

PLAYING FRISBEE IN NORTH KOREA

Aardvark Alley Films - www.PlayingFrisbeeInNorthKorea.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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New York City, December 16, 2015 – Aardvark Alley Films is pleased to announce the upcoming work-in-progress screening of **PLAYING FRISBEE IN NORTH KOREA**, December 18th, 2015 at 10:30 am at the United Nations. The screening is sponsored by the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA). A Q&A will follow the 35 minute excerpt of the film with filmmaker **Savanna Washington, Greg Scarlatoiu**, Executive Director of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK) in Washington, D.C. and **Kim Hyeongsoo**, a high ranking North Korean defector, who worked for 6 years at the Institute for Health and Longevity, the government agency that is responsible for Kim Il Sung and Kim Jung Il's healthcare.

PLAYING FRISBEE IN NORTH KOREA is the first documentary produced and directed by an African-American female filmmaker from inside North Korea. It follows Ms. Washington's journey inside North Korea, offering a first time glimpse into the everyday life of its people. Through interviews with North Korean refugees, long time aid workers, scholars, and experts on the topic, this documentary provides an authentic, inimitable perspective of the lives and struggles of a people.

The idea for the film came out of the "Korean Re-Unification Conference," sponsored by General Colin L. Powell and the then Colin L. Powell Center for Leadership and Service, now the Colin L. Powell School for Civic & Global Leadership. Ms. Washington was a Colin L. Powell/NY Life Graduate Fellow at the Powell Center in 2009-2010. "At the conference, I was surprised to learn about the hardships of the North Korean people, the famine they had endured, and the chronic malnutrition they continue to suffer. One hears about the government of North Korea, but never about what it's like to be an ordinary person living in North Korea and what they endure under the Kim regime," Ms. Washington adds.

Ms. Washington is currently an Assistant Professor of Media Production at the City University of New York (CUNY), and a recipient of a Colin L. Powell/NY Life Graduate Fellowship for 2009-2010, the first filmmaker to be honored. Before the Powell Fellowship, she studied Film at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. She eventually found her way to the City College of New York (CUNY) where she received her M.F.A. in Media Arts, and found a new home as a Colin Powell Graduate Fellow.

Ms. Washington came to the Powell Center as a self-described activist filmmaker. She remarks, "I look to use my work to affect public policy positively and to assist under-served populations." In short, Ms. Washington wants to give voice to the voiceless. The film received initial funding from the then Colin L.

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Powell Center (now Colin L. Powell School for Civic & Global Leadership) Korean Issues & Insights Endowment Grant.

A shorter excerpt of the film screened at The Korea Society last year, attended by enthusiastic audience members who engaged in an animated, informed dialogue following the film with the filmmaker and staff of the Korea Society, the Asian American Film Lab and the Korean American Film Festival of New York.

Ms. Washington relates: "I am greatly appreciative of The Colin L. Powell School for Civic & Global Leadership for their help and support throughout the project. It is because of them and the generosity of Dean Vince Boudreau and the Powell School staff that is making this film possible. I couldn't have come this far without them."

The film is currently seeking post production funding to complete the film, and to fund its accompanying educational outreach campaign. The crowd funding campaign starts December 18, 2015 and ends on January 31, 2016. Those interested in supporting the film can make a contribution at:

IndieGoGo at: igg.me/at/PlayingFrisbeeInNorthKorea

The filmmaker is currently finishing a book on her North Korean journey and will be available to contributors to the film.

For more information on the film, please visit the website:
<http://www.PlayingFrisbeeInNorthKorea.com/>

And LIKE us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PlayingFrisbeeInNorthKorea>

Follow us on Twitter at: <http://Twitter.com/FrisbeeInNK>

Contact Ms. Washington at Info@PlayingFrisbeeInNorthKorea.com

Press interviews will follow the Q&A.

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