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SEARCH

editorial

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LOVERS LANE

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HOME: MARCH 24, 2006: SCREENS: THE LONG GOODBYE

The Long Goodbye

We're having a tough time letting go of SXSW Film 06

It's over. Still, we took the time to watch these films and review them, so we're running what we've got. We also shot some photos. For various reasons, the following didn't fit into our March 17 Music issue or the daily editions of March 16, 17, and 18 (you can find that coverage and more on our [SXSW](#) page).

Also, it should be said that *Air Guitar Nation* received the 24 Beats Per Second Jury Award, while *The Refugee All Stars* was the runner up. For the other awards, announced March 14, see "[SXSW Film 06 Film Awards](#)."



Charlize Theron at the March 14 world premiere of *East of Havana*
photo by Gary Miller

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FROM OUR ARCHIVES:

The Home School
BY SPENCER PARSONS
Austin's latest class of cinematic talent – represented by six anticipated films at SXSW – is going places, but they aren't leaving anytime soon

Film News
BY JOE O'CONNELL
The Sundance Channel and Netflix make 'Room' for Kyle Henry

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Letters From the Other Side

D: Heather Courtney

Using the narrative device of a video letter, this locally produced doc takes an impressively thorough look at the wide-ranging causes and effects of the ever-growing undocumented migration between Mexico and the United States. By sharing the stories of four Mexican women left by husbands in search of work in El Norte, the film taps into the human toll taken – emotionally, economically, and culturally – by an immigration policy that refuses to realistically regard the needs of the migrating populace. For Eugenia Gonzalez, whose husband has been in the United States for eight years and whose sons have followed him one by one, the video letters serve as the painful and honest communication of an estranged family. In the case of Carmela Rico and Laura Masacruz, whose husbands suffocated, along with 17 others, in the back of the truck that smuggled them across the border and into Texas, the video letters allow these women to confront a U.S. Homeland Security spokesperson, to ask him why policy isn't changing after all these deaths. Of course, in his video rebuttal, he offers them no real answer. And this film doesn't offer any solutions to the Pandora's box that is the current immigration debate. It does, however, ask the right questions. – *Diana Welch*