

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**“MONICA & DAVID,” A LOVE STORY ABOUT A COUPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME, RELEASES DECEMBER 13 ON DIGITAL & DVD**

**Fully Accessible DVD with Audio Description and Closed Captioning in English and Spanish**

**“More than a love story; a reverential, nuanced movie that shows that people with developmental disabilities want the same things everyone wants out of life.”**

**- *The Boston Herald***

**December 1, 2011** –Monica and David want what most adults want – love, work and independence. With the support of their loving family, they are able to make their dreams of marriage a reality. As the young couple begins their journey together, they juggle everyday tasks along with family drama, while hoping for the chance to live more independently. Following its HBO broadcast premiere last year, **MONICA & DAVID** will release December 13 on digital platforms and on a fully-accessible DVD with closed-captioning and audio description (film is audio described for people who are blind and visually impaired).

First-time filmmaker Alexandra Codina is Monica's cousin, which gives the film a personal touch and allows Codina – and the viewer – intimate access to the couple's life together. Codina began filming the couple two weeks before their wedding and brings to light Monica and David's profound devotion to one another.

After the wedding bells have rung for Monica and David, the film follows the couple and their respective families as they return to their everyday lives. Following their wedding and honeymoon in California, Monica and David settle in at home back in Florida, where they slowly begin to build their life together while living with Monica's mother and step-father.

Monica and David were both raised with the loving support of young mothers during a time when there was little acceptance of or support for people with Down syndrome. In 1983, life expectancy for people with Down syndrome was 25 years. With societal changes and medical advances, today it is 60.

After the family moves to a new house, Monica and David must learn to adapt to new challenges, such as unexpected illness and job-hunting. They visit BEST BUDDIES JOBS, a program dedicated to helping people with intellectual and development disabilities integrate into mainstream society by helping them find work and develop friendships. While Monica and David are capable beyond expectations, their parents, aware of mainstream rejection of adults with intellectual disabilities, have trouble letting go.

**“As parents, we want people to look upon our children with special needs like anyone else... And yet because we want to protect them so much, we are typically the first ones who treat them poorly by subconsciously denying them their rights to have a normal life.” – Maria Elena (Monica's Mother)**

With content matching form, this fully accessible DVD follows the beautiful love story of a couple that shares a disability, while also expanding the market of available features by including audio description for people who are blind and visually impaired, along with subtitles for people who are deaf or hearing impaired in both English and Spanish.

***MONICA & DAVID*** was a winner of the Best Documentary Feature at the 2010 Tribeca Film Festival and the National Media Award at the Nation Down Syndrome Congress. The film was also nominated for a 2011 Emmy® Award for News and Documentary and held its broadcast premiere on HBO in October 2010. It is currently being broadcast in over 30 countries around the world and has been translated in various languages.

***MONICA & DAVID*** is directed by Alexandra Codina; produced by Alexandra Codina and Deborah Dickson and; edited by Mary Manhardt, Paola Gutierrez-Ortiz; cinematography by David Fenster, Juan Carlos Zaldivar and Abel Klainbaum. The DVD includes: Audio Description (English: Feature film, menu & all bonus material; Spanish: film only), Closed Captioning (English & Spanish: film & all bonus material), five deleted scenes and a bonus feature, “Employment in the Community,” which features other adults working in the community.

Pricing: \$29.95 US  
Runtime: 67 mins. + extras  
Rating: N/A  
Catalog #: NNVG259041  
Language: English  
Color: Color  
Audio Format: Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo  
Genre: Documentary

### **About Docurama Films**

In 1999, **NEW VIDEO** launched **Docurama Films**® with the first feature documentary ever available on DVD: D.A. Pennebaker's *Bob Dylan: Dont Look Back*. Twelve years and 300 award-winning, highly-acclaimed titles later, Docurama continues to discover and release the greatest non-fiction films of our time while spreading the word about filmmakers who are taking the form to new heights. Docurama's catalog features an topics including the performing and visual arts, history, politics, the environment, ethnic and gender interests, and all-time favorites including *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*, *Andy Goldsworthy: Rivers and Tides* and *King Corn*. Recent titles include the 2011 Oscar®-nominated film, *Gasland*, and the theatrical release of *Hell and Back Again*.  
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### **About New Video**

Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011, New Video is a leading entertainment distributor and the largest digital aggregator of independent content worldwide. Headquartered in New York City, with an international presence in 45 territories, the company delivers feature films, TV programs and web originals via digital download, streaming media, video-on-demand, Blu-ray and DVD, and theatrical release. New Video streamlines the distribution and marketing process for filmmakers, producers and brand partners to bring a wide variety of fresh content to new audiences. The company's library includes original TV series and movies from A+E® Home Entertainment, HISTORY™, and Lifetime®, unforgettable games and trophy sets from Major League Baseball®, storybook treasures from Scholastic®, award-winning documentaries from Docurama Films®, Arthouse Films, and Plexifilm, next-gen indies and web hits from Flatiron Film Company®, the best in Chinese cinema from China Lion, and festival picks from Tribeca Film. New Video is proud to distribute the 2011 Oscar®-nominated films *Gasland*, *Waste Land* and, on digital, *Restrepo*.  
[www.newvideo.com](http://www.newvideo.com).

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For Box Art:

<http://www.newvideo.com/docurama/monica-and-david/>