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IndieCan Entertainment Acquires VICTOR WALK, THE WILL TO FLY and BROKEN following premieres at 2016 Whistler Film Festival

Whistler, B.C. (February 7, 2017): Two months following the Whistler Film Festival's 16th edition, IndieCan Entertainment has acquired the North American and International rights to VICTOR WALK, the North American distribution rights to THE WILL TO FLY, and the Canadian distribution rights to the documentary feature film BROKEN.

"We're thrilled to see three more films get distribution as a result of their premieres at the 2016 Whistler Film Festival," says Paul Gratton, Whistler Film Festival, Director of Programming. "These international films join three other Canadian films that were picked up at the fest, further affirming our programming and reassuring to filmmakers that distributors come to Whistler to do business."

Michael David Lynch's **VICTOR WALK**, which had its Canadian premiere at the 2016 Whistler Film Festival, followed former NHL All-Star, 1989 Stanley Cup winner (with the Calgary Flames) and Olympic Gold Medalist Theo Fleury's ten day 400 kilometre walk from Toronto to Ottawa to draw attention to the light sentences meted out to convicted pedophiles in Canada. The statistics are horrific: one out of five males and one out of three females in Canada will be sexually molested before they are adults, and very few people ever report the crime. The response that Fleury and Lynch captured along the journey captured in VICTOR WALK is truly astounding. Every step of the way, hockey fans came out to show their support for Fleury, who believes that talking about it is the first step, not only to personal healing, but to changing the laws of the country so that child abuse is no longer treated as a minor crime. Fleury was in the news last fall when the coach who sexually molested him, and many other young hockey players, was let out of prison after a relatively short incarceration for his pedophilic crimes. Fleury's walk brought attention to the plague of child sexual abuse, promoted healing amongst the survivors and aimed to lobby for stiffer laws against predators. Fleury received WFF's 2016 Humanitarian Award for his commitment to making a difference. IndieCan Entertainment will release the film theatrically in Spring 2017 following its run on the festival circuit.

"I knew from the moment I sat down to watch Victor Walk that I wanted to help get the message out... and in a BIG WAY! This is a very important film for not just Canada but for around the World," says IndieCan Entertainment's Avi Federgreen.

"When I first got a call from Avi during the Whistler Film Festival, it was clear that he had a love for our film and an understanding of how it needs to be promoted and distributed. It's an important film that needs that specialized attention. I'm excited to see this eye opening and healing film get out into the world through IndieCan," says Victor Walk Director Michael David Lynch.

THE WILL TO FLY, by Australian directors Katie Bender and Leo Baker's, received its Canadian Premiere at the 2016 Whistler Film Festival, and won both WFF's Mountain Culture Award and World Documentary Award. This extraordinary sports documentary focuses on the Olympic ambitions of Australian female skiing champion Lydia Lassila. Using a rich treasure trove of archival footage and more recent interviews with coaches and family members, the film presents a well-rounded portrait of sports determination and ambition. Even after fulfilling her dream of going to the Olympics three times, including winning a gold medal at the Vancouver 2010 Games, and becoming a young mother, the former gymnast pursues her ambition even further. She strives to perform the most dangerous and complex manoeuvre of any Olympic event: a quadruple twisting, triple somersault on skis. This jump has only been accomplished by male competitors prior to the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Even if you know little about the sport of ski jumping, this is a sight to behold, as Lydia trains to marry the beauty of ski jumping with the grace of acrobatics.

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“Once I saw THE WILL TO FLY at Whistler, I knew that it was a film that Indiecan had to be involved with. The film is so powerful and emotional that I had to meet with Katie and Leo immediately to see if we could work together in helping North American audiences find this gem of a film,” says Indiecan Entertainment’s Avi Federgreen.

“We’re thrilled that our success at the Whistler Film Festival meant an opportunity to meet Avi Federgreen and acquire North American distribution through IndieCan. We feel that Avi’s extensive background working in the indie film space is ideal for championing the subject matter of our film to the best audiences. Avi immediately understood our market and our intentions for the film, which is not only reassuring but an exciting new chapter for us.”

