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**SMITHSONIAN CHANNEL ORIGINAL FILM *THE ACCORDION KINGS*
AN OFFICIAL SELECTION AT MIAMI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

Documentary Features International Music Sensation Carlos Vives

Washington, DC, February 19, 2010 – A **Smithsonian Channel** original film production, **THE ACCORDION KINGS**, which explores the infectious music of Colombia's Magdalena Valley and a legendary contest to crown a "king of kings," is an "Official Selection" in the Cinema 360 category at the **2010 Miami International Film Festival**.

In the remote Magdalena Valley in Colombia, known as cowboy country, the local music is the rage and the accordion is king. Once every ten years, Colombia's top accordion players descend there for the legendary Vallenato Festival, a six-day celebration of accordion music. The author Gabriel Garcia Marquez once said that his Nobel Prize winning classic *One Hundred Years of Solitude* was nothing more than a 400-page vallenato song. The festival is a musical melting pot featuring the finest musicians that Latin America has to offer, including Grammy Award winner Carlos Vives, who is featured in *The Accordion Kings*. Two songs from his new album "Clasicos de la Provincia II" are heard in the film. *The Accordion Kings* captures the mesmerizing fusion of African, European and indigenous rhythms of vallenato music, which has been called "the blues of Colombia."

THE ACCORDION KINGS SCREENING SCHEDULE:

- o Saturday, March 6, 5:00pm at Tower Theater 1
- o Saturday, March 13, 7:15pm at Regal South Beach 17
- o Sunday, March 14, 7:15pm at Tower Theater 2

Additional information for screenings can be found at:

http://miami.bside.com/2010/films/theaccordionkings_miami2010

The Accordion Kings is a Smithsonian Channel production directed by Emmy Award winner Alan Tomlinson with Executive Producers David Royle and Charles Poe from Smithsonian Channel. Senior Consultant Pilar O'Leary and Consultant Dan Sheehy, Director of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, also worked on the production.

ABOUT SMITHSONIAN NETWORKS

Smithsonian Networks (SNI/SI Networks L.L.C.) is a joint venture between Showtime Networks Inc. and the Smithsonian Institution. It was formed to create new channels that showcase scientific, cultural and historical programming largely inspired by the assets of the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum complex. The network features original documentaries, short-subject explorations and innovative and groundbreaking programs highlighting America's historical, cultural and scientific heritage. Visit them on the internet at www.smithsonianchannel.com.

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