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SIX FILMS ROUND OUT THIS YEAR'S STAR-STUDED GALA PRESENTATIONS

Toronto – Six titles round out the **Gala Presentations** lineup for the 2007 **Toronto International Film Festival**. These highly-anticipated films feature performances by Samuel L. Jackson, Ed Harris, Eva Mendes, Keke Palmer, Shirley MacLaine, Christopher Plummer, Mischa Barton, Neve Campbell, Pete Postlethwaite, David Alpay, Daniel Auteil, Monica Bellucci, Eric Cantona, Michel Blanc, Jacques Dutronc, Daniel Duval, Kathy Baker, Maria Bello, Marc Blucas, Emily Blunt, Amy Brenneman, Hugh Dancy, Maggie Grace, Jimmy Smits, Kevin Zegers, Lynn Redgrave, Michael Caine, Jude Law, Woody Harrelson, and Kristin Scott Thomas. The complete **Gala Presentations** lineup for this year's Festival will feature 20 titles. 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.

CLEANER Renny Harlin, USA

When someone dies in your home, the police take the body away – but few people know that it's up to you to clean up the mess left behind. Tom Cutler (Samuel L. Jackson) is what is known as a 'Cleaner,' a man who removes every trace of the blood, the smell, and the stains, but most importantly, Tom considers himself the man who removes the grief, by erasing all the reminders of this tragedy. As a former New Jersey cop, Tom had seen his share of messy crime scenes, but unlike life on the police force, he views his new occupation as an honest living – one that leaves him with a clear conscience at night. When Tom is unwittingly hired to clean up a murder scene and disposes of all evidence, he is left with no choice but to return to the corrupt and unsavoury world he left behind, find the answers that elude those involved, and clear his name. Also starring Ed Harris, Eva Mendes, and Keke Palmer, **CLEANER** is written by Matthew Aldrich and produced by Millennium Films. The film is a presentation of Nu Image/Millennium Films and distributed in North America by Sony Pictures Entertainment.

CLOSING THE RING Richard Attenborough, UK/CANADA

Academy Award™-winning director Richard Attenborough (**GANDHI**) helms a deeply moving love story, beautifully interwoven between present day and the Second World War. In **CLOSING THE RING** the wild and beautiful Ethel is courted by three friends, in Jack, Chuck and Teddy, all of whom, unsurprisingly, are smitten with her. But it is Teddy who becomes Ethel's husband. When the three friends must leave for the war in Europe, Ethel gives Teddy a gold ring as her promise of their eternal love. Starring Shirley MacLaine, Christopher Plummer, Mischa Barton, Neve Campbell, Pete Postlethwaite and David Alpay, **CLOSING THE RING** tells the epic story of how a beautiful woman honoured a wartime promise, with a lifetime of denial - and how the discovery of a gold ring on a distant Irish hillside brought her back to life. Written by Peter Woodward, and produced by Jo Gilbert, Martin Katz and Richard Attenborough, **CLOSING THE RING** is a presentation of Alliance Films.

LE DEUXIÈME SOUFFLE Alain Corneau, FRANCE

Set in the late 1950s, Gu, an infamous and highly dangerous gangster, escapes from prison to avoid serving a life sentence. With the cops hot on his trail, Gu plans to flee the country with Manouche, the woman he loves. Desperate for cash, he agrees to take part in one last job. Thanks to Gu's expert skills as a hardened criminal, the hold-up goes without a hitch. But the cops are manipulating things behind the scenes, and Gu's accomplices take him for an informer, a traitor. To save his honour and clear his name, Gu will do whatever is necessary. Based on the same source material as Jean-Pierre Melville's classic 1966 film, **LE DEUXIÈME SOUFFLE** features one of the most impressive French cinema casts in years, including Daniel Auteil, Monica Bellucci, Eric Cantona, Michel

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Blanc, Jacques Dutronc, and Daniel Duval. The screenplay is by Alain Corneau and José Giovanni. Produced by Michèle Pétin, and Laurent Pétin **LE DEUXIÈME SOUFFLE** is a ARP Sélection / TF1 Films Productions and a presentation of Christal Films Distribution.

THE JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB Robin Swicord, USA

Today's central California may be far removed from Regency England, but some things never change. We're still every bit as preoccupied with the complexities of marriage, friendship, romantic entanglements, position, and social manners and mores as was Jane Austen at the turn of the 1800s. As five women and one enigmatic man meet to discuss the works of Jane Austen, they find their love lives playing out in a 21st century version of her novels. **THE JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB** reveals the lives of this ensemble of present-day friends as they find echoes, predictions, warnings and wisdom about their own trajectories within Austen's beloved narratives. Starring Kathy Baker, Maria Bello, Marc Blucas, Emily Blunt, Amy Brenneman, Hugh Dancy, Maggie Grace, Jimmy Smits, Kevin Zegers and Lynn Redgrave, **THE JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB** is written and directed by Robin Swicord, based on the novel by Karen Joy Fowler. Produced by John Calley, Julie Lynn, and Diane Napper, the film is a Mockingbird Pictures production presented by Sony Pictures Classics and distributed in Canada by Mongrel Media.

SLEUTH Kenneth Branagh, USA

A millionaire detective novelist matches wits with the unemployed actor who ran off with his wife in a deadly serious, seriously twisted game with dangerous consequences. Revisiting Anthony Shaffer's Tony Award[®]-winning play, **SLEUTH** stars Jude Law and Michael Caine. Full of gripping suspense and high stakes Branagh's **SLEUTH** brings new life to a timeless classic. With a screenplay by Harold Pinter, the film is produced by Jude Law, Simon Halfon, Tom Sternberg, Marion Pilowsky, Kenneth Branagh and Simon Moseley. The film is a presentation of Sleuth Productions and Sony Pictures Classics, distributed in Canada by Mongrel Media.

THE WALKER Paul Schrader, USA/UK

A contemporary drama set in Washington, D.C., **THE WALKER** centers around Carter Page (Woody Harrelson), a well-heeled and popular socialite who serves as confidant, companion, and card partner to some of the capitol's leading ladies. These pampered women are married to the most powerful men in America, and when their husbands are too busy running the country to attend to their wives, they turn to their "gay best friend," Carter, for warmth, wit and wisdom. Carter's loyalty is tested when his dearest friend (Kristin Scott Thomas) finds herself on the brink of a scandal that could destroy her reputation and her husband's career. Offering to cover for her, Carter suppresses evidence only to find himself the chief suspect in a criminal investigation. Suddenly this well-connected man-about-town is a pariah, hounded by the police and forced to find the true culprit to clear his name. More importantly, he must re-examine whether it is important to be accepted by a society based on betrayal, hypocrisy and corruption. Also starring Lauren Bacall, Lily Tomlin, Willem Defoe, Ned Beatty, Moritz Bleibtreu and Mary Beth Hurt, **THE WALKER** is written and directed by Paul Schrader. Produced by Deepak Nayar, the film is a Kintop Pictures production and a presentation of ThinkFilm.

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.

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