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**NEWS RELEASE #20**

## GALA PRESENTATIONS FROM FÊTED FILMMAKERS A PART OF TIFF'S 32<sup>ND</sup> YEAR

**Toronto** – Titles from two of cinema's most unique and inspiring filmmakers join the lineup for the 2007 **Toronto International Film Festival**. Julie Taymor's **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE** and Woody Allen's **CASSANDRA'S DREAM** will screen as **Gala Presentations** during this year's event, running September 6 - 15, 2007. These two highly-anticipated films feature performances by Colin Farrell, Ewan McGregor, Tom Wilkinson, Hayley Atwell, Jim Sturgess, Evan Rachel Wood, Bono and Eddie Izzard. Ticket Passes and Packages now on sale. Gala tickets on sale August 25. For more information, please visit [tiff07.ca](http://tiff07.ca) or call 416-968-FILM or 1-877-968-FILM.

### **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE** Julie Taymor, USA

At once gritty, whimsical and highly theatrical, Revolution Studios' **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE** is a groundbreaking movie musical sprung from the imagination of renowned writer-director Julie Taymor (*FRIDA*, *TITUS*, and the Broadway smash hit musical *The Lion King*) and writers Dick Clement & Ian La Frenais (*THE COMMITMENTS*). Bringing together an original story and 30 revolutionary, generation-defining songs – including "Hey Jude," "I Am the Walrus," and "All You Need is Love" – the story of two star-crossed lovers is set against the backdrop of the 1960s, amid the turbulent years of anti-war protest, mind exploration and rock 'n roll. Moving from the dockyards of Liverpool to the creative psychedelia of Greenwich Village, from the riot-torn streets of Detroit to the killing fields of Vietnam, Jude (Jim Sturgess) and Lucy (Evan Rachel Wood), along with a small group of friends and musicians, are swept up into the emerging anti-war and counterculture movements, with "Dr. Robert" (Bono) and "Mr. Kite" (Eddie Izzard) as their guides. Tumultuous forces outside their control ultimately tear the young lovers apart, forcing Jude and Lucy – against all odds – to find their own way back to each other. Produced by Suzanne Todd, Jennifer Todd, and Matthew Gross, **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE** is a Revolution Studios presentation of a Matthew Gross / Team Todd production. The film is distributed in North America by Columbia Pictures.

### **CASSANDRA'S DREAM** Woody Allen, UK

Set in contemporary London, **CASSANDRA'S DREAM** is a powerful and thrilling story about two brothers (Ewan McGregor and Colin Farrell) who are desperate to better their troubled lives. One is a chronic gambler up to his ears in debt; the other is a young man in love with a beautiful actress (newcomer Hayley Atwell) whom he has just recently met. Their lives gradually become entangled as a result of a sinister situation with intense and unfortunate results. Written and directed by Academy Award™ winner Woody Allen, the film also stars Tom Wilkinson and Sally Hawkins, and features an original score by Philip Glass. Produced by Letty Aronson, Stephen Tenenbaum and Gareth Wiley, **CASSANDRA'S DREAM** is an Iberville Productions Ltd production. The film is distributed in Canada by Christal Films Distribution and in the U.S. by The Weinstein Company.

The Festival is a presentation of **The Toronto International Film Festival Group** (TIFFG), a charitable, not-for-profit, cultural organization whose mission is to transform the way people see the world. Its vision is to lead the world in creative and cultural discovery through the moving image.

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For further information, contact the Communications Department at 416-934-3200 or by email at [proffice@tiffg.ca](mailto:proffice@tiffg.ca).

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