

**The 11th International Latino Film Festival Kicks Off on
Day of the Dead with 16 Days of Programming
Throughout the Greater Bay Area**

Featuring More Than 80 Films from 20 Countries Covering a Wide Array of Themes, Including Human Rights, Immigration, War & Politics, Queer Latino Cinema, the Environment, Women & Film, the Jewish Experience in Latin America, and More.

November 2 – 18, 2007

SAN FRANCISCO, July 23, 2007—The Latino Film Society is proud to announce it kicks off the **11th International Latino Film Festival** on November 2, 2007, in celebration of *Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos)*, with a high-profile opening at the majestic Castro Theater in San Francisco.

The acclaimed Festival, which showcases an unprecedented array of films expressing many views from the Latino world, runs through November 18, 2007. This year's Festival features more than 80 films from 20 countries in eight Bay Area cities: San Francisco, Redwood City, San Jose, Larkspur, Berkeley, San Rafael, and San Bruno.

"Since its founding 11 years ago, the International Latino Film Festival has showcased the best in new international Latino Cinema by paying tribute to renowned Latino actors, directors and producers, while also celebrating emerging talents," said International Latino Film Society Associate Executive Director Deldelp Medina. "This year is no exception."

Highlights of this year's International Latino Film Festival include the U.S. premiere of ***Retrato de Diego / A Portrait of Diego*** (2007). This documentary about Diego Rivera is directed by Diego Lopez Rivera, a Mexican director and journalist (and grandson of Diego Rivera) and Gabriel Figueroa Flores, cinematographer and son of Gabriel Figueroa, one of the most respected cinematographers of all times and often credited for creating the classical Mexican film aesthetic of the Golden Era of Mexican Cinema. ***Retrato de Diego*** includes footage that was taken upon the 50th anniversary of Rivera's art career in 1949, and has not been screened until now. Directors Diego Lopez Rivera and Gabriel Figueroa Flores will both be in San Francisco for the screenings.

The 11th International Latino Film Festival also features ***El Benny*** (2006), a Cuban film directed by Jorge Luis Sánchez. Cuba's candidate for the Academy Awards, this fictional story is based on the life of the famous Cuban musician Benny Moré. It includes new versions of his songs performed by a number of renowned musicians including Chucho Valdes, Juan Formell, Haila and Orishas. The Festival also presents the U.S. premiere of ***Lola, la película / Lola, the Film*** (2007), a Spanish film directed by Miguel Hermoso, which tells the story of legendary Flamenco dancer Lola Flores.

Another highlight is ***La ciudad de los fotógrafos / The City of Photographers*** (2006), an important human rights film by Chilean director Sebastián Moreno Mardones, who will be in San Francisco for the screening of his acclaimed film. This film tells the story of a motley crew of photojournalists who documented Chile's

people amid the turmoil of Pinochet's regime. The photographers learned their craft in the streets in the middle of bloody riots and protests and created many of the now legendary images that helped focus world attention on the regime's repressive tactics.

This year's LGBT selections include ***Glue*** (2006), by Argentine director Alexis Don Santos, and ***Chuecatown*** (2007), by Spanish director Juan Flahn. ***Glue***, Dos Santos' first feature and a recipient of the coveted *2007 Frameline First Feature Award*, delves into budding adolescent sexuality. Backed by a soundtrack that includes a handful of the Violent Femmes' much-loved songs, Dos Santos' film tracks 15-year-old Lucas as he and his male best friend pursue a cute girl – and grow closer than expected in the process. ***Chuecatown***, a black comedy about property dealing in Madrid's gay district, tells the story of Victor, who works in a real-estate agency in the well-known Chueca neighborhood of Madrid. He hides a terrible secret: he makes apartments available for sale by murdering the old lady owners that live in them and then refurbishes and decorates the apartments to sell them to gay couples with high purchasing power.

The International Latino Film Festival's ongoing commitment to artistic excellence and to exploring a wide array of themes and issues is made evident through its diverse selection of shorts, documentaries and feature films. This year's films will inspire, illuminate, challenge, educate, motivate, excite, thrill, surprise, and frighten – they are everything Latino and everything human. Themes in this year's Festival include: *Animation, Argentina Series, Art & Poetry, Day of the Dead, Emerging Latino Filmmakers, Environment, Erotica, Family, Global Lens, Futbol (Football), Human Rights, Immigration, the Jewish Experience, Musica Latina, Queer Latino Cinema, Spiritual, Thrillers, Mexican Cinema, War & Politics, Women & Film*, among others.

*****More program information and film times/dates/venues will be available in August & September 2007. Images and film screeners are available to members of the media. Please contact Mona Baroudi at mona.baroudi@sbcglobal.net or at 415.615.2735.**

THE INTERNATIONAL LATINO FILM SOCIETY/FILM FESTIVAL

Presented by the International Latino Film Society, The International Latino Film Festival was founded in 1997 by Sylvia Perel to benefit the San Francisco Bay Area and the world by promoting cinema of significant artistic merit created by, or about Latinos, and to celebrate cultural understanding through the art of film and filmmaking. The International Latino Film Festival began in Marin County with eight films over three days in one venue and has grown to more than 80 films over 16 days in eight cities across the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. For additional information about the Festival visit www.LatinoFilmFestival.org.

THE 11th INTERNATIONAL LATINO FILM FESTIVAL SPONSORS

The 11th International Latino Film Festival Sponsors include Cinema 12, San Jose, City of Redwood City, Castellano Family Foundation, City College of San Francisco, Continental Airlines, Don Julio, Macy's, Macy's.com, Mexicana Airlines, San Jose State University, Southwest Airlines.