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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **WEDU HOSTS LOCAL PROGRAM EXAMINING THE AFTER EFFECTS OF 9/11**

*Program to complement PBS Week-Long National Television Event to Examine  
War on Terrorism, Conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, Experience of  
American Troops and Schisms within the Muslim World*

Tampa, FL — WEDU will air a local companion piece to the national PBS series *America at a Crossroads* on **Thursday, April 19 beginning at 8:30 pm**. *America at a Crossroads – A Local Perspective* examines the changes in the Tampa Bay area following the tragedy of 9/11/01. Compelling first-hand accounts from those who were called as first responders weave seamlessly with interviews from those who are currently on the front lines of the war on terror. More than five years later the impact on the area's economy along with interviews of local Muslim leaders and founding members of the Bayshore Patriots – a group whose mission is to say thanks to those – civilian and military - who put their lives on the line to protect and defend our country, bring this special to life for those residing in the Bay area. **Guest appearances on the local documentary include:**

Roger Picard, Tampa Fire Rescue Canine Unit  
Ramona Merritt, Pinellas County Sherriff's Office  
Julie Whitney / Bill Hamblin, Co-founders Bayshore Patriots  
Ahmed Bedier, Exec. Director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Richard Waino, Director, Port of Tampa  
Lewis Millar, Exec. Director, Tampa International Airport  
(Among others)

The national PBS program *America at a Crossroads* is a nine-part series of documentaries hosted by the distinguished journalist Robert MacNeil: The series explores the challenges confronting the world post 9/11 and airs on Sunday, April 15 and runs through Friday, April 20, from 9 – 11 p.m. examining the war on terrorism; the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan; the experience of American troops; the struggle for balance within the Islamic world and Muslim life in America; and perspectives on America's role globally.

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## **America at a Crossroads**

“These independently produced documentaries speak in distinct voices about the challenges we face as a nation post 9/11,” said John Boland, PBS Chief Content Officer. “The depth and perspectives of the programming — and the diversity of the issues and voices explored — serve as a fresh lens on some of the most challenging complexities of our time.”

### **AMERICA AT A CROSSROADS SCHEDULE on WEDU**

**Sunday, April 15 – Friday, April 20, 2007**

(Note: All times are Eastern Standard Time and are subject to change.)

#### **Sunday, April 15**

##### **JIHAD: THE MEN AND IDEAS BEHIND AL QAEDA, 9 – 11 p.m.**

Providing an in-depth look at modern, radical Islamic groups, the film explores the ideas and beliefs that inspire them, along with the challenges they pose for governments in the Middle East and the West.

#### **Monday, April 16**

##### **WARRIORS, 9 p.m.**

*Warriors* profiles a handful of Army soldiers filmed during 2005 in some of the most dangerous areas in and around Baghdad. Their stories are revealed through intimate snapshots as they face the daily complexities and personal risks of the war in Iraq.

##### **OPERATION HOMECOMING: WRITING THE WARTIME EXPERIENCE, 10 p.m.**

This documentary explores the searing firsthand accounts of American troops through their own words — fiction, verse, letters, essays and personal journals. Based on the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) initiative by the same name, the film combines interviews and dramatic readings, transforming this remarkable collection of writings into a deep examination of life on the front lines.

#### **Tuesday, April 17**

##### **GANGS OF IRAQ, 9 p.m.**

This co-production with the PBS series *Frontline* takes hard look at how the four-year training effort to stand up the Iraqi forces has failed and how the Coalition-sponsored forces have themselves been infiltrated by various sectarian militias. Now, it remains to be seen if the coalition can build a national Iraqi army and police in the midst of a civil war.

##### **THE CASE FOR WAR: IN DEFENSE OF FREEDOM, 10 p.m.**

The film travels with former Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle, one of the advocates of the war against Saddam Hussein, as he argues the neoconservative case for an American foreign policy with public figures from around the world, most of whom do not share his view.

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## America at a Crossroads

### Wednesday, April 18

#### **EUROPE'S 9/11, 9 p.m.**

An in-depth exploration of the phenomenon of homegrown terrorism, the film examines the bombings in Madrid, Spain and the connections between those bombers and Al Qaeda cell activities in Milan, Italy and the Van Gogh murder in the Netherlands.

#### **AMERICA'S MUSLIMS, 10 p.m.**

An exploration of the diversity of Muslims in America today, produced in conjunction with *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* — including *NewsHour* correspondents Ray Suarez, Judy Woodruff, Spencer Michels and Fred de Sam Lazaro, and with an opening and closing by Robert MacNeil — the film looks at the ongoing conversation American Muslims are having about life in the United States.

### Thursday, April 19

#### **AMERICA AT A CROSSROADS – A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE, 8:30 p.m.**

This special examines the changes in the Tampa Bay area following the tragedy of 9/11. Compelling first-hand accounts from those who were called as first responders weave seamlessly with interviews from those who are currently on the front lines of the war on terror. More than five years later the impact on the area's economy along with interviews of local Muslim leaders and founding members of the Bayshore Patriots – a group whose mission is to say thanks to those – civilian and military - who put their lives on the line to protect and defend our country, bring this special to life for those residing in the Bay area.

#### **FAITH WITHOUT FEAR, 9 p.m.**

The film follows award-winning writer and Muslim dissident Irshad Manji on a journey through Yemen, Europe and North America as she explores the schisms within the Muslim world. She discovers that Islamic faith can be reconciled with individual freedom — if Muslims have the courage to change.

#### **STRUGGLE FOR THE SOUL OF ISLAM: INSIDE INDONESIA, 10 p.m.**

An exploration of the long history of moderation in Indonesia's practice of Islam shows Islamic radicals have made the country a flash point in the global war on terror. A potential model for Muslim democracy emerges, if Indonesia can succeed in containing the terrorist threat.

### Friday, April 20

#### **SECURITY VERSUS LIBERTY: THE OTHER WAR, 9 p.m.**

The film explores the urgent national debate surrounding the controversial new polices adopted post-9/11 to help prevent terrorism at home. Critics and advocates of the new policies share their views, and the film also tells the compelling real-life stories of people whose lives have been directly affected.

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**Friday, April 20 cont.**

**THE BROTHERHOOD, 10 p.m.**

The Muslim Brotherhood is dedicated to the spread of a fundamental form of Islam throughout the world – but is it also supporting terrorists? Award-winning *Newsweek* journalists Mark Hosenball and Michael Isikoff investigate a movement that preaches peaceful co-existence while offering inspiration for *jihadi* groups.

*America at a Crossroads* national PBS series and *A Local Perspective* air on WEDU the week of April 15 – 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 – 11 pm. For more information about WEDU programming, special events, outreach efforts and community partnerships visit [www.wedu.org](http://www.wedu.org) or call 800.354.9338. WEDU, a 501(c)(3) organization, is West Central Florida's primary PBS station serving 16 counties including the Tampa, St. Petersburg, Pasco, Polk and Sarasota areas through multiple media disciplines including on-air broadcasting and online experiences. WEDU, recently awarded its second consecutive four-star rating by Charity Navigator, is financially supported by its local community, and provides the highest quality education, information, and entertainment programming on local, national, and international levels.

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