

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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rup•ture (*n.*): an agenda for change advanced by underground graffiti cultures, calling for the challenge of political, social, sexual and moral conventions leading to revolution and societal reform.

THE GRAFFITI ARTIST

Coming Exclusively to DVD on May 3, 2005

This Stunning Second Feature From James Bolton
Explodes the Culture of Urban Taggers
With A Moving Portrait of Alienation and Passion

“Achingly romantic and dirt real” — John Cameron Mitchell

“JEANNE DIELMAN for the tagger crowd...sweetly comical and totally heartrending” — Lynne Rapoport, San Francisco Bay Guardian

“...a beautiful, lyrical film, fresh and new, startlingly political” — HoBO Magazine

LOS ANGELES, CA—Indie-Pictures is proud to announce its inaugural DVD release, James Bolton’s acclaimed tagger drama **THE GRAFFITI ARTIST**. The film, which had its World Premiere at the 2004 Berlinale and screened at major international and domestic film festivals, follows the life of Nick, a young solo tagger expressing himself through spray paint on an urban canvas of brick whose life is ruptured by the friendship of another young tagger. Packed with bonus features, **THE GRAFFITI ARTIST** hits stores on Tuesday, May 3 with a pre-order date of Tuesday, April 12. **THE GRAFFITI ARTIST** will have a Suggested Retail Price of \$29.95. Retailers may order **THE GRAFFITI ARTIST** by contacting Indie-Pictures at 310-289-9595 or info@indie-pictures.com. And, individual consumers may order the DVD directly at www.TheGraffitiArtist.com or at quality independent DVD and music retailers.

Adrift in the lush, nocturnal urban landscape of **THE GRAFFITI ARTIST**, Nick (Ruben Bansi-Snellman) is a post-modern urban hero asserting his anarchistic agenda on the endless maze of virgin exterior walls that comprise downtown Seattle and Portland. For this iconoclastic young visionary, the vast wall surfaces of deserted alleys and train yards are at once a daunting symbol of capitalist oppression and a texturally rich, seamless tableau ripe for exploitation to amplify his artistic dialectic of anger and rebellion.

(over)

THE GRAFFITI ARTIST Debuts on DVD on May 3, 2005

With a virtually anonymous existence evidenced only by his tagging and "rupture the system" manifesto, Nick's prodigious solo graffiti output is interrupted by friendship with Jesse (Pepper Fajans), another young tagger. Communicating almost exclusively through their tagging, Nick and Jesse's enormous collaborative murals appear to emerge as the unmistakable offspring of their kindred spirit. But eventually, their assumptions about one another are challenged and disproved, and, as political, emotional and ethical issues arise between them, their relationship dissolves into the background of urban detritus.

THE GRAFFITI ARTIST probes deep into the consciousness of the tagger and graffiti artist sub-cultures. As a consequence of his self-inflicted exile from mainstream society, Nick is afloat in a miasma of ethical, professional, sexual and moral conflicts which confront him and demand response and resolution through direct experience. The poignancy of an individual's struggle to survive and communicate in a manner that challenges social conventions is at the heart of the film's spirit and is a resonant theme throughout the history of great art.

THE GRAFFITI ARTIST is written and directed by James Bolton, who previously directed the controversial tale of taboo love, EBAN & CHARLEY, which was hailed as "...a demonically pensive, Ingmar Bergmanesque work..." by celebrated director Gus Van Sant. EBAN & CHARLEY had an acclaimed theatrical release in 2001 and is currently available on DVD. Bolton's other films include the short films GROWING UP AND I'M FINE and DENNIS COOPER, a biographical study of the mercurial avant-garde author and cult icon.

Aficionados of cutting-edge hip-hop and electronica music have already embraced THE GRAFFITI ARTIST, which features an award-winning original score by Kid Loco, one of Europe's most popular and beloved DJs. Kid Loco is well known for his remix work with such celebrated indie and electronica artists as Mogwai, Pulp, St. Etienne. Thievery Corporation, Underworld, Lisa Germano, and more. Haunting tonalities with an ethnic edge set to trance-like rhythms impart a sense of almost primordial timelessness to the uniquely memorable aural experience.

Luscious, masterfully composed visuals from award-winning cinematographer Sarah Levy explore a world of richly textured urban surfaces which redefine the film's gritty, commonplace city vignettes as compellingly exotic, an art world demi-monde.

The DVD edition of THE GRAFFITI ARTIST will include several bonus features, allowing viewers to enter the world of taggers. In addition to photo galleries and biographies, the DVD will include over 20 minutes of interviews with Bolton and his lead actors on making the film and taking it around the world. The DVD will also feature a letterboxed transfer of the film and 5.1 surround sound.

THE GRAFFITI ARTIST is the inaugural DVD release from Indie-Pictures, a new DVD label and theatrical distribution company based in Los Angeles specializing in independent film.

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www.thegraffitiartist.com

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rupture the system