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Renowned Photographer's Visual Journal Chronicles Time Spent at Remote Australian Salt Flats in POV's "SALT," Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2010, on PBS

Film Is Accompanied by Premiere of Animated Shorts From the Peabody Award-winning StoryCorps Oral History Project and Other Short Documentaries

"[StoryCorps interviews] form shimmering threads in the American tapestry." – *USA Today*

Murray Fredericks is an award-winning Australian photographer with a penchant for photographing some of the world's most dramatic and remote places — Patagonia, Tasmania, the Himalayas. In each case, he spends years creating photographic series that go beyond the surface to propel himself and viewers into dizzying, unbounded spaces, challenging the human sense of self and place. About six years ago, Fredericks began making five-week annual trips alone to remote Lake Eyre and its salt flats, the lowest point in Australia. He went, he says, in search of "somewhere I could point my camera into pure space." He discovered a boundless and beautiful land where sky, water and land merge in extraordinary vistas and surprisingly spectacular colors. He also discovered a harsh place where a lone individual might easily find himself pushed to his physical and mental limits. **SALT** is the video diary, made in collaboration with Michael Angus, of Fredericks' pilgrimages to Lake Eyre, a dramatic counterpart to his stunning, stark and surreal photographs.

SALT will have its national broadcast premiere on **Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2010**, at 10 p.m. (check local listings) on PBS as part of the 23rd season of **POV (Point of View)**. Airing with **SALT** are five short films: **Danny and Annie, Part I** and **Part II**, which launch the innovative StoryCorps oral history project on PBS; Ellen Frick's award-winning **A Healing Art**, about makers of artificial eyes; and two stories about losing our possessions: Sean Dunne's **The Archive**, about a man in Pittsburgh who must sell his beloved vinyl record collection — the world's largest; and Maria Fortiz-Morse's **Trash-Out**, an affecting take on an all-too-familiar American story: home foreclosure. POV continues on Tuesdays through Sept. 21 and concludes on Oct. 5 with a special broadcast.

Three years into his photo project at Lake Eyre, Fredericks began taking a video camera along to record his experiences working in such a challenging, visually rewarding environment. His reference points were a crimson, Mars-like landscape, an endless horizon, sunrise and sunset. His only contacts with the outside world were occasional satellite telephone calls with his family. The first footage Fredericks brought back was dramatic and beautiful enough to attract the attention of filmmaker Michael Angus, who began helping him by providing directions for shooting and shaping the material. Angus filmed one scene that appears in the film, a spectacular aerial view of Fredericks leaving Lake Eyre. Other footage shot in more traditional documentary style ended up on the cutting-room floor. Both men became convinced that **SALT** needed to be an intimate point-of-view diary.

And very much like Fredericks' still work, **SALT** retains an unerringly clear-eyed point of view — that of a photographer heading deeper, visually and spiritually, into a vast landscape, even as he begins to unravel a bit under the stresses of working at Lake Eyre. His struggles with rain, mud, lightning, equipment failure and the ever-corrosive salt, not to mention isolation, are punctuated by his gentle dry humor and phone calls with his wife in Sydney, during which they discuss everyday family

events, like their kids' grades, and larger issues, such as when he will be returning home. Sun and sand, sky and land — everything begins to mix and merge. It's enough to make anyone begin to question just what he's doing and why. Yet Fredericks doggedly carries on, and **SALT** is a remarkable and whimsical diary of the artist's thoughts and feelings as he grapples with his materials and subject, and his own deep-seated needs and desires.

Interweaving photos and time-lapse sequences with Fredericks' video diary, **SALT** recreates a spectacular and severe dreamscape, unhinged from a certainty of time and place. A visual delight and an exceptional portrait of an artist at work, **SALT** is also a philosophical meditation on the drive to know the world beyond the boundaries of one's self.

"When Murray showed me the first footage he had shot at Lake Eyre, I was stunned," says co-director Angus. "I knew there were the makings of an extraordinary documentary about his inner and outer journeys on the lake. Integral to the process was Murray recording his own thoughts, feelings and satellite phone conversations with his wife, Franca, back home in Sydney. I felt it was essential to the project that it be an honest and human portrayal of the artist. My aim was to create within the film itself enough space for viewers to imagine and feel something of the experience for themselves."

SALT is a production of Jerrycan Film.

