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A WEDDING ON THE BORDER
P.O.V.'S LA BODA OFFERS SELDOM SEEN VIEW OF MEXICAN-AMERICAN MIGRANT LIFE

A co-presentation of Latino Public Broadcasting

Elizabeth Luis is marrying Artemio Guerrero, and we are all invited to the wedding. In Hannah Weyer's latest film, **LA BODA**, Elizabeth's family and community offer an intimate portrait of migrant life and traditions as the weeks leading up to the ceremony bring friends and family together. Stable, optimistic, hard-working, and as American as they are Mexican, this community doesn't fit anybody's stereotype of migrant workers.

LA BODA airs **Tuesday, June 27, 10 p.m. ET on P.O.V.**, public television's award-winning showcase of independent nonfiction films. P.O.V. is aired regularly on Tuesday nights at 10pm through September 26, 2000. For more information about P.O.V. presentations see the attached program schedule. (Check local listings.)

Elizabeth, the 22 year-old bride-to-be, has grown up with experiences distinct to migrant life along the U.S.-Mexican border. For her, being a migrant has meant sacrificing education for field work and social life to travel as her family moves constantly between Texas, California, and Mexico. Crossing and recrossing the border, the Luis family succeeds at keeping their roots in Mexico alive while seeking economic opportunity in the U.S. They are neither poverty-stricken nor foreign, having become U.S. citizens. But they must contend with the image of migrant workers as both illegal and alien, as well as the harsh realities of this transient way of life.

Weyer deftly weaves the drama of the wedding preparations with interviews of family members and other participants to reveal the larger story of a people living between two worlds. Elizabeth's mother, Juanita, is an energetic and loving matriarch who becomes our guide to the saving economies of the extended family. Elizabeth's fiancé, Artemio, is ardent in expressing his love of Mexico and the hardships of life for migrant workers in the U.S. Yet he insists just as strongly that there is no other hope for him and Elizabeth than to seek a better future on "el otro lado" – the other side.



Elizabeth herself is charming, strong-willed, and full of dreams. She is, by turns, mature beyond her years as she reflects on her life as a migrant worker and girlishly naive as she anticipates marriage with Artemio.

"Before I met Elizabeth, for me the word 'migrant' was synonymous with 'illegal,' 'poor,' and 'victim,'" says filmmaker Weyer. "It wasn't until I was invited into the Luis family's home and community that I truly began to understand the complex and nuanced culture of migrant life. In **LA BODA**, I wanted to portray all that this community *has* rather than what they lack. The film is as much a love story as it is a portrait of migrant life and Mexican family traditions."

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

HANNAH WEYER

A graduate of New York University's Graduate Film Program, Hannah Weyer's Master's thesis film, *The Salesman and Other Adventures*, earned awards at the Sundance, Locarno, Clermont-Ferrand and Tokyo film festivals. It was also broadcast in Europe and on PBS in the U.S. Her first feature, *Arresting Gena*, was produced by Good Machine and screened at the Sundance and Berlin film festivals. She is a recipient of the 1994 Princess Grace Award and the 1995 IFP/East Independent Film Channel Award.

As an undergraduate at the University of Washington, Weyer studied and traveled widely in Peru, Ecuador and Mexico. She worked as a volunteer for the non-profit Amigos de las Americas, dispensing vaccinations to mothers and children in rural Paraguay. She is currently in production on **LA BODA's** "sister story" entitled *La Escuela*.

CREDITS

Director:	Hannah Weyer
Producers:	Hannah Weyer Jim McKay
Editor:	Daisy Wright
Co-Producers:	Margot Bridger Michael Stipe
Camera:	Hannah Weyer

(Continued...)

P.O.V.



Major funding for P.O.V. is provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Florence and John Schumann Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, PBS and public television viewers. Funding for *Talking Back* is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. P.O.V. is presented by a consortium of public television stations including KCET/Los Angeles, WGBH/Boston, and WNET/New York. Cara Mertes is executive producer of P.O.V. The series is produced by American Documentary, Inc; Ellen Schneider is executive director. Ward Chamberlin is chief executive officer.

Co-Presenter

Latino Public Broadcasting



The mission of **Latino Public Broadcasting** is to provide a voice to the diverse Latino community throughout the USA by nurturing and supporting Latino artists working in film, video and radio while providing them with an equitable funding and distribution mechanism to present Latino programs on public broadcasting stations in order to educate the mainstream audiences to the richness and diversity of our culture.

Journalists Note: In New York City, **LA BODA** will be screened at **The Human Rights Watch International Film Festival**, co-presented by the Film Society of Lincoln Center at the Walter Reade Theater on Saturday June 24, 2000 at 3:45 and on Sunday, June 25, 2000 at 5:45. For more information visit www.hrw.org.

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