

FILM INDEPENDENT

For Immediate Release: INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS p1

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NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED FOR FILM INDEPENDENT'S 2006 INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS

Nominees for the IFC/Acura Someone to Watch Award, the AMC/American Express Producers Award, and the Truer Than Fiction Award also announced

LOS ANGELES (November 29, 2005) – Nominations for Film Independent's 2006 Independent Spirit Awards were announced this morning, including nominations for Best Feature, which are *Brokeback Mountain*; *Capote*; *Good Night, and Good Luck.*; *The Squid and the Whale*; and *The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada*. Also announced were the finalists for the IFC/Acura Someone to Watch Award, the Truer Than Fiction Award and the AMC/American Express Producers Award. Laura Linney and Mark Ruffalo served as nomination presenters at the event.

"34 of our finest filmmakers spent the last three months watching and discussing over 200 films resulting in a set of nominations that represent the spectrum of independent filmmaking in 2005. In years to come, anybody who wants an overview of the state of our art in 2005 will find that these nominations can guide them to a full understanding of the wonderfully wide range of ideas and techniques that our filmmakers are currently exploring." said committee chair Jeff Kleeman.

Dawn Hudson, Executive Director of Film Independent added, "These nominations spotlight filmmakers whose screenplays are stronger than ever, who are taking on riskier subjects, who have used technological innovations to great effect, and who have gone far beyond the more typical, personal, coming-of-age films that dominated independent filmmaking several years ago. The filmmakers and actors weren't afraid to address political, social, racial, and moral issues – while making terrifically compelling movies. And they weren't afraid to make us laugh, too! It's an astounding year for independent filmmaking at all levels. Watch these films for proof of the depth and diversity of talented filmmakers working today – and this is just the tip of the iceberg."

Selected from more than 200 submissions, the winners will be unveiled at the Independent Spirit Awards ceremony on Saturday, March 4, 2006, in a tent on the beach in Santa Monica. The Master of Ceremonies, Honorary Chairs, and Presenters will be announced shortly.

Diana Zahn-Storey returns to produce the event for the twelfth consecutive year. The ceremony will air live on IFC (Independent Film Channel) at 5:00 pm EST on Saturday, March 4, 2006, and is edited for rebroadcast on AMC the same evening at 10:00 pm EST/PST. An exclusive half-hour red carpet show will air live on the WE Channel 4:30 pm EST/PST.

This year's ceremony is sponsored by Premier Sponsors: IFC, *Entertainment Weekly*, Netflix, and Pop Secret; and by Principal Sponsor: Acura. On 3 Productions will produce the Official 2006 Independent Spirit Awards General Attendee Gift Bag and Presenter Gift Lounge. Casa Del Mar, The Viceroy, Sheraton Delfina, and Shutters on the Beach are the Official Host Hotels and Wire Image is the Official Photographer of the Independent Spirit Awards. American Airlines is the Official Airline Partner of Film Independent.

Two tickets to the 2006 Independent Spirit Awards will be made available to the general public via auction on ebay.com beginning December 3, 2005. Funds raised from the auction will directly support Film Independent's Project:Involve—a diversity initiative giving filmmakers of color access to jobs in the film industry.

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Films nominated for the Independent Spirit Awards were selected based on the following criteria:

- Original, provocative subject matter;
- Uniqueness of vision;
- Economy of means with particular attention paid to total budget and individual compensation;
- Percentage of independent financing.

This year's Chair of the Spirit Awards Nominating Committees (composed of three subcommittees) was producer Jeff Kleeman. The 21-person American Narrative Nominating Committee included Film Independent Executive Director Dawn Hudson; actors Julie Delpy, Judah Friedlander, Eric Stoltz and Lili Taylor; *Los Angeles Times* film critic Kenneth Turan; producers Gail Mutrux and Bingham Ray; directors Sherman Alexie, Victor Nunez, and Angela Robinson; writers Christopher McQuarrie, Larry Gross, and John Ridley; editors Lynzee Klingman and Sally Menke; casting directors Aisha Coley and Mali Finn; and cinematographers Fred Elmes and Laszlo Kovacs.

The eight-person Documentary Feature Nominating Committee included director St. Clair Bourne; producers Jeffrey Levy-Hinte and Rebecca Yeldham; film critics Ella Taylor and Eugene Hernandez; Warner Independent EVP of publicity and marketing Laura Kim and exhibitor John Vanco. The Foreign Feature Nominating Committee included actress Shohreh Aghdashloo; producer/actor Hart Bochner writer/directors Sergio Arau and Vondie Curtis Hall; and exhibitor Greg Laemmle.

