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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Filmmaker Returns to Oklahoma for Movie Preview Screening

In a collaboration between UCO's Oklahoma A+ Schools (OKA+) and Harding Fine Arts Academy, award-winning filmmaker Erahm Christopher, is returning to Oklahoma City for a special preview screening of his new film, "Listen." Inspired by real stories, this movie focuses on the source and solution to teen bullying and violence.

"This movie is about moments in our lives where we have an opportunity to actually make a difference for someone else, and what happens when we miss those moments," says socially-conscious author and speaker Christopher. "Whether it is bullying, school violence, drug and alcohol abuse, cutting, depression or suicide - the film puts people in the position to illustrate why it is so important to listen." he said.

Christopher's directorial debut was through the TEEN TRUTH film series, which was a response to the Columbine massacre in 1999. He realized that the media was not giving youth a voice after the incident. He took the series on the road, talking to teenagers about bullying and school violence. After countless presentations, teenagers approached him about their problems. According to Christopher they all said the same thing, "No one listens to me." In response to these stories Christopher wrote this feature film, LISTEN.

The screening will be held at Harding Fine Arts Academy located at 3333 N. Shartel in Oklahoma City on Thursday, October 1st at 6:00 pm with a question and answer session following with Christopher at 7:40 pm. The cost is \$5 and is open to the public. The movie is rated PG-13.

(Filmmaker Continued)

In conjunction with the preview screenings of his film, Cristopher is conducting a Student Master Class: “Creative Storytelling Using Film.” This intensive and interactive workshop will engage young filmmakers to see, hear and create films differently using interactive discussions, multimedia examples and hands-on activities. This workshop will be conducted at Harding Fine Arts Academy on Friday, October 2nd from 8:00 am- 3:30 pm, and the cost \$50 per student.

In addition, an OKA+ Arts Integration Workshop-Educator Master Class: “Inspire Creative Storytelling Using Film” is being conducted by Christopher on Saturday, October 3rd from 9:00 am- 3:00 pm at the Center for Transformative Learning at UCO in Edmond. It is free for OKA+ Educators and \$50 for others.

Contact Anne Springall 405-974-3796 with questions or to enroll in either of these master classes.

OKA+ is a department of the University of Central Oklahoma that helps schools create an educational environment that gets kids excited about learning and produces better achievement by providing schools with ongoing professional development, an intricate network of support, and an active research component.

Harding Fine Arts Academy is a college preparatory high school located in Oklahoma City that is focused on the integration of arts and academics whose mission is to provide an arts enriched learning environment merging aesthetic and academic content to enhance student achievement and to encourage arts related careers and lifelong arts appreciation.

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