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# 2007 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES INDEPENDENT FILM AND WORLD CINEMA COMPETITIONS

### A Festival of Discovery to Feature New and Familiar Filmmakers Presenting Original and Surprising Stories

Park City, UT—Sundance Institute announced today the line-up of 64 films selected for the Independent Film and World Cinema Competitions for the 2007 Sundance Film Festival. The premier showcase for the best new work by American and international independent filmmakers, the Sundance Film Festival's competitive categories provide audiences with opportunities to discover the most innovative new dramatic and documentary films from today's emerging independent filmmakers. In addition to the Competition categories, the Festival presents films in five out-of-competition sections, to be announced tomorrow. The 2007 Sundance Film Festival runs January 18-28, 2007, in Park City, Sundance, Salt Lake City, and Ogden, Utah. The complete list of films is available at <a href="https://www.sundance.org">www.sundance.org</a>.

For the 2007 Sundance Film Festival, 122 feature films were selected including 82 world premieres, 23 North American premieres and 11 U.S. premieres representing 25 countries with nearly 60 first or second-time feature filmmakers. These films were selected from 3.287 feature submissions composed of 1.852 U.S. feature films and 1.435 international feature films. These numbers represent an increase from 2006 when 1.764 U.S. feature films and 1.384 international films were considered.

"We are witnessing a broadening of the traditional independent arena. In this year's Festival there is a breadth of subject matter, vision and innovative storytelling that is transforming the old idea of the American indie film," said Geoffrey Gilmore, Director, Sundance Film Festival. "This year's American Competition reflects a newfound awareness and self-expression that results in an engagement by the work that is both political and personal, a collective voice fueled by a steadfast optimism and hope for the future."

The dramatic and documentary sections of the Independent Film and World Cinema Competitions each present 16 films, for a total of 64 films that screen in competition. The Independent Film Competition is the heart of the Sundance Film Festival program and has introduced audiences to many of the best American independent films and filmmakers of the past two decades. Launched in 2005, the World Cinema Competition reflects the shared commitment of the Festival and Sundance Institute to support international artists, to provide audiences with an opportunity to discover the most compelling work by international filmmakers.

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"In this year's program, filmmakers are exploring different narrative techniques and devices, pushing the documentary form to new limits, and embracing a global perspective in filmmaking," said John Cooper, Director of Programming, Sundance Film Festival. "The films in the World Cinema competition embrace complex stories and are exploring topics that transcend the confines of personal, geographic, and artistic borders."

#### INDEPENDENT FILM COMPETITION: DOCUMENTARY

Since the inaugural Independent Film Competition in 1985, documentary films have been given the same profile at the Festival as fiction films, with the Documentary Competition becoming a focal point of the Festival. These films represent a broad section of the best new documentary films by American independent filmmakers. This year's eclectic program features a range of films with personal, political, and global stories including current and historical examination about the effects of war, global warming, racism in America, a 50 year love story, and the personal and public role of religion in America.

This year's 16 films were selected from 856 submissions by American filmmakers. Each film is a world premiere.

The films screening in **Documentary Competition** are:

**BANISHED** (Director: Marco Williams)—This story of three U.S. towns which, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, forced their entire African American populations to leave, explores what—if anything—can be done to repair past racial injustice. *World Premiere*.

**CHASING GHOSTS** (Director: Lincoln Ruchti)—Twin Galaxies Arcade, Iowa, 1982: the birthplace of mankind's obsession with video games. The fate of this world lies in the hands (literally) of a few unlikely heroes: They are the Original Video Game World Champions and the arcade is their battleground. *World Premiere*.

**CRAZY LOVE** (Director: Dan Klores)—An unsettling true story about an obsessive relationship between a married man and a beautiful, single 20-year-old woman, which began in 1957 and continues today. *World Premiere*.

**EVERYTHING'S COOL** (Directors: Daniel B. Gold, Judith Helfand)—A group of self-appointed global warming messengers are on a high stakes quest to find the iconic image, proper language, and points of leverage to help the public go from embracing the urgency of the problem to creating the political will necessary to move to an alternative energy economy. *World Premiere*.

**FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO** (Director: Daniel Karslake)—Grounded by the stories of five conservative Christian families, the film explores how the religious right has used its interpretation of the Bible to support its agenda of stigmatizing the gay community and eroding the separation between church and state. *World Premiere*.

**GHOSTS OF ABU GHRAIB** (Director: Rory Kennedy)—This inside look at the abuses that occurred at the infamous Iraqi prison in the fall of 2003 uses direct, personal narratives of perpetrators, witnesses, and victims to probe the effects of the abuses on all involved. *World Premiere*.

**GIRL 27** (Director: David Stenn)—When underage dancer Patricia Douglas is raped at a wild MGM stag party in 1937, she makes headlines and legal history, and then disappears. GIRL 27 follows authorscreenwriter David Stenn as he investigates one of Hollywood's most notorious scandals. *World Premiere*.

**HEAR AND NOW** (Director: Irene Taylor Brodsky)—Filmmaker Irene Taylor Brodsky tells a deeply personal story about her deaf parents, and their radical decision—after 65 years of silence—to undergo cochlear implant surgery, a complex procedure that could give them the ability to hear. *World Premiere*.

**MANDA BALA (SEND A BULLET)** (Director: Jason Kohn)—In Brazil, known as one of the world's most corrupt and violent countries, MANDA BALA follows a politician who uses a frog farm to steal billions of dollars, a wealthy businessman who spends a small fortune bulletproofing his cars, and a plastic surgeon who reconstructs the ears of mutilated kidnapping victims. *World Premiere*.

MY KID COULD PAINT THAT (Director: Amir Bar-Lev)—A 4-year-old girl whose paintings are compared to Kandinsky, Pollock and even Picasso, has sold \$300,000 dollars worth of paintings. Is she a genius of abstract expressionism, a tiny charlatan, or an exploited child whose parents have sold her out for the glare of the media and the lure of the almighty dollar? *World Premiere*.

**NANKING** (Director: Bill Guttentag, Dan Sturman)—A powerful and haunting depiction of the atrocities suffered by the Chinese at the hands of the invading Japanese army during "The Rape of Nanking", one of the most tragic events of WWII. While more than 200,000 Chinese were murdered and ten of thousands raped, a handful of Westerners performed extraordinary acts of heroism, saving over 250,000 lives in the midst of the horror. *World Premiere*.

**NO END IN SIGHT** (Director: Charles Ferguson)—A comprehensive examination of the Bush Administration's conduct of the Iraq war and occupation. Featuring first-time interviews with key participants, the film creates a startlingly clear reconstruction of key decisions that led to the current state of affairs in this war-torn country. *World Premiere*.

**PROTAGONIST** (Director: Jessica Yu)—PROTAGONIST explores the organic relationship between human life and Euripidean dramatic structure by weaving together the stories of four men—a German terrorist, a bank robber, an "ex-gay" evangelist, and a martial arts student. *World Premiere*.

**WAR DANCE** (Director: Sean Fine, Andrea Nix Fine)—WAR DANCE is set against the backdrop of Uganda's 20 year civil war and its devastating affects on two generations of Ugandans. This film tells the story of Dominic, Rose and Nancy and their school in the Patongo IDP camp as they take an historic journey to compete in Uganda's national music and dance festival. *World Premiere*.

#### WHITE LIGHT/BLACK RAIN: THE DESTRUCTION OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

(Director: Steven Okazaki)—WHITE LIGHT/BLACK RAIN offers a visceral, topical and moving portrait of the human cost of atomic warfare. *World Premiere*.

**ZOO** (Director: Robinson Devor)—A humanizing look at the life and bizarre death of a seemingly normal Seattle family man who met his untimely end after an unusual encounter with a horse. *World Premiere*.

#### INDEPENDENT FILM COMPETITION: DRAMATIC

One of the most recognizable sections of the Festival, the Dramatic Competition presents a broad selection of narrative films representing some of the most compelling and highly anticipated films in American independent cinema. From moving and personal stories about life in suburban and small town America to reflections on life outside America's borders, the films in this year's Dramatic Competition exemplify the range and strength of storytelling that has become entrenched in American independent film.

