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## 2008 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FILMS IN COMPETITION

### Broad Range of New Voices in Storytelling

**Park City, UT**—Sundance Institute announced today the line-up of films selected from a record number of submissions for the U.S. and World Cinema Dramatic and Documentary Competitions for the 2008 Sundance Film Festival. The premier showcase for the best new work by American and international independent filmmakers, Sundance Film Festival provides audiences with abundant opportunities to discover today's most innovative films. In addition to the four Competition categories, the Festival presents films in five out-of-competition sections to be announced tomorrow. The 2008 Sundance Film Festival runs January 17-27, 2008, in Park City, Salt Lake City, Ogden, and Sundance, Utah. The complete list of films is available at [www.sundance.org/festival](http://www.sundance.org/festival).

"The broad range of cinematic expression in this year's Festival is found not simply in terms of the volume of submissions or its demographics but in the variety of types of filmmakers and the issues they explore," said Geoffrey Gilmore, Director, Sundance Film Festival. "This year we are seeing a convergence of storytelling and art that truly illustrates the spectrum of what is possible in film."

"The creativity, urgency and passion of this year's filmmakers are palpable, proving that independent filmmaking is alive and well not only in the U.S. but throughout the world," said John Cooper, Director of Programming, Sundance Film Festival. "The amount of high-quality work submitted from a diverse range of filmmakers made our jobs difficult this year. The Competition program is funny, spirited, human, and at times uncharacteristically optimistic about the world we live in."

For the 2008 Sundance Film Festival, 121 feature-length films were selected including 87 world premieres, 14 North American premieres, and 12 U.S. premieres representing 25 countries with 55 first-time filmmakers, including 32 in competition. These films were selected from 3,624 feature film submissions composed of 2,021 U.S. and 1,603 international feature-length films. These numbers represent an increase from last year when 1,852 U.S. and 1,435 international feature-length films were considered.

### DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

These films represent a broad section of new documentaries by American independent filmmakers. From examinations of the American political system and the country's use of natural resources to

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explorations of cultural development and intimate portraits of legendary artists, these films represent a thematic and artistic variety. This year's 16 films were selected from a record 953 submissions. Each film is a world premiere.

The films screening in **Documentary Competition** are:

**AN AMERICAN SOLDIER** (Director and Screenwriter: Edet Belzberg)—Uncle Sam really wants you! A compelling exploration of army recruitment in the United States told through the story of Louisiana Sergeant, First Class Clay Usie, one of the most successful recruiters in the history of the U.S. Army. *World Premiere*

**AMERICAN TEEN** (Director and Screenwriter: Nanette Burstein)— This irreverent cinema vérité chronicles four seniors at an Indiana high school and yields a surprising snapshot of Midwestern life. *World Premiere*

**BIGGER, STRONGER, FASTER\*** (Director: Christopher Bell; Screenwriters: Christopher Bell, Alexander Buono, Tamsin Rawady)—A filmmaker explores America's win-at-all-cost culture by examining his two brothers' steroids use...and his own. *World Premiere*

**FIELDS OF FUEL** (Director: Josh Tickell; Screenwriter: Johnny O'Hara)— America is addicted to oil and it is time for an intervention. Enter Josh Tickell, a man with a plan and a Veggie Van, who is taking on big oil, big government, and big soy to find solutions in places few people have looked. *World Premiere*

**FLOW: FOR LOVE OF WATER** (Director: Irena Salina)— Water is the very essence of life, sustaining every being on the planet. FLOW confronts the disturbing reality that our crucial resource is dwindling and greed just may be the cause. *World Premiere*

**GONZO: THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR. HUNTER S. THOMPSON** (Director: Alex Gibney)— Fueled by a raging libido, Wild Turkey, and superhuman doses of drugs, Thompson was a true "free lance," goring sacred cows with impunity, hilarity, and a steel-eyed conviction for writing wrongs. Focusing on the good doctor's heyday, 1965 to 1975, the film includes clips of never-before-seen (nor heard) home movies, audiotapes, and passages from unpublished manuscripts. *World Premiere*

**THE GREATEST SILENCE: RAPE IN THE CONGO** (Director and Screenwriter: Lisa F. Jackson)— Jackson travels to remote villages in the war zones of the Congo to meet rape survivors, providing a piercing, intimate look into the struggle of their lives. *World Premiere*

