



BC - Ontario Coproduction **YEAR OF THE CARNIVORE** Opens Toronto International Film Festival's Canada First Programme

(Vancouver -- August 10, 2009) Producer **Trish Dolman** of **Screen Siren Pictures** is pleased to announce the romantic-comedy-drama, **YEAR OF THE CARNIVORE**, about a girl with an unrequited crush on a boy who thinks she's bad in bed, so she tries to get more "experience", has been chosen to open the **Toronto International Film Festival's Canada First Programme**. It's the full length directorial debut of **Sook-Yin Lee** (*Shortbus*), musician, filmmaker, actor and media personality, and features the stunning break out performance by **Cristin Milioti** (*The Sopranos*) in the lead role of "Sammy Smalls".

SAMMY SMALLS is a 21-year-old tomboy who works as a store detective at Big Apple Food Town, and is also head over heels for scruffy street musician Eugene Zaslavsky. After a disastrous one-night stand, Eugene suggests they play the field to get more experience. Following his advice, Sammy hatches a plan that catapults her through her neighbours' bedroom, to the public swimming pool and finally to blackmailing shoplifters into giving her sex lessons in the woods behind the supermarket.

YEAR OF THE CARNIVORE also stars **Mark Rendall** (*Childstar*) as "Eugene", **Ali Liebert** (*Harper's Island*) as "Sylvia", **Sheila McCarthy** (*Little Mosque on the Prairie*) and **Kevin McDonald** (*Kids in the Hall*) as Sammy's parents, **Will Sasso** (*MADtv*) as "Dirk", **Eugene Lipinski** as Eugene's Dad, and **Linda Uyehara Hoffman** as "Ms. Nakamura".

The British Columbia-Ontario co-venture is produced by **Trish Dolman** (*FLOWER & GARNET*) of Screen Siren Pictures along with **Simone Urdl** and **Jennifer Weiss** of Toronto's **The Film Farm** (*AWAY FROM HER, ADORATION, REDACTED, CHLOE*), and with co-producer **Kryssta Mills** (*SHELTERED LIFE*). **E1 Entertainment Canada** releases the movie in Canada.

Throughout Sook-Yin Lee's career, the former MuchMusic VJ and current CBC Radio 1 host has demonstrated the ability to tap into the mainstream while addressing taboos in her work. From her starring turn in the groundbreaking adventurous sex comedy, *SHORTBUS*, to writing and directing **YEAR OF THE CARNIVORE**, Sook-Yin Lee continues down a provocative path tackling difficult ideas with a lightness that makes them accessible in a unique way.

On storytelling, Lee says: "When I try to write something funny, it turns serious. When I try to write something serious, it's funny. Tragedy and comedy are the flip sides of the same beastie. Year of the Carnivore is a learning to love story. The people who inhabit the world of Carnivore are walking contradictions. They're lovable and flawed. They try their best and make a lot of mistakes." Lee adds, "I'm interested in exploring the tender and raw experiences of sexuality - the woman confronting herself naked before she takes a shower, before the armor goes on."



YEAR OF THE CARNIVORE features an original score by Sook-Yin Lee, Buck 65 and Adam Litovitz. The soundtrack features songs by Betty Davis, The Walkmen, Shogu Tokumaru, Yegor Letov, Modern Creatures, Aidan Baker and more, spanning some of the best in American, Canadian, and Russian independent music. (Soon to be released on Last Gang Records).

E1 ENTERTAINMENT CANADA presents a SCREEN SIREN PICTURES production in co-production with THE FILM FARM, a film by SOOK-YIN LEE "YEAR OF THE CARNIVORE". Produced and Developed with the participation of Telefilm Canada, produced with the participation of The Province of British Columbia Film Incentive BC. Developed and Produced in association with Movie Central, A Corus Entertainment Company. Produced in association with The Movie Network an Astral Media Network. Produced with the participation of the Ontario Film and Television Tax Credit, the Ontario Media Development Corporation, and the Government of Canada Film or Video Production Tax Credit Program. Development and Marketing Support provided by British Columbia Film.

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