



MEDIA ALERT

Media Contact: Meredith Gandy
(415) 553-2116 or mgandy@kqed.org

**SPARK KICKS OFF ITS SIXTH SEASON WITH A SEGMENT ON
POLITICAL CARTOONIST MARK FIORE**

Wednesday, February 6 at 7:30pm

SAN FRANCISCO, February 4, 2008 – KQED’s popular arts program “Spark” kicks off its sixth season with a profile of San Francisco political cartoonist Mark Fiore, who quit his dream job at a traditional daily newspaper to experiment with a new format – animated political cartoons built for the web. As Super Tuesday results wave in, KQED invites you to see another side of today’s political world as Fiore creates a cartoon riffing on Hillary Clinton’s emotional moment before the 2008 New Hampshire primary, and the media frenzy that followed. Watch a preview online now at www.kqed.org/spark.

Also in this episode, “Spark” takes a backstage look at the American Conservatory Theater’s new production of “The Blood Knot,” Athol Fugard’s revolutionary play set in 1960s apartheid South Africa. Two brothers try to dig their way out of poverty and towards a new future – one is dark skinned, the other so light he passes for white. The final segment of the season premiere features Oakland painter Hung Liu, who draws inspiration from vintage photographs of people swept away in Mao Tse-Tung’s Cultural Revolution.

WHAT: Season premiere of KQED’s arts program *Spark*

WHEN: Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 7:30pm

WHERE: KQED 9 and KQED HD

SEGMENTS: political cartoonist Mark Fiore
A.C.T.’s production of *Blood Knot*
painter Hung Liu

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 one of the nation's most-watched public television stations during primetime. KQED produces local weekly series in high definition and available on Comcast On Demand including: *The Josh Kornbluth Show*; *QUEST*; *Spark*; *Check, Please! Bay Area* and *This Week in Northern California*; and national series: *Jacques Pepin: Fast Food My Way* and *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures*. KQED's digital television channels include KQED HD, KQED Life-Encore, 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.

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