

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2009

***Politics on Film Honors
The Reckoning, 8th Wonderland***
Inaugural fest closes with presentation of four film awards

WASHINGTON – The Reckoning and 8th Wonderland took top honors at the inaugural *Politics on Film* festival in Washington, DC, organizers announced today.

The Reckoning, a Skylight Pictures Production by Paco de Onis and directed by Pamela Yates, won the inaugural fest's award for **Best Documentary**. The film follows the International Criminal Court for three years across four continents as prosecutors build cases against genocidal criminals. Yates announced that the film, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year, will be broadcast on PBS July 14.

The prize for **Best International Film** went to **8th Wonderland**, a provocative feature from France that explores what could happen if a country comprised entirely of citizens that meet together on the Internet begin to engage in political activism. Directed by Nicolas Alberny and Jean Mach, 8th Wonderland made its U.S. premiere at *Politics on Film*.

The festival's Founders Award, for most original presentation of a current political subject, was presented to ***The Other Side of Immigration***. Director Roy Germano interviewed more than 700 Mexican citizens about the causes of migration to the United States and its impact on the Mexican economy and the families left behind.

And Audience Award honors went to ***The Response***, a short film by metro-area natives Adam Rodgers and Sig Libowitz, and was attended by cast members, Aasif Mandvi (*The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*), Kate Mulgrew (*Star Trek: Voyager*) and Peter Riegert (*Animal House*, *The Sopranos*). The Response will receive the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award for Drama and Literature.

The inaugural festival attracted hundreds of filmmakers, lawmakers, and audience members throughout the weekend.

The fest featured Q&A sessions with directors and political and policy experts including former Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, best-selling author

Thomas Frank, and directors including Yates, David Edwards (*Sprawling From Grace*) and Ray Tostevin (*Charlotte: A Royal at War*).

The documentary and international category winners were selected by independent jurors. The Mission Award was chosen by festival board members. The Audience Award was selected by festival pass holders.

The festival also sponsored a competition for the best political advertising created for use on television and the Internet in the 2008 election cycle. The top award for **Best in Show** went to Kim Doyle and Revolution Media Group for their ad "*Tragedy*". Other winners were selected for **Best Long Format Web Video** ("*Man in the Arena*", Justin Germany); **Best Ad Made That Never Aired** ("*Teleprompter*", MH Media); **Most Effective Presentation of an Issue** ("*I Am The Surge*", Stevens & Schriefer Group); **Most Effective Use of Animation/FX/Graphics** ("*Dr. Seuss*", On Message, Inc.); **Most Effective Use of Humor** ("*Interview Devine*", Adelstein / Liston); **Most Effective Comparison Ad** ("*Mistakes*", Strategic Perceptions, Inc.); **Best Ad for a Political Party or Political Philosophy** ("*Surgeon*", On Message, Inc.). Judges for the political ads competition were Democratic strategist Carter Eskew and Republican strategist Mark McKinnon.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Politics on Film: Gayle Osterberg, 202-548-0133

Bipartisan Policy Center: Eileen McMenamin, 202-379-1633

About Politics on Film

Politics on Film is a project of the Washington Political Film Foundation. It is an annual, bipartisan film festival based in Washington DC dedicated to providing a platform for films that tell stories of America's politics and policies. The festival celebrates the power of film to educate and motivate, as well as entertain. The Festival also celebrates the historic and ongoing legacy of films about American government and democracy, as well as related stories and themes from an international perspective. www.politicsonfilm.com.

About the Bipartisan Policy Center

Former U.S. Senate Majority Leaders Howard Baker, Tom Daschle, Bob Dole, and George Mitchell formed the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) in 2007 to develop and promote solutions that can attract the public support and political momentum to achieve real progress. The BPC acts as an incubator for policy efforts that engage top political figures, advocates, academics, and business leaders in the art of principled compromise. For more information please visit our website: www.bipartisanpolicy.org.