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FIFTEEN TITLES JOIN FESTIVAL'S SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND MASTERS PROGRAMMES

Toronto – The Toronto International Film Festival finalizes its **Special Presentations** and **Masters** lineups with titles from an impressive range of filmmaking talent. Two thematically-related films by filmmaker Wayne Wang (THE JOY LUCK CLUB, SMOKE, BLUE IN THE FACE) have been added to **Masters**, showcasing new work from the world's greatest filmmakers. 20 titles in total will screen as part of **Masters** in 2007. Thirteen titles have been added to **Special Presentations**, featuring performances or appearances by Philip Seymour Hoffman, Ethan Hawke, Marisa Tomei, Albert Finney, Rosemary Harris, Aaron Eckhart, Jessica Alba, Michael Moore, Guy Pearce, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Uma Thurman, Evan Rachel Wood, Ellen Page, Michael Cera, Jason Bateman, Jennifer Garner, Chris Cooper, Patricia Clarkson, Pierce Brosnan, Rachel McAdams, Jimmy Carter, Kevin Bacon, Marcia Gay Harden, John Leguizamo, Tyrese Gibson, Bobby Cannavale, Richard Jenkins, Haaz Sleiman, Hiam Abbass, Jim Broadbent, Colin Firth, Juliet Stevenson and Gina McKee. These films join previous announced titles as a part of **Special Presentations**, showcasing major films, major stars and major filmmakers. 50 titles in total will screen as **Special Presentations** during this year's Festival. 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.

Masters

A THOUSAND YEARS OF GOOD PRAYERS Wayne Wang, USA

Wayne Wang returns to the low-budget filmmaking that made him a leader of American independent cinema with two tales about the experience of Chinese immigrants in the United States. When his only daughter Yilan goes through a divorce, Mr. Shi, a retired widower from Beijing, decides to visit her in the small U.S. town where she lives. But Yilan is less than enthusiastic about her father's plans to rescue her marriage and reconstruct her life. While his daughter ignores and avoids him, Mr. Shi explores the small town, meeting and befriending an old woman who fled the Iranian Revolution.

THE PRINCESS OF NEBRASKA Wayne Wang, USA

With both **A THOUSAND YEARS OF GOOD PRAYERS** and **THE PRINCESS OF NEBRASKA**, Wang revisits the conflict between duty and desire faced by Chinese immigrants in the United States. Employing wild colour schemes and a daring use of light, the film follows 24 hours in the life of Sasha, a young Chinese woman who is four months pregnant due to a fling back in Beijing. Interrupting her first year of college in Omaha, Sasha travels to San Francisco with the sole purpose of having an abortion, but starts to consider the myriad of options available to her in America. There she meets Boshen, a young man who had an affair with Yang, the father of her unborn child. Unable to get over his ex-lover in Beijing, Boshen tries to convince Sasha to keep her baby and start a three-member family with Yang and himself, in hopes of baiting Yang to America. Struggling to comprehend the growing life inside of her, Sasha's convictions begin to deteriorate as she embraces an American concept that she has just picked up: "moving on."

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Special Presentations

BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD Sidney Lumet, USA

Filmmaking icon Sidney Lumet (*DOG DAY AFTERNOON*) directs an absorbing suspense thriller about a family facing the worst enemy of all – itself. Andy (Philip Seymour Hoffman), an overextended broker, lures his younger brother Hank (Ethan Hawke) into a larcenous scheme: robbing a suburban mom-and-pop jewellery store; a seemingly easy target, seeing as the owners are Andy and Hank's own mom-and-pop. But when the perfect crime goes awry, the damage lands right on their own doorstep. Also starring Marisa Tomei, Albert Finney and Rosemary Harris.

BILL Melisa Wallack and Bernie Goldmann, USA

Bill's (Aaron Eckhart) unremarkable life takes a turn for the worse when he's forced to adopt a cocky teenager as part of a mentorship program he reluctantly joined. While Bill ponders what he could possibly teach an unruly 16-year-old at this point in his life, it appears the presumptuous teen will be doing most of the mentoring in this unlikely relationship. Also starring Jessica Alba, Elizabeth Banks, Timothy Olyphant, and Logan Lerman.

CAPTAIN MIKE ACROSS AMERICA Michael Moore, USA **Special Presentation**

CAPTAIN MIKE ACROSS AMERICA takes us back to the 2004 election, when the margin of polling difference between candidates George W. Bush and John Kerry could have tipped either way. The film captures Moore's activities as he set out on a campaign trip almost as rigorous and far-reaching as the candidates' own, visiting 62 cities in 45 days, and holding large rallies on college campuses. He dubbed it the Slacker Uprising Tour, masterfully speaking to audiences as large as fifteen thousand and bringing a star-studded lineup of friends, including Roseanne Barr, Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder, Viggo Mortensen, Steve Earl and Joan Baez.

DEATH DEFYING ACTS Gillian Armstrong, UK/Australia

Behind his façade as the world's most famous performer, Harry Houdini (Guy Pearce) is living a life of regret. When he offers a \$10,000 reward to anyone who can reach his mother from beyond the grave, conniving psychic Mary McGregor (Catherine Zeta-Jones) hears of the contest and sets off to out-con the magician himself. But deception soon evolves into a complicated love affair as Houdini attempts the greatest stunt of his career. From filmmaker Gillian Armstrong (*CHARLOTTE GRAY, MY BRILLIANT CAREER*), **DEATH DEFYING ACTS** also stars Timothy Spall and Saoirse Ronan.