In order to be eligible for consideration, submitted films must have shown at least one week in a commercial theater during the 2005 calendar year or have played at one of the following six film festivals: the Los Angeles Film Festival, New Directors/New Films, New York, Sundance, Telluride, or Toronto.

After the committees select the nominees, the members of Film Independent, as well as the members of IFP, cast the final votes. Membership in Film Independent begins at \$95 per year and those who join before January 15, 2006 will be eligible to vote to determine the winners for the 2006 Independent Spirit Awards.

In an effort to provide greater access to the nominated films for voting members of Film Independent and IFP, Netflix will make participating nominated films accessible to all voting members, free of charge on a specially-created "Spirit Awards Members Viewing Site." Similar to a Netflix subscription, Film Independent and IFP members will receive nominated films by mail and after viewing, return. DVDs in postage-paid envelopes. The next available nominated film on the voting member's online list is sent automatically for member viewing. Voting Members will also have access to the entire catalog

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IFC/Acura Someone to Watch Award

The 12th annual IFC/Acura Someone to Watch Award recognizes a talented filmmaker of singular vision who has not yet received appropriate recognition. The award includes a \$25,000 unrestricted grant, funded by IFC and Acura. The Finalists are:

Ian Gamazon and **Neill Dela Llana**, director of *Cavite*
Robinson Devor, director of *Police Beat*
Jay Duplass, director of *The Puffy Chair*

IFC/Acura Someone to Watch Award Nominating Committee:

Ryan Werner (chair), Effie Brown, Scott Foundas, Helen Gramates, Maud Nadler

Truer Than Fiction Award

The 10th annual Truer Than Fiction Award is presented to an emerging director of non-fiction features who has not yet received significant attention. The award includes a \$25,000 unrestricted grant. The Finalists are:

Rachel Boynton for *Our Brand is Crisis*
Garrett Scott & Ian Olds for *Occupation: Dreamland*
Mark Becker for *Romántico*
Thomas Allen Harris for *Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela*

Truer Than Fiction Award Nominating Committee:

Mike Maggiore (Chair), Nancy Buirski, Nathan Lee, Shola Lynch, Chuleenan Svetvillas

AMC/American Express Producers Award

The 9th annual AMC/American Express Producers Award honors emerging producers who, despite highly limited resources, demonstrate the creativity, tenacity, and vision required to produce quality, independent films. The award includes a \$25,000 unrestricted grant, funded by AMC and American Express. The Finalists are:

Caroline Baron, producer of *Capote* and *Monsoon Wedding*
Ram Bergman, producer of *Brick* and *Conversations with Other Women*
Mike S. Ryan, producer of *Junebug* and *Palindromes*

AMC/American Express Producers Award Nominating Committee:

Scott Macaulay (chair), Stephanie Allain, Anthony Bregman, Jennifer Fox, Matthew Greenfield

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Film Independent's Independent Spirit Awards is a celebration honoring films made by filmmakers who embody independence and who dare to challenge the status quo. Televised in millions of homes and covered internationally by the press, the Independent Spirit Awards program has become the vanguard event in independent film, recognizing the achievements of independent filmmakers and promoting independent film to a wider audience.

Awards are given in the following categories: Best Feature, Best First Feature, Best First Screenplay, Best Director, Best Screenplay, John Cassavetes Award (given to the best feature made for a budget under \$500,000), Best Male Lead, Best Female Lead, Best Supporting Male, Best Supporting Female, Best Cinematography, Best Foreign Film, and Best Documentary.

Last year's Independent Spirit Award winners included *Sideways*, which won Best Feature, Best Director (Alexander Payne), Best Male Lead (Paul Giamatti), Best Supporting Male (Thomas Haden Church), Best Supporting Female (Virginia Madsen) and Best Screenplay; *Maria Full of Grace* for Best Female Lead (Catalina Sandino Moreno) and Best First Screenplay (Joshua Marston); and *Garden State* for Best First Feature.

Film Independent, the largest non-profit membership organization for independent filmmakers, cultivates the careers of independent filmmakers, builds the audience for independent films, and increases diversity in the film industry. Film Independent provides its members 250 annual events and screenings, along with professional advice, educational programs, affordable camera and equipment rentals, and discounts to hundreds of industry-related businesses. Film Independent also offers Filmmaker Labs, giving filmmakers the opportunity to develop their projects, and Project:Involve, a mentorship and job placement program that pairs filmmakers from culturally diverse communities with film industry professionals. Film Independent produces the Independent Spirit Awards and Los Angeles Film Festival, celebrating the best of American and international independent cinema. For more information, visit www.FilmIndependent.org.