Lynne Spencer’s debut documentary feature **BROKEN**, which had its world premiere at the 2016 Whistler Film Festival, is an extraordinarily intimate portrait of Simone Orlando, Ballet BC’s lead dancer for twelve years. Can injury destroy a life’s passion? This is a question that affects every dancer, performer (or athlete) who is completely devoted to a single pursuit and is faced with an injury that threatens that very way of life. During rehearsals for a new ballet, Simone suffered an injury that was so severe; she could hardly walk, let alone dance. Hiding her affliction with painkillers, she struggled on, but an MRI made it all too evident that hip surgery was required. “All the work and all the years, and for it to suddenly just slip away, it wasn’t acceptable,” said Ms. Orlando. Simone fought for the chance to make a comeback and the film features absorbing interviews, intimate access to doctor’s appointments and stunning never-before-seen photos and footage of both rehearsals and Ballet BC’s stage performances and behind the scenes politics. This film is a one of a kind study of the devotion and dedication that artists, performers and even athletes and musicians bring to their vocation, and what happens when fate intervenes to threaten their life’s work – and their identity.

“Lynne Spencer’s delicate touch filmmaking is thoughtful, emotional and beautiful, and we believe she is a rising star that deserves our help to get Canadian audiences to see her film and her talent,” says Indiecan Entertainment’s Avi Federgreen.

“My experience at the Whistler Film Festival was profound. As an independent filmmaker I valued the networking opportunities that connected me with Avi Federgreen and to Canadian distribution through IndieCan. Avi’s extensive background in the independent world gives him great insight to the market, the audiences and understanding my intentions as a documentary story teller. I’m excited about our new partnership and its scope of possibility.”

From November 29 to December 3, 2017 the Whistler Film Festival will welcome film fans and filmmakers to experience its 17th edition featuring fresh films, special guests, epic events, unique industry and talent programs, and time to play in North America’s premier mountain resort destination. The Whistler Film Festival combines an international film competition with a focused Industry Summit dedicated to the art and business of filmmaking in the digital age.

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The **WHISTLER FILM FESTIVAL SOCIETY** is a charitable organization dedicated to furthering the art of film by providing programs that focus on the discovery, development and promotion of new talent culminating with a must attend festival for artists, industry and audiences in Whistler. Find out more at whistlerfilmfestival.com.

INDIECAN ENTERTAINMENT focuses on independent, low-budget films. As a distributor, Avi Federgreen follows the same principle that earned him his reputation as a filmmaker; bringing Canadians films they want to watch. Aside from the traditional distribution route, IndieCan leans heavily on digital delivery. IndieCan helps films find more opportunities with audiences through TV, Netflix, iTunes, websites, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms. IndieCan's vision is to not only support indie production but to encourage the viewing of quality indie films by North American audiences.
Indiecanent.com

MICHAEL DAVID LYNCH grew up in Ann Arbor Michigan and moved to Illinois to attend Columbia College of Chicago Film School. Where the institution's eclectic, urban environment inspired the creation of "Burden". Upon graduation he moved to Los Angeles with his wife to continue his love of filmmaking. He has had the privilege of collaborating with tons of filmmakers performing various roles including Director, Cinematographer, Producer and Editor. The documentary **VICTOR WALK** is Michael's debut feature film.

KATIE BENDER is an Australian documentary filmmaker - director and producer. She made her feature-length directing debut with the 2016 documentary THE WILL TO FLY about Australian Olympic freestyle skier gold medalist Lydia Lassila. The film made its world premiere in Melbourne, Australia on International Women's Day (March 8), 2016 followed by an Australian theatrical release where it was positively received by critics. The film was quoted "the most inspirational movie of the year" by The Huffington Post. THE WILL TO FLY received its Canadian premiere at the Whistler Film Festival, winning WFF's 'Best World Documentary Award' and 'Best Mountain Culture Film Award', and Katie was also nominated for the Alliance of Women Female Journalists EDA Award for Best Female-Directed Documentary at the festival.

LEO BAKER is an emerging writer and director. After being the sole animator for the Oscar Award winning short animation THE LOST THING, Leo went on to write and direct two live action short films, which are currently in the film festival circuit. His current project is a feature documentary film, **THE WILL TO FLY** in theatrical release across Australia. Leo has other long form projects in early development.

LYNNE SPENCER is an independent film director, producer and cinematographer who started working in the mainstream film industry in 1993 for major studios such as Paramount, Disney and New Line Cinema on feature films such as Double Jeopardy, Reindeer Games, 13th Warrior and Elf. In 2003, Lynne began shooting, producing and directing her own independent projects, creating short films, video for dance and theatre, as well as commercial work for clients including Ballet BC, The Arts Club Theatre and Lululemon Athletica. Her work has been presented at the Joyce SoHo New York, The Queen Elizabeth Theatre, and The Scotiabank Dance Center. **BROKEN**, which had its world premiere at the 2016 Whistler Film Festival, is her debut documentary feature.