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East House to participate in Second Annual Reel Mind Film and Theatre Series; Schedule of 2010 Showings is Announced

East House will once again collaborate with the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the Mental Health Association, Compeer, DePaul Community Services, and the University of Rochester Cluster on Human Values to bring about the second annual Reel Mind Film Series. Plans include a one-man play and an expanded schedule of films. In May and June of 2009, four sold-out documentaries on various mental disorders were shown and were followed by discussions with local psychiatrists, mental health clients and one filmmaker. All four films sold out.

“We were overwhelmed with our success last year. It tells us that there is a need for this kind of series, that people are looking for information, understanding and discussion on mental health issues,” said Herb Katz, who co-chaired the series along with psychiatrist Lawrence Guttmacher, and Ruth Cowing.

The 2010 series will begin with two showings of a one-man play, written and performed by Frank LaFrazia. His play, "**Living with It**," details his experience as a teenager living with his mother who suffered from bi-polar disorder. In his theater piece, La Frazia revisits his life in Rochester between the ages of 13 and 18 during which he was his mother's caregiver, negotiating an obstacle course of hospital admissions, medical problems and his own coming of age. The play will open the series, at Blackfriar's Theatre on May 18th and will be presented again on May 19th. LaFrazia will be on the panel for the after-movie discussion, along with Psychiatrist Steven Dvorin and Greg Soehner, President of East House, who will facilitate the opening night discussion. Kathy Curtis-Rubin, Vice President of Clinical Services at DePaul will facilitate the May 19th discussion.

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Three films will follow, to be shown at the Cinema at 957 Clinton Ave. **“Diagnosis Bipolar: Five Families Search for Answers,”** is a thought-provoking film about the controversial topic of children, diagnoses and medication, that will be shown June 1st at 7:00 p.m. Film-maker Kate Davis and Producer David Heilbroner will take part in the panel discussion following the film. Deb Bartlett of Better Days Ahead, a program of the Mental Health Association, will facilitate.

On June 15th “Unlisted: A Story of Schizophrenia,” the powerful story of an adult daughter (and doctor) who reconnects with her long-estranged, at-times homeless, father, who has suffered from schizophrenia since she was a little girl. Psychiatrist Larry Guttmacher will serve on the panel , as well as Jim Eckberg, a consumer. Kate Daniele, Board member for the National Alliance on Mental Illness, will facilitate.

The Summer film series will close on June 29th with a showing of **“People Say I’m Crazy,”** the award-winning and groundbreaking documentary by and about artist John Cadigan, whose experience with schizophrenia the *New York Times* called “extremely affecting.” Film producer Ira Wohl will be present. The facilitator of the closing discussion is John Delahanty of CARES, the Committee to Aid Research to End Schizophrenia.

Series tickets are \$35, which includes one play showing and all three films. Individual tickets to the play are \$15 and all films are \$8. Tickets can be purchased online with a credit card by clicking www.mharochester.org or <http://www.mharochester.org>, or by calling the Mental Health Association of Rochester (MHA) at (585) 325-3145, or visiting the MHA at 320 N. Goodman Street, Rochester, NY.

Due to popular demand, the 2010 series is a two-part series. Four additional films that focus on mental illness and addictions will be shown during an added Fall Film Series, on October 5, 19, November 2, and 16. The Fall film titles are not yet determined. For more information use this link: <http://www.thereelmind.com/>