



press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49 to Host Two Film Festivals to Encourage Dialogue About America at a Crossroads National Premiere

Crossroads film producers Rachel Maguire and Edward Gray will be special guests at local universities

PBS 45 & 49

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KENT, Ohio — April 11, 2007 — **America at a Crossroads**, a major public television event that explores the challenges confronting a post-Sept. 11 world, will premiere on PBS 45 & 49 on Sunday, April 15 at 9 p.m. and will air for six consecutive nights. To encourage dialogue about the series, PBS 45 & 49 will host two film festivals. The first will be held at Youngstown State University on Saturday, April 21 from noon to 5 p.m. The second will be held as part of the Kent State University Symposium on Democracy on Saturday, May 5 from noon to 5 p.m. The events are free and open to the public.

The **America at a Crossroads** series of 11 documentaries, hosted by journalist Robert MacNeil, explores the war on terrorism; the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan; the experience of American troops serving abroad; the struggle for balance within the Muslim world; and global perspectives on America's role overseas. The films air on PBS 45 & 49 from Sunday, April 15 to Thursday, April 19 at 9 p.m., and on Friday, April 20 at 9:30 p.m.

PBS 45 & 49's film festivals each feature screenings of four **America at a Crossroads** films and a special appearance by film producer Rachel Maguire. The following films will be shown at the Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room at Youngstown State University on Saturday, April 21:

- Noon: **Security Versus Liberty: The Other War** — This film explores the impact of counter-terrorism measures on Americans' civil liberties.
- 1 p.m.: **The Case for War: In Defense of Freedom** — Former Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle defends the case for an assertive American foreign policy.
- 2 p.m.: **Faith Without Fear** — Muslim dissident Irshad Manji, author of "The Trouble With Islam," believes that Islamic faith can be reconciled with individual freedom.
- 3 p.m.: **The Muslim Americans** (with discussion following by producer Rachel Maguire) — Produced in conjunction with **The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer**, this film explores the diversity of Muslims in America.

These films will be shown in the Kiva at Kent State University on Saturday, May 5:

- Noon: **Gangs of Iraq** — **Frontline** takes a hard look at U.S. efforts to train Iraqi forces.
- 1 p.m.: **The Case for War: In Defense of Freedom** — Former Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle defends the case for an assertive American foreign policy.
- 2 p.m.: **Faith Without Fear** — Muslim dissident Irshad Manji, author of “The Trouble With Islam,” believes that Islamic faith can be reconciled with individual freedom.
- 3 p.m.: **The Muslim Americans** (with discussion following by producer Rachel Maguire) — Produced in conjunction with **The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer**, this film explores the diversity of Muslims in America.

Guest speaker Rachel Maguire, producer of **The Muslim Americans**, is founder of Naja Productions and has 18 years of television production experience. As a writer-producer and director, she has worked in long-form programming for over a decade, adapting to different styles including investigative, news, dramatic and verite.

Kent State University’s eighth annual Symposium on Democracy, titled “Democracy and Peace? Historical Links and Implications for World Order,” includes discussion with special guest and **America at a Crossroads** film producer Edward Gray. A free screening of his film **Security Versus Liberty** will be held at the Kiva at Kent State on Wednesday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. The symposium also will feature a keynote address by well-known Vietnam political activist and author Tom Hayden, a student essay competition and panel discussions by leading scholars.

About PBS 45 & 49

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. The only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio, PBS 45 & 49 is available to 1.8 million households and 4.6 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. Through funding from eTech Ohio, the organization provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 257,400 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about PBS 45 & 49, visit www.pbs4549.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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