

FILM INDEPENDENT'S

LOS ANGELES FILM FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY

Los Angeles Times

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**LOS ANGELES FILM FESTIVAL HONORS 2008 AWARD WINNERS
AT FESTIVAL AWARDS NIGHT**

**TARGET FILMMAKER AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT CLOSING
NIGHT
BY GUILLERMO DEL TORO**

**Sean Baker's *Prince of Broadway*
Winner of the Target Filmmaker Award (for Best Narrative
Feature)**

-- The award carries with it an unrestricted cash prize of \$50,000 funded
by Target --

**Darius Marder's *Loot*
Winner of the Target Documentary Award (for Best Documentary
Feature)**

-- The award carries with it an unrestricted cash prize of \$50,000 funded
by Target --

**Jonathan Levine's *The Wackness*
Winner of the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature**

**Sacha Gervasi's *Anvil! The Story of Anvil*
Winner of the Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature**

**James Marsh's *Man on Wire*
Winner of the Audience Award for Best International Feature**

SHORT FILM AND OTHER AWARDS ALSO ANNOUNCED

LOS ANGELES (June 30, 2008) — The Los Angeles Film Festival announced its 2008 award winners at the Festival's Awards Night on Sunday, June 29, where acclaimed actor Don Cheadle was honored with the 2008 Spirit of Independence Award. The awards, presented by Rosanna Arquette, Illeana

Douglas, Paul Haggis, Jennifer Beals and Halle Berry, include the **Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature**, which went to **Jonathan Levine** for *The Wackness* and the **Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature**, which went to **Sacha Gervasi** for *Anvil! The Story of Anvil*. **James Marsh's Man on Wire** won the **Audience Award for Best International Feature**.

The award for **Outstanding Performance in the Narrative Competition** went to **Jennifer Lawrence** for her performance in **Lori Petty's The Poker House**. Given to an actor or actors from an official selection in the Narrative Competition, this is the fifth year the award has been given out at the Festival.

The award for **Best Narrative Short Film** went to **Alice Winocour's Magic Paris**. The award for **Best Documentary Short Film** went to **Eva Weber's City of Cranes**. **Cam Christiansen's I Have Seen the Future** won the award for **Best Animated/Experimental Short Film**.

The Audience Award for Best Short Film went to **Darren Thornton's Frankie**. **Melanie Mandl's Run** won the **Audience Award for Best Music Video** for Air.

"The audience truly is king, and it shows through their continued enthusiasm for diverse, entertaining, and thought-provoking films," said Los Angeles Film Festival Director Rich Raddon. "The opportunity to see new summer movies and discover new international and independent talent has continued to fuel the growth in attendance at the Festival."

The winners of the **Target Filmmaker Awards** were announced at Closing Night on Saturday, June 28. *Hellboy II* director Guillermo del Toro presented the awards to this year's lucky winners. The **Target Filmmaker Award for Best Narrative Feature** went to **Sean Baker** for *Prince of Broadway*, and the **Target Documentary Award for Best Documentary Feature** went to **Darius Marder** for *Loot*. The Documentary Jury also bestowed a Special Jury Commendation to **Pressure Cooker** directed by **Jennifer Grausman and Mark Becker**.

"Now in its seventh year of sponsoring the Festival, Target continues to support our community—and these talented artists—in the most generous way possible. They've contributed a total of \$600,000 in filmmaker grants alone," said Film Independent Executive Director, Dawn Hudson. "Film Independent and Target are thrilled to nurture artists who create films with an independent spirit and distinctive vision."

Committed to supporting new talent in the film industry, the Festival and Target through their partnership are able to award two promising directors with these awards, which each carry an unrestricted **\$50,000 cash prize** funded by Target – among the largest cash prizes given out at any North American film festival. Target established these two grants because they believe in supporting the arts and art education, including the art of independent filmmaking.

In Sean Baker's *Prince of Broadway*, immigrants from different parts of the world, Lucky and Levon, are trying to carve out their chunk of the American dream, hustling knock-offs in New York City's chaotic Garment

District. When an ex-girlfriend leaves a toddler in Lucky's care, his newfound responsibilities send a ripple effect through both men's lives. Working against predictability and melodrama, director Sean Baker's delicately drawn portrait of American life is laced with humor and a deep affection for his characters, expertly brought to life by a near-perfect cast of up-and-comers who grace the screen with truthful and compelling performances.

