



QUEER WOMEN OF COLOR MEDIA ARTS PROJECT

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- Filmmaker Training
- Queer Women of Color Film Festival
- Distribution

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For Immediate Release

**QWOCMAP 10TH ANNIVERSARY
Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project Celebrates Ten Years
Creating Films, Filmmakers & Community**

San Francisco, CA – Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project (QWOCMAP) begins its anniversary celebration with the presentation of its 5th annual Queer Women of Color Film Festival (QWOCFF), this June 12-14, 2009 at the Brava Theater in San Francisco. The Festival Focus, Multiple Borders: Queer Women of Color and Immigration,” will include a Featured Screening, Panel Discussion and Community Convening. It will also showcase the World Premieres of 25 films by queer women of color created through the award-winning QWOCMAP Filmmaker Training Program.

QWOCMAP is the only film and media arts nonprofit in the country that specifically serves queer women of color, and it serves a large underserved community that few organizations have successfully reached. Filmmaker Madeleine Lim founded QWOCMAP ten years ago after traveling the international film festival circuit with her award-winning film *Sambal Belacan In San Francisco*, about three Singaporean lesbian immigrants to the U.S. She says, “I could count the number of queer women of color filmmakers on one hand.”

She founded QWOCMAP with the vision to create a vibrant community of queer women of color filmmakers and since 2000, the organization has brought a large number of newcomers to film. Through its award-winning Training Program, QWOCMAP demystifies the filmmaking process and equips queer women of color with artistic, creative and technical skills to pursue professional careers in filmmaking. Since 2003, over 140 new films have been created through

the Training Program, single-handedly increasing the number of American films by queer women of color.

The impact of QWOCMAP is increased exponentially through each participant like Mónica Enríquez-Enríquez, who had never held a video camera before she entered the Training Program. At the age of 23, she completed both the Introductory and Intermediate Workshops, and her QWOCMAP film, *A Journey Home*, won the LGBT Jury Award at the 2004 SF Latino Film Festival. Mónica was mentored as a Film Curator with the Queer Women of Color Film Festival for 2 years, and she co-curated successful bilingual screenings focused on Latina lesbians. She was inspired to attend the UC Santa Cruz Digital Arts & New Media program, where she received her MFA and became Co-Director of the UCSC Women of Color Film & Video Festival.

“I can actually trace most of really important moments of my past 5 years in relation to QWOCMAP...QWOCMAP has been with me as I have gone through and developed my identity, claimed my art as art and decided to go to an MFA program.”

– Mónica Enríquez-Enríquez, QWOCMAP Filmmaker, director of *A Journey Home*

QWOCMAP Filmmaker Yun Suh took her first-ever filmmaking class through the Training Program in 2001. Last Fall, she took advantage of the QWOCMAP Intermediate Workshop and completed her new feature-length documentary, *City of Borders*. It recently world-premiered at the 2009 Berlin Film Festival, where it won a special Teddy award. QWOCMAP will co-present this chronicle of the lesbian and gay community, Palestinian and Israeli, Muslim, Jewish and Christian, at the only gay bar in Jerusalem, at the upcoming San Francisco International Film Festival.

Through QWOCMAP’s Training Program, “Madeleine taught me that I didn’t have to go to film school to become a filmmaker. I owe her my first child!”

– Yun Suh, QWOCMAP Filmmaker, director of *City of Borders*

QWOCMAP is excited to celebrate 10 years of creating films, filmmakers and community, and the public is invited to attend its upcoming 5th annual Queer Women of Color Film Festival.

~About Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project~

Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project (QWOCMAP) creates, exhibits and distributes new films that address the vital social justice issues that concern queer women of color.

QWOCMAP actively invests in, develops and nurtures the leadership and creativity of Asian/Pacific Islander, Black/African American, Chicana/Latina, Native/American Indian and Mixed-Race lesbian, bisexual, queer and questioning women. Its free programs guarantee full access to our community, especially to low-income and immigrant queer women of color. Its vision nurtures queer women of filmmakers as artist/activist leaders to create systemic change through art, activism and community building.

Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project Celebrates its

5th ANNUAL QUEER WOMEN OF COLOR FILM FESTIVAL, JUNE 12-14, 2009

For Calendar Editors:

- WHAT:** **The 5th Annual Queer Women of Color Film Festival**
QWOCMAP presents a three-day festival of films and events.
Festival Focus: Queer Women of Color and Immigration.
- WHEN:** **June 12-14, 2009**
- Friday, June 12, 2009**
- Opening Night
Multiple Borders Featured Screening, 7:30 p.m.
Pre-screening reception at 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, June 13, 2009**
- Community Convening with Films and Panel Discussion
Queer Immigration, 2:00 p.m.
Reception to follow
- Centerpiece Screening
Queerly Irreverent, 7:00 p.m.
Pre-screening reception at 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 14**
- CrazySexyLife, 2:00 p.m.
Pre-screening reception at 1:00 p.m.
- Closing Night
Artistic Justice, 6:00 p.m.
Pre-screening reception at 5:00 p.m.
Special Live Performance by Las Krudas Cubensi
- WHERE:** Brava Theater, 2789 24th Street at York, San Francisco
- PRICE:** All Screenings are **FREE**
- INFO:** www.QWOCMAP.org
- PRESS:** Contact Kebo Drew at (415) 752-0868 or events@qwocmap.org
Stills of films are available upon request.

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