



London, 30 January 2006

**FIRST-EVER PALESTINIAN ACADEMY NOMINEE PLAYS
10TH HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

March 15-25, 2006

Curzon Mayfair, The Ritzy, ICA, Gate Cinema, Clapham Picturehouse,
Greenwich Picturehouse

www.hrw.org/iff

Paradise Now (Netherlands/Germany/France 2005) the first ever **Palestinian film** to be nominated for an **Academy Award for Best Foreign Film**, and win **Golden Globe Best Foreign Film**, will play at the 10th Human Rights Watch Film Festival in March. Directed by festival favourite **Hany Abu-Assad** (*Nazareth 2000*, *Ford Transit*, *Rana's Wedding*), *Paradise Now* is filmed exclusively in the Palestinian territories, it is the story of two Palestinian childhood friends who have been recruited for an attack on Tel Aviv and focuses on their last days together.

A second festival title ***Iraq In Fragments*** (USA 2006) has also enjoyed festival success at the **Sundance Film Festival 2006** in recent days. Winning **Best Documentary Direction, Cinematography, Editing**, James Longley's cinema vérité style ***Iraq in Fragments*** is culled from 300 hours of footage and provides a striking and rarely seen portrait of a broken population. His film is more than an accomplished documentary – it is an astonishing work of art which stunningly conveys realities for Iraqi citizens in Baghdad, the Shiite south and the Kurdish north.

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