In awarding *Prince of Broadway* with the Target Filmmaker Award for Best Narrative Feature, the jury stated the following: "Combining uncommonly quick-witted directorial skill with a lively and humane understanding of how all sorts of new Americans learn to scrape by at the bottom of New York's melting pot, Sean Baker's *Prince of Broadway* avoids sentimental pitfalls while letting the audience share the complications and private victories of lives that too many movies don't think twice about."

The Narrative Feature Competition jury was comprised of Stephanie Allain, Tom Carson, and Robert M. Young.

Darius Marder's *Loot* asks the question what would possess a used-car salesman from Utah to spend months searching through a filthy house piled with years of junk or to trek through the hills of Austria with only the memories of a blind man to guide him? Buried treasure, hidden more than 60 years ago by two World War II veterans. Despite the complications of fading memories and failing health, the lure of untold riches — no matter how unlikely — is simply irresistible. But what begins as a fool's errand slowly becomes a journey all three men were destined to take in this quietly devastating documentary.

The Documentary Jury chose *Loot* as the recipient of the Target Documentary Award "because its elegance and exquisite craft delivers everything you want in a documentary. Its uniquely flawed characters, sublime surprise of verité, and keen cinematic eye come together in a beautiful and riveting film."

The Documentary Feature Competition jury was comprised of Marina Goldovskaya, Esther Robinson, and Morgan Spurlock.

In Jennifer Grausman and Mark Becker's *Pressure Cooker*, unorthodox Culinary Arts teacher Mrs. Stephenson isn't sugar and spice; she's a tyrant known throughout her Philly public high school for her hoarse rebukes of her students' "McDonald's palates" and sloppy crêpes. She may be disarmingly blunt, but she cares about the final product: Last year, 11 of her seniors totaled \$750,000 in scholarships to top culinary schools across the nation. Jennifer Grausman and Mark Becker's high-heat documentary follows students Erica, Tyree, and Fatoumata, three dedicated inner-city kids with circumstances stacked against them whose best hope for their futures depends on the perfect Tourne potato.

The Documentary Jury bestowed a Special Jury Commendation on *Pressure Cooker* "for passionately demonstrating the beauty and artfulness of food, the miracle of education, and the difference tough love can make in the lives of many."

This year the Festival received more than 5000 submissions from filmmakers around the world, with the final selections representing several

World, North American, and U.S. premieres. More than 230 feature films, shorts, and music videos screened at this year's Festival.

The Festival kicked off on Thursday, June 19 with the **Opening Night Gala** selection *Wanted* (Universal Pictures), directed by Timur Bekmambetov. *Anvil! The Story of Anvil*, directed by Sacha Gervasi, screened as this year's **Centerpiece Premiere** selection on Thursday, June 26. The **Closing Night** film selection was Universal's *Hellboy II: The Golden Army*, directed by Guillermo del Toro.

In addition to the Festival's Coffee Talks, Tech Talks, Poolside Chats, Film Financing Conference, and other special events, the Festival held the World Premiere of Walden Media and New Line Cinema's *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, presented in RealD 3D, as part of the Festival's annual **Family Day** celebration.

Common served as this year's **Artist in Residence**. As Artist in Residence, Common programmed a sidebar of films that had inspired his work and participated in a pre-Festival conversation. Honored Director was **Melvin Van Peebles**. Honorary Co-Chairs were **Antonio Banderas**, **Jada Pinkett Smith**, and **Rob Reiner**.

Awards were given out in the following categories:

Target Filmmaker Award (for Best Narrative Feature)

Winner: *Prince of Broadway* written by Sean Baker and Darren Dean, and directed by Sean Baker

Credits: Producer Darren Dean

Cast: Prince Adu, Karren Karagulian, Aiden Noesi

Film Description: Immigrants from different parts of the world, Lucky and Levon are trying to carve out their chunk of the American dream, hustling knock-offs in New York City's chaotic Garment District. When an ex-girlfriend leaves a toddler in Lucky's care, his newfound responsibilities send a ripple effect through both men's lives. Working against predictability and melodrama, director Sean Baker's delicately drawn portrait of American life is laced with humor and a deep affection for his characters, expertly brought to life by a near-perfect cast of up-and-comers who grace the screen with truthful and compelling performances.

The Target Filmmaker Award carries an unrestricted cash prize of \$50,000 funded by Target, offering the financial means to help filmmakers transfer their vision to the screen. The award recognizes the finest American narrative film in competition. The award is given to the winning director of the Narrative Feature Competition. A special jury selects the winner. All narrative feature-length films screening in the Narrative Competition section

were eligible.