**I.O.U.S.A.** (Director: Patrick Creadon)—Few are aware that America may be on the brink of a financial meltdown. I.O.U.S.A. explores the country's shocking current fiscal condition and ways to avoid a national economic disaster. *World Premiere*

**NERAKHOON (THE BETRAYAL)** (Director: Ellen Kuras; Co-Director: Thavisouk Phrasavath; Screenwriters: Ellen Kuras, Thavisouk Phrasavath)— The epic story of a family forced to emigrate from Laos after the chaos of the secret air war waged by the U.S. during the Vietnam War. Kuras has spent the last 23 years chronicling the family's extraordinary journey in this deeply personal, poetic, and emotional film. *World Premiere*

**THE ORDER OF MYTHS** (Director: Margaret Brown) — In 2007 Mobile, Alabama, Mardi Gras is celebrated...and complicated. Following a cast of characters, parades, and parties across an enduring color line, we see that beneath the surface of pageantry lies something else altogether. *World Premiere*

**PATTI SMITH: DREAM OF LIFE** (Director: Steven Sebring)— An intimate portrait of poet, painter, musician and singer Patti Smith that mirrors the essence of the artist herself.

**ROMAN POLANSKI: WANTED AND DESIRED** (Director: Marina Zenovich; Screenwriters: Marina Zenovich, Joe Bini, P.G. Morgan)— Marina Zenovich's new documentary examines the public scandal and private tragedy which led to legendary director Roman Polanski's sudden flight from the United States. *World Premiere*

**SECRECY** (Directors: Peter Galison, Robb Moss)— Amidst the American hunger for instantaneous news and up-to-date "facts," this unflinching film uncovers the vast, invisible world of government secrecy. *World Premiere*

**SLINGSHOT HIP HOP** (Director: Jackie Reem Salloum)—The voice of a new generation rocks and rhymes as Palestinian rappers form alternative voices of resistance within the Israeli-Palestinian struggle. *World Premiere*

**TRACES OF THE TRADE: A STORY FROM THE DEEP NORTH** (Director: Katrina Browne; Co-Directors: Alla Kovgan, Jude Ray; Screenwriters: Katrina Browne, Alla Kovgan)—History finally gets rewritten as descendants of the largest slave-trading family in early America face their past, and present, as they explore their violent heritage across oceans and continents. *World Premiere*

**TROUBLE THE WATER** (Directors: Tia Lessin, Carl Deal)— An aspiring rap artist and her streetwise husband, armed with a video camera, show what survival is all about when they are trapped in New Orleans by deadly floodwaters, and seize a chance for a new beginning. *World Premiere*

### **DRAMATIC COMPETITION**

One of the most recognizable sections of the Festival, the films in this year's Dramatic Competition employ a range of aesthetic invention and reinvention of genre. From the light-hearted exploration of the darker side of human nature and relationships to stories that address serious issues of class and race, the 2008 Dramatic Competition represents a range of distinctive voices and unique storytelling.

This year's 16 films were selected from 1,068 submissions. Each film is a world premiere.

The films screening in **Dramatic Competition** are:

**AMERICAN SON** (Director: Neil Abramson; Screenwriter: Eric Schmid)— Before being deployed for active duty, a young Marine takes a four-day Thanksgiving leave to return home to Bakersfield, California. There he meets a young woman, tries to connect with old friends, and confronts his volatile home life. Cast: *Nick Cannon, Melonie Diaz, Matt O'Leary, Jay Hernandez, Tom Sizemore, Chi McBride*. *World Premiere*

**ANYWHERE, U.S.A.** (Director: Chusy Haney-Jardine; Screenwriters: Chusy Haney-Jardine, Jennifer Macdonald)— Told in three segments ranging from satirical to tragic, the film is a wildly

original look at American manners, prejudices, and family dynamics. Cast: *Perla Haney-Jardine*. *World Premiere*

**BALLAST** (Director and Screenwriter: Lance Hammer)—A riveting, lyrical portrait of an emotionally frayed family whose lives are torn asunder by a tragic act in a small Mississippi Delta town. Cast: *Michael J. Smith Sr., Jim Myron Ross, Tarra Riggs, Johnny McPhail*. *World Premiere*

**CHOKO** (Director and Screenwriter: Clark Gregg)—An adaptation of Chuck Palahniuk's (*Fight Club*) novel, CHOKO is the sardonic story about mother and son relationship, fear of aging, sexual addiction, and the dark side of historical theme parks. Cast: *Sam Rockwell, Anjelica Huston, Kelly MacDonald, Brad Henke*. *World Premiere*

