

Joseph Cedar's powerful anti-war statement finds world sales representation in Bavaria

Bavaria boards Israel's "Beaufort" before Berlinale competition

(Munich, January 30, 2007) Bavaria Film International, the Munich-based world sales company, has added the third film from Israeli filmmaker Joseph Cedar ("Campfire", "Time of Favor"), as a flag-ship film to its Berlinale slate. **BEAUFORT** is based on the true events that occurred at the iconic Beaufort Castle in the South of Lebanon in the months before the withdrawal of Israeli troops in 2000. It is the true story of Liraz Liberti, the 22 year-old outpost commander, and the gripping cinematographic account of fear and the pointlessness of war as we witness the mental and physical disintegration of a boy soldier's state holding a fortress for dubious reasons.

Produced by **Metro Communications** in cooperation with **United King Films** and **Movie Plus**, the film is already being tipped to become one of the most observed and significant films at the Berlin International Film Festival 2007 (February 8–18). **BEAUFORT** will premiere in the second half of the event, with the director and cast attending along with parents of some of the actual soldiers killed at the Beaufort outpost in those final months. Writer, director, and former infantry soldier, Joseph Cedar has been praised as an Israeli filmmaker with a distinctive voice and a clear individual approach, both his previous films having been picked as Israel's entry to the Academy Awards. **BEAUFORT** is now his adaptation of the novel of the same name by award-winning journalist Ron Leshem.

"**BEAUFORT** is not only an important film coming from Israel at this time with regards to its subject matter, but it is also, first and foremost, a powerful film and cinematic experience. I like the fact that no enemy is seen and no particular guilt is addressed, but rather that we get into the claustrophobic and surreal state within this fortress with a prevalent feeling of danger and threat," says Thorsten Ritter, Head of Bavaria Film International. "I am certain it will convince buyers and critics alike and will also play well with the Berlinale audience, and I hope we will be able to establish a true partnership with the producers and this gifted and strong-minded filmmaker."