

**DOCWORKS-NYC, CUNY's Student Documentary Festival  
Returns to The Graduate Center on October 12th**

**15 TIME EMMY WINNER JON ALPERT TO GIVE KEYNOTE**

New York October 8, 2012 – Discovering that a beloved grandparent was a Nazi officer, gentrification in a Brooklyn Neighborhood, and the “green” values inherent in Islam: These are just three of the stories featured at “Docworks-NYC”, the second festival of student documentary films from the City University of New York.

“Docworks-NYC” takes place from 6 – 9:30 PM, October 12th at The Recital Hall of the CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue. Fifteen-time Emmy Award winning documentary filmmaker will give the keynote.

Admission is free.

Twelve short documentaries will be presented, ranging in length from 6 minutes to 49minutes. All were produced by students from the flagship documentary programs at City College, Brooklyn College and Hunter College. According to Co-Festival Director Dave Davidson, who is also the Director of the MFA in Media Arts Production program at CCNY, “ These amazing films celebrate diversity and identity. It is so appropriate that kind of event finds its home at CUNY, because our students know struggle and they recognize the human values that make for compelling issue-based documentaries.”

“In each of these CUNY documentary programs we teach documentary as a tool to build bridges between people and cultures. Most of these films come from the filmmakers’ personal lives, but they reflect the entire human experience. That combination makes for exceptional storytelling.” Added Co-Director Annette Danto, professor of film at Brooklyn College.

The legacy of documentary filmmaking at CUNY dates back to 1941, when Hans Richter, the Dadaist and experimental filmmaker, took the reins of the newly formed Institute of Film Techniques to teach documentary filmmaking to working class kids at CCNY. “As fresh and astonishing as the 2012 “Docworks-NYC” films are, our roots go back over 70 years to the very first college-level documentary program in America.”, said Davidson.”

Keynote speaker Jon Alpert has traveled widely as an investigative journalist, and has made films for NBC, PBS and HBO. Over the course of his career, he has won 15 Emmy Award and three Dupont-Columbia awards. He has been nominated for a 2010 Academy Award in the category of Best Documentary - Short Subject for China's Unnatural Disaster: The Tears of Sichuan Province. He has reported from Vietnam, Cambodia, Iran, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Cuba, China, and Afghanistan.

“Docworks-NYC” is sponsored by The Film Department at Brooklyn College, Hunter College Department of Media and Film Studies, The PhD Film Studies Certificate Program at The CUNY Graduate Center and The Department of Media and Communication Arts at The City College of New York. For more information of “Docworks- NYC, visit [www.docworks.ccny.cuny.edu](http://www.docworks.ccny.cuny.edu)