This year's 16 films were selected from 996 submissions. Each film is a world premiere.

The films screening in **Dramatic Competition** are:

**ADRIFT IN MANHATTAN** (Director: Alfredo de Villa; Screenwriters: Nat Moss, Alfredo de Villa)—Set in New York City, a grieving eye doctor is forced to take a closer look at her life; an aging artist confronts the loss of his eyesight, and a young photographer battles his innermost demons. *World Premiere.* 

**BROKEN ENGLISH** (Director and Screenwriter: Zoe Cassavetes)—A young woman in her thirties finds herself surrounded by friends who are married, in relationships or with children. She unexpectedly meets a quirky Frenchman who opens her eyes to a lot more than love. *World Premiere.* 

**FOUR SHEETS TO THE WIND** (Director and Screenwriter: Sterlin Harjo)—Cufe Smallhill finds his father dead. Fulfilling a dying wish, he disposes of the body in the family pond and sets off to begin a new life in the big city of Tulsa. *World Premiere*.

**THE GOOD LIFE** (Director and Screenwriter: Steve Berra)—A story about a "mostly normal" young man whose small town existence running a faded movie palace is shaken when he comes in contact with a mysterious young woman. *World Premiere*.

**GRACE IS GONE** (Director and Screenwriter: James C. Strouse)—A young father learns that his wife has been killed in Iraq and must find the courage to tell his two young daughters the news. *World Premiere.* 

**JOSHUA** (Director: George Ratliff; Screenwriters: David Gilbert, George Ratliff)—A successful, young Manhattan family is torn apart by the machinations of Joshua, their eight-year-old prodigy, when his newborn baby sister comes home from the hospital. *World Premiere*.

**NEVER FOREVER** (Director and Screenwriter: Gina Kim)—When an American woman and her Asian-American husband discover they are unable to conceive, she begins a clandestine relationship with an attractive stranger in a desperate attempt to save her marriage. *World Premiere*.

**ON THE ROAD WITH JUDAS** (Director and Screenwriter: JJ Lask)—Reality, fiction and the notions of storytelling intertwine in this narrative about a young thief and the woman he loves. *World Premiere*.

**PADRE NUESTRO** (Director and Screenwriter: Christopher Zalla)—Fleeing a criminal past, Juan hops a truck transporting illegal immigrants from Mexico to New York City, where he meets Pedro, who is seeking his long-lost father. *World Premiere*.

**THE POOL** (Director: Chris Smith; Screenwriters: Chris Smith, Randy Russell)—A boy working in a hotel becomes obsessed with a swimming pool at a home in the opulent hills of Panjim, Goa in India. His life gets turned upside-down when he attempts to meet the mysterious family that arrives at the house. *World Premiere*.

**ROCKET SCIENCE** (Director and Screenwriter: Jeffrey Blitz)—A 15-year-old boy from New Jersey with a stuttering problem falls in love with the star of the debate team and finds himself suddenly immersed in the ultra-competitive world of debating. *World Premiere*.

**SNOW ANGELS** (Director: David Gordon Green; Screenwriter: Stewart O'Nan)—A drama that interweaves the life of a teenager with his former baby-sitter, her estranged husband, and their daughter. *World Premiere*.

**STARTING OUT IN THE EVENING** (Director: Andrew Wagner; Screenwriters: Andrew Wagner, Fred Parnes)—The solitary life of a writer is shaken when a smart, ambitious graduate student convinces him that her thesis will bring him back into the literary spotlight. *World Premiere*.

**TEETH** (Director and Screenwriter: Mitchell Lichtenstein)—Still a stranger to her own body, a high school student discovers she has a "physical advantage" when she becomes the object of male violence. *World Premiere*.

THE UNTITLED DAKOTA FANNING PROJECT, AKA "HOUNDDOG" (Director and Screenwriter: Deborah Kampmeier)—Set in late 1950s Alabama, a precocious, troubled girl finds her angel in the Blues. World Premiere.

**WEAPONS** (Director and Screenwriter: Adam Bhala Lough)—WEAPONS presents a series of brutal, seemingly random youth-related killings over the course of a weekend in a typical working class American suburb, and tragically reveals how they are all interrelated. *World Premiere*.

