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Contact: **Daisy V. Domínguez (212) 650-5758 ddominguez@ccny.cuny.edu**

Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle Film Series
at The City College of New York Libraries

New York, New York, August 28, 2015— To mark the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's March on Washington, The City College of New York Libraries Archives will host a series of film screenings and lectures centered around four documentaries throughout the fall 2015 semester.

Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities that uses the power of documentary films to encourage community discussion of America's civil rights history. NEH has partnered with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to develop programmatic and support materials for the sites.

The City College of New York Libraries is one of 473 institutions across the country awarded a set of four films chronicling the history of the civil rights movement. The powerful documentaries – *The Abolitionists*, *Slavery by Another Name*, *Freedom Riders*, and *The Loving Story* – include dramatic scenes of incidents in the 150-year effort to achieve equal rights for all. *Freedom Riders* received an Emmy in 2012, and *The Loving Story* received an Emmy in 2013, and *The Abolitionists* was nominated for an Emmy in 2013.

The Created Equal Film Series will feature a three-part screening of *The Abolitionists* on Thursdays in September from 12:30-1:30pm and host Dr. Manisha Sinha's lecture "To Live and Die in the Holy Cause: Abolition and the Origins of America's Interracial Democracy" on Thursday, September 17 from 12:30-2:00pm. Two screenings of *Slavery By Another Name* will be held on Monday, October 5 from 11:00-12:30pm and on Thursday, October 8 12:15-1:45pm. *The Loving Story* will be screened twice on Monday, October 19 11:00-12:15pm and on Thursday, October 22 12:30-1:45pm. On Wednesday, October 21 11:00-12:30pm, Dr. Rose Cuison Villazor will give a lecture entitled "The Other Loving: Uncovering the Federal Government's Racial Regulation of Marriage." To conclude our series, Dr. Judith Stein will give

a lecture “Freedom Rides: Barometer of the Civil Rights Movement” on Monday, November 9, 2015 5:00-7:00pm. Two screenings of Freedom Riders will be held on Monday, November 9 11:00am-1:00pm and Thursday, November 12 12:00-2:00pm.

“Given the various social movements in our own time, from the Occupy movement to Black Lives Matter, the Created Equal series couldn't be more timely. The men and women featured in the films, from the abolitionists to the freedom riders, offer students a powerful model about our power to change our society for the better,” said Dr. Adrienne Petty. “We are so pleased to have received the film set from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the programming grant from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History which have made this film series possible,” said Prof. Daisy V. Domínguez, Reference Librarian Exhibits Coordinator at CCNY Libraries, noting, “I am also personally very grateful to Dr. Adrienne Petty of the History Department for helping me coordinate the events in such a way that her students will be able to engage fully with these documentaries and visiting scholars.”

Each of the films was produced with NEH support, and each tells remarkable stories of individuals who challenged the social and legal status quo of deeply rooted institutions, from slavery to segregation. *Created Equal* programs bring communities together to revisit our shared history and help bridge deep racial and cultural divides in American civic life. Visit www.neh.gov/created-equal for more information.

The *Created Equal* film set is made possible through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, as part of its *Bridging Cultures* initiative, in partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

[About The City College of New York](#)

For 160 years, The City College of New York has provided low-cost, high-quality education for New Yorkers in a wide variety of disciplines. Over 13,000 students pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of Architecture, the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, the School of Education, the Grove School of Engineering, the Center for Worker Education and the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education.

[About the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History](#)

Founded in 1994, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is a nonprofit organization that promotes excellence in the teaching and learning of American history. Programs include publications, teacher seminars, a national Affiliate School Program, traveling exhibitions, and online materials for teachers, students, and the general public.

[About the National Endowment for the Humanities](#)

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities. NEH grants enrich classroom learning, create and preserve knowledge, and bring ideas to life through public television, radio, museum exhibitions, and programs in libraries and other community places.