

## WFF Announces Six Borsos Award Finalists Competing for \$15,000 Cash Prize

*Niv Fichman and Jessica Paré, join Ivan Reitman as Borsos Jury Members*

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**Whistler, BC (November 2, 2009)** – The Whistler Film Festival announces the six Canadian films selected to compete in the Borsos Competition for **Best New Canadian Feature Film**, vying for one of the Canadian film industry's largest cash prizes of \$15,000:

- Sook Yin Lee's **Year of the Carnivore** (BC/ON; BC Premiere)
- Alexandre Franchi's **The Wild Hunt** (QC; Western Canadian Premiere)
- Peter Stebbings' **Defendor** (ON; Western Canadian Premiere)
- Corey Adams and Alex Craig's **Machotaildrop** (BC; Western Canadian Premiere)
- Sophie Deraspe's **Les Signes Vitaux** (*The Living Rate*) (QC; English Canadian Premiere)
- Ryan Arnold's **Skid Love** (ON; English Canadian Premiere).

The prestigious \$15,000 award is presented by the Directors Guild of Canada (DGC) – BC District Council and supported by Telefilm Canada. The winner will be announced at the Whistler Film Festival awards ceremony on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> in Whistler, BC.

The Borsos' award-winner will be selected by a top tier, internationally acclaimed jury, comprised of renowned Emmy-nominated and Genie Award winning director/producer **Ivan Reitman** (jury president), who directed some of the most popular films of our time including *Meatballs*, *Stripes* and *Ghostbusters* and produced *Animal House* and *I Love You, Man, Chloe, and Up In The Air*; Oscar and Emmy Award winning producer **Niv Fichman** (*The Red Violin*, *Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould*, *Passchendaele*); and **Jessica Paré** (*Lost and Delirious*, *Suck*, *Stardom*)

Mr. Reitman will also receive a **special Tribute at the Festival, on Friday, December 4.**

"The films in this year's sixth annual competition showcase the diverse talents of the emerging leaders in Canadian independent film," says WFF Artistic Director Stacey Donen. "We are honoured to have such high-calibre judges at this year's competition and overwhelmed by the support the Borsos competition has received from the Canadian film industry."

The \$15,000 Borsos Award for Best New Canadian Feature Film is named for pioneer Canadian filmmaker Phillip Borsos, best known for the Genie Award-winning films **The Grey Fox** (1982), and **BETHUNE: The Making of a Hero** (1990). Mr. Borsos was a creative, adventurous and passionately independent filmmaker, and the award celebrates these qualities. Now in its sixth year, Borsos Award competition entries must be Canadian dramatic features and at minimum, BC premieres.

"DGC BC is very proud to sponsor the Borsos Award for the fourth consecutive year. The Whistler Film Festival is one of Canada's top festivals and plays an integral role in shaping the talent of tomorrow. It is appropriate that Philip Borsos' memory be honoured at this event as his example is truly an inspiration to the next generation of Canadian filmmakers," says Nicholas Kendall, DGC BC Chairman.

Previous winners of the Borsos Award for Best New Canadian Feature Film are (2008) *3 Seasons* directed by Jim Donovan, (2007) Stéphane Lafleur's *Continental: A Film Without Guns*, (2006) Stéphane Lapointe's *The Secret Life of Happy People*, (2005) Ilan Saragosti's *Exiles in Lotus Land* and (2004) Kenny Hotz's *Papal Chase*.

Previous jury presidents include Donald Sutherland, Atom Egoyan, Norman Jewison, Robert Lantos and long-time Borsos collaborator Peter O'Brian. Previous Borsos jury members include Sturla Gunnarsson, Patricia Rozema, Julia Kwan, Kevin Tierney, Don McKellar, Molly Parker, Andrew Currie, Deborah Kara Unger, Luc Déry and Lisa Ray.

The ninth annual Whistler Film Festival, presented by American Express, runs from December 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The complete program will be announced on November 5; simultaneous to the ticket packages available exclusively for American Express card members. The Festival's early bird offer for Festival and Industry Passes and See & Stay Packages is available online until November 13. **Individual film and special event tickets go on sale online on November 12** (until December 5). The Festival Box Office opens November 19 for walk-in and phone sales and is located directly in front of the Whistler Conference Centre. For information, call 1.877.838.FILM (3456) or visit [www.whistlerfilmfestival.com](http://www.whistlerfilmfestival.com)

The Whistler Film Festival is sponsored by Cadillac, Directors Guild of Canada, Whistler Brewing, Vancouver Sun, Whistler Blackcomb, Dose.ca and Quick Mobile, and is supported by Telefilm Canada, Canadian Heritage, BC Film and the Resort Municipality of Whistler.

The Whistler Film Festival Society (WFFS) is a charitable, not for profit cultural and educational organization committed to promoting, developing and celebrating a strong film industry in Western Canada, and to showcasing the best films from Canada and around the world. WFFS offers two main programs for the international community to discover Canadian filmmakers and do business with the Canadian film industry: the Whistler Film Festival (December 3-6, 2009), and the Forum at the Whistler Film Festival, Western Canada's premier industry event. For details, visit [www.whistlerfilmfestival.com](http://www.whistlerfilmfestival.com)

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Attachments:

- Descriptions of films competing in Borsos Award
- Bios of jury members

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