#### WORLD CINEMA COMPETITION: DOCUMENTARY

The last decade has seen an explosion of interest in American documentaries, yet American audiences enjoy few opportunities to view documentaries from beyond their own borders. The 16 films represent 13 countries including Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, Tunisia, and the United Kingdom. The films in this year's competition are an eclectic mix exploring topics in ways that transcend geographic, political and cultural boundaries. The subjects include explorations of life's struggles and tragedies, human space exploration, the impact of the war on drugs, women's role in the government of Afghanistan, the life of a U.S. defector during the Cold War, the effects of Israel's incarceration of Palestinians, a British gangster's trials and tribulations, and the creative and uniting power of cinema. With their thematic and aesthetic range, these films invite us to glimpse the astounding breadth and complexity of the human experience.

The 16 films were selected from 506 submissions. The films screening in **World Cinema Documentary Competition** are:

**ACIDENTE** / Brazil (Director: Cao Guimarães and Pablo Lobato)—Experimental in form, this lush cinematic poem weaves together stories and images from twenty different cities in the state of Menas Gerais, Brazil, to reveal the fundamental role the accidental and the unpredictable play in everyday human life. *North American Premiere*.

**BAJO JUAREZ, THE CITY DEVOURING ITS DAUGHTERS** / Mexico (Director: Alejandra Sánchez, José Antonio Cordero)—In an industrial town in Mexico near the US border, hundreds of women have been sexually abused and murdered. As the body count continues to rise, a web of corruption unfolds that reaches the highest levels of Mexican society. *U.S. Premiere*.

**COCALERO** / Bolivia (Director: Alejandro Landes)—Set against the backdrop of the Bolivian government's attempted eradication of the coca crop and oppression of the indigenous groups that cultivate it and the American war on drugs, an Aymara Indian named Evo Morales travels through the Andes and the Amazon in jeans and sneakers, leading a historic campaign to become the first indigenous president of Bolivia. *World Premiere*.

**COMRADES IN DREAMS** / Germany (Director: Uli Gaulke)—From the far ends of the globe, four lives that could not be more different are united by a single passion—their unconditional love of cinema and their quest to bring the magic of the silver screen to everyday lives to those who need it most.

North American Premiere.

**CROSSING THE LINE** / UK (Director: Daniel Gordon)—CROSSING THE LINE reveals the clandestine life of Joseph Dresnok who, at the height of the Cold War was one of the few Americans who defected to North Korea, one of the least understood countries in the world.

North American Premiere.

ENEMIES OF HAPPINESS (VORES LYKKES FJENDER) / Denmark (Director: Eva Mulvad and Anja Al Erhayem)—Malalai Joya, a 28-year-old Afghani woman, redefines the role of women and elected officials in her county with her historic 2005 victory in Afghanistan's first democratic parliamentary election in over 30 years. *North American Premiere*.

**THE FUTURE IS UNWRITTEN** / Ireland/UK (Director: Julien Temple)—An invitation from Joe Strummer, the Punk Rock Warlord himself, to journey beyond the myth to the heart and voice of a generation. His life, our times, his music. *World Premiere*.

**HOT HOUSE**/ Israel (Director: Shimon Dotan)—At once chilling and humanizing, HOT HOUSE provides an unprecedented look at how Israeli prisons have become the breeding ground for the next generation of Palestinian leaders as well as the birth place of future terrorist threats.

North American Premiere.

**IN THE SHADOW OF THE MOON** / UK (Director: David Sington)—One of the defining passages of American history, the Apollo Space Program literally brought the aspirations of a nation to another world. Awe-inspiring footage and candid interviews with the astronauts who visited the moon provide an unparalleled perspective on the precious state of our planet. *World Premiere*.

**MANUFACTURED LANDSCAPES** / Canada (Director: Jennifer Baichwal)—This stunningly visual work provides the unique perspective of photographer Edward Burtynsky, who chronicles the transforming landscape of the world due to industrial work and manufacturing. *U.S. Premiere*.

