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MINNESOTA FILM & TV BOARD MARKS 25 YEARS WITH GALA EVENT JAN. 26

(St. Paul, MN, January 18, 2008) – From **Purple Rain** to **Fargo** and **The Mighty Ducks** to **A Prairie Home Companion**, the Minnesota Film and TV Board (MFTVB) this year marks 25 years of working to get movies, television and commercials made in Minnesota.

On Saturday, January 26, 2008, filmmakers, actors, producers, investors, film-lovers and all those who have been part of Minnesota's moving image industry will gather for "25 at FIVE," a gala to raise money for the MFTVB.

"This year, we are celebrating the film and television industry which has grown to support thousands of production-related jobs in our state," said Victoria Wozniak, president of the MFTVB Board of Directors. "Among our accomplishments are the more than 120 feature films and 45 TV series that have been made in Minnesota since our incorporation. Our anniversary gala is an opportunity to invite new friends to support us for our next 25 years."

Although about eight major films were made in Minnesota during the 1970s, including **Airport**, the state did not have a film commission until 1983. During the 1980s, the number of films made in Minnesota doubled. The state enjoyed a boom in filmmaking during the 1990s, serving as the location for more 65 films, including **Fargo**, **Grumpy Old Men** and **The Mighty Ducks**. In 1997 Minnesota introduced a production incentive called "Snowbate," a 5% reimbursement of Minnesota production costs for feature films. Snowbate helped Minnesota combat a major shift of studio feature production dollars to Canada, which offered incentives and a very attractive exchange rate against the US dollar, according to Lucinda Winter, MFTVB executive director.

Snowbate was defunded in 2002 due to a state budget shortfall. There was a decrease in film production between 2002 and 2006, with the exception of **North Country**, **Sweetland** and **A Prairie Home Companion**. In 2006, the State restored Snowbate funding, and in 2007, the Coen Brothers announced that they would be back in Minnesota to shoot **A Serious Man**.

"The MFTVB will continue to promote the positive impact that television, features, corporate and commercial production has on our state and local economies," Winter said. "Our goal is to promote what differentiates our state from other parts of the Midwest and to compete nationally and internationally. With the right combination of incentives and production services, we can bring more production jobs and dollars to Minnesota and retain the state's outstanding creative workforce."

"We know these studios bring their productions to where the incentives are," Wozniak noted. "And studio features represent high-wage jobs. It's important to note that the people hired to work on features pay Minnesota income taxes whether they live in Minnesota or not. So these projects create jobs for Minnesotans and tax income for the State."

WHAT: "25 at FIVE." Tickets are \$150 per person and can be purchased online at www.mnfilmtv.org or by calling 651-645-3600.

WHO: Members of the Minnesota production community, including actors, producers, investors, supporters. Anyone with an interest the health of the industry in our state is invited to attend.

WHEN: Saturday, January 26, 2008, 8 p.m. to midnight

WHERE: FIVE, 2917 Bryant Avenue South, Minneapolis

About the Minnesota Film & TV Board

The Minnesota Film & TV Board is a nonprofit public-private partnership funded by the State of Minnesota through Explore Minnesota Tourism and private contributions. Its mission is to promote the art and commerce of the moving image industry in Minnesota. Since its incorporation in 1983, the Minnesota Film & TV Board has sought to create and support Minnesota jobs in the production industry. For more information and a listing of films and television shows shot in Minnesota since 1970, visit the MFTVB website at [HYPERLINK "http://www.mnfilmtv.org" www.mnfilmtv.org](http://www.mnfilmtv.org).

Note to Editors: MFTVB executive director Lucinda Winter is available for interviews. Please call 651-645-3600.

Minnesota Film and TV Board Highlights from 25 Years Fact Sheet

- 1983 Minnesota Motion Picture and Television Board office opens with one staff member. Prince makes **Purple Rain**.
- 1984 First Production Services Manual (Minnesota Production Guide) is produced.
- 1986 KTCA TV premieres **Hometime** and launches the era of home improvement television.
- 1987 Paisley Park studio opens in Chanhassen.
- 1990 First Minnesota Ice Pack is held in Los Angeles. What started as a gathering of a dozen people in a L.A. restaurant has blossomed into an annual event attended by more than 600 Minnesotans (and a few honorary Minnesotans) working in the entertainment business.
- 1991 Randy Adamsick becomes executive director.
- 1992 Disney comes to Minnesota with **The Mighty Ducks**. Disney comes back to the state with **Iron Will** (1993), **Mighty Ducks 2** (1993), and **Mighty Ducks 3** (1995).
- 1994 Minnesota Independent Film Fund (formerly the Blockbuster/McKnight Film Fund) is created. To date, more than 25 Minnesota filmmakers have benefited from this innovative development program.
- 1995 Nine films are shot in the state including **Beautiful Girls**, **Grumpier Old Men**, **Fargo** and **Feeling Minnesota**.
- 1997 Snowbate, Minnesota's production incentive, is introduced.
- 2000 The first NY Ice Pack is held, drawing more than 200 people. Twenty-two nationally-broadcast television series are shot in Minnesota, covering everything from home decorating (**Decorating Cents**) to animal behavior (**Wildlife Detectives**).
- 2002 Craig Rice becomes executive director. Snowbate incentive is defunded.
- 2003 Operations funding is dramatically reduced due to a budget shortfall. Office staff is laid off.
- 2004 The feature films **Sweetland** and **Factotum** are shot in Minnesota.
- 2005 Operations funding is restored by the legislature. Lucinda Winter becomes executive director. **North Country** is filmed in the Iron Range; **A Prairie Home Companion** is filmed in St. Paul.
- 2006 Snowbate funds are re-appropriated by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Pawlenty.
- 2007 MFTVB unveils an expansive new website, HYPERLINK "http://www.mnfilmtv.org" www.mnfilmtv.org to better position Minnesota to compete in the global production marketplace. The Coen Brothers announce they will return to the state to shoot **A Serious Man**.
- 2008 The Minnesota Film and TV Board celebrates its 25th anniversary with a gala on January 26, 2008.

For more information and a complete listing of films and television shows shot in Minnesota since 1970, visit the MFTVB website at www.mnfilmtv.org.