



**PBS
45 & 49**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49 to Air Broadcast Premiere of God as We Understand Him

*Locally produced documentary explores how people of different
faiths and creeds utilize the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous*

KENT, Ohio — May 16, 2008 — A new locally produced documentary, **God as We Understand Him: A Film About Faith and the 12 Step Movement**, explores how recovering alcoholics work the 12 Steps program of Alcoholics Anonymous, regardless of their particular faith and creed. Produced by Joshua Tree Productions of Akron, the one-hour film will be broadcast on PBS 45 & 49 on Tuesday, June 10 at 10 p.m. It will repeat on Thursday, June 12 at 4 a.m. The broadcast premiere coincides with national Founders' Day activities that are held in Akron, the birthplace of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The film also will be shown at free public screenings prior to its broadcast. On Saturday, June 7 at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., the film will be shown on the grounds of Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, 714 N. Portage Path, Akron. Stan Hywet was the historical first meeting place of A.A. co-founders Dr. Bob and Bill W. On Sunday, June 8 at 2:30 p.m., it will be shown at the Akron-Summit County Public Library's main branch, located at 60 S. High St. in Akron.

Joshua Tree Productions is owned by the husband-and-wife team of Joshua Gippin and Shane Wynn. "The central question that I sought to answer with this film was how persons of non-Christian faiths worked the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous despite the organization's Christian roots," Gippin said. He added that the title of the film was derived from Step 3 of A.A.: "Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him."

Members of A.A. who represent many faiths and creeds are interviewed in the film, which also includes interviews with clergy members, clinicians and Alcoholics Anonymous historians. In keeping with A.A. tradition, the identities of A.A. interviewees are kept anonymous and interviews are filmed from the neck down.

A Web site for the production can be found at godasweunderstandhim.org. It includes a 5-minute movie trailer, an interactive discussion forum, a store where the DVD can be purchased and information about the making of the film.

About Joshua Tree Productions

Joshua Tree Video Productions (joshuatreevideo.com) was founded by Josh Gippin as a division of Shane Wynn Photography Studio (www.shanewynn.com). Gippin and Wynn are a husband-wife team based in Akron, Ohio. Gippin starts with an idea, develops it into a script; Wynn shoots the video and stills; then Gippin edits the raw footage to the final cut.

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 4.4 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 256,700 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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