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“FRITZ: The Walter Mondale Story” Documentary To Premiere At The 2008 Moving Pictures Film Festival

Filmmaker Melody Gilbert's new documentary will open the Minnesota Historical Society's 2008 film competition festivities on Thursday, October 16. The Moving Pictures project honors Minnesota's Greatest Generation.

ST. PAUL (September 23, 2008) – “FRITZ: The Walter Mondale Story,” a new feature-length documentary by award-winning filmmaker Melody Gilbert, will have its world premiere on the opening night of the Minnesota Historical Society’s 2008 Moving Pictures Film Festival. The film explores the life and legacy of former Vice President Walter Mondale and his efforts to encourage a new generation to consider a life in public service.

The Moving Pictures project honors and tells the stories of Minnesota’s Greatest Generation. Walter Mondale, who was born in 1928, is one of Minnesota’s most accomplished and fascinating members of that generation. At the premiere, members of the Mondale family and “FRITZ” director Melody Gilbert will be on hand to introduce the film. “FRITZ: The Walter Mondale Story” premieres on Thursday, October 16, at 7:00 p.m. at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, Minn. To reserve seats and for more information, call (651) 259-3015.

“The Moving Pictures Film Competition preserves the stories of a generation of Minnesotans who witnessed and participated in a remarkable period in U.S. history,” said Randal Dietrich, Moving Pictures project director. “It’s very fitting that this wonderful documentary about Walter Mondale will premiere at the History Center and open the Festival. Mr. Mondale not only helped shape world events and crucial cultural initiatives like the civil rights movement, but he also embodies the ideals of public service that were so prevalent in that generation.”

Films featured in the 2008 Festival will focus on members of Minnesota’s Greatest Generation from the famous—Walter Mondale—to the familiar such as a neighbor down the street. Many of this year’s films, including “FRITZ,” shine a light on the post-war boom years of the 1950s and 1960s when this amazing generation rose to positions of leadership.

“FRITZ: The Walter Mondale Story” features interviews with President Jimmy Carter, Vice President Al Gore, Senator Geraldine Ferraro, Governor Arne Carlson, colleagues, students and the Mondale family. The film, which is narrated by Mr. Mondale’s daughter Eleanor Mondale, also features family home videos, rare archival footage and recently declassified papers from Mr. Mondale’s years in the White House as Vice President to Jimmy Carter. What emerges is a profile of a true public servant who believes in building bridges, not barriers. His hand in history, which includes service as a U.S. Senator, Vice President and Ambassador to Japan, includes important work in civil rights, workers’ rights, environmental issues and much more.

More information about “FRITZ: The Walter Mondale Story” can be found at www.mondalefilm.org. Director Melody Gilbert is an award-winning independent documentary filmmaker, journalist and educator from St. Paul, Minn., who has worked in film and television for more than 20 years. She is co-founder of Darn Good Documentaries, along with Jan Selby. Melody also directs and operates her own independent film production company, Frozen Feet Films. In addition to screenings throughout the country, “FRITZ” will become a part of the permanent Mondale historical archives.

About the Moving Pictures Film Competition

Moving Pictures is Minnesota’s Most Rewarding film competition. Filmmakers of all ages and abilities were invited to submit a film, 10-minutes or less in length, on any topic related to Minnesota’s Greatest Generation – those born between 1910 and 1929. The competition culminates on October 19, with public screenings of all submissions. A ceremony will follow where the Minnesota Historical Society will award \$10,500 in cash prizes to five winning submissions, including a \$5,000 cash prize for the Best Film. Select submissions will be showcased in a statewide tour through the fall including public screenings at libraries, historic sites and schools. The documentary “FRITZ” is not part of the film competition, but rather is a special world premiere event as part of the overall festival.

About the Minnesota Historical Society

The Minnesota Historical Society is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1849 to preserve and share Minnesota history. The Society collects, preserves and tells the story of Minnesota’s past through museum exhibits, libraries and collections, historic sites, educational programs and book publishing. More information can be found at www.mnhs.org.

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