

awards watch

COVERAGE PRESENTED BY



Jeff Daniels, Halley Feiffer & Jesse Eisenberg (left to right) in a scene from Noah Baumbach's "The Squid and the Whale." Photo by James Hamilton. Courtesy of Samuel Goldwyn Films & Sony Pictures Entertainment.

"The Squid and the Whale" Leads List of Independent Spirit Awards Nominations

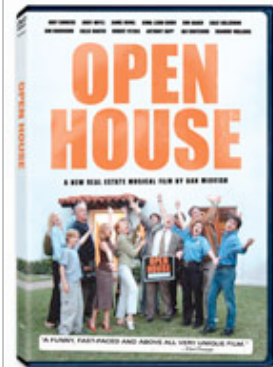
Awards Watch coverage provided by [Palm Pictures](#)

by Eugene Hernandez (November 29, 2005)

Noah Baumbach's "The Squid and the Whale," which debuted at the **Sundance Film Festival** in January and was later acquired by **Samuel Goldwyn Films** and **Sony Pictures Entertainment**, leads this year's list of **Independent Spirit Award** nominations, **Film Independent** announced this morning at an event in Los Angeles. The film received six nominations, including best feature, best director and best screenplay (Noah Baumbach), best male lead (Jeff Daniels), best female lead (Laura Linney), and best supporting actor (Jesse Eisenberg).

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Dan Mirvish's "fantabulous" musical comedy *Open House*, is a tangled tale of intrigue, romance, lost love and the one thing everyone has in common: the American dream of finding a home.

Starring Anthony Rapp (currently seen in *Rent*), Sally Kellerman, Kellie Martin and more

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December 1 deadline for Film Festival





Among other nominees, four films received four nominations each, including "**Brokeback Mountain**," "**Capote**," "**Good Night, and Good Luck**," and "**The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada**." Nominees were chosen by committees assembled by Film Independent; the groups considered some 200 films that were submitted for consideration. The prizes will be awarded on March 4, 2006, the day before the annual Academy Awards (a live broadcast will again air on IFC).

Aside from the competitive prizes, three separate Spirit Awards committees also choose nominees for special cash awards. **Ian Gamazon** and **Neill Dela Llana** ("Cavite"), **Robinson Devor** ("Police Beat"), and **Jay Duplass** ("The Puffy Chair") were nominated for the IFC/Acura Someone to Watch Award which honors unrecognized narrative filmmakers; **Rachel Boynton** ("Our Brand is Crisis"), **Garrett Scott & Ian Olds** ("Occupation: Dreamland"), **Mark Becker** ("Romantico"), and **Thomas Allen Harris** ("Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela") were nominated for the Truer Than Fiction Award singling out unrecognized documentary filmmakers; and producers **Caroline Baron** ("Capote", "Monsoon Wedding"), **Ram Bergman** ("Brick", "Conversations with Other Women"), and **Mike S. Ryan** ("Junebug", "Palindromes") were nominated for the AMC/American Express Producers Award which honors an emerging producer. The winner of each prize will receive \$25,000.

Calling this year's roster a "set of nominations that represent the spectrum of independent filmmaking in 2005," committee chair **Jeff Kleeman** added in a statement, "In years to come, anybody who wants an overview of the state of our art in 2005 will find that these nominations can guide them to a full understanding of the wonderfully wide range of ideas and techniques that our filmmakers are currently exploring."

Criteria for the annual Independent Spirit Awards includes, in the words of Film Independent: "Original, provocative subject matter; Uniqueness of vision; Economy of means with particular attention paid to total budget and individual compensation; and Percentage of independent financing." Films must have received a week-long commercial theatrical release or must have screened at festivals including the **Los Angeles Film Festival**, **New Directors/New Films**, New York, Sundance, Telluride, or Toronto. The group also recently announced a maximum budget cap of \$20 million for nominees.

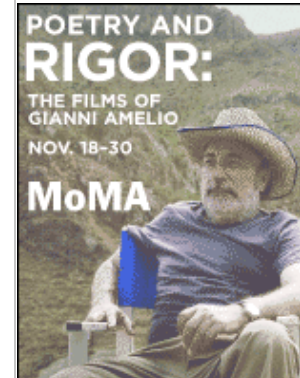
Winners of the awards are chosen by members of Film Independent and the

- Two \$1000 prizes
 - March 3-5, 2006
- www.lindseyfilmfest.com

Two \$1,000 prizes are offered in this year's George Lindsey UNA Film Festival, March 3-5, 2006. Deadline for entries is December 1! Visit www.lindseyfilmfest.com for more information.

