[Host Organization Name/Logo] For Immediate Release

[Contact Person/Phone/Email] [Date]

Press Materials: <http://pppdocs.com/dreamon.html>

**[Host Organization(s)] host(s) special screening of *Dream On*, a new film about the perilous state of the American Dream featuring political comedian John Fugelsang, followed by a panel discussion with [if any prominent speakers] at [location/date/time]**

From Bernie Sanders to Donald Trump, the 2016 presidential candidates shared one thing in common: a conviction that they could revitalize the American Dream. Pinned between stagnant wages and the soaring costs of housing, education, and healthcare, millions of Americans are struggling to make ends meet. To address these urgent issues, [organization(s) name(s)] will host a screening of the new award-winning film DREAM ON, followed by a panel discussion with [any prominent speakers] at [location] on [date/time] to [any specific, brief purpose].

DREAM ON features political comedian John Fugelsang as he retraces the journey of Alexis de Tocqueville, whose study of our young country in 1831 came to define America as a place where anyone could climb the ladder of economic opportunity. Following in the Frenchman’s footsteps, Fugelsang speaks with fast-food workers and retirees, prisoners and entrepreneurs, undocumented immigrants and community organizers about their hopes, dreams, and daily struggles. DREAM ON explores whether the optimistic spirit of the American Dream that Tocqueville observed is alive and well in the twenty-first century, or whether George Carlin was right when he famously quipped, “It’s called the American Dream because you have to be asleep to believe it.”

In recent years the venerable American Dream has become an empty promise for increasing numbers of Americans. Millions of middle-class Americans are now unable to maintain the standard of living that they took for granted growing up, and more low-income families are unable to lift themselves out of poverty. As countless Americans struggle with diminished prospects for the future, our core beliefs about the value of work, the inevitability of progress, the fairness of the system, and America’s standing in the world are being shaken. Reviving the American Dream has now become one of the most critical challenges facing our nation.

[Quote from event host about the state of the American Dream]

[Brief descriptions of host organizations]

[More about the event, key speakers, any timely local news hooks, and participating partner organizations and their goals or initiatives in progress to restore the American Dream]

“Most Americans believe that the term ‘working poor’ should be an oxymoron: If you work full time, you should not be poor,” says director Roger Weisberg. “But today, one in four American workers, 30 million people, earn less than the federal poverty level for a family of four. Rather than taking a conventional documentary approach to the problem of rising income inequality and declining social mobility, I decided to adopt the cherished American film tradition of the road trip and follow the journey of Alexis de Tocqueville, whose seminal work, *Democracy in America*, helped plant the seeds for what later became known as the American Dream. By revisiting the places he wrote about in 1831 and capturing the stories of a diverse group of Americans struggling to climb the economic ladder, we were able to put an intimate human face on the endangered American Dream.”

John Fugelsang says, “Tocqueville didn't want to create a simple travelogue, and neither did we. He wanted to understand how America worked, and we wanted to see how America could keep working. We found that the divisions and dysfunction in the areas Tocqueville reported on—in commerce, government, religion, and race relations—were still prevalent and festering today. We wanted to report on the whole of America in all her imperfect splendor. And by not turning away from her defects, we wanted to find new reasons to hope. The old adage—that hard work will lead to prosperity—may no longer be true for the majority of Americans. Yet, most of the people I met on my Tocqueville journey still believed in the dream, even when their daily struggles made it feel impossibly out of reach.”

John Fugelsang’s reflections on his Tocqueville odyssey are captured in a stand-up comedy monologue woven throughout the documentary. Fugelsang was the host of *America’s Funniest Home Videos* and has appeared on CNN, CNBC, MSNBC, Fox News, HBO, and NPR. Currently, Fugelsang hosts a daily political comedy program called “Tell Me Everything” on the new SiriusXM Insight Channel. As a comedian, actor, writer, talk show host, and pundit, Fugelsang’s eclectic background allows him to bring equal doses of wit and wisdom to our search for the increasingly elusive American Dream.

DREAM ON is the 32nd documentary produced and directed by Roger Weisberg for national public television.  His previous films have won over one hundred and fifty awards including Emmy, duPont-Columbia, and Peabody awards, as well as two Academy Award nominations. DREAM ON builds on this extensive body of work andrepresents the culmination of nearly four decades of reporting on ways to remove barriers and expand opportunities for disadvantaged Americans.

DREAM ON is a production of Public Policy Productions, Inc., in association with Thirteen/WNET New York; produced and directed by Roger Weisberg; written by John Fugelsang and Roger Weisberg; edited by Pascal Akesson and Sandra Christie; cinematography by Sandra Chandler and John Hazard; sound by Alan Barker; additional field production by Jeff Seelbach; music composed by Richard Fiocca; design and animation by Bill Bergeron-Mirsky; production management by Suzanne Beffa; for WNET, Executive-in-Charge is Stephen Segaller.

Major funding was provided by The JPB Foundation. Additional support was provided by Arlene and Alan Alda, Charles A. Frueauff Foundation, Odyssey Fund, Park Foundation, Silverweed Foundation, and the Spunk Fund, Inc.

Festival awards include the Remi Special Jury Award, Political/International Issues, Worldfest-Houston, Houston, TX, April 2015; Leigh Whipper Silver Award, Philafilm: Philadelphia International Film Festival, Philadelphia, PA, June 2015; Best Documentary Award, New York City Independent Film Festival, New York, NY, October 2015; and the Gold Spotlight Documentary Award, Atlanta Docufest, Atlanta, GA, December 2015.

DREAM ON was an official selection at the following film festivals:

San Luis Obispo International Film Festival, San Luis Obispo, CA, *March 2015*Palm Beach International Film Festival, Boca Raton, FL*, March 2015*Worldfest-Houston, Houston, TX, *April 2015*, **Remi Special Jury Award, Political/International Issues**New Jersey International Film Festival, New Brunswick, NJ, *June 2015*Philafilm: Philadelphia International Film Festival, Philadelphia, PA, *June 2015*, **Leigh Whipper Silver Award**

Tiburon Film Society, Tiburon, CA, *July 2015*Massachusetts Independent Film Festival, Boston, MA, *August 2015*Harlem International Film Festival, New York, NY, *September 2015*LA INDIE Film Festival, Hollywood, CA, *September 2015*Wine Country Film Festival*,* Sonoma, CA, *September 2015*New York City Independent Film Festival, New York, NY, *October 2015*, **Best Documentary Award**Ojai Film Festival, Ojai, CA, *October 2015*Kansas International Film Festival, Kansas City, KS*, November 2015*Marda Loop Justice Film Festival, Calgary, Canada, *November 2015*

Atlanta Docufest, Atlanta, GA, *December 2015*,**Gold Spotlight Documentary Award**

Workers Unite Film Festival, New York, NY, *May 2016*

DC LaborFest, Washington, DC, *May 2016*

New Mexico Labor Film Festival, Albuquerque, NM, *April 2016*

New Mexico Labor Film Festival, Santa Fe, *May 2016*

For further information about DREAM ON, please visit the website at <http://pppdocs.com/dreamon.html> or email us at pppinfo@pppdocs.com.

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