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ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE JASON REITMAN

TO RECEIVE VISIONARY AWARD

AT THE 13th PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

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BOCA RATON, FL – The Palm Beach International Film Festival (PBIFF) will present “Juno” director **Jason Reitman** with the *Visionary Award* at the 13th edition of the fest, which runs April 10-17, 2008, it was announced today by PBIFF director Randi Emerman. The award will be presented at a black-tie Awards Gala on Saturday, April 12, at the Boca Raton Resort & Club.

“Reitman’s gift for making smart comedies pushes him into the forefront of the new generation of Hollywood filmmakers,” says Emerman. “We’re delighted to celebrate his achievements.”

Jason Reitman began filmmaking at a very young age. Being the son of directors Ivan Reitman (“Stripes,” “Ghostbusters”) and Geneviève Robert (“Casual Sex?”), it was a natural progression. At the age of 10, he began making short videos using his father’s camera. At age 13, Reitman worked as a production assistant on “Kindergarten Cop,” while also working as a film extra to soak in the whole experience. At age 15 he made an award-winning public service announcement about AIDS that aired on national TV. Reitman raised his own financing for his first short film, “Operation,” which debuted at Sundance Film Festival. Two years later people began to take notice with his second short film, “In God We Trust,” which went on to win many awards on the festival circuit. That same year, he began directing television commercials for clients such as Heineken, Honda, Nintendo and Burger King. This experience, along with all the shorts he worked on, helped shape Reitman’s sense of comedic timing and develop his uniquely satirical voice.

Reitman made his feature film directorial debut with *"Thank You For Smoking"* starring Aaron Eckhart, netting rave reviews from critics across the country. But it is Reitman's current project, *"Juno,"* that has garnered him not only national critical acclaim, but four Academy Award nominations (including one for himself for Best Director), three Golden Globe Award nominations, four Independent Spirit Award nominations, six BFCA (Broadcast Film Critics Association) Awards – winning two for Comedy Film and Writer, and numerous Critics Awards. Reitman is now producing *"Jennifer's Body,"* scripted by Diablo Cody through his production company, Hard C, which begins production in March.

The Palm Beach International Film Festival (PBIFF) is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization supporting film programs in local schools. Founded in 1996, PBIFF has emerged as a major cultural venue for the community as well as a productive fundraiser for film and TV Education. Each year it introduces filmmakers worldwide to the area's unique resources, while celebrating the history and future of the film industry with seven days of world premieres, special events, seminars, feature films, short films and documentaries. For more information, please call (561) 362-0003 or visit the festival web site at www.pbifilmfest.org.

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