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2006 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES SPECTRUM, FRONTIER AND PARK CITY AT MIDNIGHT SCREENINGS

Original Voices, New Directions and An Eclectic Mix of Films by Promising New Independent Filmmakers To Be Featured at the Festival

Salt Lake City, UT— November 30, 2005 – In the second of four program announcements, Sundance Institute today announced the line-up of out-of-competition films screening in the Spectrum, Frontier and Park City at Midnight categories of the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, taking place January 19-29, 2006, in Park City, Utah. This follows yesterday's announcement of the Independent Feature Film and World Cinema Competitions. As the premier showcase for the best new work of American independent and international filmmakers, the Sundance Film Festival screens films that embody creative risk-taking, diversity and aesthetic innovation.

For the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, 120 feature films were selected including 84 World Premieres, 18 North American Premieres and 15 U.S. Premieres representing 29 countries with 48 first time feature filmmakers. These films were selected from 3,148 feature submissions composed of 1,764 U.S. feature films and 1,384 international feature films. These numbers represent an increase from 2005 when 1,385 U.S. feature films and 1,228 international films were considered.

"This Festival presents the full spectrum of independent cinema creating a platform for filmmakers that push aesthetic and artistic boundaries outside the mainstream – from the higher profile films to the more surprising, edgy and experimental films of Frontier and Midnight," said Geoffrey Gilmore, Director of the Sundance Film Festival. "This year we've redefined some categories to create Spectrum—a section that truly reflects the wide range of independent cinema and the new talent of filmmakers." Spectrum has expanded in scope and size to present 24 out-of-competition dramatic and documentary films from some of the most promising new filmmakers from the U.S. and around the world. The new category draws from films previously in American Spectrum and Special Screenings.

"There are remarkable discoveries to be made in each of these sections," said John Cooper, Director of Programming. "Fresh talent, unique perspectives, and an interest in exploring the issues of our day like race, poverty, war, religion, sexuality, displacement, and globalization. There are also gut-busting comedies, and music documentaries that challenge conventions and experiment with the medium. "

Festival films screen in nine sections: Documentary Competition, Dramatic Competition, World Cinema Documentary Competition, World Cinema Dramatic Competition, Spectrum, Frontier, Park City at Midnight, Sundance Collection and Premieres. The selections for the Premieres section will be announced on Wednesday, November 30. The Short Film category will be

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announced on Monday, December 5. A complete list of films and other information is available at www.sundance.org.

The Sundance Film Festival is a core program of Sundance Institute, a nonprofit organization dedicated year-round to the discovery and development of independent film and theatre artists and audiences. 2006 marks the 22nd year of the Festival and the Institute's 25th anniversary. Anniversary-related activities will take place throughout 2006 and will be announced at the Festival.

SPECTRUM

The Spectrum program presents 24 out-of-competition dramatic and documentary works by some of the most promising new independent filmmakers from the U.S. and abroad. Spectrum films are eligible for the Audience Award at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival. Some Spectrum films presented at the Sundance Film Festival in the past include: GODS AND MONSTERS, MEAN CREEK, OPEN WATER, MARCH OF THE PENGUINS, METALLICA: SOME KIND OF MONSTER and RIZE.

The films screening in **Spectrum** are:

A MATTER OF DEGREES / *U.S.A.* (Director: Davis Guggenheim)— Al Gore has recently been traveling the world delivering a mesmerizing, bracing and visually exciting presentation on global climate change, proving that humankind must confront global warming now or face devastating consequences. *Matter of Degrees* both captures that presentation and explores Gore's journey as a worldwide environmental champion. *World Premiere*.

ADAM'S APPLES / *Denmark* (Director and Screenwriter: Anders Thomas Jensen)—A dark comedy featuring a neo-nazi sentenced to community service at a church who clashes with the blindly devotional priest. *U.S. Premiere*.

ALL ABOARD! ROSIE'S FAMILY CRUISE / *U.S.A.* (Director: Shari Cookson)— In this documentary film, Rosie and Kellie O'Donnell create a floating utopia for 500 gay and lesbian families. *World Premiere*.

