



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## San Diego Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Wednesday, April 29, 2009

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### **AWARD-WINNING FILM *ASK NOT, ON MILITARY'S "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" POLICY, SCREENS AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY*** *Documentary "...Brings Light to a Subject that Remains Very Much in the Shadows"*

**SAN DIEGO** – The San Diego Public Library, The San Diego Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center and the Media Arts Center San Diego will host a Community Cinema preview screening of *Ask Not*, directed by award-winning Bay Area filmmaker Johnny Symons. The film will screen Sunday, May 3, 2009, at 2:00 PM in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. This event is FREE to the public.

*Ask Not* is a rare and compelling exploration of the effects of the US military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. A provocative portrait of bravery amidst exclusion, *Ask Not* reveals the personal stories of Americans willing to risk their lives for a country that criminalizes the act of coming out. Current and veteran gay soldiers reveal how "don't ask, don't tell" affects them during their tours of duty, as they struggle to maintain a double life, uncertain of whom they can trust.

The film also explores how gay veterans and youth organizers are turning to forms of personal activism to overturn the policy. From a national speaking tour of conservative universities to protests at military recruitment offices, these public events question how the United States military can claim to represent democracy and freedom while denying one segment of the population the right to serve.

Interspersed with the principal storylines, the film reveals rare archival footage and key historical interviews with policy experts to explain the history and implementation of "don't ask, don't tell." *Ask Not* provokes thoughtful dialogue about the merits of banning those who are honest about their sexual orientation from serving their country.

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Community Cinema is affiliated with the independent media organization ITVS or Independent Television Service. ITVS Community Cinema is a monthly screening series that pairs independently produced documentary films with leading organizations working to resolve related social issues in communities across the country. All film content featured in ITVS Community Cinema will broadcast nationally on the Emmy Award-winning PBS series Independent Lens. *Ask Now* will air nationally June 16. Check local listings.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org).

*The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future*

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