



July 21, 2003
MEDIA ALERT

**THE AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE AND
THE FRANK D. LANTERMAN REGIONAL CENTER
LAUNCH PERSPECTIVES FILM FESTIVAL
FROM THURSDAY, JULY 24th, TO SUNDAY, JULY 27th,
SHOWING 18 FILMS AND DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT PEOPLE WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***William H. Macy to Receive First-Ever Perspectives Media Award From
SAG President Melissa Gilbert On Sunday, July 27***

WHAT/WHEN: The American Film Institute (AFI) and Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center have launched *PERSPECTIVES, An International Film Festival and Forum Promoting Understanding and Inclusion of People with Developmental Disabilities*. The festival will run Thursday, July 24th, through Sunday, July 27th, and will feature 18 domestic and international narrative features, documentaries, and short films about the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Each screening will be followed by a discussion with leading experts from the medical field and creative community about informing and deepening the portrayal of people with developmental disabilities in the media.

Following the moderated media forum at 7:30 p.m. with actor Joe Mantegna, William H. Macy will receive the first-ever *PERSPECTIVES Media Award*, presented by Screen Actors Guild President Melissa Gilbert. The award is given to an individual in the media who has advanced the cause of understanding and social acceptance by creating sensitive and accurate images of people with developmental disabilities.

A complete list of screenings and special guests is available by calling 323.856.7603, emailing lclark@afi.com, or by visiting www.perspectives-iff.org. Highlights of the festival include *MY LEFT FOOT* (Thursday, July 24th, at 7 PM), *DANCE ME TO MY SONG* (Saturday, July 26th, at 9:00 p.m.), *WHAT'S EATING GILBERT GRAPE* (Sunday, July 27th, at 4:45 p.m.), *MY FLESH AND BLOOD* (Audience Award Winner for Best Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival 2003) (Friday, July 25th, at 7:00 p.m.) and *THE COLLECTOR OF BEDFORD STREET* (Academy Award® nomination for 2002 Short Documentary) (Sunday, July 26th, at 2:00 p.m.).

WHERE: The ArLight, located at 6360 Sunset Boulevard (at Ivar), Hollywood.

YOUR COVERAGE IS INVITED

FOR SCREENING/ MEDIA FORUM TICKETS, CONTACT

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