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**NEWS RELEASE #29**

## DOC TALKS NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, PLUS POLITICAL PERSONALITIES AND LEGENDARY MUSIC ARTISTS HEADLINE AT TIFF

**Toronto** – Eight documentaries have been added to the **Real to Reel** lineup of the 32nd **Toronto International Film Festival**. These titles join Michael Moore's **CAPTAIN MIKE ACROSS AMERICA** and Jonathan Demme's **MAN FROM PLAINS** as documentary titles announced today. Political personalities and legendary music artists abound in these films, including Michael Moore, Jimmy Carter, The Who, Maria Callas, Joy Division and Lou Reed. This announcement completes **Real to Reel**, which features 32 titles from 13 countries. For the first time this year, the Festival is also opening its **Doc Talks** series to the public; previously the series was offered exclusively to the Festival's industry delegates. **Doc Talks** is a series of conversations with directors and producers exploring the how and why of documentary filmmaking, and will give audiences a chance to delve deeper into the genre. Now live at [tiff07.ca/blogs](http://tiff07.ca/blogs), the Festival's **Doc Blog** returns after a highly successful launch in 2006, offering visitors all of the exciting details and comprehensive information surrounding this year's inspired non-fiction films, and featuring contributions from both programmers and filmmakers alike. 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](http://tiff07.ca) or call 416-968-FILM or 1-877-968-FILM.

### Real to Reel

#### **AMAZING JOURNEY: THE STORY OF THE WHO**, Paul Crowder/Murray Lerner, USA

Director/Editor Paul Crowder and Academy Award-winning filmmaker Murray Lerner explore the ingenious bravado and continuing evolution of the legendary rock group The Who in this definitive, authorized documentary about the band. The film moves from their origins as a 1960s schoolboy R&B cover band, through their meteoric rise and artistic breakthroughs. In addition to a wealth of recently discovered personal images and video released by the group, the film includes interviews with prominent witnesses and personal friends. Rare and unreleased concert footage as well as behind-the-scenes moments are featured from throughout their career.

#### **LOU REED'S BERLIN** Julian Schnabel, USA **Real to Reel**

Julian Schnabel's second film at TIFF this year (his other title **LE SCAPHANDRE ET LE PAPILLON/THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY** is a **Special Presentation** this year) captures Lou Reed's 2006 live concert performance of his legendary 1973 concept album *Berlin*. Reed and his producer Bob Ezrin teamed up with music producer Hal Willner to stage *Berlin* in venues around the world. Schnabel art directed the staging and filmed the production over five nights at St. Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn, New York.

#### **CHILDREN OF THE SUN** Ran Tal, Israel/USA **Real to Reel**

Director Ran Tal shows the world of the Israeli kibbutz movement from a largely unexplored perspective - that of the first generation of children who were born within the kibbutzim, or rural communities, and lived there for most of their lives. Meticulously researched and composed of more than 80 amateur films of rare footage that was shot at the kibbutzim between 1930 and 1970, Tal focuses on the complicated feelings and reflections of the people who grew up in the communes.

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**CALLAS ASSOLUTA** Philippe Kholy, France **Real to Reel**

Kholy's mesmerizing documentary surveys the life of Maria Callas, one of the greatest opera singers the world has ever known. A lover of Aristotle Onassis and a fashion icon with a larger-than-life personality, Callas is still remembered fondly by legions of fans around the world. The film spends equal time between the great music that Callas created and her private world, including some home movie footage shot by Grace Kelly. Callas was a mass of contradictions, all of which are beautifully represented in the film, and a superstar whose luster has never faded.

**FENGMING: A CHINESE MEMOIR** Wang Bing, Hong Kong/China **Real to Reel**

Fearlessly delving into buried chapters of China's communist history, and examining the boundaries we place around personal memory, director Wang Bing has created a remarkable cinematic hybrid. At once a devastating portrait of an era, a conceptual art piece, a precious document and a fateful love story, **FENGMING: A CHINESE MEMOIR** is the harrowing account of one woman's experience in Mao's labour camps.

**JOY DIVISION** Grant Gee, UK/USA **Real to Reel**

In 1976, four young men from ruined, post-industrial Manchester, England went to see The Sex Pistols. They formed a band: Joy Division. Thirty years later their sophisticated and powerful sound is more influential than ever. Featuring the participation of the surviving members, this film reveals the legacy that Joy Division left behind. **JOY DIVISION** joins another film at the Festival about the band, **CONTROL**, a feature film which tells the story of the life and death of Joy Division frontman Ian Curtis. **CONTROL** is screening in the Vanguard programme.

