

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ashley Berke
Public Relations Manager
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER HOSTS THE PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE OF *TRACES OF THE TRADE: A STORY FROM THE DEEP NORTH*

Philadelphia, PA (April 2, 2008) – On Thursday, April 24, 2008 at 8:30 p.m., the National Constitution Center, in partnership with the Philadelphia Film Festival, will present the Philadelphia premiere of *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*. This special post-festival event features a discussion with filmmaker Katrina Browne and her cousin Thomas DeWolf, author of the new memoir, *Inheriting the Trade*. Together, they will share the story of their ancestors, the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. Admission is free for members, \$15 for non-members, and \$6 for K-12 teachers and students. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

First-time filmmaker, **Katrina Browne** made a troubling discovery — her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She, along with her cousin Tom and eight fellow descendants, set off to retrace the Triangle Trade from their old hometown in Rhode Island to slave forts in Ghana and sugar plantation ruins in Cuba. In this bicentennial year of the U.S. abolition of the slave trade, *Traces of the Trade*, an Official Selection of the 2008 Sundance Film Festival, offers powerful new perspectives on the black/white divide. The film will have its national broadcast television premiere on the PBS P.O.V. independent documentary series on June 24 (check local listings).

-MORE-

ADD ONE/TRACES OF THE TRADE

The personal memoir, *Inheriting the Trade: A Northern Family Confronts Its Legacy as the largest Slave-Trading Dynasty in U.S. History*, is a companion piece to the family's journey by **Thomas DeWolf**.

This program is part of the National Constitution Center's *The Legacy of 1808* speaker series, a year long dialogue with local and national experts about the history of the slave trade and its contemporary relevance. *The Legacy of 1808* explores issues of race, segregation, suffrage, and individual rights in forums intended for people of all ages and backgrounds, revealing how the issue of slavery cast a dark shadow over the nation's founding and influenced the evolution of American culture and society.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

###