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THE HANDS + BLACK HARVEST = MUST SEE FILM

Chicago, IL – *The Hands*, a film directed by Chicago area resident Charise Studesville, will screen at the Black Harvest International Film Festival, today, Friday, August 7th at 7pm and again on Tuesday, August 11th at 8:15pm. 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, 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 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 Black Harvest International 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 dedicated much of the past several years methodically learning the 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'm willing to do whatever I need to do to become a top director."

The Hands screened at The Cannes Film Festival Short Film Corner, the LA Shorts Fest and the Boston International Film Festival. It can also be seen at the Milwaukee Short Film Festival, The Atlanta Underground Film Festival, the Salento Film Festival (Italy), the 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.

Black Harvest International Film Festival – *The Hands* screening:
Friday, August 7th, 3:15pm and Tuesday, August 11th at 8:15pm
Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 State Street, Chicago
<http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/>

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