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### SONY PICTURES CLASSICS ACQUIRES NORTH AMERICAN RIGHTS TO JONATHAN DEMME'S "JIMMY CARTER MAN FROM PLAINS"

New York, NY. August 16, 2007 - Sony Pictures Classics has acquired the North American rights from Participant Productions to Academy Award®-winner Jonathan Demme's documentary "Jimmy Carter Man From Plains." Demme produced and directed the film, which will screen at this year's Venice Film Festival, via his company Clinica Estetico. Neda Armian ("The Truth About Charlie," "The Situation" and the upcoming "Dancing With Shiva") is also producing. Sundance-winner and Emmy-nominated Declan Quinn ("Breakfast on Pluto," "In America," "Leaving Las Vegas" and HBO's "Hysterical Blindness") is cinematographer. The film is edited by ACE Eddie and IDA Award-winner Kate Amend ("Into the Arms of Strangers: Story of the Kindertransport" and "The Long Way Home") and Executive Producers are Jeff Skoll, Diane Weyermann and Ron Bozman. Sony Classics and Demme ("The Silence of the Lambs," "Philadelphia" and "The Manchurian Candidate") recently announced their first project together, the upcoming "Dancing With Shiva," written by Jenny Lumet.

"Jimmy Carter Man From Plains" is an intimate, surprising encounter with President Jimmy Carter. Following the path of Mr. Carter's recent controversial book tour for Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid, Academy Award®-winning director Jonathan Demme reveals a complex individual who, with the gusto and determination of a youngster, criss-crosses the country to get his message across, even as that message creates a media onslaught in which his credibility and judgment are called into question. "Jimmy Carter Man From Plains" explores both the private and public sides of Jimmy Carter, whose intense sense of justice compels him to pursue, with undiminished energy and hope, his lifelong and deeply spiritual vision of reconciliation and peace.

Sony Pictures Classics released the following statement: "This is an important movie about an inspirational leader who forces discussion on difficult subjects. Jonathan Demme's exemplary filmmaking captures the complexity of Jimmy Carter, America and our times in an impressive way. It is a fine film and we couldn't be more pleased to be working with Jonathan and our friends at Participant."

Jonathan Demme: "Being invited by Participant to make a film about Jimmy Carter was an exciting offer, and Carter's willingness to give us unrestricted entry to his life during this tumultuous book tour gave us a rare chance to provide an

intimate portrait of a world leader under incredibly intense pressure from all sides. Carter leads with his heart, but he proved to be extremely tough and dexterous in the face of the huge controversy that the very title of his book brought to bear as soon as he hit the road on his media tour late last year. It was thrilling to travel along with him across the country, encountering all the iconic media figures, protesters and the 21st-century American 'melting pot' public that showed up to engage him. Sometimes it felt like we were doing a wild remake of "High Noon," with the fate of the world hanging in the balance instead of a small western town. For me, he turned out to be as rich a movie character as I could ever hope to work with and it was amazing (and exhausting!) to be plunged into the world of far-flung global initiatives that constitutes his daily regimen from dawn till late at night every day. It was an inspiring and deeply thought-provoking experience, and I hope the picture captures the magnitude of Carter's persona. I am thrilled that Sony Pictures Classics, my bar-none favorite distributor, will be presenting the film in America; their imagination, commitment and expertise are unparalleled in bringing off-formula filmmaking to the widest possible audience."

Participant Productions: "We have been very keen to do a project about President Carter. He is an incredible statesman and humanitarian and his personal story has always intrigued us," said Ricky Strauss, President. "Jonathan Demme's compelling portrait of President Carter presents a side of him audiences have never seen that is both powerful and moving. Sony Pictures Classics shares our passion for this film and we are thrilled to join forces with them."

Sony Pictures Classics acquired the film from Participant Productions with Jeff Ivers and ICM negotiating on behalf of Participant. ICM, which represents Demme, is handling worldwide sales on the project.

Participant Productions is a Los Angeles-based production company that focuses on socially relevant, commercially viable feature films and documentaries. Participant's films have been chosen to awaken, inspire and empower audiences to take action and create change. The company is headed by CEO Jim Berk and President Ricky Strauss. Participant was founded by philanthropist Jeff Skoll, who serves as chairman. Upcoming releases include Mike Nichols' "Charlie Wilson's War," Marc Forster's "The Kite Runner," Errol Morris' "S.O.P." (Standard Operating Procedure) and "The Visitor," Tom McCarthy's first film since "The Station Agent," Brett Morgen's "Chicago 10," Louise Hogarth's documentary "Angels in the Dust." Participant's most recent success is "An Inconvenient Truth," which won two Academy Awards® (for Best Documentary and Best Original Song) and has become the third-highest grossing documentary in history.

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