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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/ (RFC)  
FEBRUARY 18, 2010

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## **“PALABRAS DULCES, PALABRAS AMARGAS (SWEET WORDS, BITTER WORDS)” OPENS AT CENTER ON HALSTED**

*Film Screening & Spoken-Word Celebration Honor Women’s History Month.*

**CHICAGO, ILL.** — In celebration of Women’s History Month, the Center On Halsted will present “*Palabras Dulces, Palabras Amargas (Sweet Words, Bitter Words)*,” an independent documentary featuring the *La Dulce Palabra Spoken Word Ensemble* and *Amigas Latinas*. The critically acclaimed film will be screened inside the Hoover-Leppen Theater at 6 p.m., Saturday, March 27, 2010 at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. Admission to this event is \$10 per person.

The film’s screening will kick-off “*Voces y Palabras: Journeys in Transitions*” a celebration featuring live performances by *La Dulce Palabra*, the multicultural, multigenerational spoken-word collective that began as a collaboration between *Amigas Latinas* and the *En Las Tablas Performing Arts Group*. The event will also debut “*Las Dulces Palabras, Volume 1*,” a book of the Ensemble’s works. Chicago native Linda Garcia Merchant, the film’s veteran director, and artists from the film will be on hand for the discussion and book signings immediately after the screening.

“*Palabras Dulces, Palabras Amargas (Sweet Words, Bitter Words)*,” is the second film produced by Voces Primeras LLC. Voces Primeras launched in 2007 with the underground hit “*Las Mujeres de La Caucus Chicana*” — a documentary profiling Latina pioneers of the Chicano Civil Rights Movement. This woman-owned and operated arts production company is dedicated to preserving the history of Latina pioneers. “[*Palabras Dulces, Palabras Amargas (Sweet Words, Bitter Words)*] touches on the universal understanding that we are not alone — that life is a shared and relative experience. It is alive with stories of urban life, intergenerational connections, poetry of the people, growing older with a bang, empowered sexuality and domestic violence. Oral storytelling plays a very important role in Latino culture. We must tell our stories. Voces Primeras recognizes the importance of oral storytelling through visual media,” Garcia Merchant said.

Chicago's Center on Halsted is the Midwest’s largest community center for LGBT persons. As a resource and gathering place for youth and adults in a safe, inviting atmosphere, the Center offers comprehensive support networks and programming to meet the cultural, emotional, social, educational and recreational needs of all LGBT and non-LGBT persons. For more information, visit [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org).

EDITORS: *Media kits and JPEG images of the cast are available upon request.*