

# Maquilápolis

## City of Factories

A film by Vicky Funari and Sergio De La Torre



*Maquiladoras* are the assembly plants owned by transnational corporations which dominate the economy of the U.S.-Mexico border, employing over a million people. This heartfelt documentary tells the story of globalization from the personal perspectives of *maquiladora* workers who are organizing to create livable solutions to the hardships of environmental toxins, labor rights abuses, infrastructure and housing issues.

We see the long and ultimately successful campaign by local activists to require the cleanup of an abandoned battery-recycling plant and are inspired by Carmen's determination in waging a successful

legal campaign to get severance pay owed workers after Sanyo's closure of its Tijuana plant. Carmen's story is typical: a single mother of three, she earned \$6/day at Sanyo working the graveyard shift six nights a week, after which she returned home to a shack she built out of recycled garage doors, in a neighborhood with no paved streets, no sewage lines and no electricity.

Over a 6-week period, the professional producers of *Maquilapolis* trained a group of community-based activists to use digital video cameras. The intimate video diaries they created can provide us with keys to our common future.



**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:**  
**Myrna Santiago**

*Myrna Santiago is Director of the Women's Studies Program at St. Mary's College in Moraga, where she teaches a course on Women in Latin America, focusing on women in the maquiladoras. Myrna was raised in Tijuana, Mexico.*

**Friday · November 16 · San Rafael**

**First United Methodist Church · 9 Ross Valley Drive (at Fourth Street)  
7:00 pm—Fair Trade Shopping (Coffee & Artesania)**

**7:30 pm—Film/Discussion**

**Suggested Donation \$7-10 · No one turned away for lack of funds**

**Sponsored by the Task Force on the Americas**

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