

FILM INDEPENDENT'S

LOS ANGELES FILM FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY

Los Angeles Times

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**2008 LOS ANGELES FILM FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES FULL PROGRAM LINE-UP**

- **Universal Picture's *WANTED* to Screen as Opening Night Film -**
- **Sacha Gervasi's *ANVIL! THE STORY OF ANVIL* to Screen as Centerpiece
Premiere -**
- **Universal Picture's *HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY* to Screen
as Closing Night Film -**

LOS ANGELES (May 7, 2008) – The Los Angeles Film Festival announced today the full program line-up for the 2008 Los Angeles Film Festival (**Thursday, June 19 - Sunday, June 29**), including the Opening Night film, Closing Night film, and Centerpiece Premiere. This Festival's Guest Director and Artist in Residence will be announced shortly.

"I am proud of the Festival's on-going growth within the community, and pleased that we continue to attract world-class filmmakers like Guillermo Del Toro and Timur Bekmambetov," said Festival Director Rich Raddon. "The Los Angeles Film Festival celebrates the best in filmmaking as well as discovering new voices from around the world."

"We're proud to be bringing a wonderfully diverse slate of films and events to Festival audiences," said Los Angeles Film Festival Director of Programming Rachel Rosen. "This year's program has everything from family films to a for-adults-only swear-a-long which provides audiences with a chance to discover a range of work, and meet and interact with some superbly talented filmmakers."

"This year's Festival displays a collection of vibrant and diverse films that maintain Film Independent's spirit, quality, and originality," said Dawn Hudson, Executive Director of

Film Independent, the year-round filmmaker organization that produces the Festival. “The Festival is a chance for the film industry and filmgoers to have direct access to each other, which for Film Independent is an important on-going objective in building an interest for diverse films in art houses and multiplexes alike.”

Universal Pictures' **WANTED**, from director Timur Bekmambetov, will kick off the 2008 Los Angeles Film Festival as the Opening Night film on Thursday, June 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mann Village Theatre. *Wanted* stars James McAvoy, Morgan Freeman, Terence Stamp, Thomas Kretschmann, Common, and Angelina Jolie.

Based upon Mark Millar's explosive graphic novel series and helmed by stunning visualist director Timur Bekmambetov—creator of the most successful Russian film franchise in history, the *Night Watch* series—*Wanted* tells the tale of one apathetic nobody's transformation into an unparalleled enforcer of justice. In 2008, the world will be introduced to a hero for a new generation: Wesley Gibson.

25-year-old Wes (James McAvoy) was the most disaffected, cube-dwelling drone the planet had ever known. His boss chewed him out hourly, his girlfriend ignored him routinely and his life plodded on interminably. Everyone was certain this disengaged slacker would amount to nothing. There was little else for Wes to do but wile away the days and die in his slow, clock-punching rut. Until he met a woman named Fox (Angelina Jolie).

After his estranged father is murdered, the deadly sexy Fox recruits Wes into the Fraternity, a secret society that trains Wes to avenge his dad's death by unlocking his dormant powers. As she teaches him how to develop lightning-quick reflexes and phenomenal agility, Wes discovers this team lives by an ancient, unbreakable code: carry out the death orders given by fate itself.

With wickedly brilliant tutors—including the Fraternity's enigmatic leader, Sloan (Morgan Freeman)—Wes grows to enjoy all the strength he ever wanted. But, slowly, he begins to realize there is more to his dangerous associates than meets the eye. And as he wavers between newfound heroism and vengeance, Wes will come to learn what no one could ever teach him: he alone controls his destiny.

Universal Picture's **HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY**, from writer/director Guillermo del Toro, will close this year's Festival on Saturday, June 28 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mann Village Theatre. The film stars Ron Perlman, Selma Blair, Doug Jones, Jeffrey Tambor, and John Hurt. With a signature blend of action, humor and character-based spectacle, the saga of the world's toughest, kitten-loving hero from Hell continues to unfold in *Hellboy II: The Golden Army*. Bigger muscle, badder weapons and more ungodly villains arrive in an epic vision of imagination from Oscar®-nominated director Guillermo del Toro (*Pan's Labyrinth*, *Hellboy*).

