

**PRESS RELEASE AS OF AUGUST 2008** CONTACT: Rebecca Rueter, Marlboro Productions  
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**TAKING ROOT: The Vision of Wangari Maathai**  
**WINS AWARDS AT PREMIERE FILM FESTIVALS**

***TAKING ROOT: The Vision of Wangari Maathai***, a new film by Lisa Merton and Alan Dater, has won seven awards since premiering at Full Frame Documentary Film Festival in Durham, North Carolina in April 2008.

The awards include the "Audience Award Winner" at Hot Docs, the largest documentary film festival in North America. Film festival audience members selected ***Taking Root*** from over 170 films shown at the April 2008 festival.

In August 2008, ***Taking Root*** was awarded the "Amnesty International Durban Human Rights Award" at the Durban International Film Festival in South Africa.

Coral Vinsen, Amnesty International Durban executive member said in presenting the award, "***Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai***" stood out, for among other things, its demonstration of the transformative impact that the weakest members of even poor societies can sometimes have, using the limited means at their disposal in creative and committed ways. All members of the jury welcomed and were inspired by this account of the true story of Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai, who led an eventually successful struggle for, among other things, the rights of women in Africa led by African women themselves."

***Taking Root*** won the "Full Frame Women in Leadership Award" at the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival. Lisa Merton was awarded the "Nashville Women in Film & Television Award for Best Feature Length Film Directed or Co-Directed by a Woman" at the 39<sup>th</sup> Nashville Film Festival in Nashville, Tennessee. The film also received "Honorable Mention, Best Documentary Feature" at that festival.

***Taking Root*** tells the inspiring story of the Green Belt Movement of Kenya and its unstoppable founder, Wangari Maathai, the first environmentalist and first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize (2004). The 80-minute film weaves a compelling and dramatic narrative of one woman's personal journey in the context of the turbulent political and environmental history of her country.

The film will continue to be shown at film festivals around the world this year.

***Taking Root* awards as of August 2008:**

Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, April 2008, Durham, North Carolina

***Full Frame Women in Leadership Award***

39<sup>th</sup> Nashville Film Festival, April 2008, Nashville, Tennessee

***Nashville Women in Film & Television Award for Best Feature Length Film***

***Directed or Co-Directed by a Woman***

***Best Documentary Feature, Honorable Mention***

Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, April 2008, Toronto, Canada

***Audience Award Winner***

Projecting Change Film Festival, May 2008, Vancouver, BC

***Audience Award Winner***

Maui Film Festival, June 2008, Maui, Hawaii

***Green Cinema Award***

Durban International Film Festival, July-August 2008, Durban, South Africa

***Amnesty International Durban Human Rights Award***

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