



WEST ENCOUNTERS EAST

For Immediate Release

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West Encounters East

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BRAZILIAN FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 17 YEARS IN MIAMI

West Encounters East opens the series at the Miami Beach Cinematheque

Miami, FL, August 16, 2013 –The Brazilian Film Festival of Miami is celebrating its 17th anniversary from August 17 to August 24 in Miami Beach, Florida. *West Encounters East*, a film by Stella M. Holmes will open the festival at 7 pm, August 17, at Miami Beach Cinematheque. The film focuses on a little-known population: the Japanese Brazilians, comprising the largest population of ethnic Japanese outside of Japan itself. It follows well-known and emerging artists of Japanese descent from various generations who immigrated to Latin America during the 20th Century.

Created by Executive Producer Stella M. Holmes, *West Encounters East* focuses on the fusion of culture, history and tradition in the works of these artists and explores the ongoing integration of Asian traditions into Latin American culture. The story of the multicultural artists, told primarily through their canvases, sculptures, ceramics and photography, brings to light the dynamic and little-known saga of the Japanese presence in Brazil.

Inspired by West Encounters East, the exhibition *Tanabata: Japan's Star Festival –Views of Tanabata in São Paulo, Brazil*, featuring photography by Jade Matarazzo, will be held at the Cinematheque.

Tanabata – literally "seventh night" – is a Japanese festival commemorating the annual reunion of deities Orihime and Hikoboshi, star-crossed lovers separated during the rest of the year by the Milky Way. Ms. Matarazzo's photographs capture the spirit of this ancient tradition as it is celebrated in São Paulo, home to the largest Japanese community outside Japan.

"This is the only international event where the public can truly see Brazil purely through its culture, amazing locations and its people," recounts Viviane Spinelli, Director of Inffinito.

"Bridging cultures through art has always captured my soul, especially cultures that are so vastly different," says Holmes, whose experience of growing up with a Paraguayan mother and Argentine father gave her valuable insights into the issues and challenges examined in this film.

Stella M. Holmes was born in Buenos Aires and educated in Argentina, France and the United States. An art historian and collector for more than two decades, Ms. Holmes makes her home in Miami, where her creativity and passion continue to enrich the community's cultural institutions. She is benefactor of the Stella M. Holmes Art Research Center at the University of Miami's Lowe Art Museum, where she is a member of the Director's Circle, and principal supporter of ArtLab, an exhibition program launched by the Lowe and the Art & Art History Department of the University of Miami to provide students with hands-on experience in curating museum exhibitions.

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About BFF

Founded in 1995, Inffinito, headed by Directors Adriana Dutra, Viviane Spinelli and Claudia Dutra, remains an innovative, strong, dynamic and creative company, focused on the fine art of exposing Brazil's strong artistic profile to new international markets. Comprised of Inffinito Núcleo de Arte e Cultura, Inffinito Eventos e Produções (Brazil) and Inffinito Foundation (USA), the Inffinito Group strives to promote and **BFF Miami** diffuse Brazilian cultural productions both in Brazil and abroad, with events all over the world, including Spain, Argentina, Canada, Italy, England and Uruguay among others.

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