The Narrative Feature Competition jury was comprised of Stephanie Allain, Tom Carson, and Robert M. Young.

Target Documentary Award (for Best Documentary Feature)

Winner: ***Loot* written/directed by Darius Marder**

Credits: Producer Darius Marder

Film Description: What would possess a used-car salesman from Utah to spend months searching through a filthy house piled with years of junk or to trek through the hills of Austria with only the memories of a blind man to guide him? Buried treasure, hidden more than 60 years ago by two World War II veterans. Despite the complications of fading memories and failing health, the lure of untold riches — no matter how unlikely — is simply irresistible. But what begins as a fool's errand slowly becomes a journey all three men were destined to take in this quietly devastating documentary.

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The Documentary Feature Competition jury was comprised of Marina Goldovskaya, Esther Robinson, and Morgan Spurlock.

Special Documentary Jury Commendation

Title: ***Pressure Cooker*, directed by Jennifer Grausman and Mark Becker**

Credits: Producer Jennifer Grausman

Film Description: Unorthodox Culinary Arts teacher Mrs. Stephenson isn't sugar and spice; she's a tyrant known throughout her Philly public high school for her hoarse rebukes of her students' "McDonald's palates" and sloppy crêpes. She may be disarmingly blunt, but she cares about the final product: Last year, 11 of her seniors totaled \$750,000 in scholarships to top culinary schools across the nation. Jennifer Grausman and Mark Becker's high-heat documentary follows students Erica, Tyree, and Fatoumata, three dedicated inner-city kids with circumstances stacked against them whose best hope for their futures depends on the perfect Tourne potato.

Outstanding Performance in the Narrative Competition

Winner: **Jennifer Lawrence** of **Lori Petty's *The Poker House***
Film Description: An ordinary day in young Agnes' life is anything but. With a strung-out mother, a pimp father figure, and a home overrun by gamblers, thieves, and johns, Agnes is simply trying to survive, along with her two younger sisters. Beautifully crafted and featuring breakout performances by a trio of young actresses, Lori Petty's directorial debut is at once frank and heartbreaking, lithe and hopeful. Eschewing predictability and indie tropes, Petty's film has at its heart the candid assertion that while the world can be cruel, good things can happen to people who need them.

In bestowing Jennifer Lawrence with Outstanding Performance recognition, the Jury stated: "Everything in *The Poker House* is riding on Jennifer Lawrence's performance, but we never once catch her looking like she knows it. Her ability to convince us that the victimized teenager she plays has never known any other life but this one — and has no idea if it's unusual or not — is screen acting at its very best."

The Narrative Feature Competition jury was comprised of Stephanie Allain, Tom Carson, and Robert M. Young.

Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature

Winner: ***The Wackness* written/directed by Jonathan Levine**
Credits: Producers Keith Calder, Felipe Marino, Joe Neurauter, Brian Udovich
Cast: Josh Peck, Sir Ben Kingsley, Famke Janssen, Olivia Thirlby, Mary-Kate Olsen, Method Man, Jane Adams
Film Description: Where were you in the summer of 1994? Writer and director Jonathan Levine brings those days of mixtapes and mad flavor back to life in this story of a New York City teenager who copes with the usual problems of girls and growing up while also slinging weed and trying to keep his family from getting evicted. Add an outrageous dope-smoking therapist played by Ben Kingsley alongside the central performances of Josh Peck and *Juno*'s Olivia Thirlby, and this freewheeling farce plays as anything but wack.

This award is given to the narrative feature audiences liked most as voted by a tabulated rating system. Narrative feature-length films screening in the following sections were eligible for the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature: Narrative Competition, International Showcase, Summer Previews,

Outdoor Screenings at the Ford Amphitheatre, Dark Wave, Guilty Pleasures, and Special Screenings.

Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature

Winner: *Anvil! The Story of Anvil* directed by Sacha Gervasi
Credits: Producer Rebecca Yeldham
Film Description: A totally uncool twist of fate left pioneering Canadian metal band Anvil foundering in obscurity, despite the impact of its second album, 1982's *Metal on Metal*, on the then-burgeoning metal scene. Covering two years of tireless touring and the recording of Anvil's 13th album, former roadie Sacha Gervasi perfectly captures the humor and pathos of two middle-aged guys who still just want to rock and who never stopped believing that stardom could be just another gig away. Part comedy, part cautionary tale, *Anvil! The Story of Anvil* is an anthem to people who can't give up on their dreams without one last fight.

