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**2006 WINNERS OF THE BLACK MARIA FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL  
TO BE SCREENED AT RAMAPO COLLEGE**

(Mahwah) – A unique selection of this year’s winning entries from the Black Maria Film and Video Festival competition will be screened Thursday, March 16 from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Sharp Theater on the campus of Ramapo College of New Jersey. The festival is free and open to the public.

The selections are part of the festival’s 2006 cross-country tour. The Black Maria Festival is named after Thomas Edison’s motion picture studio, which stood in West Orange, New Jersey. Festival founder John Columbus will offer commentary on the documentary, animated, experimental and fictional short films and videos.

Since 1981, the annual festival, an international juried competition and award tour, has been fulfilling its mission to advocate, exhibit and reward cutting edge works from independent film and video makers. Over 70 institutions welcome the Black Maria Festival, and each location’s program is custom tailored, ensuring an accessible and meaningful experience for varied audiences at each site. The works exhibited explore the human condition as well as the creative potential of the medium, offering a mosaic of artistically conceived film and video forms.

The Sharp Theater is located in the Angelica and Russ Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts on the Ramapo College campus. For more information call 201.684.7844.

This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

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