



POST OFFICE BOX 1632

GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA 30503-1632

TELEPHONE: 770.534.2787

FAX: 770.534.2973

EMAIL: info@theartscouncil.net

WEB: www.theartscouncil.net

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 19, 2011

CONTACT: Nairika K. Cornett
Voice: 770.534.2787

EMAIL: nairika@theartscouncil.net

THE ARTS COUNCIL PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE SOUTHERN CIRCUIT TOUR OF INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS

IN CONJUNCTION WITH GAINESVILLE STATE COLLEGE & SOUTH ARTS

LOUDER THAN A BOMB

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 second of six films in the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers series is ***LOUDER THAN A BOMB***. It will screen on **October 20, 2011** at **Gainesville State College**. The movie will start at **7:30PM** followed by a 'Meet the Filmmaker' reception. **Tickets: \$7 Adults; \$5 Student/Seniors (65+)**. Series and individual tickets may be ordered online at www.theartscouncil.net or by calling the Arts Council at **770-534-2787**.

Jon Siskel and Greg Jacobs' *LOUDER THAN A BOMB* knocks you out with its passion and strength, even as it leaves you feeling hopeful about a younger generation that, from all media depictions, is obsessed with Internet first-person-shooter video games, *You Tube* and celebrity dirt. Oh and did we mention its underlying theme is poetry?(!) *LOUDER THAN A BOMB* 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.

Every year, more than six hundred teenagers from over sixty Chicago area schools gather for the world's largest youth poetry slam, a competition known as *LOUDER THAN A BOMB*. Founded in 2001, *LOUDER THAN A BOMB* is the only event of its kind in the country—a youth poetry slam built from the beginning around teams. Rather than emphasize individual poets and performances, the structure of *LOUDER THAN A BOMB* demands that kids work collaboratively with their peers, presenting, critiquing, and rewriting

their pieces. To succeed, teams have to create an environment of mutual trust and support. For many kids, being a part of such an environment—in an academic context—is life-changing. *LOUDER THAN A BOMB* chronicles the stereotype-confounding stories of four teams as they prepare for and compete in the 2008 event. By turns hopeful and heartbreaking, the film captures the tempestuous lives of these unforgettable kids, exploring the ways writing shapes their world, and vice versa. 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.

The poetry itself is heartfelt and filled with raw emotion and a gift for language. The young writers must deal with the stress and demands of school and their lives outside of school -- then give themselves over to the muse and live in the confluence of it all.

Their lives are not easy. Steinmetz Academic Center -- whose poets called themselves the Steinmenauts - is an inner-city school where the poetry-slam team coach has to struggle to hold his students' attention and to enforce discipline to get them to write. Yet at a key moment -- when he's ready to toss three team members for disrespecting him -- it becomes clear how much this activity means to them.

"The point is not the points -- the point is the poem," proclaim the emcees when the competition starts and it rapidly becomes apparent just how true -- and how painful -- that notion can be. The students don't just bring it -- they put their entire being into the performances, just as they've invested their souls in the writing itself.

Siskel and Jacobs manage the tricky feat of getting the audience invested in several individual poets, but also involving them in the fate of the Steinmenauts as a group. When the poets themselves get onstage, when the camera holds on their faces as they unleash a full three-minute piece, the effect can be electrifying.

Like *Spellbound* and *Mad Hot Ballroom*, *LOUDER THAN A BOMB* seems to focus on a youth competition. In the end, however, you see that, in fact, the point is not the points -- it's about changing young lives, on giving them a taste for learning and a facility with language. In this post-literate era, how can you not cheer something like that?

Trailers for each film in the series may be viewed at the Arts Council's website www.theartscouncil.net

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.

#