After an ancient truce existing between humankind and the invisible realm of the fantastic is broken, hell on Earth is ready to erupt. A ruthless leader who treads the world above and the one below defies his bloodline and awakens an unstoppable army of creatures. Now, it's up to the planet's toughest, roughest superhero to battle the merciless dictator and his marauders. He may be red. He may be horned. He may be misunderstood. But when you need the job done right, it's time to call in Hellboy (Ron

Perlman).

Along with his expanding team in the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense—pyrokinetic girlfriend Liz (Selma Blair), aquatic empath Abe (Doug Jones) and protoplasmic mystic Johann—the BPRD will travel between the surface strata and the unseen magical one, where creatures of fantasy become corporeal. And Hellboy, a creature of two worlds who's accepted by neither, must choose between the life he knows and an unknown destiny that beckons him.

The Festival also announced that Sacha Gervasi's critically acclaimed documentary **ANVIL! THE STORY OF ANVIL** will screen as the 2008 Centerpiece Premiere on Thursday, June 26 at 8:30 p.m. at the Ford Amphitheatre. The outdoor film premiere will include live musical performances and special guests. The film features Steven "Lips" Kudlow and Robb Reiner.

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.

The Los Angeles Film Festival is honored to premiere the work of such acclaimed directors as Timur Bekmambetov, Guillermo del Toro, and Sacha Gervasi.

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 Poolside Chats, Coffee Talks 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 and American Express OPEN^(SM) – and by Principal Sponsors – Kodak and IFC. Promotional support is provided by Schawk. Special support

is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Academy Foundation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. American Airlines is the Official Airline Partner and WireImage is the Official Photography Agency of Film Independent. The W Los Angeles – Westwood and the Hotel Palomar are the official hotel partners of the Festival.

Festival passes are available for the general public beginning May 21. Individual tickets are available through phone and online sales beginning June 2. The Festival Ticket Office, located at 1020 Westwood Boulevard, will be open to the public beginning Sunday, June 8, selling both passes and individual tickets. For event information and tickets, call 866.FILM.FEST (866.345.6337) or visit LAFilmFest.com. Film notes, images, and trailers will be available for viewing at LAFilmFest.com beginning May 21.

The Target Red Room – filmmaker and press lounge – will be located at 1027 Westwood Boulevard.

FULL FESTIVAL PROGRAM

The 2008 Los Angeles Film Festival will screen more than 230 feature films, shorts, and music videos. 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.

PLEASE REFERENCE THE ADDENDUM FOR ALL FILM TITLES, SYNOPSES, CAST AND CREDITS FOR ALL FEATURE FILMS.

Narrative Competition (7): *This section is comprised of films, made by emerging U.S. filmmakers that will compete for the Target Filmmaker Award. Funded by Target, the award carries a \$50,000 unrestricted grant. The prize is determined by a panel of prestigious jurors. Films screened in this section also compete for the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature.*

Big Heart City, Ben Rodkin

HottieBoombaLottie, Seth Packard – **WORLD PREMIERE**

I'll Come Running, Spencer Parsons – **WORLD PREMIERE**

Medicine for Melancholy, Barry Jenkins

The Pleasure of Being Robbed, Josh Safdie

The Poker House, Lori Petty – **WORLD PREMIERE**

Prince of Broadway, Sean Baker – **WORLD PREMIERE**

Documentary Competition (10): *This section is comprised of films made by emerging US filmmakers that will compete for the Target Documentary Award, which carries a \$50,000 unrestricted grant. The prize is determined by a panel of prestigious jurors. Films screened in this section also compete for the Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature.*

