

TESTIMONIO

Screening Room Video Program

The video component of *Testimonio* was conceived with a unifying function. It encompasses many of the themes explored throughout the life of the project including: housing, women's health, AIDS, domestic violence, youth and adult education, activism, environment, community, and ethnic identity.

The videos on view alternately present oral histories and interviews ("testimonios"), and issue-based, community-specific documentaries produced by two Williamsburg organizations, Southside TV and El Puente TV. Interspersed among the testimonios and documentaries are home video segments of celebration and recreation, including a house party, church singing, a canoe trip, and music. The video testimonios intertwine memories of the past with family and personal turning points and the recounting of specific political struggles and goals which have been central to the subject's lives.

Excerpts drawn from these full-length videos and additional footage have been recombined thematically to create "Dialogo" an installation video presented as part of the *Testimonio* exhibition.

All video testimonios have been produced collaboratively by The New Museum of Contemporary Art, Southside TV and the CAMEO Project.

Testimonio, September 10, 1993 - January 2, 1994

The New Museum of Contemporary Art

583 Broadway, New York, New York, (212)219-1222.

Additional 1994 New York City venues to be announced.

PROGRAM ONE (120 minutes)

Screened on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 12, 2 and 4 p.m.

Testimonio of Juanita Rodriguez, Williamsburg, 1993

Among the specific topics addressed in this *testimonio* are access to education and the problems faced by today's youth in school.

Compiled by Janet Baus and Helen Mwaluko.

20 minutes, in English.

Testimonio of Celia Isaac, Bronx, 1993

Isaac talks about coming to New York from Puerto Rico and reflects on the experience of establishing her family here. Compiled by Luis Burgos.

10 minutes, in Spanish.

Testimonio of Manny and Belen Maldonado, Williamsburg, 1993

Maldonado, founder of Musica Against Drugs, and his wife Belen discuss drug addiction and AIDS, presenting innovative approaches to these problems through culture and nutrition. Compiled by Robert Wyrod and Janet Baus.

20 minutes, in English.

Home Video: Mily and Luis, 1992

This home video records the 1-Year Anniversary Party of Mily and Luis in Brooklyn. Video provided by Milagros Pérez.

10 minutes, in Spanish.

Against the Blue Wall, 1992

Documents struggles for fair and responsible police protection in the Southside Williamsburg community. The video chronicles the community's response to flagrant acts of police abuse and misconduct. Produced by Southside TV.

18 minutes, in English.

Home Video: Church Service, 1993

This video records a song during a church service on the Lower East Side.

Video provided by Wilfredo Miranda.

3 minutes, in Spanish.

Testimonio of Yolanda Sánchez, East Harlem, 1992

In this *testimonio* Sánchez, founder of the National Latinas Caucus, talks about the evolution of her political and cultural identity, as well as issues of gender and race in the Puerto Rican and Latino communities. Compiled by Carmen Medeiros, Agustín Laó and Zoya Kocur.

30 minutes, in English.

PROGRAM TWO (120 minutes)

Screened on Thursday and Saturday at 12, 2 and 4 p.m. and Saturday at 6 p.m.

Testimonio of Nilka Alvarez, Williamsburg, 1992

Alvarez, founder of MUJER, an organization serving the needs of Latinas, explains the importance of developing Latina leadership, addressing issues of domestic violence and the struggles of single mothers to become economically self-sufficient. Compiled by Pedro A. Rivera and Janet Baus.

20 minutes, in English.

Home Video: Delaware River Trip, 1993

This home video records a canoe trip, from fixing a flat tire on FDR Drive in Manhattan, to canoeing with family and friends in the Delaware Water Gap.

Video shot and narrated by Wilfredo Miranda.

10 minutes, in Spanish.

United We Stand, by Raul Baerga, Gil Crespo and Julio Díaz, 1993

Documentary of a march across the Williamsburg Bridge to protest against environmental racism and the proposed incinerator in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Produced by El Puente TV.

8 minutes, in English.

Testimonio of Pérez Family (Sisa and Ada), Maryland, 1993

Sisa Melendez de Pérez recounts the 1942 migration of her family and their nanny Yeya to New York City from Puerto Rico. Compiled by Mayda Pérez.

20 minutes, in Spanish and English.

Ariza! Ariza!, 1991

The story of NYC police officer Hector Ariza, this video provides a unique insight into the police department and the power of community activism.

Produced by Southside TV.

10 minutes, in English.

Chago, by Edgar Miranda, 1993

An homage to Miranda's cousin, Santiago de Jesus, his first Latino hero and source of artistic inspiration.

7 minutes, in English.

Testimonio of Greg Pomales, Williamsburg, 1992

Pomales discusses his involvement with graffiti art, including the role of graffiti as a positive outlet for young people and its importance as a tool for disseminating information in the community. Compiled by Pedro A. Rivera.

20 minutes, in English.

Home Video: Rincon Criollo, 1991

This brief clip records a celebration at a Bronx casita. Video provided by Pedro A. Rivera.

2 minutes, in Spanish.

Latina Leaders, 1992

Documents the First Annual Grassroots Latina Leaders Symposium. Includes Nilka Alvarez, the founder of MUJER; Yolanda Sánchez, President of the National Latinas Caucus, and Nydia Velasquez, Latina and member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Produced by Southside TV.

15 minutes, in English.

Testimonio of Elaine Brownstein and Carol Vargas, Washington Heights, 1993

A daughter of Eastern European immigrants returns to the Washington Heights apartment in which she was born and meets the Dominican family who lives there now.

Compiled by Susan Cahan and Agustín Laó.

15 minutes, in English.

Screening Room Video Program organized by:

Robert Wyrod, Southside TV; Zoya Kocur, The New Museum of Contemporary Art; Pedro A. Rivera, CAMEO and Janet Baus, Helen Mwaluko, Shirley Santoro of Southside TV.

Testimonio is funded in part by The National Endowment for the Arts, The New York Community Trust, and the New York State Council on the Arts. The initial ethnographic work that led to *Testimonio* was supported by the Aaron Diamond Foundation.