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BLOCKBUSTER MAVERICKS PROGRAMME FEATURES MICHAEL MOORE, JOHN WATERS, JOHN CAMERON MITCHELL AND STARS OF BOLLYWOOD

Toronto - The 31st **Toronto International Film Festival** announces today the lineup for this year's **Mavericks** programme, a series of sessions by leaders and innovators in the world of cinema. **Mavericks** provides Festival audiences with in-depth access to leading film professionals as they share their personal stories and discuss their most recent and upcoming projects. Three fascinating **Mavericks** programmes will inform and delight audiences, featuring appearances by **Michael Moore, John Waters, John Cameron Mitchell, Karan Johar, Shah Rukh Khan, Rani Mukherji, and Amitabh Bachchan**. Tickets go on sale September 6. For further information and to purchase tickets call **416-968-FILM** or visit **bell.ca/filmfest**.

Michael Moore's impact on documentary filmmaking is undeniable, and his influence on American politics has been equally profound. His politically scorching film **FAHRENHEIT 9/11** broke box office records for a documentary (records previously held by Moore's **BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE**). Since then, Moore has backed away from the spotlight to concentrate on his own projects, but happily for Toronto, Moore has chosen the Festival as the place to unveil not one, but two works-in-progress. Toronto makes a fitting location for this coming out, since it was here that Moore first made headlines in 1989 when **ROGER & ME** became the surprise hit of the Festival.

In this special **Mavericks** presentation, **AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL MOORE**, Moore will discuss the journey he's taken since **FAHRENHEIT 9/11**. Fans have been eagerly anticipating his next film **SICKO**, a look at the United States health care system, and **Mavericks** audience members will be the first to see a short teaser from **SICKO**. In addition, Moore will show longer segments from his work-in-progress **THE GREAT '04 SLACKER UPRISING**, a record of his travels during the 2004 U.S. election campaign that captures the birth of a new political generation. Those interested in Moore's work will not want to miss this new chapter in the career of a master filmmaker.

In **VANGUARD CINEMA: JOHN WATERS IN CONVERSATION WITH JOHN CAMERON MITCHELL**, controversial and fascinating filmmaker **John Waters** (**THIS FILTHY WORLD, HAIRSPRAY, A DIRTY SHAME**) will join rising-star director **John Cameron Mitchell** (**SHORTBUS, HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH**) for a rousing discussion on the need to push cinema beyond its boundaries. Waters appears in the world premiere of his one-man show documentary **THIS FILTHY WORLD** in the Festival's **Real to Reel** programme, and Mitchell is attending the Festival with his critically acclaimed film **SHORTBUS**, which will see its North American premiere as part of the **Vanguard** programme. The presenters will also discuss the evolution of their careers and their own personal insights into the world of filmmaking. The discussion is moderated by musician, actor, filmmaker and media personality Sook-Yin Lee, who also stars in Mitchell's **SHORTBUS**.

For one billion fans in India to the South Asian diaspora communities in England, U.S. and Canada, to devoted fans in the Middle East, Russia and beyond, three-hour Hindi epics with extravagant musical numbers are the stuff dreams are made of. In recognition of this hugely popular genre, **Mavericks** presents **THE MAKING OF A BOLLYWOOD BLOCKBUSTER**, an event for Bollywood lovers and newcomers alike. From the astonishing all-star line-up of Indian film talent from **NEVER SAY GOODBYE** (which will screen as a **Gala Presentation** at this year's Festival), director Karan Johar, and actors Shah Rukh Khan, Rani Mukherji, and Amitabh Bachchan will engage in a lively discussion about the huge popularity of Bollywood. The discussion is moderated by writer Suketu Mehta, whose non-fiction book about the film capital of Mumbai, *Maximum City*, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

Mavericks presentations are held at the Elgin and Isabel Bader Theatres.

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For further information, please contact the Press Office at 416-934-3200.