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Audi

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NEWS RELEASE

**AFI FEST 2006 PRESENTED BY AUDI
ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS**

**"GRBAVICA" RECEIVES GRAND JURY PRIZE FOR FEATURE
"THE ART OF CRYING" RECEIVES A SPECIAL MENTION**

**"BUDDHA'S LOST CHILDREN" RECEIVES AQUAFINA PURE VISION AWARD
FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY
"BACK HOME" RECEIVES SPECIAL MENTION**

**"DISAPPEARING" WINS GRAND JURY AWARD FOR SHORT
SPECIAL MENTION GOES TO "SILENCE IS GOLDEN"**

AND

AUDIENCE AWARDS GO TO "VITUS" FOR FEATURE

**"BLINDSIGHT" AND "SCREAMERS" TIE FOR
AUDIENCE AWARD FOR DOCUMENTARY AND**

"FAIR TRADE" RECEIVES AUDIENCE AWARD FOR SHORT

November 12, 2006 (Los Angeles)—AFI Fest presented by Audi announces its 2006 Award winners with GRBAVICA as the winner of the Grand Jury Prize for International Feature Competition. THE ART OF CRYING received a special mention. BUDDHA'S LOST CHILDREN received the Aquafina Pure Vision Award International Documentary Grand Jury Prize of a \$10,000 unrestricted grant for the director Mark Verkerk.

The shorts Jury Prize went to DISAPPEARING. The filmmaker received a \$10,000 camera package from Dalsa Digital Cinema for this award. Short SILENCE IS GOLDEN received a special mention.

AFI FEST 20 YEARS CELEBRATIONS

The Audience Award for Feature Film went to VITUS and BLINDSIGHT and SCREAMERS tied for Audience Award for Documentary- FAIR TRADE garnered the Audience Award for Short.

AFI FEST Director of Programming Nancy Collet, said "I really had no idea who the awards were going to go to this FEST and am not surprised that there were so many special mentions and ties," emphasizing that, "The quality of films across the board were particularly strong this year."

The award winners are:

JURY AWARDS

INTERNATIONAL FEATURE COMPETITION

GRAND JURY PRIZE

GRBAVICA

DIR/SCR Jasmila Zbanić PROD Barbara Albert, Damir Ibrahimović, Bruno Wagner.
Cast: Mirjana Karanović, Luna Mijović, Leon Lucev, Kenan Catic, Jasna Ornela Berry.
Bosnia-Herzegovina/Austria/Germany/Croatia.

THE ART OF CRYING

SPECIAL MENTION

DIR Peter Schønau Fog SCR Bo hr. Hansen NOVEL Erling Jepsen, PROD Thomas Stenderup. Cast: Jannik Lorenzen, Jesper Asholt, Julie Kolbeck, Hanne Hedelund, Thomas Knuth-Winterfeldt. *Denmark.*

AQUAFINA PURE VISION AWARD

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION GRAND JURY PRIZE)

BUDDHA'S LOST CHILDREN

DIR Mark Verkerk. PROD Ton Okkerse. EXEC PROD Pim van Collem. *The Netherlands/France.*

As the recipient of this award, Verkerk received a \$10,000 unrestricted grant from AQUAFINA

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS COMPETITION

GRAND JURY PRIZE

DISAPPEARING

DIR Stefanie Berk. *USA.*

The recipient of this award received the Dalsa Digital Cinema Award, a \$10,000 camera package courtesy of Dalsa Digital Cinema.

SPECIAL MENTION

SILENCE IS GOLDEN

DIR Chris Shepherd. *UK.*

AFI FEST 20 YEARS CELEBRATIONS

Each of the Jury Award winners received \$5,000 in motion picture film from the Eastman Kodak Company as well as film related prizes from our other sponsors including DALSA Digital Cinema, Absolut Vodka, Avid Technology, Entertainment Partners, IndieWIRE, Final Draft, Hollywood Creative Directory, Variety, and Virgin Megastore.

