



LEXARTS

## **LexArts Presents Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers**

**Contact:** Melissa Wilkeson, LexArts, Inc. (859) 255-2951, [mwilkeson@lexarts.org](mailto:mwilkeson@lexarts.org)

Lexington, KY, September 10, 2008 --- LexArts announces an exciting new event coming to Lexington in the 2008-2009 Season. Southern Circuit tour of independent filmmakers visits Lexington for six independent film screenings and post-screening discussions with filmmakers beginning on Monday, September 22 at the Central Branch of the Lexington Public Library, 140 East Main Street.

Southern Circuit, the nation's only regional tour of independent filmmakers, was originated by the South Carolina Arts Commission in 1975 and currently is organized under the realm of the Southern Arts Federation. Since its inception, Southern Circuit audiences have seen over 200 films and have engaged filmmakers in post-screening discussions of the subjects and themes portrayed in their works.

The 2008-2009 Southern Circuit tour highlights the following films and filmmakers:

### **September 22, 2008**

**Ripe For Change** with Jed Riffe, producer

Debates over agriculture and sustainability have profound implications for all of America. This documentary explores the intersection of food and politics in California, illuminating the trade-offs between mass production, human health and environmental balance.

### **October 25, 2008**

**Counting Backwards** with Aprill Winney, director

Joe is diagnosed with leukemia the day after he meets Claire, the woman of his dreams. This narrative feature film tells the story of one man's struggle to transform his life and to embrace romance and passion in the time he has left to live.

### **November 15, 2008**

**The Meaning of Tea** with Scott Chamberlin-Hoyt, director and producer

This beautifully shot film takes viewers on an exploratory journey around the globe to divine the true meaning of tea by investigating the role it plays in various cultural rituals throughout the world and how these traditions are threatened by today's marketplace.

### **February 21, 2009**

**Member of the Club: A New Orleans Cinderella Story** with Phoebe Ferguson, director

This documentary tells the story of a debutante, Marisa Mitchell, who has been groomed to be a New Orleans Mardi Gras Queen since she was an infant. The film explores black social clubs of the South, as well as issues of race, class and the desire to belong.

### **March 28, 2009**

**All About Us** with Michael Swanson, producer

Two young African-American filmmakers struggle to make it in Hollywood in this narrative feature. Their plan to succeed takes them to Mississippi, where they are confronted with a warmer reality that inspires the healing of family rifts.

### **April 18, 2009**

**A Man Named Pearl** with Scott Galloway, producer/director

A documentary that imparts the inspiring tale of self-taught topiary artist Pearl Fryar, this film shows what one person can achieve when he allows himself to share the full expression of his humanity.

### **Details for first film screening:**

Where: Lexington Public Library, Central Branch, 140 East Main Street  
When: Monday, September 22  
Time: 6 pm  
Cost: FREE

Below please find links to promotional materials for the first film, *Ripe for Change*.

- Photo of producer Jed Riffe - <http://www.southarts.org/atf/cf/%7B15E1E84E-C906-4F67-9851-A195A9BAAF79%7D/JED%20RIFFE.JPG>
- Still image of *Ripe for Change* - <http://www.southarts.org/atf/cf/%7B15E1E84E-C906-4F67-9851-A195A9BAAF79%7D/RIPE%20FOR%20CHANGE%20-%20IMAGE%201.JPG>
- Trailer/Website for *Ripe for Change* - <http://www.californiadreamseries.org/rfc.htm>
- Southern Arts Federation webpage for *Ripe for Change* - <http://www.southarts.org/ripeforchange>

Promotional materials are available for the other five films in the season as well, contact Melissa Wilkeson at [mwilkeson@lexarts.org](mailto:mwilkeson@lexarts.org) for additional links.

### **About LexArts**

LexArts is a non-profit community organization that works for the development of a strong and vibrant arts community as a means of enhancing the quality of life in Central Kentucky. LexArts provides a wide range of programs designed to integrate the arts into our daily lives. Through its annual *Campaign for the Arts*, LexArts has raised millions of dollars in support of local arts. In turn, LexArts underwrites the operating expenses for a variety of beneficiary organizations, offers affordable exhibition and performance space for arts organizations, as well as competitive grants for community outreach projects. Visit LexArts website at [www.lexarts.org](http://www.lexarts.org).

### **About Southern Circuit**

The 2008-2009 Southern Circuit is a program of the Southern Arts Federation. Southern Circuit screenings are funded in part by a grant from the Southern Arts Federation in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and local partner organizations.