Berkshire Museum’s Little Cinema presents film series *FX in the Berkshires*

February 5 features *The Matrix* with Diane Pearlman

[PITTSFIELD, MA] – Berkshire Museum’s Little Cinema will present a special screening of the film *The Matrix* on Thursday, February 5, at 7 p.m., with a talk by special visual effects producer Diane Pearlman. The event is part of the film series *FX in the Berkshires – Middle Earth to the Matrix*, featuring films and talks with area filmmakers who are active in the special and visual effects fields. The series is presented in partnership with Berkshire Film and Media Collaborative.

Special and visual effects in films transport movie-goers to far-away lands, from the dystopian cityscapes of *The Matrix* to the lush fantasy world of Middle-earth, but people may not realize that many of these films have their roots in our own backyard. For many years the effects for films as diverse as *The Lord of the Rings, Blade Runner, X-Men*, and *The Matrix* have been developed by Berkshire residents. With *FX in the Berkshires* the Berkshire Museum and the Berkshire Film and Media Collaborative will highlight the contributions of the immensely talented local artists involved in the special and visual effects of some of our favorite films.

**FX in the Berkshires**

*The Matrix*

Thursday, February 5, 7 p.m.

$10, Museum members $5

With a talk by Diane Pearlman

Winner of the Best Special and Visual Effects Oscar in 2000, *The Matrix* tells the story of Neo, a computer hacker haunted by the question "What is the Matrix?" A mysterious group of
rebels, led by Morpheus and Trinity, provide the answer and awaken him to the true nature of his reality and his role in the fight to save humanity. After the film special visual effects producer and Berkshire resident Diane Pearlman will talk about her role in developing the mind-bending special effects of The Matrix. During her time as executive producer at Mass Illusion in Lenox, Diane Pearlman worked on effects in Die Hard with a Vengeance, Judge Dredd, and What Dreams May Come.

About Little Cinema
Berkshire Museum’s Little Cinema has been showing independent and foreign films for more than 60 years in downtown Pittsfield. Little Cinema is a single screen movie theater inside the Museum; typically, one first-run, independent or foreign film is shown each week. Regular screenings are Friday through Monday at 7 p.m. and Monday afternoons at 1:30 p.m.

About the Berkshire Museum
Located in downtown Pittsfield, Massachusetts, at 39 South St., the Berkshire Museum, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is $13 adult, $6 child; Museum members and children age 3 and under enjoy free admission. For more information, visit www.berkshiremuseum.org or call 413.443.7171.

In association with the Smithsonian since 2013, Berkshire Museum is part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share the Smithsonian's resources with the nation.

Established by Zenas Crane in 1903, Berkshire Museum integrates art, history, and natural science in a wide range of programs and exhibitions that inspire educational connections between the disciplines. If/Then is on view now through May 3, 2015. Objectify: A Look into the Permanent Collection is currently on view. Little Cinema is open year-round. Spark!Lab, Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation, Worlds in Miniature, Aquarium, and other exhibits are ongoing.

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