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WLRN PUBLIC TELEVISION WINS AN EMMY AWARD FOR DOCUMENTARY *HECHO A MANO: CREATIVITY IN EXILE*

WLRN Honored with an Emmy Award for Documentary *Hecho A Mano: Creativity in Exile* on Saturday, December 3rd at the 35th Annual Suncoast Emmy Awards.

Miami, FL – December 5, 2011 – WLRN was honored with an Emmy Award by The Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, a prestigious nonprofit organization committed to honoring excellence in television, for the documentary **Hecho A Mano: Creativity in Exile** in the Historic and Cultural Program Category.

Hecho A Mano: Creativity in Exile interweaves the stories of pianist Francisco “Paquito” Hechavarría, sculptor Tony López, who passed away in August of this year at the age of 92, and ceramic artists Nelson and Ronald Currás, 70-year-old twins, from their beginnings in Cuba to their early experiences in exile to today, exploring their dedication to their craft and their ability to create under often challenging circumstances. The half-hour documentary chronicles the daily (but nevertheless heroic) act of “showing up and getting to work,” of making something out of nothing. Combining original interviews with footage of its four subjects in their respective elements—Hechavarría at the piano, López lovingly molding clay with his hands, the Currás brothers’ painstaking painting of individual tiles—*Hecho A Mano* is a documentary about life, exile, and the joy of working with your hands.

“Hecho A Mano: Creativity in Exile is really a story that reflects the unique and diverse culture of the place that we live in, Miami.” said John LaBonia, General Manager of WLRN. “It is an honor for the station to be recognized for the very highest quality work and it only confirms our commitment to continue producing the best original programming for our South Florida audiences.”

The Emmy was awarded during the **35 Annual Suncoast Emmy Awards** reception on Saturday, December 3rd, at the Westin Beach Resort in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. WLRN is among the winners for the coveted **Suncoast Regional Emmy Awards**, which recognize excellence in television and the regions' leadership for their artistic, educational and technical achievements within the television industry. This year there were a record 972 entries submitted from all over the region including Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia and Puerto Rico.

Hecho A Mano: Creativity in Exile, produced by Brett O’Bourke and Gaspar González, has also been recognized by two of South Florida’s leading film festivals as one of the year’s best. Named

Best Florida Documentary by the 2010 Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival, the film garnered two more awards at the 2010 Miami Short Film Festival: Best Local Film and Best Documentary.

About WLRN-TV

WLRN Channel 17 is a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) member station licensed to the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida. During an average week, Channel 17 reaches over 600,000 TV households in the Miami - Ft. Lauderdale area with a viewing audience in four South Florida counties, from Palm Beach to Key West. WLRN is Florida's leading PBS Ready To Learn station airing thirteen hours of award-winning children's programming daily. WLRN-TV also presents the best of the PBS nationally recognized series to compliment locally produced programs and specials. Our prime time schedule features an array of arts, performance, science, and documentary specials to address the diverse interests of the South Florida community. In addition, the WLRN Learn channel a local, non-commercial, cable channel managed and programmed as a public service, is carried by all cable providers in Miami-Dade County and is located on Channel 79 on most cable systems. It offers diverse, relevant international content including news, documentaries, cultural programming, dramas, films & mysteries, music and sports and includes a daily line-up of award-winning PBS Kids programs in Spanish.