

**NEWS RELEASE**

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Feb. 5, 2014

**'Las Marthas' Featured at WKAR Community Cinema**

(East Lansing, Mich.) – WKAR Community Cinema continues in February with a screening and discussion of **Las Marthas**. This latest documentary from **Independent Lens** follows two Mexican-American girls carrying on the *quinceañera* tradition during a time of economic uncertainty and political tension over immigration.

The WKAR Community Cinema event takes place **Thursday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m.** at Cristo Rey Parish Church in Lansing.

The public is invited for a short preview of the film and discussion with Mary Delgado and Veronica Madrid. They'll discuss ways a *quinceañera* celebration in Lansing contrasts with the *Las Marthas* celebration in Laredo.

The event is free, but online reservations are required at [WKAR.org](http://WKAR.org)

**About 'Las Marthas'**

In the lingering aftermath of the U.S.-Mexico War, the border town of Laredo, Texas, created an annual celebration unlike any other: a debutante ball that is the highlight of a monthlong celebration of George Washington's birthday. The film, **Las Marthas**, follows two Mexican-American girls carrying on the *quinceañera* tradition during a time of economic uncertainty and political tension over immigration. The tradition marks the transition from childhood to young womanhood. It varies significantly across countries, with most celebrations including a religious aspect.

**About the Panelists**

Mary Delgado and Veronica Madrid have led *quinceañera* classes at Cristo Rey Parish Church for many years.

**On the Air**

Las Marthas airs Monday, Feb. 17, 10 p.m. on WKAR-TV/PBS.

This season of **WKAR Community Cinema** is sponsored by the **MSU Residential College in the Arts and Humanities**.

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Community Cinema is a groundbreaking public education and civic engagement initiative featuring screenings of films from Independent Lens on location in 100 cities and online. Between September and June, Community Cinema brings together leading organizations, community members and public television stations to learn, discuss and get involved in today's critical social issues.

WKAR is part of Michigan State University's College of Communication Arts and Sciences and includes WKAR-TV, WKAR Radio, WKAR Radio Reading Service and WKAR Ready To Learn. WKAR is funded in large part by contributions from viewers and listeners with additional support from Michigan State University and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