Boogie Man: The Lee Atwater Story, Stefan Forbes

Dirty Hands: The Art & Crimes of David Choe, Harry Kim – **WORLD PREMIERE**

Finishing Heaven, Mark Mann – **WORLD PREMIERE**

Largo, Andrew van Baal, Mark Flanagan – **WORLD PREMIERE**
Loot, Darius Marder – **WORLD PREMIERE**
Must Read After My Death, Morgan Dews – **US PREMIERE**
Paper or Plastic?, Justine Jacob, Alex D. Da Silva – **WORLD PREMIERE**
Pressure Cooker, Jennifer Grausman, Mark Becker – **WORLD PREMIERE**
Thing With No Name, Sarah Friedland
Trinidad, PJ Raval, Jay Hodges – **WORLD PREMIERE**

International Showcase (21): *The International Showcase highlights the best in world cinema. Films screened in this section are eligible for the Audience Awards for Best International Film, Best Narrative Film, or Best Documentary Film.*

The Amazing Truth About Queen Raquela, Olaf De Fleur Johannesson – Iceland/Philippines/USA
Captain Ahab, Philippe Ramos – France
The Choir, Michael Davie – South Africa – **NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**
Exodus, Pang Ho-Cheung – Hong Kong
Fear(s) of the Dark, Blutch, Charles Burns, Marie Caillou, Pierre di Sciuillo, Lorenzo Mattotti, Richard McGuire – France (IFC Films)
Four Wives – One Man, Nahid Persson – Sweden/Iran
Hafner's Paradise, Günter Schwaiger – Austria/Spain – **US PREMIERE**
Heartbeat Detector, Nicolas Klotz – France (New Yorker Films)
Hello, Stranger, Kim Dong-hyun – South Korea – **NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**
Hold Me Tight, Let Me Go, Kim Longinotto – England (Women Make Movies)
Hotel Very Welcome, Sonja Heiss – Germany
Infinite Border, Juan Manuel Sepúlveda – Mexico – **US PREMIERE**
La France, Serge Bozon – France
Mechanical Love, Phie Ambo – Denmark
Sonetàula, Salvatore Mereu – Italy/France/Belgium
Tricks, Andrzej Jakimowski – Poland
Useless, Jia Zhang-ke – China
When Clouds Clear, Anne Slick, Danielle Bernstein – Ecuador/USA
Where Are Their Stories?, Nicolás Pereda – Mexico/Canada
Wonderful Town, Aditya Assarat – Thailand (Kino International)
You, the Living, Roy Andersson – Sweden (Tartan Films)

Summer Previews (14): *A sneak peek at this summer's upcoming independent film releases.*

American Son, Neil Abramson
The Art of Failure: Chuck Connelly Not For Sale, Jeff Stimmel (HBO) – **WORLD PREMIERE**
Baghead, Mark Duplass, Jay Duplass (Sony Pictures Classics)
Ballast, Lance Hammer (IFC Films)
Boy A, John Crowley – England (The Weinstein Company)
Choke, Clark Gregg (Fox Searchlight)

Elite Squad, José Padilha – Brazil (The Weinstein Company)
Encounters at the End of the World, Werner Herzog (THINKFilm)
Frozen River, Courtney Hunt (Sony Pictures Classics)
A Girl Cut in Two, Claude Chabrol – France (IFC Films)
Man on Wire, James Marsh – England (Magnolia Pictures)
Momma's Man, Azazel Jacobs (THINKFilm)
The Order of Myths, Margaret Brown
The Wackness, Jonathan Levine (Sony Pictures Classics)

Dark Wave (3): *Edgy films from around the world. For mature audiences.*

Cargo 200, Alexei Balabanov – Russia
Let the Right One In, Tomas Alfredson – Sweden (Magnolia Pictures)
X-Cross, Kenta Fukasaku – Japan

Guilty Pleasures (3)

