

A TIME FOR BURNING (1966)

*Community groups collaborate to present special screening of
Oscar-nominated documentary filmed in Omaha*

Director Bill Jersey to participate in post-show discussion

Omaha, Nebraska—On **Saturday, October 18, at 2 p.m.**, the 1966 Academy Award-nominated documentary **A TIME FOR BURNING** will show at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater as part of a community-wide collaboration designed to foster an ongoing dialogue about race and other intergroup relations in Omaha.

Filmed in Omaha in 1965, one year after the federal Civil Rights Act became law, **A TIME FOR BURNING** follows the attempts of a young Lutheran minister of a then all-white church (Augustana Lutheran) to reach out to a nearby African-American congregation. Despite an earnest mission to bring the community together, the minister, Rev. William Youngdahl, faces resistance from his parishioners and meets a young North Omaha barber—Ernie Chambers—who explains to him why his efforts at integration won't work.

Directed by Bill Jersey and Barbara Connell, **A TIME FOR BURNING** was broadcast nationwide on public television in 1966. It received an Oscar nomination for Best Documentary the following year, and in 2005, forty years after the events featured in the film took place, it was selected by the National Film Registry for preservation in the Library of Congress. This past year, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences honored **A TIME FOR BURNING** with a new 35mm print and will host a special screening with director Bill Jersey on October 20 in New York.

Two days earlier, on Saturday, October 18, Jersey will be in Omaha for the screening at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater, located at the corner of 14th & Webster within the Saddle Creek Records development north of downtown. A post-show discussion will follow the film, with Bill Jersey, the Reverend Susan Butler from Augustana Lutheran Church, and Ray Christensen, who was featured in the film.

On Sunday, October 19, Reverend Butler and Augustana Lutheran, 3647 Lafayette, will host a special interfaith service at 10:30 a.m.

The screening of **A TIME FOR BURNING** is presented by Film Streams in collaboration with Metropolitan Community College, Southeast Community College and **It's Time Omaha**, a collective of community organizations and individuals working together to present an ongoing series of events around the film. The group intends to use the film as a starting point for a community-wide dialogue about race and other intergroup relations in Omaha.

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Representatives or organizations involved with the It's Time Omaha effort include the Anti-Defamation League, Augustana Lutheran Church, Hope Lutheran, the Center for Human Diversity, Conference for Inclusive Communities, Film Streams at the Ruth Sokolof Theater, the Malcolm X Foundation, Project Interfaith, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO).

The October 18 screening will mark the second time A TIME FOR BURNING has been shown at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater. In November 2007, a near-capacity audience attended a special showing of the documentary, followed by a post-show discussion moderated by Ben Gray. The film had been selected by author, public radio host and Film Streams Advisory Board Member Kurt Andersen for inclusion in the "Out There: Nebraska and the Great Plains in the Movies" repertory series.

"It is an amazing, moving film to watch today," wrote Andersen, an Omaha native, in his film notes about A TIME FOR BURNING. "I don't quite understand why I didn't see it 41 years ago."

Tickets for the October 18 screening and discussion are \$8 general admission, \$6 for seniors, students and teachers, and \$4 for Film Streams Members and students of Metropolitan Community College and Southeast Community College. Tickets can be purchased at the box office (open 30 minutes before the first showtime each day), online at www.filmstreams.org, or at any Homer's location.

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.

