KEN KIMMELMAN, president of Imagery Film, Ltd., and an Aesthetic Realism consultant, is noted for his films in behalf of social justice. Among these are the anti-prejudice films Brushstrokes, commissioned by the United Nations, and The Heart Knows Better, winner of an Emmy. He also received an Emmy for his contributions to Sesame Street.

He has been a speaker on bullying and racism since 1995, giving interactive presentations in schools, colleges, libraries, and community organizations. He says:

“I had always wanted to make films that were for social justice, but it was when I began to study Aesthetic Realism that I learned what could really make for change in the world!

“I learned that the cause of all injustice—including bullying—is contempt: ‘the addition to self through the lessening of something else.’ When contempt is understood and criticized, bullying can end and change to respect and kindness.”

THE HEART KNOWS BETTER
EMMY AWARD —
Outstanding Public Service Announcement

A public service film against racism based on this statement by Eli Siegel: “It will be found that black and white man have the same goodnesses, the same temptations, and can be criticized in the same way. The skin may be different, but the aorta is quite the same.” The UN High Commission on Human Rights selected it for Human Rights Day in Geneva, 2001. It plays nationally on TV, and was shown at the Jackie Robinson 50th Anniversary Celebration at Shea Stadium. The NY Yankees play it at every home game. It received a Cindy Award, and a Bronze Award at WorldFest, Charleston International Film Festival.

BRUSHSTROKES
Coe Award, Best Children’s Film, ASIFA-EAST

An animated film produced for the UN, showing through humor the ridiculousness of prejudice and bullying. It was shown at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum; the Children’s Film Festival, LA & NY; and the Museum of Broadcasting & Radio. This is one of the films shown at the important talks The Heart Knows Better: Changing Prejudice to Kindness given by Mr. Kimmelman for children and adults at museums, libraries, schools, and colleges.

WHAT DOES A PERSON DESERVE?

Best Public Service Film for the Year 2000
(Santa Clarita International Film Festival)
Silver Cindy Award

A PSA against homelessness and hunger, making vivid the reality of people as it asks the urgent question first asked by Eli Siegel: “What does a person deserve by being alive?” It received a Harburg Foundation grant, and was endorsed by the National Coalition for the Homeless, and others. It is broadcast on CNN & worldwide via NBC satellite, and was shown at the United Nations Association Film Festival, Stanford University, CA. This film is part of the talks on the solution to homelessness given by Mr. Kimmelman and colleagues in “Housing: A Right” at colleges and national conferences.

ANTI-BULLYING WORKSHOP

Ken Kimmelman teaching an anti-bullying workshop at a New York City high school.
What Educators Are Saying—

Mr. Kimmelman’s presentation is essential to any school or district trying to stamp out bullying and inculcate the culture of kindness.

—Model Schools Coordinator, OCM BOCES; Retired principal, Information Technology HS

Engaging students can be a challenge with difficult issues such as racism and bullying. Ken Kimmelman, whose teaching is based on the philosophy Aesthetic Realism, offers what is most needed by our young people on these issues in school. His work will help to make this a better world.

—High School Administrator, 4J District, Eugene, OR; Professor, Christian College, Pacific University, Portland State University

I have seen the good effect of Ken Kimmelman’s work with young children firsthand as part of a school-wide Character Education initiative. The importance of his work was formally acknowledged by the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission.

—Teacher, Southampton Elementary School; Professional Staff Development Instructor for SCOPE and the Peconic Teacher Center

Excellent for all libraries dealing with a diverse population. It brings alive a difficult subject and presents an answer in a way that is welcoming, with a lot of warmth. What Eli Siegel explained is very powerful—it’s really possible to change your thinking.

—Children’s Librarian

One of the most exciting, worthwhile events. It’s hands on and incorporates various elements of learning, while the point of view creates an environment where children and adults aren’t afraid to share their thoughts and learn together. I highly recommend it.

—Manager of Public Programs, Brooklyn Children’s Museum

KEN KIMMELMAN, an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, is president of Imagery Film Ltd. and a consultant on the faculty of the Aesthetic Realism Foundation (AestheticRealism.org). He produced films for the UN against prejudice and apartheid: Brushstrokes, and Asimbonanga, which won the Newark Black Film Festival’s Paul Robeson Award. And he received a 1997-98 Emmy Award for his contributions to Sesame Street, 1992-93 Emmy nominations, and an Ace nomination as a director on the animated TV series Doug. Hot Afternoons Have Been in Montana (2006), based on Eli Siegel’s Nation magazine prize poem, won numerous awards and airs on PBS. Thomas Comma (2010), his latest animated film for children and adults, received many awards, including Best Animated Short, KidzFlix International Children’s Film Festival.

In 1968 he directed People Are Trying to Put Opposites Together, the historic documentary of Eli Siegel, poet, critic, and founder of Aesthetic Realism, teaching a class, televised on WNET-TV Channel 13. He also produced political films, theatricals, motion picture trailers, and TV commercials. He was a director of the animated TV series: Clifford’s Puppy Days, Daria, The Wild Thornberries, and produced films for the Children’s Museum of Manhattan. He is in development on documentaries about a 55-year-old African American bus driver studying the cello, and the noted deep sea explorer Tom Dettweiler.

Mr. Kimmelman taught film and animation at NYU and the School of Visual Arts. He was a guest lecturer in the Artists Talk on Art series, and at Syracuse University. He has presented papers on the lives and work of D.W. Griffith, Charlie Chaplin, Ingmar Bergman, and others. His work is part of the 2006 Whitney Biennial Peace Tower.

As a lecturer on the answer to racism he has spoken at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum, the Queens Borough Public Library’s Tributes to Martin Luther King, Jr., and at schools, colleges, and community organizations. A founder of Housing: A Basic Human Right (housingaright.org), he has given presentations, including a keynote speech at Boston University, Vassar, NYU, Pace, and at national conferences: at the AIA, the University of Maryland, and Harvard.

To schedule a talk, contact:
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“The resolution of conflict in self is like the making one of opposites in art.” — Eli Siegel