

## SANTA ANA NONPROFIT FEATURED IN FILM AT NEWPORT BEACH FILM FESTIVAL

Santa Ana, Calif. (April 25, 2012) – **The Wooden Floor**, an arts-based youth development organization that has been helping to break the cycle of poverty in Orange County for nearly 30 years will be featured in a film to be screened this Sunday, April 29 at the Newport Beach Film Festival's Reel Short Solutions showcase.

The film, *The Modern Man*, focuses the camera on student of The Wooden Floor, Fernando. He was raised in Santa Ana by a single mother who doesn't speak English and who struggled to provide for her children. Through the long-term arts immersion at The Wooden Floor, Fernando found his voice, broke through the apathy that is so prevalent in low-income youth, and is now a Freshman at UCLA. He is the first in his family to attend a university. He receives a 4-year scholarship from The Wooden Floor to help him pay for books and tuition.

Fernando serves as a powerful illustration of the impact of the long-term arts immersion at The Wooden Floor. **Since 2005, 100 percent of The Wooden Floor's young artists graduate from high school on time and pursue higher education.** This is about three times the national average for their socioeconomic peers. We prove everyday with hundreds of youth that long-term dance exposure can end poverty.

At The Wooden Floor, we use dance as a vehicle for transformation in the students we serve because there is so much learning involved. Our students have the opportunity to collaborate with highly regarded choreographers and rise to the performance challenge, creating art that is valued. Creativity, subjectivity, and expression through the process of inventive art-making are catalysts for positive change. When these young artists are applauded by an audience, they know that they are seen, that they matter. Our long-term artistic immersion is integrated with mentoring, comprehensive academic support, college readiness, and family support services to provide a solid platform for advancement and success.

### **Event Details**

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**Name:** Reel Short Solutions featuring the film *The Modern Man* at the Newport Beach Film Festival

**When:** Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 2:15pm

**Where:** Triangle Square Cinemas, Screen 1 - 1870 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa, CA 92627

**Tickets:** \$12

**Complete details at** [http://newportbeach.festivalgenius.com/2012/films/reelshortsolutions\\_newportbeach2012\\_newportbeach2012](http://newportbeach.festivalgenius.com/2012/films/reelshortsolutions_newportbeach2012_newportbeach2012)

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To attend this screening, to interview Fernando, or to learn more about The Wooden Floor, please contact Payal Kumar at [Payal@TheWoodenFloor.org](mailto:Payal@TheWoodenFloor.org) or 714-541-8314 ext. 119