



## NEWS RELEASE

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### HELEN HUNT NAMED SHOWEST BREAKTHROUGH DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

#### HUNT TO MAKE HER DIRECTORIAL DEBUT IN THINKFILM'S *THEN SHE FOUND ME*

LOS ANGELES — ShoWest has named **Helen Hunt** ShoWest Breakthrough Director of the Year, it was announced today by Mitch Neuhauser, co-managing director of the event that will be held March 10 -13, 2008 in Las Vegas. Hunt will be presented with her award at the Opening Day Luncheon to be held on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at Bally's and Paris Las Vegas. The focus of this year's luncheon is going to be on the importance of Specialty and Independent films and distribution companies in today's marketplace.

"With such diverse work in theater, television and feature film, Helen Hunt's work in front of the camera is widely known and has garnered her critical acclaim worldwide," noted Neuhauser. "We are thrilled that she has now decided to take her talents behind the lens, making her directorial debut with *Then She Found Me*, which will be screening at our Independent Showcase the night before she receives her honor. ShoWest is honored in its own right to be presenting her with this special Breakthrough Director of the Year Award."

Adapted from Elinor Lipman's novel of the same name, Helen Hunt makes her feature directing debut with *Then She Found Me*. Releasing on April 25, 2008, the film is a touching story of schoolteacher April Epner (Hunt) and her very unlikely path towards personal fulfillment. Following the separation from her husband (Matthew Broderick) and the death of her adopted mother, April is contacted by her apparent birth mother (Bette Midler), who turns out to be a local talk show host, Bernice Graves. As Bernice tries to become the mother to April that she was never able to be, April seems to find solace in the arms of the parent (Colin Firth) of one of her students, only to find that the mystery to life's questions cannot be solved by a simple revelation.

Since making her acting debut on television in 1973, Helen Hunt has gone on to star in made for television movies, television series, feature films and on Broadway. Her work on "Mad About You" garnered her seven Emmy nominations, with four wins, five Golden Globe Awards and a Screen Actors Guild Award. Hunt's most recent film appearances include roles in the ensemble cast *Bobby*, *A Good Woman* co-starring Scarlet Johansson and Tom Wilkinson, the Woody Allen film *The Curse of the Jade Scorpion*, *Pay It Forward* and *What Women Want*. Hunt also received critical acclaim for her portrayal of a single mother in *As Good As It Gets* opposite Jack Nicholson, which garnered her a Golden Globe Award, a Screen Actors Guild Award and an Academy Award® for Best Actress. Additional credits include the films *Twister*, *The Waterdance*, *Kiss of Death*, and the television series "St. Elsewhere", and "China Beach." Hunt has also had great success on the stage starring in such places as Life (x) 3, Been Taken, Our Town, Taming of the Shrew and Twelfth Night.

ShoWest is the largest annual convention for the motion picture industry. It is the only international gathering devoted exclusively to the movie business and the single largest international gathering of motion picture professionals and theatre owners in the world. The 2008 edition of ShoWest will be held March 10 - 13, 2008 at Bally's and Paris Las Vegas and is expected to draw more than 5,000 members of the motion picture industry. Each year, ShoWest attracts delegates from more than 50 countries in North and South America, Europe, Asia and Australia. ShoWest is produced by the Film Group at Nielsen Business Media, the leading trade show producer in the U.S. The Nielsen Business Media Film Group also includes ShowEast, CineAsia, Cinema Expo International and Film Journal International, as well as sister publication, The Hollywood Reporter.

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