

SAN FRANCISCO FILM SOCIETY

WORLD PREMIERE OF *FOG CITY MAVERICKS* AT 50TH SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Documentary Explores the Rich Cultural History of Cinema in San Francisco Bay Area

San Francisco, CA – The milestone 50th San Francisco International Film Festival (April 26 – May 10, 2007) will present the world premiere of *Fog City Mavericks*, directed by Gary Leva, at San Francisco’s historic Castro Theatre at 7:30 pm on Sunday, April 29. A few of the awe-inspiring iconoclastic filmmakers featured in the documentary include Brad Bird, Bruce Conner, Carroll Ballard, Chris Columbus, Clint Eastwood, Francis Ford Coppola, George Lucas, John Korty, John Lasseter, Phil Kaufman, Walter Murch, Sofia Coppola, and Saul Zaentz. George Lucas and several fellow filmmakers will be on stage for the introduction of the film and take part in a Q&A following.

Fog City Mavericks explores and applauds the extraordinary cinematic achievements of San Francisco Bay Area filmmakers, with notable attention to the way in which their lives and work mirror the spirit of invention and independence that makes the Bay Area such a unique cultural and artistic community.

“The Bay Area’s a Shangri La of trailblazing innovation and nowhere is this more true than in the extraordinary group of filmmakers who have called it home in recent generations,” said Graham Leggat, San Francisco Film Society executive director. “We are thrilled to world premiere the superb documentary with George Lucas and other Bay Area lions in attendance.”

Cinema was, arguably, invented in San Francisco, by Eadweard Muybridge, who converted still photographs of racehorses into a motion sequence as well as inventing the zoopraxiscope, a device for projecting motion pictures. Beginning with Muybridge, *Fog City Mavericks* acknowledges numerous other early pioneers—including Charlie Chaplin, who developed his craft at the Essanay Studio in Niles in the East Bay before relocating to Hollywood—in a long swoop up to the present day.

The spirit of cutting-edge innovation that characterizes the work of Bay Area filmmakers is part and parcel of the maverick approach that drives San Francisco’s creative output from the literature of the Beats to the technological revolutions of Silicon Valley. *Fog City Mavericks* examines the way that the DNA of San Francisco affects and reflects the lives and work of its artists.

George Lucas will also be the recipient of the one-time-only **Irving “Bud” Levin Award** to be presented at the Gala Awards Night of the 50th International. The Levin Award, named after the founder of the San Francisco International Film Festival, honors a man who has a deep appreciation for movies as an art form; a recognition of the important role that San Francisco plays in the world of art and cinema; a flair for innovation and entrepreneurship; a spirit of adventure and passion for community. San Francisco has played an important role in Lucas’s career and his commitment to San Francisco has engendered a vast filmmaking community in the Bay Area. **Film Society Awards Night** will take place on **Thursday, May 3** at the Westin St. Francis Hotel.