**DOWNLOADING NANCY** (Director: Johan Renck; Screenwriters: Pamela Cuming, Lee Ross)—The tale of an unhappy wife whose online search for someone to put her out of her misery results in a torturous love affair. Cast: *Maria Bello, Jason Patric, Rufus Sewell, Amy Brenneman*. *World Premiere*

**FROZEN RIVER** (Director and Screenwriter: Courtney Hunt)—A desperate trailer mom and a Mohawk Indian girl team up to smuggle illegal immigrants into the United States from Canada by driving across a frozen river. Cast: *Melissa Leo, Misty Upham, Charlie McDermott, Michael O'Keefe, Mark Boone, Jr.* *World Premiere*

**GOOD DICK** (Director and Screenwriter: Marianna Palka)—The tale of a lonely girl drawn from her isolated life and solitary apartment by a doting young video store clerk who strives to capture her affections. Cast: *Jason Ritter, Marianna Palka, Tom Arnold, Mark Webber, Martin Starr, Eric Edelstein*. *World Premiere*

**THE LAST WORD** (Director and Screenwriter: Geoff Haley)—An off-beat romantic comedy about a solitary writer who makes his living composing other people's suicide notes. After meeting the sister of a recently deceased client, he finds his reclusive life and secret career upended by an unusual romance. Cast: *Winona Ryder, Wes Bentley, Ray Romano*. *World Premiere*

**THE MYSTERIES OF PITTSBURGH** (Director and Screenwriter: Rawson Marshall Thurber)—Based on Michael Chabon's novel, the film chronicles the defining summer of a recent college graduate who crosses his gangster father and explores love, sexuality, and the enigmas surrounding his life and his city. Cast: *Jon Foster, Peter Sarsgaard, Rawson Marshall Thurber, Sienna Miller, Mena Suvari, Nick Nolte*. *World Premiere*

**NORTH STARR** (Director and Screenwriter: Matthew Stanton)—After witnessing the brutal murder of his best friend, a young African American man flees the badlands of Houston and finds himself in Trublin, a backward, racially intolerant town where he meets an unlikely kindred spirit who takes him under his wing. Cast: *Jerome Hawkins, Matthew Stanton, Chris Sullivan, Isaac Lamb, Zach Johnson, Wayne Campbell*. *World Premiere*

**PHOEBE IN WONDERLAND** (Director and Screenwriter: Daniel Barnz)—Confounded by her clashes with the seemingly rule-obsessed world, a little girl takes her already dysfunctional family down the rabbit hole when she seeks enlightenment from her unconventional drama teacher. Cast: *Elle Fanning, Felicity Huffman, Patricia Clarkson, Bill Pullman, Campbell Scott, Peter Gerety*. *World Premiere*

**PRETTY BIRD** (Director and Screenwriter: Paul Schneider)— A comic tale of three would-be entrepreneurs who set out to invent a rocket belt. The clash of their mismatched personalities soon dissolves the business into a morass of recriminations, retaliations, kidnapping, and murder in this parable of American dreams and delusions. Cast: *Billy Crudup, Paul Giamatti, Kristen Wiig, David Hornsby*. *World Premiere*

**SLEEP DEALER** (Director: Alex Rivera; Screenwriters: Alex Rivera, David Riker)— Set in a near-future, militarized world marked by closed borders, virtual labor and a global digital network that joins minds and experiences, three strangers risk their lives to connect with each other and break the barriers of technology. Cast: *Luis Fernando Peña, Leonor Varela, Jacob Vargas*. *World Premiere*

**SUGAR** (Directors and Screenwriters: Anna Boden, Ryan Fleck)— Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, who last teamed up for *HALF NELSON*, chronicle the journey of Dominican baseball star Miguel "Sugar" Santos recruited from his native country to play in the U.S. minor leagues. Cast: *Algenis Perez Soto*. *World Premiere*

**SUNSHINE CLEANING** (Director: Christine Jeffs; Screenwriter: Megan Holley)— Struck by financial hardship, an ambitious mother and her unmotivated sister become entrepreneurs in the field of biohazard removal and crime scene clean-up. Cast: *Amy Adams, Emily Blunt, Steve Zahn, Alan Arkin*. *World Premiere*

