



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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"STUNNING... A FILM WORTH SEEKING OUT." – **Cineaste**  
"\*\*\*\* This film should be considered mandatory viewing." – **The Seattle Times**

**AWARD-WINNING  
H-2 WORKER**

**New York, NY March 23, 2009** – Docurama Films is proud to announce the release of the award-winning documentary H-2 WORKER, for the first time ever on DVD. The film garnered extensive prestige, winning both the Grand Jury Prize and Best Cinematography Award at the Sundance Film Festival (1990) and was selected as the film to represent the United States at the prestigious Critics Week during the Cannes Film Festival (1990). From acclaimed director Stephanie Black (*Life and Debt*, *Africa Unite*), this hard-hitting documentary is still a timely expose of the exploitation that characterizes temporary agricultural guest worker employment in the United States. The DVD will be available April 28<sup>th</sup>.

*The New York Times* raved that, "H-2 Worker is that rare hybrid that succeeds as both film and advocacy. The documentary's look and form is smooth and sophisticated ... [and] it solidly frames issues about the economy, employment and the treatment of workers who seem just steps away from slavery."

Each year, from World War II through the mid-1990s, over 10,000 Caribbean men were granted temporary guest worker ("H-2") visas to cut sugar cane in Florida—a task so brutal Americans refused to do it. Spending six months near Lake Okeechobee, the men were housed in overcrowded barracks, denied adequate treatment for frequent on-the-job injuries, and paid less than minimum wage. Faced with deportation and soaring unemployment in their home countries, workers had little recourse but to silently accept these deplorable conditions. The scandal of the H-2 program began in 1942 when U.S. Sugar Corporation was indicted for peonage of black American workers; in 1943 the first West Indian cane cutters were brought in. Filmed clandestinely, H-2 WORKER exposes this travesty of justice, which remained a well-kept secret or decades.

H-2 WORKER was beautifully shot by Maryse Alberti (*The Wrestler*) and seamlessly edited by the late John Mullen. Originally released in 1990, today H-2 WORKER provides an invaluable resource to understanding current debate over expanded guest worker provisions of immigration legislation. In January 2009, Bush administration regulations went into effect making it easier to hire foreign workers and reduce worker protection under the H-2A agricultural guest worker program. The Obama administration is currently reviewing these changes. While Florida's sugar cane cutters have been replaced by mechanical harvesters, guest worker programs have expanded in agriculture, hotel, restaurant, forestry, and other industries. H-2 WORKER illuminates how our foreign worker program continues to benefit employers at the expense of vulnerable, underpaid workers.

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### **SPECIAL FEATURES:**

- Filmmaker Audio Commentary
- Update on the Guest Worker Program
- *More than Luck* short film
- *Life and Debt* trailer
- Spanish subtitles

### **About Stephanie Black – Director/Producer**

Stephanie Black's filmography includes the acclaimed feature-length documentaries *Life and Debt*, which explores the relationship between Jamaican poverty and the practices of international lending agencies, and the musical documentary *Africa Unite*, which celebrates Bob Marley's 60th birthday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Black worked as chief researcher and second unit director on the Robert Redford-produced feature documentary *Incident at Oglala*.

Her television credits include eight episodes of BRAVO's *Being Bobby Brown*, over sixty documentary segments for PBS's *Sesame Street*, documentary segments for Nickelodeon network, PBS's *Zoom*, and Cartoon Network's *Big Bag* series. Ms. Black has produced short news segments for MSNBC.

She has produced and directed music videos for such artists as Ziggy Marley, Buju Banton, and Anthony B. Damian Marley as well as a thirty-minute documentary on the making of the Bob Marley tribute album *Making of Chant Down Babylon*. Black has taught documentary filmmaking at the School of Visual Arts and Y/FVA in New York City, and in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Website [www.lifeanddebt.org](http://www.lifeanddebt.org)

### **About Docurama Films®**

Docurama Films is dedicated to making critically acclaimed and cutting-edge documentaries available digitally and on DVD. The collection unites both classic and contemporary docs from award-winning filmmakers whose work continues to astound and enlighten. Since being launched by parent company New Video in 1999, Docurama Films has released over 250 award-winning and highly acclaimed titles. This year we celebrate our 10th anniversary of great docs. Among our releases for 2009: Academy Award®-winning director James Moll's hauntingly profound film *Inheritance*; a moving portrait of Estonia's fight for freedom in *The Singing Revolution*; and Stacy Peralta's gripping *Crips and Bloods: Made in America*.

Films in the library include the Academy Award®-winning *Murder on a Sunday Morning*, *Marjoe* and *Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision*. In addition, Docurama Films specializes in definitive films like D.A. Pennebaker's seminal work *Bob Dylan: Dont Look Back* and *The Brandon Teena Story* (the true story behind the Oscar®-winning movie *Boys Don't Cry*), as well as films of enormous sociocultural relevance including *Hacking Democracy* and the Academy Award® nominee *Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience*. Docurama Films has also released the critically acclaimed *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill* and *Andy Goldsworthy's Rivers and Tides*. In 2007, Docurama Films had its exciting first theatrical release with *Air Guitar Nation*, and in 2008, release highlights included *Gypsy Caravan* with Johnny Depp, the fun and engrossing expose *King Corn*, and the Emmy Award-winning *Autism: The Musical*.

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### **H-2 WORKER- DVD**

Pre-order date: March 31, 2009  
Street date: April 28, 2009  
Rating: N/A  
Running Time: 70 mins + extras

Genre: Documentary  
Sug. Retail Price: \$39.95  
Catalog #: NNVG9892  
Screeners and Color Art: Avail. Upon Request