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## **SIFF SELECTS 29 FILMS BY LOCAL FILMMAKERS FOR NORTHWEST CONNECTIONS SERIES**

*17 Features, 18 Shorts to be Screened at 37th Seattle International Film Festival*

**Seattle, WA** – The 37th Seattle International Film Festival, the largest and most highly-attended event of its kind in the United States today announced it has selected 35 films (17 features, 18 shorts) by local filmmakers, a Festival record, for this year's Northwest Connections film series.

This year's film selections include a truck-stop love story, Christian card counters, an award-winning documentary about assisted suicide, heartfelt and hilarious adventures, a dark comedy, a satire about addiction and fame, an indie tale of romance and friendship, several psychological dramas and a glance into the world of impressionist author and artist, Emily Carr.

### **SIFF 2011 Northwest Connections Features**

*The Catechism Cataclysm*, directed by Todd Rohal (USA, 2011)

A chatty young priest on sabbatical convinces a reluctant high school acquaintance to go on the world's most awkward canoe trip.

*Do You See Colors When You Close Your Eyes?*, directed by Caleb Young (USA, 2011)

WORLD PREMIERE

When one twin dies in an accident, his brother and his lover are both so lost and lonely they're forced to seek solace in each other.

*Hit So Hard*, directed by P. David Ebersole (USA, 2011)

Legendary hard-hitting drummer Patty Schemel shares the most intimate and outrageous moments in her tumultuous life with the rock band Hole in this revealing documentary.

*Holy Rollers: The True Story of Card Counting Christians*, directed by Bryan Storkel (USA, 2011) WORLD PREMIERE

One of the largest blackjack teams in the country is made up entirely of Christians that use card counting to fleece casinos for millions.

*How to Die in Oregon*, directed by Peter D. Richardson (USA, 2011)

(MORE)

A compassionate portrait of the patients who have chosen physician-assisted suicide since the passage of Oregon's Death With Dignity law in 1994.

*If A Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front*, directed by Marshall Curry (USA, 2011)  
A story of covert ops, fractured idealism, and what the US government deems "eco-terrorism" in this documentary about a cell of radical environmentalists in the Pacific Northwest.

*John Carpenter's The Ward*, directed by John Carpenter (USA, 2010)  
An inmate at a psychiatric hospital discovers horrors upon horrors lurking within the shadowy sanitarium, in John Carpenter's ferociously atmospheric return to form.

*Late Autumn*, directed by Kim Tae-yong (South Korea, 2010) US PREMIERE  
A convict returning home for her mother's funeral strikes up an unlikely relationship with an escaped escort on the streets of Seattle.

*A Lot Like You*, directed by Eliaichi Kimaro (Tanzania, 2011), WORLD PREMIERE  
A mixed-race American filmmaker visits Tanzania to get in touch with her father's African roots and document his life's journey.

*Marrow*, directed by Matt Wilkins (USA, 2011)  
A single mother struggles to raise her mercurial teenage son while mourning the death of her father in this raw psychological drama about unearthing dark family secrets.

*Norman*, directed by Jonathan Segal (USA, 2010)  
Nothing seems to be going right for Norman, a wisecracking teenager who excels at rubbing people the wrong way. But what if he had only three months to live?

*The Off Hours*, directed by Megan Griffiths (USA, 2011)  
Francine has been working at a Northwest truck stop for over a decade, but the arrival of a new trucker with ties to the larger world provides Francine with flickers of a wider existence.

*Old Goats*, directed by Taylor Guterson (USA, 2010)  
A hilarious and heartfelt story of three older men who refuse to go quietly into the night of retirement and old age.

*Surrogate Valentine*, directed by Dave Boyle (USA, 2011)  
A sweet and comical story about an indie singer/songwriter (Goh Nakamura) assigned by a filmmaker friend to teach the musically challenged star of her film to sing and play guitar.

*Treatment*, directed by Steven Schardt (USA, 2011)  
A wanna-be filmmaker fakes his way into a celebrity rehab resort to sign an A-list movie star, only to learn harsh lessons about what true addiction means.

*Winds of Heaven*, directed by Michael Ostroff (Canada, 2010)  
A heartfelt paean to Canadian author and impressionistic painter Emily Carr, bringing her work, surroundings, fierce love of the outdoors, and famously cantankerous personality to vivid life.

*Without*, directed by Mark, Jackson (USA, 2011)

A haunting testament to the resilience of the body, the power of sexuality, and the frailness of the mind. featuring a fearless performance from Joslyn Jensen as a tortured soul in search of human connection.

### **2011 Northwest Connections Short Films**

The Northwest Connections Short Film package, "Seattle Stories," will screen at SIFF Cinema on Monday, May 30 at 11am as a part of SIFF ShortsFest Weekend. With 15 shorts in nearly every genre, including nine World Premieres and one US Premiere, the "Seattle Stories" Shorts package truly exemplifies our city's burgeoning and talented filmmaking community.

*The 5,000 Days Project: Two Brothers*, directed by Rick Stevenson (USA, 2011) WORLD PREMIERE

*The Anatomy of the Vertebrate Retina*, directed by Jon Behrens (USA, 2011) WORLD PREMIERE

*Arthur*, directed by John Jacobsen (USA, 2010)

*Belltown, 98121*, directed by Robert Pearson (USA, 2010) WORLD PREMIERE

*Busking Cadenza*, directed by Cory Kelley (USA, 2011) WORLD PREMIERE

*The Cherdonna and Lou Show: The Movie!*, directed by Maile Martinez (USA, 2011) US PREMIERE

*Frank Fairfield*, directed by Austin Wilson (USA, 2010)

*Howard From Ohio*, directed by SJ Chiro (USA, 2011) WORLD PREMIERE

*I Do: A Marital Discord in America*, directed by Rolito Mojica (USA, 2010) WORLD PREMIERE

*Kampai*, directed by Kelly Ota (USA, 2011) WORLD PREMIERE

*Love and War*, directed by Lautaro Gabriel Gonda (USA, 2011) WORLD PREMIERE

*Photo Booth*, directed by Timothy Watkins (USA, 2010) WORLD PREMIERE

*Plain Face*, directed by Tess Martin (USA, 2011) WORLD PREMIERE

*The Swimmer*, directed by Salise Hughes (USA, 2011) WORLD PREMIERE

*tracings*, directed by Marissa Rae Niederhauser (USA, 2011) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

*We Invent You*, directed by Jason Sciarrone (USA, 2010) WORLD PREMIERE

*When the Lights Go Out*, directed by Karen Ducey (USA, 2011) WORLD PREMIERE

*Woman Seeks Man For Date On Friday*, directed by Cassidy Dimon (USA, 2011)

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### **About SIFF**

Now in its 37th year, the Seattle International Film Festival is the largest and most highly-attended film festival in the United States, showcasing more than 400 films from over 70 countries to an audience of 155,000 attendees annually. In the fall of 2011 SIFF will open the SIFF Film Center at Seattle Center's Alki Room, thereby fulfilling its long-standing vision of creating a permanent home where SIFF's successful film, education, and community outreach programs can thrive.

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