



MEDIA ALERT

Media contact: Meredith Gandy
(415) 553-2116 or mgandy@kqed.org
Screeners available by request

**A NEW EPISODE OF KQED'S SPARK FEATURES A BAY AREA PHOTOGRAPHER
AND ACCLAIMED COMEDIAN**

Wednesday, April 1 at 7:30pm

SAN FRANCISCO, March 24, 2009— *Spark* presents more of the Bay Area's great local artists with Katherine Westerhout, W. Kamau Bell, and Wil Blades in a new episode airing Wednesday, April 1 at 7:30pm on KQED 9HD. In this episode, *Spark* accompanies photographer Katherine Westerhout as she photographs the deteriorating 16th Street Train Station in Oakland, and then takes a deeper look at the history and future of this 1912 Beaux Arts gem. Once the terminus of the Transcontinental Railroad, the station has been off-limits since 1989 – a situation that may be about to change. The program also features comedian W. Kamau Bell, a social commentator whose work has focused on racism, social norms, the nature of language, and everything in between. Bell's new work forces him to take a new look at racism in an Obama-era America. *Spark* also features Wil Blades, a musician at the top of the local music scene as a Hammond B3 organ player. Watch a preview online at <http://www.kqed.org/spark>.

WHAT: New episode of KQED's arts program *Spark*

WHEN: Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 7:30pm

WHERE: KQED 9HD

Segments: Katherine Westerhout, photographer
W. Kamau Bell, comedian
Wil Blades, musician

About *Spark*

Spark, a production of KQED Public Television, is a three-part initiative in the arts that combines a weekly television series airing Wednesdays at 7:30pm on KQED 9, an extensive website, and a multifaceted educational outreach component. *Spark* blazes a trail through the diverse and prolific Bay Area arts community, featuring in-depth profiles of hundreds of local artists and arts organizations. Find more art tips and resources online at www.kqed.org/spark.

About KQED Public Television

KQED Public Television 9 (www.kqed.org), a service of Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. (NCPB), is the nation's most-watched public television station. KQED produces local weekly series in high definition and available on Comcast On Demand including: *QUEST*; *Spark*; *Check, Please! Bay Area* and *This Week in Northern California*; and national series: *Jacques Pepin: More Fast Food My Way* and *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures*. KQED's digital television channels include KQED HD, KQED Life, KQED World, KQED Kids, and KQED V-me, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. Download programs for viewing and video podcasts at www.kqed.org, featuring unique content on one of the most-visited station sites in public broadcasting.