

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TZE CHUN'S "CHILDREN OF INVENTION" TO SCREEN IN  
PUMA EMERGING FILMMAKER COMPETITION AT HIFF**

**Award-Winning Sundance Feature Produced By Former Hawaii Film Office Member Mynette Louie To Screen At The Hawaii International Film Festival**

Honolulu, HI - Tze Chun's CHILDREN OF INVENTION, one of the best-reviewed and most-awarded films of the year, will screen at the Hawaii International Film Festival as part of its Emerging Filmmaker Competition sponsored by Puma. The film had its world premiere at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival, and won Grand Jury Prizes for Best Narrative Feature at the Independent Film Festival Boston, Newport International Film Festival, and Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, as well as Special Jury Prizes at the Sarasota, Nashville, Los Angeles Asian Pacific, and San Francisco International Asian American Film Festivals.

In CHILDREN OF INVENTION, two young children living outside Boston are left to fend for themselves when their hardworking mother gets embroiled in a Ponzi scheme and disappears. The film is Chun's debut feature and is loosely based on his own Sundance 2007 short film, WINDOWBREAKER, which earned him a spot on Filmmaker Magazine's annual "25 New Faces of Independent Film" list.

The film also takes inspiration from Chun's own childhood in Boston's suburbs. Says Chun, "When I was little, my sister and I followed my mother to countless pyramid seminars. The film is a personal story about the world I grew up in a subculture of immigrant and working class Americans trying to get-rich-quick in order to get themselves out of a financial hole. I didn't foresee the current financial crisis. But with the economy the way it is now, it seems like everyone's living through some version of what the family in the film goes through."

The film was produced by Mynette Louie, a kama'aina who co-produced MUTUAL APPRECIATION and previously worked at the Hawaii Film Office, where she authored the 15-20% refundable tax credit and wrote the Hawaii Film Blog. The film stars Cindy Cheung (LADY IN THE WATER) and newcomers Michael Chen, age 10, and Crystal Chiu, age 8. It was shot by Chris Teague (MAN, THE SECOND LINE, SALT KISS); edited by Anna Boden (HALF NELSON, SUGAR); scored by T. Griffin (A WALK INTO THE SEA); cast by Susan Shopmaker (AFTERSCHOOL, GREAT WORLD OF SOUND, SHORTBUS); and co-produced by Trevor Sagan, Dave Saltzman, and Sheila Dvorak.

CHILDREN OF INVENTION was financed by Sasquatch Films and Impact Partners. It is the first narrative film to be financed by Impact Partners, whose partners have funded socially conscious documentaries such as Oscar winners BORN INTO BROTHELS and FREEHELD, Emmy winner GHOSTS OF ABU GHRAIB, and recent releases NO IMPACT MAN and THE GARDEN.

The Boston Phoenix calls the film "powerfully moving and rigorously intelligent." The Boston Globe's Ty Burr said the film is a "deeply felt drama." Spout's Karina Longworth said the film is "an edge-of-your-seat family drama, pushed beyond the constraints of its micro-budget by two heartbreaking child actor performances." The Film Society of Lincoln Center said the film is "As close to cinematic purity as one is likely to see this year." And Hammer to Nail's Michael Tully wrote that the film "marks the emergence of

a refreshing new voice in the cluttered indie landscape."

The filmmakers have been capitalizing on the film's critical acclaim and press attention to pioneer self-distribution strategies such as selling DVDs while the film plays on the festival circuit. "Independent film distribution is undergoing a sea change right now. No distribution offer out of Sundance made financial sense to our investors, so we decided to use a hybrid self-distribution approach selling DVDs at our festival screenings and from our site while using our festival run as a part of our theatrical run," says producer Mynette Louie. "Audiences consume media in very different ways than they used to, so we're trying to adapt our thinking about how to distribute films now. So far it's been very successful. We hope that other filmmakers will be able to use us as a case study in the future."

The filmmakers say that their gross receipts to date have exceeded the typical distributor advance offered to independent films like CHILDREN OF INVENTION. They plan to share data and tips with other filmmakers on their website, [www.childrenofinvention.com](http://www.childrenofinvention.com), as they move forward in their DIY experiment.

Writer-director Tze Chun and producers Mynette Louie and Trevor Sagan will be in attendance at the festival. Screening times are:

Mon, 10/19 @ 7:00pm @ Dole Cannery Theatres, 735 Iwilei Rd, Honolulu  
Wed, 10/21 @ 1:15pm @ Dole Cannery Theatres, 735 Iwilei Rd, Honolulu

Buy tickets:

[http://hawaii.bside.com/2009/films/childrenofinvention\\_hawaii2009](http://hawaii.bside.com/2009/films/childrenofinvention_hawaii2009)

For more information on the film, visit: [www.childrenofinvention.com](http://www.childrenofinvention.com).

To schedule an interview with the filmmakers, email [info@childrenofinvention.com](mailto:info@childrenofinvention.com).

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