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### ***Central State Hospital: An Oral History by Joe Windish***

The Georgia Archives Lunch & Learn presentation, *Central State Hospital: An Oral History*, by Joe Windish, will be held onsite. The presentation is on Friday, April 12th, 2024, from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Georgia Archives, 5800 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA.

The Lunch and Learn presentation is free, and no registration is required.

The documentary, *Central State Hospital: An Oral History*, tells the story of what was once the largest mental institution in the world. Located in Milledgeville, GA, at its peak in the 1950s, it served more than 15,000 patients in 200 buildings on 2,000 acres of land. The documentary looks at Central State, from its founding in 1842 to the announced closing in 2010, through a series of interviews with former patients, employees, academics, and Milledgeville residents. Mr. Windish will share short excerpts focusing on the courts, immigration, prisons, and homelessness in order to explore how each of the different challenges the hospital faced remains just as salient today. The story of Central State Hospital is more than just a story about a hospital; it is the complicated and troubling story of psychiatric care in America.

Joe Windish has been a visual media professional for over 4 decades. A graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, his senior film won a student Academy Award. He was a producer on WNYC's 1983 television program *Our Time with Vito Russo*. He spent 12 years as the director of a not-for-profit community television corporation that included 6 production locations, 3 television studios, and transmission facilities for 3 cable television channels. In 1999, he joined Mediapolis, a web engineering and development company in New York's Silicon Alley. At Mediapolis, he served as a senior producer and project manager overseeing projects for companies including Sony Records, Johnson and Johnson, and The New York Times Company. He also managed The New York Times company-owned interactive advertising network, serving 7 million ad units monthly across 8 affiliated sites. He moved to Milledgeville, GA, and in 2004 opened the Interactive Media Lab in Georgia College and State University's Ina Dillard Russell Library. He went on to serve as the library's Associate Director for Technology & Operations before leaving to move to Atlanta in 2018. He completed the script, graphics, and edited the Central State Hospital Oral History documentary project, ten years in the making, in 2021. His current work includes independent video, motion graphics, and digital photo restoration projects.

The Georgia Archives is a unit of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. The Georgia Archives identifies, collects, manages, preserves, provides access to, and publicizes records and information of Georgia and its people, and assists state and local government agencies with their records management.

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