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PRESS RELEASES

NFB Co-Production *Cold Morning* Featured
in Toronto International Film Festival's
Future Projections

2009/09/01

**North American Premiere of Mark Lewis Short-Film Trilogy at
the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House**

Toronto (September 1, 2009) – The National Film Board of Canada is pleased to participate in the Toronto International Film Festival's Future Projections Program with *Cold Morning* by internationally renowned visual artist Mark Lewis. Shot in Toronto and depicting some of the city's most iconic urban spaces, the *Cold Morning* short-film trilogy was commissioned by the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery to represent Canada at this year's prestigious Venice Biennale. *Cold Morning* screens as part of the JMB Gallery exhibition *Mark Lewis: In a City*, presented in collaboration with Future Projections. The installation kicks off with a public lecture by Lewis at the Gallery September 8 at 6 p.m., followed by an opening reception.

"We're thrilled to have Mark Lewis home," says Silva Basmajian, Executive Producer of the NFB's Ontario Centre, which co-produced *Cold Morning*. "The NFB's inaugural contribution to the Venice

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Biennale was a creative partnership with this wonderfully innovative artist, and after the warm reception **Cold Morning** has received on the international stage, we're delighted that Torontonians now have the opportunity to experience his uniquely beautiful vision of their city."

Meet the filmmakers

Meet the team behind **Cold Morning** when Mark Lewis joins NFB producer Gerry Flahive and executive producer Michael White at the JMB Gallery from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 12 and Wednesday, September 16. Media are welcome for interviews.

Mark Lewis: In a City runs from September 9 to October 26, 2009, at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House, University of Toronto, 7 Hart House Circle, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday to 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Future Projections is generously supported by the Hal Jackman Foundation and the City of Toronto. For more information, visit jmbgallery.ca.

In conjunction with *Mark Lewis: In a City*, special screenings of Lewis's *Backstory* (2009) and *Cinema Museum* (2008) take place during the Festival on Thursday, September 10 and Friday, September 11 at the Cineplex Odeon Varsity Cinemas, 55 Bloor Street West, 2nd floor. For more information, visit tiff.net/thefestival.

Additionally, *Mark Lewis Presents Rear Projection's Greatest Hits* takes place at TIFF Cinematheque from October 15 to 20. The series features the best examples of rear projection in cinema, including an in-person presentation of Lewis's own acclaimed *Backstory* and Alfred Hitchcock's *Saboteur*, and screenings of Otto Preminger's *River of No Return* and Ernst Lubitsch's *Ninotchka*. Details available as of September 22 at tiff.net/cinematheque.

About Cold Morning

In **Cold Morning**, a trilogy of short films, Canadian artist Mark Lewis returns to his exploration of urban landscapes to create a tableau of Toronto scenes in winter that are both familiar and engagingly elusive.

In *Nathan Phillips Square*, a couple's frolicking courtship on skates is made dreamlike by the visually contrasting realities of foreground and background. The gritty, sidewalk start to the day for a homeless man struggling to bring order to his environment is the subject of **Cold Morning**. And an impassive surveillance of the cityscape from on high, in *TD Centre, 54th Floor*, shows street life at a poetic distance.

Cold Morning was commissioned by Barbara Fischer, director/curator of the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House, University of Toronto, and produced by Mark Lewis Studio Inc. in co-production with the National Film Board of Canada.

Executive Producer – Michael White

Producer (NFB) – Gerry Flahive

Executive Producer (NFB) – Silva Basmajian

About the filmmaker

Mark Lewis is one of Canada's most renowned and internationally acclaimed artists working in film-based media. He was born in Hamilton, Ontario in 1958 and currently lives and works in the U.K. in

London. He has had solo museum exhibitions all over the world, including the Vancouver Art Gallery, Hamburger Kunstverein, Musée d'art moderne (Luxembourg), BFI Southbank (London), the National Museum of Contemporary Art (Bucharest) and at PS1 (New York). His works are in the permanent collections of the National Gallery of Canada, MoMA in New York, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal and the Centre Pompidou. Lewis is co-founder and co-editor, with Charles Esche, of Afterall – a research and publishing organization based at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London.

About the National Film Board of Canada

The world changes, our stories live on. The National Film Board of Canada marks its 70th anniversary in 2009 with a new national online Screening Room and a slate of bold, innovative productions. Canada's public film producer and distributor, the NFB produces and distributes social-issue documentaries, auteur animation, alternative drama and digital content that provide the world with a unique Canadian perspective. In collaboration with its international partners and co-producers, the NFB is expanding the vocabulary of 21st-century cinema and breaking new ground in form and content, through community filmmaking projects, cross-platform media, interactive cinema, stereoscopic animation – and more. Since the NFB's founding in 1939, it has created over 13,000 productions and won over 5,000 awards, including 12 Oscars and more than 90 Genies. In 2009, the works of NFB animation pioneer Norman McLaren were added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Registry. To watch over 1,000 productions online or for more information, visit **NFB.ca**.

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For downloadable hi-res images, go to www.onf-nfb.gc.ca/eng/press-room/photo-gallery.

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