BATTLE IN HEAVEN / *Mexico/France/Germany/Belgium* (Director and Screenwriter: Carlos Reygadas)— Marcos and his wife kidnap a baby for ransom money, but it goes tragically wrong when the infant dies. *U.S. Premiere*.

BEYOND BEATS AND RHYMES: A HIP-HOP HEAD WEIGHS IN ON MANHOOD IN HIP-HOP CULTURE / *U.S.A.* (Director: Byron Hurt)—In this documentary film, a former college quarterback and hip-hop head tackles issues of masculinity, sexism, violence and homophobia in hip-hop culture. *World Premiere*.

CLEAR CUT: THE STORY OF PHILOMATH, OREGON / *U.S.A.* (Director: Peter Richardson)— A documentary about a rural Oregon timber town that is torn apart when a rift between conservative and liberal values in the school district threatens a college scholarship that has paid the tuition of every local graduate for the last 40 years. *World Premiere*.

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DREAMLAND / U.S.A. (Director: Jason Matzner; Screenwriter: Tom Willett)—A young woman living in a trailer park in the desert struggles with the question of caring for her hapless father and ill friend or fulfilling her own destiny. *World Premiere.*

EVERYONE STARES: THE POLICE INSIDE OUT / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Stewart Copeland)—A rare documentary compiled from the drummer's personal Super 8 footage gives an intimate, inside look at what it was like to be a member of the 80's rock band The Police, from CBGB's to Shea Stadium. *World Premiere.*

FACTOTUM / U.S.A. (Director: Bent Hamer; Screenwriter: Jim Stark)—Based on the novel by cult author Charles Bukowski, FACTOTUM is the story of a man living on the edge; of a writer willing to risk everything to make sure his life is poetry. *U.S. Premiere.*

FORGIVING THE FRANKLINS / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Jay Floyd)—A repressed, God fearing Southern family is spiritually changed by an auto accident and their transformation puts them at odds with the conservative values of their community. *World Premiere.*

JEWBOY / Australia (Director and Screenwriter: Tony Krawitz)—JEWBOY is a film about a young orthodox man searching for his place in the world, his family and his faith. *North American Premiere.*

JOURNEY FROM THE FALL / Thailand/U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Ham Tran)—Set during the thirteenth anniversary of the Vietnam War, JOURNEY FROM THE FALL tells the epic story of a family who is painfully torn apart by the war, forced to emigrate across a dangerous sea, reunified and struggling to survive in America. *North American Premiere.*

LA TRAGEDIA DE MACARIO / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Pablo Veliz)—A drama inspired by the tragic, true events of immigrants struggling to cross the Mexican-American border. *World Premiere.*

LEONARD COHEN I'M YOUR MAN / U.S.A. (Director: Lian Lunson)—An ubiquitous influence even as he remains elusively elsewhere, ladies and gentlemen, this documentary shows Leonard Cohen is back. *U.S. Premiere.*

MAN PUSH CART / Iran/U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Ramin Bahrani)—The story of a former Pakistani rock star who now sells coffee and donuts from his push cart on the streets of Manhattan. *North American Premiere.*

OFF THE BLACK / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: James Ponsoldt)—An unusual friendship develops between an aging high-school baseball umpire and a teenage pitcher after the young player vandalizes the older man's house. *World Premiere.*

OPEN WINDOW / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Mia Goldman)—A struggling young photographer and an assistant professor are newly engaged and madly in love when their lives are shattered by a random act of violence. *World Premiere.*

THE PROPOSITION / *Australia* (Director: John Hillcoat; Screenwriter: Nick Cave)—Set at the end of the bushranger era, this atmospheric Australian epic tale concerns family, loyalty and betrayal. *U.S. Premiere.*

PUNCHING AT THE SUN / *U.S.A.* (Director and Screenwriter: Tanuj Chopra)—In the aftermath of 9/11 and his older brother's murder, a fiery South Asian teen struggles to find a path between rage and redemption on the streets of Elmhurst, Queens. *World Premiere.*

