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WEDU PBS Kicks-Off New Season of Community Cinema with Free Screening of MAKERS: Women in Space



1978 Class Female Astronauts pose in front of model shuttle.
Credit: Courtesy of MAKERS

Tampa Bay, FL – WEDU PBS, West Central Florida’s primary PBS station, will begin a new season of **WEDU’s Community Cinema** with a free screening event at the **Seminole Heights Public Library** on **Friday, October 24** beginning at **2:00 p.m.**

The first film of the season, **MAKERS: Women in Space** will trace the history of women pioneers in the U.S. space program. Some, like aviators Wally Funk and Jerrie Cobb, passed the same grueling tests as male astronauts, only to be dismissed by NASA, the military and even Lyndon Johnson, as a distraction.

It wasn’t until 1995 that Eileen Collins became the first woman to pilot a spacecraft. The program includes interviews with Collins, as well as Sally Ride’s classmates Shannon Lucid, Rhea Seddon and Kathryn Sullivan, and features Mae Jemison, the first woman of

color astronaut, and Peggy Whitson, the first female commander of the International Space Station. The hour ends with the next generation of women engineers, mathematicians and astronauts—the new group of pioneers, like Marleen Martinez and Dava Newman, who continue to make small but significant steps forward.

MAKERS: Women in Space is one of six episodes in the **MAKERS** series that profiles the impact women have had over the past 50 years in industries once largely closed to women — comedy, politics, space, war, business, and Hollywood. Through intimate interviews with trailblazing women known and unknown, viewers will be given a rare glimpse—sometimes funny, sometimes sad, and always candid—of what it was like to be pioneers in their fields.

The film screening will be followed by a community discussion. Guest panelists include: **Sylvia Curley**, Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha; **Linda D’Aquila**, League of Women Voters Rep to the Commission on the Status of Women; **Kathleen Moore**, PhD – USF

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Research Associate Professor in the Department of Mental Health, Law, and Policy of the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI).

WHAT: FREE WEDU PBS Community Cinema film screening, *MAKERS: Women in Space*

WHO: Presented by WEDU PBS, Seminole Heights Library and ITVS

WHEN: Friday, October 24th from 2:00 – 4:00pm

WHERE: Seminole Heights Public Library, 4711 N Central Avenue, Tampa, FL 33603

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

For more information about WEDU's Community Cinema program, visit www.wedu.org/cinema.

ABOUT ITVS

Independent Television Service (ITVS) funds, presents, and promotes award-winning documentaries on public television, innovative new media projects on the Web, and the Emmy® Award-winning weekly series Independent Lens on Monday nights at 10 p.m. on PBS. Mandated by Congress in 1988 and funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, ITVS has brought thousands of independently produced programs to American audiences. For more information visit <http://itvs.org/>.

ABOUT MAKERS

MAKERS is a landmark television and digital-video initiative that aims to be the largest and most dynamic collection of women's stories ever assembled. MAKERS is owned and operated by AOL. Founder and Executive Producer is Emmy award-winning filmmaker Dyllan McGee.

ABOUT AOL

AOL Inc. (NYSE: AOL) is a brand company, committed to continuously innovating, growing, and investing in brands and experiences that inform, entertain, and connect the world. The home of a world-class collection of premium brands, AOL creates original content that engages audiences on a local and global scale. We help marketers connect with these audiences through effective and engaging digital advertising solutions.

ABOUT COMMUNITY CINEMA

Community Cinema is a national civic engagement initiative featuring free screenings of films from the Emmy Award-winning PBS series Independent Lens. Presented by Independent Television Service (ITVS) in partnership with local public television stations and community organizations, these in-person events and online social screenings bring community members together to learn, discuss, and get involved in key social issues of our time. For a complete lineup and more information about the Community Cinema series visit: communitycinema.org.

ABOUT WOMEN AND GIRLS LEAD

Women and girls everywhere are stepping into leadership roles, working to improve their communities, and innovating in science, the arts, business, and governance. Yet there is still much to do to deliver on the promise of equal access and opportunity for women and girls worldwide. Women and Girls Lead is a media initiative to support and sustain a growing movement to empower them, their communities, and future generations. For more information, visit <http://womenandgirlslead.org>.

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 multi-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 visit www.wedu.org; WEDU Public Media on Facebook and Twitter (@wedupbs) or call (813) 254-9338.

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