

**Subject: *Portraits of America: Democracy on Film* workshop being held October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**

Contact: Annette Frank or Kathy Vander at [info@daftonline.org](mailto:info@daftonline.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 27, 2018

An extraordinary opportunity is being presented to Michigan teachers by the Directors Guild of America (DGA), Digital Arts, Film and Television (DAFT) and the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA). A two-day workshop entitled ***Portraits of America: Democracy on Film*** will happen October 2 and 3 at the DIA.

Following a successful pilot a few years ago the DGA has developed a much-expanded *Story of Movies* curriculum that uses movies to teach concepts in American history and culture to middle and high school students. Detroit was selected as one of three cities for the rollout (Philadelphia and Cleveland were the others). The *Portraits of America* workshop is supported by the DGA and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

The intensive professional development workshop provides a full range of teacher and student materials to participants along with free evening film screenings open to the public. The themes of the new materials are Labor, Immigration and Civil Rights. The curriculum uses film clips to identify film structures and cinematic strategies that exemplify and amplify those themes. This workshop is especially valuable to any engaged teacher of history, civics, social studies, media literacy or language arts.

The workshops will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the DIA, 5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. Lunch is provided and continuing education credits will be available for teachers. The evening film screenings will be shown in the historic Detroit Film Theatre at the DIA. (See schedule below)

For information about the Detroit workshop, you may contact Kathy Vander or Annette Frank at [info@daftonline.org](mailto:info@daftonline.org). To register, email Julia Wayne at [Jwayne@Film-foundation.org](mailto:Jwayne@Film-foundation.org). Although registration is free there are a limited number of spaces available so please register as soon as possible. The event flyer is attached.

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	Tuesday, October 2	Wednesday, October 3
<p>Evening program Feature Films Starting at 7:00</p>	<p><i>At the River I Stand</i> (1993, directors David Appleby, Allison Graham and Steven Ross – 56 minutes)</p> <p>A powerful documentary recounting the two months leading to the death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968.</p> <p><i>Salt of the Earth</i> (1954, directed by Herbert J. Biberman – 94 minutes)</p> <p>This is a historical drama about the Empire Zinc mine strike protesting unsafe working conditions. The strike takes a turn with the help of an unexpected group.</p>	<p><i>Where Are My Children?</i> (1916, directed by Lois Weber – 62 minutes)</p> <p>This silent drama is about a district attorney prosecuting an abortionist.</p> <p><i>The Times of Harvey Milk</i> (1984, directed by Robert Epstein – 90 minutes)</p> <p>This documentary film is about San Francisco mayor Harvey Milk’s rise to being the first openly gay elected official in California.</p>