



Press Release, Berlin, January, 14th 2010

**BANANAS!\* BY FREDRIK GERTTEN AT THE BERLINALE 2010 –  
BANANAS!\* DOCUMENTS THE SLIPPERY CONDUCT OF THE FRUIT COMPANY DOLE**

**It's more than just a fruit! BANANAS!\* is a suspenseful, layer-peeling documentary that reveals the drama behind food and politics in our globalized world.**

Directed by Fredrik Gertten, Sweden's pre-eminent documentarian filmmaker, BANANAS!\* focuses on a slippery fact trail and a controversial landmark David vs. Goliath legal case pitting sick and poor Nicaraguan plantation workers against the multi-million Dollar Dole Food Corporation, which is alleged of have knowingly used a banned pesticide - resulting in a generation of sterilized local workers. Part eye opening documentary, part John Grisham story, BANANAS!\* is the very essence of the modern political documentary: boldly humanistic and deeply moving with a very real and necessary impact on our globalized world.

The film made headlines last June when, under massive pressure from Dole attorneys, the Los Angeles Film Festival took the film out of the competition and instituted a mandatory moderated panel discussion after its screenings. The screenings spurred spirited debates among the filmmaker, legal and social activist communities. Dole then sued the filmmakers who, backed by support from filmmaker peers, countersued under grounds of free speech.

Bowing to vocal pressure and major support for the film from the Swedish Parliament, Swedish Grocers, German Documentary Association, International Federation of Journalists and Reporters Without Borders among many, Dole quietly withdrew its suit. The film has since screened at various film festivals and institutions worldwide but, has not screened in the U.S. ever since.

Content:

Central to both the film and case is Juan "Accidentes" Dominguez, a Los Angeles-based personal injury attorney who, although iconic within the Latino community for his ubiquitous, mass market billboard ads, is unquestionably facing the biggest challenge in his career.

As the legal representation on the first Nicaraguan sterility case to be tried in U.S. courts, Dominguez and his colleague, Duane C. Miller, are breaking new ground. Theirs is a bellweather case: The first of thousands of cases awaiting trail in Nicaragua and the first legal case where foreign farm workers were allowed to testify against an American multinational corporation before a full jury on U.S. soil.

At stake are the futures of generations of workers, their families as well as the culture of global, multinational business practices.

**BANANAS!\* in Culinary Cinema at Berlinale 2010**

**Monday, 15. February, at 10:00 p.m.** (admission 09:45 p.m.)  
Martin-Gropius-Bau

**Tuesday, 16. February, at 05:00 p.m.**

"Gropius Mirror" restaurant, Tea Times - "Fruchtsalat", Discussion with Fredrik Gertten  
Attendance only with registration at [kulinarisches.kino@berlinale.de](mailto:kulinarisches.kino@berlinale.de)

Aside from the screenings of BANANAS!\*, there will be other events in context of the Berlinale with involved filmmakers, journalists, lawyers etc. We will inform you about specific dates in the next press release.

BANANAS!\* is a WG Film Production, Director Fredrik Gertten, producer Margarete Jangard, in co-production with Magic hour films (Denmark), ITVS, Sundance Documentary Fund (USA) and ZDF / ARTE.

More information and a press kit are available at <http://www.bananasthemovie.com/>

For press and interview request, please contact:

**Kerstin Hamm | kainz + hamm filmcontact**

Marienburgstraße 36 10405 Berlin • Telefon + 49 (0)30 27908 - 700 Fax- 795 • Mobil + 49 (0) 177 4024355 • [kerstinhamm@filmcontact.de](mailto:kerstinhamm@filmcontact.de) • [www.filmcontact.de](http://www.filmcontact.de)