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Local activist Bob Schulz went on a hunger strike in Washington, D.C., in 2001 to protest the Internal Revenue Service's income tax policies.

Constitutional movie to be shown

Local activist Bob Schulz inspired Hollywood producer

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IF YOU GO

"America: From Freedom to Fascism" will be shown Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Scoville Learning Center at Adirondack Community College. There is no charge.

A Hollywood producer was watching C-Span one morning in May two years ago when local constitutional rights activist Bob Schulz of Fort Ann appeared on the program.

Aaron Russo, who has produced movies such as "The Rose" with Bette Midler and "Trading Places" with Eddie Murphy and Dan Aykroyd, became intrigued with some of the constitutional issues Schulz was discussing.

He was so intrigued, in fact, that it spurred creation of a new film.

"America: From Freedom to Fascism" is based on the premise that Americans are rapidly losing rights guaranteed under the Constitution. A sneak peek will air Saturday at Adirondack Community College. The 95-minute film will open to wide release this summer.

"This isn't about Republicans or Democrats," Russo said in a phone interview from his home in California. "Americans all over know there's something really wrong in the country, but they can't quite put their finger on it."

A trailer for the film, which can be viewed at www.givemeliberty.org, features a variety of officials speaking on issues like election fraud, the legality of mandatory income taxes and the Federal Reserve Bank.

U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, is seen in the trailer questioning the erosion of personal freedoms and commenting that Americans "now need the government's permission to do almost anything.

"If that's the definition of a police state, we're well on our way," he says in the clip.

The film has been previewed in a number of cities, along with regional meetings of the We the People Foundation for Constitutional Education, an organization of which Schulz was a founder.

Several Internet reviews, like one found at www.badnarik.org, give the movie kudos for bringing the subjects to light with passion that affects the audience on an emotional level.

"We've shown it in Denver and Austin, Texas, to packed houses," Schulz said. "When it was shown in Beverly Hills, pandemonium broke out. The line started forming at 6 p.m. for a 7:30 showing and eventually went around the block. We ended up having to do a second showing."

Schulz is currently fighting the Washington County government over its payment of trash plant expenses with property tax revenue and the U.S. government over what he and thousands of his supporters nationally say is an abuse of federal authority.

It's that kind of action that Russo, who has received six Academy Award nominations and won several Golden Globes, said the new film ends with a call for.

"Remember in 'Raiders of the Lost Ark,' when Harrison Ford was just able to get under the door at the last second?" Russo said. "That's where we are now. There's still time to get back to the principles of the Founding Fathers, but we better hurry."

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