



Smartgirl Productions

November 20, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

contact: M.T. Silvia

510-541-0413

mtsilvia@smartgirlproductions.com

Documentary Film Portays an East Oakland Neighborhood and the Sixty-year-old Holiday Tradition that Keeps it Together

OAKLAND, CA: Picardy Drive is a documentary film about a neighborhood in the heart of East Oakland, California. The people of this unique community take great pride in their street and the fellowship that has evolved and endured through decades of sometimes difficult changes.

Each year during the holidays, lights are strung on and around their quaint Tudor homes. The connecting of the lights—the strands literally lead from one house to the next—is a tradition that started sixty years ago. Thousands of visitors come to see these decorations, but few know how this tradition evolved and why it is still important to some—but not all—of the street’s racially and religiously diverse inhabitants.

The film captures residents of this community in an intimate and honest account of what it is like to live with each other in what some consider a “dangerous” neighborhood in East Oakland. As the decorations go up, the film reveals the meaning behind the unifying and heartwarming gesture of this ‘friendship chain’ of lights. “Picardy Drive” portrays a compelling slice of American life—one where community is symbolized by a colorful connection of holiday bulbs, but where differences are not to be dulled by any singular American dream.

Total Running Time 56:30

Produced, Directed and Edited by M.T. Silvia

Music by Klaudia Promessi, Assistant Director Sandy Falby, Associate Producer Elsa Eder
Featuring the Residents of Picardy Drive

M.T. Silvia is an independent filmmaker who has worked professionally as an engineer in the film industry for almost 15 years. This is her first creative film.

P.O. Box 18678 Oakland, CA 94619
www.smartgirlproductions.com
510-541-0413