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“Musical Chairs” to Screen at South Broadway April 25th

Film Features Wheelchair Ballroom Dancing in a Story About Living Your Dreams

ALBUQUERQUE, NM—On Saturday, April 25th at 1 p.m. the silver screen at South Broadway Cultural Center's John Lewis Theatre will light up with this inspirational story about two New Yorkers with a shared passion for ballroom dancing that brings everyone to the dance floor.

Armando Ortiz (played by E.J. Bonilla) meets the vivacious and talented dancer Mia (Leah Pipes) at a studio where he has taken a job sweeping floors. After a tragic accident that leaves her paralyzed from the waist down, Mia believes her dancing days are behind her, but Armando continues to encourage her to hope. When he learns of New York's first Wheelchair Ballroom Dance Competition he pushes Mia to prepare to dance again.

Featuring both able-bodied and disabled actors, *Musical Chairs* is a testament to the human spirit and the power of reinventing oneself in the face of adversity. Director Susan Seidelman (*Desperately Seeking Susan*) captures all the feisty glamour of her hometown again in this romance shot entirely in New York City.

The stunning Laverne Cox, actress, reality TV star, television producer and LGBT advocate best known for her portrayal of Sophia Burset on “Orange is the New Black,” plays the role of “Chantelle” in the film. Ms. Cox made television history as the first African American transgender woman on an American reality show with her appearance as a finalist on VH1's “I Want to Work for Diddy”, for which she earned the GLAAD media award for Outstanding Reality Program. Her own show on VH1 called “TRANSform Me” was a makeover show exploring the concept of transformation from the inside out. She is the first openly transgendered person to be nominated for a Primetime Emmy® Award in the acting category, and the first to be nominated for any Emmy award since composer/musician Angela Morley in 1990.

The film is brought to Albuquerque audiences by Chapter 5047, USA Dance, North Central New Mexico, a not-for-profit group that fosters the love of ballroom dancing by hosting numerous dance events each year, and whose members also perform at many local venues, such as community festivals, nursing homes and schools. They will host a reception after the film. Mary Ann Dix, president of the local chapter, said of the film, “This is a beautiful story beautifully made, and I hope that many people of all abilities will see this film and be inspired to pursue their own dreams.”

Prior to the screening, Keshet Dance Company will present an onstage performance featuring dancers of varying levels of physical and developmental abilities. Keshet runs an adaptive program that often pairs these dancers with Keshet's professional and pre-professional dancers for performances, allowing both dancers and audience members to experience the idea of unlimited possibilities through the experience of dance.

Handicapped seating is available and the facility is ADA compliant. Tickets are \$8 (including fee) and are available at www.southbroadwaytickets.com. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. and the Box Office will open at noon for those wishing to purchase tickets.

South Broadway Cultural Center is managed by the Cultural Services Department, City of Albuquerque, Richard J. Berry, Mayor. The facility is a multi-cultural, visual, performing and literary art center that promotes, preserves and educates the community about the cultures and ethnicities that define Albuquerque. Located at 1025 Broadway SE, the unique architecture and colorful design of the building's exterior is an attraction in the area. SBCC shares the facility with the South Broadway Library and collaborates with the library on a number of events and activities. There is free parking immediately adjacent to the facility.

For more information on events and activities at SBCC, visit www.cabq.gov/sbcc or call 311. TTY Users call 711. For handicap accessibility, call 505-848-1320.

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