

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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WEDU PBS Presents Final Free Film Screening of the 2013-14 Community Cinema Season in St. Petersburg



Caption: Karess, Sam and volunteer on Election Day. Courtesy of Jen Lemen

Tampa, FL – WEDU PBS will present Community Cinema the final film of the season this Tuesday in St. Petersburg.

The New Black, which takes viewers from church pews to the streets to kitchen tables, follows how the African American community is grappling with LGBT rights issues in light of the recent same-

sex marriage movement and the fight over civil rights. The film explores the struggle over same-sex marriage in the state of Maryland, where the battle for the hearts and minds of black voters — almost a third of the electorate — is fought from the pulpit. Through the stories of activists, families, and clergy on both sides of the debate, *The New Black* charts the evolution of this divisive issue within the black community.

“For over three years I followed how this issue was being debated and understood in the African American community,” said director Yoruba Richen. “I came to realize that the issue of gay rights in the black community is in many ways a fight over the African American family, which has been a contested space since the time of slavery. Marriage is not just about marriage for black people — it’s also about

(more)

how blacks have become accepted as legitimate participants in American society. The gay marriage question has forced a conversation in the black community, which is taking place in our churches, our houses, our neighborhoods, and at the ballot box.”

WHAT: FREE WEDU PBS Community Cinema film screening: *The New Black*

WHO: Presented by WEDU PBS and ITVS

WHEN: Tuesday, June 24th at 6:30pm (Doors open at 6:00pm)

WHERE: Metro Wellness and Community Centers – 3251 3rd Avenue N, St. Petersburg

RSVP: www.wedu.org/cinema (Free and open to the public. Seating is limited, reservations are requested.)

WEDU’s 2014-15 Community Cinema Season line up of films will be announced in mid-August and screenings will begin in September. For more information about WEDU’s Community Cinema program, visit

www.wedu.org/cinema.

ABOUT WEDU PBS

WEDU PBS is West Central Florida’s primary 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, www.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 (ORC International’s DualFrame CARAVAN, January 2014). For more information, program schedules or to support WEDU PBS, visit www.wedu.org, WEDU Public Media on Facebook and Twitter or call 813.254.9338.

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