AUDIENCE AWARDS

FEATURE

VITUS

DIR Fredi M. Murer. SCR Peter Luisi, Fredi M. Murer, Lukas B. Suter. PROD Christian Davi, Christof Neracher, Fredi M Murer. Cast: Bruno Ganz, Frbrizio Borsani, Toe Gheorghiu, Julika jekkins, Urs Jucker. *Switzerland*.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

BLINDSIGHT

DIR Lucy Walker. PROD Sybill Robson Orr. *UK/Tibet*.

SCREAMERS

DIR Carla Garapedian. PROD Nick de Grunwald, Tim Swain, Carla Garapedian, Peter McAlevey. *UK*.

SHORT

FAIR TRADE

DIR/SCR Michael Dreher. *Germany/Morocco*.

Audience Award winners above received film related prizes from our sponsors including Absolut Vodka, Avid Technology, Best Buy, Entertainment Partners, Final Draft, Hollywood Creative Directory, IndieWIRE, Level Vodka, Variety, and Virgin Megastore. Ballots for the Audience Award were made available by the Los Angeles Times: The Envelope.

JURIES

INTERNATIONAL FEATURE COMPETITION JURY

John Anderson

Anderson's reviews and features appear regularly in Newsday, Variety, Screen International and The New York Times. He has also contributed to the Los Angeles Times, the Los Angeles Times Magazine, The Nation, Christian Science Monitor, as well as Film Comment, LA Weekly, Art forum, Interview, Out, Ms. and The Washington Post. He is a past member of the selection committee of the New York Film Festival and the author of *Sundancing*, *Edward Yang* and, with Laura Kim, *I Wake Up Screening*. He is a member and two-time past chair of the New York Film Critics Circle, a member of the National Society of Film Critics and a member of the National Book Critics Circle.

Vondie Curtis Hall

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Actor/director/screenwriter Vondie Curtis Hall has had success in both film and television, and on both sides of the camera. His most recent feature film as a writer/director was the summer hit *WAIST DEEP*, which earned him a Black Film Award nomination for Outstanding Direction of a Motion Picture. Hall's previous film *REDEMPTION: THE STAN TOOKIE WILLIAMS STORY*, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Hall was also the writer/director of the feature film *GRIDLOCK'D*, starring Tim Roth and the late Tupac Shakur, for which he received the National Board of Review Award for Excellence in Filmmaking. As an actor he has appeared on television in *SOUL FOOD* and *I'LL FLY AWAY*, and as a series regular on *CHICAGO HOPE*. Trained at Juilliard, Hall has appeared on Broadway in a number of musicals including the original Broadway production of *Dreamgirls*. Hall has appeared in many feature films such as, *COMING TO AMERICA*, *MYSTERY TRAIN*, *PASSION FISH*, *CROOKLYN*, *WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO + JULIET* and *EVE'S BAYOU*. Most recently Vondie has co-starred in Kasi Lemmons's *TALK TO ME*, and John Sayles's *HONEYDRIPPER*.

Don Roos

Don Roos is the screenwriter of *LOVE FIELD*, *SINGLE WHITE FEMALE*, *BOYS ON THE SIDE*, and the 1996 remake of *DIABOLIQUE*. In 1998 he made his directorial debut with *THE OPPOSITE OF SEX*, and won two Independent Spirit Awards for best first feature and best screenplay. He recently directed his script, *HAPPY ENDINGS*, which starred Lisa Kudrow and Maggie Gyllenhaal and opened the 2005 Sundance Film Festival. He is currently adapting the New York Times bestseller *Marley and Me* for Fox Films.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION DOCUMENTARY JURY:

Daryl Hannah

Daryl Hannah's career has spanned over a 20-year period appearing in over 40 feature films. From her early start as a teenager in Brian De Palma's *THE FURY* starring Kirk Douglas, she set a pattern of working with some of the most talented and accomplished actors and directors of our time including Woody Allen, Neil Jordan, Oliver Stone, Robert Altman and John Sayles to name a few. As well as the big studio films, Hannah has become a strong supporter and advocate of independent cinema, not only with her acting, but also by producing many films. Hannah can be seen in Quentin Tarantino's highly successful *KILL BILL Vol. 1 & Vol. II*, in which she played the one eyed samurai assassin "Elle Driver." She recently completed John Sayles's political satire *SILVER CITY*. Hannah wrote, directed and produced a 12-minute short, entitled *THE LAST SUPPER* which received the Berlin International Film Festival's Jury Award for Best Short. Hannah also directed, produced and shot the documentary *STRIP NOTES* — inspired while researching her role for *DANCING AT THE BLUE IGUANA*—which was shown on HBO and UK's Channel 4. Hannah is an environmental activist, living on solar power, adopting animals and driving a clean-burning vehicle.

