school poetry" as we often think of it. This is language as a joyful release, irrepressibly talented teenagers obsessed with making words dance. How and why they do it—and the community they create along the way—is the story at the heart of this inspiring film. **Tickets: \$7 Adults; \$5 Students/Seniors**

The third film in this series *Ahead of Time* is a feature-length documentary film on the remarkable life of 97-year-old Ruth Gruber. It will be screened **November 10, 2011 at 7:30PM at the Arts Council Smithgall Arts Center**. Born in Brooklyn in 1911, Ruth became the youngest PhD in the world at age 20. As a student in Germany in 1931, she attended a Hitler rally observing first-hand the rising tide of Nazism. Ruth became a foreign correspondent and photojournalist at age 24. A feminist before feminism, Ruth was the first journalist to enter the Soviet Arctic in 1935. Ruth covered the Nuremberg trials in 1946 and her photos of the ship Exodus 1947 were published in Life Magazine and around the world. With her love of adventure, fearlessness and powerful intellect, Ruth defied tradition and in the process, emerged as the eyes and conscience of the world. **Tickets: \$7 Adults; \$5 Students/Seniors**

The fourth film in this series *Barbershop Punk* will be screened **February 9, 2012 at 7:30PM at Gainesville State College**. This film questions; Is "The Man" controlling the vertical, the horizontal, and the channel you'll be on? In a privatized American Internet, is big business "Big Brother" or does the free market

protect and serve the needs of the average citizen with its invisible hand? With the simple act of swapping files, barbershop quartet baritone Robb Topolski finds himself at ground zero of a landmark case whose outcome will affect the rights of every American citizen. Following one man's personal quest to defend what he believes to be his inalienable rights *Barbershop Punk* examines the critical issues surrounding the future of the American Internet and what it takes to challenge the status quo. **Tickets: \$7 Adults; \$5 Students/Seniors**

The fifth film in this series *A Gift for the Village* will screen on **March 23, 2012 at 7:30PM** at the **Arts Council Smithgall Arts Center**. In June 2007, seven friends traveled from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia to the village of Jomsom in the Himalayas of Nepal to deliver a painting by American artist Jane Lillian Vance. The cross-cultural project examines the connection between an American community reeling in the face of the killings at Virginia Tech, and a remote Himalayan region fighting to preserve its way of life in the face of encroaching modernization. **Tickets: \$7 Adults; \$5 Students/Seniors**

The sixth and final film in this series *you don't know what I got* will screen on **April 12, 2012 at 7:30PM** at **Gainesville State College**. Linda Duvoisin presents three great short films that will peak interest and encourage conversation. Five women, singer/songwriter Ani FiFranco, activist/poet Linda Finney, police officer Julie Brunzell, artist/architect Myrtle Stedman and housekeeper Jimmie Woodruff share stories, confessions, advice, music and poetry. We discover a cross-section of American women with an extraordinary passion for life. *you don't know what I got* screens with **We Shall Not Be Moved: the Nashville Sit-ins** and **We Shall Not Be Moved: the Chattanooga Sit-ins**, two shorts that explore the Civil Rights movement in Tennessee. **Tickets: \$7 Adults; \$5 Students/Seniors.**

**Series tickets are \$38 per person for the six films** and include dinner prior to *A Bird of the Air* and all meet the filmmaker receptions at the end of each of the other films.

The Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers is a program of South Arts. Southern Circuit screenings are funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. Special support for Southern Circuit was provided by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.

Trailers for each film in the series may be viewed at the Arts Council's website [www.theartscouncil.net](http://www.theartscouncil.net).

Series and individual tickets may be ordered on line at [www.theartscouncil.net](http://www.theartscouncil.net) or by calling the Arts Council at 770-534-2787.

**DIRECTIONS TO ARTS COUNCIL SMITHGALL ARTS CENTER**

From Atlanta: Take I-85 north to Exit 113 bearing left onto I-985 north to Exit 20 GA Highway 60 (Queen City Pkwy/Candler RD). Turn left onto GA 60 and proceed approximately 2 miles to intersection with GA Hwy 369 (Jesse Jewell Pkwy). Turn right onto GA 369 and proceed approximately 1 / 2 mile to intersection with W. Academy St (Poultry monument/railroad museum on left & BB&T on right). Turn left onto W. Academy and proceed two blocks and the Arts Council Smithgall Arts Center will be on the right at the intersection of W. Academy and Spring St.

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