Critical Acclaim For ‘Kingdom of Shadows’
By Bernardo Ruiz

“As a rendering of Mexico’s agonized convulsions, Kingdom of Shadows is unforgettable.”
—Andy Webster, The New York Times

“Filmmaker Bernardo Ruiz puts a human face—three faces, to be exact—on the war on drugs in his documentary profiling three compelling figures. Providing a chilling nonfiction parallel to the recent Sicario, Kingdom of Shadows is both heartbreaking and disturbing.”
—Frank Scheck, The Hollywood Reporter

“Offers a sweeping, hopeless portrait of the suffering wreaked by the drug trade. . . . harrowing in its details.”
—Nick Schager, The Village Voice

“Crisply told eye-opener. . . . stands tall.”
—Chris Barsanti, Film Journal International

“A powerful documentary.”
—Rafael Pi Roman, Host, WNET “MetroFocus”

“Possesses a novelistic sweep in its sprawling narrative and depiction of its subjects.”
—Wes Greene, Slant Magazine

“Deeply moving and unsettling.”
—Ben Kenber, Examiner.com

“We’ve all heard about the drug war in Mexico, but this perspective really brought it home for me. . . . [Film subject Sister Consuelo Morales] is just seared in my heart and in my mind.”
—Deepa Fernandes, Host, Southern California Public Radio “Take Two”

“Many documentaries have chronicled the drug war in the U.S. and Mexico, but few have humanized it as poignantly as Kingdom of Shadows.”
—Don Clinchy, Slackerwood

“A film that helps to put in context the issue of drug trafficking on both sides of the world’s busiest border.”
—Víctor Martínez Ranero, Time Out Mexico

“Gritty, haunting and somehow hopeful.”
—Sr. Rose Pacatte, National Catholic Reporter

“This film doesn’t pretend to offer answers; it settles for respecting the dignity of people who attempt to simply live their lives, regardless of the violence.”
The candid interviews put a human face on the conflict and convey a harrowing sense of hopelessness about the rampant violence and corruption.
— Todd Jorgenson, Cinemalogue

“Brushes away the fictive layers surrounding the nearly mythic violence plaguing Mexico and delivers a documentary brimming with the lives embroiled in that violence.”
— Tiny Mix Tapes

“Shows the real casualties associated with the billion-dollar enterprise of the U.S.-Mexican drug market. . . . There is so much to appreciate with this film.”
— Justine Stokes, Nashville Arts Magazine

“Captured and presented with flawless precision; director Bernardo Ruiz deserves a standing ovation.”
— Lee Romero, Corriente Latina

“Cannot be ignored.”
— Morgan Rojas, Cinemacy