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Healthcare Doc Too Dangerous for the US Screen? BLOODLETTING Shows Ugly Underbelly of US HEALTHCARE Prestigious Foreign Festivals Award First Time Feature Documentary In the US, Grassroots Support for the Film Grows as Healthcare Crisis Continues

In a classic David Vs. Goliath tale, first-time feature director Lorna Green took on the US Healthcare System through the eyes of two uninsured Americans in her new documentary, BLOODLETTING: Life, Death, Healthcare. "With top corporate leaders talking openly about their concerns for the high costs of healthcare, I knew I had to do something," said Green. "I wanted to humanize the millions of working Americans who experience this crisis everyday."

But when she compares the US system to the system in Cuba, some have wondered why. "It's a legitimate comparison. People in a very poor country like Cuba manage to provide healthcare for everyone, for free. But what's happening to the poor or uninsured in the US?" BLOODLETTING asks just that question and reveals a emotionally moving, visually stunning picture of two hard-working Americans whose lack of insurance puts their lives in a tailspin.

The film has just won a special jury mention in the International Documentary Festival of Three Continents in Venezuela (11/05) because "it bravely tackles the problem of the blockade to Cuba and the healthcare situation in USA and Cuba." It has also been selected for the world-class Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano International Film Festival in Havana (12/05) (www.habanafilmfestival.com).

Tremendous grassroots support continues to move BLOODLETTING to enthusiastic audiences around the US. So far, larger venues are staying shy of it. "We had one call from a cable distribution company, and they asked us if we could take the Cuba part out of it," said Green. "If we're really going to take on the healthcare crisis here, I think we have to be willing to look at working healthcare models wherever they might be."

Green began the movie with a borrowed camera and frequent flyer miles, originally setting out to document an international delegation of healthcare professionals traveling to Cuba. Returning to the U.S. to edit her footage, the story turned intensely personal when her mother and brother, both working but uninsured, were thrown into pain both physical and financial by mounting health problems.

Green began to weave her family's compelling narrative with the footage she brought from Cuba. Her vision for the documentary attracted significant grassroots support and inspired house parties to raise funds to complete the film.

The documentary has excited leaders of the movement to win access to quality health care for all Americans. Says Andrew L. Stern, president of the 1.8 million-member Service Employees International Union (SEIU), "More than 45 million Americans like the Greens are forced to choose between financial crisis or their health. It's a choice that not one of us should ever have to make. If you're not already an activist in the fight for quality, affordable health care for all, this film will inspire you to sign up."

Copies of the one-hour documentary for screening purposes, publicity stills of the film and writer/director Green are available by contacting Nicole Moore, (323) 309-1046 or nicomo@sbcglobal.net.

For more information about the film, visit the director's website at www.lornagreen.org.

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