



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 27, 2009

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**KENT FILM FESTIVAL TO SCREEN TOUCHING SHORT FILM  
HONORING NEW YORK'S ALBERTO ARROYO  
"DEFACTO MAYOR OF CENTRAL PARK"**

**The Mayor of Central Park**, a poignant documentary short depicting the inimitable character of Alberto Arroyo in his element, is set to screen, Saturday March 28 at 10am, at the fourth annual Kent Film Festival slated for early this spring in tiny Kent, CT, Thursday, March 26 thru Sunday, March 29, 2009.

The fascinating glimpse into the life of this endearing personality, shot by the late filmmaker John Mullen, delivers a moving tribute of sorts to the now 93 year old Arroyo, who New York State Senate proclaimed one of the "pioneers of the jogging trend in America" via a 1985 resolution honoring him for his fifty years of jogging around New York's Central Park Reservoir 1.6 mile path, a discipline Arroyo claims to have been first at in 1935.

Arroyo's unshakeable spirit after suffering a stroke last August was chronicled in print in a recent New York Times article by writer Charles Wilson. Wilson's tender reporting succeeds in palpably illustrating Arroyo's indomitable nature as well as the commitment of the many fellow joggers with whom he engendered deep, mutual appreciation and respect over the years, and who continue to assist Arroyo on jaunts to the park path from his current residence at Upper West Side's Kateri nursing and rehabilitation center, where according to Wilson, "the de facto Mayor of Central Park could be found exercising by guiding his walker in a small oval pattern in the 16<sup>th</sup>- floor solarium of the residence." (See: [Helping Hands Keep Alberto Arroyo, Jogging Pioneer at Central Park, Going](#), February 15, 2009, [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com))

The affectionate documentary, submitted by Tom Barry, who will be presenting a question and answer session at the film festival following the screening, captures in film the charismatic Arroyo, whose genuine zest for life and passionate embrace of people from all walks, is evidenced by Arroyo's gregarious way and natural penchant for installing himself as a public figure.

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Daily until he was nearly 90, the colorful, quirky Arroyo could be found offering his own brand of life- wisdom along with greetings of inspiration and free foot massages from his fixed post at the South Gate House benches - this if not making laps, whether by jog, walk, or shuffle, shadowboxing, performing handstands, or with arms raised skyward, mouth open wide to “eat the air,” a primary source of mind and body nutrition according to Arroyo.

With first person accounts, and Arroyo himself supplying most of the film’s narration, **The Mayor of Central Park** leaves audiences touched by the spirit of this unforgettable man.

*Filmmaker John Mullen died last April after a long struggle with cancer. After many years making films for others, “The Mayor of Central Park was the first film he made for himself,” said Barry.*

*Mullen’s thirty five year editing career includes:*

*Supervision of 116 shows for the Emmy-Award winning Big Blue Marble; two Sundance Grand Prizes for Beirut: The Last Home Movie, directed by Jennifer Fox (1988), and for H-2 Worker, directed by Stephanie Black (1990), and a special jury prize at the 2004 Paris Human Rights Festival, for Miss Black’s widely acclaimed Life and Debt, a film about Jamaica’s economy.*

*In addition, he edited and co-produced Last Train to Pittsfield, last year’s winner for Kent Film Festival Viewer’s Choice Documentary.*

*Mr. Arroyo may be appearing for the Q&A following the screening.*

The Kent Film Festival is a not-for-profit arts organization dedicated to the development of film artists of independent spirit and uncommon vision.

For ticketing, schedule, film descriptions, directions and other festival information, please visit [www.kentfilmfestival.org](http://www.kentfilmfestival.org).

Thursday, March 26 thru Sunday, March 29, 2009 Kent Film Festival P.O. Box 846  
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