

SUNDANCE INSTITUTE

◦ FILM FESTIVAL
◦ FEATURE FILM
◦ DOCUMENTARY
◦ FILM MUSIC
◦ THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 21, 2007

Media Contact: Amy McGee
Amy_mcgee@sundance.org / 310-492-2333

SUNDANCE INSTITUTE DOCUMENTARY FUND ANNOUNCES FALL 2007 GRANTS SUPPORTING FILMS FROM MORE THAN 15 COUNTRIES

*Films from Emerging Filmmakers Including Miao Wang, Julianna Brannum and NC Heikin and
Established Documentarians Frederick Wiseman, Pamela Yates, Albert Maysles and Isaac Julien to Receive Funds*

Los Angeles, CA – Today, the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program announced 30 film projects to receive a record number of financial grants from the Sundance Institute Documentary Fund. Out of 300 applications from more than 25 countries, the feature-length documentary films selected will receive a total of nearly \$750,000 in support. The Sundance Documentary Film Program supports U.S. and international documentary filmmakers who explore the critical issues of our times with highly crafted storytelling and stylistic innovation.

"The Sundance Documentary Film Program is honored to support talented artists from around the world with funding at critical moments in their filmmaking to ensure the creation and completion of these important films," said Cara Mertes, Director of the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program. "This is an exceptional docket of documentary films with major work from established and emerging filmmakers. The films funded today reflect the Documentary Film Program's interest in helping filmmakers tell the stories of our changing world, including films with the potential to transform it."

The Sundance Institute Documentary Fund is a central element of Sundance Institute's Documentary Film Program, which provides year-round creative support to nonfiction filmmakers through workshops, screenings, and activities related to the distinct stages of the filmmaking process. Grants are announced twice a year and submissions are accepted on a rolling basis and judged on their approach to storytelling, artistic treatment and innovation, subject relevance and potential for social engagement. The Sundance Institute Documentary Program considers new projects in the Development and Production/Post-Production phases. The film selection is juried by creative film professionals and human rights experts.

Films funded in this round include stories of the mineral wars in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, China in the era of the Olympic games, global climate change from the perspective of Inuit villagers, and the unfolding story of race and retribution in Jena, Louisiana. Several films reference the impact of war at home and abroad with a focus on women's experiences from female filmmakers. The docket also examines the personal stories of several ground-breaking subjects from influential artists to Native American cultural activists.

PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

Anne Makepeace

AS NATAYUNEAN - WE STILL LIVE HERE (US)

Jessie Little Doe, of the Wampanoag nation, revives a silenced indigenous language that was out of use for more than 150 years.

Marc Francis and Nick Francis

CHINESE SAFARI (UK)

Lusaka, Zambia is home to one of Africa's largest Chinatowns and is at the crossroads of China's strategic expansion into Africa.

Pamela Yates

GRANITO (US)

Nobel Peace Laureate Rigoberta Menchu accuses Guatemala's ex-dictator, General Rios Montt, of genocide and uses the 1982 classic documentary film, *When the Mountains Tremble*, as forensic evidence to bring a case against him.

Albert Maysles

HANDELD AND FROM THE HEART (US)

Albert Maysles returns to his Boston roots and reconnects with old friends, resulting in an autobiographical film reflecting on a 50-year love affair with documentary.

- more -

Thierry Michel

KATANGA, MINING BUSINESS (Belgium)

Key players in a new, industrial revolution in Katanga (Democratic Republic of the Congo) struggle against a war being waged by ruthless multinational corporations.

Julianna Brannum

LADONNA HARRIS: INDIAN 101 (US)

Comanche activist LaDonna Harris conveys a unique vision of leadership to a new generation of indigenous professionals.

Özgür Dogan and Orhan Eskiköy

ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL (Turkey)

A year in the life of a Turkish school teacher in a remote town in Turkey. With a Kurdish class that can't speak Turkish, and the teacher who can't speak Kurdish, both are alien in the same land.

Rachel Libert

SEMPER FI: ALWAYS FAITHFUL (US)

Two retired Marines lead the fight for justice for U.S. soldiers exposed to dangerous toxic chemicals while stationed at Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base in North Carolina.

Andrew Okpeaha MacLean

SWALLOWED BY THE SEA (US)

In a small Inuit village on the remote barrier island of Shishmaref, Alaska, residents struggle with the devastating effects of erosion due to global climate change.

Carvin Eison and Christine Christopher

UMBRA: EMERGING FROM THE SHADOWS (US)

In Jena, Louisiana, nooses swing from the schoolyard oak tree and six black high school students are persecuted in ways that eerily evoke the past. The story illuminates the entrenched culture of racially motivated violence in America.

