

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE REALEASE

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For immediate release: September 21, 2011 - THE CÍRCULO DE LA HISPANIDAD LONG ISLAND HISPANIC FILM FESTIVAL PROUDLY ANNOUNCES the premiere of the documentary "AIR," to take place on the OPENING NIGHT OF THE FESTIVAL, OCTOBER 21, 2011, AT THE GREEN CENTER, 605 PENINSULA BOULEVARD, HEMPSTEAD NY.

"Air" follows the life of a Latin youth who grew up in the South Bronx, the child of parents that were infected with the HIV virus. His story made worldwide headlines 15 years ago and inspired the book *The Air Down Here*, a story that documents the struggles that a child in his situation has to face on a daily basis.

We at the Círculo de la Hispanidad Long Island Hispanic Film Festival (CHLIHFF) are very pleased that the director/producer of "Air" has chosen to premiere this compelling documentary at the Inaugural event of the Long Island Hispanic Film Festival. Participating in the premiere and subsequent discussion will be Gil C. Alicea, whose story is told in the film, and Hilton Ariel Ruiz, Director/Producer.

"At CHLIHFF, we strive to seek out interesting and complex works that speak to the Hispanic experience here on Long Island and its surrounding region. 'Air' is a felicitous fit: it enables us to project a riveting and relevant film of this nature at the opening night of our inaugural festival," says CHLIHFF Executive Director Gil Bernardino. "We believe that our festival is the right venue to premiere 'Air' and host a vibrant discussion on the film and its consequential topics. The Festival Committee and I are excited that both Gil C. Alicea and Hilton Ariel Ruiz will be on hand to discuss the film and its reception by the public."

Timothy Williams, Human Rights Commissioner of Nassau County and member of the LIHFF Executive Planning Committee commented that "the critical topics touched upon in this movie affect all communities. I am pleased that we have included a film that will open a community dialogue on these topics."

"Air" Director/Producer, Hilton Ariel Ruiz expressed his enthusiasm that the Premiere for "Air" will be at the First Círculo de la Hispanidad Long Island Hispanic Film Festival: "Gil's journey started 15 years ago and received worldwide acknowledgement after appearing with Diane Sawyer on 20/20 where they showcased his book, *"The Air Down Here"*. We want to tell his



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story and believe the right place to do this is at the ‘Círculo de la Hispanidad Hispanic Film Festival.’”

The festival will kick off on Friday October 21, 2011 with an Invitation-only reception at Círculo de la Hispanidad’s Green Center at 6 pm. The doors will open to the general public at 8:00 pm with the Premiere of “Air” and the active participation of Director/Producer Hilton Ariel Ruiz, who will be on hand to give a summation and take questions from our audience including, Executive Producer Kalman Angus-Clark and Co-Producer Kirk Goodall. The festival continues through Saturday, October 22 and Sunday October 23, 2001 concluding on this last day with a Film Festival Reception and Closing Ceremony (Tickets at available).

About Círculo de la Hispanidad Long Island Hispanic Film Festival.

The mission of the Círculo de la Hispanidad Film Festival is to enrich the lives of Long Islanders through the ideas and emotions inspired by the art of filmmaking. The Festival is also a means to celebrate Hispanic filmmakers and enrich the cultural community of Nassau and Suffolk counties in New York. In addition, we intend to provide an educational, creative and inspirational learning environment where participants can focus on the filmmaking craft and interact intimately with guest filmmakers, actors, producers and mentors through a five-day annual film festival as well as throughout the year.

The Festival will host filmmakers and actors. Educational outreach programs, children’s films, celebrity guests, independent filmmaker forums and other events celebrating the art of film will contribute to the Festival’s diverse program. The Festival seeks to become an essential rendezvous for movie lovers and audiences eager to come into contact with new tendencies and technologies applied to film and the audiovisual world.

For more information about the Festival, and to become a member, please visit our website at www.LIHFF.com

About Círculo de la Hispanidad

Círculo de la Hispanidad is a 501(c) (3), private, non-profit organization governed by a volunteer board of directors. The Festival will take place at the Círculo de la Hispanidad Center. This “Green” or LEED (leadership in energy and environmental design) facility is the first of its kind in New York State built by a non-profit, community-based organization. In addition, the U.S. Green Building Council has approved the Círculo de la Hispanidad Center as a “GOLD” status LEED (leadership in energy and environmental design) facility.

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