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

A CUT ABOVE - THE HANDS GOES UNDERGROUND

Atlanta, GA – *The Hands* (www.TheHandsMovie.com), a film directed by Charise Studesville, has been chosen to screen at the Atlanta Underground Film Festival, Friday, August 28th at 7:00pm, at Eyedrum. 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. I hope that the success of *The Hands* can parlay itself into the full picture. At every screening, I have filmgoers approach me, asking when they will be able to see what happens to these characters. That is a real testament to the depth of the characters that we are getting to know here."

"Having *The Hands* included in the Atlanta Underground Film Festival 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." Studesville adds, "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 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.

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