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**THE SIXTH ANNUAL
BOSTON LATINO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

October 12 – October 21, 2007

“Bridging Communities through Movies”

www.bliff.org

*Opening Reception: Friday, October 12 at 5:00 PM
Sert Gallery at the Carpenter Center, Harvard University
24 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA*

Boston, MA – The Boston Latino International Film Festival (BLIFF) is pleased to announce its sixth annual festival, which will take place from Friday, October 12 through Sunday, October 21. The Festival presents a vibrant selection of feature films, documentaries, and short films that showcase the work of filmmakers who address Latino-related topics. Since its inception in 2002, BLIFF has been committed to using the power of film as a vehicle to break stereotypes, bring cultures and communities together, and expose the complex issues that affect the Latino community in the United States and Latin America.

Films will be shown at the Harvard Film Archive, the Coolidge Corner Theater, the Museum of Fine Arts and the Howard Thurman Center at Boston University. All-access festival passes are available in advance through the BLIFF Website (www.bliff.org) and will be sold in selected locations during the festival. Senior and student discounts apply. As part of our community commitment, BLIFF is proud to be the only Boston area film festival that offers free admission to the general public for selected screenings at the Museum of Fine Arts (October 18 – 19) and at Boston University (October 19 – 21). **All foreign language films have English subtitles.** The festival will host question and answer sessions with film directors after screenings, as well as two free panels: one on Latino stereotypes in films and the second on the challenges of being a Latina Filmmaker, the latter sponsored by Women in Film & Video in New England. This year BLIFF is proud to host an exciting selection of films whose social and political themes range from the traditional themes of struggling immigrants to the magical realism themes found in the storylines of our narrative features. We will also showcase a special selection of shorts from Mexico and Spain, and we continue to highlight films portraying the gay Latino community in the U.S. and Latin America.

The Boston Latino International Film Festival’s opening reception will be held on Friday, October 12, at the Sert Gallery at the Carpenter Center at Harvard University, 24 Quincy Street in Cambridge at 5:00 PM. The opening film, “Imitation” will immediately follow at the Harvard Film Archive, downstairs from the gallery. Seating is limited. **Visit www.bliff.org for schedule and more information.**

Special film highlights include:

AT HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE, OCTOBER 12 – 14

- **“Imitation” 87 mins. / Narrative Feature / Canada, Mexico / Dir. Federico Hidalgo**

Teresa (Vanessa Bauche, “Amores Perros”) an alluring Mexican woman, comes to Montreal in search of her husband who had abandoned her in Mexico, cutting her life in two. In Montreal, she meets Fenton, a young man who falls in love with her. Fenton convinces Teresa to let him help her find her husband. In their pursuit, Teresa and Fenton criss-cross Montreal, persuading a string of comical characters to reveal clues that will finally lead them to the wayward husband. In the end, Teresa must decide whether to reveal the painful secret that haunts her.

- **“Pancho Villa: La Revolución No Ha Terminado” (Pancho Villa: The Revolution Has Not Ended) 95 min. / Documentary / Mexico / Dir. Francesco Taboada Tabone**

Co-presented by the Independent Film Festival of Boston

In the early hours of March 16, 1916 the troops of Pancho Villa invaded the continental territory of the United States attacking the village of Columbus At the same time a baby was born in Nazas Durango proudly baptized Ernesto Villa Nava the son of General Francisco Villa Upon the assassination of Villa by the government in 1923 his mother took him to California and told him: Never tell anybody who your father was because your life and mine are in danger Eighty three years later Ernesto Nava came to his fathers land and discovered that General Villa is one of the most respected heroes in his country and a moral guide to millions of peasants throughout Mexico This is the story of Pancho Villa told by those who knew him.

2006 International Latino Film Festival of San Francisco, Best Documentary (www.franciscovilla.com.mx)

- **“Between” 90 mins. / Narrative Feature / USA / Dir: David Ocanas**

Co-presented by the Independent Film Festival of Boston

Nadine hasn't had a decent night's rest since her sister disappeared. And it doesn't get much better when she travels solo to Tijuana to find her. Nadine's attempts to unravel the truth eventually cause her to question her own sanity. You'll be shocked by the unsettling encounters she faces during her investigation!

2005 Sundance Film Festival 2005, Nominee Grand Jury Prize (www.betweenthefilm.com)

- **¡Salud! / 93 min. / Documentary / USA – Cuba / Dir. Connie Field**

A feature documentary directed by Academy Award nominee Connie Field, ¡Salud! spans three continents to portray the philosophy and health professionals that place Cuba on the map in the worldwide movement for health. Salud! is a timely film about the competing values that mark the battle for global health. The film's camera travel to the Gambia, rural South Africa, Venezuela, coastal villages of Honduras and river settlements in the Amazon, where a Cuban is often the first doctor a poor community has ever seen and in some nations they stage entire health systems. ¡Salud! suggests both new approaches to developing the human resources critical to making healthcare a global birthright. The film examines the remarkable case of Cuba, a poor country with what the BBC calls “one of the world's best health systems,” and explores Cuba's extensive global health initiatives. ¡Salud! accompanies some of the 28,000 Cuban health professionals now staffing public health systems in over 60 countries. Their stories, and those of young medical students—now numbering 30,000—from the Americas, Africa and Asia studying in Cuba, challenge us to rethink the potential of international health cooperation. (**www.saludthefilm.net**)

