1971: THE FILM
Q&A with film editor Gabriel Rhodes and author Betty Medsger
Friday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m.
Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue
University at Albany Downtown Campus

On March 8, 1971, eight ordinary citizens broke into an FBI office in Media, Pennsylvania and obtained files that revealed the existence of COINTELPRO, a secret and illegal program of spying on American citizens. Those responsible have never revealed their identities—until now. 1971: THE FILM was nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival.

Betty Medsger was a young reporter at the Washington Post in 1971 when she received from anonymous sources copies of stolen FBI files that revealed the existence of COINTELPRO. She recounts the story, revealing the burglars and their motives, in her new book, The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover’s Secret FBI (2014). The New York Times Book Review called it, “Impeccably researched, elegantly presented, engaging....”

Gabriel Rhodes is both an editor and a filmmaker. His work has premiered at Sundance and Cannes and has been broadcast on Sundance Channel, A&E, Animal Planet, CNN, PBS, and on the NPR radio show “This American Life.” His theatrical documentary credits include 1971: The Film (2014), Without Shepherds (2012), The Tillman Story (2009), and Control Room (2004). Three of his edited films, The Tillman Story, Quest for Honor (2008), and My Blind Brother (2003) were shortlisted for the Academy Awards.

All events are free and open to the public.

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