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WEDU's Community Cinema Brings a Special Presentation of A Path Appears, from the Creators of Half The Sky, to Sarasota and Tampa Venues

Screening to Feature Q&A with Connie Rose of Selah Freedom and Natasha Nascimento of Redefining Refuge



Tampa, FL — Community Cinema, presented locally by WEDU PBS and the Independent Television Service (ITVS), *Independent Lens*, is excited to offer an advance screening of ***A Path Appears***, from the creative team behind the groundbreaking series *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. The series follows author/reporters Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn and celebrity activists Malin Akerman, Mia Farrow, Ronan Farrow, Jennifer Garner, Regina Hall, Ashley Judd, Blake Lively, Eva Longoria, and Alfre Woodard to locations throughout the United States, Colombia, Haiti, and Kenya, as they explore the roots of gender inequality, the devastating impact of poverty, and the ripple effects that follow — including sex trafficking, teen pregnancy, gender-based violence, and child slavery. In their travels, they meet with inspiring activists who are creating effective solutions to gender-based oppression, transforming lives, and providing a roadmap for sustainable future change. Based on the book by Kristof and WuDunn, *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity*, the three-part series, a pillar program of the [Women and Girls Lead](#) initiative, premieres as a special presentation of [Independent Lens](#) on three consecutive Monday nights, January 26, February 2, and February 9, 2015 at 10/9c WEDU PBS, West Central Florida's primary PBS station.

"These are stories of a new generation of leaders that offer new inspiration to bring about change," says WuDunn. "We want people to understand that there are solutions. There are successes."

The Community Cinema screening will preview the following episode(s) from *A Path Appears*:

Episode 1: "Sex Trafficking in the USA"

The Department of Justice estimates that there are 300,000 children at risk of being trafficked into sexual slavery in the U.S. and Florida ranks third in incidents of Human Trafficking. The first episode of *A Path Appears* introduces individual survivors behind these shocking numbers, and illuminates the widespread existence of crimes happening in our own backyards. In this episode, Ashley Judd and Nicholas Kristof are guided through the streets of Nashville by a woman who was first sold to a pimp by her mother at the age of 12, and then visit an example of a solution

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that works; in Boston, Kristof is joined by Blake Lively to learn about an anti-trafficking organization, and they assist a mother who fears her missing daughter has fallen prey to a trafficker; then in Chicago, Kristof joins Malin Akerman to go behind the scenes of sting operations cracking down on the buyers of sex.

WHAT: FREE preview screening of *A Path Appears*, followed by a community discussion about Human Trafficking in the U.S. with Connie Rose and Natasha Nascimento

WHO: Presenters: ITVS Community Cinema, WEDU PBS

WHEN: Thursday, January 22, 2015 at Mildred Sainer Pavilion at New College, Sarasota. Film begins at 6:30pm and Saturday, January 24, 2015 at Tampa Theatre. Film begins at 10:00am

RSVP: www.wedu.org/cinema

For more information, visit: <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/path-appears>. This event is supported by a grant from ITVS, Independent Television Service.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Maro Chermayeff (Executive Producer/Director) is an award-winning filmmaker, producer, director, author, and former television executive at A&E. She is Founder and Chair of the MFA program in Social Documentary at the School of Visual Arts in New York City and partner in the production company Show of Force. Some of her extensive credits include: the award-winning four-hour PBS documentary series *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* (PBS, 2012); the six-hour series *Circus* (PBS, 2010); the Emmy Award-winning 10-hour series *Carrier* (PBS/Nat Geo International, 2008); Emmy and Peabody Award winner *Marina Abramović: The Artist Is Present* (HBO, 2012 and SXSW and Academy Award short list); the documentary short *Kehinde Wiley: An Economy of Grace* (PBS, 2014); *Mann v. Ford* (HBO, 2011); *Parasomnia* (France 2, 2010); the multi-part series *Eminent Domains* (Vanity Fair online); the six-hour series *Frontier House* (PBS, 2002); *American Masters: Juilliard* (PBS, 2003); *The Kindness of Strangers* (HBO, 1999); *Role Reversal* (A&E 2002); *Trauma, Life in the ER* (TLC, 2001) and over 15 specials for Charlie Rose.

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: <http://communitycinema.org>.

ABOUT INDEPENDENT LENS

Independent Lens is an Emmy® Award-winning weekly series airing on PBS. The acclaimed series features documentaries united by the creative freedom, artistic achievement, and unflinching visions of independent filmmakers. Presented by Independent Television Service, the series is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private corporation funded by the American people, with additional funding from PBS and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. For more visit <http://pbs.org/independentlens>. Join the conversation at [facebook.com/independentlens](https://www.facebook.com/independentlens) and @IndependentLens.

ABOUT WEDU PBS

WEDU is West Central Florida's leading PBS station 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 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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