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**WARREN MILLER ENTERTAINMENT RETURNS TO BEND TO CAPTURE BIG AIR
FOOTAGE FOR 2008 WORLD FILM TOUR**

**Country's Top Terrain Park Designer and Bend Resident Pat Malendoski Creates
Custom 75-foot Features for Riders and Film Crew**

(BEND, Ore.)—With more than 560 inches of snowfall this year at Mt. Bachelor, Warren Miller Entertainment film crews have returned to Bend as scheduled for a final film session to capture big air footage for Bend's feature segment in WME's 2008 Warren Miller Film Tour.

Local snowboarders Josh Dirksen and Benn Watts have been joined by Winter X-Games Medalist and accomplished slopestyle skier Sammy Carlson of Tigard, Ore., for a week of filming on a series of custom-designed terrain features at Mt. Bachelor. Carlson joins Dirksen, Watts and surfing legend Gerry Lopez as the four riders who will be featured in Bend's 2008 feature segment.

For the big air segment, Warren Miller Entertainment has engaged the services of Pat Malendoski of Planet Snow Design to create a series of super-sized custom terrain features that top out at approximately 75 feet. Malendoski, also a Bend resident, is recognized as the country's top terrain park designer and Planet Snow Design is responsible for planning and construction of many of the industry's top snowboarding venues such as the US Open, High Cascade Snowboard Camp, The Session at Vail, the Grand Prix Series, and the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Superpipe.

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“The Warren Miller film crews have captured incredible footage of Bend and Mt. Bachelor throughout the winter, and the big air and terrain park footage they’re now filming will round out the picture nicely,” said Doug LaPlaca, president and CEO of the Bend Visitor & Convention Bureau. “When finished, this segment will be a compelling showcase of Bend’s world class winter offerings to a national and international audience.”

The effort to secure Warren Miller Entertainment’s inclusion of Bend, Mt. Bachelor and Central Oregon in their 2008 feature film was a cooperative effort led by the Bend Visitor & Convention Bureau with support from Travel Oregon, Mt. Bachelor and the LibertyBank Bend WinterFest. As part of the agreement, the Bend Visitor & Convention Bureau will have rights to use all footage shot for the segment in future marketing and promotional efforts.

When complete, Warren Miller Entertainment’s 2008 film will be screened to an audience of more than 300,000 people, with more than 400 showings in more than 200 U.S. cities including the country’s top 30 markets. An estimated audience of 500,000 international viewers will attend screenings in other countries across the globe. Following the theatrical tour, the film is distributed on DVD, Pay-Per-View and Warren Miller TV.

About the Bend Visitor & Convention Bureau:

The Bend Visitor & Convention Bureau is a non-membership, non-profit economic development organization dedicated to promoting tourism on behalf of the City of Bend. For more information or to order a complimentary Official Visitor’s Guide to Bend, contact the Bend Visitor & Convention Bureau at 1-800-949-6086 or visit www.visitbend.com.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are brief bios on each rider featured in the Bend segment of Warren Miller Entertainment's 2008 Warren Miller Film Tour.

Josh Dirksen: A long-time Oregonian who grew up in Creswell and moved to Bend in 1995, 31-year-old Josh Dirksen is as accomplished at all-mountain riding as he is in the terrain parks and half pipes. Dirksen gained notoriety in 2001, when he landed a one-footed backflip at the ESPN Winter X Games. In 2007, Dirksen conducted the inaugural Dirksen Derby, a fund-raiser for the Tyler Eklund Fund. Dirksen has a strong background in snowboard films, including two years filming with Robot Food and three years with Mack Dawg.

Ben Watts: At 14 years of age, Bend native Ben Watts is the youngest of the athletes to be featured in Bend's segment. Already a veteran of Warren Miller Entertainment productions, Watts was a featured rider in WME's 2007 film *Playground*. A member of the Burton Smalls team of young up-and-coming riders, Watts won the overall freestyle title at the 2007 USA Snowboard Association Nationals.

Gerry Lopez: Known to surfing fans as "Mr. Pipeline," Gerry Lopez grew up riding the waves of Oahu's North Shore and is considered one of the greatest surfers of all time. In 2001, Lopez traded his surfboard for a snowboard and moved to Bend with his wife Toni and his son Alex. Though he still finds plenty of time to surf, and continues to custom-build a line of Gerry Lopez signature surfboards, Lopez has become an avid and accomplished snowboarder.

Sammy Carlson: The 2007 Winter X-Games Slopestyle Silver Medalist is a big air/slopestyle specialist who has set his sights on slopestyle in 2008. In 2007, Carlson also had the honor of flying with the Blue Angels when they came through Oregon. Now that he has graduated from high school (June 2007), the skiing world has Carlson's undivided attention.