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Contacts: Paul Ortiz - 831-334-0131 portiz@ucsc.edu

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Sheila Payne - 469-3306

Jeffrey Smedberg - 454-2373 jeffrey@reelwork.org

The 7th ANNUAL SANTA CRUZ MAY DAY LABOR FILM FESTIVAL "REEL WORK" Announces 2008 Schedule

The 7th Annual Reel Work May Day Labor Festival features events running from April 25 through May 11 in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Santa Clara Counties. This year's Reel Work is celebrating International Workers' Day (May 1) with music, films, dramatic performances, slam poetry, and conversations with documentary film makers, immigrant activists, union organizers about the past, present, and future of the labor movement. Reel Work is using our 7th annual festival to encourage Central Coast residents to learn about the origins of May Day and to participate in the immigrant rights movement which has resurrected a grand tradition of all workers united together in the streets, fields, and workplaces for dignity and justice.

Highlights of this year's Reel Work festival include *Pete Seeger: The Power of Song*, a film about the legendary folk singer. Described by the *New York Times* as an "affectionate, detailed portrait of its subject," *The Power of Song* will screen on May 1 at the Del Mar Theater, Santa Cruz, at 7 pm. The film features interviews with musicians such as Bruce Springsteen, Natalie Maine, and Ronnie Gilbert. Film maker Jim Brown will be on hand to discuss the making of *The Power of Song*.

"Labor protest is not dead. Nor is it futile," is the way that the *New York Times* describes *Made in L.A. - Hecho en Los Angeles*, one of the winners of this year's prestigious Henry Hampton Award for Excellence in Film & Digital Media. "Congress may not be able to decide how to process the nation's illegal immigrants," continues the *Times*, "but the film understands that they're simply here, an integral component of the economy. Rather, the documentary is about basic human dignity." *Made in L.A.* will screen on Saturday, April 26, 1 pm at the Calvary Episcopal Church at 532 Center Street in downtown Santa Cruz. Film maker Almudena Carracedo will be on hand to discuss the making of the film.

9/11: Dust and Deceit by Penny Little exposes the environmental disaster of 9/11 in New York through interviews with scientists, government workers, and the heroes and victims of the dust which permeated the air after the tragedy. Firefighters, cleanup crews, and NYC residents were told shortly after 9/11 that "the air is safe to breathe." They were lied to. A leader of the Uniformed Firefighters Association lamented, "We did a very good job of taking care of the dead after September 11. But we're doing a very bad job of taking care of the living." Join Reel Work on Monday, April 28, at Community Television of Santa Cruz County in downtown Santa Cruz for a 7 pm screening and discussion led by film maker Penny Little.

These are only three of the dozens of exciting films this year!

Reel Work brings together award-winning documentary film producers/workers/activists/students and the public with the goal of increasing community awareness of the central role of work in our lives, to discuss economic and global justice issues, and to bring alive the history and culture of the labor movement in the US and abroad. We inspire participants to join in the struggle for worker rights locally, nationally and globally and to promote social justice activism and international solidarity. This year's co-sponsors include the Monterey Bay Labor Council, the University of California Miguel Conteras Labor Studies Development Fund, Community Television of Santa Cruz County, Community Printers, Nickelodeon Theatre, and many local unions.

Admission to the film showings is by voluntary donation. Publicity stills, bios and interviews with the principle speakers and film producers are available. For a full schedule, updates, and a list of sponsors go to www.reelwork.org.

Reel Work: Metro Santa Cruz Readers' Choice: Best Film Festival (2007)