About the Filmmakers:

Murray Fredericks, Co-director/Cinematographer

Murray Fredericks' major photographic series have been produced in the Himalayas, Patagonia, Tasmania and, most recently, Lake Eyre in South Australia. He devotes years to each project. His photographs from the SALT series were first exhibited with Andy Goldsworthy's work at Boutwell Draper Gallery in Sydney. The series was then shown in Shanghai, at the London gallery Hamiltons and at the Louvre as part of Paris Photo. The series is now exhibited at ARC ONE Gallery in Melbourne, where the photographs remain in high demand and many have sold out. **SALT** is Fredericks' first project as a cinematographer and director.

Michael Angus, Co-director/Producer

Michael Angus launched his career as a documentary filmmaker with "The Fight Game," the result of four years spent recording world champion boxer Danny Green's journey from obscurity to sporting hero. Grantlee Kieza of the Australian *Daily Telegraph* described the film as "the best sports film I've seen and the best study yet on the unique profession that is the fight game." Other credits include "Ooldea," commissioned by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, which documents the collaboration of West Australian Symphony Orchestra resident composer Iain Grandage with the Spinifex Elders of the Great Victoria Desert. **SALT** is Angus' third major documentary project and his first as producer/director.

Credits:

Directors/Cinematographers: Murray Fredericks, Michael Angus

Producer: Michael Angus

Editors: Lindi Harrison, Ingunn Jordansen

Original Music: Aajinta

Running Time: 28:00

POV Series Credits:

Executive Producer: Simon Kilmurry

Executive Vice President: Cynthia López

Awards & Festivals:

- Distinguished Documentary Short of the Year, International Documentary Association, 2009
- Grand Prix Award for Cinematography, Pluscamerimage Festival, Poland, 2009

- Erwin Rado Award, Best Australian Short Film, Melbourne International Film Festival, 2009
- Best Documentary Short, Atlanta Film Festival, 2009
- Special Jury Mention, AFI-Discovery Channel SILVERDOCS Festival, 2009
- Jury Prize, Trento Film Festival, 2010
- Best Cinematography, Byron Bay International Film Festival, 2010
- Special Jury Mention, National Geographic Award, Flickerfest International Film Festival, 2010
- Programmers Choice Award, Excellence in Cinematography, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, 2009

(For a complete list of festivals, go to www.saltdoco.com.)

More About StoryCorps Animated Shorts:

- **Danny and Annie, Part I** – Brooklyn natives Danny and Annie Perasa reminisce about their 27-year love affair. Though he may not look the part, when Danny talks about his love for Annie, it's obvious that he is one of the world's great romantics.
- **Danny and Annie, Part II** – After nearly three decades of marriage, fatal illness dashed Danny and Annie's hopes for a long life together. In an intimate and heartbreaking glimpse into a marriage, this animated short witnesses true love as it braves the finality of loss.

Four additional StoryCorps animated shorts air this season on POV: **Q&A** on Aug. 24; **Germans in the Woods** on Aug. 31; and **The Human Voice** and **Icing on the Cake** on Sept. 7. The StoryCorps animation series is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Credits:

Producer/Director: Mike Rauch
 Animator/Director: Tim Rauch
 Audio Producer: Michael Garofalo

Dave Isay, StoryCorps Founder and President

Dave Isay is the founder of StoryCorps and the recipient of numerous broadcasting honors, including five Peabody Awards and a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship. He is the author/editor of books that grew out of his public radio documentary work, including two StoryCorps books, *Listening Is an Act of Love* and *Mom: A Celebration of Mothers from StoryCorps*, both *New York Times* bestsellers.

Mike Rauch, Producer/Director

Mike Rauch first became fascinated with the triumphs, trials and life stories of everyday Americans while working as a door-to-door book salesman. He joined StoryCorps in 2007 and worked as an intern and facilitator before his current role as a producer and director on the StoryCorps animated series. He also works with his brother Tim to produce independent animation through their studio, Rauch Brothers Animation, and he is currently developing a film featuring 1950s recordings with Puerto Rican migrants in New York City.

Tim Rauch, Animator/Director

Tim Rauch has been drawing ever since he was old enough to hold a crayon. His career in animation began on "The Wonder Pets!," the Emmy Award-winning preschool show, where he was an animator and designer. Since then, he has created animation for clients as diverse as Sesame Workshop and Mountain Dew. Through Rauch Brothers Animation, he has also directed and animated two award-winning independent films screening in over 50 film festivals worldwide.

About StoryCorps:

StoryCorps' mission is to provide Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, preserve and share their stories. Each week, millions of Americans listen to StoryCorps' award-winning broadcasts on NPR's "Morning Edition" and podcasts. In June 2007 StoryCorps

received a rare institutional Peabody Award — one of the highest honors in broadcast journalism. Currently StoryCorps has recorded interviews with more than 60,000 Americans in all 50 states.

