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New Documentary **GOING ON 13** to Premiere on **PUBLIC TELEVISION**

Four girls, four years, and the change of a lifetime

*"In the spirit of documentary greats like **Seven Up!** and **Hoop Dreams**"*
—Sara Nodjoui, Programmer, Tribeca Film Festival

(Oakland, CA)—Meet Ariana, Isha, Rosie and Esme as they let go of childhood and fumble — or sprint — toward an uncertain future. This is puberty and for each of these girls of color, it's a whirlwind of change and new choices. Without flinching, **GOING ON 13** (www.goingon13.com) enters their world as they negotiate the precious, precarious moments between being a little girl and becoming a young woman **GOING ON 13** will have its first national television broadcast beginning August 30, 2009 on PUBLIC TELEVISION (Check Local Listings).

Four years with four girls in California's Bay Area. Meet Esmeralda, Mexican American, first to complete her daily schoolwork and also first in her class to have a "boyfriend" without her parents' knowledge; Ariana, African American, who transforms from a tomboy into one of the "popular girls" as her family struggles to leave the poverty of West Oakland; Rosie, mixed race Latina, who, at 9, is precocious and sunny, but grows into an alienated pre-teen who may have to repeat the 6th grade due to chronic truancy; and Isha, an immigrant from India, who despite her devotion to her traditional family, explores Internet teen chat-rooms with user names like "ghetto girl" and "cutie pie".

Using a mix of intimate interviews, cinema vérité, and stop-motion animation, **GOING ON 13** chronicles the girls' coming of age: their blossoming desires and growing sense of responsibility, their hopes for the future, their difficulties learning how to love themselves, and the escalating tug-of-war between who they want to become and who their parents think they should be. We hear the girls talk about themselves. They take us into their world, with the music, television, digital media and books they adoringly ingest — and that rarely reflect their own families' economic or cultural backgrounds — providing texture, context, and contrast for the social and emotional challenges they face.

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“A nuanced depiction of puberty that is a must see for anyone working in education, social work, or allied fields. I cannot wait to show this film to my students-- it will be a powerful teaching tool.”

—Karra Bikson, Ph.D., NYU’s Silver School of Social Work

“Every topic I am concerned about, every topic I teach about, appears in the film...subtle, moving, nuanced, powerful, and right on!”

—Sharon Lamb, Author, Packaging Girlhood: Rescuing Our Daughters from Marketers' Schemes

GOING ON 13 shows us a reality far more complex than what we are used to seeing in the media about pre-teen girls and urban girls of color. Without simplifying or sensationalizing their lives, we come to see these four girls as multi-faceted and gripping individuals. Through the everyday drama of their changing lives, Isha, Rosie, Esme and Ariana remind us that it is the small moments of insight that usher us down the rough road from childhood to adulthood.

GOING ON 13 is a co-production of Vaquera Films and the Independent Television Service (ITVS), in association with Latino Public Broadcasting (LPB) with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). Additional funding was provided by The California Council for the Humanities’ California Stories Initiative, The Skirball Foundation, The Women's Foundation of California, The City of Oakland Cultural Funding Program, Pacific Pioneer Fund, Fleishhacker Foundation, Alameda County Board of Supervisors, Open Meadows Foundation. The film is being launched in association with Chicken and Egg Pictures, The Fledgling Fund and Working Films

The national public television broadcast will be in over 25 cities. Please check your local listings or call your local public television station for specific dates. Please visit <http://www.goingon13.com/screenings/> for more information about the film and the broadcast dates.