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THE HANDS GRIPS THE 'BIG APPLE' AT THE REEL SISTERS OF THE DIASPORA FILM FESTIVAL

New York, NY – *The Hands* (www.TheHandsMovie.com), a film directed by Charise Studesville, and starring New Yorker Clayton Hunter in his break out role, has been chosen to screen at the REEL Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival, Sunday, September 27th at 4:15pm. This will be the NYC premiere of *The Hands*, and Studesville is relishing the opportunity to bring her work to the sophisticated eyes of the NYC audience. 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.

Under her production company, Lotus Girl Films (www.LotusGirlFilms.com), Studesville wrote and directed *The Hands*, which has resonated dramatically with viewers. "The storyline came from grappling with the ideas of memory, secrets, loss and forgiveness", 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, Studesville worked with Debra Martin Chase of Martin Chase Productions. She commuted 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 20+ film festivals, including The Cannes Film Festival Short Film Corner, the LA Shorts Fest and the Boston International Film Festival, even picking up 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 currently writing several projects, for both film and television.

REEL Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival – *The Hands* screening:
Sunday, September 27th, 4:15pm
Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus
<http://www.reelsisters.org/reelsisters2009.pdf>

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