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**Contact:
Jodi Riddick
The Brand Boutique
305-433-2993 Office
646-354-3000 Cell
Jodi@TheBrandBoutiqueOnline.com**

**THE HANDS MOVIE ONE OF FIVE SHORT FILMS SELECTED WORLDWIDE TO SCREEN AT
THE INTERNATIONAL BLACK WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL JULY 19TH.**

San Francisco, CA – *The Hands*, a film directed by Charise Studesville, is one of five short films worldwide selected to screen at the International Black Women's Film Festival in San Francisco this weekend. The film is an engaging and gripping look at a daughter's final moments with the father she simultaneously adored and reviled.

Under her production company, Lotus Girl Films, 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. "The film is actually an exploration of the back story of one of the lead characters in a full-length feature I have written called *Love, Sydney*."

"Having *The Hands* included in the International Black Women's Film Festival's is an honor and a privilege. Women make up only about 7% of all filmmakers. Clearly, that number is even less for Black women filmmakers. The fact that my film was chosen is a testament to the work that went into the project. I am here to applaud the work and effort of those who sat in the director's chair before me. And, I am also here to blow the doors wide open -- for my benefit and all of those who will follow me."

Studesville honed her directing style in the USC/Warner Brothers Producing & Directing Program at the University of Southern California last summer. 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'm willing to do whatever I need to do to become a top director."

The Hands recently screened at the Hollywood Black Film Festival and The Cannes Film Festival Short Film Corner. It can also be seen at the LA Shorts Film Festival, the Martha's Vineyard African-American Film Festival, The Black Harvest Festival of Film, the Salento Film Festival (Italy), International Film Festival Ireland (Ireland), and the International Film Festival South Africa 2009. *The Hands* won Best Dramatic Film at the Wildwood Film Festival 2009.

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.

International Black Women's Film Festival – *The Hands* screening:
Sunday, July 19th, 12pm, Delancey Street Theater, San Francisco, CA.
<http://www.ibwff2009.com/festival/tag/drama/>

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