

BOXBOARDERS! WINS AT NEWPORT BEACH FILM FESTIVAL

Quirky Teen Comedy wins OUSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN FILMMAKING – OC FEATURE award; also nominated for BEST PICTURE at the Giffoni Hollywood Festival

Newport Beach, CA, April 27th, 2007 – A hilarious comedy about two California slackers who put a refrigerator box on a skateboard and accidentally invent a new extreme sport, **Boxboarders!** held its world premiere at the 2007 Newport Beach Film Festival on Wednesday, April 25th and walked away with the inaugural *Outstanding Achievement In Filmmaking – OC Feature Award*, the first ever given out by the respected international festival.

NBFF selected 183 feature films for competition from over 1800 submissions. “The film is great even if it wasn’t shot locally,” said Newport Beach Film Festival features programmer Daniel Cox. “We try to pick the best of the best and this is a great comedy, very funny.” Fellow Newport programmer John Jameson agreed: “Every once in awhile a film lifts up your spirits – definitely **Boxboarders!** is one of those.”

The film has been given a 5 out 5 star rating on the Newport Beach Film Festival website, along with rave reviews (see www.newportbeachfilmfest.com). The premiere was sold out with an overflow crowd.

Boxboarders! screened the following day at the Giffoni Hollywood Festival, where it unspooled at the world renowned Grauman’s Chinese Theatre complex to a sold out crowd. It was subsequently nominated for BEST PICTURE in the 15-17 year-old category. The Giffoni Hollywood Festival (www.giffonihollywood.com) is an international film festival which began in Italy and just held its third awards ceremony at the prestigious Kodak Theatre in Hollywood; films are judged by a panel of teenagers from all over the world.

Showcase Entertainment has already purchased the rights to distribute the film in all foreign territories.

Directed by **Rob Hedden** and produced by **Jay Smith, George Elder,** and Hedden, the film stars a cast of newcomers: **James Immekus, Austin Basis,**

Michelle Alexis, Mitch Eakins, Michelle Pierce and Kate Lang Johnson. The movie also features veteran actors **Stephen Tobolowsky** (*Wild Hogs, Groundhog Day*), **Melora Hardin** (*The Office*), **Dale Midkiff, Julie Brown, and Lizardman.**

Rob Hedden has had a long career as both writer and director. For Paramount, he wrote such varied feature films as the teen comedy *Clockstoppers* and the far less-whimsical *Friday the 13th, part VIII*, the latter which he also directed. He also wrote and directed such TV movies as *Alien Fury, Kidnapped in Paradise* and *The Colony* starring John Ritter. In addition, Hedden wrote *When the Cradle Falls* for TV, as well as a series of “reunion” television movies, *The Return of Ironside, Simon & Simon: In Trouble Again* and *Knight Rider 2000*. He directed the TV movie, *Any Place But Home*, and was on the writing staffs of such series as *MacGyver* (where he learned how to build a nuclear submarine from tree limbs, string and paper clips), *The Commish* and *Star Trek Enterprise*. *The Condemned*, which he co-wrote, opened via Lionsgate on April 27th starring Stone Cold Steve Austin.

Jay Smith has produced several award winning productions. Among them are “Two Soldiers,” which won the academy award in 2004 for best live action short, and “The Devine,” which won the Damah Film Festival’s best short film award. Before producing, Smith was involved in large studio productions such as “City Slickers,” “Young Guns,” “Major League,” and “Gettysburg,” as an Assistant Director. Some of his numerous television credits include the MOWs: “Best Intentions” starring Virginia Madsen, “An American Daughter” starring Christine Lahti, “The Truth About Jane” starring Stockard Channing, and “Educating Mom” starring Jane Kazmarek for which he won a DGA Directorial Award. Among his series television credits are “ER,” “Summerland,” “Do Over,” and “Related.” Jay has worked for every major studio and network in Hollywood.

Producer **George Elder** is CEO of Luminair Films, a film and television production company that just finished Season 5 of the PBS series, *Mexico, One Plate at a Time* with celebrity chef Rick Bayless. Elder produced and directed the feature-documentary, *Piaf: Her Story...Her Songs*, (Lionsgate) on famed singer Edith Piaf, and is currently developing several feature film and television projects.

Rounding out the production team, **Matthews Williams** (*Beyond the Horizon*, the series *Promised Land, Touched By an Angel*) is the director of photography. The editor is **David Bertman** (*Rat Race, Seven Days Six Nights, Up Close & Personal* as assistant editor). And the costumes are designed by **Bob Moore** (*No Laughing Matter, Stolen From the Heart, Tornado!*).

For the cast, **James Immekus** has appeared in the series *House*, *Cold Case*, *Numb3rs*, *Drake & Josh*, *House*, *Without a Trace*, *Charmed*, and the indie horror flick *The Caretaker*. **Austin Basis** was in the feature films *Skips*, *Dorian Blue*, and the upcoming *Building Girl*, *7eventy 5ive*, *My Sassy Girl* with Jessie Bradford and Elisha Cuthbert, and *American Zombie*. **Mitch Eakins's** movies include *A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries*, *Glory Road*, and *Tunnel Rats*. **Michelle Pierce** will be seen in the upcoming feature *Transformers* and has appeared in *Desperate Housewives*, *CSI New York*, *Criminal Minds* and *Sleeper Cell*; she was also in the feature film *Sharkskin* and had a recurring role in *Days of Our Lives*. **Kate Lang Johnson's** films include *Berkeley* and the upcoming *Tom 51* and *Behind the Mask: The Rise of Leslie Vernon*. Among her TV appearances are *Ugly Betty*, *Summerland*, *C.S.I. Miami* and *Malcolm in the Middle*. **Hudson Thames** is currently appearing at the Taper Forum in *Distracted* with Rita Wilson. **Melora Hardin** stars in *The Office* on NBC. She currently has three films in post production, including one which she directed. **Michelle Alexis** makes her film debut.

Stephen Tobolowsky has made an abundance of films including *Wild Hogs*, *Miss Congeniality 2*, *Freaky Friday*, *Adaptation*, *Groundhog Day*, *Basic Instinct*, *Thelma & Louise* and *Spaceballs*, and provided his voice in *Robots*. Among his too-numerous TV appearances are *The West Wing*, *Seinfeld*, *Will & Grace*, *C.S.I. Miami*, *Malcolm in the Middle*, and recurring roles in *Deadwood*, *Murder One* and *Chicago Hope*. Tobolowsky was nominated for a Tony award as Best Featured Actor in the play *Morning's At Seven*. His many TV movies include *Alien Fury* for writer/director Rob Hedden.

Dale Midkiff's extensive credits include starring in the feature films *Pet Semetary*, *Maximum Velocity* and *Debating Robert Lee*, and such TV movies as *Elvis and Me* and for the Hallmark Channel, *Love Comes Softly* and *Love's Enduring Promise*. He starred in the series *The Magnificent Seven* and *Time Trax*. Midkiff has also previously worked with writer/director Rob Hedden in *Alien Fury* and *Any Place But Home*.

Julie Brown starred in the movies, *Fat Rose and Squeaky* and *Earth Girls are Easy* (which she wrote) and been in such feature films as *Clueless*, *Police Academy 2* and *Like Mike*. Her many TV appearances include starring in the film *Medusa: Dare to Be Truthful* (which she both wrote and directed), and as a regular voice on *Animaniacs*.

For more information, contact George Elder at Luminair Films: (312) 491-8380.