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NEWS

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RE: 34th ANNUAL BLACK MARIA FESTIVAL
KICKS-OFF PREMIERE AT HOME BASE,
NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY, ON FEB. 5

FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The national tour of the 34th annual Black Maria Film and Video Festival will kick-off its premiere weekend at its home base, New Jersey City University, on Thursday, February 5 at 8:00 p.m. in Room 202 of Hepburn Hall, 2039 Kennedy Boulevard in Jersey City.

The NJCU premiere will feature screenings of the Festival's four Stellar Award-winning films from the 2015 juried competition. Admission is free.

On Friday, February 6, opening weekend will continue at 8:00 p.m. at the Hoboken Historical Museum, 1301 Hudson Street. The program will feature the Global Insights Stellar Award-winning documentary, "Yakona," as well as several documentary shorts. Tickets are \$10.00. Free validated parking will be available at Littleman Parking Garage, 12th Street and Shipyard Lane.

On Saturday, February 7, the premiere will continue at Art House Productions, 136 Magnolia Avenue in Jersey City. The program will begin at 8:00 p.m. and will feature a screening of the Festival's award-winning short films. As seating is limited, purchasing tickets in advance is advised. Advance tickets are \$10.00 and are available at www.arthouseproductions.org; tickets at the door will be \$12.00.

The premiere's closing event will be sponsored by the West Orange Film Society on Sunday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m. at the AMC Dine-In Theatre, Essex Green 9, 495 Prospect Avenue in West Orange. The program will feature short films, a question-and-answer session, and an "Edison Cake" to celebrate the birthday of Thomas Edison, inventor of the motion picture camera. Tickets are \$10.00 at the door or in advance through Fandango.

The Festival will subsequently travel to museums, cultural centers, colleges, and universities throughout the United States.

The Black Maria Festival attracts and nationally showcases the works of independent film and video makers. The Festival is a project of the Thomas A. Edison Media Arts Consortium, an independent non-profit organization operating in association with the NJCU Department of Media Arts. The Festival was founded in 1981 as a tribute to Thomas Edison's development of the motion picture at his laboratory, dubbed the "black maria" film studio, the first in the world, in West Orange.

In 2015, the Black Maria Festival was awarded the New Jersey State Council on the Arts "Citation of Excellence" for the eighth consecutive year.

For further information contact Jane Steuerwald, an NJCU professor of media arts and executive director of Festival, at (201)200-2043 or jane@blackmariafilmfestival.org. Additional information is also available at blackmariafilmfestival.org.