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MINNESOTA FILM AND TV BOARD LAUNCHES BLOG 'MN DIALOG' ON MNFILMTV.ORG

(St. Paul, MN, February 14, 2008) – The Minnesota Film and TV Board (MFTVB) has launched MN Dialog, a multi-contributor blog that aims to share news, opinions and anecdotes about film, TV and commercials with its readers.

MN Dialog content is provided by a group of filmmakers, screenwriters and industry professionals with ties to Minnesota. Posts will cover a wide-range of topics, from reviews of movies and television shows to musings about life and work within the world of film and TV. While appealing to anyone interested in the moving image, MN Dialog will specifically engage the Minnesota community by acting as a forum to exchange information and opinions, highlight the work of Minnesotans and share opportunities to see this work screened locally.

MN Dialog is the latest addition to MFTVB's website, mnfilmtv.org, which already features MN Hotline, a heavily-trafficked section of the site offering user-submitted postings for production-related jobs, internships, screenings and educational opportunities in Minnesota. With its ever-changing content, MN Hotline has proven to be the most popular section of the site and MFTVB anticipates a similar trajectory for the blog. The blog will add features as it grows, including reader contests, guest bloggers and video.

Lucinda Winter, Executive Director of MFTVB, said she sees MN Dialog as another way for the film commission to connect with those passionate about the moving image, particularly in Minnesota. "I'm excited about the potential that MN Dialog represents for us. Executed correctly, the blog will strengthen our position as a credible source of production industry information and increase traffic to our site," Winter said. "We've gathered a great group of contributors, and welcome comments from readers. We're looking forward to some lively interchange."

MN DIALOG CONTRIBUTORS:

James Byrne writes screenplays, directs films, and teaches screenwriting and digital film production at Metropolitan State University. His most recent short film, "Open Wounds" was released in January 2008.

Emily Goldberg is a 2007 McKnight Artist Fellow whose Emmy award-winning work has been broadcast on PBS, TLC, and RAI (Italy), and screened at numerous film festivals around the world. Her documentary, Venus of Mars, received "Best Documentary" awards from festivals in Milwaukee, Indianapolis, and Rochester, New York. She is proud to call Minneapolis home.

Chris Grap worked in feature production in Los Angeles before settling in the Twin Cities. He worked on more than 40 films as an assistant director, production coordinator and in special FX make-up. His credits include The Hot Chick, Path to War and The Wedding Crashers. He has been the production services manager for the MN Film & TV Board since August of 2006.

JoEllen Martinson is half of the short-filmmaking duo, The Candy Eye Factory, whose short, "The Mallorys Go Black Market," premiered opening night at Slamdance 2007. Since 2003, Candy Eye Factory has produced a variety of digital shorts, which have been featured in film festivals worldwide. On a daily basis she is an art director at a Minneapolis design agency.

Peter Labuza is a Minnesota native studying film at Columbia University in New York City. Raised in Vadnais Heights, Minnesota, Peter began his own film website, LabuzaMovies.com, while in high school.

Wyatt McDill is a writer and director living in Minneapolis. He recently completed filming on his first feature, Four Boxes, starring Justin Kirk, Terryn Westbrook and Sam Rosen. His film Shortwave screened at the 1999 Slamdance Film Festival.

Martin M. Musatov's debut film, Solstice, was released in January 2008. He is currently adapting the comic book Witchblade into a feature film. Born and raised in Minneapolis, he is currently Community Faculty at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul. He lives in Los Angeles.

Mary Jo Pehl is a former writer for "Mystery Science Theater 3000". She is a regular contributor to Minnesota Monthly and has also written for the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Catholic Digest, Bon Appetit, and PBS. In addition, her commentaries have aired on NPR's "All Things Considered" and Weekend America and The Savvy Traveler on Public Radio International. Mary Jo is currently a writer and producer for Cinematic Titanic and a contributor to RiffTrax.

Ryan Schaddelee is a freelance audio/visual technician, director, and producer. His films include "Scream Like a Girl", "Zombie Chomp", "Manfant", and LIKEHELL: The Movie, a multiple-award winner at the New York International Independent Film Festival. He is currently working on the short "VomiTom" made over the past two summers while working as touring video director for the rock band Poison.

Andrew Hunt and **Jason Lausche** make up the dynamic directing duo known as Sleepy Eye. In the last 3 years, Sleepy Eye has directed over 30 commercials and 12 short films. Recently, co-director Andrew Hunt was selected to participate in Steven Spielberg's reality show, "On The Lot," where he wrote and directed five short films and placed sixth out of twelve thousand applicants. Hunt and Lausche currently reside in Minneapolis and Los Angeles.

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 www.mnfilmtv.org.

Note to Editors: For further information, please contact Rebecca Collins, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, at 651-645-3600 or e-mail rebecca@mnfilmtv.org.