

MEDIA ALERT

Contact:

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WHAT: Free Screening of **The Price of Sugar**, a documentary film about Haitians working in slave-like conditions in the Dominican sugar industry. The film augments Venice Arts' exhibition **Through the Eyes of Haitian Children**, which features photographs of Haitian life taken before and after the devastating earthquake by youth participants in the Haiti-based project *Zanmi Lakay* (Haitian Creole for Friend's Home).

WHEN: Film screening: Wednesday, September 22, 2010, 7pm

Exhibit: On view through September 24th.

WHERE: Venice Arts Gallery, 1702 Lincoln Boulevard, Venice, CA 90291 | 310-392-0846

WHY: **The Price of Sugar** highlights the plight of the thousands of dispossessed Haitians that toil under armed-guard on plantations harvesting sugarcane, much of which ends up in U.S. kitchens. Narrated by Paul Newman and directed by Bill Haney, the film follows Father Christopher Hartley, a charismatic Spanish priest, as he organizes some of this hemisphere's poorest people to fight for their basic human rights. This film raises key questions about where the products we consume originate and at what human cost they are produced. The film won the audience award at the 2007 South by Southwest Film Festival.

The film _____ *Zanmi Lakay* has been working with street children in Haiti for over 13 years, and was recently featured on "Lens," the photo blog of the *New York Times*.

WHO: The **Venice Arts Gallery**, a program of Venice Arts, has been in operation since 2003, showcasing outstanding art by youth, as well as photography and visual art by professional artists. In 2010, the Gallery refined its curatorial focus to feature both professional and participant-produced documentary photography and film, including documentary work in experimental genres. This fall, it will launch its first, free Public Programs in conjunction with the Venice Arts-USC Institute for Photographic Empowerment to include a series of presentations, conversations, and special events about documentary photography, photojournalism, and storytelling in the digital age. Since 1993, Venice Arts has been running innovative programs in documentary photography, filmmaking, and digital media targeting low-income youth in Los Angeles, for which it has received numerous awards and recognitions. Venice Arts also implements regional, national, and international participant-produced photo documentary projects with adults and children. In 2007, Venice Arts joined with the USC Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership to create the Institute for Photographic Empowerment.

MORE INFO: Venice Arts: www.venice-arts.org
Institute for Photographic Empowerment: www.joinipe.org