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**SONY PICTURES CLASSICS ACQUIRES WORLD WIDE RIGHTS TO SUNDANCE'S
COMPETITION FILM "MY KID COULD PAINT THAT"**

Compelling Sundance hit documentary explores a child art prodigy and the mystery
behind her works

Park City, UT. January 22, 2007. It was announced today that Sony Pictures Classics has picked up world wide rights to the Sundance Documentary Competition film, "MY KID COULD PAINT THAT" from producer/director Amir Bar-Lev. Executive Produced by John Battsek, ("One Day In September") the film follows the story of the internationally renowned 4-year old artist Marla Olmstead, whose abstract paintings sold for hundreds of thousands of dollars before her father was accused of secretly having a hand in the work.

"MY KID COULD PAINT THAT" is the follow up to Bar-Lev's directorial debut, the documentary "Fighter," (2000) which received awards at the Hamptons Film Festival, Newport Film Festival, Galway Film Festival, Karlovy Vary Film Festival and was named one of the top documentaries of 2001 by Newsweek, Rolling Stone, and the Village Voice. In his new documentary, Bar-Lev explores such diverse issues as child prodigies, the making of celebrities, the public's skepticism about modern art, and the ethics of documentary filmmaking. Marla Olmstead, the bashful little girl from Binghamton, New York, rocketed from total obscurity to international fame and sold more than \$300,000 worth of paintings. Marla was compared to Kandinsky, Pollock, and even Picasso and her work captured the imagination of the world. But when the press turned against the Olmstead family, the making of the documentary itself became a point of contention, and Bar-Lev found himself drawn into his own story.

Sony Pictures Classics released the following statement: "This is a very beautiful and exhilarating film about so much: children, their parents, the value of art, and the nature of truth in all its guises. This is also a movie with major commercial possibilities. We couldn't be more pleased to be working with Amir, John Battsek, Josh Braun of Submarine, and Micah Green."

"It's a great thrill to be working with Tom, Michael and Dylan and the team at Sony Pictures Classics. Their appreciation of our film and desire to ensure it finds the widest possible cinema audience is incredibly

exciting. It is also thrilling for all of us at Passion Pictures to be back working with the company who distributed our first feature doc "One Day In September," said John Battsek of Passion Pictures Productions.

"I was deeply moved by Sony Pictures Classics' enthusiasm for "My Kid Could Paint That," comments writer/director Amir Bar-Lev. "I look forward to partnering with them in bringing this story to a wide audience."

The deal was brokered on behalf of the filmmakers by Josh Braun of Submarine, Micah Green of CAA and attorney Craig Emanuel of Loeb and Loeb.

In a deal announced prior to Sundance, A&E IndieFilms picked up North American TV rights and became an equity investor in the film. As an equity partner, A&E benefits from the theatrical deal and will provide the flexibility to allow the film to go through Sony's pay TV output deal.

AXIS Films is the production entity of Amir Bar-Lev. Bar-Lev's feature directorial debut, *Fighter*, won 6 international awards and was named one of the top documentaries of the year by *Newsweek*, *The Rolling Stone*, and *The Village Voice*. *Fighter* was released theatrically in the fall of 2001, and broadcast on IFC. Bar-Lev has since directed several award winning documentary and narrative shorts, including *New Orleans Furlough*, and *Chris Donahoe: Independent Filmmaker*. Bar-Lev has also produced numerous television programs for VH1, Sundance Channel, SpikeTV, MTV, and The Weather Channel.

A&E IndieFilms is the feature documentary production arm of A&E Networks. A&E IndieFilms acquires, commissions and provides finishing funds for feature documentaries. The strand has been aggressively forming innovative partnerships with theatrical distributors including ThinkFilm on *Murderball*, Magnolia Pictures on *Jesus Camp* and Newmarket Films on *Rock School*. Key to the A&E IndieFilms strategy is to support the theatrical run before airing on A&E.

A&E IndieFilms presents "MY KID COULD PAINT THAT" in association with Axis Films, Inc/Passion Pictures Productions and The BBC. Written and Directed by Amir Bar-Lev. Executive Producer: John Battsek of Passion Pictures Productions. Co-Executive Producer: Andrew Ruhemann. Produced by Amir Bar-Lev of Axis Film, Inc. Co-Producer: Stephen Dunn. Cinematographers: Matt Boyd, Nelson Hume and Bill Turnley. Editors: John Walter and Michael Levine. U.S.A., 2006, 81 Minutes. Color & B/W.

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