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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KLRN LAUNCHES COMMUNITY CINEMA IN SAN ANTONIO FIRST SCREENING: THE GRADUATES AND SKIPPING UP

Community Cinema, presented by the Independent Television Service (ITVS) and KLRN is excited to present an advance screening of Bernardo Ruiz's *The Graduates/Los Graduados*, a film exploring the many roots of the Latino dropout crisis through the eyes of six inspiring young students from across the United States who are part of the burgeoning movement to increase graduation rates for the nation's growing Latino population. Much more than a survey of contemporary policy debates, the student profiles in *The Graduates* offer a first-hand perspective on the special challenges facing Latino high school students, including dangerous and overcrowded schools, gang culture, pressure to contribute to the family finances, teen pregnancy, and more.

In addition to *The Graduates*, KLRN will screen *Skipping Up*, a companion video produced in San Antonio featuring a Mark Twain Middle School initiative that focuses on the drop-out crisis.

WHAT: FREE preview screening of *The Graduates* and *Skipping Up*, followed by a community discussion to engage the public in dialogue about the Latino dropout crisis

WHO: KLRN, Faith Radle (local producer of *Skipping Up*), Jim Mendiola (local producer of *Skipping Up*)

WHEN: Thursday, October, 17 | Doors open at 6:30PM

WHERE: Santikos Embassy 14 Theater (281 & Bitters)

For more information, visit: klrn.org/communitycinema

A project of the public media initiative *American Graduate* and funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in association with Latino Public Broadcasting, the two-part film is produced by Quiet Pictures and the Independent Television Service (ITVS).

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About the Panelists

Jim Mendiola is a Los Angeles based writer/director. Mendiola's award-winning short film *Pretty Vacant* has screened in numerous film festivals, museums, and colleges in the U.S., Mexico and Europe. His one-hour movie *Come and Take It Day* was one of five narrative projects funded by ITVS as part of their "American Stories" initiative. The script was developed at the Sundance Filmmaker's Lab and broadcast nationally on PBS. Mendiola's latest feature project was a rock and roll digital feature called *Speeder Kills*, which screened at various film festivals across the country, including the Los Angeles Film Festival. He is currently developing a new feature, *Bien Pretty*, based on the short story by Sandra Cisneros.

Faith Radle is an LA based independent producer of narrative, documentary and video art projects and the manager for Blackheart Records recording artist Girl in a Coma. She was the associate producer for Jim Mendiola's one-hour movie *Come and Take It Day*, (PBS national broadcast 2002), then partnered with the writer/director to produce the feature, *Speeder Kills*. After a successful run on the festival circuit, the movie was picked up for national broadcast. In 2005, Radle produced Aurora Guerrero's short film *Viernes Girl* for HBO. She and Mendiola are currently developing *Bien Pretty*, based on the short story by best-selling author Sandra Cisneros.

About Community Cinema

Community Cinema is a national civic engagement initiative featuring free screenings of films from the Emmy Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*. Presented by ITVS in partnership with local public television stations and community organizations, these in-person events and online social screenings bring community members together to learn, discuss, and get involved in key social issues of our time. Building on ITVS's 20-year legacy of innovation in community engagement, Community Cinema and ITVS's complimentary educational program Community Classroom makes public broadcasting a powerful resource for individuals, educators, communities, and organizations. For a complete lineup and more information about the Community Cinema series visit: <http://communitycinema.org/>

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