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HILLHOUSE VIDEO WORKS, LLC

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Hillhouse Video Works announces the WORLD PREMIERE of OUTCASTS: SURVIVING THE CULTURE OF REJECTION

Saturday, April 26 at 7 p.m.

Wellmont Regional Center for Performing Arts
Northeast State Community College Campus
2425 Highway 75
Blountville, TN 37617

Free tickets available - go online <http://cultureofrejection.org/>

“Outcasts: Surviving the Culture of Rejection” is a documentary film that examines the high cost of recidivism, its devastating effect on families and communities in Tennessee, and some viable solutions that are making a difference by providing a second chance for individuals who otherwise would remain on the fringes of society as outcasts.

“The film also explores the history of recidivism,” says writer/director, Stephen Newton, “as well as the culture of rejection and why it may unwittingly contribute to the high rate of recidivism in Tennessee, where more than 50 percent of offenders return to prison within three years.”

The problems of recidivism (which is a word that means ‘repeat offenders’) needs to be acknowledged by the public because of its high cost to tax payers, not to mention how it affects our society’s overall well-being. The film should be of interest to broadcast, film, and communications students as well as any who are interested in political science and justice. This is the world premiere of the film, which will be distributed nationally beginning May 1. Northeast State Community College is happy to host this event as part of its overall commitment to the community.

According to Jane Hillhouse, President and Creative Director, the recognition of her company's films and website design reflect its continued dedication to expand into digital and video projects. “Our graphic design and corporate communications history has been a great foundation for our website and video projects,” Hillhouse says. “Increasingly, our clients are expected to provide more video and immersive Web site content wherever they encounter the public.”

A description of what the entire film is about:

“Outcasts: Surviving the Culture of Rejection” is a 71-minute documentary that explores the reasons behind the high recidivism rates for released offenders, the impact on Tennessee communities in particular, and the ways that the state’s alternative sentencing and reentry programs work to transform them into productive citizens.

The film also provides historical perspective on the controversy between retribution and rehabilitation—a debate that has been ongoing since the 1800s—and a summary of where that debate stands today. Most of all, it is the story of the men and women who live most of their lives as social outcasts; individuals who lack the resources to break the cycle of recidivism and therefore live perpetually in a culture of social rejection, the odds stacked against them.

One of our fiscal sponsors, John R. Hay House, a residential treatment center for offenders in Kingsport, will be featured as one of several viable reentry solutions available.

Others include:

- Judge Norman and the Davidson County Drug Court (as well as coverage of the opening of the new Morgan County facility)
- William Gupton, Assistant Commissioner of Rehabilitative Services
- Board of Directors and Director of the SteppenStone Juvenile Residential Treatment Center in Limestone
- Lisa Tipton, Director, Families Free in Johnson City
- First Baptist Church's Celebrate Recovery Program, Northeast Tennessee
- Judge Todd Ross and the Hawkins County Drug Court Program
- Alice Snodgrass, Stand in the Gap Organization, Tennessee, Kentucky and Southwest Virginia
- The Justice Policy Institute, Washington, DC
- State Representatives Mike Harrison (Hawkins-Hancock Counties)
- State Representative Tony Shipley (Sullivan County 2nd District)
- Judge Rob Montgomery, Sullivan County Justice Center
- District Attorney General Barry Staubus, Sullivan County
- Sheriff Wayne Anderson, Sullivan County
- Deputy Brian Dillard, Sullivan County Sheriff's Dept.
- Criminal Defense Attorney Rick Spivey
- Pastor David Cagel, First Presbyterian Church
- Professor Nicole Prior, Criminal Justice Professor, ETSU
- Associate Professor Lisa Guenther, Vanderbilt University
- Alex Friedman, Editor, Prison Legal News, Nashville
- Dr. Chuck Walsh, John R. Hay House, Inc.
- Numerous male and female offenders who graciously and courageously shared their stories with us

After the April 26 premiere in Tri-Cities, the documentary will air on East Tennessee PBS, Knoxville, date and time TBD. East Tennessee PBS will also act as the presenter station for other PBS affiliates nationwide.

"Outcasts: Surviving the Culture of Rejection" will be the foundation and inspiration for an integrated public awareness media campaign that will include:

- "Outcasts: Surviving the Culture of Rejection" Web site, CultureofRejection.org
- Facebook page that will become a resource for offenders and their families
- Packaged DVD
- Four 30-second PSAs for television and radio
- Sound track CD with music composed by Paul Vanderbeck
- "Outcasts: Surviving the Culture of Rejection" soft cover book with a DVD insert, featuring environmental photos of program participants by Johnson City photographer David Wood.

Additionally, the film and collateral materials will be presented to middle and high schools in the region, where students will have the opportunity to speak with offenders who have completed various reentry programs successfully.