**THE MONASTERY: MR. VIG AND THE NUN** / Denmark (Director: Pernille Rose Grønkjær)—Worlds collide, tempers flare and dreams are realized when Mr. Vig, an 82-year-old virgin from Denmark and Sister Ambrosija, a headstrong Russian nun, join forces to transform Mr. Vig's run-down castle into an Orthodox Russian monastery. *North American Premiere*.

**ON A TIGHTROPE** / Norway, Canada (Director: Petr Lom)—The daily lives of four children living in an orphanage who are learning the ancient art of tightrope walking becomes a metaphor for the struggle of the Uighur's, China's largest Muslim minority, who are torn between religion and the teachings of communism. *North American Premiere*.

**THREE COMRADES (DRIE KAMERADEN)** / Netherlands (Director: Masha Novikova)—In this intimate film we witness the lives of three lifelong friends who's worlds are torn apart by war in Chechnya's bloody struggle for independence. *North American Premiere*.

**A VERY BRITISH GANGSTER** / UK (Director: Donal MacIntyre)—Given his many contradictions, Dominic Noonan, head of one of Britain's biggest crime families, is a man who defies stereotypes. This close up look at his life, from gun trials to the murder of his brother on the streets of Manchester, reveals a community struggling with poverty, violence and drugs. *World Premiere*.

VHS—KAHLOUCHA/ Tunisia (Director: Nejib Belkadhi)—In a poor district of Tunisia, self-made auteur, Moncef Kahloucha, a guerilla filmmaker in the purest sense, demonstrates that it takes a village to make fun movies as he brings the power of cinema to the people.

North American Premiere.

**WELCOME EUROPA** / France (Director: Bruno Ulmer)—Kurdish, Moroccan and Romanian young men migrate to Europe for a better life only to face the harsh realities and the laws of survival on the streets of a foreign land. *North American Premiere*.

#### WORLD CINEMA COMPETITION: DRAMATIC

The World Cinema Dramatic Competition reflects Sundance's commitment to championing the independent spirit in filmmakers everywhere and to fostering creative dialogue between divergent cultures. This year's 16 selections represent 13 countries including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Georgia, Germany, France, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, and the United Kingdom. This year's films include stories about the discovery and tragedy of infidelity, spiritual healing and the power of belief, the travails of a writer from China, a nomad in Mongolia, a peasant in Burkina Faso, and the aftermath of crime and war.

The 16 films were selected from 929 submissions. The films screening in **World Cinema Dramatic Competition** are:

**BLAME IT ON FIDEL (LA FAUTE A FIDEL)** / France (Director and Screenwriter: Julie Gavras)—A 9-year-old girl weathers big changes in her household as her parents become radical political activists in 1970-71 Paris. *North American Premiere*.

**DRAINED (O CHEIRO DO RALO)** / Brazil (Director: Heitor Dhalia; Screenwriters: Marçal Aquino, Heitor Dhalia)—A pawn shop proprietor buys used goods from desperate locals—as much to play perverse power games as for his own livelihood, but when the perfect rump and a backed-up toilet enter his life, he loses all control. *North American Premiere*.

**DRIVING WITH MY WIFE'S LOVER (ANE-EUI AEIN-EUL MANNADA)** / South Korea (Director: Kim Tai-sik; Screenwriters: Kim Jeon-han, Kim Tai-sik)—When a mild-mannered South Korean man decides to track down the cab driver having an affair with his wife, a strange bond develops between the pair during a long-distance drive. *North American Premiere*.

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**EAGLE VS. SHARK** / New Zealand (Director and Screenwriter: Taika Waititi)—The tale of two socially awkward misfits and the strange ways they try to find love. *World Premiere*.

**EZRA** / France (Director: Newton I. Aduaka; Screenwriters: Newton I. Aduaka, Alain-Michel Blanc)—A young ex-child soldier in Sierra Leone attempts to return to a normal life after the civil war which devastated his country. *World Premiere*.

**GHOSTS** / UK (Director: Nick Broomfield; Screenwriters: Nick Broomfield, Jez Lewis)—Based on a true story, GHOSTS is the tragic account of an illegal Chinese immigrant woman as she struggles relentlessly for a better life in the U.K. *North American Premiere*.

