OMAHA (6/30/2015) – On Thursday, July 30, at 7 pm, Film Streams, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, and The Union for Contemporary Art will present a special free screening of James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket at the Ruth Sokolof Theater, followed by discussion with directors Karen Thorsen and Douglas K. Dempsey. The digitally restored film celebrates the memory of James Baldwin, one of the greatest writers and civil rights activists of the 20th Century, who would have turned ninety on August 2.

An emotional portrait, a social critique, and a passionate plea for human equality, James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket is now considered a classic. Without using narration, the film allows Baldwin to tell his own story: exploring what it means to be born black, impoverished, gay and gifted — in a world that had yet to understand that all men are brothers.

Baldwin is an vérité feast. Intercutting rarely-seen archival footage from over one hundred sources and nine different countries, the film melds intimate interviews and eloquent public speeches with astounding private glimpses of Baldwin. The film also includes a rich selection of original footage: scenes from Baldwin’s extraordinary funeral service; explorations of Baldwin’s homes on three continents, including France, Switzerland, Turkey and Harlem; plus on-camera interviews with close friends, colleagues and critics. Commentators include his brother David; biographer David Leeming; writers Maya Angelou, Amiri Baraka, William Styron, Ishmael Reed and Yashar Kemal; painter Lucien Happersberger; and entertainer Bobby Short.

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This filmmaker screening is a part of the celebration for Native Omaha Days, which kicks off on July 29 and is a bi-annual event celebrating North Omaha’s historical and cultural legacies. For more information on the schedule of events, please go to www.nativeomahaclub.org.

This free screening is generously sponsored by Bob Culver and Debra Reilly. Tickets are limited to two per person and can be reserved at http://j.mp/1q745iq or through the Film Streams Box Office, in person or at 402-933-0259 x15.

This screening is part of Film Streams’ Community Development Program, which facilitates partnerships with other nonprofits and community groups on film-related events that speak to their missions and programming. Each quarter, Film Streams’ Community Development Committee reviews proposals for special screenings and programs. Deadlines for proposals are January 2 (for April-June events), April 1 (for July-September), July 1 (for October-December) and October 1 (for January-March).

For more information, questions or requests, please contact Patrick Kinney at (402) 933-0259 x 11 or patrick@filmstreams.org.

Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts is a 501(c)3 organization to provide residency opportunities to artists from around the world, so that they may develop new ideas, expand their practice and engage the community.

The Union for Contemporary Art is committed to strengthening the creative culture of the greater Omaha area by providing direct support to local artists and increasing the visibility of contemporary art forms in our community. In every endeavor, we strive to unite artists and the community to inspire positive social change in North Omaha.

Film Streams is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the cultural environment of the Omaha-Council Bluffs area through the presentation and discussion of film as an art form. For more information, visit www.filmstreams.org. Film Streams is grateful for the support of our members, individual donors, corporations, foundations, and government organizations who make our programming possible, including support from:

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