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Made in LA...in DC

Here is a review of the film event from Sarah Sattelmeyer, Research Assistant, and Emily Groene, Program Assistant. -- Margy Waller

October has been a busy and productive month for us here at Inclusion!

Last night (October 10th) we co-sponsored a screening of the documentary [Center for Social Media at American University](#) as part of the [DC Labor Film Festival](#) (whew!).

Here is the flier:

Center for Social Media, Active Voice and the DC Labor Film Fest Present
"Made in L.A."
A Special Event on October 10 in Washington, D.C.

Center for Social Media
SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

ACTIVE voice

DC LABOR FILM FEST

Center for Social Media to Screen the New Documentary Made in L.A. - Part of the 2007 DC Labor Film Fest

Meet filmmakers and leaders in labor and human rights!

WHEN: Wednesday, October 10, 2007, 6:00 pm

WHERE: [Katzen Arts Center](#) Recital Hall, American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW

WHAT: *Made in L.A.* follows the remarkable story of three Latina immigrants working in garment sweatshops as they embark on a three-year odyssey to win basic labor protections from trendy clothing retailer Forever 21. Compelling, humorous, and deeply human, *Made in L.A.* is a story about immigration, the power of unity and the courage it takes to raise your voice. In English and Spanish with bilingual subtitles.

Post-film discussion with filmmakers Almudena Carracedo and Robert Bahar; Margy Waller, Co-Founder of Inclusion and Director of the Mobility Agenda; and Rich Stolz, Immigration Team Leader, Center for Community Change (invited)

The DC Labor FilmFest, now in its 7th year, is screening 30 films about work and workers from around the world. The Labor FilmFest runs through October 17, with screenings at the American Film Institute and other venues. Full schedule at www.dclabor.org.

SPONSORS: Presented by the Center for Social Media and Active Voice. Co-sponsored by Inclusion, Center for Community Change, National Council of La Raza, DC Lawyer Chapter of American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, the Center for Law and Social Policy, and POV.

INFORMATION:
See http://www.centerforsocialmedia.org/events/2007_labor_ff/724.

To view a trailer of the film, go to www.madeinla.com

For more information, go to:
<http://inclusionist.org/node/1204>
<http://inclusionist.org/mobility>
email: socialmedia@american.edu phone: 202-885-3107
web: <http://www.centerforsocialmedia.org>

For those of you who are movie buffs, *Made in L.A.*, which documents the interrelationships between garment workers in L.A and their struggle to gain and maintain basic workplace rights, made its debut at documentary film festivals across the country this year, including SilverDocs in Silver Spring, MD. It also aired on the PBS program [POV](#) on September 4th. So needless to say, we were pretty lucky to have this (free!) opportunity and be able to share it with others from the DC area.

In case you are not convinced yet, here is what some other "movie buffs" thought about the film:

[LA Times](#)

New York Times

Over 100 people were present for the screening and many stayed after the movie to engage in discussion and dialogue about low-wage work in America. Margy was joined on the discussion panel by the film's director Almudena Carracedo (who, I must add, was wearing amazing boots from Spain!) and its producer Robert Bahar, as well as by Rich Stolz from the Center for Community Change's Immigration Team.

As a panelist, Margy offered a broader look at the state of the low-wage workplace and explained to an audience composed of students, professors, and community members why *Inclusion* promotes an economy that works for and allows participation by everyone in society. Perhaps the most salient point made by the discussion panel (to us, of course!) was when Almudena and Robert acknowledged that the story of illegal and unhealthy work practices told in *Made in L.A.* could have been told about many other parts of the service industry.

The message to us at *Inclusion* was loud and clear: the struggle for job quality and higher labor standards is universal. While the film did a beautiful job of interweaving the personal narratives of three female garment workers with their struggle for justice in the workplace, it also addressed issues experienced by Americans in every part of society. We hope that the many film students who were in the audience took note of how a film can exist as a symbiotic effort between filmmaker and community and how a strong social message can be portrayed to an audience through documentary film.

We enjoyed the opportunity to bring this dialogue out of our downtown Washington policy wonk-y office and into the community and the chance to use a different form of media to explore and project social messages.

Please see this [list of things you can do to help!](#)

-- Emily Groene and Sarah Sattelmeyer

Submitted by Margy Waller on 11 October, 2007 - 14:34. :: [Cinema](#) [Mobility Agenda](#) [Social Inclusion](#)

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