**REBELLION: THE LITVINENKO CASE** Olga Konkaya and Andrei Nekrasov, Russia **Real to Reel**

The dark secrets of the Kremlin unravel in this story of the former KGB agent Alexander Litvinenko poisoned last November in London. Told in his own words and in interviews with his widow, his friends and his alleged killers, Litvinenko's narrative, interspersed with flashbacks into history, explains how the hopes for freedom and democracy, after the collapse of Soviet Communism, have been dashed by the war in Chechnya and the consolidation of power by President Vladimir Putin.

**USELESS** Jia Zhang-ke, China **Real to Reel**

The internationally acclaimed, award-winning director Jia Zhang-ke (**THE WORLD, STILL LIFE**) offers a devastating but focused and compassionate documentary about the fashion world in China, the largest exporter of garments on the planet. **USELESS** depicts the labourers working vast factories with the efficiency and precision of machines, and also portrays the industry's innovative fashion designers. With disarming simplicity, Jia both informs and seduces as he portrays the unknown faces of changing China.

**Doc Talks**

**Biography: Complicated Lives**

Innovative portraiture is a strong trend among this year's docs. Three directors – Scott Hicks (**GLASS: A PORTRAIT OF PHILIP IN TWELVE PARTS**), Peter Raymont (**A PROMISE TO THE DEAD: THE EXILE JOURNEY OF ARIEL DORFMAN**) and Peter Askin (**TRUMBO**) – will discuss the challenges and revelations they encountered while producing their films.

**Covering War**

Since the conflict in Iraq began, doc makers have often been ahead of other media in depicting the realities on the ground and the turn in public opinion back at home. This discussion combines perspectives from the front lines and the home front with directors Phil Donahue and Ellen Spiro (**BODY OF WAR**) and Michael Tucker (**THE PRISONER: OR HOW I PLANNED TO KILL TONY BLAIR, GUNNER PALACE**). Tucker will present a preview clip from his current work-in-progress, **THE BULLET-PROOF SALESMAN**, about an armoured-car dealer doing business in Iraq, while Donahue and Spiro, will discuss their film **BODY OF WAR**, an emotional journey following former soldier Tomas Young as he undergoes an activist's education in opposing the war that put him in a wheelchair.

**CANADIAN RETROPECTIVE: Michel Brault**

Michel Brault has been a pioneering force in documentary throughout his career. As the cameraman on **CHRONIQUE D'UN ÉTÉ** in 1961, he played an integral role in what many consider the turning point for cinema-vérité documentary. This year the Festival is honouring his body of work in our **Canadian Retrospective** and with the publication of André Loiselle's monograph, *Cinema as History: Michel Brault and Modern Quebec*. In this discussion, moderated by Loiselle, Brault is joined by fellow Quebec filmmaker Denys Arcand, the director of this year's **L'ÂGE DES TÉNÉBRES (DAYS OF DARKNESS)** and also a director of many key

documentaries in Quebec, including **QUEBEC: DUPLESSIS ET APRÈS...**, **ON EST AU COTON**, and **LE CONFORT ET L'INDIFFERENCE**. They'll look back over Brault's career, the unique situation of Quebec cinema, and the different demands of documentary and fiction.

#### **WHY DEMOCRACY? WITH NICK FRASER**

The *Why Democracy?* project is one of most ambitious documentary series ever undertaken. It encompasses 10 films by 10 directors from 10 countries, all varying widely in subject matter and style, but united by the theme of exploring the trials and tribulations of democracy. Nick Fraser, the commissioning editor of the BBC's acclaimed documentary series *Storyville*, was part of an international consortium of public broadcasters who commissioned the films. They demonstrate a vibrant documentary movement – provocative and entertaining – from around the world. Three of them are being shown in full at the Festival: **DINNER WITH THE PRESIDENT: A NATION'S JOURNEY**, **PLEASE VOTE FOR ME** and **IRON LADIES OF LIBERIA**. In this presentation, Fraser will show preview clips from other films in the series that have just been completed in preparation for their fall broadcast. Fraser will discuss their controversial perspectives and the struggles to get them made. For more about the series, see [whymocracy.net](http://whymocracy.net).

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.

**The Real to Reel programme is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Discovery Films.**

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For further information, please contact the Communications Department at 416-934-3200 or [proffice@tiffg.ca](mailto:proffice@tiffg.ca).