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PRESS RELEASE

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Making a splash in its new Main Street home, The BLACKHOUSE Foundation kicked off the 2008 Sundance Film Festival with an explosive opening night party last night and announced an all-star line-up of workshops and forums.

Continuing in the footsteps of last year's pioneering effort, the BLACKHOUSE event was a rare mix of celebrities, industry powerhouses, emerging filmmakers and film fans all gathered without pretense and velvet ropes.

BET Chairman Debra Lee was in attendance and was impressed by the crowd: "This is fantastic and I'll be back every night!" Besides presenting an opportunity for African-Americans filmmakers to relax and connect, the event was full of power networking and deal-making.

The non-profit foundation's stellar line-up of workshops and forums are sure to be the buzz of the festival. In its sophomore year, BlackHouse presents sessions like Brothas, Hip-Hop and Hollywood, a provocative discussion about being a Black man in the industry. The all-star panel includes **Mos Def** (*Be Kind Rewind*), **Mike Epps** (*Talk To Me*), noted director **Benny Boom** and **Donald Faison** (*Scrubs*). Black to the Future, features urban stars **Pras** (*The Fugees*, *Skid Row*), **Megan Goode** (*Stomp The Yard*), **Jimmy Jean-Louis** (*TV's Heroes*) and Kirk "Stick Fingaz" Jones.

The 2008 BLACKHOUSE is also premiering HBO's "The Black List" traveling photo exhibit, which accompanies the documentary. The exhibit features stunning portraits contemporary African American leaders and icons that are featured in the documentary. "The Black List" is a collaboration between photog-filmmaker **Timothy Greenfield-Sanders** and former **New York Times** critic **Elvis Mitchell**. Among the BLACKHOUSE workshop offerings is "**A Conversation with Timothy Greenfield-Sanders and Elvis Mitchell**" on Tuesday, January 22nd at 3:30pm. The workshop is free and open to the public.

Taking social networking to a new level, The BLACKHOUSE hosts a cocktail reception each evening from 5pm to 7pm.