SPECIAL / *U.S.A.* (Directors and Screenwriters: Jeremy Passmore, Hal Haberman)—Les Franken leads a painfully unremarkable life as a meter maid until he enrolls in a drug study for an experimental anti-depressant. *World Premiere.*

WHAT REMAINS / *U.S.A.* (Director: Steven Cantor)—An investigation into the creative process and life of controversial and celebrated American photographer Sally Mann. *World Premiere.*

WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR? / *U.S.A.* (Director and Screenwriter: Chris Paine)—A documentary that investigates the death and resurrection of the electric car, as well as the role of renewable energy and sustainable living in our country's future. *World Premiere.*

WHO NEEDS SLEEP? / *U.S.A.* (Director: Haskell Wexler)—Unsettled by the preventable death of a coworker, filmmaker Haskell Wexler shows in this documentary that sleep deprivation and long work hours are a deadly combination. *World Premiere.*

WRESTLING WITH ANGELS: PLAYWRIGHT TONY KUSHNER / *U.S.A.* (Director: Freida Lee Mock)—This documentary is a rich tapestry of the personal and political life of Tony Kushner, the award-winning playwright and activist whose provocative and truthful work has contributed to a national dialogue on the most pressing issues of our times. *World Premiere*

FRONTIER

The Festival's Frontier section presents five films that represent new directions in filmmaking and Frontier Live, a live cinematic performance program. Utilizing experimental and innovative aesthetic approaches, work in the Frontier category challenges and provokes. Some Frontier films at Sundance Film Festival presented in the past include: TARNATION and THE JOY OF LIFE.

The films screening in **Frontier** are:

A DARKNESS SWALLOWED / *U.S.A.* (Director and Screenwriter: Betzy Bromberg)—A personal investigation of cellular memory, a bio-meta-physical musical, A DARKNESS SWALLOWED is a meditation of the evanescent traces of memory and loss.

CINNAMON / *U.S.A.* (Director and Screenwriter: Kevin Everson)—This experimental feature film provides a glimpse into the world of African American drag racing with the story that contrasts the consistent routine of a bank teller and mechanic as they prepare for the sport. *World Premiere.*

OLD JOY / U.S.A. (Director: Kelly Reichardt; Screenwriters: Jonathan Raymond, Kelly Reichardt)—The story of two old friends who reunite for a weekend camping trip in Oregon's Cascade mountain range. As the two seekers move through the beautiful landscapes, they move through confusion, sudden insight, and spiritual battles. *World Premiere.*

PINE FLAT / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Sharon Lockhart)—An intimate portrait of a town's children set in the stunning landscape of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Both an anthropological look at youth and a meditation on solitude, nature, socialization and the line between fact and fiction. *World Premiere.*

WILD TIGERS I HAVE KNOWN U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Cam Archer)—A lyrical coming of age story about a 13-year-old boy who learns to cope with his newfound sexuality and his unrequited love for the cool kid in school. *World Premiere.*

The project presented in **Frontier Live** is:

OUR SECOND DATE U.S.A. (artists: Jennifer and Kevin McCoy)—The McCoy's latest installation is a miniature movie set geared for live robotic cinema that puts the production, post-production, and exhibition of a film all in one room.

PARK CITY AT MIDNIGHT

Park City at Midnight offers eight out-of-competition films after-hours that are likely to amuse, surprise, or shock the bleary-eyed viewer and offer a lively last stop in the nightly film-going circuit. Some Midnight films presented at Sundance Film Festival in the past include: THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT, SAW, OVERNIGHT, and STRANGERS WITH CANDY.

The films screening in **Park City at Midnight** are:

AMERICAN HARDCORE / U.S.A (Director: Paul Rachman; Screenwriter: Steven Blush)—Inspired by Steven Blush's book "American Hardcore: A tribal history" Paul Rachman's feature documentary debut is a chronicle of the underground hardcore punk years from 1979 to 1986. *World Premiere.*

AWESOME, I FUCKIN' SHOT THAT! / U.S.A. (Director: Nathaniel Hornblower)— On October 9, 2004, the Beastie Boys handed out 50 HI 8 cameras to audience members at their sold-out performance in New York's Madison Square Garden. This film is the result. *World Premiere.*

