

## **Award-winning filmmaker, poet to give presentation at Alfred University**

2/22/05

ALFRED, NY Stephanie Gray, an award-winning filmmaker and poet, will present some of her shorts films and videos Thursday, Feb. 24, on the Alfred University campus. The presentation will be from 7 to 9 p.m. in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall. Gray has been involved in filmmaking since 1997. Her film work and poetry explores pop culture, feminist, lesbian, class, urban and deaf/hearing loss issues. Gray suffers from sensory-neural hearing loss, and some of her work focuses on hearing impairment. Her 1999 film, "close yr hearing for the capshuns" examines her experiences with hearing loss and speech therapy. The film won the grand prize at the CEPA Gallery (Buffalo) 2001 Expose Yourself exhibition and has been screened at the Thaw Festival in Iowa City, IA. Her "City Films" explore the beauty of the crumbling architecture of Buffalo, NY, and the devastating effects de-industrialization, gentrification, urban renewal and population loss have had on the city. Gray's other work includes films that explore gender and sexuality in slow motion and sound. Among her most widely seen works is the 1999 film "Dear Joan," an experimental short piece about the feminist and gender mysteries of Joan of Arc, which has been screened around the world and on public television. She is a past recipient of the New York State Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Film. Her films and videos have been featured in one-women screenings at the Thaw Festival, Iowa City, IA (2002) and the Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester, NY (2000). Her work has been shown internationally at festivals and group shows in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Germany and Austria. Gray has taught at visual studies workshops and has served as a festival juror and grant award panelist for the Thaw Festival, ETC Finishing Funds, and New York Foundation for the Arts Career Advancement Grants. She lives in New York City, where she is development associate for the Creative Capital Foundation for the Arts. She also works as a freelance grant writer for non-profit arts groups. Prior to moving to New York City and joining Creative Capital in February 2004, she worked as development director for two Buffalo, NY non-profit organizations: Locust Street Neighborhood Art Classes (1997-2004) and Squeaky Wheel/Buffalo Media Resources (2000-04), where she also served as the Squealer Media Arts Magazine Editor (2001-04). At the conclusion of her presentation at AU Thursday, Gray will be available to answer questions from the audience.