FILM INDEPENDENT

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By Category

BEST FEATURE (Award given to the Producer)

* Executive Producers are not listed.

Brokeback Mountain

Producers: Diana Ossana, James Schamus

Capote

Producers: Caroline Baron, William Vince, Michael Ohoven

Good Night, and Good Luck.

Producer: Grant Heslov

The Squid and the Whale

Producers: Wes Anderson, Peter Newman, Charles Corwin, Clara Markowicz

The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada

Producers: Michael Fitzgerald, Tommy Lee Jones

BEST DIRECTOR

Ang Lee

Brokeback Mountain

George Clooney

Good Night, and Good Luck.

Gregg Araki

Mysterious Skin

Rodrigo García

Nine Lives

Noah Baumbach

The Squid and the Whale

BEST FIRST FEATURE (Award given to the Director and Producer)

Crash

Director: Paul Haggis

Producers: Cathy Schulman, Don Cheadle, Bob Yari, Mark R. Harris,
Bobby Moresco, Paul Haggis

Lackawanna Blues

Director: George C. Wolfe

Producer: Nellie Nugiel

Me and You and Everyone We Know

Director: Miranda July

Producer: Gina Kwon

Thumbsucker

Director: Mike Mills

Producers: Anthony Bregman, Bob Stephenson

Transamerica

Director: Duncan Tucker

Producers: Rene Bastian, Sebastian Dungan, Linda Moran

JOHN CASSAVETES AWARD

(Given to the best feature made for under \$500,000; Award given to the writer, director, and producer)

* Executive Producers are not listed.

Brick

Director/Writer: Rian Johnson

Producers: Ram Bergman and Mark G. Mathis

Conventioneers

Director: Mora Stephens

Producer: Joel Viertel

Writers: Mora Stephens and Joel Viertel

Jellysmoke

Director/Writer/Producer: Mark Banning

The Puffy Chair

Director: Jay Duplass

Producer: Mark Duplass

Writers: Mark Duplass and Jay Duplass

Room

Director/Writer: Kyle Henry

Producers: Allen Bain, Darren Goldberg, Jesse Scolaro

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By Category

BEST SCREENPLAY

Ayad Akhtar, Joseph Castelo, Tom Glynn
Guillermo Arriaga
Noah Baumbach
Dan Futterman
Rodrigo García

The War Within
The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada
The Squid and the Whale
Capote
Nine Lives

BEST FIRST SCREENPLAY

Kenneth Hanes
Miranda July
Angus MacLachlan
Sabina Murray
Duncan Tucker

Fixing Frank
Me and You and Everyone We Know
Junebug
The Beautiful Country
Transamerica

BEST SUPPORTING FEMALE

Amy Adams
Maggie Gyllenhaal
Allison Janney
Michelle Williams
Robin Wright Penn

Junebug
Happy Endings
Our Very Own
Brokeback Mountain
Nine Lives

BEST SUPPORTING MALE

Firdous Bamji
Matt Dillon
Jesse Eisenberg
Barry Pepper
Jeffrey Wright

The War Within
Crash
The Squid and the Whale
The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada
Broken Flowers

BEST FEMALE LEAD

Felicity Huffman
Dina Korzun
Laura Linney
S. Epatha Merkerson
Cyndi Williams

Transamerica
Forty Shades of Blue
The Squid and the Whale
Lackawanna Blues
Room

BEST MALE LEAD

Jeff Daniels
Philip Seymour Hoffman
Terrence Howard
Heath Ledger
David Strathairn

The Squid and the Whale
Capote
Hustle & Flow
Brokeback Mountain
Good Night, and Good Luck.