This award is given to the documentary feature audiences liked most as voted on by a tabulated rating system. Documentary feature-length films screening in the following sections were eligible for the Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature: Documentary Competition, International Showcase, Summer Previews, Outdoor Screenings at the Ford Amphitheatre, Dark Wave, Guilty Pleasures, and Special Screenings.

Audience Award for Best International Feature

Winner: *Man On Wire* directed by James Marsh
Credits: Producer Simon Chinn
Cast: Featuring Philippe Petit
Country: England
Film Description: An unexpectedly moving tale of Philippe Petit, the French acrobat who in 1974 realized his fantasy to walk a tight-rope between the newly erected twin towers of the World Trade Center, *Man on Wire* is in many ways a tribute to the art of dreaming big, as footage of the construction of the WTC is intercut with interviews with Petit and his oddball collection of collaborators/co-conspirators. His walk is part art project, part performance, part act of rebellion, and James Marsh's film celebrates the seemingly impossible task and the man who dared dream it.

This award is given to the international feature audiences liked most as voted on by a tabulated rating system. All international feature-length films, both narrative and documentary, in the International Showcase, Summer Previews, Outdoor Screenings at the Ford Amphitheatre, Dark Wave, Guilty Pleasures, and Special Screenings were eligible for the Audience Award for Best International Feature.

Audience Award for Best Music Video

Winner: *Run by Melanie Mandl*
Music: Air
Description: A couple is forced to face their fears of spiders and loneliness.

This award is given to the music video audiences liked most as voted on by a tabulated rating system.

Best Narrative Short Film

Winner: *Magic Paris by Alice Winocour*
Credits: Producer Dharamsala
Description: Oh Paris! What a perfect setting for meeting the man of one's life...and his dog.

"Our choice for Best Narrative Short starts with the seemingly familiar setting of a woman adventuring into an unfamiliar city and finding romance, but with a humorously unexpected turn of events reminds us how life is truly an undefined map, marked by paths of sweet reward and bittersweet compromise," said the Shorts Competition Jury.

The Shorts Competition Jury was comprised of Robert Abele, Jessica Sanders, and Sean Shodahl.

Best Documentary Short Film

Winner: *City of Cranes by Eva Weber*
Credits: Producer Samantha Zarzosa
Description: Hidden in plain sight, a graceful and profound world is revealed in this documentary about the cranes that quietly shape our urban landscape.

"Best Documentary Short goes to Eva Weber's beautifully made film that gives us insight into the stories and perspectives of crane workers who operate their powerful machinery in birds'-eye solitude. Taking the short form into places new and unexpected, she's crafted a quietly artful piece that is thoughtful, touching, and funny," said the Shorts Competition Jury.

Best Animated/Experimental Short Film

Winner: *I Have Seen the Future by Cam Christiansen*
Credits: Written by Kris Demeanor, animated by Cam Christiansen and Scott Underhill
Description: On a hot summer afternoon, a father and son play tennis until their game is interrupted by a group of foul-mouthed hooligans.

“Visually interpreting Kris Demeanor’s witty spoken-sung tune about pint-sized brats spoiling a young man’s tennis match with his father, filmmaker Cam Christiansen uses primitive yet lyrical computer renderings to create an offbeat rumination on maturity and generation gaps,” said the Shorts Competition Jury.

The Shorts Competition Jury was comprised of Robert Abele, Jessica Sanders, and Sean Shodahl.

Audience Award for Best Short Film

Winner: *Frankie* by Darren Thornton

Credits: Producer Collette Farrell

Description: Frankie is 15 and becoming a dad. He wants to do everything right but soon discovers that his determination may not be enough.

Awarded to the short film audiences liked most as voted on by a tabulated rating system. Short films screening in the Shorts Programs or before Narrative Competition, Documentary Competition, or International Showcase feature-length screenings were eligible for the Audience Award for Best Short Film.

The Shorts Competition Jury was comprised of Robert Abele, Jessica Sanders, and Sean Shodahl.

ABOUT THE JURORS

Narrative Competition

Stephanie Allain is regarded as one of Hollywood’s top producers known for championing talent and projects that break the mold. She started her film career in 1986 as a staff reader at Creative Artists Agency, was admitted to the Story Analyst Guild the following year, and worked as a story analyst for 20th Century Fox, Warner Bros., and Columbia Pictures. Allain started her tenure at Columbia Pictures in 1989 as a Creative Executive and rose through the ranks to become a Senior Vice President of Production (for over a decade the highest position for an African American). She championed John Singleton’s *Boyz n the Hood*, which became a critical and box-office hit, garnering Singleton two Academy Award nominations for Best Director and Best Original Screenplay, and launched the careers of several young filmmakers including Singleton and Robert Rodriguez.

