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ARTS ENGINE TAKES ON DOCUCLUB AND REOPENS ITS FISCAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

NEW YORK, NY (March 18, 2008)—Arts Engine is expanding its services to meet the needs of independent filmmakers in New York and nationwide by adopting DocuClub and reopening its fiscal sponsorship program.

The new DocuClub will commence on April 3rd at Goldcrest's postproduction facilities in the West Village. "DocuClub is one of those cool New York happenings," said Nick Quested, Executive Director of Goldcrest Films. "It's great for documentary film and great for filmmakers."

Felix Endara, who joins Arts Engine from the North Star Fund and Global Action Project, has taken DocuClub's helm. Fortuitous and timely for both Arts Engine and its members, the kick-off represents a major step forward in the growth of DocuClub and an expansion of Arts Engine's engagement with the independent media field, which already includes MediaRights.org, the Media That Matters Film Festival, Big Mouth Films and fiscal sponsorship services.

DocuClub's first screening for 2008 will feature Kimberly Reed's *Prodigal Sons*, the story of "a brotherly rivalry between a man and a woman... and Orson Welles." Endara says the film is "...magical, with real potential to resonate with wide audiences." Reed was named one of Filmmaker Magazine's *25 New Faces of Independent Film* for 2007. The moderator will be DocuClub founder Susan Kaplan. "DocuClub is close to my heart and to those who have been part of this great project for the past ten years," says Kaplan. "Passing the torch to Arts Engine feels right and true."

DocuClub began over ten years ago with the mission to serve the robust documentary film community in New York City by creating a space for filmmakers to share works-in-progress and for others to watch and comment on that work. In previous years DocuClub's selections screened at IFC Center, Makor and at the Museum of Modern Art. DocuClub also traveled to film festivals around the country with its "In The Works: Festivals" program, delivering similar works-in-progress workshops nationwide at Silverdocs, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival and others.

In addition to the new DocuClub, Arts Engine is reopening its fiscal sponsorship program, which has so far provided services for over fifty feature-length documentaries, among them Amir Bar-Lev's *My Kid Could Paint That*, Christopher Dillan Quinn and Tommy Walker's *God Grew Tired of Us: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan*, Annie Sundberg and Ricki Stern's *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*, and Jeff Zimbalist and Matt Mochary's *Favela Rising*. Fiscal sponsorship is a vital element of independent filmmaking. Without it hundreds of filmmakers would be shut out of many traditional funding sources that require nonprofit status.

Filmmakers interesting in DocuClub membership or fiscal sponsorship should contact Felix Endara (felix@artsengine.net or 646-230-6368, x221).

MORE

Background on Arts Engine

Arts Engine is in an ideal position to adopt DocuClub and reopen its long-standing fiscal sponsorship program. Now in its tenth year, Arts Engine produces, supports and distributes independent, social-issue media through three principle programs: Big Mouth Films, the Media That Matters Film Festival and MediaRights.org. As a major innovator and contributor to the current independent media culture, Arts Engine's vision for the next decade is to shape and define that culture with reverence for the great tradition of social-issue documentaries as well as an eye toward the future of new technologies and new media. One aim of DocuClub is to bridge the technological and generational divide between those professional filmmakers brought up on long-form documentaries and newer mediamakers who may approach the idea of the documentary with very different ideas. In fact, Big Mouth's first film, *Innocent Until Proven Guilty*, was screened at DocuClub in 1998. Katy Chevigny, co-founder and Executive Director of Arts Engine, recently directed the film *Election Day*, which will be broadcast by P.O.V. in July 2008. Chevigny also co-directed *Deadline* (2004), winner of the Thurgood Marshall Journalism Award, and was the Executive Producer for *Arctic Son* (2007).

To find out more, please go to: www.artseengine.net/docuclub.

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