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**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY:
DOCUMENTARY FILM PAINTS NUANCED PORTRAIT OF U.S. VOTERS**

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NEW YORK, NY (February 28, 2007)—Arts Engine and Big Mouth Films presents ELECTION DAY, a feature-length documentary about American voters shot on November 2, 2004. The film will have a Spotlight Premiere at the South By Southwest Film Festival in Austin, TX, on March 10th and will continue on to the Atlanta Film Festival, Buenos Aires Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente, and Human Rights Watch Film Festival in New York City, among others.

ELECTION DAY, by award-winning director Katy Chevigny, takes a vérité approach to American voting. It backs away from two-party combat in favor of what men and women on the street do on their quadrennial day of destiny—November 2, 2004.

Leon Batts of New York City votes for the first time as an ex-con. Rashida Tlaib of Dearborn, MI, mobilizes Muslims to vote. Jim Fuchs of Chicago, Republican Committeeman and certified underdog, rallies his people to overcome their losing-party status. These and many others are the stars of ELECTION DAY, a moving and entertaining portrait of the United States as a democracy.

“We see a lot of coverage of elections from a broad perspective and we wanted to look at this momentous day in our democracy with a microscope,” said Chevigny. “We learned that the promise of ‘one-person, one-vote’ is alive and well, but the reality of it is substantially more complicated.”

The film aids and abets voting reform, says Spencer Overton, one of its advisors, who served on the 2005 Commission on Federal Election Reform (the Carter-Baker commission). His book *Stealing Democracy: The New Politics of Voter Suppression* (Norton) came out last June.

“ELECTION DAY brings to life the collective experience of American voting in a way that will enlighten viewers,” says Overton. “This is what our democracy looks like. On one hand, the commitment of individual voters, activists and poll workers is inspiring. But the bureaucratic maze that these Americans face isn’t pretty, and there’s lot of work to be done to make it better.”

ELECTION DAY showcases Chevigny’s storytelling skill and conviction, in this case about what is at stake in our democracy. It depicts felon disenfranchisement, provisional and complicated balloting practices, immigration issues and language barriers, and the raucous free-for-all of U.S. voting. It’s neither apple-pie nice nor obvious exposé. Rather, it’s a nuanced portrait of the attitudes and experiences of the citizens who make this democracy tick.

ELECTION DAY director Katy Chevigny is best known for DEADLINE, an investigation into Illinois governor George Ryan’s commuting of death sentences, which she co-directed with Kirsten Johnson. After premiering at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival, DEADLINE was broadcast on NBC, nominated for an Emmy, and won the Thurgood Marshall Journalism Award.

ELECTION DAY is presented by Big Mouth Films and Arts Engine, a nonprofit that supports, produces and distributes independent media of consequence and promotes the use of independent media by advocates, educators and the general public. Other projects of Arts Engine include the Media That Matters Film Festival and MediaRights.org.

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