Jessica Sanders

AFI FEST 20 YEARS CELEBRATIONS

Jessica Sanders is an Academy Award-nominated filmmaker who works in both documentary and dramatic films. Sanders' film AFTER INNOCENCE, an independent feature documentary film that she directed, produced, and wrote was an official selection of AFI FEST 2005. The film premiered at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, where it won the Special Jury Prize. Sanders was an Associate Producer on the 2003 Academy Award winning documentary short film TWIN TOWERS and Sanders produced the film SING!, which was nominated in 2002 for an Oscar for Best Short Documentary. Sanders is directing and producing SAMBA, a feature documentary film following Rio de Janeiro's top Samba Schools competing in Carnaval and the drug trafficking gangs that govern their communities. She has lectured at various universities conferences, including the National Innocence Network Conference, Tribeca Film Festival and Los Angeles Film Festival, and has spoken before the California State Senate.

Wash Westmoreland

Wash Westmoreland wrote and co-directed QUINCEANERA, which screened at the Berlin International Film Festival following its Sundance Film Festival world premiere, where it won both the dramatic grand jury prize and the narrative audience award. It was subsequently acquired by Sony Pictures Classics and released in theatres this past summer. Westmoreland previously directed the documentary GAY REPUBLICANS, about the dilemma faced by gay Republicans considering President Bush's opposition to gay marriage.

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS COMPETITION JURY

Christine Lahti

Critically acclaimed stage, screen and television actress Christine Lahti has left an indelible mark on the theater and film community with her bold, inspiring and very rich performances. For her role in JACK & BOBBY, the acclaimed WB series in 2004, Lahti earned both a SAG and a Golden Globe nomination and received a Prism Award. In 2000, she directed her first feature film, MY FIRST MISTER. The film, which stars Albert Brooks and Leelee Sobieski, was chosen as the opening night presentation at the Sundance Film Festival that year. In 1995, Lahti won an Academy Award for her direction of the Live Action Short Film LIEBERMAN IN LOVE, in which she also starred. She has also directed several episodes of CHICAGO HOPE, in which she starred for four years as Doctor Kathryn Austin. For her work on CHICAGO HOPE, Lahti was awarded both the Emmy and Golden Globe Awards.

Susan Petersen

Susan Petersen is an internationally recognized leader in short film distribution. Petersen has over 15 years media experience in television research and marketing, traditional and new media advertising, as well as corporate business development. Currently, Petersen is the Vice President of Global Film Sales and Acquisitions for SHORTS INTERNATIONAL, the largest short film entertainment company with a library of over 3000 films that includes the prestigious American Film Institute short film library. Her responsibilities include film sales, business development, overseeing acquisitions, and programming the company's iTunes short film channel SHORTS.

AFI FEST 20 YEARS CELEBRATIONS

She handles selling films to TV, Broadband, Mobile, VOD, DVD, and new media channels around the world including HBO, Sundance, Canal+ France, and Comedy Central. Prior to SHORTS INTERNATIONAL, Petersen developed the short film distribution division for HYPNOTIC films into a successful and renown entity.

Wilmer Valderrama

Best known for his role as 'Fez,' on the hit series THAT 70's SHOW, Wilmer will be seen on the big screen this year in multiple upcoming feature films and as creator, producer and host of the hit MTV show, YO MOMMA which is currently filming its second season. Valderrama can be seen in Richard Linklater's FAST FOOD NATION, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival this year. In early December, Valderrama will star in UNACCOMPANIED MINORS. Valderrama was recently seen in the Sundance 2006 hit film THE DARWIN AWARDS. Additionally, Valderrama will star in the feature film version of CHIPS in which he'll play 'Ponch' and the independent feature EL MUERTO based on the successful comic book. In April 2005 Wilmer performed in the Actor's Fund of America one-performance only all-star reading of the Paramount Pictures screenplay SUNSET BOULEVARD opposite Anjelica Huston and Sir Ben Kingsley. He recently completed filming the Wim Wenders produced short film LA TORCEDURA in which he plays the lead.