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By Category

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

Robert Elswit	<i>Good Night, and Good Luck.</i>
John Foster	<i>Keane</i>
Adam Kimmel	<i>Capote</i>
Chris Menges	<i>The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada</i>
Harris Savides	<i>Last Days</i>

BEST FOREIGN FILM (Award given to the Director)

<i>The Death of Mr. Lazarescu</i> (Romania)	Director: Cristi Puiu
<i>Duck Season</i> (Mexico)	Director: Fernando Eimbcke
<i>Head-On</i> (Germany /Turkey)	Director: Fatih Akin
<i>Paradise Now</i> (Palestine/Netherlands/Germany/France)	Director: Hany Abu-Assad
<i>Tony Takitani</i> (Japan)	Director: Jun Ichikawa

BEST DOCUMENTARY (Award given to the Director)

<i>Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room</i>	Director: Alex Gibney
<i>Grizzly Man</i>	Director: Werner Herzog
<i>La Sierra</i>	Directors: Scott Dalton & Margarita Martinez
<i>Romántico</i>	Director: Mark Becker
<i>Sir! No Sir!</i>	Director: David Zeiger

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By Distributor

CINEMA LIBRE STUDIO (1)

Conventioneers

**** John Cassavetes Award – Mora Stephens, Joel Viertel**

Director: Mora Stephens

Producer: Joel Viertel

Writers: Mora Stephens and Joel Viertel

FIRST LOOK PICTURES (1)

Forty Shades of Blue

**** Best Female Lead – Dina Korzun**

Director: Ira Sachs

Producers: Ira Sachs, Margot Bridger, Donald Rosenfeld, Jawal Nga, Mary Bing

Writer: Ira Sachs and Michael Rohatyn

FIRST RUN/ICARUS FILMS (1)

La Sierra

**** Best Documentary – Scott Dalton, Margarita Martinez**

Directors/Producers: Scott Dalton & Margarita Martinez

FOCUS FEATURES (6)

Brick

**** John Cassavetes Award– Rian Johnson,
Ram Bergman, Mark G. Mathis**

Director/Writers: Rian Johnson

Producers: Ram Bergman and Mark G. Mathis

Brokeback Mountain

**** Best Feature – Diana Ossana, James Schamus**

**** Best Director – Ang Lee**

**** Best Male Lead – Heath Ledger**

**** Best Supporting Female – Michelle Williams**

Director: Ang Lee

Producers: Diana Ossana, James Schamus

Writers: Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana

Broken Flowers

**** Best Supporting Male – Jeffrey Wright**

Director/Writer: Jim Jarmusch

Producers: Jim Jarmusch, John Kilik, Stacey E. Smith

HBO FILMS (2)

Lackawanna Blues

**** Best First Feature – George C. Wolfe, Nellie Nugiel**

**** Best Female Lead – S. Epatha Merkerson**

Director: George C. Wolfe

Producer: Nellie Nugiel

Writer: Ruben Santiago-Hudson

IFC FILMS (2)

Me and You and Everyone We Know

**** Best First Feature – Miranda July, Gina Kwon**

**** Best First Screenplay – Miranda July**

Director/Writer: Miranda July

Producer: Gina Kwon

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By Distributor

LIONS GATE FILMS (4)

Crash

**** Best First Feature – Paul Haggis, Cathy Schulman, Don Cheadle, Bob Yari, Mark R. Harris, Bobby Moresco**

**** Best Supporting Male – Matt Dillon**

Director: Paul Haggis

Producers: Cathy Schulman, Don Cheadle, Bob Yari, Mark R. Harris, Bobby Moresco, Paul Haggis

Writers: Paul Haggis and Bobby Moresco

Grizzly Man

**** Best Documentary– Werner Herzog**

Director/Writer: Werner Herzog

Producer: Erik Nelson

Happy Endings

**** Best Supporting Female– Maggie Gyllenhaal**

Director/Writer: Don Roos

Producers: Michael Paseornek, Holly Wiersma

MAGNOLIA PICTURES (7)

Erin: The Smartest Guys in the Room

**** Best Documentary – Alex Gibney**

Director/Writer: Alex Gibney

Producers: Alex Gibney, Jason Kliot, Susan Motamed

Keane

**** Best Cinematography– John Foster**

Director/Writer: Lodge H. Kerrigan

Producer: Steven Soderbergh

Nine Lives

**** Best Director – Rodrigo García**

**** Best Screenplay - Rodrigo García**

**** Best Supporting Female – Robin Wright Penn**

Director/Writer: Rodrigo García

Producer: Julie Lynn

The War Within

**** Best Supporting Male – Firdous Bamji**

**** Best Screenplay – Ayad Akhtar, Joseph Castelo, Tom Glynn**

Director: Joseph Castelo

Producers: Tom Glynn, Jason Kliot, Joana Vicente

Writers: Ayad Akhtar, Joseph Castelo, Tom Glynn

MTV FILMS/PARAMOUNT CLASSICS (1)

