



Family Outreach of Amherst

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Family Outreach of Amherst and Amherst Cinema to Co-present Special Screening of *Little Fugitive*, with Talk by Filmmaker Joanna Lipper

On Sunday, October 5 at 5 pm, Family Outreach of Amherst and Amherst Cinema will co-present a special screening of the feature film, ***LITTLE FUGITIVE***, along with a conversation with its award-winning filmmaker, Joanna Lipper at Amherst Cinema Arts Center, 28 Amity Street, Amherst.

Filmed in present-day Brooklyn, ***LITTLE FUGITIVE*** is a compelling remake of Morris Engel's 1953 classic that tells the story of young brothers, Lenny (Nicolas Marti Salgado) and Joey (David Castro). As latch-key kids the boys are often left to their own devices with their father (Peter Dinklage) incarcerated, and their mother (Justina Machado) working double shifts. On Lenny's twelfth birthday, the boys are left alone, and Lenny, who feels over-burdened with the responsibility of watching his seven-year old brother, pulls a cruel prank that causes Joey to run away to Coney Island. Contemporary footage of Joey at the amusement park punctuated by stunning archival footage sequences narrated by Lenny capture the bizarre sideshow world that characterized the Coney Island community during its heyday. At Coney Island, Joey finds a temporary home until Lenny finally tracks him down. Reunited, the two boys realize how much they love each other. Their bond is tragically threatened when they are placed in separate foster homes by the Administration for Children's Services. Released by Cinema Libre (2008)

Following the screening, screenwriter and director Joanna Lipper will be present for a discussion with the audience about the film and its issues which include the lives of latch-key kids, foster care, children and violence, and challenges faced by children of the incarcerated. "We are thrilled to welcome Joanna Lipper back to Amherst. Her earlier documentary and book, *Growing Up Fast*, dealing with the issues of teenage pregnancy and teen parenting, met with rave reviews, both for her insights into the lives of her subjects, and the process of telling their stories and turning them into film," said Laura Reichsman, Director of Family Outreach of Amherst. Amherst Cinema Executive Director Carol Johnson says "This program is part of our commitment to work with community partners and with filmmakers to showcase topical films and the process of filmmaking."

Director/writer/producer Joanna Lipper has made two award-winning documentaries about young people: *Inside Out: Portraits of Children*, which premiered on the Sundance Channel, and *Growing Up Fast*, about teen mothers, which was named one of the outstanding short documentaries of 1999 by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Lipper is also the author of the acclaimed book *Growing Up Fast*. *Little Fugitive* marks her debut as a feature film director and screenwriter. For more information, visit: www.joannalipper.com.

Tickets for the screening and discussion are \$5 and may be purchased through the Amherst Cinema Box Office or online at www.amherstcinema.org. Seating is limited, so reserve early. DVDs will be available for purchase after the 90-minute screening and include as a bonus feature Joanna Lipper's award winning documentary about imagination and creativity in children entitled *Inside Out: Portraits of Children*.