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Immediate Release

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**FINAL FREE THURSDAYS IN CURRENT WALKER BUILDING FEATURE A
PREVIEW SCREENING OF A NEW PBS MINISERIES ON IMMIGRATION AND
A TALK BY THE COFOUNDERS OF *EGO TRIP* MAGAZINE**

Two Free Thursdays in February (February 5 and 12) close out the Walker Art Center's popular sampler of free events until the expansion is completed in 2005. The Walker's Teen Arts Council (WACTAC) presents the highlight of the month—a talk by *ego trip* magazine cofounders Sacha Jenkins, Gabriel Alvarez, and Chairman Jefferson Mao at 7 pm Thursday, February 12. A vital chronicle of hip-hop from 1994–1998, *ego trip* infused unparalleled hip-hop knowledge and fanaticism with a punk-rock aesthetic, a racial subtext, and a wicked sense of humor. During this talk, the collective will attempt to tackle issues of race using pop-culture facts, racial satire, and interviews excerpted from their latest publication *ego trip's Big Book of Racism!*. Tickets for this free event must be reserved in advance by calling 612.375.7622 and claimed by 6 pm the day of the event.

Featured the week before is a campaign kickoff and preview screening of the PBS miniseries *The New Americans* at 7 pm Thursday, February 5. Airing nationally in March, the series follows four years in the lives of contemporary immigrants and refugees as they journey to make a new start in America. The evening includes a visit by the film's directors (who also produced *Hoop Dreams*), clips from the program, and a discussion about contemporary immigration. Afternoon and evening tours take place each Thursday through February 12 and galleries remain open until 9 pm. For information on these and other Walker events, call 612.375.7622 or visit www.walkerart.org/tickets/.

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Free Thursdays

February 5 and 12

Galleries open 10 am–9 pm; special events follow.

Free

February 5

Tours

Meet in the lobby.

Selections from the Permanent Collection, 1 pm

Past Things and Present: Jasper Johns since 1983, 6 pm

Campaign Kickoff/Preview Screening: *The New Americans*, 7 pm

As the demographics of Minnesota change, it is becoming increasingly important to connect policymakers, nonprofits, and residents in discussions that address critical issues related to immigration, refugee migration, and civic participation. *The New Americans*, a PBS miniseries airing nationally in March, follows four years in the lives of contemporary immigrants and refugees as they journey from Nigeria, Palestine, India, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic to make a new start in America. At this kickoff party, meet Gordon Quinn (who also directed *Hoop Dreams*) and the honorable mayors, Randy Kelly of St. Paul and Lester J. Heitke of Willmar. Following a preview screening, the organizational partners will let you know how you can participate by hosting a discussion in your community or organization.

The New Americans is produced by Kartemquin Films and presented by the Independent Television Service (ITVS). The Minnesota Community Campaign is a group of Minnesota cultural and community-based organizations assembled to augment the broadcast with facilitated conversations, community forums, and events that will provide insight into the challenges and opportunities that immigrants and receiving communities face. This event is a partnership with Active Voice, Twin Cities Public Television, Neighborhood House, Harmony Works, Intermedia Arts, the Council on Crime and Justice, the League of Women Voters Minnesota, and the Center for Rural Policy and Development.

February 12

Tours

Meet in the lobby.

Pop³: Oldenburg, Rosenquist, Warhol, 1 pm

Selections from the Permanent Collection, 6 pm

Disgracism to Embracism: *ego trip's Big Book of Racism!*, 7 pm

ego trip Magazine (1994–1998) is recognized as one of the foremost hip-hop publications of its time, infusing unparalleled hip-hop knowledge and fanaticism with a punk-rock aesthetic, a racial subtext, and a wicked sense of humor. During this talk, *ego trip* cofounders Sacha Jenkins, Chairman Jefferson Mao, and Gabriel Alvarez attempt to wrestle racism into submission with pop-culture facts, audience participation, and their unique brand of sarcastic commentary.

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Along with fellow cofounders Elliott Wilson and Brent Rollins, the collective produced their independent publication while writing for *The Source*, *Vibe*, and *XXL* magazines. After putting out *ego trip's Book of Rap Lists*, a tome of hop-hop oral history, factoids, and thoroughly entertaining, if otherwise useless trivia, the collective published *ego trip's Big Book of Racism!*, a free-flowing collection of racial satire, interviews, lists, and personal essays hailed by the *Village Voice* as one of 2002's best books.

Teen Programs are made possible by generous support from the Surdna Foundation and Best Buy Children's Foundation.

Free Thursdays are made possible by generous support from The Wallace Foundation.

**The Walker Art Center is located at 725 Vineland Place,
at Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, one block off Highway I-94.
For public information, call 612.375.7622.
<http://www.walkerart.org>**

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