HOW IS YOUR FISH TODAY? (JIN TIAN DE YU ZEN ME YANG?) / UK (Director: Xiaolu Guo; Screenwriter: Rao Hui, Xiaolu Guo)—Blurring boundaries between reality and fiction, HOW IS YOUR FISH TODAY? traces a Chinese writer's inner journey through his fictional characters.

North American Premiere.

**HOW SHE MOVE** / Canada (Director: Ian Iqbal Rashid; Screenwriter: Annmarie Morais)—Following her sister's death from drug addiction, a high school student is forced to leave her private school to return to her old, crime-filled neighborhood where she re-kindles an unlikely passion for the competitive world of "Step" dancing. *World Premiere*.

**THE ISLAND (OSTROV)** / Russia (Director: Pavel Lounguine; Screenwriter: Dmitri Sobolev)— Somewhere in Northern Russia in a small Russian Orthodox monastery lives an unusual man whose bizarre conduct confuses his fellow monks, while others who visit the island believe that the man has the power to heal, exorcise demons and foretell the future. *U.S. Premiere*.

**KHADAK** / Belgium/Germany (Directors and Screenwriters: Peter Brosens and Jessica Woodworth)—Set in the frozen steppes of Mongolia, KHADAK tells the epic story of Bagi, a young nomad confronted with his destiny after animals fall victim to a plague which threatens to eradicate nomadism.

U.S. Premiere.

**THE LEGACY** / Georgia/France (Directors and Screenwriters: Géla Babluani, Temur Babluani)—Three French hipsters and their translator travel through rural Georgia to claim a remote, ruined castle that one of them has inherited. En route, they encounter an old man and his grandchild who are on a journey to carry out a mysterious, morbid ritual designed to end a conflict between warring clans. *North American Premiere*.

**THE NIGHT BUFFALO (EL BUFALO DE LA NOCHE)** / Mexico (Director: Jorge Hernandez Aldana; Screenwriters: Jorge Hernandez Aldana, Guillermo Arriaga,)—A 22-year-old schizophrenic commits suicide after his girlfriend cheats on him with his best friend. Before killing himself, he lays out a plan that will drive the lovers into an abyss of madness. *World Premiere*.

**NOISE** / Australia (Director and Screenwriter: Matthew Saville)—A young cop, beset with doubt and afflicted with tinnitus (ear-ringing), is pitched into the chaos that follows a mass murder on a suburban train. He struggles to clear the screaming in his head while the surrounding community deals with the after effects of the terrible crime. *World Premiere*.

**ONCE** / Ireland (Director and Screenwriter: John Carney)—ONCE is a modern-day musical set on the streets of Dublin. Featuring Glen Hansard and his Irish band "The Frames", ONCE tells the story of a busker and an immigrant during an eventful week as they write, rehearse and record songs that reveal their unique love story. *North American Premiere*.

**RÊVES DE POUSSIÈRE (DREAMS OF DUST)** / Burkina Faso/Canada/France (Director and Screenwriter: Laurent Salgues)—A Nigerian peasant comes looking for work in Essakane, a dusty gold mine in Northeast Burkina Faso, where he hopes to forget the past that haunts him. *U.S. Premiere*.

**SWEET MUD (ADAMA MESHUGAAT)** / Israel (Director and Screenwriter: Dror Shaul)—On a kibbutz in southern Israel in the 1970's, Dvir Avni realizes that his mother is mentally ill. In this closed community, bound by rigid rules, Dvir must navigate between the kibbutz motto of equality and the stinging reality that his mother has, in effect, been abandoned by the community. *U.S. Premiere*.

Festival films screen in nine sections: Documentary Competition, Dramatic Competition, World Cinema Documentary Competition, World Cinema Dramatic Competition, Spectrum, New Frontier, Park City at Midnight, From the Sundance Collection and Premieres. Feature films selected for the Premieres, Spectrum, Park City at Midnight, New Frontier and From The Sundance Collection categories will be announced tomorrow, Thursday, November 30. The Short Film program will be announced on Wednesday, December 6.

