



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY SCREENS FEATURE FILM *QUINCEANERA*
Programming for the California State Library Grant "The Changing Face of San Diego"

San Diego, CA...The City of San Diego Public Library, the International Rescue Committee, the New Americans Immigration Museum and Learning Center and Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company will host a screening of the film *Quinceanera*, a look at what happens when teenage sexuality, age-old rituals, and real estate prices collide. It is a story fueled by the racial, class, and sexual tensions of a Latino neighborhood in transition. The screening will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 26 in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E St., in downtown San Diego. The event is free and open to the public

Quinceañera is a reinvention of Kitchen Sink realism that originated in British cinema in the late fifties and early sixties. The movies had adult storylines, gritty realism, political commentary and, sardonic humor; a kind of poetic realism that the directors Wash Westmoreland and Richard Glatzer wished to emulate. They wanted a film that celebrated the everyday; that was about small things that gradually grew large; a film that had politics that were oblique, humor that was unexpected, emotions that gained power though restraint; a film that transcended the ordinary.

Although taking place in an Evangelical church, the event feels intrinsically Catholic, with many images recalling the Virgin Mary. In fact, the Quinceañera predates Christianity by almost five hundred years, dating back to Aztec civilization where fifteen was considered the transitional age between girlhood and womanhood. And it is still alive and kicking in twenty-first century Los Angeles.

This project is supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

For more information, call the Central Library at 619-236-5800 or visit the Library on the City's Web site at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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