



## NEWS RELEASE

### **AFI FEST presented by Audi ANNOUNCES CALL FOR ENTRIES, 2008 DATES**

### **THE AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE'S FLAGSHIP EXHIBITION EVENT CELEBRATES 22ND YEAR**

LOS ANGELES, CA, February 11, 2008—AFI FEST presented by Audi announced its call for entries today, and the dates for the 22nd annual event. AFI FEST will be held October 30 – November 9, 2008 in Hollywood, California. The American Film Market (AFM), the Festival's market partner, will be held from November 5 – 12, 2008.

The early deadline with reduced fees for all film submissions is June 13, 2008. The final deadline for shorts (under 30 minutes) is July 11, 2008. The final deadline for features (over 30 minutes) is July 21, 2008. Decisions will be announced no later than October 6, 2008. Submissions can be made at [www.AFI.com/AFIFEST](http://www.AFI.com/AFIFEST), through Withoutabox.com, or by calling 1.866.AFI.FEST for more information.

AFI FEST spans 11 days and features international films from emerging filmmakers, global showcases of the latest work from the great film masters, nightly special screenings and red-carpet gala premieres. Each year, AFI FEST presents international competitions of features, documentaries and shorts, as well as regional showcases as part of its broader World Cinema section.

In 2007, 23 AFI FEST selections secured US distribution, locked up foreign territories or sold remake rights, including *CHRIS & DON: A LOVE STORY*, *CONFESSIONS OF A SUPERHERO*, *HECKLER*, *IN SEARCH OF A MIDNIGHT KISS*, *SILENT LIGHT* and *THE TRACEY FRAGMENTS* among others, involving companies including Cineclick, IFC Entertainment, Seville Pictures, Tartan Films, THINKFilm, The Weinstein Company and Zeitgeist.

AFI FEST 2007 enjoyed a record year in attendance, as audiences turned out in force to attend films, panels and special events. The Festival launched with the North American Premiere of Robert Redford's *LIONS FOR LAMBS* with Tom Cruise, Meryl Streep and

Redford in attendance.

Other highlights of the Festival included the Centerpiece Gala, JUNO, directed by Jason Reitman and attended by cast members Ellen Page and Jason Bateman; Tributes to Laura Linney and Catherine Deneuve; the addition of the discussion forum TALK/SHOW, with participants such as Werner Herzog, Vilmos Zsigmond, Paprika Steen, Arthur Dong, John Landis, Kevin Wall, Nigel Lythgoe, Steve Golin, Hector Elizondo, James Ellroy and Bruce Wagner; the inclusion of the AFI Digital Content Lab's DigiFest to the 11 day event; and screenings attended by such personalities as John Sayles, Alex Cox, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Malcolm McDowell, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Noah Baumbach, Jack Black, Don Rickles, Roger Corman, Carl Reiner and Orlando Bloom, among many others.

Other programming highlights included such notable titles as THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY, MARGOT AT THE WEDDING, SOUTHLAND TALES, HONEYDRIPPER, 4 MONTHS 3 WEEKS 2 DAYS, CAMEL, THE COUNTERFEITERS and SECRET SUNSHINE, among many others

Overall, AFI FEST 2007 showcased 97 features (69 narrative, 28 documentary) and 51 shorts (43 narrative, 8 documentary) and eight video art works for a total of 148 films representing 37 countries.

AFI FEST is the only film festival in the United States to hold the prestigious FIAPF accreditation ([www.FIAPF.org](http://www.FIAPF.org)), assuring a high standard of quality and reliability for the international film community. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recognizes AFI FEST as a qualifying festival for the Short Films category of the annual Academy Awards.

The American Film Market (AFM), November 5 – 12, 2008 is the market partner of AFI FEST. Since its formation in 2004, this strategic partnership has grown into the largest gathering of film professionals in North America. The association between the two events connects art and commerce, broadening the opportunities for all participants. A total of 36 films selected for last year's AFI FEST were also represented at the 2007 AFM.

### **About AFI FEST**

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 its 21st year as a program of the American Film Institute, AFI FEST 2007 presented by Audi took place November 1-11. Kicking off the awards season each year, AFI FEST offers a crucial avenue of exposure to the entertainment community, while providing appreciative audiences with a festive atmosphere and the very best of world film, right in the center of the film capital of the world.

AFI FEST 2007 presented by Audi was 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, the Philanthropy Project and the Hollywood Sign Trust. AFI FEST is made possible in part by a grant from the Academy Foundation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. AFI FEST is proud to continue its collaborative partnership with the Skirball Cultural Center.

AFI FEST 2007 presented by Audi was sponsored in part by American Airlines, ArcLight Hollywood, RR Donnelley, Farmers Insurance, AT&T, Samsung, Absolut Vodka, Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Midway Car Rental and Stella Artois. The Los Angeles Times is the Festival's Presenting Media Partner.

**About Audi of America, Inc.**

Audi offers a line of premium vehicles through a network of 270 dealers including 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 and Cabriolet (November 2007 launch); the all-new S5 coupe (November 2007 launch) with 354 hp; the design-leading A6 sedan and Avant; the V10-powered high performance S6 sedan; the Audi Q7 performance SUV; the new all-aluminum Audi A8; the S8 with V10 power; the all-new 2008 TT Coupe and Roadster models; and the all-new all-aluminum R8, one of the most exclusive sports cars in the world.

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