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**Women Make Movies Acquires THE SARI SOLDIERS, Winner of the
2008 Human Rights Watch International Film Festival Nestor Almendros Award;
TO SEE IF I'M SMILING to Open Festival**

New York, NY – Women Make Movies (WMM) announces the acquisition of **THE SARI SOLDIERS** by filmmaker Julie Bridgham, recipient of the **2008 Human Rights Watch International Film Festival (HRWIFF) Nestor Almendros Award** for courage and commitment in filmmaking. The riveting documentary will make its North American debut as the festival centerpiece. Filmed over three years, during Nepal's transition from dictatorial monarchy to fledgling democracy, **THE SARI SOLDIERS** is the extraordinary story of six women and their conflicting efforts to shape the political future of their country. From intimate interviews to uprisings in seemingly peaceful rural villages and rallies in bustling Kathmandu, Bridgham's camera sensitively captures women on multiple sides of the escalating civil war.

Tamar Yarom's **TO SEE IF I'M SMILING**, a recent WMM acquisition will be featured as one of the opening night selections. Winner of the Silver Wolf and Audience awards at The International Documentary Film Festival, Amsterdam (IDFA) and the Special Jury Prize at Hot Docs, the deeply compelling **TO SEE IF I'M SMILING** profiles six Israeli women as they wrestle with memories they would rather erase of their compulsory military service. Filmmaker Yarom, a former Israel Defense Forces soldier herself, will discuss the film.

The festival will also present a Q&A with Emmy® Award-winning director Lisa F. Jackson following a screening of her Sundance Special Jury Prize for Documentary winner, **THE GREATEST SILENCE: RAPE IN THE CONGO**. In addition to featuring WMM acquisitions, the festival will also present another film associated with WMM. Recently profiled in the *New York Times*, acclaimed cinematographer Ellen Kuras and co-director Thavisouk Phrasavath's **THE BETRAYAL (NERAKHOON)** was produced with support from the WMM Production Assistance Program.

"We are really pleased to have three films that we are distributing featured so prominently in the festival, but also proud that three of them are films which we helped get off the ground," says Debra Zimmerman, Executive Director of WMM. "**THE SARI SOLDIERS, THE GREATEST SILENCE: RAPE IN THE CONGO** and **THE BETRAYAL (NERAKHOON)** were all part of our highly regarded Production Assistance Program."

ABOUT WOMEN MAKE MOVIES

Women Make Movies is the world's leading distributor of independent films by and about women, with a focus on cutting-edge documentaries that give depth to today's headlines, as well as artistically and intellectually challenging works in all genres. Our Production Assistance program helps American women directors get their stories on the screen. Participating films include **FREEHELD**, winner of the 2008 Academy Award® for Documentary Short Subject. Our

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projects are showcased in prestigious exhibition venues, at national and international festivals and broadcast throughout the world. The Women Make Movies collection of more than 500 films is also used by thousands of educational, community and cultural organizations annually. More information on the organization is available on our website www.wmm.com.

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