

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Screening of EL CONTRATO with Special Guests



**FREE ADMISSION**

**Tuesday, August 28, 2012 | 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (doors at 6:30 PM)**

**Evergreen Brick Works, BMO Atrium**

**550 Bayview Avenue**

**Toronto, ON M4W 3X8**

**See map: [Google Maps](#)**

August 7 (Toronto) - Join [DOC Toronto](#) as we launch our [Community Connections free screening series](#) with a celebration of *El Contrato* with director Min Sook Lee and subjects in attendance.

This brave documentary was produced 10 years ago with the **National Film Board of Canada** and has been making a positive difference ever since. At our public discussion session following the screening, attendees will have a chance to hear from **Teodoro Bello Martinez**—the film's main subject at his first public appearance since the film was made. Min Sook Lee will answer questions with **Evelyn Encalada Grez**, **Stan Raper** and **Chris Ramasroop** who champion the rights of migrant workers in Ontario (*bios below*). The screening will take place in the BMO Atrium and is free to all. Director **Min Sook Lee** and migrant labour advocate **Evelyn Encalada Grez** who also appears in the film are available for media interviews prior to the screening (details below).

The Documentary Organization of Canada (DOC) is a non-profit organization representing the interests of independent film and video makers in Canada. It is the leading organization representing documentary film and video makers in the country. This screening is organized by the Toronto chapter.

*El Contrato* follows **Teodoro Bello Martinez**, a father of four living in poverty in central Mexico, and several of his countrymen as they make an annual migration to southern Ontario. For eight months of the year the town's population absorbs 4,000 migrant labourers who pick tomatoes for conditions and wages no local will accept. Under a well-meaning government program that allows growers to monitor themselves, the opportunity to exploit workers is as ripe as the fruit they pick. Grievances are deflected by a long line of others "back home"

who are willing to take their place. Despite a fear of repercussions, the workers voice their desire for dignity and respect, as much as for better working conditions. *El Contrato* ends as winter closes in and the Mexicans pledge, not for the first time and possibly not the last, that it's their final season in the north.

## Public Discussion Panelists



**Min Sook Lee, Director** (*available for media interviews*) is an award winning filmmaker with a diverse and prolific portfolio of multimedia work. Min Sook is the co-creator of the comedy series *She's the Mayor* which premiered on Vision TV in 2011. She has produced and directed numerous critically acclaimed documentaries, including: *Tiger Spirit* – an examination of the division of the two Koreas shot on both sides of the border (Donald Brittain Gemini Award for Best Social/Political Documentary), *Hogtown* – an analysis of the intersection of policing and municipal politics (Best Feature-length Canadian Documentary award at Hot Docs Festival); and *El Contrato* – a look at the lives of migrant farm workers in Canada (nominated for the Donald Brittain Gemini). Min Sook's films have been broadcast internationally. Her films have traveled to festivals across the world. She is currently in production on *The Real Inglorious Bastards*, the true story behind Tarantino's ahistoric gorefest. Min Sook teaches documentary production in the Documentary Media (MFA) Program at Ryerson University.

**Evelyn Encalada Grez** (*available for media interviews*) is founding member of Justicia for Migrant Workers (J4MW), an award winning political collective that has promoted the rights of migrant farmworkers in Canada since 2001. She worked on the production of *El Contrato* behind and in front of the cameras as an interpreter and was key in creating a safe space for workers to tell their stories. Over the last few years her work has involved living in rural Mexico and studying the impacts of temporary labour migration among families. She is completing a PhD at OISE of the University of Toronto and teaches labour studies and immigration policy at York University.



**Teodoro Bello Martinez** is a father of four from Apan, Hidalgo, Mexico who has been migrating to Canada for 16 years through the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP). He comes from a long line of farmers but is the only one who has had to leave the family farmland in order to secure a livelihood. Over the last 16 years Teodoro has spent eight months working in Canadian farms and greenhouses missing crucial family moments and struggling to assert his rights as a non-citizen worker. In 2002 his voice and story was featured prominently in *El Contrato* and has since been seen and heard across the world.

**Chris Ramsaroop** is a founding member of Justicia for Migrant Workers (J4MW), a grassroots collective of community, labour and migrant activists who organize with migrant workers for change. J4MW has organized a series of marches called the Pilgrimage to Freedom to break the invisibility that migrant workers face in Canada and to expose the inhumane conditions they face while in Canada. J4MW has also undertaken legal strategies through interventions at both the Supreme Court of Canada and the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal. Alongside his organizing work with Justicia, Chris participates in the executive of the Asian Canadian Labour Alliance. By day Chris works at the Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC).





**Stan Raper** has worked on behalf of both domestic and migrant agricultural workers in Canada for over two decades. In 2002 he was named National Coordinator of the UFCW Canada Agricultural Workers Program, and in 2008 the National Coordinator of the Agriculture Workers Alliance (AWA). From 1994-1999 Stan worked as Canadian coordinator of the United Farm Workers of America. Then in 2000 with funding from UFCW Canada and the Canadian Labour Congress he launched the Global Justice Caravan Program, traveling throughout Ontario farm country in a mobile RV/meeting place to document the plight of migrant agriculture workers. In 2002, Stan coordinated the opening of the first UFCW Canada Migrant Workers Support Centre in Leamington, Ontario. That program, in association with UFCW Canada, has now grown to ten AWA centres across Canada.

**David Adkin** (Moderator) is an award-winning documentary director, producer, writer and editor. His directing credits include *Debt Trap* (2008), *Prescription for Addiction* (2005), *We're Funny That Way* (1998), *Jim Loves Jack: The James Egan Story* (1996), and *Out: Stories of Lesbian and Gay Youth* (1993), as well the TV series *A Scattering of Seeds: The Creation of Canada*, *Life's Little Miracles*, and *Med Students*. His work has been broadcast on CBC, PBS, HBO/Cinemax, History Television, and many other TV networks around the globe. Adkin has served on the board of the Canadian Independent Film Caucus (Toronto Chapter), the Inside/Out Film Festival, and the Blue Ribbon Jury for Hot Docs. He also co-directed two best-selling educational anthologies for the National Film Board of Canada - *Media & Society*, and *Constructing Reality* - which explore critical issues in documentary and mass media. David is a DTCC Screening Committee Member.



**CONTACT FOR MEDIA:** To arrange interviews with director **Min Sook Lee** (English) and migrant labour advocate **Evelyn Encalada Grez** (English and Spanish) who also appears in the film, please contact Community Connections Coordinator Allan Tong at [tong.allan@gmail.com](mailto:tong.allan@gmail.com) or 647.200.9146.

**Facebook event:** <http://www.facebook.com/events/378658592200229/>

**The DOC Toronto Community Connections Project is generously supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.** Venue Sponsor: [Evergreen Brick Works](#). Event Sponsor: [Toronto & York Region Labour Council](#). Community Partners: [Agriculture Workers Alliance](#), [Canadian Labour International Film Festival](#), [Justicia for Migrant Workers \(J4MW\)](#)