**THE WACKNESS** (Director and Screenwriter: Jonathan Levine)— During a sweltering New York summer, a troubled teenage drug dealer trades pot for therapy sessions with a drug-addled psychiatrist, and in the process falls for the doctor's daughter. Cast: *Josh Peck, Ben Kingsley, Famke Janssen, Olivia Thirlby, Mary Kate Olsen, Method Man*. *World Premiere*

#### **WORLD CINEMA DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION**

The 16 films selected from 620 submissions represent 8 countries including Pakistan, Jordan, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and Canada. The range of human experience is played out in these engaging stories about the artistic process, the cost of conflict, faith and nationalism, and the triumph of personal spirit.

Films screening in **World Cinema Documentary Competition** are:

**ALONE IN FOUR WALLS (ALLEIN IN VIER WÄNDEN)**/Germany (Director and Screenwriter: Alexandra Westmeier)— Adolescent boys struggle to grow up in a home for delinquents in rural Russia where life behind bars may be better than the release to freedom. *North American Premiere*

**THE ART STAR AND THE SUDANESE TWINS**/ New Zealand (Director and Screenwriter: Pietra Brettkelly)— Vanessa Beecroft is obsessively determined to adopt Sudanese twin orphans. Her consuming passion drives her marriage to a breaking point and fuels her controversial art, raising troubling questions about exploitation, culture clash, and the imposition of the West on Africa. *World Premiere*

**BE LIKE OTHERS**/Canada/Iran/United Kingdom/U.S.A. (Director: Tanaz Eshaghian)— An intimate and unflinching look at life in Iran, seen through the lens of those living at its fringes, *BE LIKE OTHERS* is a provocative look at a generation of young Iranian men choosing to undergo sex change surgery. *World Premiere*

**A COMPLETE HISTORY OF MY SEXUAL FAILURES/** United Kingdom (Director: Chris Waitt; Screenwriters: Chris Waitt and Henry Trotter)—Chris is a useless boyfriend. Determined to find out why, he consults his ex-girlfriends, medical practitioners, producers, and mother to find out how women really see him. Has this journey made him potential boyfriend material or is he staring a life of loneliness square in the face? *World Premiere*

**DEREK/** United Kingdom (Director: Isaac Julien)—A film involving two courageous and innovative artists—one the subject and one the filmmaker—provides a cinematic journey that illuminates the work and enduring importance of the late Derek Jarman. *World Premiere*

**DINNER WITH THE PRESIDENT/**Pakistan (Directors and Screenwriters: Sabiha Sumar and Sachithanandam Sathananthan)—From on-the-street interviews to audiences with religious leaders to dinner with the President of Pakistan, the film takes the temperature of a culture on issues from politics to women's rights. *U.S. Premiere*

**DURAKOVO: THE VILLAGE OF FOOLS (DURAKOVO: LE VILLAGE DES FOUS)/** France (Director and Screenwriter: Nino Kirtadze)—Russian nationalism percolates in a castle outside Moscow, where Mikhail Morozov rules autonomously over young initiates, laying the groundwork for a rapidly growing right-wing movement. *North American Premiere*

**IN PRISON MY WHOLE LIFE/** United Kingdom (Director: Marc Evans; Screenwriters: Marc Evans, William Francome)—A curious young filmmaker attempts to understand the true story behind award-winning journalist Mumia Abu Jamal's death row sentence, and comes to startling realizations about American history and its justice system. *With William Francome, Noam Chomsky, Alice Walker, Mos Def, Smoof, Snoop Dogg, Angela Davis. North American Premiere*

**MAN ON WIRE/** United Kingdom (Director and Screenwriter: James Marsh)—In 1974, Philippe Petit, a young Frenchman, dances on a wire suspended between New York's Twin Towers. Consequently, Philippe is arrested and thrown into jail for what would become known as "the artistic crime of the century." *World Premiere*

**pUJEE/** Japan (Director and Screenwriter: Kazuya Yamada)—Against the backdrop of a magnificent but harsh natural landscape, a Japanese photojournalist encounters puujee, a young girl who tames wild horses on the Mongolian plains. *North American Premiere*

**RECYCLE/** Jordan (Director and Screenwriter: Al Massad)—A Jordanian family man living in the hometown of Muslim leader Al-Zarqawi struggles to support his family and define his identity in a tense political climate. *World Premiere*

