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Special Film Event Celebrates Local Success in Helping Individuals with Disabilities

Cincinnati World Cinema and **The Hamilton County Board of MR/DD** will present two screenings of **THE CATS OF MIRIKITANI**, at 12:30 and 3:00 pm on **Saturday April 12** at the **Cincinnati Art Museum**. The special screening will benefit the MR/DD and highlight the success of that agency in providing housing and support services for local individuals with disabilities.

THE CATS OF MIRIKITANI is one of those rare finds in the documentary film world -- a first directorial work that engages and entertains while addressing serious subjects. The film celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the healing power of art, friendship and compassion. It has garnered "Best Documentary" and "Audience Favorite" awards at over 30 festivals in the U.S. and around the world, including Tribeca, Palm Springs and Tokyo.

The film's central character, a survivor of the World War II internment camps, is Japanese American painter Jimmy Mirikitani. When we meet him in the film he is an elderly homeless man living on the streets of New York, where he is taken in and helped by the filmmaker and social service agencies. After his life-changing experiences, Jimmy now has his own apartment, is happily self-sufficient and shares his art with his neighbors and the community.

Saturday, April 12 12:30 and 3:00 pm

Cincinnati Art Museum, 953 Eden Park Drive, Mt. Adams, Cincinnati OH 45202

Post-film discussion, led by Joe Erpenbeck, MR/DD and Bob Thomas, IHN.

Tickets: \$9.00 (\$7.00 for Art Museum members and students with valid ID)

Info (tickets, trailer, film details, etc.): <http://www.cincyworldcinema.org> and **859.781.8151**.

"**THE CATS OF MIRIKITANI** drew over 900 people for three screenings when we premiered the film last November," says CWC director **Timothy Swallow**. "This encore presentation is a benefit for **The Hamilton County Board of MR/DD** and will allow those who missed the initial screening dates to see this truly inspiring documentary created by Cincinnati native Linda Hattendorf.

"We have experienced similar outcomes in Cincinnati," says MR/DD's **Joe Erpenbeck**. "Through personal attention, friendship and compassion, the agencies and programs we support have revitalized the lives of many persons with disabilities, recognizing their gifts while building a caring community. We believe that sharing **THE CATS OF MIRIKITANI** is the perfect way to increase awareness of our local services while raising funds for important programs." Mr. Erpenbeck will lead the post-film discussion after each of the Saturday afternoon screenings.

Tickets are available in advance at the CWC website, by calling the Cincinnati Art Museum at 513.721.ARTS, through the MR/DD at 513.559.6672 and at local ticket outlets – Sitwell's, Clifton; Lookout Joe Coffee Roasters, Mt. Lookout Square; Shake-It, Northside; and the Coffee Emporium, Downtown. Tickets will also be available at the door, if not sold out in advance.

For more information, call 859.781.8151 or visit www.cincyworldcinema.org

More ...

About Cincinnati World Cinema

An all-volunteer organization, Cincinnati World Cinema showcases outstanding motion pictures normally not shown in Cincinnati with a focus on those that explore the human condition and celebrate cultural diversity. International, independent, narrative and documentary films are typically followed by discussions with filmmakers or local authorities to enhance the educational experience.

<http://www.cincyworldcinema.org>

About the Hamilton County Board of MR/DD

For over thirty years, the Board has provided educational, vocational, and residential services to thousands of individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. The needs of individuals and their families have dictated agency growth. As a result, the Board has been responsive to those needs through added programs, services, and facilities. The growth of the Hamilton County Board of MR/DD represents much more, however, than mere bricks and mortar and programs and staff. Presently, more than 6,000 individuals participate in Board programs and services each year.

<http://www.hamiltonmrdd.org/aboutus.asp>

About the Cincinnati Art Museum

Through partnership with Cincinnati World Cinema, the Cincinnati Art Museum's visitors can enjoy a range of international, documentary, live-action and animated films that further enhance their understanding of the Art Museum's collection and the world around them. Located in scenic Eden Park, the Art Museum features an unparalleled art collection of more than 60,000 works spanning 6,000 years. The Art Museum is open six days a week, free of charge to all.

<http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org>