



City of Edmonds Media Release

Economic Development ~ 121 5th Ave N, Edmonds, WA 98020

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SECOND SCREENING OF FREE DIVERSITY FILM SERIES SET FOR SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18TH

“Swim Team” Will Be Featured Film

(Edmonds, WA) - After a successful first screening of its inaugural Diversity Film Series in October, the Edmonds Diversity Commission is excited to announce the second film screening scheduled for Saturday, November 18th at Noon at the Edmonds Theater, 415 Main Street.

The Series features FREE screenings of poignant, insightful and topical films on themes related to diversity, inclusion and equity on third Saturdays at Noon from October to April (except December).

Kicking off the Series in October was the screening of *Somewhere Between*, a chronicle of the lives of four Chinese girls adopted by American families and their coming-of-age struggles as they find themselves “somewhere between” typical American teenagers and natives of a far-off land that is both familiar, yet alien to them.

“Not knowing what to expect,” stated Diversity Commission Co-Chair Ed Dorame, “we were thrilled to see almost 100 people in attendance at the October film screening. We hope the audiences for this compelling Film Series will continue to grow and fill the house.”

Next week, on Saturday, November 18th, the Series will feature the movie *Swim Team*. Set in New Jersey, the movie shares the story of the parents of a boy on the autism spectrum who

take matters into their own hands after he has been shunned by mainstream swim teams and clubs. They form a competitive swim team, recruiting diverse teens on the autism spectrum and training them with high expectations and zero pity. *Swim Team* chronicles the extraordinary rise of the Jersey Hammerheads, capturing a moving quest for inclusion, independence and a life that feels winning.

The movie was produced and directed by Laura Stolman and runs 90 minutes in length.

Those interested in viewing the trailer can access it at this URL: <https://vimeo.com/208237156>

In January the Series will feature *A Stray*, the moving story of a teenage Somali refugee who struggles to make his way in America while still rooted in the traditional ways of his family, society and religion – all the while crossing paths with a stray dog who befriends him yet challenges his traditional sensibilities.

February will see the screening of *Off and Running*, an intimate and earnest view of the life a Avery, an African-American teenage girl, adopted into a multiracial family led by a Jewish lesbian couple in Brooklyn. With gnawing curiosity about her birth mother and her place in society, Avery questions who she is and struggles with personal crisis.

The March screening will feature *Mi Vida Dentro* (My Life Inside), the story of a controversial court case in Texas in which a young Mexican undocumented immigrant, Rosa, taken in by a family to care for their baby, is falsely accused of killing the youngster when he suddenly dies. The film chronicles the harrowing trial, the unjust verdict, and her time in jail.

The final film in the Series, in April, will be in *Out in America*, featuring stories of both prominent American LGBT figures and ordinary people from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

“As an outgrowth of our mission, the Diversity Commission is thrilled to have put together Edmonds’ first-ever Diversity Film Series,” stated Commissioner Dorame. “These films touch upon issues related to many of the struggles and triumphs of diverse people in our society. We hope attendees will take away new, thought-provoking perspectives.”

Again, screenings are FREE so make sure to arrive 15 to 20 minutes in advance of each noontime showing to guarantee your seat.

Sponsors include Rick Steves’ Europe, the Edmonds Center for the Arts, and the Edmonds Theater.

For more information, including a full synopsis of each film and to view trailers, please visit diversity.edmondswa.gov.

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