



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 30, 2006
San Francisco, CA

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TO YOU SWEETHEART, ALOHA, a new documentary about the unconventional friendship between 94-yr-old 'ukulele pioneer Bill Tapia and his 26-yr-old muse, comes to PBS

Award-winning documentary filmmakers S. Leo Chiang and Mercedes Coats are proud to announce the PBS broadcast debut of their most recent film, TO YOU SWEETHEART, ALOHA. This touching cross-generational love story between an aging performer and his young companion tells a tender tale of joy and heartbreak and takes us on a feel-good Hawaiian musical journey. Audiences will be captivated by the charismatic man behind eight decades of musicianship – Bill Tapia, perhaps the longest-living professional musician working today.

'Ukulele pioneer Bill Tapia is a sharp dresser, a naughty jokester, and an irresistible charmer. After the recent death of his wife and only daughter, Bill gave up on music, his vocation and passion for over 80 years. Unexpectedly, he finds a new soul mate in his 26-yr-old manager, Alyssa. With Alyssa by his side, Bill rediscovers not only his musical zeal but his youthful spirit. Understandably, he falls hard for her. What follows is a painful heartbreak, a resurrected music career, and Bill's inspired realization to live life to the fullest, even at age 94.

The film features Bill performing such jazz and hapa-haole classics as: "All of Me", "Crazy", "My Little Grass Shack at Kealakekua, Hawaii", and the title track, "To You Sweetheart, Aloha".

A professional jazz guitarist and 'ukulele player from the age of 10, Bill performed in World War I USO shows and in the Hawaiian vaudeville circuit before leading his own bands. He has performed with such musical luminaries as Bing Crosby, Louis Armstrong, and many Hawaiian greats. Bill is credited as the first musician to play jazz on the 'ukulele and today continues to play for enthusiastic audiences around the country in support of his two recently released CDs, *Tropical Swing* and *Duke of Uke*.

TO YOU SWEETHEART, ALOHA was produced by Walking Iris Films. Joan Huang of Cherry Sky Films (BETTER LUCK TOMORROW) serves as Executive Producer. Center for Asian American Media and Pacific Islanders in Communication are the PBS presenters.

For more information on the film, up-to-date PBS schedule, and the filmmakers, please visit:

www.SweetheartAloha.com

"Heart-warming..."
Kevin Thomas, *Los Angeles Times*

"A gem!"
LA Weekly

"...A very moving and personal story about a remarkable man"
John Berger, *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*

"Surprisingly poignant..."
TimeOut Chicago

TO YOU SWEETHEART, ALOHA
by S. Leo Chiang and Mercedes Coats
USA; 2006; 57 min; Video; English

Publicity photos and materials available upon request or via download at
<http://www.SweetheartAloha.com>

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