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SIFF TO HONOR LEGENDARY FILMMAKER WARREN MILLER WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Tribute to Feature Screening from Director's Private Collection at Benaroya Hall on June 8

Seattle, WA – The 37th Seattle International Film Festival, the largest and most highly-attended event of its kind in the United States, today announced that it will honor legendary filmmaker Warren Miller at a special tribute event on Wednesday, June 8, at Benaroya Hall.

SIFF will present Mr. Miller with the Golden Space Needle Award for Lifetime Achievement in honor of his illustrious career, which spans six decades and includes more than 350 sports, commercial, and documentary films. A “living icon” among the action sports and film communities, Mr. Miller’s films are renowned for their stunning cinematography, impressive feats of athleticism, and Warren’s own trademark brand of witty narration, leaving his legion of fans eagerly awaiting each new production.

The tribute will feature a special screening from Warren’s private film collection and an on-stage interview with Mr. Miller, hosted by Neal Thompson, immediately following the screening.

“Warren’s been captivating audiences for over 60 years with films that are as inspiring as they are earnest,” said SIFF Artistic Director, Carl Spence. “We are truly honored to recognize a filmmaker with such foresight and dedication as Warren Miller and thank him for all of his contributions to the film community.”

Tickets for the tribute event are \$65 for standard tickets and \$125 for “Ski Bum” tickets, with the latter receiving an autographed Warren Miller poster and admission to a private guest reception, which Mr. Miller will attend, after the event. Tickets will be available May 5 at WarrenMiller.net, SIFF.net and all SIFF venues.

An inspiration to countless numbers of young filmmakers and action sports enthusiasts, Mr. Miller’s legacy of an entrepreneur’s steadfast pursuit of freedom has inspired generations of skiers, athletes, and moviegoers alike.

Born in Hollywood, Warren was an avid skier, surfer and photographer growing up. At the age of 18, with the U.S. ten months into World War II, he enlisted in the Navy and served in the South Pacific. Upon his discharge in 1946 he bought his first 8mm movie camera and moved with a

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friend to Sun Valley, Idaho where they camped in the parking lot of the Sun Valley ski resort, living out of a teardrop trailer and earning money as ski instructors. In their free time, they would film each other skiing to critique and improve their ski techniques. During the summers they shifted to the California coast where they filmed each other surfing.

Warren often showed his skiing and surfing films to friends, making jokes about their exploits throughout the viewing of the film. When he began to receive invitations to show and narrate his films at parties, it occurred to him that he could turn this hobby into a business.

In 1949, Warren founded Warren Miller Films, where he produced, directed, and personally narrated his films. He also served as the head of the company both creatively and executively until the late 1980's when he sold the company, but remained involved as its figurehead, principle writer, and narrator until 2004.

For the last twenty years, Warren's professional and philanthropic interests have been represented by the Warren Miller Company. Most recently, he made a return to the stage, presenting *An Evening with Warren Miller* to sold-out audiences at Benaroya Hall.

Mr. Miller currently resides with his wife, Laurie, on Orcas Island in the San Juan Islands north of Seattle. Retired from filmmaking, Warren is currently the Director of Skiing at the Yellowstone Club in Big Sky, Mont. and an active writer, busy working on two new books: one that shares his perspective on aging, and his autobiography.

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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 60 countries to an audience of 150,000 attendees annually. In the fall of 2011, SIFF will open the SIFF Film Center at Seattle Center's Alki Room, thereby fulfilling its longstanding vision of creating a permanent home where SIFF's successful film, education, and community outreach programs can thrive.

The 37th Seattle International Film Festival is made possible in part by support from Xfinity, The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Brotherton Cadillac Buick GMC, Alaska Airlines, Don Q Rums, The Wallace Foundation, Wong Doody, American Airlines, Modern Digital, POP, City Arts Magazine, The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and Warren Miller Company.