

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 25, 2013



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WEDU PBS AWARDED SUNCOAST REGIONAL EMMY® AWARD **Locally Produced Series, *WEDU Arts Plus*, Honored with Award**

Tampa, FL – WEDU, West Central Florida’s leading PBS station and source for public media, was recently honored by The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences with **2 Emmy® nominations**. WEDU took home one of the coveted golden awards during the Suncoast Regional Emmy® Awards ceremony held on Saturday, November 23rd in Hollywood, Florida.

WEDU Arts Plus is a locally produced arts and culture program that featured the **Emmy®** winning segment ***Project: Shattered Silence***, a theatre production by Ruth Eckerd Hall. *Project: Shattered Silence* features the real-life experiences of young people in our community, told in their own voices.

WEDU, in partnership with **Ruth Eckerd Hall**, will also premiere a full documentary on *Project: Shattered Silence* at the Capitol Theatre on January 10th, 2014.

The **Suncoast Chapter** of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences is a nonprofit Florida corporation dedicated to excellence in television and offers the annual Regional Emmy Awards to television markets in the entire State of Florida; Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles and New Orleans, La.; Mobile, Ala.; Thomasville, Ga.; and Puerto Rico.

To view the **Emmy®** award winning *WEDU Arts Plus* segment featuring Ruth Eckerd Hall’s *Project: Shattered Silence*, visit www.wedu.org/projectshattered Silence . For more information about *Project: Shattered Silence*, visit www.projectshattered Silence.com

Suncoast Regional Emmy® Award Winner:

ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT – Program Feature/Segment

WEDU Arts Plus* / *Project: Shattered Silence

WEDU PBS – Mark Harris, Colleen Hamilton, Bradley Clore

About the *WEDU Arts Plus* segment – *Project: Shattered Silence* documents a local theatre program at Ruth Eckerd Hall that utilizes the true personal experiences of teenagers to demonstrate a bigger

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message: the road to healing begins when you find the courage to open your heart and share your own story. The documentary follows a group of students participating in P:SS (Project: Shattered Silence).

ABOUT WEDU PBS

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 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, January 2013). For more information, program schedules or to support WEDU visit wedu.org; WEDU Public Media on Facebook and Twitter or call 813.254.9338.

RUTH ECKERD HALL, INC.

Ruth Eckerd Hall, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, manages and operates the Richard B. Baumgardner Center for the Performing Arts, the Capitol Theatre and other related off-site programs such as Ruth Eckerd Hall On The Road and Friends of Music. Ruth Eckerd Hall, Inc.'s mission is to engage the community to explore, discover, experience and master quality performing arts.

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