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THE ENRICHMENT CENTER AND UNCSA COLLABORATE ON FILM AS PART OF KENAN INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS’ ACCORD INITIATIVE

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (April 25, 2011) – As part of the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts’ ACCORD Initiative, The Enrichment Center and students from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) School of Filmmaking are collaborating on a film project entitled “If We Are Listening.” The film will be screened on Thursday, May 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) at 750 Marguerite Drive in Winston-Salem.

The screening is free and open to the public and will include a live performance by the Enrichment Center Percussion Ensemble followed by a post-screening panel discussion and reception. For more information, call 777-0076, ext. 209 or visit www.enrichmentarc.org.

The ACCORD initiative, which stands for Artists Contributing to Civic-Oriented and Responsive Democracy, is a project of the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts dedicated to sparking dialogue about the essential role of the arts and civic-minded artists within a thriving democracy. Through this initiative, the Institute is partnering local nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies with area college students to create arts-based projects that address community needs and/or social issues.

“If We Are Listening” explores the current unraveling of civil discourse through music, visual art, photography, dance and film. It explores the subject of civility in our society and the ways in which all of us may have experienced or been effected by incivility through bullying, political discourse, and social networking. Featuring clients of The Enrichment Center, the film weaves together interviews, visual art, performances in dance and music, and photographic images that respond to the issue of incivility in a nonverbal way. The film will highlight art’s incomparable ability to instruct, to make alternatives intellectually and emotionally clear, to spotlight falsehood, insincerity and stupidity, ultimately highlighting art’s ability to break down barriers of prejudice and ignorance, and hold up ideals worth pursuing.

“‘If We Are Listening’ is a powerful film that focuses on issues that are very current today, including how we interact and communicate in our quickly changing world,” Kenan Institute for the Arts executive director Margaret Mertz said. “This film fits perfectly with the objectives of the ACCORD initiative and the role artists can play in examining contemporary social issues.”
“If We Are Listening” is the second ACCORD project created through a collaboration between The Enrichment Center and UNCSA. In 2010, they worked together on play entitled “The Yesman,” which examined communication issues and barriers (particularly verbal communication) between individuals with and without disabilities.

“If We Are Listening” is the first of two ACCORD projects that will be presented this spring. The second project, “Transforming Race,” will partner the City of Winston-Salem Human Relations Department with public high school students and Wake Forest University visual art students, to use visual art media to express ideas about racial identity and diversity. These visual art projects will be part of a public exhibition that is set to open in early June.

The Enrichment Center is an arts-based, not-for-profit United Way agency that provides services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and caregivers. Programs provide alternative employment opportunities through the arts. For more information, visit www.enrichmentarc.org.

The Enrichment Center Percussion Ensemble is a professional performing group that performs in and around Winston-Salem. More recently the ensemble traveled to New York where they performed at the American Folk Art Museum in Manhattan, the Douglass Street Music Collective in Brooklyn and for a national conference in White Plains. Aaron Bachelder, a composer and percussionist, is the founder and director of the ensemble. Current members are: Marcie Haley, drums; Meredith Lamy, vibraphone; Walker Lewis, Jr., marimba; Jonathan Lindsay, piano; Andrew Shumaker, keyboard; Valarie Williams, glockenspiel and Aaron Bachelder, guitar.

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) has partnered with The Enrichment Center to present the film screening performance. SECCA is located in Winston-Salem and is an affiliate of the North Carolina Museum of Art, a division of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, the state agency with the mission to enrich lives and communities, and the vision to harness the state’s cultural resources to build North Carolina’s social, cultural and economic future. Information on Cultural Resources is available 24/7 at www.ncculture.com. SECCA is also a funded partner of The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Additional funding for SECCA is provided by the James G. Hanes Memorial Fund.

The Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts (www.kenanarts.org) is a privately funded program of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts that incubates projects that sustain artists at every point in their creative development through strategic partnerships that capitalize on visionary thinking in the arts.

The University of North Carolina School of the Arts (www.uncsa.edu) is the University of North Carolina’s conservatory for the arts, dedicated entirely to the professional training of students possessing exceptional talents in the performing, visual and moving image arts. UNCSA offers students focused, intense, professional training at the high
school, baccalaureate, and masters levels in its schools of Dance, Design and Production, Drama, Filmmaking and Music.

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