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**URBANWORLD VIBE FILM FESTIVAL
PRESENTS INDUSTRY POWER PANELS**

***Dialogues on Film Financing and Opportunities in New Media
Offer Filmmakers Access and Intelligence***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2007

(New York, NY)—The Urbanworld VIBE Film Festival, screening 49 films this year, is the largest internationally competitive festival dedicated to the exhibition of independent cinema by and about people of color and will take place in **New York City, June 21-24, 2007**. This year's festival will continue the tradition of offering filmmakers unparalleled access to the knowledge of industry veterans and executives by presenting two panels on **Friday, June 22** at host hotel, **The Westin New York at Times Square**.

This year's panel topics include: **Money Talks: New Trends in Film Financing** and **Making Moves in the New Media World: How to Navigate the Space**. Author, journalist and screenwriter, George Alexander will moderate both panels.

Panels are \$10 General Admission and \$7 with Student I.D., and open to the public.

Friday, June 22, 11:00am – 12:30pm

MONEY TALKS: NEW TRENDS IN FILM FINANCING

With the pervasiveness of studio and producer slate financing deals, coupled with increased capital available for independent film, it is critical that filmmakers understand the various financing options accessible. This new landscape has drawn incredible attention to film financing with a mix of institutions, film funds, and high net worth individuals actively participating in deals. To access this fresh pool of money, filmmakers must position themselves and their projects in compelling ways. This panel will tackle insights on "the new deal": What new money is available? How do filmmakers access institutional versus individual private equity? Is it necessary to have a distribution deal in place? What roles do attorneys and agents play? What foreign investment dollars are available? How can filmmakers leverage domestic and international tax incentives?

Panelists:

- Lisa Davis (Partner, Frankfurt Kernit Klein & Selz)
- Lisa Cortes (Producer / SVP Production, Lee Daniels Entertainment)
- Richard McCune (SVP, Entertainment, City National Bank)
- Wendell Pierce (Actor / Producer)

Friday, June 22, 3:30pm – 5:00pm

MAKING MOVIES IN THE NEW MEDIA WORLD: HOW TO NAVIGATE THE SPACE

As the entertainment industry encounters the evolving presence and impact of new media platforms, filmmakers and studio/network executives are aggressively positioning themselves to leverage the opportunities for increased marketing exposure, new distribution models, and ultimately incremental profit potential. This ever-changing backdrop requires a

savvy outlook on cutting edge technology, content, and business partnerships. Whether it's filmmaking for iPods, cell phones, next-generation multimedia phones, video casting, or direct-downloading experiences, content creators must educate themselves on the associated risks and rewards. This panel will discuss the current environment and trends, as well as address how filmmakers can best maximize the prospects that exist in today's marketplace: How are social networking sites like MySpace.com, along with online viral-video outposts such as Google Video and YouTube.com, changing the indie film game? What's the profile for current multi-platform content deals? What limitations do these new Internet and mobile driven platforms introduce? How do digital rights factor into content deals?

Panelists:

- Angela Northington (VP of Acquisitions, Development, & Licensing, Codeblack Entertainment)
- Steve Pamon (SVP, Digital Distribution & Strategic Partnerships, HBO)
- Michael A. Pickrum (EVP & COO, BET Interactive, LLC)
- Denmark West (EVP, Chief Of Operations, Global Digital Media, MTV Networks)

HBO is the Founding Sponsor of the Urbanworld Film Festival. **Courvoisier** is this year's Official Sponsor, with Principal Sponsors including **NBC4** and **NYC TV** as local broadcast television media partners; **amNY** as official daily newspaper; and **Power 105** as official radio partner. **Kodak, Image Entertainment, the Directors Guild of America, Warner Bros. / Warner Independent Pictures, and AMC Loews 34th Street** serve as Benefactor Sponsors. **The Westin New York at Times Square** will serve as the host hotel of the festival.

Since its inception, Urbanworld has presented over 500 features, shorts and documentaries, with estimated attendance reaching 15,000. This year, the 4-day, 11th Annual Urbanworld VIBE Film Festival will feature screenings of 49 independent films in competition, studio premieres, panel discussions, screenplay readings and an awards brunch honoring the festival winners.

ABOUT Urbanworld:

Urbanworld was launched in August 1997 by founder Stacy Spikes, a former executive at Miramax. Over the past ten years, Urbanworld has presented approximately 600 features, shorts and documentaries, with estimated attendance reaching 15,000. Now in its eleventh year, the Urbanworld VIBE Film Festival is the largest internationally competitive festival of its kind. The Urbanworld VIBE Film Festival is an initiative delivered by the **Urbanworld Foundation**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to redefining the role of multicultural constituents in contemporary cinema by implementing programs and events that support the development and success of the urban filmmaking community. Spikes serves as chairman emeritus. Gabrielle Glore serves as executive producer. For more information, please visit www.urbanworld.org.

ABOUT VIBE:

VIBE Media Group, an affiliate of The Wicks Group of Companies, L.L.C., is a leading music/lifestyle media company that publishes the award-winning VIBE magazine, the preeminent brand in urban and music culture, which was founded by Quincy Jones in 1993. Additional VIBE Media Group properties include VIBE VIXEN magazine, which was launched in 2005 and reaches over 4.5 million women; Vibe.com; Comcast's VIBE video-on-demand channel; The VIBE Awards; the wireless content service mVibe; and VIBE Books, which published The New York Times bestseller, Tupac Shakur