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**Acclaimed Director Ken Loach's *Looking for Eric*
Raises the March 5 Opening Night Curtain of the
27th Annual Miami International Film Festival**

*Opening Night Party at the college's National Historic Landmark, the Freedom Tower,
will immediately follow the film's Gusman Gala Red Carpet and Premiere*

Miami, FL—March 3, 2010—The East Coast premiere of British director Ken Loach's *Looking for Eric*, starring world-famous Manchester United football player Eric Cantona, raises the Opening Night curtain on Fri., March 5, at 7:00 p.m. for the 27th Annual Miami International Film Festival (MIFF), which is presented and produced by Miami Dade College. The president of Miami Dade College, Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón, celebrities and filmmakers will be on hand at the historic Gusman Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Miami to celebrate the beginning of the 10-day festival, which runs March 5-14.

"Once again, we are very pleased to present a dynamic and provocative festival program. The Opening Night film is a wonderful icebreaker for more than a week of films and events," said Dr. Padrón. "I am especially pleased with the many educational opportunities the festival will afford with its many seminars."

Looking for Eric is the charming story of a postman in the midst of his mid-life crisis who meets and receives transformative life coaching from his favorite football player, the famously philosophical Eric Cantona.

"At Cannes last year, Ken Loach delivered his wonderful film, a funny and moving picture about life and love mixed with the world's favorite sport, and I thought it would be a wonderful way for Miami to celebrate the World Cup competition this summer in South Africa," explains Tiziana Finzi, the festival's artistic director.

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The 2010 Miami International Film Festival will showcase 115 films from 45 countries, including five world premieres, 22 North American premieres and 14 U.S. premieres at theater venues throughout Miami-Dade County. Competition categories include World, Ibero-American, DOX (documentary), Cutting the Edge, Shorts, Diesel Online Shorts and Florida Focus. Special sections include Gusman Galas, Cinema 360°, REEL Music Scene, Cutting the Edge Video Art, the REEL Education Seminar Series and *Encuentros*, our mentorship and project development plan for Ibero-American filmmakers.

TICKETS: Tickets for screenings, special events and REEL Education Seminars can be purchased on www.miamifilmfestival.com, or by calling 305-405-MIFF (6433).

INTERVIEWS: To schedule interviews with available filmmakers and celebrities during the festival, contact MIFF, Rogers & Cowan or MDC publicists.

FILM STILLs: Film stills and directors' headshots are available for downloading from Miami Dade College's website. Apologies, but high-resolution stills are not available for all photos. http://images.mdc.edu/res/sites/MIFF_2010_Film_Stills_and_Directors/

About the Miami International Film Festival

Now in its 27th year, MIFF utilizes Miami's advantageous geographical and cultural position as the gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean to make the festival a premier international venue for Ibero-American films. MIFF offers debut and emerging filmmakers from Spain, Portugal and Latin America a launching pad into the U.S., Canadian and European film markets. Both juried and audience awards are presented in the World, Ibero-American, DOX (documentary), Shorts, Diesel Online Shorts, Cutting the Edge and Florida Focus competitions. The festival's popular REEL Education Seminar series consistently attracts top Hollywood and independent film industry executives from Sony Pictures Classics, Paramount Pictures, Warner Bros., Universal Pictures, DreamWorks Animation, IFC Films, Fox Searchlight, HBO Films/HBO Latino, William Morris Endeavor, the Screen Actors Guild and Eastman Kodak, among others. The festival's *Encuentros* program (Spanish for "encounters") has nurtured the debuts and follow-up films of numerous Ibero-American directors, including Peru's Claudia Llosa (*Madeinusa*, her feature debut and a 2005 Ibero-American Competition selection) and Spain's Manuel Huerga (*Son & Moon*, *Diario de un astronauta*, a 2010 DOX Competition selection). The 2009 festival featured more than 150 films and attracted more than 65,000 attendees. For more information, visit www.miamifilmfestival.com or call 305-237-FILM (3456).

About Miami Dade College

Miami Dade College has a long and rich history of involvement in the cultural arts, providing South Florida with a vast array of artistic and literary offerings, including The Miami Book Fair International; the *Cultura del Lobo* performing arts series; The Cuban Cinema Series; nine visual arts galleries, including The Freedom Tower at Miami Dade College; and the School of Entertainment & Design Technology, in addition to the Miami International Film Festival. MDC is the largest institution of higher education in the country and is nationally recognized for its many academic and cultural programs. With an enrollment of more than 170,000 students, MDC is the nation's top producer of associate in arts and associate in science degrees. The college's eight campuses and outreach centers offer more than 300 degree programs, including baccalaureates in education, nursing, public safety management and other in-demand fields.

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