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**Film Streams and MACCH Youth Task Force present
free screening of critically acclaimed CHOP SHOP**

Post-show discussion to center on homeless youth in the Omaha community

Omaha, Nebraska (October 23, 2008)—One of the most critically acclaimed films of the past year will return to the Ruth Sokolof Theater for a free encore screening presented by Film Streams and the Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH) Youth Task Force.

The two nonprofit organizations will host a free screening of director Ramin Bahrani's **CHOP SHOP** on **Thursday, November 6, at 7 p.m.** at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater, located at the corner of 14th and Webster within the Saddle Creek Records development. The film will be followed by a panel discussion about youth homelessness in the Omaha metro area. Panel participants include: Eric Stec, Title I Program Resource Facilitator for OPS; Chelle Sides, Youth Street Outreach Coordinator for Youth Emergency Services (YES); Mary Ann Borgeson, Douglas County Commissioner; and Allison Martin.

Advance passes (free) to the screening and discussion are now available at the Ruth Sokolof Theater during theater operating hours or by calling Katie Risch-Bakhit at (402) 397-5809.

Hailed as "American Independent Cinema at its best" by the *Daily Telegraph*, CHOP SHOP tells the story of Alejandro, a 12-year-old Latino street orphan living and working on the outskirts of Queens, New York. Though on the verge of adolescence, Alejandro spends his days in an adult world, running errands, convincing customers to come to his boss's auto-body shop, and learning how to paint and repair cars—all the while struggling to make life better for himself and his 16-year old sister Isamar. Intimate, heartbreaking, and yet ultimately hopeful, CHOP SHOP is a portrait of a young boy navigating his way through a chaotic adult world. Set in a stunning and unique location, it is subtle and simple, but tells a profound story about the people who live, work, and dream there.

"Sometimes in a smaller theater, away from the searchlights, you find an independent film that is miraculous," critic Roger Ebert wrote in 2007. "Such a film is CHOP SHOP, by Ramin Bahrani, the Iran-born American director whose MAN PUSH CART made such a stir three years ago."

CHOP SHOP, which received its Omaha premiere at the Ruth Sokolof Theater in May, will return for one night only in a collaborative screening presented by Film Streams and the Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH) Youth Task Force.

The Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH) is a network of over 100 providers in the Omaha and Council Bluffs area that works to prevent and end homelessness. MACCH's Youth Task Force, comprised of representatives from Camp Fire USA, Child Saving Institute, Douglas County Health Department, Family Housing Advisory Services, Iowa Legal Aid, Legal Aid of Nebraska, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, Omaha Public Schools, Visiting Nurses Association, and Youth Emergency Services, pulls different human service systems together so that homelessness can stop for the community's children and youth. For more information about the MACCH Youth Task Force, please visit www.macchhomeless.org or call Katie Risch-Bakhit at (402) 397-5809.

For more information about the free screening of CHOP SHOP on November 6, or additional information about upcoming films and events at the Ruth Sokolof Theater, please visit www.filmstreams.org or contact Casey Logan by phone at (402) 933-0259 ext. 11 or email at casey@filmstreams.org.

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. In July 2007, we opened the Ruth Sokolof Theater, our two-screen cinema located within the Saddle Creek Records development north of downtown Omaha. For more information, visit us online at www.filmstreams.org.

