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Contact: Ryan Davis, Communications Director, Northwest Film Forum  
206-329-2629, ryan@nwfilmforum.org

**Northwest Film Forum's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual  
LOCAL SIGHTINGS  
FILM FESTIVAL  
Seattle, October 3-8  
A Celebration of Northwest Filmmaking**

Northwest Film Forum's annual festival celebrating Pacific Northwest filmmaking is back for its 11<sup>th</sup> year! Over six days the **LOCAL SIGHTINGS FILM FESTIVAL** presents the region's best new narrative features, documentaries, experimental films and hybrids, including work by film artists from Seattle, Portland, Vancouver BC and beyond. With more entries than ever before, the scope of this year's festival has expanded and the programs are more diverse. LOCAL SIGHTINGS begins with an opening night program on Friday, October 3 at 7pm, showcasing a range of short films from across the Northwest, including the world premiere of Seattle filmmaker Nathan William's *Stumble and Fall*, among many others. And, of course, our annual blow-out **Local Sightings Party** follows at 9pm, filling Northwest Film Forum's entire space with a who's who of Northwest artists, drinks, djs and dancing, performances, and film and video projections.

Short films traditionally make up the heart and soul of Local Sightings and this year is no different. Following opening night, we will continue showing shorts throughout the week with programs of animation, narrative, documentary and experimental films, as well as a late night screening of over-the-top shorts. The diversity and charm of Northwest film is demonstrated in films like *Inside Passage* (a meditation on ferry passengers against the backdrop of Northwest waterways), *Wanted* (an animation of two young Viking girls on their search to find the men of their dreams), *Crustvaska* (a crash course in the intricacies of Swedish punk fashion) and *Armageddon* (the shorter, cheaper version).

This year brings a bumper crop of remarkable documentaries. The festival presents six feature length docs, including the Seattle premieres of *A Corporal's Diary* (retelling the endearing and conflicted personal life of an army corporal in Iraq before being killed in combat), *High and Outside* (about legendary Red Sox baseball pitcher Bill Lee) and *On a Wing a Prayer* (revealing the trials of a Muslim American as he attempts to get his pilot license in small town America).

Irreverence abounds in several unique and light-hearted festival programs. In traditional teen thriller style, *GPS The Movie* will keep audiences gripping the edges of their seats as doe-eyed college students get tangled in a deadly game while on a treasure hunt deep in the North Cascades. We offer an alternative to The Stranger's Hump! festival with **Dry Hump!**, a call for filmmakers to tease the audience with seductively suggestive films without going all the way. Andy Spletzer returns to host the second annual **Spletz-O-Rama**, a cinematic throw-down that invites Seattle filmmakers to step up to the challenge of creating a themed film, the best of which will be awarded a cash prize and anointed with accolades by sir Andy Spletzer.

In addition to championing the region's newest film developments, LOCAL SIGHTINGS also celebrates the history of Northwest filmmaking, unearthing and reintroducing audiences to rarely seen locally made work. Among this year's historic highlights is a special 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary screening of the documentary *The Tribe and the Professor* (1978), presented in partnership with University of Washington Libraries. The documentary, directed by Ruth and Louis Kirk, follows Professor Richard Daughtery and his students from Washington State University as they

uncover a Native American longhouse buried in a 300-year-old mudslide at Cape Alava, Washington. Filmmaker, photographer and Northwest historian Ruth Kirk will be in attendance to present this film she made with Louis Kirk, a national park ranger, naturalist and PBS producer.

As always, LOCAL SIGHTINGS provides a place for networking, celebration and dialogue through its forum discussions and nightly **Festival Lounge** (9-11pm). With our **Works in Progress Panel**, Seattle filmmakers will show clips from films in progress, and discuss the Seattle filmmaking scene, while our nightly lounge will be host to casual mingling for filmmakers and audience members to share ideas and plan future collaborations with ample alcoholic lubrication.

At the close of the festival, jurors including acclaimed director **Rob Moss** (*Secrecy*) and **Mary Trimarco** (Washington State Film Office) will award the best feature length and short form film (\$4,000 to the best feature and \$1,700 to the best short in competition). The winning films will also be given the opportunity for theatrical exhibition in NWF's cinemas.

Northwest Film Forum is excited to cross into our second decade of surveying and championing the region's most inventive filmmaking, and proud to continue its tradition of connecting artists and audiences of the region. Join us for this exciting trip through the Pacific Northwest's creative landscape! **Full schedule will be announced September 20.**

More information about the festival can be found at [www.localsightings.org](http://www.localsightings.org). This site will be updated with stills and press notes as they become available.

**A press launch is scheduled for September 17 at 12pm at Northwest Film Forum.**

