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## **Director Luis F. Soto Finds a Home At The Actors Studio**

For Immediate Release

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif./EWorldWire/April 20, 2004 --- Director Luis F. Soto reached another milestone in his career when he became a life-long member of The Actors Studio West in Los Angeles.

"I have found a true artistic home," said Soto, "a place where I can hone my craft among talented actors, directors, and writers."

Membership to The Actors Studio is granted to a select few each year based on talent and professional standing in the fields of acting, directing, or playwriting. Soto's acceptance brings him in to good company with notable directors like Arthur Penn, Elia Kazan, and Mark Rydell, and writers Tennessee Williams, Edward Albee, and James Baldwin, and all other members of the Studio.

Born in Puerto Rico, Soto attended the Inter-American University in Puerto Rico and graduated with a Masters of Arts from the State University of New York. A career spanning nearly forty years encompassed filmmaking and directing films, documentaries and television.

A rigorous process of interviewing and auditions ended with a final interview with the executive board including Mark Rydell, Martin Landu, and Lyle Kessler.

As a member of the Actors Studio, Soto will be developing plays and scripts with writers, and casting them from within the group. Since the Studio's inception in 1947, the Studio has helped members hone their talents outside of the public eye; rarely is the public invited to view members' work.

The Actor's Studio was founded by Cheryl Crawford, Elia Kazan, and Robert Lewis. In 1949, Lee Strasberg, a colleague of the founders, incorporated Konstantin Stanislavski's famous acting Method - based on feeling the emotion of a character and projecting it through acting - to the Studio. Strasberg was the Studio's artistic director until his death in 1982. Currently, The Actor's Studio West is under the artistic direction of actor and director Mark Rydell, who was nominated for an Oscar for his 1981 film *On Golden Pond*.

The Studio has been home to some of the most innovative and inventive actors, directors, and playwrights in the U.S. Al Pacino, Paul Newman, Ellen Burstyn, James Dean, Robert de Niro, and Marlin Brando are now, or have all been, members of the group.

"The Actor's Studio is a gift to cinema and theater," Soto said, "I am excited to be able to work with so many high-caliber artists in such an intimate environment."

### **About Luis Soto**

- Received an ACE nomination as Best Director for his HBO production *Vietnam War Story: The Last Outpost*.
- Directed critically acclaimed *The House Of Ramon Iglesia* for American Playhouse won a Silver Medal at the Houston International Film Festival, as well as the Samuel B. Engels Award.
- Directed *Silk Stalkings* for the USA Network, *Reyes Y Rey* for Telemundo, *The Equalizer* for Universal Studios, *Fame* for MGM, and *Silver Spoons* for Columbia Pictures.

Since the 1980's, Soto has had his own development company as well as The Soto Company, a successful production house in Los Angeles. Projects currently in development, for which he is writer and director, are *Something Cool* - a psychological thriller, *A Shadow Like a Leopard* - an urban "Il Postino", *Two Weeks With Pay* - a ruggedly masculine drama of greed and human relationships (soon to be produced), and an adaptation of Alexander Pushkin's *The Queen of Hearts* as a Caribbean noir thriller set in Brazil.

"I savor every step of the [filmmaking] process," said the recent inductee. "Whenever a piece is finished, I am confident the audience will enjoy watching it as much as I have enjoyed making it."

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