



**Writers Guild of Canada Congratulates Member Sarah Polley:  
Nominated for Academy Award® for Best Adapted Screenplay**

**For Immediate Release**

**January 23, 2008 – Toronto** – Yesterday's Academy Award® nomination of Sarah Polley in the Best Writing category for *Away From Her* is a remarkable achievement for the young screenwriter who was recognized last April with the WGC's Canadian Screenwriting Award for Best Feature.

"At just 29, Ms. Polley has already distinguished herself with a long list of accomplishments," says Maureen Parker, Executive Director, Writers Guild of Canada. "*Away From Her* is her first full-length feature screenplay. Imagine coming out of the gate with a script that shines like this – I'm certain we have much to look forward to from this hugely talented Canadian screenwriter. I sincerely hope the studios offer a fair deal to the striking American screenwriters so that Sarah can celebrate fully this well-deserved honour."

*Away From Her* received partial financing from Telefilm Canada, which – with the Canadian Television Fund (CTF) – are major supports for the development of Canadian film and television talent.

"We need to strengthen these programs," added Ms. Parker, "in order to assure that talented screenwriters like Ms. Polley and others can work in Canada and contribute to a vibrant cultural sector. The award nomination is further evidence that Canadian screenwriters telling Canadian stories will resonate with audiences internationally."

Ms. Polley's Best Writing nomination is the second time a WGC-contracted production received a Best Writing nod from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences - a distinction usually reserved for studio-backed American films. Atom Egoyan was nominated for *The Sweet Hereafter* in 1997. Other WGC members have been nominated in other categories. Canadian screenwriters have a solid history of quality, award-winning work. The WGC has celebrated that quality for 11 years at the annual Canadian Screenwriting Awards.

For more information, please contact David Kinahan, Director of Communications, Writers Guild of Canada, at 416-979-7907 or 1-800-567-9974, or by email at [d.kinahan@wgc.ca](mailto:d.kinahan@wgc.ca)

The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) represents more than 1,800 English-language professional screenwriters across Canada who create the distinctly Canadian entertainment we enjoy on our televisions, movie screens, radios and computers – such as dramatic TV series and movies, feature films, documentaries, animation programs, comedy and variety series, children's and educational programming, radio drama, corporate videos and digital media productions.

-30-