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* * FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE * *

Program Announcements for the 46th Ann Arbor Film Festival

ANN ARBOR, Mich., February 19, 2008 – The Ann Arbor Film Festival, a showcase for independent, experimental and artistically-inspired film, announces special programs for its 46th event.

Saturday, March 29 – 7:00pm

The world premiere of ***The Juche Idea*** by Jim Finn, the critically-acclaimed filmmaker who created ***Interkosmos*** (2006). This film mixes together North Korean archival propaganda films, the Juche teachings of Kim Jong-il, and a documentary exploration of a modern day North Korean artist residency. With a sense of craft and humor, Finn creates an unusual and fascinating examination of the underpinnings of North Korean culture and the effects of propaganda in cinema.

Friday, March 28 - 7:00pm

Nerakhoon (The Betrayal) – An epic 23-year documentary in the making, cinematographer extraordinaire Ellen Kuras (who shoots often for Michel Gondry and Spike Lee) poetically reveals the deeply human story of a family from Laos experiencing the harsh consequences of U.S. foreign policy and their attempts to rebuild their lives in New York City.

Friday, March 28 – 9:30pm

Bill Plympton Presents - A not-to-be-missed program for any fan of animation, Plympton is one of the most successful independent animators in the world. His shorts and feature animations have won prizes at Cannes, multiple Oscar® nominations, and commissions from MTV, Vogue, and Kanye West. Plympton will be in attendance with a world premiere of his new work and to demonstrate the art of his craft.

Additional program announcements include:

Nathaniel Dorsky program - Silent films of devotion, Dorsky's work evokes and explores the spiritual underpinnings of cinema.

Sandra Gibson & Luis Recoder live performance – Renown in the experimental film scene for their multiple film projector performances, Gibson & Recoder interact with light through refraction as they collide image and sound.

Jurors of the 46th AAFF

The Jurors of the festival will be in attendance, deciding on more than \$18,000 in filmmaker awards, and presenting special screenings of their own work. They are:

Bill Plympton – Considered one of the top independent animators in the world, having won awards at Cannes and multiple Oscar nominations for his work. Plympton has also produced animation for MTV, Kanye West, “Weird Al” Yankovic, and the Trivial Pursuit board game. His cartoons have graced the pages of the NY Times, Vanity Fair, Vogue, & Rolling Stone magazine.

Michelle Silva – Her work ranges from lurid short narratives to hypnotic abstractions of light, rhythm, and sound. Silva has been cinematographer, editor and collaborator on numerous film projects and digital restorations with world-renowned artists such as Bruce Conner, sound artist Otomo Yoshihide, and Bruce Baillie. Silva is currently serving her second term on the Board of Directors for avant-garde film distributor, Canyon Cinema, and working on her miniature scale clashing of the Aztecs and Spaniards dedicated to the Kuchar brothers.

Bill Brown – A filmmaker from the “Paris of the Plains,” Lubbock, Texas. He has made several short experimental documentaries about the dusty corners of the North American landscape. Along with filmmaker Tom Comerford, Brown created the Lo Fi Landscapes tour, traveling across country in 2002 and 2005 with a program of short films concerned with history and place. The Museum of Modern Art hosted a retrospective of Brown's work in 2003 as part of its MediaScope series.

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