

For immediate Release

June 12, 2009

Media Contacts:

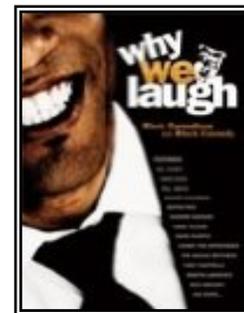
Darius McCroey, Marketing Manager, ACT Roxbury/ Roxbury Film

dmcroey@madison-park.org

Ph. 617-849-6321

**COMEDY TAKES CENTERSTAGE AT ROXBURY FILM FESTIVAL
WITH THE PREMIERE OF WHY WE LAUGH**

Boston, MA - The 11th annual Roxbury Film Festival will serve as the site of the East Coast premiere of **Why We Laugh: Black Comedians on Black Comedy**. Directed by Robert Townsend, Why We Laugh is a 90 minute documentary that celebrates the journey of black comedy and the cultural influence it has had on society over the last 400 years.



The film features interviews with prominent scholars, politicians, cultural critics, and a host of notable comics, including Bill Cosby, Chris Rock, The Wayans Brothers, Mo'Nique, DL Hughley, Katt Williams and many more who provide us with a critical examination of the social impact of this art form and an analysis of its past, present and future.

"Why We Laugh" will be among the more than 50 films screened July 30 through August 2, 2009 as a part of the annual festival that is now the largest festival in New England that features films that celebrate people of color. In addition to the screening, producer **Quincy Newell** will be in attendance to discuss the film with festival attendees.

About the Roxbury Film Festival

The Roxbury Film Festival (RFF) is a four day event that showcases films by or about people of color and is the largest festival in New England dedicated to this genre. Since its inception, over 25,000 people have attended RFF, and it has screened more than 500 films by independent filmmakers.

RFF also features workshops, panels and a youth film series. Screenings take place at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts College of Art, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Roxbury Center for the Arts at Hibernian Hall, and other locations throughout Boston.

(continued)

RFF is co-produced by ACT Roxbury and The Color of Film Collaborative with assistance from The Roxbury Film Festival Planning Committee. For more information on attending the Roxbury Film Festival, prices, volunteering please visit www.roxburyfilmfestival.org.

ACT Roxbury, a program of Madison Park Development Corporation, promotes arts and culture as a vehicle for economic development. ACT stands for Arts, Culture and Trade. The Roxbury Film Festival is one of several annual events of the Roxbury Arts Series produced by ACT Roxbury. For more information on ACT Roxbury, visit www.actroxbury.org.

The Color of Film Collaborative is a non-profit organization that works to support media makers of color and others who have an interest in creating and developing new and diverse images of people of color in film, video and performing arts. For more information on the Color of Film Collaborative, contact info@coloroffilm.org.

###