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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**New York University Tisch School of the Arts Maurice Kanbar Institute of Film and  
Television Presents  
The Seventh Annual Fusion Film Festival Launch Event: Screening of Whip It, Directorial  
Debut of Drew Barrymore**

Screening on Friday, September 25, 2009 at 6:00 pm

NYU Tisch School of the Art's Fusion Film Festival announces this year's launch with an exclusive preview screening of Hollywood favorite Drew Barrymore's directorial debut, *Whip It* on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm at NYU's Cantor Film Center. The Fusion Film Festival, a student run festival sponsored by Tisch School of the Arts, celebrates women filmmakers with a three day festival in the spring that features a student competition, industry screening and panel focused on the work of women directors and cinematographers.

In addition to directing and producing *Whip It*, Barrymore (*Never Been Kissed*, *He's Just Not that Into You*) also stars as roller girl Smashley Simpson in the film. Accompanying her is costar Ellen Page (*Juno*) as Bliss Cavendar, the "indie-rock loving misfit" who finds her niche in a small Texas town by joining the local roller derby league. Penned by Shauna Cross, adapting from her own novel *Derby Girl*, *Whip It* is about girl power at its finest. Touting the tagline "Be your own hero", the film is a full promoter independence, self sufficiency, and empowerment in girls and women. *Whip It* premiered to outstanding reviews at the Toronto International Film Festival in early September.

The *Whip It* screening is open to all NYU students on a first come basis. No guests are allowed and student ID's are required. Screening starts at 6:00 pm. Doors open at 5:45. A Q & A will follow the screening.

The Fusion Film Festival is sponsored by New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Kanbar Institute of Film and Television, and the Director's Series. Student staffing for this year's Fusion Film Festival will begin with a recruitment party on Friday October 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Tisch Student Lounge. The three day Fusion Film Festival is scheduled to take place February 25<sup>th</sup>- February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

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WHAT: Screening of Drew Barrymore's directorial debut *Whip It* and Q & A session immediately following

WHERE: Cantor Film Center, 36 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City, NY 10003

WHEN: 6:00 pm Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

For more information please contact on Fusion, please visit our website at [www.fusionfilmfestival.com](http://www.fusionfilmfestival.com).

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