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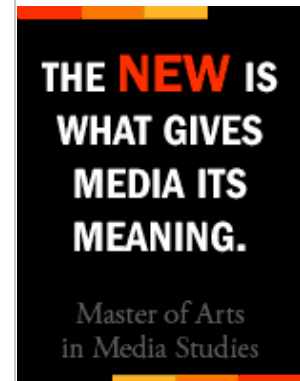
Gianni Amelio at MoMA



At The Museum of Modern Art November 18-30, MoMA's Department of Film and Media and Cinecittà Holding present the work of a director whose highly personal feature films and documentaries are dedicated equally to aesthetic innovation and sociopolitical insights.

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IFP; members are eligible to receive free film screeners from **Netflix**.

The complete list of nominees follows:

BEST FEATURE (Award given to the Producer)

Brokeback Mountain Producers: Diana Ossana, James Schamus

Capote Producers: Caroline Baron, William Vince, Michael Ohoven

Good Night, and Good Luck. Producer: Grant Heslov

The Squid and the Whale Producers: Wes Anderson, Peter Newman, Charles Corwin, Clara Markowicz

The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada Producers: Michael Fitzgerald, Tommy Lee Jones

BEST DIRECTOR

Ang Lee, Brokeback Mountain

George Clooney, Good Night, and Good Luck.

Gregg Araki, Mysterious Skin

Rodrigo Garcia, Nine Lives

Noah Baumbach, The Squid and the Whale

BEST FIRST FEATURE

(Award given to the Director and Producer)

Crash Director: Paul Haggis, Producers: Cathy Schulman, Don Cheadle, Bob Yari, Mark R. Harris, Bobby Moresco, Paul Haggis

Lackawanna Blues Director: George C. Wolfe, Producer: Nellie Nugiel

Me and You and Everyone We Know Director: Miranda July, Producer: Gina Kwon

Thumbsucker Director: Mike Mills, Producers: Anthony Bregman, Bob Stephenson

Transamerica Director: Duncan Tucker, Producers: Rene Bastian, Sebastian Dungan, Linda Moran

JOHN CASSAVETES AWARD

(Given to the best feature made for under \$500,000; Award given to the writer, director, and producer)

Brick Director/Writer: Rian Johnson, Producers: Ram Bergman and Mark G. Mathis

Conventioneers Director: Mora Stephens, Producer: Joel Viertel, Writers: Mora Stephens and Joel Viertel

Jellysmoke Director/Writer/Producer: Mark Banning

The Puffy Chair Director: Jay Duplass, Producer: Mark Duplass, Writers:



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May 1-4, 2006 @ Tribeca Film Festival. Connecting filmmakers and funders, promoting talent and fostering working relationships. Learn more at our TAA Connects Info Session: Thursday Dec. 1, NYU's Cantor Film Center (36 E 8th St.), 6 p.m. For program & submission info, [click here](#).

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Mark Duplass and Jay Duplass

Room Director/Writer: Kyle Henry, Producers: Allen Bain, Darren Goldberg, Jesse Scolaro

BEST SCREENPLAY

Ayad Akhtar, Joseph Castelo, Tom Glynn, The War Within

Guillermo Arriaga, The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada

Noah Baumbach, The Squid and the Whale

Dan Futterman, Capote

Rodrigo Garcia, Nine Lives

BEST FIRST SCREENPLAY

Kenneth Hanes, Fixing Frank

Miranda July, Me and You and Everyone We Know

Angus MacLachlan, Junebug

Sabina Murray, The Beautiful Country

Duncan Tucker, Transamerica

BEST SUPPORTING FEMALE

Amy Adams, Junebug

Maggie Gyllenhaal, Happy Endings

Allison Janney, Our Very Own

Michelle Williams, Brokeback Mountain

Robin Wright Penn, Nine Lives

BEST SUPPORTING MALE

Firdous Bamji, The War Within

Matt Dillon, Crash

Jesse Eisenberg, The Squid and the Whale

Barry Pepper, The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada

Jeffrey Wright, Broken Flowers

BEST FEMALE LEAD

Felicity Huffman, Transamerica

Dina Korzun, Forty Shades of Blue

Laura Linney, The Squid and the Whale

S. Epatha Merkerson, Lackawanna Blues

Cyndi Williams, Room

BEST MALE LEAD

Jeff Daniels, The Squid and the Whale

Philip Seymour Hoffman, Capote

Terrence Howard, Hustle & Flow

Heath Ledger, Brokeback Mountain

David Strathairn, Good Night, and Good Luck.

