*Tuesday, December 31, 2013*

*For Immediate Release*

NETA /PBS Stations Press Release; Song of the Dunes: Search for the Original Gypsies to Premiere on Public Broadcasting Television Stations January 2014

*Song of the Dunes: Search for the Original Gypsies* will air this month, January 2014, on PBS stations. Co-directed by Academy Award nominee ™ William Haugse and Paula Fouce, and produced by Paradise Filmworks International, the film tells the untold story of Merasi musicians of Rajasthan born into the lowest caste. The Merasi face myriad injustices that threaten their lives and precious musical legacy. As we pay tribute to Nelson Mandela’s commitment to justice, attaining equality for the Merasi is imperative.

In the film, Sarwar Khan of Jaisalmer attests to the rampant discrimination against his community, traditionally labeled Manganiyar meaning beggar, and the hopes they hold for future generations. The film features the Khan family of Kanoi village, where Chanan Khan donated land for a music school that strives to safeguard this musical tradition in jeopardy, and members of the Kalbeliya snake charmer caste of Jodhpur.

While abolished in 1947, India’s hierarchical caste system is still very much alive. Today, over 160 million people are born “Untouchables,” and bear the brunt of caste discrimination. Denied basic human rights, the lower castes are victims of crimes and violence. To improve India’s human rights, the voices of the persecuted must be heard. Visit [www.SongoftheDunes.com](http://www.SongoftheDunes.com) .

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*Song of the Dunes* will air on PBS stations in January 2014:

KENTUCKY: January 2nd, 3AM on KET
ALASKA: January 2nd, 10PM on KUAC
ALASKA: January 3rd, 4AM on KUAC

Syracuse, NY: January 3rd, 10PM on WCNY
Raleigh-Durham, NC: January 5th, 1:30AM on UNC-TV
Raleigh-Durham, NC: January 5th, 10:00PM on UNC-TV

Spokane, WA: January 5th, 2:30PM on KWSU
COLORADO: January 16th, 7PM MT:  CO Public TV (Channel 12.2)

COLORADO: January 17th, 3AM MT:  CO Public TV (Channel 12.2)
SF/Bay Area: January 22nd, 9 PM PT: KCRB
OREGON: January 26th, 7 PM PT: OPB Plus
OREGON: January 29th, 4 AM PT: OPB Plus

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**About the Directors:** William Haugse has worked with Orson Wells and John Cassavetes, and has been nominated for the Academy Award™ for Editing HOOP DREAMS. He has taught at the USC School of Cinematic Arts and been nominated for an EMMY™. *Song of the Dunes* is Paula Fouce’s fourth film on India’s faiths, spotlighting yoga, the Dalai Lama, religious tolerance, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Muslims, and Mother Teresa,. She co-authored SHIVA, a book on the yogis.

**About Paradise Filmworks International:** Paradise Filmworks produces unique films that inform and inspire exploring faiths and cultures of the world, including yoga films, and spiritual films streaming on Amazon and IndiePix. Paradise Filmworks is currently producing the documentary, No Asylum: The Family of Anne Frank.

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**Press Contact:**

Gina Krause: 843.321.9741, (paradisefilmworks@learningcore.net)

[www.SongoftheDunes.com](http://www.SongoftheDunes.com) [www.ParadiseFilmworks.com](http://www.ParadiseFilmworks.com)

For images, up-to-date information on this Paradise Filmworks documentary,

visit: songofthedunes.com/press-materials.html