



Local Sci-fi Fans Hold Sixth Annual Charity Screening

Local fans of Joss Whedon, creator of the science fiction shows *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Firefly*, and writer/director of the movie *Serenity*, are holding the fifth annual Can't Stop the Serenity (CSTS) charity screening on Friday June 24th and Saturday 25th at the Arlington Cinema and Draft House, 2903 Columbia Pike, Arlington, Virginia. CSTS is a global charity event, raising money for Whedon's favorite charity, Equality Now, an organization that supports the rights of women and girls throughout the world. Fans of the show and movie, known as Browncoats, gather to watch *Serenity* and raise money for Equality Now and other worthwhile causes.

The Northern Virginia Browncoats, who organize the local annual event, also raise funds for charities which are in the spirit of Whedon's causes, including Kids Need to Read and Tahirih Justice Center. The event is also supporting two local charities So Others Might Eat (SOME), and Homeward Trails, an animal rescue organization. Fans attending the screening are asked to donate the following items for these groups: ground coffee, cold cereals, dog food, cat food, toys, treats, collars and leashes.

Additional events for the NoVa/DC screenings include Whedon trivia Friday night, and a costume contest on Saturday night. Another Whedon production *Dr. Horrible's Sing Along Blog*, will be shown on Saturday as well. Items promoting CSTS are available for pre-order at <http://csts.novabrowncoats.net/2011/store.html> . All proceeds will go to the charities.

For more information about the Arlington CSTS screening, visit <http://csts.novabrowncoats.net/>. Tickets will be available for purchased at <http://www.arlingtondrafthouse.com/>.

Additional Resources:

- Equality Now: <http://www.equalitynow.org/>
- Kids Need to Read: <http://www.kidsneedtoread.org/>
- Tahirih Justice Center: <http://www.tahirih.org/>
- SOME: <http://www.some.org/>
- Homeward Trails: <http://www.homewardtrails.org/>
- Northern Virginia Browncoats: <http://www.meetup.com/NoVA-Browncoats/>

About Joss Whedon

Joss Whedon is a well-known proponent of gender equality. His mother was actively involved in Amnesty International, and Equality Now was founded by one of her students. Whedon is known for creating dynamic female characters on his shows, including *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Angel*, *Firefly*, and *Dollhouse*. "There are two ways to fight a battle like ours," says Whedon. "One is to whisper in the ear of the masses, try subtly and gradually to change the gender expectations and mythic structure of our culture. That's me. The other is to step up and confront the thousands of atrocities that are taking place around the world on an immediate, one-by-one basis. That's a great deal harder, and that's Equality now. It's not about politics; it's about basic human decency."

About our Main Charity, Equality Now

Equality Now was founded in 1992 to work for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women around the world. Working with national human rights organizations and individual activists, Equality Now documents violence and discrimination against women and mobilizes international action to support their efforts to stop these human rights abuses. For more information visit EqualityNow.org or contact Amanda Sullivan, Director, Women's Action Network, Equality Now, at (212) 586-0906.



About *Serenity*

Serenity is the follow-up movie to the short-lived science fiction show, *Firefly*. When the renegade crew of *Serenity* agrees to hide a fugitive on their ship, they find themselves in a battle between the Alliance, an all-encompassing regime that will destroy anything or anyone to get the girl back, and Reavers, violent cannibals who roam the edge of space.

Summary

Friday Jun 24, 9:15pm or Saturday June 25, afternoon time tba
Arlington Cinema and Draft House, 2903 Columbia Pike, Arlington, Virginia