

PRESS RELEASE

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Local filmmaker to screen Inca Trail documentary at Emerson Cultural Center

BOZEMAN, MT, January 20, 2010 – Jason Burlage, a Bozeman local and MSU alum, will screen his documentary film, *Mi Chacra* (My Land) at the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture on July 29th at 7:00pm. The screening will be the film's Bozeman premiere. Burlage will be in attendance and will answer questions after the screening.

Mi Chacra world premiered at the Starz Denver Film Festival last November to two sold out audiences, screened at the 2010 Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in Missoula, and had its international premiere at the recent It's All True International Documentary Film Festival in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The film has also screened in Peru at the Museo de la Nación in Lima, and the Museo Casa Garcilaso in Cusco.

With breathtaking views of the Peruvian Andes as a backdrop, the film tells the story of Feliciano, an indigenous Peruvian farmer who works as a porter on the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in hopes of some day taking his son to live in the city. Framed by the seasons, *Mi Chacra* chronicles one year in Feliciano's life, from the planting season in his community to the harvest, and through a season of work on the Inca Trail. It paints a vivid picture of this man's world, of the conflict between his love of the land and the desire to see his son living what he sees as a better life in the city.

Burlage grew up in southeast Idaho and moved to Bozeman in 1992 to study film in the Media and Theatre Arts program at Montana State University. *Mi Chacra* is Burlage's first feature documentary. He originally went to Peru as staff and then director for a program that conducted community service projects in small villages in the Sacred Valley. It was during one trip that a Peruvian friend told him about the situation of the porters on the Inca Trail and the disappearing culture of the indigenous people. Many porters are subsistence farmers who leave their communities to work on the trail and have difficulty adapting to the outside world. Burlage was struck by this story and knew there was a film to be made. He spent a total of five months filming Feliciano and his family.

"The depth of the experience," he says, "would be impossible to convey. I truly hope the film does justice to the complexity of the place and the people it portrays. There is great beauty, strength, sadness, and love in Feliciano's story and in the world he inhabits."

"This documentary takes you into the real life of Feliciano, his family, his land, his terrible doubts, and his dreams. No stereotypes, just life, beautiful and cruel at the same time. I love the honesty of *Mi Chacra* and was touched by the patient and beautiful approach to this Peruvian reality," said Roberto Forns-Broggi, a native of Peru and Spanish professor at Metro State College of Denver who introduced the film at the Denver Film Festival.

In a recent review in the Huffington Post, Stewart Nusbaumer wrote, "Director Jason Burlage delivers stunning expansive mountainous scenery with an intimate human focus, which sucks us into this isolated corner of the world and a couple's difficult decision. This is independent film making at its best; taking us far away...uncovering the diversity in the world that reveals what we all have in common."

Tickets for the screening will be \$10, and can be purchased at the door. For more information, contact Jason Burlage at jason@michacrafilm.com or go to www.michacrafilm.com.

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