

Thursday, January 24, 2008

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **THE 31ST PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL TO SCREEN OSCAR NOMINEES**

The 31st Portland International Film Festival will provide Portland audiences with an early look at seven of this year's 2008 Oscar Nominees. Last year's 30<sup>th</sup> Film Festival included Best Documentary Feature *WAR/DANCE* and Best Documentary Short Subject *SARI'S MOTHER*, also in this year's list of Academy Award Nominees.

### **Best Documentary Feature**

**TAXI TO THE DARK SIDE** Alex Gibney

In December of 2002 a Kabul taxi driver named Dilawar took three passengers for a ride, and never returned home. Four days later, he arrived at a U.S. military detention center. Five days later he was dead. This riveting murder mystery explores how and why this Afghan civilian died while in American custody. The details emerge through diverse documentation and exhaustive interviews with family and friends, current and former military personnel, a former Guantanamo detainee, lawyers for both detainees and the U.S. military, and a slew of journalists and experts. This unflinching and eye-opening look at the torture business not only provides a detailed report of what actually happens to a detainee, but also includes interviews from the personnel who interrogated Dilawar and inflicted the injuries that ultimately caused his death. (106 mins.)

**Showtimes: 2/9, 5pm B3 and 2/10, 3pm B3.**

### **Best Foreign Language Film of the Year**

**BEAUFORT** Joseph Cedar

Winner of the Best Director Prize at the Berlin Film Festival, *Beaufort* derives its name from the Israeli military base in southern Lebanon occupied from the war in 1982 until 2000. The film tells the story of the troops' last weeks of occupation, focusing on Liraz Liberti, the 22-year-old commander who is responsible for the dangerous withdrawal from the base, which is still under fire. Stripped back and minimal in its approach, the taut drama mines the tension between the soldiers as they respond to their imminent evacuation and loss of purpose, and reveals Liberti's emotional strain as he prepares to destroy the site they have been defending for so long, and which has claimed so many lives. (125 mins.) Print courtesy of Kino International.

**Showtimes: 2/16, 8:45pm WH and 2/18, 1:30pm B1.**

### **THE COUNTERFEITERS** Stefan Ruzowitzky

Writer/director Ruzowitsky tells a little-known, true-life World War II story. Solomon Sorowitsch, a Russian Jew and uncrowned king of counterfeiting in the swinging Berlin of the 1930s, is plucked from almost certain death in a Nazi concentration camp and put in charge of a massive effort to flood England and America with counterfeit currency. Sorowitsch plays a tense cat-and-mouse game with the clever and amoral SS officer, struggling to keep himself and his disparate crew alive in a world of terrifyingly arbitrary violence and death. *The Counterfeiters* employs the suspenseful rhythms of gangster films in revisiting a tale of Nazi-era crimes, human resource-fulness and resilience, and tough moral questions under the most extreme pressures. (99 mins.) **Stefan Ruzowitzky in attendance 2/13.**

**Showtimes: 2/9, 5:45pm WH and 2/13, 6:30pm WH.**

## **MONGOL** Sergei Bodrov

Russian director Sergi Bodrov's film is a spectacular historical epic set against the backdrop of the harshly beautiful Mongolian steppes. *Mongol* tells of the formative years and the rise to power of the legendary Genghis Khan, taking us back to his childhood, the killing of his father and his flight into the wilderness to escape the murderous rivals for his crown. The story gives a central place to the courageous wife he willfully chose as a child. The adult Genghis gathers his clans and allies about him and, in a series of twists and turns and spectacular battles, takes complete power. In Mongolian, Kazakh, Tartar and Chinese with English subtitles. (120 mins.)

**Showtimes: 2/10, 7:15pm WH and 2/11, 7:15pm B3.**

## **Best Animated Short Film of the Year**

### **I MET THE WALRUS** Josh Raskin

"Think peace and you'll get it. It's up to the people. If we really wanna change it, we can change it." (5 min) **Showtime: 2/17, 12pm WH**

## **MADAME TUTLI-PUTLI** Chris Lavis, Maciek Szczerbowski

When Madam Tutli-Putli boards the night train, she finds herself drawn into a desperate metaphysical adventure. (18 min) **Showtime: 2/9, 12pm WH**

## **Best Live Action Short Film**

### **TANGHI ARGENTINI** Guido Thys

André convinces a reluctant co-worker to teach him the tango in order to win the heart of a woman he's met online. (14 min) **Showtime: 2/17, 12pm WH**

This year PIFF films will be shown at the Regal Broadway Metroplex, and at the Film Center's Whitsell Auditorium in the Portland Art Museum. Press screenings will start January 28th. This year's PIFF Presenting Sponsors include The Oregonian and Regal Cinemas. Hollywood Video, Oregon Live, Tropicana, along with major program sponsors include the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Laika, and Wieden + Kennedy.

The Northwest Film Center is a regional media arts resource and service organization founded to encourage the study, appreciation, and utilization of the moving image arts, foster their artistic and professional excellence, and to help create a climate in which they flourish. In addition to the Portland International Film Festival, the Center produces the annual Northwest Film & Video Festival and a variety of year-round of film and video exhibition, educational and informative programs serving Oregon and residents of the Northwest.

## **Festival Screening Locations:**

Regal Broadway Metroplex, 1000 SW Broadway (B1, B2, B3, B4)

Newmark Theatre, 1111 SW Broadway

NW Film Center, Whitsell Auditorium-Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park Avenue (WH)

## **Festival Box Office:**

Mark Building, Portland Art Museum, 1119 SW Park Avenue.

Opens January 30 — Daily from 12-6

Advance tickets by phone at (503) 228-PIFF

Advance tickets online @ [www.nwfilm.org](http://www.nwfilm.org).

## **Admission Prices:**

\$9 General, \$8 Portland Art Museum Members, Students, and Seniors, \$6 NW Film Center Members

Opening Night \$30

Various Festival Passes available.

**Festival Schedule:**

The full PIFF Program is available online at [www.nwfilm.org](http://www.nwfilm.org).

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