Between 1996 and 2000, as President of Jim Henson Pictures, she produced *Buddy*, as well as brand movies *Muppets From Space* and *Elmo in Grouchland*. In 2000, Allain headed production at 3Arts Entertainment, producing *Biker Boyz* and *Good Boy!* Later that year she met Craig Brewer

and, in 2004, produced *Hustle & Flow*, which won the Audience Award at Sundance in 2005 and an Academy Award for Best Original Song and a Best Actor Oscar nomination for Terrence Howard.

In 2005, she produced Sanaa Hamri's feature debut *Something New* for Focus Features, and it was nominated for two NAACP Awards. She also produced Brewer's *Black Snake Moan*, starring Sam Jackson and Christina Ricci. Currently, Allain is in New Orleans producing The Weinstein Company's *Patriots*, starring Forest Whitaker. She sits on the Board of Directors of Film Independent and is a member of the Producers Guild of America as well as Women in Film. She is a mentor for USC's Peter Stark Program and a board member of IFP's Project:Involve, and she teaches creative producing in the Entertainment Studies Division of UCLA.

Tom Carson was a two-time National Magazine Award winner during his stint as *Esquire's* movie reviewer, and he is currently *GQ's* "The Critic" and also reviews books regularly in *Los Angeles* magazine. His novel *Gilligan's Wake* was named by the *New York Times* as a Notable Book of The Year.

Robert M. Young's work includes documentaries as well as feature films. His feature films include *Nothing But a Man* (with Michael Roemer), *Alambrista*, *Short Eyes*, *Rich Kids*, *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez*, *Extremities*, *Dominick & Eugene*, *Triumph of the Spirit*, and *Caught*. His awards include Cannes' Camera d'Or, San Sebastian's Golden Concha, Venice's Primo San Giorgio, The City of Venice Prize, an Emmy, three Peabodys, two George Polk Memorial Awards, and an Academy nomination, as well as a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Documentary Competition

Marina Goldovskaya is one of Russia's best-known documentary filmmakers with a strong international reputation. She has made 35 films as director, cinematographer, producer, and writer for Russian, Austrian, French, German, and American television. During her career she won virtually every prize there is to win in the area of documentary filmmaking.

Esther Robinson is an award-winning filmmaker and producer. Her critically acclaimed directorial debut *A Walk into the Sea: Danny Williams and The Warhol Factory* took top prizes at the Berlin, Tribeca, and Chicago film festivals and is currently in international theatrical release. She is also a producer, whose projects include the film *Home Page* (directed by acclaimed filmmaker Doug Block), the digital satellite release of *The Last Broadcast* to 5 cities, the award-winning PBS series *Alive From Off Center*, and serving as the director of film/video and Performing Arts for the Creative Capital Foundation (1999-2006). Additionally, Robinson is the founder of ArtHome, a non-profit business that helps artists and their communities build assets and equity through financial literacy and home ownership, and she has a film and television degree from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Morgan Spurlock is the writer/producer/director of the Academy Award-nominated film *Super Size Me*. Recently, it was listed in the Top 25 Best Documentary Films of All Time by the IDA (International Documentary Association). In 2006, Spurlock's New York-based production company, Warrior Poets, was named to *Reel Screen Magazine's* Global 100, which listed the top 100 producers of non-fiction entertainment in the world. Also in 2006, Spurlock and Arts Alliance America created a film and distribution

partnership to release films considered to be groundbreaking and important, that were overlooked by the majority of filmgoers. Their first film, an Independent Spirit Award-nominee, *Chalk*, premiered theatrically in the summer of 2007 and was followed by *Confessions of a Superhero* (2007), *Czech Dream* (2007), *The Third Wave* (2008), and *What Would Jesus Buy?* (2008).

Spurlock has just finished filming the third season of his highly acclaimed F/X original series *30 Days*. In 2006, the series was nominated for a Producers Guild Award and won a GLAAD Media Award for best non-fiction television series, and in 2007, it was nominated for an IDA award in the Best Continuing Documentary Series category. Also, this spring Spurlock received the Fred Rogers Integrity Award from the Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood.

Spurlock's latest directorial project, *Where in the World is Osama bin Laden*, a feature-length documentary film that examines the state of world events premiered at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. It is now playing nationwide and is slated to be released worldwide in 2008.

