

Lightning strikes twice for Mountain Lake PBS Emmy win

PLATTSBURGH — Mountain Lake PBS has claimed a second Emmy statuette for a documentary, a twin to sit beside its first.

"Arts in Exile: Tibetan Treasures in Small Town America" won in the "Outstanding Documentary" category at the 39th Boston/New England Regional Emmy Awards ceremony this month.

This marks the second Emmy win for arts producer Paul Larson, whose last major documentary also took home the award.

"The competition is tough every year," said Larson. "But this time it felt exceptionally hard. I'm elated the judges have honored our entire community-wide effort with their decision."

"Arts in Exile" chronicles the creation of the Tibetan arts festival held last fall in Plattsburgh, exploring how the city in

northern New York was inspired by the culture of Tibet from across the globe. The documentary examines how several Tibetan refugees use the arts to raise awareness about the global problems they face and to keep their culture alive.

The program features insight from Tibet House President Robert Thurman and the talents of photographer Sonam Zoksang, freedom singer Techung, thangka painter Tsering Phuntsok, monks Lobsang Dorjee and Yeshi Dorjee, wood carver Tashi Dholak and many other visual artists and performers.

Larson said he shares this award with the director of photography Daniel McCullum and editor Michael Hansen.

Larson took home a regional Emmy for his 2013 documentary "Songs to Keep: Treasures of an Adirondack Folk Collector," which also included the talents of videographer Daniel McCullum.

Also this spring, "Arts in Exile" received a New York State Broadcasters Association award in the "Outstanding Documentary" category.

"This is a wonderful example of how important community partnerships are to our ability to fulfill our mission and our promise to engage and serve our entire viewership area. I could not be more proud of the talented team here at Mountain Lake PBS," said Bill McColgan, director of production and content at MLPBS.

"This project was major undertaking for team here, and I'm honored by this award," said Erik Nycklemoe, president and CEO of MLPBS. "This Emmy belongs not just to Mountain Lake PBS, but to the entire community who came together to bring this entire project to life."

To celebrate the Emmy win, MLPBS will air Arts in Exile Friday, July 8, at 10 p.m., Sunday, July 10 at 6 p.m., and Wednesday, July 13, at noon.