



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

explore TO SHOWCASE FOUR FILMS
at a special event
EXPLORING THE ART OF PHILANTHROPY
Thursday, June 11, 2009
Vancity Theatre, Vancouver International Film Centre

(June 3, 2009 Los Angeles, CA) **explore**, a multimedia organization that documents leaders around the world who have devoted their lives to extraordinary causes, will be prominently featured in a special event *Exploring The Art Of Philanthropy* with a special screening of **explore** films at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, June 11, 2009, Vancity Theatre at the Vancouver International Film Centre, 1181 Seymour St (at Davie).

This event is a co-presentation with the Vancouver International Film Festival and Vancity Theatre in partnership with the American philanthropic multimedia organization **explore**, whose mandate is to champion the selfless acts of others.

explore features a wide range of topics—from animal rights, health and human services and poverty to the environment, education and spirituality. Both educational and inspirational, **explore** creates a portal into the soul of humanity by championing the selfless acts of others. Individuals and organizations featured in many **explore** films receive funding in the form of Annenberg Foundation grants. To date, over \$15 million has been awarded to over 100 non-profit organizations worldwide.

Vice President and Director of the Annenberg Foundation, Charles Annenberg Weingarten will lead a discussion with the audience and invited guests. The evening will provide an opportunity to talk about the challenges of the world we live in, and to encourage understanding of others through the art of cinema. The discussion will address that film can become more than just a passive activity and can lead to acts of knowledge, education and charity.

Films & running order:

7:00pm Opening remarks by Charles Annenberg Weingarten

7:10pm **explore** presentation:

HERO (4 mins), **PROTEST OR PUNCHES** (4 mins), **ORCA GUARDIANS** (10 mins),
INDIA'S SONG (28 mins)

8:00pm Discussion with Charles Annenberg Weingarten et al.
8:30pm Intermission
8:40pm Reporter (92 mins) - new documentary about Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times reporter/columnist Nicholas Kristof.
10:15pm Reception & refreshments

INDIA'S SONG (21:15) WORLD PREMIERE

Thanks to the extraordinary people who have mastered the art of listening and who have dedicated their lives to preserving India's ancient traditions, the captivating melodies of Indian culture can be successfully preserved, celebrated and shared.

HERO (4 mins.)

Abebech Gobena saves children who have lost their parents due to starvation and other causes. Through great perseverance and seemingly boundless generosity, she now supports more than 5,000 children.

PROTEST OR PUNCHES (4 mins.)

In the Palestinian refugee camp of Baqa'a lives one of Jordan's greatest athletes. "Faraj the Boxer" trains at the Baqa'a Boxing Club with other local youth, but unlike most, he has Olympic potential. Join the Explore team as they visit the gym and learn how Faraj struggles to live down the consequences of one very controversial decision.

ORCA GUARDIANS (10 mins.)

Amidst the San Juan Islands - an archipelago of more than 170 islands in upper Puget Sound - live several pods of orcas known collectively as the Southern Residents. Though the species is often referred to as "killer whales," this group of orcas eats fish, not marine animals. Scientists Kenneth Balcomb and Paul Spong are recording the movements of these incredible creatures, with the hopes that their findings will help protect future generations.

VIFC TICKETS AND INFO

Call the FILM INFO LINE: 604.683.FILM (3456) for the latest info and listings.

Tickets can be purchased in advance on-line at www.vifc.org or in person 30 minutes before showtime.

- Adult tickets: \$10 (Double Bill - \$13)
- Student/Senior \$8 (Double Bill - \$11)

As a registered non-profit society, the VIFC screens films that have not always been seen by the BC Film Classification Board. Under BC law, any person wishing to see these unclassified films must belong to the VIFC Society and be 18 years or older. Valid for one year based on the date of purchase, the VIFC basic membership cost is \$2.00.

For More Membership Information go to <http://www.vifc.org/membership.html>.

Vancity Theatre is located at 1181 Seymour St. (at Davie)

For information regarding **explore**

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