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August 3, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For information call: Clifford Laube at (845) 486-7745

**The Pare Lorentz Center at the FDR Presidential Library presents
“Documentary Film: Then and Now” Film Festival
August 18, 2012 from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Henry A. Wallace Center at the
FDR Presidential Library and Home**

HYDE PARK, NY -- The Pare Lorentz Center at the FDR Presidential Library will host “Documentary Film: Then and Now” a documentary film festival on Saturday, August 18, 2012. The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Henry A. Wallace Center with screenings of two groundbreaking films by Roosevelt-era film maker Pare Lorentz: “The Plow that Broke the Plains” and “The River.” Afternoon screenings, beginning at 1:00 p.m., will include films from the Children’s Media Project of Poughkeepsie, New York, and the Los Angeles-based International Documentary Association. This is a free public event and seating is first-come, first-served.

“**The Plow That Broke the Plains**” and “**The River**” were created in the 1930s by documentary film pioneer Pare Lorentz (1905-1992). Lorentz was known as “FDR’s filmmaker” and he believed that film was an important medium, not just for entertainment, but also for informing audiences about pressing social issues such as resource conservation and health care.

Afternoon screenings will include two award-winning films recommended by the **International Documentary Association** (www.documentary.org), “Being Elmo: A Puppeteers Journey” and “To Be Heard,” as well as a series of youth-produced short works created at the **Children’s Media Project** (www.childrensmediaproject.org). These

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documentary film treatments demonstrate that the power of documentary film is still understood today and is being carried on in the spirit of Pare Lorentz by a new generation of film makers.

For additional information about this event or to learn more about the films included in the program please call Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745.

The Pare Lorentz Center's mission is *to apply the audiovisual techniques pioneered by Pare Lorentz to teach history and social studies, and to perpetuate Lorentz's use of the documentary format in inspiring social and political messages.* Located at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the center is funded through a generous grant from the New York Community Trust to the Roosevelt Institute. Pare Lorentz created groundbreaking documentary films -- a powerful synthesis of stunning imagery, poetic narration, and evocative music -- for New Deal agencies of the Roosevelt Administration. The Pare Lorentz Center creates and disseminates educational documentary materials and films to teach the history of the Age of Roosevelt and illustrate the enduring social issues (poverty, social equality and conservation) that President Roosevelt and Pare Lorentz cared so much about. Visit www.parelorentzcenter.org for more information.

Historic Hyde Park is a group of government and private non-profit organizations based in Hyde Park, New York. Each has a unique mission, but all are united in their dedication to extending the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt to new generations. HHP includes the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. For more information about HHP visit www.HistoricHydePark.org.

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