



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Annapolis Film Society, The Links, Inc. and The Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center
Present a Special Screening of
“The Educational Divide: The Story of East Side High” on February 8th
at Maryland Hall at 7:00PM**

Unveiling A Candid Look At The Last Segregated High School In America

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland— Annapolis' own Artlife Studio helmed by Dr. Eric Elston (Film Executive Producer) and Maurice Taylor (Film Producer) partnered with former NBA veteran Johnny O’Bryant to create “[The Educational Divide: The Story of East Side High](#)” and are bringing the film to Annapolis for a special screening to celebrate Black History Month. Sponsored by the Annapolis Film Society and The Links Inc., Annapolis Chapter, this screening is part of the Annapolis Film Festival’s ongoing commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity in telling the stories of people of color.

“The Educational Divide: The Story of East Side High” screening will be at Maryland Hall, Wednesday, February 8th, 2023 at 7:00PM at the Goldstein-Cunitz Film and New Media Center in The Bowen Theater. Tickets to the special screening can be purchased for \$15 each [HERE](#) and includes access to an exclusive and complimentary cocktail hour at 5PM in advance of the screening presented by the Annapolis Film Society sponsored by [The Links, Inc](#) and [The Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center](#). The doors will open to the public at 6:30PM.

Spanning issues of race, public education, civil rights, poverty and more, “The Educational Divide: The Story of East Side High” delivers an intimate look at the dismantling of the educational divide in a modern day high school in America. In 2016, 62 years after the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education decision, a federal judge ruled that the small town of Cleveland, Mississippi, must consolidate its two high schools because they are in violation of Brown vs. Board of Education.

“I was shocked to discover that in 2016 America still had segregated schools,” says Lee Anderson, Festival Director and Co-Founder of the Annapolis Film Festival. “As an organization dedicated to inclusion and equity, amplifying this first hand account of the educational divide in a modern day America personifies our mission,” says Patti White, Director and Co-Founder.

Immediately following the film, there will be a panel discussion moderated by Chris Haley (Director, Maryland State Archives) and featuring Professor Don Allen Mitchell (Delta State University), David Ross (Film Director), Corey Lewis (Assistant Maryland State Archivist) and Dr. Eric Elston

(Film Executive Producer).

“We hope this film allows us to recognize that we have a long way to go with race relations and equality in America, but the first step in making progress is listening to each other,” said Dr. Eric Elston, Executive Producer and Co-founder of Artlife Studio. “It forces its viewers to wonder, what can the rest of America learn from this small town in Mississippi?”

For tickets and more information visit:

<https://annapolisfilmsociety.eventive.org/schedule/63bda9ce1ca2bc003ed26d96> or
<https://www.marylandhall.org/events/>

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About “The Educational Divide: The Story of East Side High”:

Spanning issues of race, public education, civil rights, poverty and more, “The Educational Divide: The Story of East Side High” delivers an intimate look at the dismantling of the educational divide in a modern day high school in America. In 2016, 62 years after the landmark Brown vs Board of Education decision, a federal judge ruled that the small town of Cleveland, Mississippi must consolidate its two high schools because they are in violation of Brown vs. Board of Education.

Executive Produced by Johnny O’Bryant, former NBA basketball player who graduated East Side High in 2011. Co-produced by ArtLife Studio and Noir Caesar Entertainment LLC, and directed by Dave Ross, this pivotal film goes beyond the headlines to unveil a community grappling with self-reflection while moving forward.

What can America learn from this small town in Mississippi?

Artlife Studio

ArtLife Studio has produced projects for Idris Elba, Omari Hardwick, 50 Cents, and Angie Martinez. In 2017, Artlife Studio made the animated cartoon for Jay-Z’s 4:44 album “Blue’s Freestyle.” Currently, Artlife Studio has documentaries in production that explore connecting race, culture, religion, education and sports in America. Currently, Artlife working with Slam Magazine’s RTG Films on “The Jewish Jordan: The Story of Tamir Goodman”.

Annapolis Film Society

About the Annapolis Film Society: To encourage community engagement through film on a year-round basis, AFF began experimenting with occasional film screenings beyond the festival season beginning in 2018. These screenings offered film lovers the opportunity to see highly-acclaimed documentary and narrative feature films before their wide release and included thought-provoking films that might not otherwise be shown in Annapolis. The mission of the Annapolis Film Festival is now being formally extended through the Annapolis Film Society, which hosts screenings and other special film-related events all year long. The Annapolis Film Society is dedicated to the celebration of the art of film, to using its power and magic to bring together our diverse community in thoughtful dialogue, and to partnering with other artistic organizations and business leaders to foster ongoing conversations.

To join the AFS, visit <https://www.annapolisfilmfestival.com/pages/about-film-society>

The Links, Inc.

The Annapolis (MD) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated has been serving the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County communities since 1962. As part of its commitment to these communities, the Annapolis Chapter developed a scholarship program to help high school students pursue a college education. Since our chartering in 1962, we have awarded over \$450,000 in scholarships to deserving high school students in the area.

Information about The Links, Incorporated and the Annapolis Chapter may be found at www.linksinc.org and www.annapolislinks.org, respectively.

The Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center

The Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center and Memorial are part of a \$27 million dollar complex called The Wiley H. Bates Heritage Park which opened in a public celebration, September 2006. The Legacy Center is dedicated to preserving and presenting the history of Wiley H. Bates High School, formerly (1932 to 1966) the only high school for African Americans in Anne Arundel County. It is a unique cultural arts heritage center displaying historical documents and collections that preserve the African American experience.

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