Hustle & Flow

**** Best Male Lead – Terrence Howard**

Director/Writer: Craig Brewer

Producer: Stephanie Allain, John Singleton

PICTUREHOUSE (1)

Last Days

**** Best Cinematography – Harris Savides**

Director/Writer: Gus Van Sant

Producer: Dany Wolf

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By Distributor

SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS (6)

The Squid and the Whale

**** Best Feature – Wes Anderson, Peter Newman, Charles Corwin, Clara Markowicz**

**** Best Director – Noah Baumbach**

**** Best Screenplay – Noah Baumbach**

**** Best Male Lead – Jeff Daniels**

**** Best Female Lead – Laura Linney**

**** Best Supporting Male – Jesse Eisenberg**

Director/Writer: Noah Baumbach

Producers: Wes Anderson, Peter Newman, Charles Corwin, and Clara Markowicz

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS (12)

The Beautiful Country

**** Best First Screenplay – Sabina Murray**

Director: Hans Petter Moland

Producers: Tomas Backström, Petter J. Borgli, Terrence Malick, Edward R. Pressman

Writer: Sabina Murray

Capote

**** Best Feature – Caroline Baron, William Vince, Michael Ohoven**

**** Best Screenplay – Dan Futterman**

**** Best Male Lead – Philip Seymour Hoffman**

**** Best Cinematography – Adam Kimmel**

Director: Bennett Miller

Producers: Caroline Baron, William Vince, Michael Ohoven

Writer: Dan Futterman

Junebug

**** Best First Screenplay – Angus MacLachlan**

**** Best Supporting Female – Amy Adams**

Director: Phil Morrison

Producers: Mindy Goldberg, Mike S. Ryan

Writer: Angus MacLachlan

The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada

**** Best Feature – Michael Fitzgerald, Tommy Lee Jones**

**** Best Screenplay – Guillermo Arriaga**

**** Best Supporting Male – Barry Pepper**

**** Best Cinematography – Chris Menges**

Director: Tommy Lee Jones

Producers: Michael Fitzgerald and Tommy Lee Jones

Writer: Guillermo Arriaga

Thumbsucker

**** Best First Feature– Mike Mills, Anthony Bregman, Bob Stephenson**

Director/Writer: Mike Mills

Producers: Anthony Bregman and Bob Stephenson

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By Distributor

STRAND RELEASING (2)

Head-On

**** Best Foreign Film – Fatih Akin**

Director/Writer: Fatih Akin

Producers: Andreas Schreitmüller, Stefan Schubert, Ralph Schwingel, Jeanette Würll

Tony Takitani

**** Best Foreign Film – Jun Ichikawa**

Director/Writer: Jun Ichikawa

Producer: Motoki Ishida

TARTAN FILMS USA (1)

The Death of Mr. Lazarescu

**** Best Foreign Film – Cristi Puiu**

Director: Cristi Puiu

Producer: Alexandru Munteanu

Writers: Cristi Puiu, Razvan Radulescu

TLA RELEASING (1)

Mysterious Skin

**** Best Director – Gregg Araki**

Director/Writer: Gregg Araki

Producers: Mary Jane Skalski, Jeffrey Levy-Hinte, Gregg Araki

WARNER INDEPENDENT PICTURES (6)

Duck Season

**** Best Foreign Film– Fernando Eimbcke**

Director: Fernando Eimbcke

Producers: Jaime Bernardo Ramos, Jaune Berbaridi Ranis, Christian Valdelievre

Writers: Fernando Eimbcke, Paula Markovitch

Good Night, And Good Luck.

**** Best Feature – Grant Heslov**

**** Best Director– George Clooney**

**** Best Male Lead – David Strathairn**

**** Best Cinematography – Robert Elswit**

Director: George Clooney

Producer: Grant Heslov

Writers: George Clooney and Grant Heslov

Paradise Now

**** Best Foreign Film– Hany Abu-Assad**

Director: Hany Abu-Assad

Producer: Bero Beyer

Writers: Hany Abu-Assad & Bero Beyer

THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY (3)

Transamerica

**** Best First Feature– Duncan Tucker, Sebastian Dungan, Linda Moran, Rene Bastian**

**** Best First Screenplay – Duncan Tucker**

**** Best Female Lead – Felicity Huffman**

Director/Writer: Duncan Tucker

Producers: Sebastian Dungan, Linda Moran, and Rene Bastian

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By Distributor

NO DISTRIBUTOR (8)

