



MEDIA ALERT



Marion Lipschutz, Rose Rosenblatt



Shelby Knox and her parents

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**2005 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL SELECTION
"THE EDUCATION OF SHELBY KNOX"
TO PREMIERE NATIONALLY ON PBS'S "P.O.V." DOCUMENTARY SERIES**

Co-presentation with the Independent Television Service (ITVS)

The Education of Shelby Knox, an Official Selection of the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, will premiere nationally on the 18th season of the PBS documentary series P.O.V., it was announced by Cara Mertes, Executive Director, P.O.V. The film is a Documentary Competition selection at Sundance, which will be held in Park City, Utah, from January 20 to 30. Television's first and most-awarded showcase for independent non-fiction film, P.O.V. will begin its 18th season as a PBS national signature series on June 21, 2005.

The Education of Shelby Knox, by Marion Lipschutz and Rose Rosenblatt, is a coming-of-age story about Shelby Knox, a Christian teenage girl growing up in Lubbock, Texas. Lubbock has the dubious distinction of having one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the state. At 15, Shelby pledges celibacy until marriage as part of True Love Waits, a national Christian movement promoting abstinence among teens, and also joins a campaign for comprehensive sex education in the high schools. As the controversy erupts, she begins to question her conservative Southern Baptist upbringing and ideals. When the campaign broadens to include a fight for a gay-straight alliance, she confronts her family and pastor and grapples with the impact of her evolving beliefs. *A co-presentation with the Independent Television Service (ITVS).*

"The impact of Christian values on civic life is being felt in many ways," said Mertes. "With the Bush administration's support for abstinence-only sex education, school policy regarding what our children are learning about sex becomes an issue for every parent across the country. P.O.V. wants to shed new light on the subject by exploring it from the unusual perspective of a Christian teenager."

The P.O.V. broadcast will be accompanied by extensive outreach in 2005, exemplifying P.O.V.'s mandate to present extraordinary films about issues that are the focus of discussion at the local level.



2005 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

Documentary Competition: The Education of Shelby Knox

Directed by: Rose Rosenblatt and Marion Lipschutz

Attending Sundance: Directors/Producers Rose Rosenblatt and Marion Lipschutz, Executive Producer Cara Mertes (P.O.V.), Editor Jeremy Stulberg, Cinematographer Gary Griffin, and Shelby Knox.

Screening Times

Friday, Jan. 21	6:15 PM	Holiday Village Cinema III
Saturday, Jan. 22	12:00 Noon	Yarrow II – Press and Industry Screening
Saturday, Jan. 22	11:00 PM	Holiday Village Cinema II
Monday, Jan. 24	6:00 PM	Broadway Centre Cinemas IV, Salt Lake City
Wednesday, Jan. 26	2:30 PM	Prospector Square Theatre
Friday, Jan. 28	11:30 PM	Holiday Village Cinema II

Screens With: *Bullets in the Hood: A Bed-Stuy Story*.

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Another Sundance film, Shola Lynch's **CHISHOLM '72 – Unbought & Unbossed**, an Official Selection in 2004, will have its national broadcast premiere on P.O.V. on Monday, February 7, 2005 at 10 p.m. on PBS stations nationwide. (Check local listings.)

About P.O.V.

Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and entering its 18th season on PBS, P.O.V. is the first and most-awarded series on television to feature the work of America's best contemporary-issue independent filmmakers. Airing Tuesdays at 10 p.m. during the summer, and with primetime specials during the year, P.O.V. has brought over 220 award-winning documentaries to millions nationwide, and now has a Webby Award-winning on-line series, *P.O.V.'s Borders*. Since 1988, P.O.V. has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent non-fiction media to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. More information about P.O.V is available online at www.pbs.org/pov.

Major funding for P.O.V. is provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Educational Foundation of America, PBS and public television viewers. Funding for *P.O.V.'s Borders: Environment* (www.pbs.org/pov/borders) is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Support for P.O.V. is provided by Starbucks Coffee Company. P.O.V. is presented by a consortium of public television station including KCET/Los Angeles, WGBH/Boston, and WNET/New York. Cara Mertes is executive director of P.O.V., which is a division of American Documentary, Inc.

ABOUT ITVS

Independent Television Service (ITVS) funds and presents award-winning documentaries and dramas on public television, innovative new media projects on the Web and the Emmy Award-winning weekly series *Independent Lens* on Tuesday nights at 10 P.M. on PBS. ITVS is a miracle of public policy created by media activists, citizens and politicians seeking to foster plurality and diversity in public television. ITVS was established by a historic mandate of Congress to champion independently produced programs that take creative risks, spark public dialogue and serve underserved audiences. Since its inception in 1991, ITVS programs have revitalized the relationship between the public and public television, bringing TV audiences face-to-face with the lives and concerns of their fellow Americans. More information about ITVS can be obtained by visiting itvs.org. ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private corporation funded by the American People.

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For more information or downloadable artwork please visit the P.O.V. online pressroom, www.pbs.org/pov/pressroom

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