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MEDIA ADVISORY

First Person Arts and SPECTOR Projects Launch Philadelphia's First "Complaint Choir" with a Citywide Gripe Session - September 25th

WHEN: Thursday, September 25th at 7 p.m.

WHERE: Gershman Y, Levitt Auditorium, 401 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia

ADMISSION: FREE TO COMPLAINERS WHO LIKE TO SING. For more information on participating in Philadelphia's Complaint Choir, visit www.complaints.firstpersonarts.org or call (267) 402-2055.

WHAT: **First Person Arts** is joining forces with **SPECTOR Projects** to bring the global phenomenon of the **Complaint Choir** to Philadelphia. Modeled after the Scandinavian-born gripe concerts that have spread across the globe, the Complaint Choir will give Philadelphians their chance to complain together in song. Those with grievances to air should attend the introductory meeting and gripe session at the **Gershman Y** on **Thursday, September 25th at 7 p.m.**

After the complaints have been gathered, **Evan Solot** will create an original musical composition and score based on the city's most popular complaints. In October, the choir will rehearse for its premiere performance which will take place at the **First Person Festival** (November 11th – 16th) of memoir and documentary art on November 12th at the Painted Bride. Several additional performances will take place at undisclosed times and locations.

Since early September, Complaint Collectors have been subjecting themselves to the complaints of passersby in various public locations. Dozens of disgruntled Philadelphians have already added their voices to the choir and are planning to sing.

City folk seem to agree on a few things already:

1. *Traffic:* "The horse and buggies in Society Hill, they put traffic at a standstill!" ... "Too many cars! Encourage more walking and biking."
2. *Septa:* "Why do the under-serving subways stop running at midnight?" ... "The busses are too cold!"
3. *Casinos:* "Can I complain about the Casinos? And the frustrating political process that got them planned for our waterfront?" ... "Why take up prime real estate on the waterfront?"

Anyone with something to complain about is invited to call the Complaint Hotline at (267) 402-2055, email their complaint to complaintchoir@firstpersonarts.org, or post it on the official Complaint Choir blog at www.complaints.firstpersonarts.org.

To learn more about Complaint Choirs and see videos from choirs in Singapore, Chicago, Helsinki and others around the world, visit Complaints Choirs Worldwide online at www.complaintschoir.org.

ABOUT FIRST PERSON ARTS

First Person Arts is a nonprofit organization and producer of the annual First Person Festival and other programs that tap into the power of personal stories and speak to diverse audiences, including people whose voices are not often heard. First Person Arts is guided by the belief that the sharing of personal experience is a powerful way for people to celebrate uniqueness, bridge differences, and find common ground. For more information, please visit www.firstpersonarts.org.

SPECTOR Projects' mission is to champion emerging talent and new concepts in the visual arts. Created in 1999 by artist and curator, Shelley Spector, SPECTOR Projects produces interdisciplinary projects in various venues including the web, galleries and alternative spaces. Visit www.spectorspector.com for more information.

The Complaint Choir project was initiated by Artists Tellervo Kalleinen and Oliver Kochta-Kalleinen in 2005. See all the complaints choirs of the world at www.complaintschoir.org.

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To request more information, photos, and interviews, please contact:

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