Fixing Frank

**** Best First Screenplay – Kenneth Hanes**

Director: Michael Selditch

Producers: Michael Selditch, Randi Snitz

Writer: Kenneth Hanes

Jellysmoke

**** John Cassavetes Award – Mark Banning**

Director/Writer/Producer: Mark Banning

Our Very Own

**** Best Supporting Female – Allison Janney**

Director/Writer: Cameron Watson

Producers: Steve Cubine , Shannon McMahon Lichte, Margaret Biggar, Cameron Watson

The Puffy Chair

**** John Cassavetes Award – Jay Duplass, Mark Duplass**

Director: Jay Duplass

Producer: Mark Duplass

Writers: Mark Duplass and Jay Duplass

Romántico

**** Best Documentary – Mark Becker**

Director/Producer: Mark Becker

Room

**** John Cassavetes Award – Kyle Henry, Jesse Scolaro, Allen Bain, Darren Goldberg**

**** Best Female Lead – Cyndi Williams**

Director/Writer: Kyle Henry

Producers: Jesse Scolaro, Allen Bain, Darren Goldberg

Sir! No Sir!

**** Best Documentary – David Zeiger**

Director/Writer: David Zeiger

Producers: David Zeiger, Evangeline Griego, Aaron Zarrow

FILM INDEPENDENT

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38 Films Nominated

Film Title	# of Nominations
<i>The Squid and the Whale</i>	6
<i>Brokeback Mountain</i>	4
<i>Capote</i>	4
<i>Good Night, and Good Luck.</i>	4
<i>The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada</i>	4
<i>Nine Lives</i>	3
<i>Transamerica</i>	3
<i>Crash</i>	2
<i>Junebug</i>	2
<i>Lackawanna Blues</i>	2
<i>Me and You and Everyone We Know</i>	2
<i>Room</i>	2
<i>The War Within</i>	2
<i>Brick</i>	1
<i>The Beautiful Country</i>	1
<i>Broken Flowers</i>	1
<i>Conventioneers</i>	1
<i>The Death of Mr. Lazarescu</i>	1
<i>Duck Season</i>	1
<i>Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room</i>	1
<i>Fixing Frank</i>	1
<i>Forty Shades of Blue</i>	1
<i>Grizzly Man</i>	1
<i>Happy Endings</i>	1
<i>Head-On</i>	1
<i>Hustle & Flow</i>	1
<i>Jellysmoke</i>	1
<i>Keane</i>	1
<i>La Sierra</i>	1
<i>Last Days</i>	1
<i>Mysterious Skin</i>	1
<i>Our Very Own</i>	1
<i>Paradise Now</i>	1
<i>The Puffy Chair</i>	1
<i>Romántico</i>	1
<i>Sir! No Sir!</i>	1
<i>Thumbsucker</i>	1
<i>Tony Takitani</i>	1

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Bios for Filmmaker Grant Nominees

IFC/Acura Someone To Watch Award

Ian Gamazon and Neil Dela Llanda directors of *Cavite*

Ian Gamazon's first feature film was a movie called *Diego Stories*, an anti-Sleepless in Seattle romantic comedy shot in a no-budget fashion in 1996. It world premiered at the New York Asian International Film Festival. His second feature *Freud's 2nd Law* made its world premiere at SXSW Film Festival in 2001 and continued on its successful festival run at the Los Angeles Film Festival and Winfemme Film Festival. His third feature is *Cavite*, which he starred in and co-directed with Neil Dela Llana. *Cavite* had its world premiere at the Rotterdam International Film Festival in 2005 and will have its North American premiere at SXSW.

Neil Dela Llana's first feature film was a sci-fi, no-budget, suspense feature call *The Book*. It's about a guy who stumbles upon a book of conspiracies on a secret government bent on world domination.

His second feature is *Cavite*.

Robinson Devor, director of *Police Beat*

In 2005, Robinson Devor premiered his second feature film, *Police Beat*, in Dramatic Competition at Sundance.

Named one of Variety's "10 Directors To Watch" in 2000, Devor made his feature film directorial debut with *The Woman Chaser*, which was named one of the "Ten Best Films of the Year" by the San Francisco Chronicle. Debuting at The New York Film Festival and then on to Sundance, *The Woman Chaser* received critical high marks throughout its US theatrical run.

A 2002 Fellow at the Sundance Institute, Devor collaborated with African-born journalist Charles Mudede (co-writer of POLICE BEAT) on the feature script, *Superpower*, the story of an African child soldier attempting to recapture his childhood after a civil war.

