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***West Bank Story* Nominated for 2006 Academy Award**
Director to be Considered for “Best Live Action Short Film”

(Los Angeles, CA) -- **January 23rd, 2007** -- Today the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences named *West Bank Story* as one of five nominees for the category of Best Live Action Short Film in 2006.

The 22 minute short by director Ari Sandel is a comedy musical about Israelis and Palestinians that takes place between two falafel stands in the West Bank.

“It’s a fantastic honor to have the film recognized at this level. We set out to make a film that was pro-peace and had a positive message and I think that has really resonated with audiences,” said Sandel.

West Bank Story has been screened in over 112 film festivals and received 25 awards including the “Silver Leopard” from the Lucerne Film Festival and “Best Short” from the St. Louis Film Festival. It made its premiere at the Sundance Film Festival and has also played in the Middle East at the Dubai International Film Festival and the Jerusalem Jewish Film Festival.

Sandel expects the theatrical release of his next project, **Vince Vaughn’s Wild West Comedy Show**, in the Spring of 2007. This feature documentary premiered at the 2006 Toronto Film Festival and follows Vince and four comics from the World Famous Comedy Store as they tour the nation on a 30-city, 30-Day tour bringing Vince Vaughn’s brand of a variety-show to American towns throughout the Heartland.

To obtain a screener DVD of *West Bank Story* or for more information about Ari Sandel go to www.westbankstory.com