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

Robert Elswit, Good Night, and Good Luck.

John Foster, Keane

Adam Kimmel, Capote

Chris Menges, The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada

Harris Savides, Last Days

BEST FOREIGN FILM

(Award given to the Director)

The Death of Mr. Lazarescu (Romania) Director: Cristi Puiu

Duck Season (Mexico) Director: Fernando Eimbcke

Head-On (Germany/Turkey) Director: Fatih Akin

Paradise Now (Palestine/Netherlands/Germany/France) Director: Hany Abu-Assad

Tony Takitani (Japan) Director: Jun Ichikawa

BEST DOCUMENTARY

(Award given to the Director)

Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room, Director: Alex Gibney

Grizzly Man, Director: Werner Herzog

La Sierra, Directors: Scott Dalton & Margarita Martinez

Romantico, Director: Mark Becker

Sir! No Sir!, Director: David Zeiger

IFC/Acura Someone to Watch Award

The 12th annual IFC/Acura Someone to Watch Award recognizes a talented filmmaker of singular vision who has not yet received appropriate recognition. The award includes a \$25,000 unrestricted grant, funded by IFC and Acura. The Finalists are:

Ian Gamazon and **Neill Dela Llana**, director of "Cavite"

Robinson Devor, director of "Police Beat"

Jay Duplass, director of "The Puffy Chair"

Truer Than Fiction Award

The 10th annual Truer Than Fiction Award is presented to an emerging director of non-fiction features who has not yet received significant attention. The award includes a \$25,000 unrestricted grant. The Finalists are:

Rachel Boynton for "Our Brand is Crisis"

Garrett Scott & **Ian Olds** for "Occupation: Dreamland"

Mark Becker for "Romantico"

Thomas Allen Harris for "Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela"

AMC/American Express Producers Award

The 9th annual AMC/American Express Producers Award honors emerging producers who, despite highly limited resources, demonstrate the creativity, tenacity, and vision required to produce quality, independent films. The award includes a \$25,000 unrestricted grant, funded by AMC and American Express. The Finalists are:

>**Caroline Baron**, producer of "Capote" and "Monsoon Wedding"

Ram Bergman, producer of "Brick" and "Conversations with Other Women"

Mike S. Ryan, producer of "Junebug" and "Palindromes"

(posted on Nov 29, 2005 at 11:00AM | filed under [Awards Season](#), [Awards Watch](#), [Lead Story](#))

MORE ARTICLES ABOUT

Brokeback Mountain, Capote, Good Night, and Good Luck, The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada, Ian Gamazon, Neill Dela Llana, Robinson Devor, Jay Duplass, Rachel Boynton, Garrett Scott, Ian Olds, Mark Becker, Thomas Allen Harris, Caroline Baron, Ram Bergman, Mike S. Ryan, Crash, Me and You and Everyone We Know, Thumbsucker, Transamerica, Brick, Conventioneers, Jellysmoke, The Puffy Chair, Room, The Death of Mr. Lazarescu, Duck Season, Head-On, Paradise Now, Tony Takitani, Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room, Grizzly Man, La Sierra, Romantico, Sir! No Sir!

REACTIONS

Congrats to Austinites Kyle Henry & Cyndi Williams and former-but-still-honorary Austinites Jay & Mark Duplass

TRACKBACK (PING URL)

Up Is Down, Black Is White And...

(posted Nov 29, 2005 to The Rabbi Report)

on your nominations. We're all rooting for you guys!

(posted by [poyboy](#) on Nov 29, 2005 at 02:46PM)

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Up Is Down, Black Is White And...

(posted Nov 29, 2005 to The Rabbi Report)

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