



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

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Documentary Explores Impact of Globalization on the Immigrant Workforce

SAN DIEGO – Los Angeles is now the country's center for apparel manufacturing, but many of its factories bear an eerie resemblance to New York's early 20th-century sweatshops. "Made in L.A.," a documentary film by Almudena Carracedo and Robert Bahar, is a portrait of this "other" California, where immigrant workers work 14-hour days earning as little as \$3 an hour. The FREE screening of the documentary will be held on Sunday, July 1, at 2 p.m., in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E St., in downtown San Diego. Jill Esbenshade, Ph.D., an Associate Professor in Sociology at San Diego State University specializing in labor and the apparel industry, will facilitate a discussion after the screening.

In 1946, French poet René Char wrote, "He who joined the Resistance, found himself." Something similar happens to the garment workers in this documentary when they embark on a three-year odyssey to win basic labor protections from mega-trendy clothing retailer Forever 21. In intimate vérité style, filmmaker Almudena Carracedo chronicles the lives of three Latina sweatshop workers who endure 14-hour days and soul-crushing conditions in L.A.'s Fashion District. The drama lies in the length of their struggle. As their initial euphoria gives way to fear and frustration, Carracedo perseveres with them, revealing the incredible courage it takes to bring about real political change.

The filmmaking duo is quite accomplished. Almudena Carracedo is award-winning documentary filmmaker who has directed two short films and a short documentary on Tijuana as a border town. She is a recent fellow of National Association of Latino Independent Producer's Latino Producers Academy. Robert Bahar is the co-founder and coordinator of doculink.org, a grassroots networking organization for documentary filmmakers. He produced and directed the award-winning documentary *Laid to Waste*.

Since 1988, Public Broadcasting Service (PBS)' "POV" series has brought the best of independent point-of-view documentaries to a national audience, featuring the work of America's most innovative documentary filmmakers to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. "Made in L.A." is scheduled to debut on national public television on September 04, 2007 at 10 PM (90 minutes).

The documentary is co-sponsored by Media Arts Center San Diego, presenter of the San Diego Latino Film Festival. For more information about the film showing, call the Central Library at 619-236-5800 or visit the Library web site at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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