



**For Immediate Release**  
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**Bainbridge Island, WA.** A wonderful weekend of Art & Film Benefit Events is planned for March 30th through April 1st to observe the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Japanese-American civilians sent to internment camps. Several community partners and caring Islanders have come together to host events at the Bainbridge Performing Arts and Lynwood Theatre. The proceeds from the events will benefit the Bainbridge Island World War II Nikkei Internment and Exclusion Memorial.

**March 30, 2007 at Bainbridge Performing Arts:**

The benefit events commence on Friday afternoon, March 30, at 4:00 p.m. at Bainbridge Performing Arts with the Island premiere of "The Cats of Mirikitani," and an exhibit of paintings by the film's star Jimmy Mirikitani.

There will be an audience Q&A with director Linda Hattendorf, and a reception immediately following with Ms. Hattendorf, star Jimmy Mirikitani and Japanese-American poet James Masao Mitsui. A \$20 donation is requested to attend all or part of the event. Space is limited; call the Bainbridge Community Foundation at 842-0433 to reserve seats. A gallery showing of Jimmy Mirikitani's paintings will be in the BPA lobby throughout the weekend of March 30-April 1.

**April 1, 2007 at Lynwood Theatre**

On Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, Lynwood Theatre will have two benefit showings of "The Cats of Mirikitani" at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. There will be an audience Q&A with director Linda Hattendorf following each showing. Copies of Jimmy Mirikitani's paintings will be on display and commemorative posters will be available. The admission charge of \$10 will benefit the Memorial.

**About the Film**

"The Cats of Mirikitani" is a documentary film about eighty-year old Jimmy Mirikitani. He survived the trauma of WWII internment camps, the loss of family in Hiroshima and homelessness by creating art. But when 9/11 threatened his life on the streets of New York City, local filmmaker Linda Hattendorf took him into her home. The film documents the story of how the two of them embark on a journey to confront Jimmy's painful past. An intimate exploration of the lingering wounds of war and the healing powers of friendship and art, this documentary has won Best Documentary and Audience Awards at Film Festivals from Tribeca, to Port Townsend, and from Rotterdam to Tokyo.

For more information about the events, please call the Bainbridge Community Foundation at 842-0433.