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**NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Maurice Kanbar Institute of Film And Television
presents
The Eighth Annual Fusion Film Festival
March 1st – March 5th, 2011**

The Fusion Film Festival, a student-run festival sponsored by NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, celebrates collaboration between men and women filmmakers with a five day festival that features student competitions, industry screenings and panels focusing on the work of women within all aspects of the film industry. The year's events promise to be the most exciting yet, with an array of accomplished and inspiring guest artists.

The eighth annual Fusion film Festival is dedicated to the loving memory of the remarkably gifted film editor Sally Menke '77 (BFA Kanbar Film and Television.)

Opening night on Tuesday March 1st offers a screening of the hilarious, provocative Sundance Award winning *Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work* followed by a conversation with filmmaker Ricki Stern, who directed the film with Breakthru Film partner, Annie Sundberg.

On Wednesday March 2, a special event co-sponsored by the NYU Women's Initiative and Tisch East Alumni Council titled "Females in Focus" will be led by NYU Alumnae and Fusion Film Festival Co-Founder, Gina Abatemarco. This panel of documentary filmmakers will discuss the relative successes of women in the world of documentary as compared to struggles women face in narrative film. To RSVP for this special event see www.alumni.nyu.edu/femalesinfocus

A sneak peek of the Max Winkler film *Ceremony*, an indie comedy debut for Winkler, starring Uma Thurman is set for Cantor Film Center on Thursday night March 3. Following the screening, Winkler along with producer Kate Dean and production designer Inbal Weinberg will discuss the joys of collaboration.

On Friday, March 4th "*Agents and Managers: How much do you need them? How hard is it to get them?*" offers our audience a chance to look at life after film school with a panel of top east and west coast reps including Wendi Niad, Josh Pearl, Bruce Miller, Lucy Stille and Jamie Wolf moderated by Fusion's Faculty Advisor, Susan Sandler,

Next up on March 4 is the Documentary Pitch Competition in which finalists pitch their documentaries in progress to execs from major networks and production companies including Jackie Glover, Vice President and Head of Original Programming at HBO, Jennifer Raskin, Producer and Head of Development at Impact Partners, Susan Werbe, Vice President of Programming at the History Channel and Chris White, Director of Programming at POV, moderated by Nilita Vachani, producer, writer and educator. The winner will be awarded \$1000 in finishing funds.

The Fusion Film Competition Screenings highlights the evening on Friday March 4 at the Cantor Film Center. Finalists in film and music video categories will be showcased and awards and prizes presented in all categories, including screenplay and doc pitch. And this year's Fusion Filmmaker Award from The New York Times and X-Factor. An After Party will follow with tickets distributed to all screening attendees.

A memorial breakfast dedicated to Sally Menke on Saturday March 5, will gather colleagues, family and friends to pay tribute to the talented editor who was named Editor of the Year at the Hollywood Film Awards in 2004 and most widely known for her work with Quentin Tarantino. A leading female in a predominately male field, Ms. Menke was a gifted and pioneering film editor, with a resume featuring 20 film credits in just over 25 years, including work with Oliver Stone, Billy Bob Thornton and Michael Lander. As Quentin Tarantino's sole editor, Ms Menke was a critical artistic partner to the director. The two are considered one of the greatest director-editor teams in the history of American film. For her work on Pulp Fiction and Inglourious Basterds she was nominated for Academy Awards. In discussing their partnership, Tarantino commented, "I write by myself, but when it comes to the editing I write with Sally." To RSVP see http://alumni.tisch.nyu.edu/object/tafec_20110305.html

A master class in art direction, "*From Revolutionary Road to Wall Street: A conversation with Oscar-nominated production designer Kristi Zea*" is being offered on Saturday March 5 and begins the full day of panels and master classes. Kristy Zea has been a production designer for more than twenty-two films, nominated twice for an Academy Award, and has worked with a wide array of directors including Martin Scorsese, Sam Mendes and Oliver Stone. Zea will bring rich stories, insights into craft, and a working life of distinction to this intimate discussion.

Next up on Saturday March 5 is "*From Page to Screen: How Women Tell Their Stories in Different Roles*," focuses on independent women writers, directors and producers. Guest panelists Courtney Hunt (Writer/Director, *Frozen River*), Nancy Savoca (Director, *Dogfight*), Riva Marker and Daniela Taplin Lundberg (Producers, *The Kids Are All Right*), and Gina Fattore (Writer/Producer, *Californication*, *Gilmore Girls*) will discuss their journeys in film and TV.

Fusion will conclude on Saturday March 5 with "*Embrace Your Inner Child: Women Working in Children's Media*" with members of WICM, a vibrant organization of talented women in the field discussing the world of the children's media. Professor Lynne McVeigh will moderate the panel that includes Karen Halpenny, book editor for Sesame Street; five time Emmy nominated director Koyalee Chanda; Laura Kaufman, Senior Manager for Live Theatricals and Events and Nickelodeon; Melinda Richards LaRose, childrens television writer, Nicole Rivera, Cartoon Network Acquisitions, Sarah Wallendjack, Associate Producer, Out of the Blue.

A Festival Closing Reception follows with networking opportunities and refreshments.

All Fusion Film Festival events are free and open to the NYU community and the public on a first come basis. The screening of *Ceremony* at the Cantor Film Center requires an NYU ID. Please arrive at least fifteen minutes early to guarantee seating. For full and up to the minute program info visit us at <http://www.fusionfilmfestival.com>.