IN BLOOM Vadim Perelman, USA

On the 15th anniversary of a shooting at her former high school, Diana (Uma Thurman), a suburban wife and mother, begins questioning her seemingly perfect life. In flashbacks, Diana is a vibrant teenager (played by Evan Rachel Wood, **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE, KING OF CALIFORNIA, TERRA**) who vows to leave her sleepy suburb as soon as she can. The woman Diana has become, however, is haunted by tragic memories that relentlessly disrupt her idyllic life. From filmmaker Vadim Perelman (*HOUSE OF SAND AND FOG*), **IN BLOOM** is based on the best-selling novel by Laura Kasischke.

JUNO Jason Reitman, USA

Canadian Ellen Page (**THE TRACEY FRAGMENTS, THE STONE ANGEL**) stars as the title character in **JUNO**, the latest from filmmaker Jason Reitman (*THANK YOU FOR SMOKING*). Juno is a whip-smart teen confronting an unplanned pregnancy by her classmate Paulie (Michael Cera). With the help of her best friend Leah (Olivia Thirlby), Juno finds her unborn child the "perfect" set of parents: affluent suburban couple Mark (Jason Bateman) and Vanessa (Jennifer Garner). Luckily, Juno has the total support of her parents (JK Simmons and Allison Janney) as she faces some tough decisions, flirts with adulthood and ultimately figures out where she belongs.

MARRIED LIFE Ira Sachs, USA

From filmmaker Ira Sachs (*FORTY SHADES OF BLUE, THE DELTA*) comes an intriguing and contemporary tale of murder and marriage set in the intoxicating glow of the post-war 1940s. A suspenseful and sultry study of love, seduction and betrayal among the tangled lives of four friends, **MARRIED LIFE** stars Chris Cooper, Patricia Clarkson, Pierce Brosnan and Rachel McAdams.

MAN FROM PLAINS Jonathan Demme, USA **Special Presentation**

Last year, former President Jimmy Carter dove headfirst into the most controversial topic in international politics, publishing the book *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*. Following the path of Carter's recent book tour, Academy Award™ winner Jonathan Demme reveals a complex individual who, with the gusto and determination of a youngster, criss-crosses the county to get his message of peace across, even as that message creates a media onslaught in which his credibility and judgement are called into question.

RAILS & TIES Alison Eastwood, USA

Unable to face the possibility of losing his wife to illness, Tom Stark buries himself in his job as a train conductor. But when Tom's train hits a car on the tracks, a young woman is killed and her son, Davey, is left to cope with the loss of his mother. The accident puts the Starks and Davey on their own collision course. But instead of leading to tragedy, this crossing could mean new hope for a woman who has only one chance left to fulfill her dreams, for a man who must learn to open his heart before it is too late, and for a boy who has never known the true meaning of family. The directorial debut from Alison Eastwood, **RAILS & TIES** stars Kevin Bacon and Marcia Gay Harden.

REDACTED Brian De Palma, USA

A fictional story inspired by true events, **REDACTED** is the latest film from iconic American filmmaker Brian De Palma. It is centred around a squad of American soldiers in Samarra, Iraq. Employing a number of different styles and alternative points of view, the film juxtaposes the experiences of a soldier running a checkpoint with those of the media sent to cover the events, and the local Iraqis who film themselves caught in the middle of a civil war. Each group is affected by the conflict in different ways as everything leads toward one final tragic and horrendous incident. Producers for **REDACTED** include Canadians Jennifer Weiss and Simone Urdl of Toronto's Film Farm Production.

THE TAKE Brad Furman, USA

While working for an armoured car company, someone carjacks Felix's armoured truck with him in it, forcing him to participate in a robbery. Attempting to intercede and put a stop to the theft, Felix is shot in the head, miraculously surviving. Working hard at his own recovery, Felix is driven by revenge, hoping to get even with the man who shot him. Starring John Leguizamo, Tyrese Gibson, Bobby Cannavale and Rosie Perez.

THE VISITOR Thomas McCarthy, USA

When widowed college professor Walter Vale (Richard Jenkins) reluctantly agrees to fill in for a colleague at a conference in New York City, he discovers that a young couple have been scammed into illegally renting his vacant flat. Befriending the couple, especially Tarek (Haaz Sleiman), Walter agrees to let them stay. But when Tarek, an undocumented New Yorker, is placed into an ICE detention centre, his mother (Hiam Abbass) rushes onto the scene, and Walter's emotional commitment to Tarek and his case is sealed. **THE VISITOR** is actor-director Thomas McCarthy's follow-up to his acclaimed directorial debut **THE STATION AGENT**.

WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR FATHER? Anand Tucker, Ireland/UK

Filmmaker Anand Tucker (**SHOPGIRL**, **HILARY AND JACKIE**) returns with a story of the love between a father and son, based on the best-selling memoir by Blake Morrison. From his years as a scholarly teenager growing up with a charismatic, overbearing and adulterous father (Jim Broadbent); through to the ultimate grief of watching him die, Blake (Colin Firth) has come to terms with some difficult truths at home. Revisiting his past in a heart-rending and often humorous journey, Blake begins to accept that one's parents are not always accountable to their children. Also starring Juliet Stevenson and Gina McKee.

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 Masters programme is made possible through the generous sponsorship of BMO Nesbitt Burns.

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