



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SMITHSONIAN CHANNEL ORIGINAL FILM THE ACCORDION KINGS TO SCREEN  
AT 2009 DC LATIN AMERICAN FILM SHOWCASE**

**Documentary Featuring International Music Sensation Colombia's Carlos Vives,  
Screening Wednesday, October 28 at Lohvink Auditorium at Georgetown University  
Business School**

**Washington, DC, October 26, 2009** – A **Smithsonian Channel** original film production that looks at the music of Colombia's Magdalena Valley, whose sounds have been popularized by the multi-Grammy award winning artist Carlos Vives and Gloria Estefan, will screen this week at the **DC Latin American Film Showcase**. THE ACCORDION KINGS can be seen Wednesday, October 28 at 7pm at the Lohvink Auditorium on the campus of Georgetown University's Business School.

In the remote Magdalena Valley in Colombia, 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 classic *400 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 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, sung by roots musicians during Vallenato. THE ACCORDION KINGS captures the mesmerizing fusion of African, European and indigenous rhythms of the hypnotic music heard at Vallenato.

THE ACCORDION KINGS screening is sponsored by the Embassy of Colombia and the Georgetown Latin American Studies Program, with additional support from the Georgetown Film and Media Initiative Georgetown University McDonough School of Business.

The Ibero-American Cultural Attachés Association (AACIA) is responsible for putting on the DC Latin American Film Showcase. For 20 years, the Cultural Attachés Association has been organizing successful film festivals and, this year, the free series will run from October 20 to November 7 in nine different venues throughout Washington, DC. More than 30 movies from 15 different countries will be screened at the Inter-American Development Bank, Landmark E Street Cinemas, GALA Theatre, Georgetown University, Martin Luther King Public Library and the Argentinean, Chilean and Venezuelan Embassies.

THE ACCORDION KINGS is a Smithsonian Channel production directed by Emmy Award winner Alan Tomlinson, with Pilar O'Leary as Senior Consultant.

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**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 will showcase scientific, cultural and historical programming largely inspired by the assets of the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum complex. The networks will feature 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](http://www.smithsonianchannel.com).