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**HIFF'S 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SPRING SHOWCASE PRESENTS 2 FREE SCREENINGS**

**FOR ALOHA AIRLINES EMPLOYEES**

HONOLULU – The Hawaii International Film Festival's (HIFF) wildly popular SPRING SHOWCASE, now in its 11th year, returns for its latest edition, April 18 – 24 at the Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18.

On Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, HIFF is proud to present 2 free screenings up to 200 seats per screening for Aloha Airlines employees. Every attending employee can request up to 2 tickets per screening at the theatre lobby simply by presenting an employee identification card.

“As many of our audiences know, the Spring Showcase had very humble beginnings when it was started 11 years ago, as a means to present new international and independent cinema during HIFF's off-season,” explains Chuck Boller, HIFF's Executive Director. HIFF's Spring Showcase is not only a way for us to bring a year-round international film program to Hawaii, it is also an opportunity for us to try new things and to reach out to the community in new ways. Aloha Airlines was a wonderful, long-time sponsor of HIFF for many years. Several years ago, Hawaiian Airlines became our official airlines and our partnership is a great one. We always, however, remember our good friends and supporters. We chose these two films and their screening dates to accommodate the most people. AMERICAN TEEN is a film that the whole family can enjoy and screens on Sunday afternoon, a good time for families. THE ASSEMBLY is a thrilling, big picture with classic war film themes and universal issues. It plays on Sunday evening, a prime time for film viewing. We all look forward to welcoming our friends from Aloha Airlines.

**2 SCREENINGS TO CHOOSE FROM:**

**Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 3PM**

***AMERICAN TEEN (USA)*** – Coming off major buzz from its world premiere at Sundance, AMERICAN TEEN intimately captures the lives of four teenagers in one small town in central Indiana through their senior year of high school. Through cinema verite footage, interviews, and animation, AMERICAN TEEN presents a candid portrait of being seventeen--the insecurity, the cliques, the jealousies, the first loves and heartbreaks, the experimentation with sex and alcohol, the parental pressures, and the struggle to make profound decisions about the future. Filming daily for ten months, filmmaker Nanette Burstein (winner of the Documentary Directors Prize at Sundance) developed a remarkably close rapport with her subjects. The result is a film that goes beyond the enduring stereotypes of high school - the nerd and the jock, the homecoming queen and the arty misfit - to render complex young people trying to find their way into adulthood. Running Time: 95 minutes.

**Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:15PM**

***THE ASSEMBLY (China)*** -- The Chinese SAVING PRIVATE RYAN! The year 1948 witnessed the launching of the Huaihai Campaign during the Chinese Civil War. In one of Chinese history's deadliest battles, thousands from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the Nationalist Army (KMT) fell in the battle that took place between Xuzhou and Bengdu. It was amid this bloody fight that Captain Guzidi led the Ninth Company infantry unit on a sniper mission. The company is

ordered to fight until they hear the assembly call. Years later, a survivor of this deadly battle starts searching for the remains of his fallen comrades and attempt to recognize them as national heroes. The film is inspired by short story "The Law Suit" (literal title), which was written by Yang Jinyuan, based on a true story. From director Feng Xiaogang (THE BANQUET, A WORLD WITHOUT THIEVES). Running Time: 122 minutes.

## **FESTIVAL INFORMATION**

In its 11th year, the SPRING SHOWCASE was created to continue the mission of the Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF) year-round.

Filled with insight and discovery, HIFF is dedicated to advancing understanding and cultural exchange among the peoples of Asia, the Pacific and North America since 1981. Each year, more than 70,000 attendees throughout Hawaii viscerally experience the sounds and images of filmmaking from around the world. This cultural exchange of ideas, presented through the powerful medium of film, raises the awareness of our similarities and differences alike. HIFF is the premiere international film event in the Pacific and has won the praise of governments, filmmakers, scholars, educators, programmers and film industry leaders throughout the world. It is also the primary source for the discovery and exhibition of Asian and Pacific feature films, documentaries and videos in the nation. The festival has premiered such movies as THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY, TAXI TO THE DARKSIDE, AUGUST RUSH, BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN, CROUCHING TIGER HIDDEN DRAGON, ONCE WERE WARRIORS, THE PIANO, SHINE, SHALL WE DANCE, Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN, VOLVER, BABEL, THE HOST, JOINT SECURITY AREA and TWILIGHT SAMURAI.

The 2008 Louis Vuitton Hawaii International Film Festival will be held statewide from October 9 to October 19. More than 150 feature films, documentaries, shorts and animations, representing countries from around the world will be showcased. Tickets and program guides are available to the public in late September.

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