THE DESCENT / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Neil Marshall)—An all-female caving expedition goes horribly wrong as the explorers become trapped and ultimately pursued by a strange breed of predators. *North American Premiere.*

DESTRICATED / U.S.A. (Directors and Screenwriters: Mathew Barney, Larry Clark, Gaspar Noe, Marco Brambilla, Sam Taylor Wood)—Art meets sexuality in this unprecedented compilation of erotic art films made by the leading visual artists and filmmakers working today. *World Premiere.*

THE FOOT FIST WAY / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Jody Hill)—A Tae Kwon Do instructor who is king of his small kingdom, tries to keep it together after his wife cheats on him, taking his anger out on everyone around him in the funniest way ever. *World Premiere.*

MOONSHINE / U.S.A. (Director: Roger Ingraham; Screenwriters: Roger Ingraham, Lori Isbell Salvage)— At night in a working-class Connecticut town, beneath an incandescent bulb in the cellar, a young convenience store clerk's monotonous life is about to end. From in the shadows an unseen man, a vampire, waits, moving slowly closer. *World Premiere.*

SALVAGE / U.S.A. (Directors and Screenwriters: Josh Crook and Jeff Crook)—College student Claire is stalked and murdered by serial killer Duke Desmond. Claire assumes it was a nightmare and wakes up to relive the day of her death over and over until she uncovers the terrifying mystery that guides her fate. *World Premiere.*

SUBJECT TWO / U.S.A. (Director and Screenwriter: Philip Chide)—A troubled medical student volunteers for resurrection experiments - and is killed over and over again by a reclusive doctor intent on reinventing life. *World Premiere.*

What's New for the 2006 Sundance Film Festival:

- **World Cinema Competition: Documentary** – This year, the category expands from 12 to 16 international documentary films. Films selected for the World Cinema Competition: Documentary are eligible for the World Cinema Jury Prize: Documentary and the World Cinema Audience Award: Documentary.
- **Spectrum** – This new out-of-competition category incorporates the categories previously known as American Spectrum and Special Screenings, and has expanded to include international dramatic and documentary films. These changes allow for each of the six out-of-competition categories to present international films.
- **Closing Film** – New this year a Park City Closing Film, the last premiere of the Festival on Friday night, January 27, 2006.
- **Documentary Editing Award** - New to the Sundance Film Festival this year is an award recognizing excellence in Documentary Film Editing. Films in the Independent Feature Film Competition: Documentary are eligible for this award.
- **Salt Lake City Gala** - This year, the Sundance Film Festival Salt Lake City Gala is taking place on Friday night, January 20, 2006 in the Jeanne Wagner Auditorium in the Rose Wagner Center. The Festival's presence in Salt Lake City is now concentrated along Broadway (300 South) to create a Sundance experience in Salt Lake City similar to that in Park City.

Festival Sponsors

The 2006 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 community includes: *Presenting*—Hewlett-Packard Company, *Entertainment Weekly*, Volkswagen of America, Inc., and Adobe Systems Incorporated; *Leadership Sponsors*—American Express, Delta Air Lines, DirecTV, Intel Corporation and Sprint;

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Sundance Film Festival

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

Presenting 120 dramatic and documentary feature-length films in nine distinct categories, and 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, including ***sex, lies, and videotape, Clerks, Smoke Signals, In the Bedroom, American Splendor, Napoleon Dynamite, Born into Brothels, and Me and You and Everyone We Know.*** Beyond the streets of Park City, the official Website of the Sundance Film Festival, www.sundance.org, shares the Festival experience with a global audience through the streaming of short films and filmmaker interviews, combined with 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 25th anniversary in 2006. Since its inception, the Institute has grown into an internationally recognized resource for thousands of independent artists through its Sundance Film Festival and artistic development programs which provide a range of concentrated creative and financial support for fiction and nonfiction filmmakers, screenwriters, documentary film editors, composers, playwrights and theatre artists. The original values of independence, creative diversity, and discovery continue to define and guide the work of Sundance Institute, both with artists in the U.S. and, increasingly, with artists from other regions of the world.

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