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Pernilla August's directing debut "Beyond", starring Noomi Rapace, to compete in Critics' Week at the Venice film festival

Rome 22 July 2010 – Palme-d'or winning actress **Pernilla August** will present her directorial debut in a world premiere at the 67th Venice Film Festival. Swedish film "Beyond" is the only Nordic feature film among the seven titles in the prestigious Critics' Week line-up, unveiled Thursday at a press-conference in Rome. "Beyond" competes for the Luigi de Laurentiis Debut Award consisting of 100.000 USD and the International Film Critics' Week –Regione del Veneto Award of 5000 Euros.

Pernilla August, highly acclaimed for her work with Ingmar Bergman, Bille August, Liv Ullmann, George Lucas, Per Fly, Bo Widerberg, among others, makes her debut as a feature film director with "Beyond". The film is based on the best-selling Swedish novel *Svinalängorna* by Susanna Alakoski and tells the story of a young woman's confrontation with her dramatic childhood, of her grief and the struggle to move on.

Celebrated Swedish actress **Noomi Rapace** stars in the leading role as Leena. "Beyond" is Rapace's first feature film after her performance as Lisbeth Salander in the enormous global hit "The Millennium Trilogy". "Beyond" is Rapace's first appearance on screen opposite her husband, actor **Ola Rapace**. The stellar cast is rounded out by acknowledged Finnish actors **Ville Virtanen** and **Outi Mäenpää**. Leena as a child is played by the rising star **Tehilla Blad**, also featured in the Millennium Trilogy.

"I am moved and deeply honoured to have been selected by the Critics' Week at the Venice Film Festival, I can hardly believe it! One thing I know for certain; we would never have made it without the enormous support that I received, and the collective effort that went into making this production. I feel proud, happy and deeply honoured," says **Pernilla August**. "Nineteen years ago I played "Nora" in "A Doll's House" directed by Ingmar

Bergman in Venice... It's going to be incredibly exciting to return to that wonderful city as a first-time director."

"Beyond" is produced by **Helena Danielsson** (Hepp film), and **Ralf Karlsson** (Drakfilm). Helena Danielsson also produced "A rational solution" selected for Critic's week 2009, starring Pernilla August.

Co-producers: Helle Ulsteen/Kamoli Films (DK), Tero Kaukomaa/Blind SpotPictures (FI), Lone Korslund, Mikael Frisell/Nordisk Film, Ralf Ivarsson/Film i Skåne, Gunnar Carlsson/SVT, Nordsvensk Filmunderhållning 7/Lars Nilsson

Supported by: SFI/Peter "Piodor" Gustafsson, DFI/Molly Malene Stensgaard, FFF/Kaisu Isto, YLE/Erkki Astala, NFTF/Hanne Palmquist, MEDIA Programme
International sales: Trust Nordisk

The 67th Venice Film Festival will be held from September 1-11, 2010.

For high-res photos and further information please see:

www.heppfilm.se/beyond