



For Immediate Release

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**THE 6TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
BEVERLY HILLS FILM FESTIVAL
PRESENTS THE **WORLD PREMIERE OF**
SHAKEN FROM
DIRECTOR DEBORAH FRYER**

Los Angeles (March 27, 2006) – The 6th Annual International Beverly Hills Film Festival (BHFF) — www.beverlyhillsfilmfestival.com — presents the 2006 line-up of 40 competition films, screening from April 5 - 9, at the **Clarity Theater** (100 North Crescent Drive) in Beverly Hills, California. The World Premiere Screening of the documentary film SHAKEN from director **Deborah Fryer** will take place on Saturday, April 8, 2006 at 2pm at the Clarity Theatre in Beverly Hills.

SHAKEN is a remarkable and timely tour de force about an elusive disease that doctors are calling the most common uncommon illness in America: **Parkinson's disease**. According to Congressman Mark Udall, whose father (Morris Udall) had it, 1 in 5 people you know knows someone struggling with Parkinson's. That should make all of us sit up and take a hard look at this honest film that delves literally into the mind of a Parkinson's patient.

The 28-minute documentary focuses on **Paul Schroder**, who has graduated at the top of his class in electrical engineering, and then found his life's hopes and dreams short-circuited by the **early onset of Parkinson's** disease at age 33. Ten year later, despite increasingly debilitating symptoms, such as tremor, stiffness and impaired balance, and the untenable side effects of medication, such as flinging silverware uncontrollably across a restaurant, or worse, lying incapacitated on the floor for 90% of the day, Paul still maintains his sense of humor, optimism and courage. The heart of the film is the riveting journey a team of doctors takes into Paul's brain to probe his lobes for clues to his disease; this radical **Deep Brain Stimulation surgery** could eliminate his symptoms or leave him paralyzed for life. As the operation begins, Paul's head is bolted to the table by means of a metal halo. The tension is so thick you could cut it with a scalpel... until Paul asks, "Can you pick up radio stations with that contraption?" The surgeon, without missing a beat, replies, "Not quite. But there will be an antenna," referring to the foot-long electrode he is about to insert into Paul's brain in order to listen to his brain cells all the way down. The film gracefully navigates between the shores of science and faith. The results of this electrifying surgery are mysterious – the doctors are quick to admit, "We have no idea how this works" -- and Paul's transformation is miraculous, uplifting and bittersweet.

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The Beverly Hill Film Festival is proud to premiere SHAKEN at a time when stem cell research is frequently in the papers and public debate, and California is leading the race for a cure for Parkinson's and other diseases through stem cell therapy. Festival director **Nino Simone** told Ms. Fryer that SHAKEN was one of his favorite films this year. "This is a rare competition festival due to the fact that we are located in the affluent and opulent city of Beverly Hills," says Simone, "yet, we cater to truly raw, hard-hitting and original independent films, providing them an opportunity to screen in the backyard of the entertainment industry." The festival kicks off with an already sold-out World Premiere screening of "**Verso La Luna Con Fellini**" ("Towards the Moon with Fellini") on April 5th, at the Writers Guild Theater.

The Beverly Hills Film Festival Jury judges for the following categories: *Golden Palm Award* (best film in all categories); *Best Feature*; *Best Documentary*; *Best Short Film*; *Best Director of Photography*; *Best Editor*; and the *Golden Palm Screenplay Competition Award*. Jury members include **Mark Amin**, **Lions Gate Films**, chairman; **Laura Lucio**, Emmy Award-winning journalist; **John Daly**, producer ("**The Last Emperor**," "**Platoon**") and director (BHFF Golden Palm winner of 2005, "The Aryan Couple"); **Arlene Donnelly Nelson**, director (HBO's "**Naked States**") and cinematographer ("A Mighty Wind"), **Lawrence Kubik**, film producer; and **Steven Paul**, Crystal Sky, CEO and president. Audience Choice Awards include *Best Feature*; *Best Documentary*; *Best Short Film*; *Best Director*; *Best Male Performance*; *Best Female Performance*; *Best Producer*; *Best Screenplay*; and *Best Animation*.

The annual International Beverly Hills Film Festival was founded in 2001 by award-winning independent filmmaker Nino Simone. The event is dedicated to showcasing and promoting non-studio films to the entertainment industry. Designed to bridge the world of premiere independent cinema with the renowned community of Beverly Hills, the festival is an entertainment event with world-class screenings, networking events and seminars. Sponsors include **LA Confidential** magazine, **Lancel**, **Stella Artois**, **Roberto Cavalli Vodka**, **Frida Kahlo Tequila**, **Faberge**, **The Mosaic Hotel**, **The Crescent Hotel**, **SAGindie** and the **American Society of Cinematographers**.

Tickets are available online at www.beverlyhillsfilmfestival.com or by calling the BHFF office at 310.779.1206. Prices range from \$10.00 per screening to \$250.00 for the Awards Gala. Festival passes are also available, ranging from a 1-Day Pass (\$45.00) to a VIP Festival Pass (\$500.00). All WGA, SAG, ASC and ACE members receive a 15% discount on all screening and seminar tickets and passes.

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