

Friends of the Drexel, Inc.
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Friends of the Drexel, Inc. is organized as an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) entity dedicated to a more creative and prosperous future for the "new" Drexel Theatre.

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BEXLEY NATIVES TO PREMIER SUNDANCE WINNING FILM AT THE DREXEL
Josh Radnor and Jesse Hara to attend Benefit for Friends of the Drexel, Inc.

Friends of the Drexel, Inc. announced today that the Sundance audience award winning film "*happythankyoumoreplease*" written, directed and starring Josh Radnor and produced by Jesse Hara, who grew up together in Bexley, will hold its premiere at the Drexel Theatre.

Josh Radnor, best known as the star in the CBS television series "How I Met Your Mother" is the son of Bexley residents Alan and Carol Radnor. Donna and Abe (Hani) Hara, also of Bexley, are the parents of film producer Jesse Hara.

The premiere will benefit Friends of the Drexel, the new independent non-profit organization whose mission is to secure and sustain the future of the historic Drexel Theatre as a distinctive cultural asset to Bexley and the greater Columbus community.

The coming of age tale follows six lives in modern day New York, highlighted by a 20-something aspiring novelist who accidentally adopts a 6 year-old African American child. The film was presented at this year's Sundance Film Festival and won the Sundance Audience Award. It will open in theatres around the country after the Labor Day.

The Friends of the Drexel Premiere event will be held Wednesday, September 1 at the Drexel Theatre. Both Josh Radnor and Jesse Hara are expected to attend.

A Premiere Committee chaired by Bonnie Milenthal has been formed to plan the activities for the evening and to encourage support for Friends of the Drexel, Inc. Sponsorships are available and individual tickets will range from \$500 per ticket to \$125 per ticket. Guests will have the opportunity to be among the first to view the film and to attend a gala "Back Lot" party immediately following the film with Josh Radnor and Jesse Hara.

"Once Josh heard about the Friends of the Drexel effort, he wanted to be part of its mission to help stabilize the theatre he so loved during his growing up years," said Carol Radnor, Josh's mom. Jesse Hara noted "It's truly a dream come true to see something we both created on the marquee of the Drexel and to feel the support from our home town."

"We are grateful to Josh, Jesse and their wonderful families for helping us launch our campaign to secure the future of the Drexel," said Friends of the Drexel Board Chairman Richard Stoff. "With our business planning effort almost complete, we imagine the Drexel of the future as a sustainable provider of unique arts content and a vibrant community meeting place, preserving the charm and eclectic, neighborhood film-going experience of the theatre, in a warm and inviting yet technologically-advanced facility."

The board of Friends of the Drexel, Inc. was formed last summer and is led by Business Roundtable president Richard Stoff and his wife, Carol Zelizer Stoff, an attorney and Bexley native. The Board is comprised of other prominent civic leaders who have joined hands on behalf of the Drexel – Mike Canter, Don Casto, Gordon Gee, Babette Gorman, Artie Isaac, Lucinda Kirk, Robert Lazarus, Jr., Thomas Mack, Bonnie Milenthal, Susan Quintenz, Mari Sunami, and Miriam Yenkin. The Board is independent of but coordinates closely with the Drexel's current owners – Jeff and Kathy Frank.