



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Documentary Short Exploring How Latino Families  
Are Overcoming Homophobia Wins Audience Award at OutFest**

***De Colores* Screens At Film Festivals Around the Country  
and Begins National Distribution**

SAN FRANCISCO, August 11, 2001– *De Colores*, a documentary short exploring homophobia within the Latino community, co-produced by Eyebite Productions and Woman Vision, won an Outie, the Audience Award for OUTstanding Documentary Short at OutFest 2001, the 19th Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. The Outie's are the largest awards program of any gay and lesbian film festival in the world.

Executive Producer Dr. Dee Mosbacher, President of Woman Vision, shared her talent and vision on the project. Mosbacher produced the 1995 Academy-Award® nominated *Straight from the Heart*, which explores parents' journeys to understanding their lesbian and gay children. She also produced the award-winning 1996 documentary *All God's Children*, which presents a political, social and religious analysis of sexual orientation within the African-American community. *De Colores* joins these films in the *Unlearning Homophobia Series*.

"We are excited and amazed by the audience reaction to *De Colores*," said Garrett Lenoir, who partnered with Peter Barbosa to produce and direct the 28-minute video. "We hoped people would be touched, but never imagined so many people would come up to us and ask for copies to send home."

*De Colores* focuses on how family ties, valued above all else in the Latino culture, can be stronger than the cultural messages of hate and fear underlying homophobia. This insightful documentary examines the struggles of Latino gays, lesbians and bisexuals as

they come out to their parents, and the changes the families go through, from initial threats from parents to their final acceptance and support.

“Many gay Latinos have extremely close relationships with their parents,” said Barbosa. “They frequently talk long distance to their families in Latin American countries and often share even the smallest details of their daily lives. Yet most of them have never talked about their sexual orientation and choose to live far away from their families to hide it.”

From a Latino perspective, the film is right on the mark. Latinos make up one of the fastest-growing groups in the United States, according to the most recent census, and its culture has invaded the entire world with its music and passion. Gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders are part of this community, and their need for equality, compassion, acceptance and love is the issue that *De Colores* addresses.

*De Colores* hopes to build a forum in which Latino families can openly and lovingly discuss a family member’s homosexuality and to provide positive role models of acceptance.

“It was amazing to me how difficult it was to find a father willing to be interviewed in front of the cameras,” said Barbosa. “Many mothers were willing to support their children on camera, but fathers were almost impossible to find, even after conducting a nationwide search. In my mind, this is a clear indication of the deep-rooted machismo within the culture.”

Even when the love of the parents is not in question, most families do not realize how damaging it is for their children to be forced into silence about their homosexuality. As stated by one of the interviewees, this pressure can drive youth to drugs, alcohol or even suicide. *De Colores* attempts to break this silence by showing examples of people overcoming cultural barriers.

Most Latinos are of Christian faiths; many are Catholic. The strong stand against homosexuality by the Catholic Church and many of the protestant denominations is also addressed in the video. In one segment, a Catholic priest discusses a letter from the USA Catholic bishops encouraging parents to support and love their gay children.

“Love one another as Jesus loved us,” Reverend Jose López said in the video. This injunction is the foundation of the Christian faith, said López, a respected leader within the United Church of Christ. He also avers that if people were to love one another as Jesus did, then there is no room for judgment against homosexuals based on the Christian faith.

The true heart and soul of *De Colores* is based on the personal stories of transformation. Esther, a lesbian living in Portland, brings the audience to tears describing her mother's transition from threatening to chain to her daughter to a bed and wanting to call for an exorcism to believing her daughter is blessed and welcomed into Heaven. Leonor, a

Mexican mother of a lesbian, shares her powerful story of transformation, growth and love, from her devastation of learning about her daughter's homosexuality to becoming an outspoken activist of support. Martin, a gay man in Los Angeles, discusses how his father, who used to tell him that if he was gay he would kill him, now openly talks about his love and pride in his son.

Even though all the stories are of Latino families, it is very easy for anyone from any cultural background to be moved and/or identify with the film. The essence of the personal stories is powerful and it touches the basic foundation of love that underlies any culture.

EyeBite Productions has also co-launched with Woman Vision, [www.unlearninghomophobia.com](http://www.unlearninghomophobia.com), a website containing information on the *Unlearning Homophobia Series*, as well as useful links, news articles and educational materials. The study guides for *De Colores*, as well as the other films, will be available shortly on the site.

### **Screening Information**

The World Premier for *De Colores* took place in San Francisco on June 18, 2001, to a sold-out audience. Additional screenings have taken place in Philadelphia, San Diego and Los Angeles. Scheduled screenings include Durham, N.C., Tampa, Fla., and again in San Francisco.

### **Background**

Peter Barbosa and Garrett Lenoir are partners and co-founders of EyeBite Productions. They are also co-directors of forthcoming *Mi Patria, Mi Nación: The Carmen Valentín Story*, and, *The Special Son: Mothers and Gay Sons*. Their first short film, *Bésame Mucho*, debuted in June 2000 at the 24th International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival in San Francisco, and had additional screenings in Tucson, Ariz. Washington, D.C., Austin and Mexico City.

Woman Vision was founded in 1993 by Dr. Mosbacher, following the gay bashing and anti-woman focus of the 1992 Republican National Convention, in an effort to counteract the right's extremely well-funded and misleading anti-gay media campaigns. Through diversity trainings, lectures, and other educational outreach programs, Woman Vision promotes understanding and diversity as values, and provides positive role models and supportive images of societally marginalized people.

### **Contact Information**

For additional information on *De Colores*, or any of the videos in the *Unlearning Homophobia Series*, or to purchase any of the videos, contact EyeBite Productions at [www.eyebite.com](http://www.eyebite.com), or by calling (415) 551-1723.

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