

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**[Group Name] to bring *Citizen Koch* to [City]**

*Controversial film by Academy Award®-nominated directors Carl Deal and Tia Lessin makes [City] debut after being censored from public television*

Contact: [Name], [Email], [Phone Number]

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**[City], [State] [Date] – [Name]** will be hosting a screening of the acclaimed documentary **CITIZEN KOCH** at **[Theater Name]** on **[Date]** at **[Time]**.

In this searing exposé on the state of democracy in America and the fracturing of the Republican Party, Academy Award®-nominated directors Carl Deal and Tia Lessin (*Trouble the Water*, co-producers of *Fahrenheit 9/11* & *Bowling for Columbine*) follow the money behind the rise of the Tea Party. **CITIZEN KOCH** investigates the impact of unlimited, anonymous spending by corporations and billionaires on the electoral process, featuring stories of life-long Republicans whose loyalty is tested when their families become collateral damage in the GOP fight to take organized labor out at the knees. Alternately terrifying and funny, **CITIZEN KOCH** is an essential and powerful portrait of our political times.

Last year, public television officials pulled \$150,000 in funds they had committed to the documentary and cancelled plans for the film's broadcast premiere, as reported by Jane Mayer in *The New Yorker*, in fear of losing the financial backing of major PBS donor David Koch, the ultra-conservative billionaire industrialist and WGBH and WNET trustee. In this stunning turn of events, **CITIZEN KOCH** was effectively censored from the public airwaves. After completing one of the most successful crowd funding campaigns of all time to make up for the lost production funds, **CITIZEN KOCH** is now set to hit theaters nationwide.

**[Include short description of your event's special features – Q&A, discussion, fundraiser, etc.]**

The film is being screened through Tugg.com, a platform that helps individuals and organizations to host screenings in their local theaters. Tickets can be purchased at: **[Event Link URL]**

**[Optional quote from promoter]**

**More about the film**

With the U.S. Supreme Court's *Citizens United* ruling opening the floodgates for unlimited political spending, it's now easier than ever to buy an election. But what happens when the voters realize that the billionaires and corporations doing the buying do not have the people's best interests at heart? This question is at the core of **CITIZEN KOCH**, the new documentary from the Academy Award®-nominated directors of *Trouble the Water*, Carl Deal and Tia Lessin.

The filmmakers break down the politically-motivated maneuvering behind the Supreme Court case that changed the way our democracy works, making way for the 2010 midterm elections that ushered in a new wave of ultra-conservative Tea Party politicians. The Tea Party positioned itself as a citizen-powered, homegrown movement borne from sheer patriotism, but was in reality one of the most well-funded and corporately-orchestrated political operations in history.

Wisconsin's newly elected Governor Scott Walker, a rising star in the GOP and a 2016 presidential contender, declared Wisconsin "open for business" and began doling out tax breaks to large corporations and millionaires, while eliminating collective bargaining rights and reducing pension contributions and health benefits for state employees. Wisconsin, the filmmakers discovered, had become a testing ground for the Tea Party's larger plan.

**CITIZEN KOCH** tells the story of the changing American political landscape through the lens of three Wisconsin state employees, all lifelong Republicans, who suddenly find their party taking direct aim at them, stripping away the economic ground their families have built and depended on for generations. Aided by a PR blitz by out-of-state Tea Party groups, Walker successfully shifts the blame for the country's financial problems away from Wall Street's wild west practices and onto school teachers, sanitation workers, prison guards and nurses – many of whom were the very voters who elected him to office. After Walker rams through his "reforms," a bi-partisan grassroots movement to recall him begins.

But the recall movement collides with the Tea Party-aligned "Americans for Prosperity," founded and lavishly financed by two of the world's richest men — billionaire brothers David and Charles Koch, who are among Scott Walker's biggest financial supporters. As Republican working class voters witness the Tea Party takeover, they are torn between loyalty to the GOP and the realization that their own party has made them the enemy. Alternately terrifying and wickedly funny, **CITIZEN KOCH** asks a defining question: will big money destroy not only the Republican Party, but our democracy itself?

### **About the Filmmakers**

Carl Deal and Tia Lessin are Academy-Award® nominated filmmakers who also produced and directed *Trouble the Water*, winner of the Gotham Independent Film Award, the Sundance Film Festival's Grand Jury Prize, and the Full Frame Documentary Festival's Grand Jury Prize. Deal and Lessin were producers of Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11*, winner of the Palm d'Or, Academy Award®-winning *Bowling For Columbine* and *Capitalism: A Love Story*.

**To download assets (stills, poster, trailer) please visit:**

<http://www.variancefilms.com/citizenkochpress>