Before writing and directing *The Woman Chaser* Devor directed the half-hour documentary, *Angelyne*, about the eponymous LA billboard queen. It aired several times on PBS.

Devor and his partner Mudede are currently at work on two new projects - a documentary, *In The Forest There Is Every Kind of Bird*, about a man who died after having sex with a horse, produced by Scott Macaulay (*Gummo*, *Julien Donkey Boy*); and a political thriller, *The Minotaur*, about the political awakening of Seattle woman who is involved with both an African and a Frenchman.

Jay Duplass, director of *The Puffy Chair*

When the Duplass Brothers were young dudes, they made many "films" in their hometown of New Orleans. There was *The Blob*, starring their blue bean bag, followed by *The Invisible Man Walking Across the Den* and the epic saga about the robber versus the karate expert. Jay (the elder) would film, and Mark (the younger) would act and lug the VCR, which was connected to Jay's camera. These films premiered in the mid-80's in their parents living room to rave reviews.

Later on, Jay and Mark moved to Austin and went to college. They studied film, grew sideburns, and talked about the French New Wave. While still in college (22 and 19 years old), they made a film. It was a bad film. This was a low moment for the Duplass Brothers.

One day in 2002, while moping about in their Austin apartment, Mark stood up and said, "We're going to make a movie today." They used what they had - a kitchen and a cheap digital camera. Jay shot it, and Mark acted. It was called *This is John*, and it's about a guy who tries to perfect the personal greeting of his answering machine and fails. It came from personal experience for both brothers, and people seemed to really connect with this one. It played the 2003 Sundance Film Festival and earned them a representation deal with The William Morris Agency. Next came *Scrabble*, also shot in a kitchen for a few dollars. It played Sundance in 2004 and won a few awards that year. Then came *The Intervention* which premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival in February of 2005, winning the Silver Bear and the Teddy Award.

"The Puffy Chair" is the Duplass Brothers' first feature, and it premiered at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival and won the audience award at SXSW the same year.

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Bios for Filmmaker Grant Nominees

Truer Than Fiction Award

Rachel Boynton for *Our Brand is Crisis*

Our Brand is Crisis is Rachel's first film as a director. Before starting on the project three years ago, she worked as an Associate Producer on several feature length documentaries, including *Well-Founded Fear*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and aired nationally on PBS's P.O.V., and the PBS series *People Like Us: Social Class in America*.

She also produced for ARD, a German television station. She received an M.S. in journalism from Columbia University, Graduate School of Journalism, a B.A. in International Relations from Brown University and a Certificate of Political Studies from L'Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po) in Paris, France. She is based in New York City.

Garrett Scott & Ian Olds for *Occupation: Dreamland*

Garrett Scott is a writer and filmmaker who was featured prominently by Filmmaker Magazine as one of the "20 new faces in film to watch" in 2002. His directorial debut, *Cul de Sac: A Suburban War Story*, premiered at the 2002 Toronto International Film Festival. *Cul de Sac* also screened at numerous other festivals before being acquired for broadcast by the Sundance Channel in 2004, and ARTE-France in 2005.

Ian Olds is the editor and co-writer of *Cul de Sac: A Suburban War Story*, which premiered the 2002 Toronto International Film Festival and was acquired for broadcast by The Sundance Channel in 2004 and ARTE-France in 2005. Ian also directed the short narrative film *Two Men*, an adaptation of a Denis Johnson short story, which premiered at the 2005 Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival as one of only five American films in International Competition. Ian is a 2005 Princess Grace Award winner and will receive his MFA from Columbia University's film division in 2006.

Mark Becker for *Romántico*

Mark Becker works as a documentary filmmaker, editor and cinematographer. Most recently, Becker produced and directed *Romántico*, which premiered at Sundance, and screened at the Los Angeles, San Sebastian, and Vienna film festivals, among others. *Romántico* won a Special Jury Recognition at Silverdocs. Becker also directed the documentary *Jules at Eight*, a film about eight-year-old jazz guitarist Julian Lage. *Jules at Eight* was a Regional Winner of the Student Academy Awards and a Special Jury Prize from the International Documentary Association.

Becker co-edited *The Lost Boys of Sudan*, which won an Independent Spirit award, as well as a Golden Gate Award at the San Francisco International Film Festival. Becker has also worked as an editor for Lucasfilm, PBS, and on various independent productions. Becker is currently editing *In his Own Mind*, a documentary about Andy Behrman, the manic depressive author of the memoir *Electroboy*.

