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KASSIM THE DREAM DAZZLES 2008 TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL
Kief Davidson's Knockout Doc Makes World Premiere in Competition on April 25

April 7, 2008 (New York, NY) — Acclaimed filmmaker Kief Davidson (*Devil's Miner*) returns to the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival (April 23-May 4, 2008) with his latest feature documentary KASSIM THE DREAM, which makes its world premiere in the World Documentary Feature Competition on April 25. See below for complete screening schedule.

Executive produced by Forest Whitaker, Davidson's compelling new documentary follows the life of World Champion boxer Kassim "The Dream" Ouma, who beat unbelievable odds and escaped his tragic past as an enslaved Ugandan child soldier to rise to stardom in America. Kassim Ouma was born in war-torn Uganda in 1978. In 1984, at the age of six, he was kidnapped from his school and drafted into the rebel army during the "bush war." For nearly his entire childhood Ouma was forced to torture, kill, and commit other inhumane atrocities. While training in the rebel army's boxing team Ouma discovered his talent and passion for the sport. Boxing became his only spiritual resource, his only tool for survival. An international military boxing competition would take Ouma to the United States, where he would later defect to escape 12 years of warfare. With little means of supporting himself, a tentative grasp of the English language, and a death penalty for desertion waiting for him back home, Ouma embraced the daunting challenge of making a life and a career for himself in America. He immersed himself in the boxing world and through tireless work and dedication he quickly rose through the ranks to become the Junior Middleweight Champion of the World. By all appearances, the charismatic, bright, and affable Ouma, now age 29, is the embodiment of the American Dream.

Captured in vivid cinema verité, KASSIM THE DREAM is an evocative film that uncovers the heart and soul of Ouma's remarkable story. Given unprecedented access, Davidson delves deep inside the life of this complex man and delivers a personal, unflinching account of a boy turned mercenary turned champion. At once vulnerable and invincible, Ouma opens up and shares the painful experiences of a childhood spent on the frontlines of brutal bloodshed. He remains haunted by his former life and struggles to reconcile his desire to return to Africa with his dream to make a better life for his family here in America. Ten long years pass before the Ugandan president grants Ouma permission to return home, where he still faces charges for desertion. Establishing a genuine rapport and trust, Davidson accompanies a wary yet joyful Ouma on his dangerous journey back to Uganda, where he hopes to bury the demons from his past and reclaim his heritage. Davidson's skillful and sensitive eye becomes a firsthand witness to the emotional and surprising events that unfold as Ouma retraces the treacherous path that led him from the death-ridden trenches to the land of opportunity. More than a document of the life a former child soldier, KASSIM THE DREAM is a revelatory voyage that tells a timely story of hope and humanity.

A native of New York, Kief Davidson is an award-winning feature film and documentary director. His previous film, *The Devil's Miner* made its world premiere at the 2005 Rotterdam Film Festival and won over a dozen awards at international film festivals including Tribeca, Hot Docs, Chicago, Woodstock, Jerusalem, and Mexico City. Davidson received the prestigious DGA Award nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Documentary Directing and won the coveted PBS Independent Lens Audience Award. He has also directed and produced documentaries for The Discovery Channel, ABC News, PBS, ARTE and A&E. As a narrative filmmaker, Davidson wrote and directed the dark comedy, *Minor Details*, an independent feature film starring Peter Sarsgaard and Larry Pine. He began his filmmaking career in 1993 as editor on the Academy Award-nominated documentary, *Blood Ties: The Life and Work of Sally Mann*. He is the recipient of two Emmy nominations for his work with National Geographic and earned the International Monitor Award for Best Editing on the journalistic film, *What's News?*

TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL SCREENING TIMES:

WORLD PREMIERE- Friday, April 25, 6:00 pm, Village East Cinemas, 181 Second Avenue (at 12th Street)
Saturday, April 26, 3:00 pm, AMC 19th Street East, 890 Broadway (at 19th Street)

PRESS/INDUSTRY- Sunday, April 27, 12:30 pm, AMC Village VII, 66 Third Avenue (at 11th Street)
Sunday, April 27, 4:30 pm, Village East Cinemas, 181 Second Avenue (at 12th Street)
Sunday, April 27, 10:30 pm, AMC Village VII, 66 Third Avenue (at 11th Street)
Tuesday, April 29, 6:30 pm, AMC Village VII, 66 Third Avenue (at 11th Street)

PRESS/INDUSTRY- Tuesday, April 30, 9:45 am, Village East Cinemas, 181 Second Avenue (at 12th Street)
Saturday, May 3, 6:30 pm, AMC 19th Street East, 890 Broadway (at 19th Street)

EDITORS AND PRODUCERS:

For press inquiries or to arrange an interview with Kief Davidson or Kassim Ouma, please contact Wellington Love at wellingtonlove@15minutespr.com or t: 212.366.4992. More information at www.kassimthedream.com