Special Screening of Living While Dying at the Berkshire Museum’s Little Cinema

The November 4 event includes a Q&A with the filmmaker

[PIITSFIELD, MA] — Berkshire Museum’s Little Cinema will present a special screening of the documentary film Living While Dying on Sunday, November 4, at 7 p.m. A Q&A will follow the film. Tickets are $7.50, $5 for Museum members.

Death is a big mystery, and yet the outcome is 100 percent certain. Filmmaker Cathy Zheutlin tells the stories of four friends with terminal illnesses who chose to live out their final days at home with creativity, humor, and courage. Living While Dying transforms sorrow and fear into inspiration, beauty, and even joy.

Cathy Zheutlin, director and producer of the film, and Tammy Lahart, who provides end-of-life consulting services, will lead a discussion after the screening and answer questions from the audience.

As a baby boomer, Zheutlin became curious about death, which led to the making of Living While Dying. During the filming, she sought the advice of an aboriginal elder and a deathwalker in Australia, witnessed a mass cremation in Bali, and asked her 90-year old mother to sit in a coffin while discussing her end-of-life wishes.

Are we, Zheutlin asks, reinventing death? Death is ever-present; though random, it’s certain. How do we prepare? Is it possible to die well? This movie offers examples of living while dying. By breaking the mold of standard expectations, it invites us to reimagine our own inevitable endings in new ways. And in fact, the people in this film die
with a sense of wellness. **Living While Dying** models ways of conducting “difficult” conversations around death, and shows how individuals, through their behavior and words, can bring presence and integrity to the sacred final phase of life.

**About the Berkshire Museum**

Located in downtown Pittsfield, Massachusetts, at 39 South St., the Berkshire Museum 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.

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. **Josh Simpson: Galactic Landscapes** is on view through January 6, 2019. **National Geographic Rarely Seen: Photographs of the Extraordinary** is on view through January 6, 2019. **Festival of Trees 2018: Often Heard** will be on view November 17, 2018, through January 6, 2019. **Curiosity Incubator** is on view. Little Cinema is open year-round. Lab 102, Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation, Animals of the World in Miniature, Aquarium, and other exhibits are ongoing.

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