**STRANDED: I'VE COME FROM A PLANE THAT CRASHED ON THE MOUNTAINS/** France (Director and Screenwriter: Gonzalo Arijon)—For the first time ever, survivors of the famous 1974 Andes plane crash tell in their own words their harrowing story of survival. *North American Premiere*

**TRIAGE: DR. JAMES ORBINSKI'S HUMANITARIAN DILEMMA/** Canada (Director: Patrick Reed)—Acclaimed doctor James Orbinski, former head of Doctors Without Borders, returns to Africa to confront the harsh reality of conditions there and explores what it means to be a humanitarian. *North American Premiere*

**UP THE YANGTZE**/ Canada (Director and Screenwriter: Yung Chang)—At the edge of the Yangtze River, not far from the Three Gorges Dam, young men and women take up employment on a cruise ship, where they confront rising waters and a radically changing China. *U.S. Premiere*

**THE WOMEN OF BRUKMAN (LES FEMMES DE LA BRUKMAN)**/ Canada (Director: Issac Isitan; Screenwriters: Isaac Isitan and Carole Poliquin)—Amidst Argentina's financial collapse, workers take over a Buenos Aires men's clothing factory and continue producing clothing on a self-management model. As the formerly poor become business managers, their lives are changed forever. *U.S. Premiere*

**YASUKUNI**/ Japan/China (Director and Screenwriter: Li Ying)—Controversy abounds as Japanese officials honor the deceased at the legendary Yasukuni shrine, where swords used to kill Chinese soldiers were famously forged. Few know about the shrine's eerie past and the mysterious sword inside. *Cast: Kariya Naoji, Sugawara Ryuken, Gaojin Sumei. North American Premiere*

### **WORLD CINEMA DRAMATIC COMPETITION**

The World Cinema Dramatic Competition reflects Sundance's commitment to championing the independent spirit in filmmakers everywhere and to fostering creative dialogue between divergent cultures. This year's 16 selections from 983 submissions represent 17 countries including Spain, Peru, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Mexico, Panama, Russia, and Sweden. From sexual exploits to criminal minds, coming-of-age stories to life-altering events, these films introduce us to characters with tenacity, imagination, and spirit that transcend borders.

The films screening in **World Cinema Dramatic Competition** are:

**ABSURDISTAN**/ Germany/Azerbaijan (Director: Veit Helmer; Screenwriters: Veit Helmer, Zaza Buadze, Gordan Mihic, Ahmet Golbol)— This inventive and allegorical comedy centers on two childhood sweethearts who seem destined for one another until the women of their isolated village, angered by male indifference toward the water shortage, go on a sex strike that threatens the young couple's first night of love. *Cast: Maximilian Mauff, Kristýna Malěřova. World Premiere*

**BLUE EYELIDS (PÁRPADOS AZULES)**/ Mexico (Director: Ernesto Contreras; Screenwriter: Carlos Contreras)— When Marina wins a beach getaway trip for two, her desperate search for someone to take with her leads to a complicated relationship and the revelation that she might be better off on her own. *Cast: Cecilia Suárez, Enrique Arreola, Ana Ofelia Murguía, Tiaré Scanda, Luisa Huertas. U.S. Premiere*

**CAPTAIN ABU RAED**/ Jordan (Director and Screenwriter: Amin Matalqa)— An aging airport janitor who is mistaken for an airline pilot by a group of poor neighborhood children weaves fantastical stories to offer hope for a sad, and sometimes unchangeable, reality. *Cast: Nadim Sawalha, Hussein Al-Sous, Rana Sultan, Uday Al-Qiddissi, Ghandi Saber. North American Premiere*

**THE DRUMMER (JIN. GWU)**/ Hong Kong/ Taiwan/ Germany (Director and Screenwriter: Kenneth Bi) — A young man transforms from a reckless youth and gangster into a mature adult through the inspiration of Zen drumming. *Cast: Jaycee Chan, Tony Leung Ka Fai, Josie Ho, Roy Cheung, Lee Sinje, Kenneth Tsang.*

**I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A GANGSTER (J'AI TOUJOURS RÊVÉ D'ÊTRE UN GANGSTER)**/ France (Director and Screenwriter: Samuel Benchetrit)— Told in four vignettes, this existential

comedy relates the exploits of four aspiring criminals who hope to improve their lot, but find that they might not have what it takes for a life of crime. *Cast: Sergi López, Jean Rochefort, Alain Bashung, Anna Mouglalis. North American Premiere*

