

PRESS RELEASE

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Queens Filmmaker Wins Best Short Drama Award At Kent Film Festival

QUEENS, NY – April 4, 2006 – Queens independent filmmaker, Mario Pinzon wins Best Short Drama at the Kent Film Festival with his new short film titled "Immaculate Perception." The festival presented more than 30 films over the weekend in the beautiful and artistic community of Kent, set in the northwest hills of Connecticut. Drawing crowds from New York City to Toronto, the festival was well attended by film lovers, filmmakers, and the media.

"Immaculate Perception" is the story of a dreamy young Latina named Maria (Laura Lozano) who is suddenly pregnant but claims and insists she is still a virgin. She confides in her older cousin, Lisa (Kristina Ciuti) and attempts to keep the pregnancy a secret. Maria soon realizes that sooner or later she will have to break the news to her boyfriend, Jose (Raul Castillo) and to her very traditional family. Despite the disapproval and disbelief surrounding her, Maria does not falter in her conviction that the unexplainable is actually true and those closest to her must decide to either believe her or not. "Immaculate Perception" addresses the themes of teen pregnancy, traditional values, and faith among the Latino community.

Written and produced by Vora Vor and directed by Mario Pinzon, this urban short film was shot in diverse locations throughout Queens, including the infamous Willets Point Boulevard automobile graveyard near Shea Stadium. Despite the rapid shooting schedule and extremely tight budget, the filmmakers were determined to make "Immaculate Perception". "We believed the script was a unique and powerful story — one that would resonate among audiences, especially in the Latino community", comments Ms. Vor.

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A Colombian immigrant himself, Mr. Pinzon was interested in representing Latino immigrants with as much authenticity as possible. Indeed, he was very particular about casting the film. "We spent two weeks casting and auditioning and one very intense week in rehearsals. We auditioned over 100 actors and actresses in order to create an authentic family for Maria", says Mr. Pinzon.

The filmmakers were previously honored at the Premios Colombia 2005 awards, a ceremony celebrating Colombian immigrants and Colombian-Americans living in New York. Mr. Pinzon was awarded Best Director, the lead actress, Laura Lozano won Best Actress, and Ms. Vor was given an honorary award for her artistic contribution to "Immaculate Perception".

In a recent interview on RCN Radio International, Mr. Pinzon spoke regarding his film, "Immaculate Perception". Radio host Carlos Gómez mentioned Joshua Marston's, "Maria Full Of Grace" – since both films were shot in Queens and both have main characters from Colombia. "It's an interesting coincidence that both of these films make use of religious iconography by referencing the Virgin Mary", commented Mr. Gómez. Indeed, both films have lead characters named Maria and address issues relating to Latino immigrants in New York.

The filmmakers will continue to enter "Immaculate Perception" into major local, national, and international film festivals and to show the film in theatres throughout the nation that screen independent films. "We want as many people as possible to see the film so we just want to get it out there", says Mr. Pinzon. For more information regarding the filmmakers you can visit: www.3eyeproductions.com.

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