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***REPUBLIC OF BASEBALL* PREMIERES AT SAN DIEGO FESTIVAL MAR. 19**

***Ground-breaking documentary profiles Dominican Baseball Greats***

***Juan Marichal, Felipe Alou, Manny Mota***

Marichal, Jesus Alou, Ozzie Virgil to attend; coincides with World Baseball Classic

SAN DIEGO, CA – The first-ever documentary film about the history of baseball in the Dominican Republic will premiere March 19<sup>th</sup> at the San Diego Latino Film Festival.

The premiere coincides with the finals of the World Baseball Classic in San Diego, where the heavily favored U.S. and Dominican national teams are expected to compete in the semi-finals on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> and quite possibly face each other in the finals on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>.

The film, *The Republic of Baseball: The Dominican Giants of the American Game*, profiles the personal histories and professional careers of the first great Dominican stars of Major League Baseball, including Hall of Fame pitcher Juan Marichal, the winningest pitcher of the 1960s; Felipe Alou, the first Dominican Major League star and current Manager of the San Francisco Giants; and Manny Mota, the Los Angeles Dodgers legendary player and coach.

The film also includes interviews with today's Dominican star players, including Pedro Martinez, Vladimir Guerrero, Alex Rodriguez, Alfonso Soriano, and Miguel Tejada, several of whom are competing in the World Baseball Classic.

More than a sports biography, *The Republic of Baseball* tells the tale of the forgotten Dominican stars of negro baseball, and how Alou, Marichal and Mota overcame dictatorship, poverty, and racism to blaze the trail for today's Dominican baseball stars.

*Republic* is also a portrait, through intimate interviews and beautiful location photography reminiscent of the film *Buena Vista Social Club*, of the Dominican Republic and its people.

Attending the San Diego premiere will be Juan Marichal and Jesus Alou, brother of Felipe and teammate to Juan, as well as film producers Daniel Manatt, Rob Ruck, Bret Granato, and Geoffrey Kirkman.

The premiere will be dedicated to special guest Ozzie Virgil, who is celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his debut in Major League Baseball as the very first Dominican ever to play in the big leagues. Virgil debuted in September 1956 with the New York Giants. He later became a coach with the San Diego Padres.

*The Republic of Baseball* is a production of The Sports for Development Foundation and Manatt Media LLC. The San Diego Latino Film Festival is a production of the MEDIA ARTS Center San Diego. This event is not affiliated with the World Baseball Classic tournament.