

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 11, 2004

San Francisco, CA

Contacts: S. Leo Chiang – leo@walking-iris.com, (323) 899-5556
Mercedes Coats – mercedes@walking-iris.com, (415) 425-4125
Chris Dacus (HIFF publicist) – media@hiff.org, (808) 528-3456

*Walking Iris Films, in association with Cherry Sky Films, announces the
WORLD PREMIERE of...*

TO YOU SWEETHEART, ALOHA

A New Documentary On 94-Year-Old 'Ukulele Legend Bill Tapia

2004 LOUIS VUITTON HAWAI'I INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (HIFF)

SAT, OCTOBER 23, 2004, 6:30pm, "Sunset on the Beach" Outdoor Screening, Waikiki

SUN, OCTOBER 24, 2004, 7:15pm, Signature Dole Cannery 18 Theatres, Honolulu (*Hawai'i Panorama 9*)

FRI, OCTOBER 29, 2004, 6:00pm -- Honoka'a People's Theatre, Honoka'a (*Hawai'i Panorama 9*)

The new hour-long documentary film by S. Leo Chiang and Mercedes Coats, **TO YOU SWEETHEART, ALOHA** will have its **WORLD PREMIERE** screenings at the **2004 Louis Vuitton Hawai'i International Film Festival**. The wildly popular "Sunset on the Beach" outdoor screening, featuring TO YOU SWEETHEART, ALOHA, will begin on Saturday, Oct 23 at 6:30pm (festivities begin at 4:00pm) on the world-famous Waikiki beach in Honolulu to an anticipated crowd of over 10,000 people. An indoor theatre screening will take place on Sunday, Oct 24 at 7:15pm at Signature Dole 18 Theatres. Guest of honor and the documentary's subject Bill Tapia will perform live in concert after each screening, including the Neighbor Island screening in Honoka'a.

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 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.

2004-HIFF ticket info online at www.hiff.org or boxoffice@hiff.org, Tel (808) 528-4433.

TO YOU SWEETHEART, ALOHA

by S. Leo Chiang and Mercedes Coats
USA; 2004; 60 min; Video, English
www.SweetheartAloha.com.

All distribution license rights available
(note: Pending U.S. television broadcast license option
to CPB)

Publicity Photos available upon request or via
download at www.SweetheartAloha.com

Additional festival info: www.hiff.org

=== end ===

Walking Iris Films • info@walking-iris.com • www.walking-iris.com