

April 9th, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WORLD PREMIERE: *SHADOW OF THE HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHER ABELARDO MORELL*
AT THE INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL OF BOSTON, APRIL 28TH

“One of the best films I’ve seen on an artist and the artistic process.”
-Bo Smith, Director Film Program, Museum of Film Arts, Boston

Boston, MA. **Shadow of the House Abelardo Morell** follows the internationally renowned photographer over the course of seven years and captures with deceptive simplicity and grace, the daily life of the working artist. Local filmmaker, Allie Humenuk, looks closely at the unique process of this inventive Boston artist, whether he is photographing glass sculptures constructed of light bulbs and chemistry flasks, ordinary household objects, or making camera obscura photographs in which he creates an ambiguous marriage of interior environment and outside world. Humenuk’s portrait of the artist reveals deep trust between subject and filmmaker, as well as the creative inspiration she draws from Morell’s vision.

While the view of Morell’s body of work and artistic process is indeed revelatory, the intimate look at his personal life is truly the heart of the film. Though he now lives and teaches in Massachusetts, Morell was born in Cuba, fleeing that country with his family as a child when his father’s life was threatened by the Castro regime. Forty years later, despite deep personal doubts and parental disapproval, Humenuk travels with him back to Cuba where he reconnects with the extended family and the homeland he left behind. His mixed feelings about nationhood, heritage and identity are reflected in his own delayed US citizenship ceremony, a heartfelt event subtly captured in the film.

In describing their time together, director Allie Humenuk says, “We sat together and waited for the shutter release of a long exposure. I saw him carefully examining tiny details around him. Sometimes he took all day to transform what he saw to make one photograph. I came to understand that these observations were what kept him going day after day and how he needs art to make his way in the world.”

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INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL OF BOSTON www.iffboston.org

Saturday April 28 7:45pm Coolidge Corner Theatre

Monday April 30 7:45pm Somerville Theatre in Davis Square

Allie Humenuk and Abelardo Morell will attend both screenings.

Press notes and Hi Res Photos available for download. www.shadowofthehouse.com

SHADOW OF THE HOUSE ABELARDO MORELL

A film by Allie Humenuk

74 minutes, color, video, 2007

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