American films selected to screen in Dramatic and Documentary Competition are eligible for a number of jury awards including Grand Jury Prizes, Cinematography Awards and Directing Awards. Other jury awards include the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award sponsored by Utah Film Commission and presented to a film in Dramatic Competition, and the Documentary Editing Award which is presented to the editor of a film in Documentary Competition. The Alfred P. Sloan Prize is presented to an outstanding dramatic feature film for the quality of its presentation of science or technology themes. Films in the Independent Film Competition are also eligible for the Dramatic and Documentary Audience Awards. Films screening in the World Cinema Dramatic and Documentary Competition are eligible for the World Cinema Jury Prizes and World Cinema Audience Awards.

#### What's New for the 2007 Sundance Film Festival:

• New Frontier represents the evolution of the Frontier section which explored the experimental world of filmmaking. New Frontier is an expanded program that includes work from artists pushing the boundaries of art by using the moving image to create new modes of storytelling. The program includes films screening throughout the Festival, as well as media installations, mediabased performances, and panel discussions at New Frontier on Main—a new venue located across from the Egyptian Theatre in the Main St. Mall formerly known as the Film Center. Artists whose work will be featured in the program are Paul Chan (multi-media installation), Shu Lea Cheang (mobile media installation), Martha Colburn (multi-media installations), R. Luke Dubois (multi-media installation), Eric Dyer (multi-media installations), James Graham (multi-media installations), Ricardo Rivera and Pier Nicola D'Amico (multi-media installation), Lincoln Schatz (interactive video art), and Travis Wilkerson (multi-media performance).

Complete details of New Frontier will be announced tomorrow, Thursday, November 30 and the venue will be introduced to the public with a grand opening ceremony on the afternoon of Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, before the Festival's Opening Night film.

- Music on Main Music on Main is back! An outdoor concert featuring *Of Montreal* and *Shiny Toy Guns* will be held on lower Main Street on Thursday, January 25, 2007, 7:30-9:30 pm. Free to all festivalgoers.
- Opening Night Gala at Legacy Lodge This year, the opening night gala will be held at the Legacy Lodge in Park City, Utah on Thursday, January 18, 2007, 9:00 p.m.- 1:00 a.m.

#### **Festival Sponsors**

The 2007 Sundance Film Festival sponsors help sustain Sundance Institute's year-round programs to support independent artists, inspire risk-taking and encourage diversity in the arts. This year's Festival Sponsors include: Presenting Sponsors — Entertainment Weekly, Volkswagen of America, Inc., HP, Adobe, and AOL; Leadership Sponsors—American Express, Delta Air Lines, and DIRECTV.; Sustaining Sponsors—ABSOLUT®, Aquafina, Blockbuster Inc., CESAR® Canine Cuisine, KRUPS, L'Oreal Paris, The New York Times, Ray-Ban, Sony Electronics, Inc., Stella Artois®, Turning Leaf Vineyards, and the Utah Film Commission.

#### Sundance Film Festival

The Sundance Film Festival is the premier showcase for U.S. and international independent film. Held each January in Park City, Sundance, Salt Lake City, and Ogden, Utah, the Festival is a core program of Sundance Institute, a nonprofit cultural organization founded by Robert Redford in 1981.

Presenting 122 dramatic and documentary feature-length films in nine distinct categories and approximately 80 short films each year, the Sundance Film Festival has introduced American audiences to some of the most innovative films of the past two decades. Beyond the streets of Park City, the official website of the Sundance Film Festival, <a href="www.sundance.org">www.sundance.org</a> shares the Festival experience beyond the streets of Park City with a global audience through the streaming of short films, filmmaker interviews, and current news and box office information.

#### Sundance Institute:

Dedicated year-round to the development of artists of independent vision and to the exhibition of their new work, Sundance Institute celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006. Founded by Robert Redford in 1981, the Institute has grown into an internationally recognized resource for thousands of independent artists through its Film Festival and artistic development programs for filmmakers, screenwriters, composers, playwrights and theatre artists. The original values of independence, creative risk-taking, and discovery continue to define and guide the work of Sundance Institute, both with US artists and, increasingly, with artists from other regions of the world