More About “A Healing Art”:

Nothing can make up for the loss of an eye, but as shown in Ellen Frick’s **A Healing Art**, artificial eye makers Christy Erickson and Todd Cranmore of Seattle combine artistry, skill and compassion to rekindle hope for their patients and families. Each eye is a masterful work of art created to be as unique as the individual who wears it. The film, by Frick’s production team Fly on the Wall, won the American Documentary | POV Award and the Audience Award at the 2009 Documentary Challenge, a timed competition where filmmakers have five days to make a short nonfiction film.

Director: Ellen Frick
Producer: Cassy Soden
Cinematographers: Jerry Lewandowski, Valerie Vozza
Editor: Dina Guttmann

Running Time: 6:00

Ellen Frick, Director

Ellen Frick's documentary work focuses on people facing extraordinary challenges and undergoing powerful changes. She has been on the production team for several PBS documentaries: “Perfect Illusions: Eating Disorders and the Family”; “Pike Place Market: The Soul of a City,” about the history and culture of Seattle's world-famous public market; and “The Rhona Disaster” for PBS and The History Channel, about the sinking of a troop ship in World War II. Her PBS film “Another Side of Peace” follows an Israeli/Palestinian support group of parents who have lost children in the conflict.

Frick, who lives in Seattle, is currently directing "Patriot Riders," a feature documentary about the Patriot Guard Riders, a group of motorcyclists who attend military funerals to honor fallen soldiers.

More about “The Archive”:

This is the story of a man and his records. Paul Mawhinney was born and raised in Pittsburgh. Over the years he has amassed what has become the world's largest record collection. Due to health issues and a struggling record industry Paul is being forced to sell his collection. *An Official Selection of the 2009 Sundance Film Festival.*

Director: Sean Dunne
Director of Photography: Ed David
Editor: Galen Summer

Running Time: 7:00

Sean Dunne, Director

Sean Dunne is a director from Brooklyn who makes documentaries and commercials. His credits include “Meet the Filmmaker” and “Below the Line” for the Sundance Channel and “The Jeffrey Lewis Project” web series for The History Channel. He is 28 years old.

More about “Trash-Out”:

This deeply affecting and simple short film shows workers cleaning out a house that has been foreclosed. What do the belongings left behind say about the family that once lived there? In a mere five minutes, **Trash-Out** makes a poignant statement about a timely subject.

Producer/Director/Editor: Maria Fortiz-Morse
Cinematography/Sound: Maria Fortiz-Morse, Emile Bokaer, Carolina Kondo, Jason Sussberg

Running Time: 7:00

Maria Fortiz-Morse, Producer/Director/Editor

Maria Fortiz-Morse is a recent graduate of Stanford University's master of fine arts program in documentary film and video, where **Trash-Out** was produced. She has worked as an associate producer and researcher for In The Life Media. Her experience growing up in a multiracial family has inspired her to document stories that can bridge cultural differences.

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Produced by American Documentary, Inc. now in its 23rd season on PBS, the award-winning POV series is the longest-running showcase on American television to feature the work of today's best independent documentary filmmakers. Airing June through September, with primetime specials during the year, POV has brought more than 300 acclaimed documentaries to millions nationwide and has a Webby Award-winning online series, *POV's Borders*. Since 1988, POV has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. More information is available at www.pbs.org/pov.

POV Interactive (www.pbs.org/pov)

POV's award-winning Web department produces special features for every POV presentation, extending the life of our films through filmmaker interviews, story updates, podcasts, streaming video and community-based and educational content that involves viewers in activities and feedback. POV Interactive also produces our Web-only showcase for interactive storytelling, *POV's Borders*. In addition, the *POV Blog* is a gathering place for documentary fans and filmmakers to discuss and debate their favorite films, get the latest news and link to further resources. The POV website, blog and film archives form a unique and extensive online resource for documentary storytelling.

POV Community Engagement and Education

POV works with local PBS stations, educators and community organizations to present free screenings and discussion events to inspire and engage communities in vital conversations about our world. As a leading provider of quality nonfiction programming for use in public life, POV offers an extensive menu of resources, including free discussion guides and curriculum-based lesson plans. In addition, POV's *Youth Views* works with youth organizers and students to provide them with resources and training so they may use independent documentaries as a catalyst for social change.

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American Documentary, Inc. (www.amdoc.org)

American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc) is a multimedia company dedicated to creating, identifying and presenting contemporary stories that express opinions and perspectives rarely featured in mainstream media outlets. AmDoc is a catalyst for public culture, developing collaborative strategic engagement activities around socially relevant content on television, online and in community settings. These activities are designed to trigger action, from dialogue and feedback to educational opportunities and community participation.



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