

## **WORLD AND NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERES ADDED TO SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

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**Toronto** – Six films, four world premieres and one North American premiere, have been added to the **Special Presentations** line up at the 29th **Toronto International Film Festival**<sup>®</sup>, for a total of 13 films in **Special Presentations** announced to date. The world premieres are **CRASH**, from Paul Haggis; **HAVEN**, by Frank E. Flowers; Alexander Payne's **SIDEWAYS**; and James Toback's **WHEN WILL I BE LOVED**. Also screening as part of **Special Presentations** are Niels Mueller's **THE ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON**, a North American premiere, and John Duigan's **HEAD IN THE CLOUDS**.

Set in modern-day Los Angeles, **CRASH**, an epic and powerful feature debut from Canadian-born writer and director Paul Haggis, weaves together the stories of eight disparate characters whose lives intersect around a car crash and a murder investigation. **CRASH** explores the twists of fate that propel each character on an unexpected journey toward an inevitable end, and stars Sandra Bullock, Don Cheadle, Matt Dillon, Jennifer Esposito, Bill Fichtner, Brendan Fraser, Ludacris, Thandie Newton, Ryan Phillippe, and Larenz Tate.

**HAVEN**, Frank E. Flowers' enormously entertaining feature debut, is an absorbing crime-drama about greed, love, and vengeance. After his home is swarmed by federal officers, Carl Ridley (Bill Paxton), a shady Miami businessman, flees to the Cayman Islands. Carl's arrival, unbeknownst to him, sets off a chain of events that lead Shy (Orlando Bloom), a British expatriate living on the island, to commit a terrible crime.

In **SIDEWAYS**, by beloved director Alexander Payne (**ABOUT SCHMIDT**), Miles (Paul Giamatti) and Jack (Thomas Haden Church) take a road trip celebrating Jack's final days as a bachelor and careen woefully sideways as they hit the gas en-route to a mid-life crisis. The comically mismatched pair, who share little more than their history and a heady blend of failed potential and fading youth, soon find themselves drowning in wine and women (Sandra Oh and Virginia Madsen). Emerging from a haze of pinot noir, wistful yearnings, and trepidation about the future, they inevitably collide with reality.

James Toback returns to the Festival with **WHEN WILL I BE LOVED**, a world premiere. Vera (Neve Campbell) is a beautiful, capricious, young woman exploring the limits of her sexual and intellectual power. Her boyfriend Ford (Frederick Weller) is a fast-talking hustler who will do anything to make a buck. Ford cooks up a scheme to pimp Vera out to an aging, Italian media mogul for \$100,000. Everything appears to be going as planned, but the two men have gravely underestimated Vera, and when her plan comes to fruition, the results are staggering.



What are you doing after work?



Drivers wanted!



**THE ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON**, a North American premiere from Niels Mueller, is based on the true story of a struggling furniture salesman, Sam Bicke (Sean Penn), who in 1974 attempted to assassinate the 37th President of the United States. How this American everyman reached such a calamitous decision is fascinating and chilling. Naomi Watts, Don Cheadle, and Jack Thompson join Penn to bring to life this gripping story, set amid the corruption and scandal of the early 1970s.

John Duigan's romantic and beautiful **HEAD IN THE CLOUDS** follows bookish, idealistic Guy Malyon (Stuart Townsend), a student at the University of Cambridge who begins a passionate love affair with the stunning, aristocratic, and hedonistic Gilda Bessé (Charlize Theron). An unlikely couple, they move to Paris and, along with Gilda's closest friend Mia (Penelope Cruz), live together happily. At the onset of the Second World War, their conflicting ideologies drive the trio apart. Guy and Mia leave Paris to fight in the Spanish Civil War leaving Gilda, and their naivete, behind.

Previously announced **Special Presentations** are: Don McKellar's **CHILDSTAR**; Roger Michell's **ENDURING LOVE**; Terry George's **HOTEL RWANDA**; Todd Solondz's **PALINDROMES**; Dylan Kidd's **P.S.**; John Sayles' **SILVER CITY**; and Darrell James Roodt's **YESTERDAY**.

**Special Presentations** are made possible through the generous support of **Cineplex Odeon** and **Galaxy Cinemas**.

For more information, please contact the Press Office at 416-934-3200. All Festival press releases can be found on the Official website at [www.bell.ca/filmfest](http://www.bell.ca/filmfest).

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