

NHMC to Honor Rosario Dawson

2009-01-30

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“Voto Latino” Co-Founder and “Seven Pounds” Co-Star to receive Top Honor

January 30, 2009 – Pasadena, CA – On Friday, February 20th the National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC) will honor one of Hollywood's most sought after leading ladies, Rosario Dawson, with an NHMC Impact Award for Outstanding Performance in a Motion Picture at its 12th Annual Impact Awards Gala at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills. The annual fete celebrates outstanding theatrical, television and film performances by Latinos both in front and back of camera and also recognizes outstanding service and commitment to the Latino Community. “Rosario Dawson is a multi-faceted talent that not only lights up the movie screen in “Seven Pounds” with Will Smith, but her work to empower the Latino community through voter registration and other community activism makes her a rare talent indeed,” explained Alex Nogales, NHMC President & CEO. Ms. Dawson will join past NHMC Impact Award recipients Edward James Olmos, America Ferrera, Eva Longoria and George Lopez in this prestigious honor.

A native New Yorker, Rosario Dawson is best known to her legions of fans for her work in such films as Quentin Tarantino's “Grindhouse” and Robert Rodriguez's adaptation of Frank Miller's “Sin City.” Discovered on her front porch by photographer and filmmaker, Larry Clark, 16 year-old Rosario got her start by playing Ruby in the controversial 1995 film, “Kids.” But the award-winning actress gained her biggest recognition in 2005 for her performance as Mimi Marquez, an exotic dancer, in the film adaptation of the popular musical “Rent.” For this role, Ms. Dawson received a Satellite Award and a ShoWest “Supporting Actress of the Year” award. Rosario also cemented her national name recognition by hosting the NBC hit show “Saturday Night Live” on January 17th of this year.

The daughter of Isabel, a plumber of Puerto Rican and Afro-Cuban descent, and Greg Dawson, a construction worker of Native American and Irish descent, 29 year-old Rosario grew up in the Lower East Side of Manhattan in a building that her parents

re-wired and re-plumbed. Dawson credits this experience for teaching her that “if you want something better, you had to do it yourself.” It was this early-childhood experience that prompted Dawson to co-found the non-profit organization, “Voto Latino” in 2004. Voto Latino works to promote an enfranchised America by leveraging celebrity voices, the latest technology and Latino youth to promote positive change. Heavily involved in politics, Rosario attended both the Democratic National Convention as well as the Republican National Convention in 2008. “The reason why I co-founded Voto Latino is because of my mom,” explained the ambitious actor, “it's because of my grandmother. It's because I was raised to do it yourself. You want it better? You do it yourself!”

For more information on the NHMC Impact Awards Gala or for sponsorship opportunities or tickets to the February 20th event, please go to www.nhmc.org or call (626) 792-6462.

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