

October 10, 2014

For Immediate Release

SHIFT CHANGE Premieres November 15 on WNET Thirteen

**Documentary highlights employee-owned businesses
that compete successfully in today's economy**

SHIFT CHANGE, the inspiring documentary film about worker cooperatives now airing on PBS stations across the country, premieres on WNET-13 on **November 15 at 1:30 pm**.

At a time when many are disillusioned with big banks, big business, and growing inequality in the United States, employee ownership offers one of the solutions for workers and communities. In June, the New York City budget allocated 1.2 million for the development of worker cooperative businesses. **SHIFT CHANGE** visits thriving cooperative businesses in the U.S. and Spain, sharing on-the-ground experiences from the worker-owners on the front lines of the new economy.

Filmmakers Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young gained unprecedented access to the world's oldest and largest network of worker cooperatives in Mondragon, in the Basque Country of Spain, where 60% of local residents are employee-owners. With high job security and competitive salaries, the Basque Country boasts half the unemployment rate of the rest of Spain, and the Mondragon Corporation is the country's 10th largest. **SHIFT CHANGE** explores the qualities that have helped to drive Mondragon's business success while also perpetuating the democratic, community-oriented principles upon which it was founded.

Here in the U.S., where a long decline in manufacturing and an economic crisis have led to millions of Americans being under- or unemployed, some are looking to Mondragon as a model. Worker-owned businesses are on the rise, with hundreds of coops in the U.S. today, representing thousands of individuals. **SHIFT CHANGE** highlights vibrant worker-owned companies across the nation, from bakeries to solar energy to engineering firms.

Through in-depth interviews with worker-owners, attendance at coop meetings, and visits to the factory floor, the film conveys one of the ways to reinvigorate our economy, provide a pathway to long term stability, and nurture a more egalitarian way of life.

SHIFT CHANGE was first released during the U.N.-declared International Year of Cooperatives (2012). It has screened in hundreds of U.S. and Canadian festivals, theaters, universities and community settings to enthusiastic audiences. It has also screened in Spain, Austria, Australia, Mexico and Taiwan, and had its PBS premiere on Seattle's KCTS/9 on April 6 of this year.

SHIFT CHANGE trailer: <http://shiftchange.org/video-clips/>

Photos, fact sheet, other press materials: <http://shiftchange.org/for-the-press/>

Press preview: <https://vimeo.com/91014268>, password: Worker-owners

PBS broadcast schedule:

<http://shiftchange.org/new-pbs-broadcast-schedule-summer-2014/>

To arrange an interview with **SHIFT CHANGE** filmmakers Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young, contact Natasha Dworkin, natashadworkin@gmail.com, 206-715-1696 Pacific.

www.facebook.com/shiftchangemovie

Twitter: @Shift_Change

###