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**MULTIRACIAL AMERICANS CELEBRATE STORIES OF THE MIXED EXPERIENCE
AT 4th ANNUAL MIXED ROOTS FILM & LITERARY FESTIVAL**

(Los Angeles, CA) Multiracial Americans, the country's largest growing community, will celebrate stories of the Mixed experience at the 4th annual *Mixed Roots Film & Literary Festival*, June 11-June 12, 2011, at the *Japanese American National Museum* (369 East First Street) in downtown Los Angeles. Pre-registration is now open at www.mxroots.org.

In the Obama age, the free two-day Festival brings together film and book lovers, innovative and emerging artists, and multiracial families and individuals for workshops, readings, film screenings, and special family activities in collaboration with the **Target Free Family Day at the Japanese American National Museum**.

The Festival hosts the largest West Coast gathering for *Loving Day*, a nationwide grassroots celebration of the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that allowed people of different races to marry. This year's *Loving Day* celebration on June 11 at 6:00pm is a free dessert reception.

Immediately following the reception is the annual *Loving Prize Presentation* and **Mixed Unplugged, a live performance of music, comedy, and spoken word poetry**.

Councilwoman Jan Perry will also speak at the Loving Prize Presentation.

The Festival, a fiscally sponsored project of the *New York Foundation for the Arts*, a non-profit organization, is produced by the co-hosts of the award-winning weekly podcast *Mixed Chicks Chat* (www.mixedchickschat.com): award-winning educator and actor, Fanshen Cox and *New York Times* best-selling novelist, Heidi Durrow.

Today, 7 percent of all marriages are interracial, according to the Census. More than 6.8 million individuals identify as Mixed. New Census figures reveal that multiracial Americans are the fastest-growing demographic; and 1 in 5 mixed-race people lives in California.

The Festival highlights include:

- **Target Free Family Day at JANM**, Saturday, June 11, 11am-4:00pm, features storytelling by Sarah Culberson author of *A Princess Found*. Families can also enjoy interactive craft activities all day.

- The Festival hosts the largest West Coast *Loving Day* celebration, Saturday June 11, 2011, at 6:00pm. The reception is held in conjunction with the 1000-person New York City *Loving Day* celebration hosted by *Loving Day* (www.lovingday.org). Free.
- Scholar Paul Spickard and award-winning playwright Velina Hasu Houston will each receive a *Loving Prize*, the Festival's annual award for inspirational storytelling of the Mixed experience during the Saturday night *Loving Prize* Presentation, June 11, 2010 at 6:30pm.
- The Festival will present several feature films including the L.A. Premiere of *Yelling to the Sky* starring Zoë Kravitz and Oscar-nominee Gabourey Sidibe and *One Big Hapa Family*, about the touching, profound and funny insights of blended and non-traditional families. The Festival is also pleased to present several award-winning short films.
- The Festival includes author readings by award-winning novelists *Danzy Senna (You are Free)*, *Nina Revoyr (Wingshooters)* and *Marie Mockett (Picking Bones From Ash)*, as well as *National Book Award* Finalist *Susan Straight (Take One Candle Light a Room)*.

Events are free and open to the public. However, pre-registration is strongly encouraged. The complete Festival schedule can be found on-line at www.mxroots.org.

Festival sponsors and donors include: *Japanese American National Museum, Puffin Foundation, Zerflin.com Graphic Design, Target, Tightlycurly.com.*

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