**JUST ANOTHER LOVE STORY (KÆRLIGHED PÅ FILM)**/Denmark (Director and Screenwriter: Ole Bornedal) —Jonas's quiet life as a suburban family man takes an unexpected twist when he causes a car crash that leaves a young woman with amnesia. When he is mistaken for her boyfriend, Jonas's decision to play the role gradually unravels his life. *Cast: Anders W. Berthelsen, Nikolaj Lie Kaas, Charlotte Fich, Dejan Cukic, Ewa Fröling. North American Premiere*

**KING OF PING PONG (PING PONGKINGEN)**/Sweden (Director: Jens Jonsson; Screenwriters: Jens Jonsson, Hans Gunnarson) An ostracized and bullied teenage boy who excels only in ping pong descends into an acrimonious struggle with his younger, more popular brother when the truth about their family history and their father surfaces over the course of their spring break. *Cast: Georgi Staykov, Ann-Sofie Normi, Frederik Nilsson, Jerry Johansson. International Premiere*

**MÁNCORA**/Spain/Peru (Director: Ricardo de Montreuil; Screenwriter: Oscar Torres)—A young man mourning the death of his father sets out with his estranged stepsister and her arrogant husband for adventures in the lush, picturesque beach town of Máncora, Peru. *World Premiere.*

**MEGANE (GLASSES)**/Japan (Director and Screenwriter: Naoko Ogigami)—Taeko's southern vacation becomes a life-changing experience when she discovers a unique beach community unified by surprising and perhaps odd traditions in this comedic film. *Cast: Satomi Kobayashi, Mikako Ichikawa, Ryo Kase, Ken Mitsuishi, Masako Motai. North American Premiere*

**MERMAID (RUSALKA)**/Russia (Director and Screenwriter: Anna Melikyan) —The fanciful tale of an introverted little girl who grows up believing she has the power to make wishes come true. She must reconcile this belief with reality when, as a young woman, she journeys to Moscow and grapples with love, modernity and materialism. *Cast: Masha Shalaeva, Evgeniy Ciganov, Maria Sokolova, Nastya Doncova. International Premiere*

**PERRO COME PERRO (DOG EAT DOG)**/Colombia (Director: Carlos Moreno; Screenwriters: Alonso Torres, Carlos Moreno) —In the crime world of Colombia, there is an unwritten code. When Víctor and Eusebio, two hoods who bungle a shake-down job, break that code, they unwittingly sign their own death sentence. *Cast: Marlon Moreno, Oscar Borda, Alvaro Rodríguez, Blas Jaramillo, Paulina Rivas. World Premiere*

**RIPRENDIMI (GOOD MORNING HEARTACHE)**/Italy (Director: Anna Negri; Screenwriters: Anna Negri, Giovanna Mori) —A modern young couple with a new baby are forced to deal with the almost comedic pain of breaking up while being the subject of a documentary that quickly crosses professional lines into their private lives. *Cast: Alba Rohrwacher, Marco Foschi, Valentina Lodovini, Stefano Fresi, Alessandro Averone. World Premiere*

**STRANGERS**/Israel (Directors and Screenwriters: Erez Tadmor, Guy Nattiv)—An Israeli man and a Palestinian woman meet serendipitously during the carefree atmosphere of the World Cup finals in Germany, drawing them out of the stark reality of their lives and into a passionate affair. *Cast: Liron Levo, Lubna Azabal, Dominique Lollia, Patrick Albenque, Abdallah el Akal, Roger Dumas. International Premiere*

**UNDER THE BOMBS (SOUS LES BOMBES)**/ Lebanon (Director: Philippe Aractingi; Screenwriters: Philippe Aractingi, Michel Léviand)— In the wake of Israel's 2006 bombardment of Lebanon, a determined woman finds her way into the country convincing a taxi cab driver to take a risky journey through the scarred region in search of her sister and her son. *Cast: Nada Abou Farhat, Georges Khabbaz, Bshara Atallah, and Rawia Elchab. North American Premiere*

**THE WAVE (DIE WELLE)**/ Germany (Director: Dennis Gansel; Screenwriters: Dennis Gansel and Peter Thorwarth)—A high school teacher's unusual experiment to demonstrate to his students what life is like under a dictatorship spins horribly out of control when he forms a social unit with a life of its own. *Cast: Juergen Vogel, Frederick Lau, Max Riemelt, Jennifer Ulrich, Christiane Paul. World Premiere*

