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Fifth QiFF Announces 2007 Film Lineup

Astoria, NY, November 7, 2007 - The Queens International Film Festival is proud to present the independent spirit in its new season of films, shorts, animation, documentaries and music videos. In its fifth season, presenting films from November 8-11, 2007, at various locations in Astoria, The Theater of the Moving Image, Charter School, and PS 166. Although the festival's home base is Queens it has expanded boundaries in conjunction with other film festivals around the world, such as Greece, France, Japan, England, and Ireland.

What a way to begin the festival on opening night with a native from Astoria, the famed and acclaimed actor Robert Davi. His first debut as a director and the film's New York Premiere of the *The Dukes*. Making its European Premiere at the Roma International Film Festival then at the Houston World Festival winning the Special Jury Award. Starring the Bronx born actor Chazz Palminteri, who is noted for his native New York flair. A funny and delightful movie in the mishaps of a struggling doo wop group.

Also, making its New York Premiere is a thought-provoking movie, *Punching at the Sun*, directed by Tanuj Chopra, about a young Indian boy coming to terms with his brother's death in Elmhurst, Queens. A film with a darker tone, *The Box*, making its New York Premiere, directed by Joe Kaparr, exposing a harsh reality of a former LAPD detective. A crime/thriller with Max Ryan who played the hair-raising character Dante, *In The League of Extraordinary Gentleman*. A New York Premiere movie by Ma Xiangsheng, *Impressions of Bieji*, a soul-searching movie that tangles with the issues of the heart and the commitment of the priesthood.

The kaleidoscope of movies does not stop there, the festival is happy to present the Queens Premiere of *A Nick in Time*, an Official Selection of Sundance, Tribeca and Cannes Urbanworld. Directed by a Philadelphian, Bé Garrett, about a Brooklyn barber spinning yarn to a troubled man in hopes of guiding him in the right direction. Included is a poignant short from Ecuador, a New York Premiere, directed by Juan Sebastián Jácome, *Cargo Truck*, in which Anabel Tejada wrestles with a broad range of current immigration issues.

The Queens International Film Festival continues to inform and enlighten as it presents the New York Premiere documentary of the *Dalai Lama Renaissance*, directed by Khashyar Darvich, narration by Harrison Ford. Captured on film, an invitation from the Dalai Lama to the 40 greatest thinkers of our time, posing the problems that we face in the world and how should we go about in solving these issues. A documentary that sets the standard of enrichment, enlightenment and reflection of who we are and how we can approach the world in a peaceful manner. The World Premiere of *Tea and Justice*, directed by Ermena Vinluan is a documentary about women cops on the beat. Dealing with the gritty reality of being on the street, and how as women they approach various situations revealing that it might be of help then a hindrance.

Animation and music videos have been an interracial part of the festival program. Proud to present the Queens Premiere of Shu-Chen Lin's, *Angus*. This is about a cat who has eight lives

and knows that he wants to be a pianist. Ms. Lin's careful and thoughtful storytelling of how we should pursue our passion and happiness whenever possible. Making its World Premiere is a fun and sexy music video, *Coke Bottle Body*, directed by Helen Grace where the colorful, Chico Slimani celebrates curvy women.

Just to mention a few, an East Coast Premiere of *My Dream*, an off shoot of the Cirque de Soleil with a cast of people with special abilities. An eye-opening documentary making its World Premiere, *The Truth About Weapons Of Mass Destruction*, directed by Paul Hanes, focuses on issues in the UK surrounding chemical weapons. The New York Premiere of *I Love Hip Hop in Morocco*, and *Shut Up and Shoot*.

The Queens International Film Festival is committed to the craft of making films, proud to represent the independent spirit and bringing these findings to enrich our audience. Please go to the website www.queensfilmfestival.com for a full list of films and times.