



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
**2011 FLICKERS: RHODE ISLAND
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**
MEDIA RELEASE

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Written by: J. Scott Oberacker, Educational Outreach Director
jsoberacker@film-festival.org • 401.861-4445

PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST:

**Noted Documentary Filmmaker
Frederick Wiseman Comes to Roger Williams
University for the Roving Eye Film Festival
Festival Enters its 6th Year with Special Screening and Symposium
with Acclaimed Director; Free to the General Public**

WHAT: Frederick Wiseman at the **Roving Eye International Film Festival**, Roger Williams University

WHEN: Friday, April 15, 2011: (**Festival Runs April 14-17th, 2011**). **Film Screening: 1:00 and 3:30pm; Symposium: 6-8pm**

WHERE: The RWU Field House, Roger Williams University, 1 Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI and Barrington Public Library, Barrington, RI

WHO: Roger Williams University in collaboration with FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)

HOW MUCH: Free

WHY: To reconsider the historical mission of the US court system through Wiseman's landmark film, and to celebrate the documentarian's role in public life.

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BRISTOL, RI (March 24, 2011): Noted Documentary Filmmaker, **Frederick Wiseman** will be the keynote speaker for the sixth annual **Roving Eye International Film Festival**. The event, which takes place on Friday, April 15th at **Roger Williams University (RWU)**, examines the mission of the U.S. Juvenile Court as seen through the lens of Wiseman's landmark documentary, "**Juvenile Court**". The programming will include a FREE public screening of his acclaimed film and culminate in a panel discussion and audience Q&A at 6:00 p.m. at the RWU Field House.

Frederick Wiseman is one of the world's most celebrated documentarians. He has won numerous awards and his films are universally acclaimed by film critics and scholars alike. Wiseman's films are best known for offering unvarnished portraits of social institutions. Wiseman is also credited for pioneering an observational-style of filmmaking in which standard documentary-techniques such as voice-over commentary and interviews are eschewed in favor of "fly-on-the-wall" recordings of real-life interactions. Wiseman's particular genius lies in the way he deploys careful editing strategies to create compelling narratives highlighting the underlying tensions and contradictions that define institutional life.

Filed at the Memphis Juvenile Court in 1972, "**Juvenile Court**" offers a stark, behind-the-scenes look of a busy Juvenile Court. What makes this film particularly important is that it was filmed in the direct aftermath of a set of landmark Supreme Court decisions that

83 Park Street, Suite 1, Providence, RI 02903 United States • 401.861.4445 (f) 401.490.6735
Email: georget@film-festival.org • Website: <http://www.RIFilmFest.org>

ushered in new, rights-based protections for juvenile offenders. As such, Wiseman was uniquely positioned to capture the court during a critical moment of transformation; a time in which an "old style" form of justice was being forced to comply with a new policy of juvenile rights. This transitional state, expertly captured by Wiseman, makes the film a revealing laboratory within which to examine the role of the current juvenile court system. It also makes the film a powerful testament to the role that artists can play in public discussion and debate.

This special event will take place April 15th on the RWU campus. It will begin with two screenings of "**Juvenile Court**" at 1:00 and 3:30 p.m. followed by the symposium with audience Q&A at 6:00 p.m. The panel will be made up of Mr. Wiseman; Thomas Grisso, an internationally-recognized expert in the field of juvenile justice; Jay Blitzman, First Justice of the Middlesex County Juvenile Court, Barry Grant, a leading expert on Wiseman and documentary film, and Emily Sack, Professor of Law at RWU. The program has been developed by Frank DiCataldo, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology at Roger Williams University along with J. Scott Oberacker, Ph.D., Educational Outreach Director and George T. Marshall, Executive Director, both of **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival**. Topics will include the historical mission of the juvenile court, the film's contribution to public discussion surrounding the court, and the documentarian's role in cultivating public debate.

Wiseman's visit will be the keynote event for the sixth annual **Roving Eye Film International Festival**, proudly presented by **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** and **Roger Williams University**. This popular and acclaimed event, celebrating the art and craft of global cinema, will take place April 14-17th on the campus of Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI. During the festival more than 40 international films will be showcased. Additionally, a special community screening will take place at the Barrington Public Library on Saturday, April 16th. All screenings will be **FREE** and open to the general public.

The **2011 Roving Eye International Film Festival** is sponsored by the *Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (RICH)*, the *Roger Williams University Office of the Provost*; the *Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences*; the *RWU School of Law*, *RWU School of Criminal Studies*, the *RWU Department of Communications*, and the *RWU Department of Psychology*.

ABOUT ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY:

Roger Williams University is a leading independent, coeducational liberal arts university at which students live and learn to be global citizens. With 41 academic programs and an array of co-curricular activities on its Bristol, R.I., campus, RWU is committed to its mantra of learning to bridge the world. In the last decade, the University has achieved unprecedented academic and financial successes and continues to be recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top ten educational institutions in its class.

ABOUT FLICKERS: RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

The **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)**, has secured its place in the global community as the portal for the best in international independent cinema, earning the respect of domestic and foreign filmmakers, filmgoers and trend watchers. This confluence of art and commerce brought together world-class celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent and audience members in record numbers last year. Ranked as one of the top 12 Festivals in the United States, RIIFF is also a qualifying festival for the Short Film Academy Award through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. There are 65 film festivals worldwide which share this distinction and RIIFF is the only festival in New England. The next Festival will take place **August 9-14, 2011**. For more information about the festival, please visit www.rifilmfest.org.

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