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VON SYDOW, KUWABARA, LOACH, BURSTYN, LUMET, BOGDANOVICH, DONG, KWAN AND ATTENBOROUGH IN DIALOGUES

Toronto – The Toronto International Film Festival announces eight presentations in **Dialogues: Talking with Pictures**. Max von Sydow, Bell Festival Centre architect Bruce Kuwabara, Ken Loach, Arthur Dong and Nancy Kwan, Peter Bogdanovich, Ellen Burstyn, Sidney Lumet, and Lord Richard Attenborough will showcase films that have inspired them or have marked a significant period in their careers. The 32nd Toronto International Film Festival runs September 6-15, 2007. Ticket Passes and Packages now on sale. Gala and Visa Screening Room tickets on sale August 25 at 10 a.m. Tickets on sale Wednesday, September 5 at 7 a.m. For more information, please visit tiff07.ca or call 416-968-FILM or 1-877-968-FILM.

To mark the passing of Ingmar Bergman, one of the cinematic geniuses of our time, legendary actor Max von Sydow and Director and CEO of the Toronto International Film Festival Group, Piers Handling, presents Bergman's **THE VIRGIN SPRING** (1960). The first of his films to win an Academy Award™, Bergman's **THE VIRGIN SPRING**, is a moving and spellbinding story of rape, revenge, and redemption that still resonates. Based on a 13th century Swedish ballad, the film displays Bergman's mastery at exploring the psychological effects of people's actions. As Tore, a pious man whose acts of vengeance following an inexplicable loss leads to further anguish and deeper questioning of his beliefs, Von Sydow delivers an outstanding performance that many consider to be amongst the greatest of his career.

In celebration of the recent groundbreaking of the Toronto International Film Festival Group's new home, Bell Festival Centre, renowned lead architect Bruce Kuwabara offers a visual presentation and intimate opportunity to discuss the ideas and process of the Centre's design, the important role the building site has played in Toronto's history, and the impact of the building on the city's future. Following Kuwabara's presentation and discussion, Chris Marker's masterpiece **LA JETÉE** (1964) will be screened. This innovative narrative uses a series of black and white still images to tell the story of a man in a dystopian future who is selected to travel back and forth in time in the hopes of saving the dying planet. This highly influential work that introduced a new model for telling stories through film complements Kuwabara's presentation of a new approach to designing a space which celebrates the wonder and enjoyment of the moving image. This is a free event.

Ken Loach (**IT'S A FREE WORLD, CHACUN SON CINEMA**), the passionately uncompromising auteur of social and political cinema, presents Jiri Menzel's delightful **CLOSELY WATCHED TRAINS** (1966). Considered to be one of the highlights of the Czech New Wave that flourished in the mid-1960s, **CLOSELY WATCHED TRAINS** was produced in a time of political unrest and upheaval in Czechoslovakia, when pressure was building for a liberalization of Czech society under its authoritarian Stalinist government. The film is set in a provincial railway station near the end of World War II, and centres on a young clerk whose shyness ruins his chances with his girlfriend. For all its lightness and charm, the threat of war is ever present in the film, and at the end, it intervenes in the characters' lives in a way that is as shocking as it is unexpected.

As the Festival showcases his latest film **CLOSING THE RING**, Lord Richard Attenborough shows his outstanding directorial debut **OH! WHAT A LOVELY WAR** (1969) to audiences through **Dialogues**. Based on Joan Littlewood's stage play about World War I, the film presents war as a British Music Hall review, employing song, satire and ironic juxtapositions to deliver a potent critique about the senselessness of war. The cast is a virtual who's who of British stage and screen, including John Mills, Maggie Smith, Laurence Olivier, Ralph Richardson, Dirk Bogarde, Michael Redgrave, Vanessa Redgrave and Susannah York. Together they chronicle how the callousness and stupidity of leaders led to the devastation of a generation of young men.

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Esteemed documentary filmmaker Arthur Dong (**HOLLYWOOD CHINESE**) and iconic star Nancy Kwan present Henry Koster's Academy Award™ nominated **FLOWER DRUM SONG** (1962), the film version of the Broadway hit musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein, whose merits will be debated by Kwan and Dong. Starring Kwan, **FLOWER DRUM SONG** was the first Hollywood film to feature an all-Asian cast. The film exploded with a revolutionary imagination of a long-misrepresented people, was a Hollywood product that allowed Asians to command the screen in song and dance, and actually addressed themes such as cultural assimilation. Although criticized over the years by the Asian American community for its depiction of Asian stereotypes, **FLOWER DRUM SONG** remains a seminal and exuberant film.

Acclaimed actor, director, journalist, and author Peter Bogdanovich presents John Ford's rare, silent classic **BUCKING BROADWAY** (1917). Missing for more than 70 years and discovered in a film archive in France in 2003, **BUCKING BROADWAY** is one of only eight of 70 silent films by Ford that is still believed to exist – the rest are presumed to be lost. The film was made and released in Ford's first year as a director in 1917, and featured the early Western star and producer, Harry Carey, who picked Ford out as a director for his pictures. In total, Carey and Ford did 26 pictures together. Bogdanovich, an expert on the work of Ford, having written both a book about his work and directed the documentary **DIRECTED BY JOHN FORD**, will also be receiving the International Federation of Film Archives annual award for his influence on film preservation during the Festival.

Master filmmaker Sidney Lumet (**BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD**) known for his intelligent, socially relevant films, presents William Wyler's acclaimed, resonant classic **THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES** (1946). Starring Frederic March, Myrna Loy, Dana Andrews and Teresa Wright and featuring the cinematography of Gregg Toland, the film depicts three World War II veterans returning home in 1944 and their struggle readjusting to civilian life. A moving work of great humanity, **THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES** was one of the most honoured films in Hollywood history, winning a total of eight Academy Awards™ in 1946, including Best Actor, Best Motion Picture and Best Director.

The luminous Ellen Burstyn presents Martin Scorsese's **ALICE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE** (1974), a work she describes as “the first film reflecting the new consciousness of woman in the process of liberation.” Burstyn won the Academy Award™ for Best Actress for her outstanding portrayal of Alice Hyatt, a working class housewife given a second chance to pursue a childhood dream. Robert Getchell's sharp script and Martin Scorsese's assured direction avoids sentimentality and focuses on the drama that arises as Alice navigates through her relationships with an abusive husband, a sassy and foul-mouthed co-worker and her smart-aleck and rambunctious 12-year-old son.

The Festival is a presentation of **The Toronto International Film Festival Group** (TIFFG), a charitable, not-for-profit, cultural organization whose mission is to transform the way people see the world. Its vision is to lead the world in creative and cultural discovery through the moving image.

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For further information, please contact the Communications Department at 416-934-3200 or proffice@tiffg.ca.