



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 3, 2013

## INVISIBLE NIGHT:

### AN EVENING OF ART, FILM AND DIALOGUE ABOUT YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

VANCOUVER, BC - As part of Homelessness Action Week 2013, local social justice film-screening group **Reel Causes** is joining with the **City of Vancouver** for *Invisible Night* - an eventful evening of art, film and dialogue about youth homelessness.

- 1) Reception and preview of *Out from the Rain* art exhibit
- 2) Award-winning documentary *Sugar*
- 3) **Live discussion** with *Sugar* filmmaker and Vancouver homelessness advocates and activists about the realities of visible and invisible youth homelessness in Vancouver, and the path forward

The evening will benefit Raincity Housing & Support Society's LGBTQ+ Shelter for Youth.

**When:** Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Art exhibit reception: (appetizers & cash bar): 5:30 pm – 6:30pm

Film+panel: 7:00pm - 10:00pm (doors 6:30)

**Where:** Reception: Vancouver Community College downtown campus Atrium – 250 W. Pender (enter from Hamilton)

Film+panel: SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts, Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema

– 149 W. Hastings St., in the historic Woodward's district

**Cost:**

- Tickets may be purchased for *Invisible Night* [both **art reception and film+panel events**], or **film+panel only**.
- *Invisible Night* tickets are available **in advance only** (\$12-\$14)
- Tickets for the **film+panel only** are available in advance or at the door (\$13-\$15)

**Panelists include:**

- Rotimi Rainwater, *Sugar* director (*via Skype*)
- Judy Graves, former Advocate for the Homeless (City of Vancouver)
- Aaron Munro, Raincity Housing, Manager Community Development
- Eireann Day, member of Vancouver's Housing First Speakers' Bureau; first-hand lived experience of homelessness and schizophrenia
- Moderated by Am Johal, Director of Simon Fraser University's Vancity Office for Community Engagement

**About the art exhibit:**

The art exhibit and reception highlights a week-long exhibition, with artwork and art umbrellas created and donated by many of Vancouver's well known established artists and by homeless, at risk and recently housed artists.

**About the film:**

Based on the filmmaker's own past experience of homelessness, *Sugar* is the story of a young girl with a troubled past trying to survive on the streets of Venice Beach, California. It tells an all too common story of a troubled youth learning how to stop hiding, and to start healing. A moving, realistic look at what forces so many youth onto the streets and what they go through to survive. It is not a story of redemption, it is a story of reality.

**Reel Causes** is a BC registered non-profit society that works for positive social change through the power of cinema. A model of social innovation and community engagement, **Reel Causes** provides filmgoers with monthly opportunities to learn about the work of local and national charities, and to support the organizations with net proceeds from events.

**Homeless Action Week** is an annual regional campaign across Metro Vancouver aimed at raising awareness about and building community capacity and partnerships for local solutions to homelessness. [Homelessness Action Week 2013](#) (HAW) takes place from October 13th to 19th. In the City of Vancouver, a number of events and activities are taking place to support the objectives of the City's [Housing and Homelessness Strategy](#) and [Healthy City Strategy](#) in promoting social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

**Raincity Housing and Support Society** is a grassroots organization built around compassion, purpose and a commitment to delivering progressive housing and support solutions for people living with mental illness, addictions and other challenges.

**More information:**

- [Raincity Housing and Support Society](#)
- [LGBTQ+ Shelter for Youth](#)
- <http://stophomelessness.ca/> - Homelessness Action Week throughout Metro Vancouver
- City of Vancouver [Homelessness Action Week](#) events
- [Out of the Rain](#) art exhibit
- [Homelessness statistics in Vancouver](#)
- For [ticket purchase](#), film trailer, and more information about the October 17th events, see [www.reelcauses.org](http://www.reelcauses.org)

**To book interviews with the panelists, or for more detailed statistics on homelessness in Vancouver, contact:**

xxxxxx, City of Vancouver Ph xxx Email xxx

**For photos, or to book interviews with filmmaker Rotimi Rainwater or with the Reel Causes founder, contact:**

Lisa Mighton 778.888.0780 [lisa.mighton@reelcauses.org](mailto:lisa.mighton@reelcauses.org)

Supported by SFU's Vancity Office for Community Engagement

