



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## LIBERATE YOURSELF WITH 'BIG JOY' DOCUMENTARY

The award-winning documentary *BIG JOY: The Adventures of James Broughton* will screen on public television stations starting May 27, 2016 (check local listings), in time for LGBT Pride Month.

*BIG JOY* provides a humorous antidote to the cynicism and materialism of today. The “life affirming” (*NY Times*) documentary chronicles, for the first time on film, the groundbreaking influence and artistic achievements of queer poet/filmmaker James Broughton (1913-1999) - who was intimately connected to crucial, artistic figures, including Pauline Kael, Jonas Mekas, Jean Cocteau, Harry Hay, Stan Brakhage, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Anna Halprin, Armistead Maupin, George Kuchar, Keith Hennessy and Joel Singer.

“Broughton’s story shows what it means to be yourself, how making art can keep you from losing hope, and how you can find true love – and yourself – at age 61, or any age,” said co-director Stephen Silha.

Since its premiere at South by Southwest in 2013, the film has traveled to 46 festivals, won several best documentary awards, and been celebrated by creative leaders in the worlds of poetry, experimental film, gender and LGBT studies, and spirituality.

“Big Joy is a rich examination of one of queer history’s most provocative, wild, and overlooked figures – but it is more than this, as it paints a portrait of what it means to make art that electrifies, dazzles, and shakes you – art that stimulates you,” said Hunter Hargraves, Department of Modern Culture and Media, Brown University.

The film is part of the multi-media Big Joy Project, which aims to inspire people to joyfully “follow your own weird,” to be true to the creative core and live on the edge at the same time. (see [www.bigjoy.org/twirl](http://www.bigjoy.org/twirl) )

(more)

THIS IS IT

This is It  
and I am It  
and You are It  
and so is That

O It is This  
and It is Thus  
and It is Them  
and It is Us

and He is It  
and She is It  
and It is It  
and That is That

and It is Now  
and Here It is  
and Here We are  
so This is It

-- James Broughton

Directed by Eric Slade, Stephen Silha and Dawn Logsdon, *Big Joy* was developed over 4 and a half years. Silha, with a journalistic background, was a friend of James Broughton during the last 10 years of his 85.5-year life. Slade, who works with Oregon Public Broadcasting, is an independent producer best known for his documentary about gay rights pioneer Harry Hay, *Hope Along the Wind*. Logsdon, who also edited the film, specializes in documentaries about history and social justice.

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