Thomas Allen Harris for *Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela*

Born in the Bronx and raised in New York City and Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, Thomas Allen Harris is a graduate of Harvard College, Cum Laude, with a degree in Biology. His critically acclaimed documentary, *É Minha Cara/That's My Face* (2001) premiered at the Toronto, Sundance and Tribeca Film Festivals and won seven international awards, including the Prize of the Ecumenical Jury of Christian Churches at the 2002 Berlin International Film Festival. A recipient of Guggenheim, Rockefeller, CPB/PBS Producers and Sundance Directors Fellowships, Mr. Harris is a former tenured Associate Professor of Media Arts at the University of California, San Diego.

Mr. Harris worked as a producer for public television in New York, prior to founding Chimpanzee Productions, Inc. a company dedicated to producing unique visual experiences that illuminate the human condition and the search for identity, family, and spirituality. Chimpanzee Productions is currently developing several new projects, including a sex comedy entitled *On The DL* and a documentary series entitled *Reflections In Black: Black Photographers from 1840 to the Present*. *Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela* is Mr. Harris' third film to make its world premiere at the 2005 Toronto International Film Festival.

FILM INDEPENDENT

For Immediate Release: 2006 INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Bios for Filmmaker Grant Nominees

AMC/American Express Producers Award

Caroline Baron, producer of *Capote* and *Monsoon Wedding*

Caroline Baron produced the critically acclaimed *Capote* starring Philip Seymour Hoffman and Mira Nair's cross-cultural hit *Monsoon Wedding*, winner of the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival and numerous awards worldwide. After beginning her career in 1983 as the production manager on Troma's *The Toxic Avenger*, she co-produced *Center Stage*, *Flawless*, and *Addicted to Love*, Nair's *Kama Sutra*, and *The Santa Clause* among others. She produced the mini-series *Witness to the Mob*, with Robert De Niro and Jane Rosenthal, and was the associate producer of the Emmy award winning series *The Wonder Years*. Ms. Baron produced *Capote* through her new company, A-Line Pictures, which she formed with her husband and producing partner, Anthony Weintraub.

A-Line is currently in pre-production on a film version of Ibsen's *The Master Builder*, with Wallace Shawn and Andre Gregory. They are developing two novels by Ann Patchett, *Bel Canto* with The Recorded Picture Company and *The Magician's Assistant*. A-Line is also developing an adaptation of the hard-hitting investigative non-fiction book *Dangerous Doses* about counterfeit prescription drugs in the U.S. She lives in New York City with her husband Anthony and their son Asher.

Ram Bergman, producer *Brick* and *Conversations with ther Women*

Ram Bergman launched his new company Gordonstreet Pictures last year. He recently finished Hans Canosa's sexy drama *Conversations with Other Women*, starring Helena Bonham Carter and Aaron Eckhart. The film premiered at the Telluride film festival this year, and won the special jury prize at the Tokyo Film Festival as well the best actress award for Helena Bonham Carter.

Ram also produced Rian Johnson's *Brick*, a hard-boiled noir mystery that won the Sundance Film Festival's Special Jury Prize for Originality of Vision. Focus Features acquired the rights to the film. The film also screened in Venice and Deauville and many other festivals. Ram is currently working with Rian on a new film that they are planning to start filming next spring.

Ram is in post-production on Sergei Bodrov's Kazakhstan-shot epic *Nomad*, executive-produced by Milos Forman that was recently acquired by The Weinstein Company. He is also in post on Greg Glienna's comedy *Relative Strangers*, starring Danny DeVito, Kathy Bates, Neve Campbell, and Ron Livingston.

Other films he has produced include Michael Radford's *Dancing at the Blue Iguana*. Yuri Zeltser's *The Circle* and *Black & White*; Dana Lustig's *Kill Me Later* and *Wedding Bell Blues*; Jay Anania's *Her Name Is Carla* and *Long Time Since*; and Eric Bross' *Stranger Than Fiction*.

Mike S. Ryan, producer of *Junebug* and *Palindromes*

Mr. Ryan has been involved in New York City independent production for over 10 years, having location-managed films for Ang Lee and Todd Haynes among others. He recently line produced for Ira Sach's *40 Shades of Blue*, as well as produced Todd Solondz's film *Palindromes* and Phile Morrison's *Junebug*. Mr. Ryan currently owns several books and script options, all of which are in various stages of development. Mr. Ryan is a 1992 graduate of NYU's Masters program in film production. He is presently producing the new Hal Hartley film for HDNET which will start shooting in January.