Coyote, Brian Petersen – USA/Mexico
Heidi Fleiss: The Would-Be Madam of Crystal, Fenton Bailey, Randy Barbato (HBO)
Mirage Man, Ernesto Díaz Espinoza – Chile (Magnolia Pictures)

Special Event Screenings at the Ford Amphitheatre (4): *These unique outdoor screenings are part of the 2008 Ford Amphitheatre Summer Season, a multi-disciplinary arts series produced by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission in cooperation with Los Angeles County-based arts organizations.*

Anvil! The Story of Anvil, Sacha Gervasi
Cinematic Titanic
Highwater, Dana Brown – **WORLD PREMIERE**
Swear-A-Long Scarface, Brian De Palma (1983)

Tribute Screenings (5)

Derek, Isaac Julien (Derek Jarman, 1942 - 1994), England
The Makioka Sisters (1983), Kon Ichikawa (Kon Ichikawa, 1915 - 2008) – Japan
Nothing But A Man (1964), Michael Roemer (Ivan Dixon, 1931 - 2008)
Peter Pan (1953), Clyde Geronimi, Wilfred Jackson, Hamilton Luske (Ollie Johnston, 1912 - 2008)
Planet of the Apes (1968), Franklin J. Schaffner (Charlton Heston, 1923 - 2008)

Movies And More – Films With Extended Conversations (3):

The American President (1995), Rob Reiner – Conversation with director Rob Reiner and select cast and crew
Silverado (1985), Lawrence Kasdan – Conversation with writer/director Lawrence Kasdan, writer Mark Kasdan, and select cast and crew
The Women (1939), George Cukor – Conversation with Diane English, writer/director of the upcoming remake

Special Screenings (3):

The Lost Boys (1987), Joel Schumacher

Night Flight: Born Again, Stuart Samuels

Visual Acoustics: The Modernism of Julius Shulman, Eric Bricker

Special Series (10):

L.A. Film Critics: The Films That Got Away (3)

Co-presented by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association and the UCLA Film & Television Archive.

- **Ice** (1970), Robert Kramer
- **Milestones** (1975), Robert Kramer, John Douglas
- **Reunion** (1989), Jerry Schatzberg – France/Germany/Great Britain

Shaw Sensations (5)

Co-presented by the UCLA Film & Television Archive.

- **The Boxer of Shantung**, Zhang Che (*Chang Cheh*), Bao Xueli (1972) – China
- **Eight Diagram Pole Fighter**, Lau Kar-leung (*Liu Jialiang*) (1983) – China
- **Hong Kong Nocturne**, Umetsugu Inoue (1967) – China
- **Intimate Confessions of a Chinese Courtesan**, Chu Yuan (1972) – China
- **The Singing Thief**, Zhang Che (1969) – China

The Film Foundation and American Express' Preservation Screening Program (2)

Presented by the Film Foundation and American Express. Co-presented by the UCLA Film & Television Archive.

- **Shadows**, John Cassavetes (1959)
- **The Short Films of George and Mike Kuchar** (1958 – 1963)

Free Screenings (6):

Bye Bye Birdie, George Sidney (1963) – 45th Anniversary

A Fish Called Wanda, Charles Crichton (1988) – 20th Anniversary

The Garden, Scott Hamilton Kennedy

Half-Life, Jennifer Phang – Project:Involve Screening

How I See It

Made In America, Stacy Peralta – Grand Performances Screening

Short Films (42): *Shorts are shown before features and as part of five short film programs. With their diverse and complex content, these films shine brilliantly. All short films, domestic and international, will compete for prizes in Narrative, Documentary, and Animation categories. The prizes are determined by a panel of prestigious jurors. An Audience Award for Best Short Film is also presented.*

Future Filmmakers Showcase: High School Shorts (31): *These two programs of shorts made by high school students from around the country feature work by the next generation of filmmakers.*

