

Contact: Meredith Gandy
415.553.2116, mgandy@kqed.org
www.kqed.org/press

IMAGEMAKERS KICKS OFF A NEW SEASON OF SHORT FILMS BY TOMORROW'S FILMMAKERS, TODAY

- Season premieres Sunday, April 5 at 10:30pm on KQED Public Television -
- Featuring award-winning short films from across the globe -

SAN FRANCISCO, April 2, 2009 – This April, KQED's weekly series **ImageMakers** returns with a new season of short films by the moviemakers of tomorrow. The upcoming season features shorts from the U.S., England, Scotland, Germany, France, Spain, Poland, Belgium, Canada, Mexico, and Denmark and features award-winning films, including two of the five films nominated for the 2009 Short Film (Live Action) Academy Award. The new season of **ImageMakers** premieres Sunday, April 5 at 10:30pm on KQED 9HD.

Despite their prevalence, many short films are rarely seen in the United States outside of film festivals. **ImageMakers**, KQED's half-hour, weekly series, provides a forum for these entertaining and thought-provoking works. Each **ImageMakers** episode allows viewers to see, in most cases for the first time, short narrative works by emerging moviemakers who could become the next Quentin Tarantino, Martin Scorsese, or Francis Ford Coppola. Many of the filmmakers have gone on to make features films, including Jason Reitman (*Thank You for Smoking* and *Juno*). **ImageMakers** aired two of Reitman's short films in previous seasons.

Each film is personally selected by series producer and KQED Public Television program director Scott Dwyer. **ImageMakers** includes works from student filmmakers, local and international filmmakers, and first-time Hollywood directors. The films represent a wide array of genres and include some of the most creative comedies, cutting edge animation, and gripping dramas produced by independent filmmakers today. Each episode of **ImageMakers** groups films together around a central theme or topic.

The season premiere, titled "Anarchy in the U.K.," features three comedies from England. In *I am Bob*, Sir Bob Geldolf plays himself in a hilarious tale of celebrity gone awry. *Heap of Trouble* features a group of men tired of upholding the macho façade who rebel with a catchy protest song. And in *Goodbye Mr. Snuggles*, a gun-toting clown ruins an idyllic day in the park for two elderly gentlemen. "Anarchy in the U.K." airs Sunday, April 5 at 10:30pm on KQED 9HD, and repeats on Saturday, April 11 at 11:30pm.

The new season includes two of the five films nominated in the Short Film (Live Action) category in this year's Academy Awards. *On the Line* (Germany/Switzerland) will air in the episode "You Are Being Watched," airing Sunday, April 12 at 10:30pm. *Manon on*

the Asphalt (France) will air as part of "One Life to Live," airing Sunday, April 19 at 10:30pm. Other recognized films in the upcoming season include the 2008 BAFTA award-winning film *River Child* (Scotland), the 2006 Student Academy Award-winning film *The Runaway* (Germany) and the 2003 Academy Award-nominated animation *The Cathedral* (Poland).

The series website, www.kqed.org/imagemakers, offers detailed descriptions of each episode, links to each filmmaker's website, and opportunities to view some of the films again on the Web. The site also features interactive components that allow viewers to leave comments and vote for their favorite films.

About KQED

KQED (www.kqed.org) is a service of Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. (NCPB). KQED Public Television, the nation's most-watched public television station, is the producer of local and national series such as *QUEST*; *Check, Please! Bay Area*; *Jacques Pépin: More Fast Food My Way*, and *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures*. KQED's digital television channels include 9HD, Life, World, Kids and V-me, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. KQED Public Radio (88.5 FM in San Francisco and 89.3 FM in Sacramento), home of *Forum* with Michael Krasny and *The California Report*, is the most-listened-to public radio station in the nation with an award-winning news and public affairs program service. KQED Education Network brings the impact of KQED to thousands of teachers, students, parents and the general public through workshops, community screenings and multimedia resources. KQED Interactive offers video and audio podcasts and live radio stream at www.kqed.org, featuring unique content on one of the most-visited station sites in public broadcasting.