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Award-Winning Filmmaker Visits ECU

GREENVILLE, N.C. (March 24, 2015) — East Carolina University will welcome native North Carolinian Cynthia Hill back to campus at the end of March for screenings of both her new documentary and an episode of her award-winning PBS television show.

The Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Ethnic Studies Program, and Departments of English and Sociology, the School of Art and Design, School of Communication and Ledonia Wright Center will present “Private Violence” at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, in Speight Auditorium.

“Private Violence,” a feature-length documentary and “audience engagement campaign” about domestic violence, follows one woman’s journey as she rebuilds her life and fights to place her abuser behind bars. The screening will be followed by a chance to meet and talk with Hill. This film is an official selection for numerous film festivals including Sundance, Full Frame Documentary, HotDocs and Doxa Documentary.

On Wednesday, April 1, Hill will meet with students before a screening of “A Chef’s Life” at 7:30 p.m. in the School of Art and Design Auditorium. A question and answer session will immediately follow this screening.

The PBS series, a recipient of the Peabody award, “plunges audiences into the kitchen of a high-end restaurant located in the low country of eastern North Carolina.” Produced and directed by Hill, it follows Chef Vivian Howard and her husband, Ben Knight, and their farm-to-table restaurant, Chef & the Farmer, in a character-driven documentary and cooking series that premiered nationally on PBS stations in September 2013.

This is the second time Hill has visited campus. In 2009, the filmmaker accepted an invitation from Harriot College’s Department of Sociology and the School of Communication to present her documentaries, “Tobacco Money Feeds My Family” and “Guest Worker.”

Dr. Susan Pearce, faculty member in the ECU Department of Sociology, commented, “We are honored to have Cynthia Hill back on campus. Hill specializes in documenting stories, and she is particularly devoted to capturing the untold stories of North Carolinians. Her camera catches those stories in rich ways that uncover the salient social issues behind them.”

Hill resides in Durham, N.C., and is a native of Pink Hill. “Private Violence” is her fourth feature documentary. The subjects of her work include tobacco farming, Latino migrant labor and Southern foodways, and challenge dominant narratives about the rural South. Hill’s work has appeared nationally on PBS and the Sundance Channel.
It has been featured in festivals around the globe. She is the co-founder of the Southern Documentary Fund, a nonprofit organization established to support place-based storytelling. More information about “Private Violence” is available at www.privateviolence.com. For more about “A Chef’s Life,” visit http://www.achefslifeseries.com/.

For additional information, contact Pierce at 252-328-2544 or pearces@ecu.edu. Individuals requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should call 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the events.

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