Music Videos (58): *The Music Video Showcase consists of three programs. Our two Eclectic Mix programs are a visual mix tape of this year's best independent music videos, with a few innovative major label artists thrown in for good measure. Music videos will compete for an Audience Award. In addition, this year's Festival will spotlight music videos from Scandinavia.*

Eclectic Mix 1

Eclectic Mix 2

Declare Yourself: Spotlight on Scandinavia

Film Independent's Diversity EXPO: *The Diversity Expo joins hands with the annual Festival Mixer honoring the Festival's Participating Organizations. This means more people, more resources, more fun! The Diversity EXPO is a prime networking event at which filmmakers have access to over 40 entertainment and media organizations. New, emerging, and established filmmakers interested in expanding their industry and community contacts are encouraged to attend. The event offers a cool vibe, relaxed atmosphere and a jamming DJ. Complimentary cocktails. The event is free, but tickets are required. For tickets and more information, please contact Jane Hwang at Jhwang@film-independent.org.*

Director Lunch Talks: *Los Angeles Times entertainment writer John Horn hosts conversations with some of the Festival's leading independent filmmakers. Bring your lunch and join us for informal chats with filmmakers. This year's Lunch Talks will take place in the Festival Gallery.*

Festival Talks: *These intimate conversations feature prominent industry figures on a variety of subjects. This year's speakers include directors Ivan and Jason Reitman, and HBO's Sheila Nevins. Sponsored by OPEN from American Express.*

Coffee Talks: *The Festival will have its popular Coffee Talk series again this year on Sunday, June 22 at the W Los Angeles – Westwood. Grab some freshly brewed coffee and conversation with some of today's most prominent film figures as they discuss their craft with their peers in an intimate, informal setting. This year's Coffee Talks will feature directors, actors, composers, and screenwriters. Sponsored by OPEN from American Express.*

Poolside Chats: *Grab a cocktail by the pool and listen to some of Hollywood's most fascinating people discuss all things cinema. The series begins June 24th until June 26th at the W Los Angeles – Westwood. Chats will feature directors and actors reflecting on comedic women in film, cinema's embrace of marijuana and what it's like for actors playing the president. Sponsored by OPEN from American Express.*

Talks at the Festival Gallery: *Drop by and listen in on great conversation between Festival filmmakers and learn something new at our Tech Talks.*

Financing Conference: *The Financing Conference, on Saturday, June 21 at the Landmark, is a day full of workshops and panels for both the novice and the seasoned producer. From a primer on film financing to detailed discussions on current trends in the domestic and foreign markets, this conference will provide first-hand information and advice from the experts. Panelists include Ram Bergman, Gordon Street Pictures; Craig Emanuel, Loeb & Loeb; Mark Gill, The Film Department; Micah Green, CAA; Kevin Lau, Strand Releasing; Doug Mankoff, Echo Lake Productions; Paula Schmit, Film Finances; Cathy Schulman, Mandalay Pictures; and Jonathan Wolf, IFTA. Additional panelists to be confirmed.*

Kodak Speed Dating: *This program directly connects Festival filmmakers with industry heavyweights from all walks of the entertainment community. The mission is*

to create a casual atmosphere of accessibility through informative and intimate one-on-one meetings. Kodak Speed Dating is open to all filmmakers accepted into this year's Festival with short, narrative, documentary, and international films, as well as Film Independent Fellows in this year's Fast Track program. This event is not open to the public.

Kodak Focus/Guillermo Navarro: *Master cinematographer Guillermo Navarro, winner of almost every major cinematography award in 2007 (including an Academy Award®) for the visually daring Pan's Labyrinth, will be discussing and showing scenes from his films with Kodak's Lorette Bayle on Saturday, June 28 at The Landmark. Navarro's credits include Cronos, Jackie Brown, The Devil's Backbone, Hellboy, and Hellboy II: The Golden Army. Sponsored by Kodak.*

For updated information on all events, please visit LAFilmFest.com.

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.