Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine Office of Diversity presents

Friday Film Series 2012-2013: Exploring Social Justice Through Film

All films begin at 12:00 pm on the Chicago campus. Due to the length of most features, we begin promptly at noon! All films screened in Daniel Hale Williams Auditorium, McGaw Pavilion. Lunch provided for attendees.

**September 14 – Reel Injun by Neil Diamond (Cree)**
[http://www.reelinjunthemovie.com/site/](http://www.reelinjunthemovie.com/site/)

Reel Injun is an entertaining and insightful look at the Hollywood Indian, exploring the portrayal of North American Natives through a century of cinema. Travelling through the heartland of America and into the Canadian North, Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond looks at how the myth of “the Injun” has influenced the world’s understanding – and misunderstanding – of Natives. With clips from hundreds of classic and recent films, and candid interviews with celebrated Native and non-Native directors, writers, actors, and activists including Clint Eastwood, Robbie Robertson, Graham Greene, Adam Beach, and Zacharias Kunuk, Reel Injun traces the evolution of cinema’s depiction of Native people from the silent film era to present day.

**October 19 – Becoming Chaz by Fenton Bailey & Randy Barbato**
[http://www.chazbono.net/becomingchaz.html](http://www.chazbono.net/becomingchaz.html)

Growing up with famous parents, constantly in the public eye would be hard for anyone. Now imagine that all those images people have seen of you are lies about how you actually felt. Chaz Bono grew up as Sonny and Cher’s adorable golden-haired daughter and felt trapped in a female shell. Becoming Chaz is a bracingly intimate portrait of a person in transition and the relationships that must evolve with him.

As Chaz undertakes gender reassignment, he invites us along on his journey of transformation. Along with his girlfriend, Jenny, he travels from Los Angeles to San Francisco for surgery. It’s clear that the transition is more than physical, especially for those around him. He decides to go public with his story, to put a face on a misunderstood issue. Family and friends offer frank insight in interviews, about Chaz’s past as Chastity and the present. Dealing with the press, Chaz decided to go on the offensive instead of letting reporters dig and assume. Cher tells it like it is, including her reticence about Chaz’s plan to come out loud and proud.

Intimate and nakedly honest about the nitty gritty of transition in general and Chaz’s personal experience, the film reveals the courage it takes for Chaz to embrace his true self.

**November 9 – Hot Coffee by Susan Saladoff**

Seinfeld mocked it. Letterman ranked it in his top ten list. And more than fifteen years later, its infamy continues. Everyone knows the McDonald’s coffee case. It has been routinely cited as an example of how citizens have taken advantage of America’s legal system, but is that a fair rendition of the facts? Do you really know what happened? Hot Coffee reveals what really happened to Stella Liebeck, the Albuquerque woman who spilled coffee on herself and sued McDonald’s, while exploring how and why the case garnered so much media attention, who funded the effort and to what end. It includes the stories of individuals impacted by medical malpractice caps as well as binding arbitration agreements. After seeing this film, you will decide who really profited from spilling hot coffee.
**December 7 — *The Other Side of Immigration* by Roy Germano**

http://www.theothersideofimmigration.com/

Based on over 700 interviews in Mexican towns where about half the population has left to work in the United States, *The Other Side of Immigration* asks why so many Mexicans come to the U.S. and what happens to the families and communities they leave behind. Through an approach that is both subtle and thought-provoking, filmmaker Roy Germano provides a perspective on undocumented immigration rarely witnessed by American eyes, challenging audiences to imagine more creative and effective solutions to the problem. "There are inevitably real people behind the strident slogans and ideological labels in today's immigration debate. This film does more than any other work to give people otherwise disparaged as 'threatening' and 'illegal' a human face and to reveal the devastating personal effects of U.S. immigration and economic policies on our closest neighbors.

**January 11 — *Mann vs. Ford* by Maro Chermayeff**

http://www.hbo.com/documentaries/mann-v-ford/synopsis.html

This feature documentary follows members of the Ramapough Mountain Indian tribe in Ringwood, NJ, in their five-year search for justice through a mass-action, tort lawsuit. From the middle 50s to the late 70s, the Ford Motor Company operated an assembly plant in Mahwah, NJ that produced millions of classic American cars. The waste from this plant, including thousands of tons of toxic lead-based paint sludge, was trucked to Ringwood and dumped into abandoned mine shafts and throughout the woods surrounding the Ramapough’s homes. The working-class residents of the area have suffered from a range of ailments, including skin problems, bleeding disorders and increased rates of cancer and miscarriage, ever since. The EPA placed Ringwood on the Federal Superfund Priorities list in the 1970’s and the site was officially “cleaned-up” and taken off the list in the 1990’s. But the toxins remained.

After years of community effort, the EPA admitted it had “missed” nearly 80 percent of the toxins – and returned the Ramapough’s homeland to the Superfund list (the first time this has ever happened). This film charts the community’s epic battle to secure a healthy future for their children through a major lawsuit against one of the most powerful corporations in America, the Ford Motor Company, and our flawed environmental guardians at the EPA.

**February 15 — *White Light Black Rain* by Steven Okasaki**

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0911010/

In August 1945, the world was transformed in the blink of an eye when American forces dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, causing unprecedented destruction, and precipitating the end of World War II.

In this extraordinary HBO Documentary Film, Academy Award-winning filmmaker Steven Okazaki (Days of Waiting), presents shocking archival footage, stunning photography and heart rendering interviews - from both Japanese survivors of the attacks and the Americans who believed their involvement would help end a brutal conflict - for a deeply moving look at the painful legacy of the first use of nuclear weapons in war.

**March 15 — *Normal People Scare Me* by Keri Bowers & Taylor Cross**

http://www.normalfilms.com/

Based on the 10 minute award winning short film of the same title, *Normal People Scare Me* is a feature-length documentary sharing first-person accounts of life and living with autism. Created by Taylor Cross, a 17 year old aspiring film maker with high functioning autism, *Normal People Scare Me* highlights 65 interviews conducted over the past two years by Cross, with interview subjects representing different levels of abilities on the autism spectrum. The film's
interview subjects range in age from 9 to 57 years. Cross asks subjects questions such as "What does autism look like from your perspective? Do you like or not like being autistic?; What do you want to be when you grow up?; to Have you ever been teased? The courageous kids, teens and adults Taylor interviews offer powerful, poignant, and deeply moving insight to life and living behind the many faces and mysteries of autism.

April 5 – *Gen Silent* by Stu Maddux

[http://stumaddux.com/gen_silent_about.html](http://stumaddux.com/gen_silent_about.html)

*Gen Silent* is the critically-acclaimed documentary from filmmaker Stu Maddux that asks six LGBT seniors if they will hide their friends, their spouses- their entire lives in order to survive in the care system. Their surprising decisions are captured through intimate access to their day-to-day lives over the course of a year. It puts a face on what experts in the film call an epidemic: gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender older people so afraid of discrimination by caregivers or bullying by other seniors that many simply go back into the closet.

Unlike any film before, *Gen Silent* startlingly discovers how oppression in the years before Stonewall now affects older lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people with fear and isolation. Many who won the first civil rights victories for generations to come are now dying prematurely because they are reluctant to ask for help and have too few friends or family to care for them. *Gen Silent* shows the disparity in the quality of paid caregiving from mainstream care facilities committed making their LGBT residents safe and happy, to places where LGBT elders face discrimination by staff and bullying by other seniors. As we watch the challenges that these men and women face, we are offered new hope as each person crosses paths with impassioned people trying to change LGBT aging for the better.

May 3 – TBA student pick!