

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**CONTACT**

Amna Mirza, ITVS

415-356-8383 x 442

amna_mirza@itvs.org**ITVS NAMES CLAIRE AGUILAR AS EXECUTIVE CONTENT ADVISOR**

(San Francisco, CA) — Independent Television Service (ITVS), the leading funder of U.S. independent public television productions, announces that Claire Aguilar, Vice President of Programming, has been named Executive Content Advisor.

In the new consulting role, Claire will provide high-level, portfolio analysis and content feedback under the direction of Jim Sommers, Senior Vice President of Content and head of ITVS' Content Strategy Team. In this capacity, she will focus on recommending content for the ITVS International commissioning portfolio and selected public television series. Claire will also continue to co-curate programming for the Emmy® Award-winning weekly series *Independent Lens* on Monday nights at 10PM on PBS alongside Lois Vossen, Senior Series Producer.

“We are thrilled to have Claire in an executive role working with our content strategy team to ensure the most creative and consequential documentaries reach American audiences,” said Sally Jo Fifer, President and CEO of ITVS. “Over the years, Claire's keen eye for powerful, authentic stories has been a tremendous asset for the public broadcasting system. We congratulate her on her new role advising on both domestic and international storytelling at ITVS.”

Claire formerly served as head of ITVS's programming department. She joined the organization in 2000 from public television station KCET/Los Angeles, where she programmed the station's schedule and managed programming acquisitions. Earlier in her career, Claire worked as a film programmer at the UCLA Film and Television Archive, one of the leading exhibition venues for international documentary and classic Hollywood films. She has served as a programming consultant and panelist for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Rockefeller Foundation, the NEA, the Pew Fellowships in the Arts, and many other media and funding organizations. She has also led and participated in film juries for IDFA, Sheffield Doc/Fest, Silverdocs and Visions du Réel. Claire holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications Studies and a Master of Arts in Film and Television Studies from UCLA. She serves on the board of Women Make Movies, STEPS International, and the EURODOC Steering Committee.

For more information about ITVS programming initiatives or ongoing field relations opportunities, please contact Erica Deiparine-Sugars, Managing Director of Programming at 415.356.8383 ext. 270.

About ITVS

Independent Television Service funds, presents, and promotes award-winning documentaries and dramas on public television, innovative new media projects on the Web, and the Emmy® Award-winning weekly series *Independent Lens* on Monday nights at 10 p.m. on PBS. Mandated by Congress in 1988 and funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, ITVS has brought more than 1,000 independently produced programs to American audiences to date. For more information about ITVS, visit itvs.org

