

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

news release **QMAD, Queens Media Arts Development**



35-05 94th Street, Suite 5A, New York City, NY 11372
tel: 646-338-6301
email: info@qmad.org

FRAMING AIDS 2009, Queens' Annual Observance of World AIDS Day Through the Arts, a program of **QMAD, Queens Media Arts Development**, presents Art Exhibition, Film Screenings, Panel Talks, and Online Multimedia Projects in observance of World AIDS Awareness from November 29 through December 20, 2009 in various venues in Queens, NYC.

(Queens, NY- November, 2009)- For the fifth consecutive year, QMAD, Queens Media Arts Development, has organized the presentation of **FRAMING AIDS 2009, Queens' Annual Observance of World AIDS Day Through The Arts**. The three weeks multidisciplinary-cultural event consists of Art Exhibition, Film Screenings, Online Media Projects and community outreach programs created to raise awareness about the AIDS Pandemic in local communities of Queens and NYC at large.

ART EXHIBITION: *The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly*, November 29 – December 20, hosted at **The Queens Museum of Art: Partnership Gallery**, will feature the work of local artists who were selected based on this year's theme: the current Healthcare Reform discussed in Capitol Hill and its possible impact on people affected by HIV/AIDS. FRAMING AIDS 2009 Exhibition, "*The Good, The Bad and The Ugly*," curated by Ada Cintron, is a multidisciplinary event including visual arts, performance, opera, dance and poetry. Cintron states that the exhibition "reflects on the socio-economic, political, moral aspects of the actual healthcare system in the United States, and addresses the fact that our society, in terms of healthcare, fails to adhere closely to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights." Hector Canonge, Director of the program, explains that "the program is timely because it raises present concerns about HIV/AIDS in an environment that leads to reflection and dialogue where artists, community groups, government agencies and

organizations come together and share their voices." Participating artists include : *Caroline Falby, Chin Chih Yang, and Jeremy Landau* whose work articulate the differences between the American system and that of other countries; *Charles Lum, Michael Vickers, Joyce McDonald, Hima B., Hartioun Tenguerian, Nancy Rakoczy, and Carlos Rodríguez* discuss how HIV/AIDS patients live in a system that looks to individuals as consumers rather than human beings. And last but not least, *Margot Lovejoy, Micheline Klagsbrun, Nora Ligoriano & Marshall Reese, LaThoriel Badenhausen and Priscilla Mercedes* question the moral and ethical aspects of the controversial proposed reform.

The **Opening Reception**, Sunday, November 29, 3 - 7 PM, will feature the poetry of *Amir Parsa*, opera by *Gian-Carla Tisera*, and dance by *Inbred Hybrid Collective*. As part of the outreach program, the event also includes an on-site HIV testing installation facilitated by APICHA, Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS.

The **Closing Event**, Sunday, December 20, 5 - 7 PM, includes multimedia performances, and Artist Talk with participant guest artists, community AIDS activists, and representatives from APICHA and AIDS Center of Queens County, ACQC.

FILM SCREENINGS: AIDS in World Cinema, Tuesday, December 1, 5:30 - 7:30 PM at the **Jackson Heights Branch of the Queens Library** includes a selection of films that best reflect the many communities affected by the AIDS Pandemic: **Migration** by *Mira Nair*, and **Positive** by *Farhan Akhtar*, from the *AIDS Jaago Project* under the auspices of Mirabai Films and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, two stories that aim to dismantle myths and misconceptions about HIV/AIDS in India; **Beyond Outcasts** by *Ivan Arocha*, award winning documentary exposes the state-enforced system quarantining of individuals living in Cuba who are HIV positive; **Reporter Zero** by *Carrie Lozano*, chronicles the groundbreaking work of journalist Randy Shilts, who documented the early years of the AIDS epidemic in his best-selling book "And the Band Played On;" and **Walking on Sunshine** by *Tracy Taylor*, the story of two sisters at the center of this crisis. Told through the eyes of Jenna Wheeler, it takes us from the early years of the AIDS epidemic through present day showing how fear, lack of media exposure and miseducation about the disease has led African Americans to be the fastest growing number of new AIDS cases. Q&A

Discussion with attending filmmakers, and representatives of AIDS Center of Queens County and APICHA.

ONLINE DIGITAL PROJECTS: *Multimedia Animations*, Tuesday, December 1, hosted at the program's official website www.framingaids.us will feature multimedia animations created by aspiring media makers from New York City College of Technology, CUNY. The selected works tell stories about living with HIV/AIDS from different perspectives and reference the various communities of the borough of Queens.

Directions:

Queens Museum of Art (NYC Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park).

Take #7 Train to Main Street, Flushing. Exit at Shea Stadium, walk in the direction of the park until you see the metallic globe structure.

Jackson Heights Branch of Queens Library (35-51 81 Street, Jackson Heights, NY 11372)

Take the #7 train to 82 Street or E, G, V, R to 74 Street and Roosevelt Avenue. 5 minutes from either station.

QMAD, Queens Media Arts Development, is a non-for profit cultural organization co-founded and presently under the direction of New Media Artist, Hector Canonge. QMAD produces and implements programs in the arts communications media to encourage Queen's multicultural communities to actively participate in the forging of an artistic identity for the borough. Based on one of the city's most diverse areas, QMAD acknowledges the artistic potential of residents in Queens, and facilitates access to educational activities, cultural events and resources so people participating in the various programs can gain agency in their creative and artistic goals. All QMAD's programs are FREE OF CHARGE and of benefit to underserved populations of the borough.

As part of World AIDS Awareness, QMAD created and produces **FRAMING AIDS** since 2005. The program is intended to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS affecting the communities of Queens, and NYC at large. Hosted by institutions like Queens Library, Elmhurst Hospital Center, La Guardia Performing Arts Center at La Guardia Community College, The Queens Museum, and in partnership with local organizations like AIDS Center of Queens County, ACQC, MetroPlus, APICHA and other non for profits like Scenarios USA,

and VISUAL AIDS, FRAMING AIDS has become **Queen's Annual Observance of World AIDS Day Through the Arts.**

For more details about the FRAMING AIDS 2009 contact:

Hector Canonge: hectorcanonge@qmad.org / 646-338-6301

Ada Cintron: adacintron@qmad.org.

For more information about QMAD, visit: www.qmad.org

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