

Banjo virtuoso Béla Fleck on film and in concert

Film Streams and Omaha Performing Arts collaborate on a special screening of the documentary THROW DOWN YOUR HEART, presented in conjunction with a February performance by Béla Fleck at the Holland Center

Omaha, Nebraska (January 19, 2010)—On Tuesday, February 2 at 7 p.m., Film Streams and Omaha Performing Arts will present a special collaborative screening of the documentary **THROW DOWN YOUR HEART**, a boundary-breaking musical adventure that follows American banjo virtuoso Béla Fleck on his journey to explore the little-known African roots of the banjo and to record an album.

The special, one-night-only screening of **THROW DOWN YOUR HEART** will take place at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater, located at the corner of 14th Street and Mike Fahey (formerly Webster) Street. The collaboration 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.

The screening will be presented in conjunction with the performance of Béla Fleck, *The Africa Project* that will take place at the Holland Performing Arts Center on Saturday, February 20 at 8 p.m. as part of Omaha Performing Arts' 2009/2010 Jazz Series.



A feature-length documentary, **THROW DOWN YOUR HEART** follows Béla Fleck as he journeys through four African countries: Uganda, Tanzania, The Gambia, and Mali. Along the way, he works with a wide array of musicians—from local villagers who play a twelve-foot xylophone, to a family that makes and plays the akonting (thought by many to be the original banjo), to international superstars such as the Malian diva Oumou Sangare. As Béla travels across Africa, he forges both musical and personal connections. Using his banjo, he transcends barriers of language and culture, finding common ground with musicians from very different backgrounds and creating some of the most meaningful music of his career.

Tickets for the **THROW DOWN YOUR HEART** screening on February 2 are on sale now at the box office inside Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater (14th and Mike Fahey Streets) and online at www.FilmStreams.org. Tickets are \$9 general admission, \$7 for seniors, students and teachers, and \$4.50 for Film Streams Members. For more information about the screening, please contact Casey Logan by phone at (402) 933-0259 x 11 or email at casey@filmstreams.org.

Tickets for the performance of Béla Fleck, *The Africa Project* at the Holland Center on February 20 are on sale now at the Ticket Omaha Box Office inside the Holland Performing Arts Center at 13th and Douglas Streets, online at www.TicketOmaha.com or by phone at (402) 345-0606. For more information about the concert, please contact Jenni Boldra by phone at (402) 661-8492 or email at jboldra@omahaperformingarts.org.

OMAHA PERFORMING ARTS

Omaha Performing Arts is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing world-class performances to the Omaha metropolitan area. The organization manages two landmark venues, the Holland Performing Arts Center and the Orpheum Theater – the former, which includes the acoustically acclaimed Kiewit Concert Hall and Scott Recital Hall and the latter, which includes Slosburg Hall, a proscenium theater. Omaha Performing Arts also manages Ticket Omaha, provider of comprehensive ticketing services for arts within the region.

Omaha Performing Arts' commitment to the arts extends into its own series, Omaha Performing Arts Presents, as well as education and community involvement programs that help ensure the arts have a far-reaching impact. In partnership with Broadway Across America, Omaha Performing Arts also brings the finest in touring Broadway productions to Omaha..

For more information, visit www.omahaperformingarts.org.

FILM STREAMS™ AT THE RUTH SOKOLOF THEATER

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 complex north of downtown Omaha. Open 7 days a week, our cinema hosts four principal programs: **First Run Films** – new American independents, documentaries, and foreign films making their theatrical premiere in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area; **Repertory Selections** – Classic films, themed series, and director retrospectives; **Arts in Education** – Diverse programming teaching area high school students how to interpret films in a cultural context, empathize with characters in ways that are beneficial to their own personal development, and analyze film as an art form; and **Community Development** – Lectures, forums, Q&A's with film professionals, partnerships with other nonprofits and community groups on film-based events, and other activities that engage the public in a dialogue about film and contribute to a vibrant local arts community.

For more information, visit us online at www.filmstreams.org.

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