Shorts Competition

Robert Abele is an LA-based film and television critic/journalist whose work has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *LA Weekly*, *Variety*, *Premiere*, *DGA Quarterly*, *Emmy*, *The New York Post*, *Total Film*, and *Playboy*. He is a former theater critic and the co-author of the book *The Paramount Story*.

Jessica Sanders is an Academy Award-nominated filmmaker. Her last film, *After Innocence*, won the Sundance Film Festival Special Jury Prize. Sanders was nominated for an Oscar in 2002 for *Sing!* for Best Documentary Short Film. She is currently in post-production on the feature documentary *The March* about teenagers and holocaust survivors from Brazil, USA, and Germany as they retrace the death march from Auschwitz to Birkenau concentration camps in remembrance of the Holocaust and then travel to Israel. Sanders is also directing *Good Sex*, a web series for *Good Magazine*. Sanders directs commercials for Nonfiction Spots and is a DGA and WGA member.

Sean Shodahl has been in the independent film industry for seven years. He programmed the annual Filmmaker Conference 2006 at the IFP in New York and co-managed the premiere year of Tribeca All Access, an annual meeting-based program designed to develop and fund narrative and documentary projects by artists of color. Shodahl managed the San Francisco Asian American Film Festival for 3 years, and he works now as marketing and events director for the Hawaii International Film Festival. At Marakesh Films, Shodahl worked as an associate producer on the award-winning films *The Color of Love* and *The Day I Died* by Maryam Keshavarz. Marakesh films will produce the feature film *Circumstance* directed by Keshavarz.

ABOUT THE 2008 LOS ANGELES FILM FESTIVAL

Westwood Village is home to Film Independent's Los Angeles Film Festival, which runs from Thursday, June 19 – Sunday, June 29. Festival-goers will experience the best of American and international cinema, enjoying more than 230 feature films, shorts, and music videos, as well as Coffee Talks, Poolside Chats, and other special star-studded events. Westwood Village will showcase films and events among various venues, all within walking distance of each other, with ample, convenient parking and easy access to shopping

and dining, setting the stage for the biggest Festival yet.

Over the course of 10 days and 11 nights, the public is invited to take advantage of world premieres including independent films and major studio releases, as well as tribute screenings, outdoor movies, celebrity-filled red carpets, and more. Screenings and special events will be held in Westwood at the following locations: Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at The Geffen Playhouse, AMC Avco 4, The Italian Cultural Institute, The Landmark, Landmark's Regent Theatre, Majestic Crest Theatre, Mann Festival Theatre, Mann Village Theatre, Hammer Museum, Billy Wilder Theater at the Hammer Museum, and W Los Angeles – Westwood. Additional offsite event screenings will take place at the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre in Hollywood and the California Plaza on Grand Avenue in downtown Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles Film Festival is presented by the *Los Angeles Times* and is supported by Premier Sponsors – Target, American Express OPEN^(SM) and Netflix – and by Principal Sponsors – Kodak and IFC. Promotional support is provided by Schawk. Special support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Academy Foundation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and the Argyros Foundation. American Airlines is the Official Airline Partner; Movado is the Official Timekeeper; WireImage is the Official Photography Agency of Film Independent; P.R. Newswire is the Official fast breaking news service of Film Independent. The W Los Angeles – Westwood and the Hotel Palomar are the Official hotel partners of the Festival.

ABOUT FILM INDEPENDENT

Film Independent is a non-profit membership organization that champions independent film and supports a community of artists who embody diversity, innovation, and uniqueness of vision. Film Independent helps filmmakers make their movies, builds the audience for their projects, and works to diversify the film industry. Anyone passionate about film can become a member, whether you are a filmmaker, film industry leader, or a film lover.

With over 250 annual screenings and events, Film Independent provides access to a network of like-minded artists who are driving creativity in the film industry. Film Independent also offers free Filmmaker Labs for selected writers, directors, and producers; provides cut-rate services for filmmakers; and presents year-round networking opportunities. Film Independent's mentorship and job placement program, Project:Involve, pairs emerging culturally diverse filmmakers with film industry professionals.

Film Independent produces the Los Angeles Film Festival, celebrating the best of American and international cinema, and the Spirit Awards, a celebration honoring films and filmmakers that embody independence and dare to challenge the status quo.

For more information or to become a member, visit FilmIndependent.org

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For media inquiries regarding the 2008 Los Angeles Film Festival, please contact Julie Siegel or Petra Kauraisa at 310.432.1200. For more information about the Festival and to view the complete film line-up, please visit LAFilmFest.com