



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 25, 2008

**NINE AWARD WINNING FILMS SCREENING WORLDWIDE
IN CALGARY FOR ONE DAY ONLY**

CALGARY, ALBERTA – Women in Film and Television Alberta (WIFTA) along with Women in Film and Television International (WIFTI) is proud to announce the launch of its 3rd Annual Short Film Showcase celebrating International Women's Day. For one day only an exceptional compilation of short films directed by some of the world's best female directors will be presented in nineteen cities across the WIFTI network of Chapters worldwide.

In Calgary, WIFTA invites you to celebrate International Women's Day with a presentation of the Short Film Showcase on **Saturday, March 8th at the Cantos Music Foundation** at 134-11th Avenue, S.E. starting at 1:00 pm. A catered wine reception will follow with a chance to mingle with audience and WIFTA members. As a special bonus local filmmaker Dominique Keller will be in attendance with her film **ABORIGINALITY**.

From Los Angeles, USA to Auckland, New Zealand to Edmonton, Alberta, this is an exhilarating compilation of films culled from over fifty finalist selections submitted by WIFTI's renowned International Film Festival Partners. 2008 Festivals Partners include: *The Palm Springs International Festival of Short Films (USA)*, *The Female Eye Film Festival (Canada)*, *NYWIFT/Hamptons International Film Festival's To The Point: Women Telling Tales Through Media (USA)*; *St. John's International Women's Film Festival (Canada)* and *The W.O.W (World of Women) Film Festival (Australia)*.

"International Women's Day commemorates achievements, acts of courage and determination by ordinary women. What better way for WIFTI members and the film loving public to celebrate than with a screening of the world's best short films by and about women?" comments WIFTI Short Film Showcase Producer Paulina Abarca-Cantin "Short films are an essential calling card for today's directors and they encompass every genre and technique possible. It's a rich and extremely exciting arena. After this year's arduous selection process, we are proud to be presenting a truly superlative compilation to audiences worldwide," says Abarca-Cantin.

Official Selections: 2008 WIFT International Short Film Showcase:

- A MOMENT** - Directed by Valeria Ruiz (Peru / USA)
- BLACK AND WHITE** - Directed by Kirsty McDonald (New Zealand)
- CHINESE DUMPLINGS** - Directed by Michelle Hung (Los Angeles, USA)
- DESIRE** - Directed by Kate Jessop (United Kingdom)
- HAPPINESS** - Directed by Sophie Barthes (France / USA)
- MEET-MARKET.ca** - Directed by Geneviève Poulette (Canada)
- ONE HUNDREDTH OF A SECOND** - Directed by Susan Jacobson (United Kingdom)
- ORCHIDS** - Directed by Bryce Dallas Howard (Los Angeles, USA)
- SEXY THING** - Directed by Denie Pentecost (Australia)

Together, the nine short films finalists in the Showcase have garnered over fifty international awards including *Official Selection: Shorts Competition Festival de Cannes, France 2006* and *Winner: Creative Excellence Award at the Melbourne International Film Festival* for **Denie Pentecost's SEXY THING**; *Winner: Best Live Action Short*

under 15 mins: Palm Springs International Short Film Festival 2007 for Sophie Barthes' HAPPINESS; Official Selection : Palm Springs International Shorts Festival 2007 for star on the rise Bryce Dallas Howard's (Spiderman 3, As You Like It) ORCHIDS; Winner: Best Short Documentary and Best Emerging Director: 2006 New Zealand International Documentary Film Festival for Kirsty MacDonald's BLACK AND WHITE; Winner: Special Jury Prize at the Funchal Film Festival, Portugal for Susan Jacobson's ONE HUNDREDTH OF A SECOND; Audience Award for Best Short Film at the Brooklyn Film Festival USA 2007 for Valeria Ruiz's A MOMENT and Winner: Gold Remi Award at the WorldFest Houston USA, 2007 for Genevieve Poulette's MEET-MARKET.CA.

WIFTA President Smita Acharyya says "These films speak to the range of female experiences taking the audience on a journey through friendship, love, sisterhood, aging, dating and desire. It's an experience not to be missed."

"This is one of my favorite events of the year!" exclaims Eileen Hoeter of Vancouver, Canada, current Chair of Women in Film and Television International. "I have been involved in an International Women's Day celebration for the past 25 years. This is WIFTI's third year producing the Showcase and it is always an unbelievable event! It's truly inspiring to think that women around the world are watching films by women, all together on the same day."

WIFTI Chapters Participating in the Showcase and Screening Location:

Women in Film and Television Alberta - Calgary and Edmonton – www.wifta.ca
Canada, Women in Film and Television Auckland - Auckland, New Zealand - www.wiftnz.org.nz
Women in Film and Television Atlanta (WIFTA) - Atlanta, USA – www.wifta.org
Women in Film and Video New England (WIFV)- Boston, USA – www.womeninfilmmvideo.org
Women in Film Chicago - Chicago, USA – www.wifchicago.org
Women in Film and Video, Denmark - Copenhagen, Denmark - www.wift.dk
Women in Film (WIF LA) - Los Angeles, USA – www.wif.org
Minnesota Women in Film - Minnesota, USA – www.mnwift.org
Femmes de cinéma, de la télévision et des nouveaux médias (FCTNM) - Montreal, Canada – www.fctnm.ca
Women in Film and Television New South Wales – Sydney, Australia – www.wift.org
New York Women in Film (NYWIFT) - New York, USA – www.nywift.org
Palm Springs Women in Film and Television – Palm Springs, California - www.womeninfilm.com
Women in Film and Media Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh, USA – www.wifmpit.com
New Mexico Women in Film - Santa Fe, USA – www.nmwif.com
St. John's International Women's Film Festival - Newfoundland, Canada – www.womensfilmfestival.com
Toronto (WIFT-T) - Toronto, Canada – www.wift.com
Women in Film and Video (WIFV) - Washington, USA - www.wifv.org
Women in Film and Television - Vancouver, Canada – www.womeninfilm.ca

WIFTA is the Alberta chapter for Women in Film and Television. WIFTA promotes and assists with the professional development, recognition of achievements and the creation of new opportunities for professionals, especially women, in the film, video, multimedia and television industries in Alberta. Through the support of our partners, sponsors and member contributions we provide networking opportunities, host events, and offer professional development. For more information visit www.wifta.ca. WIFTA is supported by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

WIFTI is a global network comprised of over 35 Women In Film and Television chapters worldwide and more than 10,000 members. All are dedicated to advancing professional development and achievement for women working in all areas of film, video and other screen-based media. To accomplish this goal, WIFTI provides networking and learning opportunities, scholarships, a film finishing fund, a presence at major worldwide film festivals, as well as offering help and encouragement to women who aspire to work in the film and TV industries. www.wifti.org. The WIFTI Short Film Showcase was first launched in 2006 at the WIFT International Summit in 2006.

Short Film Showcase: General Admission \$20
Admission **FREE** if joining or renewing WIFT-A Membership
(Voting \$32.50 • Non-Voting \$37.50 • Student \$17.50)
Saturday, March 8th, 1:00 pm
Cantos Music Foundation, 134-11th Avenue, S.E., Calgary
Sponsors: City TV, NAIT and NR92TV, Tin Horn Creek Winery and The Alberta Foundation for the Arts

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