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Doubletake Documentary
Film Festival



ESCUELA

A documentary by Hannah Weyer



A WOMEN MAKE MOVIES RELEASE

Women Make Movies • 462 Broadway, 5th Floor • New York, NY 10013
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SYNOPSIS

Escuela (School) is a documentary that follows Liliana Luis over the course of her freshman year in high school. Liliana is a Mexican-American teenager, rushing straight into the turbulence of puberty as she straddles her Mexican heritage and 21st century American culture. But as one of 8 children in a migrant farm worker family, Liliana faces additional obstacles. During the school year, her family moves three times, forcing her to start the arduous process of settling into classes, keeping up with school work and finding friends over and over again – a process she’s experienced every school year, all her life. It’s a game of catch-up that Liliana and her migrant peers are trapped in as their parents try to keep their families afloat through work on the agricultural circuit. As Liliana navigates the difficult terrains of high school, puberty, and migrant life, her story opens a revealing and personal lens through which to view the complex issues surrounding education for migrant students and the public school system in which they inhabit.

US •76 / 53 minutes • Video • Spanish & English with English subti(sh th Eng)915.5(the5) ev ev



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CREDITS

Director
Hannah Weyer

Producer
Hannah Weyer
Selina Lewis Davidson

Editors
Penelope Falk
Daisy Wright

Camera/Sound
Hannah Weyer

Co-Producer
Jim McKay
Michael Stipe
Paige West

Associate Producer
Devorah DeVries

Researcher
Sipriano Garcia

Presented by **Mixed Greens**

In Association with **C-Hundred Film Corp**



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BIOGRAPHIES

Director/Producer/Camera:

Hannah Weyer received her Master's degree in Film from New York University upon completion of her 1994 award-winning thesis film, *The Salesman and Other Adventures*. The short screened at over 20 film festivals internationally and won awards at the Sundance, Locarno, Melbourne, Claremont-Ferrand and Tokyo Film Festivals. It was broadcast internationally on Canal+ France, Canal+ Spain, Italy's EDB, Channel 4 in England, and here in the U.S. on PBS. Weyer was a recipient of both the 1994 Princess Grace Award and the 1995 IFP/East-Independent Film Channel Award. Her first feature, *Arresting Gena*, was developed at the 1995 Sundance Writers and Directors Labs and went on to premiere at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival and in Europe at the 1997 Berlin Film Festival. The film was distributed in the U.S. through the Fuel Film Tour.

Weyer completed her first hour-length documentary, *La Boda*, in March of 2000. It screened at various film festivals including the Human Rights Watch Film Festival and the New York and Los Angeles Latino Film Festivals. *La Boda* first aired nationally as part of POV's Summer 2000 series and aired again as an "Encore Performance" during the POV Summer 2001 line-up. *La Boda* has also screened at numerous educational forums and conferences including ones for the National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education, the National Coalition of Hispanic and Human Service Organizations, the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs and the National Women Studies Association. Most recently, Weyer completed a film guide for *La Boda* to be used in conjunction with the Human Rights Watch High School Pilot Program.

Before studying film, Weyer traveled and studied abroad in Peru, Ecuador and Mexico. She was a volunteer for a non-profit organization - *Amigos de las Americas* - where she dispensed vaccinations to children and young mothers at schools and clinics throughout the rural regions of Paraguay.



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Producer:

Selina Lewis Davidson is director of programming at Mixed Greens, a multimedia company and producing and financing entity for documentaries. After receiving her B.A. in Anthropology at UC Santa Cruz, Lewis Davidson went on to attend New York University's Graduate Film Program, focusing on documentary filmmaking. She concurrently produced documentaries for film and television. Most noted, Selina produced the feature documentary *Family Name* directed by Macky Alston which premiered in January 1997 at the Sundance Film Festival and won the Freedom of Expression Award - given to the documentary most committed to pressing social concern. The film was also nominated for the Emmy-Award for Outstanding Historical Programming after it aired nationally on PBS in 1998 as the kick-off for the Television Race Initiative's special series of documentaries on race for POV/American Documentary.

Lewis Davidson also produced several projects with the production company World of Wonder, including *LA Stories: From the Eye of the Storm* a feature length documentary commissioned by the BBC that went on to air in 1994. *LA Stories* gave Hi-8 video cameras to nine Los Angelinos of varying race, class and cultural backgrounds during the six months following the Los Angeles riots with the intention that the "video diaries" would provide otherwise disenfranchised individuals the means to voice their stories. Currently Lewis Davidson is co-producing Macky Alston's latest documentary, *Questioning Faith* and Weyer's *Escuela*.

Producer:

Jim McKay is a film and videomaker and co-founder, along with Michael Stipe, of C-Hundred Film Corp - a producing and financing entity for low budget documentaries, features and shorts. He has produced and directed a feature-length documentary, *Lighthearted Nation* and his first narrative feature, *Girls Town*, was awarded the Special Jury Prize and the Filmmaker's Trophy Award at the 1996 Sundance Film Festival. McKay also co-produced the documentary *American Movie* (dir: Chris Smith) which won the 1999 Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize. McKay's latest feature, *Our Song*, premiered at Sundance 2000 and opened in theaters May 2001. At this year's Independent Spirit Awards, *Our Song* was nominated for best feature under \$500,000 and McKay was nominated for the Producer Award.

C-Hundred Film Corp is currently in post-production on projects by Cheryl Dunye and Walid Raad. Past projects include *La Boda* (dir: Hannah Weyer), *Spring Forward* (dir: Tom Gilroy), *Backward Looks*, *Far Corners* (dir: Christopher Munch) and *Tree Shade* (dir: Lisa Collins). McKay is Chairman of the AIVF Board of Directors and has sat on numerous juries including the 1997 Texas Film Production Fund, the 1998 IFP Beigel Screenplay Award for Most Promising Screenplay and the 1998 BF/VF and Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship and Production Grant Awards.



Editor:

Daisy Wright has worked as an editor in both film and television since graduating from New York University's Undergraduate Department of Film and Television in 1992. Wright most recently completed work on *The Ivey Project* with dancer/director Tamar Rogoff which screened at the New York Jewish Film Festival, among others. Prior to this, she edited *La Boda*, an hour length video documentary directed by Hannah Weyer which first aired on PBS in June, 2000. Other film credits include *Bye-Bye Babushka*, a documentary by Rebecca Feig which won the Prix Joris Ivens award and appeared at the Human Rights Watch Film Festival in 1997. It recently aired on WNET and was programmed at the Museum of Contemporary Art in New York.

Wright was the Supervising Editor for *Made in Thailand*, a video documentary about women factory workers in Thailand and their struggle to unionize. She also edited *The Couple in the Cage*, a 30 minute video by Coco Fusco and Paula Heredia which premiered at Lincoln Center's Video Art Festival and *A Living Memorial to the Holocaust* - a series of short videos on permanent exhibition at the newly-opened Museum of Jewish Heritage. Wright's editing work for television includes *Re-discovering Will Rogers*, a one hour documentary which aired on American Masters, a WNET's City Arts show entitled, *Indian Cinema*, which won an Emmy Award for Entertainment Programming and a one hour documentary on the making of the atomic bomb in the highly acclaimed ABC series, *The Century*.