AFI Fest 2006 Kicked off with **BOBBY**, written and directed by Emilio Estevez with a remarkable ensemble cast including: Harry Belafonte, Joy Bryant, Nick Cannon, Emilio Estevez, Laurence Fishburne, Brian Geraghty, Heather Graham, Anthony Hopkins, Helen Hunt, Joshua Jackson, David Krumholts, Ashton Kutcher, Shia LaBeouf, Lindsay Lohan, William H. Macy, Svetlana Metkina, Demi Moore, Freddy Rodriguez, Martin Sheen, Christian Slater, Sharon Stone, Jacob Vargas, Mary Elizabeth Winstead and Elijah Wood. Other highlights included the two Centerpiece Galas: **INLAND EMPIRE** and **THE FOUNTAIN**, and the Closing Night Gala, **CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER**, directed by Zhang Yimou, which made its World Premiere. Overall, the festival showcased a total of 111 features (91 narrative, 20 documentary) and 36 shorts (33 narrative, 3 documentary) for a total of 147 films from 45 different countries. Of the films, 22 are World Premieres including AFI FEST's Closing Night film, **CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER**, 30 are North American Premieres and 28 are US Premieres

About AFI FEST 2006 presented by Audi

AFI is a national institute providing leadership in screen education and the recognition and celebration of excellence in the art of film, television and digital media. Celebrating 20 years as a program of the American Film Institute, AFI FEST 2006 presented by Audi will span 11 days in November, featuring international competitions of brand new films from emerging filmmakers, global showcases of the latest work from the great film masters and nightly red-carpet gala premieres.

In 2005, with 129 films from 44 countries, AFI FEST was host to 522 filmmakers and guests from 35 countries. More than 60,000 attendees gathered at the AFI FEST

AFI FEST 20 YEARS CELEBRATIONS

Village in the heart of Hollywood for hundreds of screenings, receptions and special events, with the majority of activity headquartered at the state-of-the-art ArcLight Hollywood complex.

The American Film Market (AFM), November 1 – 8, 2006 is the market partner of AFI FEST. Together, AFI FEST and AFM provide the only concurrent festival/market event in North America. As the largest motion picture trade event in the world, AFM draws film community leaders from around the globe. Each year over 8,000 attendees converge on Santa Monica for deal making, screenings, seminars, networking and parties. For more information, visit www.americanfilmmarket.com.

AFI FEST 2006 presented by Audi is supported in part by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles and the Hollywood Sign Trust. AFI FEST is proud to continue its collaborative partnership with the Skirball Cultural Center.

AFI PROJECT: 20/20, a part of the U.S. Government's Global Cultural Initiative, is supported by these organizations to enhance cultural exchange and collaboration through film: U.S. Department of State, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

AFI FEST 2006 presented by Audi is sponsored in part by American Airlines, ArcLight Hollywood, Absolut Vodka, Aquafina, Best Buy, Charriol, Eastman Kodak Company, Hewlett Packard Company, Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Midway Car Rental, Moviefone, NEC and Stella Artois. The Los Angeles Times is the Festival's Presenting Media Partner. Additional media partners include Current TV, Indie 103.1, LA Weekly and Univision.

Additional information about AFI FEST is available at www.afi.com.

About Audi of America

Audi's history in America dates to 1969, when the brand was first introduced to the U.S. market. Today, a network of over 260 Audi dealers currently offers a line of premium vehicles that include the Audi A3 compact; the sporty A4 sedan, Avant and Cabriolet models; the high performance S4 sedan, Avant and Cabriolet models; the high-revving RS 4 sports sedan; the design-leading A6 sedan and Avant; the V10-powered S6 sport sedan; the all-new Audi Q7 performance SUV; and the all-aluminum Audi A8 and S8 sedans.

Audi of America is headquartered in Auburn Hills, Michigan, and markets a line of luxury cars built in plants in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm, Germany; Bratislava, Slovakia; and Győr, Hungary.

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