Will Sankhla

WE HAVE NO ORDERS TO SAVE YOU (US/India)

The youngest survivors of the 2002 Gujarati riots in India move into adulthood, facing choices that will affect their future and the future of pluralism in India.

Rachael Turner and Alison Quirk

WHERE WOMEN RULE (UK)

In the first women-only village in Kenya, women learn to thrive after entrenched violence and male domination.

PROJECTS IN PRODUCTION/POST-PRODUCTION

Tin Dirdamal

AGUA (Mexico)

In Cochabamba, Bolivia, four people connected to the first “water war” of the 21st century shed light on – and perhaps foreshadow – wars to come.

Fredrik Gertten

BANANAS (Sweden)

Nicaraguan banana farmers take multi-national banana industrialists to court over the use of banned pesticides in an historic case.

Miao Wang

BEIJING TAXI (China/US)

Three Beijing taxi drivers connect a morphing cityscape with citizen tales in the midst of dizzying change accelerated by the 2008 Olympic Games.

Frederick Wiseman

BOXING GYM (US)

In a community boxing gym in Austin, TX, the controlled use of violence is taught to men, women, and children of all social classes, races, ages, and ethnicities.

Marion Lipschutz and Rose Rosenblatt
BRANDON AND THE CLIFFORD TWINS (US)

Three young Lakotas on the Pine Ridge reservation are swept into a high-stakes tribal election that hangs on sovereignty, representation, and abortion politics.

Terry Jones, Laure Sullivan and Paul Wilson
CASINO NATION (US)

After a long and bloody struggle, the Seneca Nation of Indians is now in the casino business, and the tribe is changing forever. Casino Nation follows the conflicts the tribe faces as big money flows into this small sovereign nation.

Isaac Julien
DEREK JARMAN (UK)

A creative portrait of influential English filmmaker and fine artist, Derek Jarman.

Andres Habegger
FINAL IMAGE (Argentina)

Leonardo Henrichsen, an Argentinean cameraman, films his own murder during an attempted military coup in Chile in June 1973. The history of a continent unfolds through the images made by one man.

NC Heikin
KIMJONGILIA (France/US)

Survivors of North Korean concentration camps share wrenching, first-hand testimonies.

Margarita Martinez Escallon and Miguel Salazar
PEACEFUL WARRIORS (Colombia)

Amidst long-standing guerilla warfare throughout southern Colombia, the indigenous Nasa community strives to maintain their ideals of non-violent resistance.

Deann Borshay Liem
PRECIOUS OBJECTS OF DESIRE (US)

Swapped with another girl by her South Korean orphanage prior to adoption by an American couple, the filmmaker searches for her namesake and roots.

Annie Goldson
AN ISLAND CALLING (New Zealand)

The double murder of a gay couple in Fiji in 2001 reveals the social and political fractures in the postcolonial landscape of the Pacific.

Meg McLagan and Daria Sommers
TEAM LIONESSE (US)

A group of female soldiers who went to Iraq as mechanics, supply clerks, and engineers, return home a year later as part of America's first generation of female combat veterans.

Jerret Engle
THE KITCHEN WARRIORS (US/South Africa)

Students in a township-run South African cooking school struggle to reshape their lives and pursue culinary careers.

Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program

The Sundance Institute Documentary Fund is a core initiative of the Sundance Documentary Film Program, dedicated to supporting U.S. and international feature documentary films that focus on current human rights issues, social justice, civil liberties, and other contemporary issues. Since 1996, the Fund has supported over 400 artists in 52 countries, providing a continuum of support throughout the life of a project. Films supported by the Fund have received widespread distribution to their intended audiences via broadcast and theatrical release, and many have garnered a number of awards and exceptional industry recognition. Films have included MY COUNTRY, MY COUNTRY; IRAQ IN FRAGMENTS; WHY WE FIGHT; BORN INTO BROTHELS; THE INNER TOUR; THE DEVIL CAME ON HORSEBACK; and EVERYTHING'S COOL. In addition to the Fund, The Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program provides year-

round support to nurture nonfiction filmmakers worldwide through the Documentary Edit and Story Laboratory, the Documentary Composers Lab, at the Sundance Film Festival and the Sundance Independent Producers Conference, and through collaborative international initiatives. Please visit www.sundance.org/documentary for more information.

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 25th anniversary in 2006. Since its inception, the Institute has grown into an internationally recognized resource for thousands of independent artists through its Sundance Film Festival and artistic development programs which provide a range of concentrated creative and financial support for directors, screenwriters, documentary filmmakers, 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 US artists and, increasingly, with artists throughout the world.

###