

JONATHAN DEMME PRESENTS BROTHERS OF THE BLACK LIST

March 2, 2014 - Academy Award-winning filmmaker Jonathan Demme will present *Brothers of the Black List*, a social justice documentary that tells the story of the longest litigated civil rights case in American history.

“The true-life story behind Sean Gallagher’s gripping and deeply moving film arises from a harrowing incident dating back to 1992,” said Jonathan Demme. “This unflinching and beautifully-made documentary bears witness, from a fresh perspective, to the failure of our most honored institutions to help turn the tide on this persistent, chronically vile American social dynamic.”

Demme is best known as the director of *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Philadelphia*, *Rachel Getting Married* and the celebrated Talking Heads concert film *Stop Making Sense*. He is also recognized for his social justice documentaries, giving voice to many unsung heroes and shedding light on momentous issues with such films as *Cousin Bobby*, *The Agronomist*, *Jimmy Carter Man from Plains*, and *I’m Carolyn Parker*.

“It’s beyond an honor to have Jonathan Demme be a part of this project as I’ve always been inspired by his ability to raise awareness and incite activism through his documentaries,” said Sean Gallagher, director of *Brothers of the Black List*. “Jonathan is a huge supporter of young filmmakers and his brutally honest feedback was so important while editing and developing this story.”

Brothers of the Black List was recently selected for the Documentary Competition at the 2014 Dallas International Film Festival, while also being accepted into the Catskill Mountains Film Festival and the Africa World Documentary Film Festival.

A trailer can be viewed at www.brothersoftheblacklist.com

#

Contact: Sean Gallagher
seangallagher86@gmail.com
914.844.4280
brothersoftheblacklist.com

JONATHAN DEMME PRESENTS BROTHERS OF THE BLACK LIST

Directed by **Sean Gallagher**

Running Time: 74 Minutes

SYNOPSIS

September 4, 1992: An elderly woman in a small town in upstate New York reports an attempted rape by a young black man who cut his hand during the altercation. While looking for suspects, police contact officials at SUNY Oneonta, a nearby college, and a school administrator reacts by handing over a list of names and residences of 125 black male students. For the next several days, those students are tracked down and interrogated by various police departments under a presumption of guilty until proven innocent.

In *Brothers of the Black List*, director Sean Gallagher tracks this story of racism that became the longest litigated civil rights case in American history. The now grown students and their school counselor, Edward "Bo" Whaley, recount the disturbing events that the college and police department tried sweeping under the rug for many years thereafter. An emotional story of social justice, this unsettling documentary is also a cautionary tale of equal rights gone wrong that is just as relevant today.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Sean Gallagher is a filmmaker & editor based out of Westchester, New York. He works as an in-house editor at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville, NY. Sean was a recipient of the 2008 Merit for 'Artistic Contribution to Social Justice' by the SUNY Oneonta Department of Africana & Latino Studies. In the Spring of 2011, he was chosen by Westchester Magazine as one of "Westchester's Wunderkinds," professionals under the age of 30 noted for their ideas, ambitions and community involvement.

#

Contact: Sean Gallagher
seangallagher86@gmail.com
914.844.4280
brothersoftheblacklist.com