



### Accolades for 'A Concert for Hope' Film – Sunset on the Beach,

#### Honolulu Film Fest 'Silver Lei' and Official Selection - Reel Festival for Women

BURLINGAME, CA (March 2, 2009) – Elfenworks is thrilled to announce that at 7pm on March 7<sup>th</sup> our *A Concert for Hope* film, an audiovisual tidal wave of change will crash onto a 30 foot screen in Waikiki, at **Sunset on the Beach**. The next night, at 10 pm Pacific Time, it will receive the **Honolulu Film Festival's** prestigious *Silver Lei* award for exploring domestic poverty, asking the question, "What would you do to start a ripple?" and capturing a moment in time that caused one such ripple, bringing waves of change we are still feeling. Director Lauren Speeth stirs up the waters, blending transcendent musical performances, stirring speeches, and enchanting animations. The result is a compelling call to action. Recorded live in 2007 at Stanford University's Memorial Church at a concert of the same name, *A Concert for Hope* captures a celebration concert in honor of the opening of the Center for the Study of Poverty and Inequality at Stanford University and the launching of their website, [www.inequality.com](http://www.inequality.com). Featured speakers include Stanford Dean of Humanities and Sciences Richard Saller, Center Director Professor David Grusky and Elfenworks Foundation CEO Lauren Speeth. This visual tsunami includes an animated story, slides from the Stanford Center and striking excerpts from the film *Faces of Poverty*.

There is something for everyone in this 26-minute film, which includes the world premiere of a new major musical composition *La Povertà* by Giancarlo Aqualanti featuring sopranos [Shawnette Sulker](#) and [Rebecca Plack](#), special gospel music including *In Harmony with Hope* by [Tammy Hall](#) featuring [Rhonda Benin](#), [Valerie Joi Fiddmont](#), and [La Tonya Reed](#), a call to action for a new smart war on domestic poverty, startling 'runaway train' animations, and more. "People who read *Tracks of Hope* should also watch *A Concert for Hope*. The story about the runaway train of poverty and the need to change its course comes out loud and clear in these two related productions." Says Professor William Julius Wilson, of Harvard, "the mixture of spoken words with music is especially appropriate to reach more educated and trained viewers..." Elfenworks invites everyone to attend the Hawaii events or join us on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 10pm at the **Reel Festival for Women**, where the film receives its Los Angeles premiere.

*About the Elfenworks Foundation* - The Elfenworks Foundation was created to support non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in innovative and unconventional ways. We strive to be *In Harmony with Hope* by shining light on causes that benefit humanity. In affiliation with U.S. centers of academic excellence, our multi-faceted, creative and hardworking team of social entrepreneurs and advisors draws on expertise in communications, technology, film, music, law, and business administration to empower the nonprofits we serve; we remove obstacles, help strengthen program and business-model capacities, build infrastructures, forge alliances, and raise awareness about these organizations and our shared agenda. In this way we work in harmony towards our common goal of positive, measurable, and sustainable change. Our current goal is to ameliorate domestic poverty and provide new hope for the disenfranchised here at home: [www.elfenworks.org](http://www.elfenworks.org).

*About Sunset on the Beach* – *Sunset on the beach* is a FREE movie shown on a huge 30 foot screen on the weekends and feature quality films for the whole family to enjoy. And as the event title suggests, the 30 foot screen is on the beach. *Sunset on the beach* movie event is located at Queen's surf in beautiful Waikiki Beach, Honolulu. Queen's surf is across the street from the Honolulu Zoo: [www.sunsetonthebeach.net](http://www.sunsetonthebeach.net).

*About the Honolulu Film Festival* – The Honolulu International Film Festival is a crossroads of the world, bridging the gap between East and West and held annually on the beautiful island of Oahu, Hawaii. Surrounded by the sparkling Pacific and spectacular scenery, the Honolulu International Film Festival recognizes outstanding achievement in filmmaking from around the world. It is our mission to showcase the finest independent cinema the world has to offer while helping to advance the careers of promising filmmakers by providing a platform through which their talents can be recognized: [www.honolulufilmfestival.com](http://www.honolulufilmfestival.com).

*About the Reel Festival for Women* – The Reel Women International Film Festival was founded by Diana Means to honor and advance the careers of accomplished and emerging women filmmakers. The festival provides a forum for women to showcase their films in the heart of the entertainment industry. The goal of The Reel Women International Film Festival is to help increase opportunities for women of diverse backgrounds to share their stories with the world. The festival presents narratives, documentary animation and student short films directed and written by women. The programming reflects the festival's further commitment to use visual media to heighten awareness of critical social and health issues impacting women globally: [www.reelfestivalforwomen.org](http://www.reelfestivalforwomen.org).

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