



PRESSMEDDELANDE 6 MAY

Stockholm Visionary Award to Gus Van Sant

The Stockholm International Film Festival is proud to present this year's recipient of the Stockholm Visionary Award – director Gus Van Sant. He will attend the festival in November to receive the award, meet the audience at a special Face2Face and host an exclusive Master class.

– It is a dream come true to have Gus Van Sant visit the Festival. His films and visions of an alternative America is a celebration of film art and have been a part of the Stockholm Film Festival for twenty years, says Festival Director Git Scheynius.

Gus Van Sant was born in 1952 in Louisville, Kentucky and is one of modern cinema's greatest American directors. He is known for his poetic vision and for his ability to get authentic and unforgettable performances out of his actors regardless if they are Hollywood stars as Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn or teenage amateurs.

His career started in underground circles but Mr. Van Sant soon made himself a name as a director that could easily steer both independent films with poetic vision such as *Drugstore Cowboy* and *Last Days* as well as bigger productions like *Good Will Hunting* and *Milk*, without losing his personal style. He is also an acknowledged photographer and has published the book *108 Portraits* that depict the same disconnected and misunderstood youths that inhabit his films.

Mr. Van Sant has been one of the Festival's favorite directors through out its twenty-year history. From *My Own Private Idaho* that competed for the Bronze Horse in 1991 and *Elephant* that closed the Festival in 2003 to *Paranoid Park* in 2007. But also as supporter of new talent and producer for *Tarnation* by Jonathan Caouette and *Wild Tigers I Have Known* by Cam Archer.

Gus Van Sant at the Stockholm International Film Festival

1991 My Own Private Idaho
1995 To Die For
1997 Allen Ginsberg's Ballad of the Skeletons
2003 Elephant
2007 Paris Je T'aime
2007 Paranoid Park

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For more information visit www.stockholmfilmfestival.se or contact the press department!

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21st Stockholm International Film Festival November 17-28 2010

*The Stockholm International Film Festival started in 1990 and is today one of the leading competitive film festivals in Europe. The festival takes place every year in November with more than 180 films from more than 50 countries. More than a festival: we organize exclusive screenings and the popular Summer Cinema - an outdoor mini-festival. Every year in April the Stockholm International Film Festival Junior brings the latest films to youngsters between 6 and 16 years of age. **WE LOVE FILM!***