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Walking Iris Films, in association with Cherry Sky Films, announces the
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE of...

TO YOU SWEETHEART, ALOHA
A New Documentary on 94-Year-Old 'Ukulele Legend Bill Tapia

VC FILMFEST 2005

The 21st Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival

SUN, MAY 1, 2005 2:00pm 4:00pm (Program #28)

Directors Guild of America, Theatre One -- 7920 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA

For VC FILMFEST 2005 information and to purchase tickets, log on to
<http://vconline.org/ff05/program28.html> or call Visual Communications at (213) 680-4462, EXT. 59.

The new hour-long documentary film by S. Leo Chiang and Mercedes Coats, TO YOU SWEETHEART, ALOHA is proud to be having its NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE screening at the VC FILMFEST 2005. The screening will take place May 1st, Sunday at 2:00pm at the prestigious DGA-One theatre on Sunset Boulevard. Guest of honor and the documentary's subject Bill Tapia will make a brief appearance after the screening, and participate in the Q & A with the filmmakers.

TO YOU SWEETHEART, ALOHA is a one-hour documentary which follows the 94th year in the life of colorful Honolulu-born 'ukulele master Bill Tapia, exploring not only the charismatic musician and his unique stamp on the creation of Hawai'ian jazz, but also the consummate showman and the endearing storyteller who seeks the fountain of youth. At the core of this narrative is a complex and turbulent portrait of an elderly artist clinging to his youthful spirit; despite losing the battle against an aging body, he learns to forge a life for himself after outliving everyone he loves.

While mourning the death of his wife and only daughter, Bill finds a muse in 26-year-old Alyssa Kauanakinilani Archambault, his manager and friend who helps him connect to his past and rebuild a future in music. Bill's illustrious history, spanning more than 85 years as a musical pioneer and a charismatic entertainer in both the Hawai'ian islands and the mainland U.S., serves as the backdrop to an unconventional and often eyebrow-raising friendship with his young, beautiful new companion that is founded on an infectious love of Hawai'ian music and culture.

A professional from the age of 10, as a jazz guitarist and 'ukulele player Bill has performed with such musical luminaries as Bing Crosby, Louis Armstrong, Elvis Presley and the Hawai'ian legends, King Bennie Nawahi, Sol Ho'opi'i and Andy Iona. Bill is also often credited as the first musician to play jazz on the 'ukulele.

This new documentary is the first joint production by filmmakers S. Leo Chiang and Mercedes Coats, working under the banner of Walking Iris Films. Joan Huang of Cherry Sky Films (BETTER LUCK TOMORROW) serves as Executive Producer. Chiang is an award-winning filmmaker of both documentary and narrative films, including ONE+ONE (CINE Golden Eagle), whose work as a freelance director, producer, cameraman or editor can be seen on HBO, PBS, Showtime, and Discovery. Coats' work includes the documentaries LITTLE STARS and SEOUL II SOUL, (national PBS broadcast, Feb 2002), and is the recipient of such honors as the Alfred P. Sloan Award and the Women in Film/Paramount Pictures Crystal Award.

TO YOU SWEETHEART, ALOHA
by S. Leo Chiang and Mercedes Coats
USA; 2004; 60 min; Video, English
<http://www.SweetheartAloha.com>

Publicity photos and materials available upon request
or via download at <http://www.SweetheartAloha.com>

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