

SHIFT CHANGE

A NEW FILM BY MARK DWORKIN & MELISSA YOUNG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WORLD PREMIERE OF *SHIFT CHANGE*

New film tells the stories of employee-owned businesses that compete successfully in today's economy while providing secure, dignified jobs in democratic workplaces

Where: Grand Lake Theater, Oakland, CA
When: October 18, 2012 | 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Tickets: \$10-\$40 | <http://shiftchange.brownpapertickets.com>

9/19/2012—The highly anticipated new documentary film, **SHIFT CHANGE** (www.shiftchange.org), will have its world premiere in Oakland, California, on October 18, 2012.

At a time when many are disillusioned with big banks, big business, and growing inequity in the United States, employee ownership offers real solutions for workers and communities. **SHIFT CHANGE** visits thriving cooperative businesses in the U.S. and Spain; sharing on-the-ground experiences, lessons, and observations from the worker-owners on the front lines of the new economy.

SHIFT CHANGE filmmakers Melissa Young and Mark Dworkin 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 many of Mondragon's diverse production facilities; along with its network of cooperative infrastructure, education, and social services agencies, highlighting the qualities that have helped to drive Mondragon's business success while also perpetuating the democratic, socially responsible, community-oriented principles upon which it was founded.

Here in the U.S.—where a long decline in manufacturing and a brutal economic crisis have led to millions of Americans being thrown out of work—many 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 individual worker/owners. **SHIFT CHANGE** highlights some of the vibrant worker-owned companies across the nation: from bakeries to solar energy to manufacturing and engineering. Through in-depth interviews with worker-owners, attendance at coop meetings, and visits to the factory floor, the film conveys the promise that these businesses offer to reinvent our failing economy, provide a pathway to long term stability, and nurture a more egalitarian way of life.

Businesses featured in **SHIFT CHANGE** include the Bay Area's Arizmendi Bakery Association—inspired by the Mondragon model and comprised of six cooperative bakeries and a development and support collective—and the non-profit Women's Action to Gain Economic Security (W.A.G.E.S), an Oakland-based organization dedicated to promoting the economic and social well being of low-income women through cooperative business ownership.

The world premiere of **SHIFT CHANGE** occurs during national *Co-op Month* (October) and the U.N.-declared *International Year of Cooperatives* (2012.coop). The film's producers will be joined by worker-owners from Arizmendi and WAGES, along with public officials and other special guests for this gala screening. The event is presented by One PacificCoast Foundation, and co-sponsored by the Network of Bay Area Worker Coops (NoBAWC), US Federation of Worker Coops, East Bay Express,

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Sustainable Business Alliance, Oakland Grown, Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union, Arizmendi Lakeshore, Shoe Shine Wines, and Inkworks Press.

Tickets are available now online (<http://shiftchange.brownpapertickets.com>) and at the box office after October 8th. \$10 (NoBAWC members), \$12 (general admission), \$40 (admission plus pre-reception at Arizmendi Lakeshore).

***Images:** Additional high resolution images are available for download at www.shiftchange.org. Click on "Media Info."

ABOUT THE PRODUCERS: Melissa Young and Mark Dworkin have produced many documentary films on social justice and environmental issues in North and South America, winning prestigious awards from CINE, Houston, Columbus, Prix Leonardo, International Wildlife, Women in Film/Seattle, Chicago, NW Film and Video Festivals, among others. Their productions are known for diverse examples of regular people helping create positive change. Young and Dworkin's films are in broad circulation in academic and activist settings. Five have been broadcast on PBS, most recently, *Good Food* [2010], an intimate look at the growers and businesses that are creating a local, sustainable food system in the Pacific Northwest. Their latest release, *We Are Not Ghosts* (2012) is about rebuilding Detroit from the ground up.

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