

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***The Other Side of the Water*, a new documentary film by
Jeremy Robins and Magali Damas, explores the roots of
Haitian rara music and its message**

**Screening at *Creatively Speaking*™ Series at BAMcinématek
Monday, September 7th 2009**

*"The film offers an essential, re-affirming perspective of
Haitian imagery and culture that desperately needs to be seen."*

-Michelle Materre, professor of media studies, The New School

New York, NY (July 2, 2008) -- On Labor Day, Monday September 7th, 2009, at 2:00pm and 9:15pm BAM Rose Cinemas will screen the long awaited, recently completed documentary film, ***The Other Side of the Water*** as a part of the ***Creatively Speaking Screening Series***.

Members of the local media are requested to register for press credentials on the Pres box of the sign-up list at: www.othersideofthewater.org/press.asp. The general public may purchase tickets online from the BAMcinématek website at <http://www.bam.org/>. To view a trailer of the film visit www.othersideofthewater.org.

The film follows a group of young immigrants who take an ancient music from the hills of Haiti and reinvent it on the streets of Brooklyn. The journey of this unlikely band offers a unique insight into the Haitian-American experience – a rare glimpse into a world of roots music, traditional spirituality and cultural activism. "The ultimate goal of this film is to shed light on one of the great untold stories of New York history, and dispel some of the myths and stigmas that have long plagued the Haitian-American community," explains Jeremy Robins, director and Magali Damas, co-producer of the film.

The Other Side of the Water follows the compelling story of DJARARA (JAH-RA-RA) that begins with the spontaneous explosion of rara in New York City two decades ago. The band quickly became a beacon of cultural pride for a new immigrant community constantly plagued by discrimination and shame. In the 1990's, the civil chaos that erupted in Haiti and ongoing police brutality in New York pushed the band into becoming the driving force of the "Haitian civil rights movement." The current day story follows the newest wave of Haitian immigrants

who hit the scene with a radically different vision of the music. These young musicians force the band to re-define its identity while navigating the Christian community's backlash against the music's vodou roots.

"This film is an insight into all the major events in the Haitian-American Community in the last 20 years, through the lens of one of Haiti's deepest roots-music traditions.

- Pascal Antoine, Founder, HaitiXchange.com

The screening also kicks off a yearlong series of educational events and interactive projects, utilizing the film's multi-platform web-community, and focusing on the film's main web partners: <http://HaitiXchange.com> and Miami's Backyard Movement <http://thebackyardshow.net>.

The film will be screening with another documentary short about The Labor Day Carnival parade in Brooklyn, *Play Mas* by Michèle Stephenson, as a part of the ***Creatively Speaking***[™] screening series which includes four separate programs on Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2009. Please check the ***Creatively Speaking*** website at www.creativelyspeaking.tv for program details.

Ibis Productions, Inc. is a Brooklyn-based production company that focuses on social issue and arts-related documentaries. ***The Other Side of the Water*** is the first feature film release from the company.

For more information about this project and to view a trailer of the film, please visit www.thersideofthewater.org or send an email to: othersideofthewater@gmail.com or call 917-501-1502: To purchase tickets for the screenings go to the BAM website after August 15th at <http://www.bam.org/>.

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