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Aug. 15, 2003

'WEST 47TH STREET' FOCUSES ON STRUGGLES WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is encouraging the public to turn their television channels to OETA Channel 13 Tuesday, Aug. 19, 9 p.m., to view the award-winning feature-length documentary, "West 47th Street."

The program will make its national television premiere on the PBS TV series *P.O.V.* (Point of View).

"West 47th Street" is an intimate portrait of four people struggling to recover from serious mental illness. They've all come to Fountain House, a renowned rehabilitation center in New York City's Hell's Kitchen. Over three years, the film follows Frances, Fitzroy, Zeinab and Tex as they deal with drug regimens, health issues, group homes and work programs with courage and humor. Epic in scope, "West 47th Street" offers an unprecedented window into the lives of people who are often feared and ignored, but seldom understood. The film is directed by Bill Lichtenstein and June Peoples, and produced by the Peabody Award-winning Lichtenstein Creative Media, creators of public radio's "The Infinite Mind."

The national TV broadcast will have an anticipated audience of more than 4 million viewers.

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