



National Association of Latino Independent Producers

April 2007

Dear NALIP Members:

Sometimes we wonder why we need a NALIP Annual Conference. Why come together once a year, why give up our weekend, why expend the money, why hassle the travel? And then we come. We reunite and we celebrate, we learn and we collaborate, we return to our community and we see how strong and wonderful the Latino media field has become. We have renewed energy to create.

Those of you who joined the reunion of our community in Newport Beach for Conference 8, March 8 – 11 know that ***Media on the Move: Power for Independents*** was a stimulating and inspiring weekend. Our exploration of the mobile media revolution was comprehensive, vital and exciting. If you *didn't* join us, you missed our feature, documentary, industry and performer/ director tracks of panels and seminars, our technical workshops and demonstrations, and the conversations that helped advance our emerging and mid-career filmmakers, while providing new information and skills to media artists across the board. But we hope to have some of the highlights available soon as podcasts at www.nalip.org. Please put us on your calendars for next year: Conference 9, March 6-9, 2008 in Dana Point, CA.

Edward James Olmos, in receiving the NALIP Lifetime Achievement Award at Conference 8, reminded us that “*when you go back into your community, and give back... your self respect rises, along with your self-understanding, and you become the best that you can be.*” Over one hundred executives and professionals, plus dozens of sponsors contributed to this year’s dialogue with film and television artists, documentary and new media makers that hailed from twenty states plus Canada and Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Mexico, Spain, France and Argentina. We held an exciting Conference premiere of **ILLEGAL TENDER** with artists Franc Reyes, John Singleton and Wanda de Jesus with us to discuss the film. And we programmed 11 hours of NALIPsters on View, plus the rumored reprises that screened Saturday, after the Gala, at 3:00 in the morning!

We all gave a rousing “**Viva!**” led by legendary activist Dolores Huerta as we honored Edward James Olmos for his lifetime work as an advocate for our community, plus the “Ugly Betty” producing team for their visionary work on the hit network show, and filmmaker George A. Romero for his long career and influence on the horror film genre. This year we were pleased to give two more Estelas to our shooting stars of the community: narrative filmmaker Judy Hecht Dumontet (**TORTILLA HEAVEN**) and documentary filmmaker, Natalia Almada (**AL OTRO LADO**). We know you join us in thanking the McDonald’s Corporation for their support of NALIP, and their endowment of the largest Latino filmmaker grant --\$7,500 to each Estela winner for their next project. Si TV awarded their annual producers grant that evening to LPA Fellow Gustavo Stebner and his partner Brenda Alvarado, after hearing them pitch “The Stebner Show.” We’ll be watching for that on Si TV!!

We held another NALIP Conference **Loteria**, which pitched in towards three new filmmakers’ dreams. VOY Development Executive, Dino Hainline won the first prize: his \$2,250 kitty goes towards a new laptop, for mobile creating. Chicago NALIPster Juan Lopez won \$1,000 in software donated by the Showbiz Software Store; and LPA Fellow Edward Kramer won a video iPod donated by Lifetime Television Networks.

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At our third Latino Media Market™, over 250 pitches and presentations were made by the 11 feature production or development filmmakers, 9 documentary and 8 non-scripted t.v. producers. The LMM is made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, in support of media artist growth. It is a unique venue for project writers and producers to meet targeted executives and mentors for concrete deals, options, licenses and advancements.

As many of you are aware, we could not have the NALIP Conference without HBO and their magnanimous support as our presenting sponsor. As Mr. Olmos said in his acceptance, *"HBO is our company and I'm very proud of it. They not only support us here, but they support us in really making film."* HBO's commitment to NALIP and our Conference means that executives can travel from around the country and globe to interact with Latino filmmakers. It means that 137 filmmakers can attend on scholarship, with travel stipends and hotel support. It means that we can hold a warm closing Gala with hosts like Joey Medina and Pattie Lopez, cool actors like Freddy Rodriguez and Adam Rodriguez who present our honors, and hip DJ Eric Coleman who can spin tunes in Club NALIP until dawn. (Yes, dawn came early on Sunday, March 11 — Daylight Savings Time — but dawn it still was!)

NALIPsters, please know that your membership dues are supplemented by our corporate and foundation sponsors, government and organizational partners, media and production associates. We list them on our Sponsors page at www.nalip.org and encourage you to get to know them, recognize and thank them for. We really appreciate the support then lend to continue NALIP's programmatic and advocacy work through 2007 and on to Conference 9.

One of the messages given us at the Gala by Ms. Huerta and Mr. Olmos is that every NALIPster must *"step into your community, wherever you're from."* In the wake of our celebration, the NALIP community continues to face considerable challenges. The WGA will soon report that there have been no improvements in the hiring numbers for women or Latinos. The studios and agencies still have few or no Latino decision makers. And NALIP has joined the protest against PBS' upcoming 14-hour broadcast of THE WAR by filmmaker Ken Burns, because it includes *no Latinos*. This "stunning achievement in filmmaking," as the PBS press release describes it -- "reminiscent in scope and power of Burns' landmark series THE CIVIL WAR" -- makes no reference to the 500,000 Latino soldiers and many distinguished Latino Medal of Honor winners.

NALIP does not just protest, of course. We persevere with our pro-active NALIP programs that develop and advance the next generation of Latino filmmakers: the Latino Writers Lab™, the Latino Producers Academy™, the Latino Media Resource Guide, "Doing your Doc," and more. In their fifth year, the LWL and LPA are proud to see past Fellows like Almudena Carracedo and Kristy Guavara Flannigan complete their projects, receive premieres at SilverDocs and the LA Film Festival, and go on national broadcasts on great platforms like POV. We are excited when our ABC Fellow and Lincoln Mercury prize winners Bernadette Rivero and Sarah Duran are accepted in to the PGA's prestigious Diversity seminar: NALIPster/LPA Fellow Carolina Paiz participated in this program and was invited on to "Gray's Anatomy" as a writer! We are thrilled to see NALIP Board members Edwin Pagan and Beni Matias push forward their project at the 2007 Tribeca All Access, to have LPA Fellow Natalia Almada be awarded the prestigious Rockefeller Fellowship and watch LWL/LPA Fellow Dora Pena begin production on her directorial debut feature THE DREAM HEALER.

At the Conference we distributed the newest edition of the *Latino Media Resource Guide* -- our member directory and so much more. Yours is enclosed. Additional features are available online, including Spanish-language filmographies, additional credits and short/experimental film information.

We love hearing from our Community — send us your good news and please stay in touch!

Kathryn F. Galan
Executive Director

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