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Press Release

CONTINENTAL, A FILM WITHOUT GUNS **Crowned 'Best Film' in Namur and Whistler!**

Montréal, December 4th, 2007 – Stéphane Lafleur's directorial debut ***Continental, A Film Without Guns***, continues to sweep away audiences around the world, receiving top honors at the **22^e Festival international du Film Francophone de Namur** (Belgium) and at the **7th Whistler International Film Festival** (Canada).

Crowned **Best Canadian Feature**, ***Continental, A Film Without Guns*** left Whistler last week with the **Borsos Award**, a 15 000\$ prize given by the Directors Guild of Canada - BC District Council and supported by Telefilm Canada.

Jury members **Julia Kwan**, **Kevin Tierney** and jury president **Atom Egoyan** cited the film's « masterful harnessing of compelling performances, adventurous structure, exquisite cinematography and sound design, in communicating a profoundly human examination of loneliness and the possibility of solace. »

Earlier this fall, the film won the **Bayard d'Or** at the **22^e Festival international du Film Francophone de Namur** in Belgium. With this prestigious trophy came three cash prizes aimed at helping the film's international distribution: 10 000 € were given to the distributor by the RTBF for the film's TV rights, another 7 500 € were given by the National Lottery to help launch the film in Belgium, and between 10 000 € and 40 000 € were offered by TV5 Monde for licensing rights on the network.

The jury, formed of **Carole Karemera**, **Dicky Parlevliet**, **Karine Vanasse**, **Khalil Joreige**, **Manuel Poirier** and **Micha Wald**, decided to give the festival's top prize to « a first film of inventive style that takes a moving look at a string of touching day-to-day lives. » ***Continental*** also won the **Victor 3D Award** for technical achievement, a 7 500 € credit value in image treatment services and consulting.

A bittersweet dark comedy, ***Continental*** takes a playful look at individual vulnerability and the fragile bonds that connect us to our fellow human beings. The film features four characters whose lives are affected by a man's disappearance: Lucette (**Marie-Ginette Guay**), the man's wife, who anxiously awaits his return; Louis (**Réal Bossé**), a young father whose relationship with his wife is becoming increasingly tumultuous; Chantal (**Fanny Mallette**), a hotel receptionist who dreams of sharing her life with someone else and Marcel (**Gilbert Sicotte**), an ex-gambler confronted by the realities of aging. Unraveling in parallel narratives, these stories ultimately intersect and mirror each other.

Stéphane Lafleur has directed a number of acclaimed short films including ***Karaoké*** (recipient of a special jury mention at the Toronto International Film Festival), ***snooze*** (which opened at Les Rendez-Vous du cinéma Québécois), and the critically acclaimed ***Claude***. He is also an editor who has worked on various documentaries and television programs such as *François en série* and *Les Francs-Tireurs*, as well as music videos for *Les Trois Accords*, *Les Cowboys Fringants* and *Malajube*.

Leads **Gilbert Sicotte**, **Fanny Mallette**, **Réal Bossé** and **Marie-Ginette Guay**, are supported by a strong cast that includes Marie Brassard, Gary Boudreault, Pauline Martin, Dominique Quesnel, Denis Houle and Marika Lhoumeau. Key crew consists of **Sara Mishara** (director of photography), **André-Line Beauparlant** (art director), **Sophie Lefebvre** (costumes) and **Sophie Leblond** (editor).

The production of ***Continental, A Film Without Guns*** was financed by SODEC, Telefilm Canada, the Cogeco Program Development Fund and the Harold Greenberg Fund, along with Christal Films and Télé-Québec. The film, distributed by Christal Films, opened this fall in Quebec.

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For more information, please contact :

Julie Armstrong-Boileau, Christal Films, 514 336-9696, extension 3124
JABoileau@christalfilms.com