



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEDIA CONTACT: Allison Alvarez Hedrick
Vice President of Communications
P: 800.354.9338 ext. 2240
E: ahedrick@wedu.org

COMMUNITY CINEMA TAKES CLIMATE CHANGE OUT OF THE HEADLINES AND MAKES IT PERSONAL WITH SCREENINGS OF *THE ISLAND PRESIDENT*



April 3, 2013, Tampa, FL — Community Cinema, a national documentary screening series sponsored locally by **WEDU**, West Coast Florida's primary PBS station (www.wedu.org/cinema) and Independent Television Service (ITVS) presents a screening of *The Island President* at **New College of Florida** on **Tuesday, April 30th at 6:30 pm**. The screening event is free and open to the public.

President Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldives is a man with a bigger problem than any other world leader has ever faced — the literal survival of his country and everyone in it. After bringing democracy to the Maldives, he must now ensure that his tiny country doesn't disappear under rising sea-levels. That means capturing the attention of global

superpowers, forging alliances, persuading the skeptical, and learning the ropes of international political horse-trading. Despite the size of his country and his political challenges at home, Mohamed Nasheed has become one of the leading international voices for urgent action on climate change.

WHAT: FREE screening of *The Island President*

WHO: Presented by ITVS, Community Cinema, WEDU, and New College of Florida.

WHEN: April 30th at 6:30pm, followed by discussion.

WHERE: The Mildred Sainer Pavilion at New College of Florida. 5313 Bay Shore Road Sarasota, FL 34243

RSVP: This screening event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and RSVP is requested online at www.wedu.org/cinema

-more-

About the Filmmaker

John Shenk is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, cinematographer, and a founder of Actual Films in San Francisco. He co-directed *Afghanistan: Hell of a Nation* for PBS's *Wide Angle* series, and is currently producing *New Heroes*, a series for PBS about social entrepreneurs. He also has produced documentaries for the George Lucas Educational Foundation's series *Teaching in the Digital Age*.

About ITVS Community Cinema

ITVS Community is the national community engagement program of the Independent Television Service (ITVS) and the Emmy Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*. Through Community Engagement Campaigns in support of groundbreaking, independent films, our innovative educational product ITVS Community Classroom and our flagship community outreach program Community Cinema, ITVS Community works to bring communities together and connect them with information, resources and opportunities for education, engagement and positive change. ITVS Community builds on our 15-year legacy of

community engagement activities and makes public broadcasting into a powerful resource for individuals, communities and organizations working on key social issues around the country. For more information visit: <http://www.communitycinema.org>

About *Independent Lens*

Independent Lens is an Emmy® Award-winning weekly series airing on PBS. The acclaimed anthology series features documentaries united by the creative freedom, artistic achievement and unflinching visions of independent filmmakers. Presented by Independent Television Service (ITVS), the series is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), a private corporation funded by the American people, with additional funding provided by PBS, the National Endowment for the Arts and the MacArthur Foundation. The senior series producer is Lois Vossen. More information is at www.pbs.org/independentlens. Join *Independent Lens* on Facebook at www.facebook.com/independentlens.

ABOUT WEDU

WEDU is west central Florida's leading PBS station and public media company reaching 16 counties through media platforms including on-air programming and online experiences that broaden horizons, transport and transform and open gateways to new ideas and new worlds. Financially supported by the community, the organization offers a wealth of award-winning inspirational, educational and enlightening content over a variety of multi-media platforms including: television programming, station's website, wedu.org and various social media platforms, monthly member magazine *Premiere*, educational outreach activities and a myriad of special events. WEDU's focus on the local community has resulted in the station being regarded as a beacon of trust for men, women and children of every walk of life no matter their age, ethnicity or socio-economic status. WEDU is a treasured community resource; a window to the world for the homebound and a vital educational source for the youngest members of society. WEDU prides itself on its position in the Tampa Bay community as a leader, partner, informed citizen and a member of PBS, the most trusted institution in America (Harris Interactive Trust QuickQuery, February 2012).

For more information, program schedules or to support WEDU visit wedu.org; WEDU Public Media on Facebook and Twitter or call 813.254.9338.

-WEDU-