- **“La última mirada” (The Last Gaze) 124 mins. / Narrative Feature / Mexico / Dir. Patricia Arriaga-Jordan**

The parallel lives of two very different people converge to reveal an unlikely bond in the bittersweet drama, The Last Gaze. Writer-director Patricia Arriaga-Jordán's first feature is rich with beautifully shot black and white scenes splashed with lush, vivid red. Famous Mexican artist Homero (Sergi Mateu) is suffering from an inherited degenerative eye disease, which will eventually send him blind. Left only with the sight of the color red, Homero is overcome with grief at the prospect of never being able to paint again. Meanwhile, young and vibrant Mei (Marisol Centeno) has been abandoned by her prostitute mother. With nowhere else to go, Mei is forced to follow in her mother's footsteps and works at the local brothel. Mei's first customer is Homero, who chooses to spend his time with her at the brothel painting her whole body red – his final gaze at a beautiful woman.

2006 Latino Film Festival of San Francisco, Best Film Women and Film

2006 XXI International Guadalajara Film Festival, Audience Award (www.lultimamirada.com)

AT COOLIDGE CORNER THEATER, OCTOBER 17 – 18

- **“Ausangate” 61 mins. / Documentary / Peru / Dir. Andrea Heckman and Tad Fettig**

This film documents the lives of Quechua people who live around Ausangate, a sacred peak in southeastern Peru. It is based on anthropological research conducted over twenty years and reveals how the weavers make textiles encoded with symbolic images that reinforce ancestral beliefs during rituals and in everyday life. Four Quechua people's stories are told against a backdrop of high Andean lakes and mountains showing a harsh existence possible only through a strong symbiotic relationship to their alpacas and llamas. From these animals they gain food, pelts, dried dung for fuel, transport for goods, and yarn for clothing. They maintain a deep integrity through their interconnectedness with the natural forces and their ritual relationships to Ausangate, and they still organize their labor and social relationships through the Inca social practices of *ayni* and *ayllu*.

(www.der.org/films/ausangate.html)

- **“Más que a nada en el mundo” (More than Anything in the World) 90 mins. / Narrative Feature / Mexico / Dir. Andrés Becker & Javier Solar**

Seven-year-old Alicia lives with her mother in an apartment. Alicia and her mother are the best of friends, and nothing could come between them – until Mom begins to bring her dates home. Through the suggestions and overactive imagination of a friend at school, Alicia begins to believe that her mother is possessed by a vampire—a vampire whom Alicia believe lives next door, in the guise of a sickly old man. Taking matters into her own hands, Alicia decides to enter the “vampire’s” apartment and place a cross on his chest to break her mother’s curse. Alicia will do anything to save her mother. Similar in theme to the classic *Spirit of the Beehive*, but with a keen eye for the rhythms and struggles of contemporary Mexican family life, *More Than Anything in the World* marks a confident debut for directors Andrés León Becker and Javier Solar. Illuminating the secret worlds of lonely children, the film never strays from its true subject: the uncommon love between a single parent and her child.

2006 Film at the World Film Festival of Montreal. Best First Fiction Feature

2006 Guadalajara Film Festivals, Best First Film

AT HOWARD THURMAN CENTER AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY, OCTOBER 19 – 21

- **“Bragging Rights: Stickball Stories” 57 mins. / Documentary / USA / Dir. Sonia Gonzalez**

Co-presented by Latino Public Broadcasting

BRAGGING RIGHTS is an hour-long video documentary that chronicles how the New York City game of stickball has developed leadership, mended racial tension, and created lifelong friendships throughout its long and vibrant history. BRAGGING RIGHTS examines the struggle and healing of a community through sports. The players strive to push stickball beyond neighborhood nostalgia and into a revered cultural practice.

(www.chicaluna.com, www.lpbp.org)

- **“Lost and Found in Mexico” 53 mins. / Documentary / USA, Mexico / Dir. Caren Cross**

“Am I living the American dream? Do I have it all? Am I happy?” *Lost and Found in Mexico* challenges some of our basic assumptions. Filmmaker Caren Cross was “successful.” She was firmly ensconced in a busy life. Her kids were grown and on their own. She arrived in Mexico on vacation and immediately felt compelled to drop her old life. In retrospect and from a distance of thousands of miles, she begins to listen to her heart, and for the first time she understands what she’d lost in the United States and had found in Mexico: her true self. Cross, a psychotherapist by profession, is obsessed with trying to understand the changes she feels and thus embarks on making this documentary film. In San Miguel de Allende, a small town in the mountains of central Mexico, she interviews other foreigners in a quest to understand why so many of them have landed here.

(www.lostandfoundinmexico.com)

BLIFF is sponsored in part by: Harvard Film Archive, the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University, Howard Thurman Center at Boston University, Museum of Fine Arts, the Coolidge Corner Theater, Wainwright Bank, Boston Phoenix, El Planeta Newspaper, Video Transfer, ViceVersa Communications, Jose’s Mexican Restaurant, La Base, Women in Film and Video in New England.