

Library hosts free screening of 'American Promise' film

ASTORIA — The Astoria Public Library invites the public to attend a screening and discussion of "American Promise," an intimate and provocative account of the experiences of two middle-class African-American boys who entered a prestigious — and historically white — private school on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

The screening will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9. The library is located at 450 10th St. Admission is free.

American Promise spans 13 years as Joe Brewster and Michèle Stephenson, middle-class African-American parents in Brooklyn, New York, turn their cameras on their son, Idris, and his best friend, Seun (Oluwaseun) Summers, who make their way through one of the most prestigious private schools in the country. The Dalton School



Submitted photo

The documentary "American Promise" follows two African-American boys as they make their way through one of the most prestigious, and historically white, private schools in the country.

had made a commitment to recruit students of color, and the 5-year-old best friends were two of the gifted children who were admitted. The boys were placed in a demanding environment that provided new opportunities and challenges, if little reflection of their cultural identities.

Idris' parents, Joe, a Harvard- and Stanford-trained psychiatrist, and Michèle, a Columbia Law School graduate and filmmaker, decided to film the boys' progress starting in 1999. They and members of the large Summers family soon found themselves struggling not only with kids' typical growing pains and the kinds of racial issues one might expect, but also with surprising class, gender and generational gaps. "American Promise," which traces the boys' journey from kindergarten through high school graduation, finds the greatest challenge for the families — and perhaps the country — is to close the black male educational achievement gap, which has been called "the civil rights crusade of the 21st century."

"All American families want to give their children the opportunity to succeed. But the truth is, opportunity is just the first step, particularly for

Film screening

6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9
Astoria Public Library
450 10th St., Astoria
503-325-7323

Free

families raising black boys," says co-director and co-producer Michèle Stephenson. "We hope 'American Promise' shines a light on these issues."

"Our goal is to empower boys, their parents and educators to pursue educational opportunities, especially to help close the black male achievement gap," adds her husband and filmmaking partner, Joe Brewster.

"American Promise" is a co-production of Rada Film Group, ITVS and POV's Diverse Voices Project. ITVS and Diverse Voices Project receive funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The film is part of American Graduate: Let's Make It Happen, a national public media initiative made possible by CPB to identify and implement solutions to the dropout crisis and help parents and teachers keep students on the path to a successful future.

POV (a cinema term for "point of view") is television's longest-running showcase for independent non-fiction films. POV premieres 14 to 16 innovative programs every year on PBS. Since 1988, POV has presented over 400 films to public television audiences across the country. POV films are known for their intimacy, their storytelling and their timeliness, putting a human face on contemporary social issues.

For more information about library programs and services, contact library staff at 503-325-7323 or comments@astorialibrary, or visit the Astoria Public Library at www.astorialibrary.org

Seaside FIRST SATURDAY ART WALK

Feb.
6
5 to 7 p.m.

SEASIDE — The Seaside First Saturday Art Walk, celebrating 12 years in 2016, is all about the arts. Visitors walk about, meet artists, sip wine or snag appetizers by favorite restaurants, view artist demonstrations, listen to an artist talk or enjoy live performances in music.

The next art walk is from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6 at galleries located in the historic Gilbert District of downtown Seaside.

Seaside Yoga

609 Broadway

Seaside Yoga opens the cultural arts season in 2016 with a show featuring two talented Northwest artists, in conjunction with an anniversary celebration. "Seaside Yoga is turning two years old," says owner Kristin Tschannen. "Join us as we celebrate our grand re-opening during the Seaside First Saturday Art Walk and introduce new work by our studio artists, Drea Frost and Sarah Louise (Boslooper). Over the course of the evening, we will be featuring new membership opportunities, discounts on events, classes and merchandise, and a celebratory champagne toast."

Frost, an Oregon artist, works in interdisciplinary photography, painting, fiber arts and sculpture. Her art explores nature, the sublime, geometric patterns, the human condition and relationships. Frost has exhibited at the Hoffman Gallery at Oregon College of Art and Craft.

Boslooper is a 26-year-old artist who loves to create artworks expressing the Pacific Northwest and nature or emotion in strong colors. She primarily works with acrylic or oil pastel on canvas or a mix of burning and painting on wood. She has a hands-on approach; if the paintbrush isn't mastering the thought she's trying to portray, she will literally paint with her fingers. Boslooper's art includes a three-piece wave wall painting.

Beach Books

616 Broadway

Beach Books features work from the Green Cab Artist Collective, a working artist group located in Washington County created with the goal of encouraging and inspiring one another, sharing techniques and information about the business side of art, and sharing work with the public. The Cabbies are a synergistic alliance of artists, working in diverse mediums from the greater Portland area. The February show includes work by Anne E. Brown, Penny Forrest, Lisa Griffen, Jeffery J. Hall, Kathryn Jineant, Christine Martell, Helvi Smith, Bruce Ulrich, Jim Zaleski and Elina Zerberg.

T. Anjuli's Salon & Gallery

7 N. Holladay Drive

T. Anjuli's features the contemporary poster artwork by gallery artist, co-owner and Seaside philosopher Billy Lutz, who has painted in themes for 30 years, developing a philosophy of collectivism premised on the requirements of individual motive and other paradox. Lutz's wife Lisa Scigliano, gallery co-owner and artist, also offers original works of art.

Seaside Coffee House

3 N. Holladay Drive

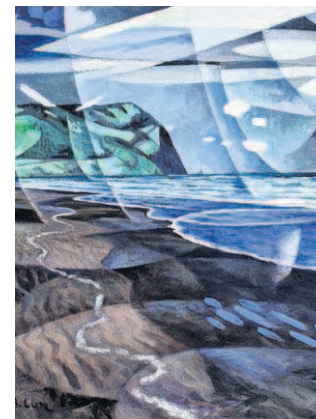
Seaside Coffee House is a welcoming space where art enthusiasts gather,



A painting by Drea Frost at Seaside Yoga, which will be celebrating its two-year anniversary during art walk.



"Organic Pink Ladies" by Penny Forrest at Beach Books.



"Tillamook Head" by Billy Lutz at T. Anjuli's Salon & Gallery.

interact and review the art walk experience. The coffee house features art by Morgan Stoller, whose pen and ink work focuses on dramatic and subtle contrasts of light and shadows. Also find posters by Billy Lutz.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



A three-piece painting by Sarah Louise Boslooper at Seaside Yoga.

The Illahee Apartments



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