

NEWS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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April 25, 2014

'Trials of Muhammad Ali' Featured at WKAR Community Cinema and Project 60/50

(East Lansing, MI) – WKAR Community Cinema returns in May with a screening and conversation about **The Trials of Muhammad Ali**. The new documentary from **Independent Lens** explores the extraordinary and complex life of the legendary athlete outside the boxing ring. This screening and conversation is a free presentation in partnership with **Project 60/50** at Michigan State University.

The WKAR Community Cinema event takes place **Thursday, May 8 at 7 p.m.** at WKAR in the Communication Arts and Sciences building on the Michigan State campus. The event is free, but online reservations are required at WKAR.org.

The evening begins with a screening of a short portion of the film. The full 85-minute documentary can be viewed online now through May 5 at wkar.org.

Joining the conversation from Michigan State University are **Waseem El-Rayes**, coordinator of Muslim Studies Specialization in James Madison College; **Daniel Manville**, director of the Civil Rights Clinic in the College of Law; and **Pero Dagbovie**, director of the Department of History graduate program.

About 'The Trials of Muhammad Ali'

This is the story of Ali's toughest bout: his battle to overturn the five-year prison sentence he received for refusing U.S. military service. The film explores Ali's exile years when he was banned from boxing and found himself in the crosshairs of conflicts concerning race, religion, and wartime dissent.

Directed by Academy Award-nominated director Bill Siegel, **The Trials of Muhammad Ali** examines how one of the most celebrated sports champions of the 20th century risked fame and fortune to follow his faith and conscience. From joining the controversial Nation of Islam and changing his name from Cassius Clay to Muhammad Ali, from his refusal to serve in the Vietnam War in the name of protesting racial inequality to his global humanitarian work, Muhammad Ali remains an inspiring and controversial figure. Outspoken and passionate in his beliefs, Ali found himself in the crosshairs of conflicts concerning race, religion, and wartime dissent.

Focusing on some of the most noteworthy, provocative, and resonant aspects of the legendary athlete's life, **The Trials of Muhammad Ali** explores his lifelong journey of spiritual transformation. From his Louisville roots through his years in exile to receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Ali's path was that of poet to pariah to global ambassador for peace.

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On the Air

The Trials of Muhammad Ali airs Thurs., May 29, 8 p.m. on WKAR World.

About Project 60/50

Michigan State University facilitates a year-long community conversation on civil and human rights. Learn more at inclusion.msu.edu

Community Cinema is a groundbreaking public education and civic engagement initiative featuring screenings of films from Independent Lens on location in 100 cities and online. Between September and June, Community Cinema brings together leading organizations, community members and public television stations to learn, discuss and get involved in today's critical social issues.

WKAR is part of Michigan State University's College of Communication Arts and Sciences and includes WKAR TV, WKAR Radio, WKAR.org, WKAR Radio Reading Service and WKAR Ready To Learn Service. WKAR is funded in large part by community viewer and listener contributions with additional support from Michigan State University and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

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