



**For Immediate Release:
October 22, 2009**

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THE HANDS EMERGE AS A STAR AT THE ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Hollywood, CA – *The Hands* (www.TheHandsMovie.com), a film directed by USC/Warner Brothers program graduate Charise Studesville, has been chosen to screen in the “Emerging Stars: Filmmakers on the Edge” program, at the ARPA International Film Festival, Saturday, October 24th at 4:45pm, at the Egyptian Theater (<http://www.itsmyseat.com/affma.html>). The film is an engaging and gripping look at a daughter who is forced to reconcile conflicting memories of her father in his final moments of life. Studesville explains, “It is loosely based upon the real-life experience of women I know, myself included, who placed their fathers on a pedestal as little girls, but who as adults had to come to grips with the reality that he was just a man, with flaws and frailties like anyone else.”

Under her production company, Lotus Girl Films (www.LotusGirlFilms.com), Studesville wrote and directed *The Hands*, which has resonated dramatically with viewers. “I wanted to explore with the ideas of memory, secrets, loss and forgiveness within the confines of the father/daughter relationship”, says Studesville. “It is all a part of a larger story, a full-length feature, entitled *Love, Sydney*. I love the idea of exploring the contradictions between public persona and private reality. Both pieces delve into the duplicity that isn’t always apparent to the naked eye.”

Studesville has dedicated much of the past several years to methodically learning the film business, piece by piece. In 2007, she worked with Debra Martin Chase of Martin Chase Productions, commuting every week between Chicago and Los Angeles for the privilege of learning the production side of the process from a successful and established producer in the industry. “I’ve always known that when you really want something, and ‘that something’ is extraordinary, it calls for extraordinary effort and sacrifice. I have no issue with stepping up to a challenge.”

Thus far, *The Hands* has been asked to screen at 25+ film festivals, including The Cannes Film Festival Short Film Corner, the LA Shorts Fest and the Bahamas International Film Festival. The film took Best Dramatic Film honors at the Wildwood Film Festival 2009. “Traveling around the world with this little film has been an incredible ride. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that my first directorial effort would garner the praise and attention that it has. I am beyond happy with my adventures in festival-land.”

Studesville currently splits her time between her Los Angeles and Chicago Lotus Girl Film offices, and is in pre-production on two projects.

For more information on *The Hands* and Charise Studesville, please visit www.TheHandsMovie.com or www.LotusGirlFilms.com.

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