**THE WIND AND THE WATER (BURWA DII EBO)**/ Panama (Directors and Screenwriters: A collective collaboration)— A young indigenous teen seeking his fortune in Panama City struggles to acclimate to chaotic urban life, where he becomes enamored with a girl from a wealthy, assimilated family. Later, he encounters his crush once again--but this time the landscape and tradition define their interaction. *World Premiere*

Festival films screen in nine sections: Documentary Competition, Dramatic Competition, World Cinema Documentary Competition, World Cinema Dramatic Competition, Spectrum, New Frontier, Park City at Midnight, and from the Sundance Collection. Feature films selected for the Premieres, Spectrum, Park City at Midnight, and New Frontier categories will be announced tomorrow, Thursday, November 29. The Short Film program will be announced on Wednesday, December 5. Films screening in The Sundance Collection will be announced on Wednesday, December 12.

Screenwriters, cinematographers, and editors in the international competition categories are now eligible for the same juried awards as those in the U.S. Dramatic and Documentary Competition.

Films selected to screen in competition are eligible for Grand Jury Prizes, Cinematography Awards and Directing Awards. Other jury awards include the Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award presented to the screenwriter of a film in Dramatic and World Cinema: Dramatic Competitions, and the Documentary Editing Award, which is presented to the editor of a film in Documentary and World Cinema: Documentary Competitions.

The Alfred P. Sloan Prize is presented to an outstanding dramatic feature film for the quality of its presentation of science or technology themes.

### **What's New for the 2008 Sundance Film Festival:**

**Spectrum: Documentary Spotlight**— This year a sidebar within the Spectrum category presents seven documentary films as a way of continuing the Festival's long-standing commitment to nonfiction storytelling.

**New Awards for World Cinema Competition**— In an effort to draw attention to international screenwriters, cinematographers, and editors, this year the Festival expands the number of awards given to films screening in the World Cinema Competitions. In addition to the World Cinema Jury Prize: Documentary and World Cinema Jury Prize: Dramatic, the international films in competition are now eligible for awards in directing, editing, screenwriting, and cinematography.

### **2008 Sundance Film Festival Sponsors**

The 2008 Sundance Film Festival sponsors help sustain Sundance Institute's year-round programs to support independent artists, inspire risk-taking, and encourage diversity in the arts. This year's Festival Sponsors include: Presenting Sponsors - *Entertainment Weekly*, Volkswagen of America, Inc., HP, and Adobe Systems Incorporated; Leadership Sponsors - American Express, Delta Air Lines, DIRECTV, and Microsoft Corporation; Sustaining Sponsors - 360 Vodka, Blockbuster Inc., L'Oréal Paris, *The New York Times*, Ray-Ban, Sony Electronics, Inc., Stella Artois®, Turning Leaf Vineyards, Utah Film Commission, and ZonePerfect® Nutrition Bars. Sundance Channel is the Official Television Network of the 2008 Sundance Film Festival.

### **Sundance Film Festival**

The Sundance Film Festival is the premier showcase for U.S. and international independent film. Held each January in Park City, Salt Lake City, Ogden, and Sundance, Utah, the Festival is a core program of Sundance Institute, a nonprofit cultural organization founded by Robert Redford in 1981.

Presenting dramatic and documentary feature-length films in nine distinct categories and approximately 80 short films each year, the Sundance Film Festival has introduced American audiences to some of the most innovative films of the past two decades. Since 1985 the Festival program has evolved to include music, art, and dialogue. Beyond the streets of Park City, the official website of the Sundance Film Festival, <http://www.sundance.org/festival> shares the Festival experience with a global audience with short films, filmmaker interviews, video episodes, podcasts, photos, news stories, and more.

### **Sundance Institute:**

Dedicated year round to the development of artists of independent vision and to the exhibition of their new work, Sundance Institute celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006. Founded by Robert Redford in 1981, the Institute has grown into an internationally recognized resource for thousands of independent artists through its Film Festival and artistic development programs for filmmakers, screenwriters, composers, playwrights, and theatre artists. The original values of independence, creative risk-taking, and discovery continue to define and guide the work of Sundance Institute, both with U.S. artists and, increasingly, with artists from other regions of the world.