

The Souls of Black Girls News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Marc Boucher, 781-956-4922, Marc.William.Boucher@gmail.com
Daphne Valerius, 718-755-4159, Daphne.Valerius@gmail.com

Grammy Award Winning Artist John Legend Up Close & Personal to benefit documentary film, *The Souls of Black Girls* in association with Color of Film Collaborative on Nov 7th

NOTE TO MEDIA: WE INVITE COVERAGE OF THIS EVENT AND WELCOME REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS WITH THE FILMMAKER.

BOSTON, MA—NOVEMBER 2, 2007— *The Souls of Black Girls*, a provocative news documentary written, edited and produced by **Daphne S. Valerius**, will have its official fundraising event on **Wednesday, Nov 7thth** featuring a special guest appearance by Grammy Award winning artist, **John Legend**. The fundraising event will begin with a screening of the award-winning documentary at 8:30 p.m. at **Mantra (located at 52 Temple Place.)** A Q&A session will follow in anticipation of John Legend's special appearance.

Since its completion, *The Souls of Black Girls*, produced as a fulfillment of the Journalism Masters Program at Emerson College, has been overwhelmingly well-received by audiences at film festivals and private screenings and has gone on to win numerous awards, most recent being honored with the **Audience Choice Award for Best Documentary** at the Martha's Vineyard African-American Film Festival.

Despite the success of the film, bringing the message of the piece to the masses continues to be an arduous task. Valerius has spent the last year promoting and screening the documentary throughout the country with virtually no budget and assuming many roles as the Director and Producer of the piece in addition to being her own publicist with a limited amount of resources and financial support.

“It is a blessing to have been able to put together a documentary that raises a level of awareness and sympathy among viewers throughout the country regarding media images and how they often scar our self-esteem and self-confidence as young women of color in this society,” says Valerius. “But in order to continue to raise the awareness and bring the message of self-love and acceptance to young men and women, this fundraiser is essential for me to continue in this endeavor and spreading the vital message of self-love.”

The Souls of Black Girls examines how media images are established and controlled and features candid interviews with young women discussing their self-image, including actresses **Regina King** and **Jada Pinkett Smith**, PBS *Washington Week* Moderator **Gwen Ifill**, rapper/political activist **Chuck D**, and cultural critic **Michaela Angela Davis**, among others.

The film also examines the relationship between historical and current media images of women of color and explores the possibility that Black women today are suffering from a self-image disorder as a result of trying to attain the beauty standards that are celebrated in media images.

The Up Close & Personal fundraising event is being hosted in association with **The Color of Film Collaborative of Boston** and proudly sponsored by Bailey's.

“The Color of Film Collaborative is proud to be supporting Daphne Valerius and her film, *The Souls of Black Girls*,” says **Lisa Simmons**, Executive Director of the Color of Film Collaborative. “It is a piece that addresses a very important topic about self-esteem and images of African American girls in today's society. It is a film that everyone should see, men, women and children so they can experience and understand the issues surrounding African-American girls today.”

For more information about *The Souls of Black Girls* and the **Nov. 7th fundraising event** featuring **John Legend**, please visit the official website at www.soulsofblackgirls.com or www.myspace.com/soulsofblackgirls.

ABOUT THE COLOR OF FILM COLLABORATIVE (TCOF):

The Color of Film Collaborative is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to supporting and creating new and diverse images of people of color by providing an environment in which filmmakers, actors, performing artists and their supporters can share and develop their ideas and creations. The Color of Film Collaborative also supports independent filmmakers in the Boston area with production support, casting assistance, distribution support and screening venues for their work.

####