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**THE MICHIGAN THEATER AND SUNDANCE INSTITUTE ANNOUNCE
EXCLUSIVE FILM SERIES BEGINNING MAY 19**

*Art House Project celebrates Institute's 25th Anniversary
with showcase of 25 films from Sundance Film Festival*

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – The Michigan Theater and Sundance Institute announce the Michigan Theater's participation in The Sundance Institute Art House Project, a new national initiative that pairs Sundance Institute with 14 art house cinemas across the country. Each art house will screen films from past Sundance Film Festivals as part of the Institute's 25th anniversary celebration in 2006.

Beginning on May 19, the Michigan Theater will showcase 25 recent and classic films from the Sundance Film Festival, a core program of Sundance Institute. The Michigan Theater has added three films with Michigan ties, "The Upside of Anger," "Purple Rose of Cairo" and "Roger and Me," to its series.

The Michigan Theater will be the only venue in the region that was selected to offer the series. In addition to the Michigan Theater, cinemas in cities ranging from Orlando and Nashville to Bellingham, Washington are participating in the program.

"For 25 years, Sundance has been committed to building audiences for independent film. In so many ways, these theatres are the unsung heroes of independent film," said John Cooper, Director of Programming for the Sundance Film Festival. "In looking for participating theatres, we were careful to invite cinemas with a good curatorial sense and a strong existing program. We're excited to be collaborating with the Michigan Theater and the other 13 cinemas to bring new work and classics in independent film to their communities."

"Crumb," directed by Terry Zwigoff, kicks off the series on May 19. Screenings will take place weekly through early November. "Gas, Food, Lodging," "Purple Rose of Cairo," "Poison" and "Hoop Dreams" make up the first weeks of the series. Other films range from "Paris is Burning" to "Hedwig and the Angry Inch." "Tarnation," another film in the series, was a winner in the 2005 Ann Arbor Film Festival. For a complete list of films and screening dates, please visit www.michtheater.org/sundance.



Last January, Michigan Theater Executive Director Russ Collins joined representatives from each of the participating theatres at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival in January in Park City, Utah for the official launch of the initiative. As a guest of the Festival, Collins attended Festival screenings of American independent and international films and took part in a panel discussion on “The Culture of Moviegoing.”

“It was a great honor for the Michigan Theater to be selected as an Art House Project theater,” Collins said recently. “The passionate voices of independent filmmakers are vital to our society and culture. The Sundance Institute and its Film Festival have nurtured the growth of these vital voices for the last 25 years. An important third leg of this essential cultural tripod is the community-based mission-driven film theaters. Theaters like the Michigan and the other Art House Project theaters provide passionate local forums for the independent filmmakers who brilliantly articulate our culture’s visions and insightfully record our society’s moments in time.”

Tickets will be available in several series packages or individually, in advance or the night of the show at the box office. A Series Pass Booklet is available for \$125 for Michigan Theater members, \$150 non-members. For less committed filmgoers, a booklet of 8 tickets will allow them to create their own series: \$46 members, \$60 non-members, with an early-bird discount before May 19. Both packages are available starting Monday, May 1 online at www.michtheater.org/sundance, by phone at 734-668-8397 ext. 29 or at the Guest Services Desk in the lobby of the Michigan Theater nightly after 6:30 pm.

Advance tickets may be used for any of the films in the series and are transferable. Subscribers will also be invited to a special reception on Opening Night, Friday, May 19. Single tickets for any film screening are available only at the box office 30 minutes prior to each screening. Regular prices apply (\$8.50, \$6.75 students and seniors, \$6.00 members).

Deluxe packages will also be available, including an 11-disc Collector’s Edition DVD Box Set featuring 10 outstanding films from the Sundance Film Festival plus a bonus disc exploring the history of the Sundance Institute and an interview with Robert Redford.

About the Sundance Institute Art House Project

The Sundance Institute Art House Project is a national initiative that pairs the Institute and its Sundance Film Festival with 14 select art house cinemas across the country. As part of its year-long 25th anniversary celebration in 2006, Sundance Institute selected theatres that are recognized for quality film programming and commitment to building audiences for independent film at the local level. Local curators will program their own screening series of independent film classics and recent films from the Sundance Film Festival. Participating theatres include: The Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor, Mich.; Fine Arts Theatre in Asheville, N.C.; Pickford Theatre in Bellingham, Wash.; International Film in Boulder, Colo.; Coolidge Corner Theatre in Brookline, Mass.; RagTag Cinema in Columbia, Mo.; Palace Theatre in Hilo, Hawaii; Belcourt Theatre in Nashville, Tenn.; Oklahoma City Museum of Art in Oklahoma City, Okla.; Enzian Theatre in Orlando, Fla.; Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville, N.Y.; Broadway Centre Cinemas in Salt Lake City, Utah; Rafael Film Center in San Rafael, Cal.; and Railroad Square Cinemas in Waterville, Maine.



About Sundance Institute

Dedicated year-round to the development of artists of independent vision and to the exhibition of their new work, Sundance Institute celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2006. Founded by Robert Redford in 1981, the Institute has grown into an internationally recognized resource for thousands of independent artists through its Sundance Film Festival and artistic development programs for fiction and nonfiction filmmakers, screenwriters, composers, playwrights and theatre artists. The original values of independence, creative diversity, and discovery continue to define and guide the work of Sundance Institute, both with artists from the U.S. and, increasingly, with artists from other regions of the world.

About the Michigan Theater

The Michigan Theater is Ann Arbor's historic center for fine film and performing arts located in downtown Ann Arbor at 603 East Liberty Street, across the street from Borders Books and Music. Regular movie prices are \$8.50, \$6.75 for students, seniors and US veterans & \$6.00 for Michigan Theater members. The theater's 24-hour information line is (734) 668-TIME and the website is www.michtheater.org.

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