

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Global Peace Film Festival to highlight criminal justice reform doc.

Through education, two groups of students are inspired to discover their shared humanity

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA—In September, filmmaker Chris Farina will return to the Global Peace Film Festival with another portrait of a transformative educational practice. This time the classroom is where you'd least expect it.

Seats at the Table is a feature-length documentary which depicts a unique college class that brings together **university students with residents of a maximum-security juvenile correctional center** through the study of classic works of Russian literature.

"The literature is the prism through which the classmates share their most intimate human stories, discussing their lives openly and honestly," Farina said. "These interactions become the catalyst for forming powerful relationships that break down the initial stereotypes they have as they begin this class."

The vehicle that drives this documentary is a program called *Books Behind Bars*, which is a class taught by Andrew Kaufman, a lecturer at the University of Virginia.

Like many of Farina's documentaries, *Seats at the Table* celebrates the themes of education, inspiration, and the unsung heroes who make a lasting impact on their communities.

"The purpose of this film is to inspire educators and correctional policy-makers to increase educational opportunities for our incarcerated individuals through connecting disparate groups of a community for the benefit of all," Farina said.

Seats at the Table will be Farina's second appearance at GPFF. In 2010, GPFF screened Farina's earlier film, *World Peace and other 4th Grade Achievements*, which highlights public school teacher John Hunter and his class playing his creation, *The World Peace Game*.

Following that film, Hunter went on to give a very popular **TED Talk** in 2011, and the award-winning film had a two-year run on U.S. public television, was broadcast in several foreign countries, and had screenings at venues around the world, including the **United Nations**, the **Pentagon**, and the **Aspen Institute's Ideas Festival**.

Seats at the Table (89 minutes) will be screened twice at the Festival: 6:00pm Saturday 9/22 at the Winter Park Public Library; and 3:00pm Sunday 9/23 at Bush Auditorium at Rollins College. To order tickets, visit the GPFF website: <https://peacefilmfest.org/>. For more information about *Seats at the Table* visit <https://rosaliafilms.com/>.

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Coverage of *Seats at the Table* and *Books Behind Bars*

Megyn Kelly TODAY: <https://goo.gl/CwCHOq>



KATIE (the Katie Couric Show): <https://goo.gl/HzYwNF>



The Washington Post: <https://goo.gl/LseG9Y>

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