



PRESENTS

THE RECOVERY NETWORK FOUNDATION PRESENTS:

UNDER THE INFLUENCE

THE FILM SERIES

CONTACT:
CHEYENNE DUCHESNE
(914) 941-2863, FAX (914) 941-2850
INFO@UNDERTHEINFLUENCETHFILMSERIES.COM

FEATURES, DOCUMENTARIES AND SHORTS IN WHICH ADDICTION AND RECOVERY PLAY LEADING ROLES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROUNDBREAKING FILM SERIES
EXPLORES AMERICA'S CULTURE OF ADDICTION & RECOVERY OPENS IN CHICAGO WITH
DUANE HOPWOOD

AN OFFICIAL SELECTION OF THE SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL (2005),
WITH SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY WRITER/DIRECTOR MATT MULHERN.

(NEW YORK, November 1, 2006) — *Under the Influence: The Film Series*, an unprecedented touring showcase of feature films and documentaries in which addiction and recovery play leading roles, opens in Chicago Nov. 18 with *Duane Hopwood*, a film written and directed by Matt Mulhern and featuring a breakout performance by David Schwimmer in the title role. Janeane Garofalo, as Hopwood's ex-wife, brings remarkable understatement and restraint to the role of an alcoholic's spouse who is moving on. The matinee screening at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 North State Street, rolls at 11:45 a.m. The film's director will participate in the post-screening discussion.

Presented by The Recovery Network Foundation, *Under the Influence* aims to advance the national discussion on addiction-recovery and end the stigma surrounding the disease, a stigma that has prevented people from getting the help they need. The series promotes the concept that addiction is a treatable disease and stresses the benefits of treatment, including medications in combination with addiction counseling, which can lead to a solid recovery and prevent relapse.

"*Under the Influence* uses film as a vehicle to examine our beliefs and social conditioning about the possibility of recovery," said Robyn Leary, president of The Recovery Network Foundation and executive producer of the series. "We're especially pleased to have Mr. Mulhern and several VIPs in Chicago's treatment and recovery communities for a post-screening panel discussion. The panelists will analyze and interpret the film through the lens of their specific expertise, with the focus on alcoholism and how the lead character deals with or denies his disease."

DUANE HOPWOOD MATINEE PANELISTS INCLUDE:

Matt Mulhern, writer and director of *Duane Hopwood*

Dr. Carole Adams, Secretary of Human Services Administration, State of Illinois

(MORE)

WWW.RECOVERYNETWORKFOUNDATION.ORG
WWW.UNDERTHEINFLUENCETHFILMSERIES.COM

NEW YORK

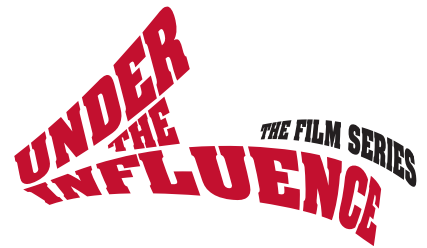


PRESENTS

GROUNDBREAKING FILM SERIES EXPLORES AMERICA'S CULTURE
OF ADDICTION & RECOVERY OPENS IN CHICAGO WITH

DUANE HOPWOOD

AN OFFICIAL SELECTION OF THE SUNDANCE
FILM FESTIVAL (2005), WITH SPECIAL GUEST
APPEARANCE BY WRITER/DIRECTOR MATT MULHERN.



Dr. Abhin Singla, an internist with a subspecialty in addiction medicine, Clinical Associates in Medicine, Chicago, IL

Dr. Robert Moore, Director of Research, Institute for Psychoanalysis, Culture & Spirituality, Institute for the Science of Psychoanalysis; and Distinguished Professor, Psychology, Psychoanalysis & Spirituality at The Chicago Theological Seminary

"*Duane Hopwood* is a wise and touching film with a lot of love in it," wrote Roger Ebert in his Nov. 18, 2005, Chicago Sun-Times review. "The movie is a wise and realistic portrait of the disease, showing the drunk not as a colorful or tragic character, but simply as a sad man whose days occasionally contain moments of joy and hope. The quality of this movie is in its observation," continued Mr. Ebert. "*Duane Hopwood* shows ordinary days in ordinary lives. Its hero is a man who grieves for the loss of his happiness and does not know he should grieve for the loss of himself."

Duane Hopwood was also an Official Selection of the *EbertFest of Overlooked Films, 2005*, produced by Mr. Ebert in Champaign-Urbana, IL.

The Recovery Network Foundation will present Mr. Ebert with its *Recovery Milestone Award 2006* in recognition of his excellence in film criticism and sensitive, insightful coverage of the issues relevant to addiction and recovery and how both are portrayed in cinema today.

Director Blake Edwards received the *Recovery Milestone Award* last year for his 1962 masterpiece, *Days of Wine and Roses*.

The Chicago screening of *Duane Hopwood* is sponsored Join Together, Faces and Voices of Recovery, The Recovery Network Foundation, Illinois Department of Human Services /Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, and by Cephalon, Inc. and Alkermes, Inc., which have introduced the medication Vivitrol®.

"With millions of people suffering from alcohol dependence, we need to find new, more powerful ways to reach these individuals and their loved ones and to encourage hope for recovery," said Robert P. Roche, Jr., Executive Vice President of Worldwide Pharmaceutical Operations at Cephalon. "We are pleased to be a sponsor of the 2006 *Under the Influence: The Film Series*, which uses film as a cultural medium to educate and raise awareness about alcohol dependence and addiction treatment, including advances in medication and counseling."

Margaret Parsons, film curator at the National Gallery of Art, is *Under the Influence's* guest curator. Special advisers to the film series include the pioneer documentary filmmaker Albert Maysles; Catherine Wyler, Producer and Artistic Director of the High Falls Film Festival in Rochester, NY; William L. White, M.A., author and noted addiction treatment and recovery historian; Robin Room, PhD., Professor & Director of the Centre for Social Research on Alcohol & Drugs, Stockholm University; and film specialist Max Alvarez.

Under the Influence is free and open to the public but reservations are required. To request tickets and for more information on the festival's national tour (Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York), please visit <http://www.undertheinfluencethefilmseries.com>.

###

WWW.RECOVERYNETWORKFOUNDATION.ORG
WWW.UNDERTHEINFLUENCETHEFILMSERIES.COM

NEW YORK