

For Immediate Release  
Monday, January 30, 2007

**PRESS CONTACT:**

Jasmyne Cannick  
[paffpress@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paffpress@sbcglobal.net)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PAN AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL TO SHOWCASE FRESH SLATE OF AFRICAN FILMS**



#### **Festival to Showcase 2006 Academy Award Best Foreign Language Film Nominee “Days of Glory”**

**LOS ANGELES** – 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Academy Awards® nominee in the foreign language film category, **DAYS OF GLORY**, will be featured in the 15th Annual Pan African Film & Arts Festival (PAFF) at the AMC Magic Johnson Theatres being held February 8-19. Shot in Morocco, Algeria, Belgium and France, **DAYS OF GLORY**, directed by Rachid Bouchareb, is a powerful award-winning film which unveils the little known WW II story of the contribution of African infantrymen in the liberation of Italy and France. The film will be shown in conjunction with PAFF community collaborator the NAACP Image Awards and screens Friday, 2/9, 8:00pm; Sunday, 2/11, 11:05am at the AMC Magic Johnson Theatres located at 4020 Marilton Avenue in Los Angeles.

From Mali and director Abderrahmane Sissako comes **Bamako**. In a courtyard, a trial goes on indicting the policies of the World Bank and the IMF that have a negative impact on African economies. Amidst the testimonies of the various African civil servants, life goes on. Produced by and featuring **Danny Glover**. This film is being screened in conjunction with Africa Project Global and Christ Unity Church. *Screens Saturday, 2/10, 6:45pm; Sunday, 2/11, 4:00pm.*

Nigeria's **ADA ORA (BLOODHUNT)** tells the story of a first-born daughter of a king's loyal advisor who is to marry the prince, but an evil witch casts a spell to prevent the union. A romantic fantasy based on African mythology. *Screens Saturday, 2/10, 11:15am; Tuesday, 2/13, 1:05pm.*

A different view of the conflict occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan, interpreted by a woman originally from the Sudan, now living in London is painted in the Sudanese documentary **ALL ABOUT DARFUR**. *Screens Saturday, 2/17, 11:00am.*

Nigeria's **AMAZING GRACE** is the illuminating story of the origins of the famous hymn AMAZING GRACE, "written" by a slave ship captain after hearing the melody sung by the people captured, enslaved and transported in his ship. *Screens Tuesday, 2/13, 7:35pm; Saturday, 2/17, 3:20pm.*

**BAB' AZIZ: THE PRINCE WHO CONTEMPLATED HIS OWN SOUL**, a feature film shot in France, Germany, Iran, Tunisia, and the UK, directed by Nacer Khemir tells the story of a little girl and her blind grandfather that are lost in the desert as they journey to the great musical reunion of dervishes. It's a beautifully told, mystical tale of wonder, music and spirituality not to be missed. **BAB' AZIZ** is screening on Thursday, 2/15, 8:00pm; Saturday, 2/17, 8:40pm; Monday, 2/19, 1:45pm.

Chad offers **DARATT (DRY SEASON)** by director Mahamat-Saleh Haroun. In Chad, the government has granted amnesty to all war criminals. Unable to accept that the murderer of his father will go unpunished, a young man sets off to avenge his father's murder. A beautifully developed, powerful film juxtaposing the human urge for revenge against the even more human need for forgiveness and reconciliation. *Screens Saturday, 2/17, 6:10pm; Sunday, 2/18, 1:20pm.*

PAFF will present the US Premiere of **HALIM** from Egypt and director Sherif Arafa. A lavishly produced rags-to-riches biopic on the life of the late Egyptian singer Abdel Halim Hafez, laid out in a radio interview during which the dying superstar recounts the main events in his life, from his childhood in an orphanage to performing for presidents Nasser and Sadat. *Screens Sunday, 2/11, 3:15pm; Tuesday, 2/13, 3:20pm.*

The first Egyptian musical in 40 years, **NONE BUT THAT** will also have its US premiere at PAFF. Directed by Khalid El Hagar, the film tells the story of a divorced woman who steers her daughter into a musical career. *Screens Sunday 2/11, 7:55pm and Wednesday, 2/14, 3:30pm.*

Rag and Tag were inseparable until Social Services sends Rag away. A decade later Tag is finishing law school but is having difficulty finding a job. Meanwhile, Rag returns to London and finds his old friend. Their lives have changed, but their friendship is more intense, complex and confusing, in the UK and Nigerian

film **RAG TAG**. This film is screened in conjunction with community collaborator the National Black Justice Coalition. *Screens Wednesday, 2/14, 9:00pm; Sunday, 2/18, 7:10pm.*

PAFF is the largest festival of African and African American films in the United States showcasing over 100 films as well as a world-class art exhibition showcasing work from the United States, Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, the South Pacific and Canada to illustrate the diversity and complexity of people of African descent.

The PAFF will host a major exhibit of Black fine art and quality crafts featuring the work of over 80 different artists and artisans. The artistic works range in scope from oil paintings, watercolors, sculpture, mixed media, pen and ink drawings, glass painting and carvings to jewelry art and woven apparel. The exhibit will be presented to the public free of charge at the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, with fine art on the 1st level, and unique crafts and wearable art on the 2nd level.

Additional festival highlights include the Opening Night Gala featuring Ambassador Andrew Young's **RWANDA RISING**, Night of Tribute, Centerpiece and Closing Night film screenings and parties. The PAFF also holds special activities for children in its 2-day Children's Fest, a multiple day StudentFest for middle and high-school students, Spokenword Festivals and panels for emerging and experienced filmmakers.

With the exception of the opening night film screening and gala party, the 2007 Pan African Film Festival will be held at the AMC Magic Johnson Theatres in the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza (3650 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd). A detailed listing and description of the 12-day festival's events can be found at [www.paff.org](http://www.paff.org).

PAFF is sponsored in part by the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, AMC Magic Johnson Theatres, Department of Cultural Affairs City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles South African Consulate, South African Airways Macy's West, and Polychrome Pictures.

###

## **MEDIA USE ONLY**

Hi-resolution photos of this year's honorees can be accessed via the PAFF Pressroom at [www.paff.org](http://www.paff.org).