



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

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Library to Screen “Maquilapolis,” a Film that Looks at Globalization through Eyes of Tijuana Factory Workers

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Public Library, KPBS and the Media Arts Center San Diego will screen “Maquilapolis,” a documentary film by Vicky Funari and Sergio De La Torre, on Monday, Oct. 2, at 6:30 p.m., at the Central Library, located at 820 E St., in downtown San Diego. The free screening will be held in the third floor auditorium. One of the filmmakers and several of the participants will be on hand to answer questions and facilitate a discussion.

“Macquilapolis,” is a powerful and unique film that brought American and Mexican-American filmmakers together with Tijuana factory workers and community organizers to tell the story of globalization through the eyes and voices of the workers themselves—overwhelmingly women—who have borne the costs but reaped few of the benefits. The workers did not just testify on camera, they became an integral part of creating their stories on film. Two women in particular, Carmen Durán and Lourdes Luján, armed with cameras for video diaries, chronicle their struggles. The result is not only an informative and disturbing film, but also an evocative and poetic one.

Just over the border in Mexico is an area peppered with maquiladoras: massive sweatshops often owned by the world's largest multinational corporations. Carmen and Lourdes work at maquiladoras in Tijuana, where each day they confront labor violations, environmental devastation and urban chaos. In this lyrical documentary, the women reach beyond the daily struggle for survival to organize for change, taking on both the Mexican and U.S. governments and a major television manufacturer

“The factory workers who appear in “Macquilapolis” were involved in every stage of production,” says director Vicky Funari. “We wanted to embrace subjectivity—their subjectivity—as a value, and to merge our filmmaking with their voices.”

“We wanted to present not just the facts but the everyday reality,” says De La Torre. “Can you imagine the feeling of being so completely at the mercy of a global economic system that hasn’t any interest in your welfare? What many middle-class North Americans experience as financial pressure, people quite close to them—their neighbors, in fact—experience as life-and-death struggle.”

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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Since 1988, 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. “Maquilapolis” is scheduled to debut on national public television on, Oct. 10, 2006.