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## Rags to Riches to Reeling Indie Film Scene "DESCENT" Producer Morris S. Levy of M.E.G.A. Films Brings it home to New York at TFF

March, 2007, Los Angeles, CA – Morris S. Levy, founder and president of M.E.G.A. Films in New York, knows how to make his money work for him and the world. It is no surprise that upon turning his attention to independent film, Levy, a native of Great Neck, New York, has turned celluloid into gold, and can boast three festival spots in just one year, including "DESCENT" set to premiere April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Tribeca Film Festival (TFF), AMC/34<sup>th</sup> Street Theater.

Fiery Hollywood star, Rosario Dawson, heads up the cast of "DESCENT" and debuts as producer with her own Trybe Films. Trybe partners, Talia Lugacy and Brian Priest wrote the screenplay, and Lugacy directs the psychological thriller. A tale of innocence, shattered dreams destroyed and vengeance fulfilled, Descent begins with an idealistic vision of college sweethearts and wild house parties, but quickly falls apart. A rape sends Maya (Rosario Dawson) into a spiral of drugs, rage and despair – until she is reunited with her attacker and offered a chance to settle the score. Joining forces for another successful collaboration is City Lights Pictures.

Levy knows a winner when he sees one. "This film was previously unfinanceable because of the dicey subject matter," says Morris. "But, there is something about Rosario," says Levy, "a fire and aliveness that jumps off the screen. Even though I knew it would be a challenge, I was committed to getting it made because I like where Rosario's career is going, and what she wanted to say with this film. I secured financing entirely with private equity investors. The risk is higher, but it's absolutely worth it."

Levy's M.E.G.A. came out of the gate as a winner with previous credits including "THE TEN" (starring Winona Ryder and Jessica Alba) which premiered at this year's Sundance to widespread acclaim and fanfare and "KISS ME AGAIN", which premiered at last year's Tribeca (starring SNL's Darrell Hammond). Another M.E.G.A. project that garnered critical acclaim was the short "LITTLE BLACK DRESS" (also starring Dawson). Coming soon is "SUMMERHILL," British Isle Director Gillies McKinnon is set to direct the feature version of the documentary and Julia Verdin will produce. Also in pre-production are "Harold" starring Cuba Gooding Jr and the Noah Wyle directorial debut, "The Prince Test".

Levy learned how to spot a winner in the "rag" trade, where he grew his grandfather's handkerchief manufacturing business into a major woman's clothing designer and manufacturer. He became interested in producing when he met a writer working for Woody Allen and the rest is history. Levy is also known for his passion and tenacity as an honored Long Island philanthropist, Levy has founded nonprofits, and actively and enthusiastically serves on several boards.

Keep your eye on Morris S. Levy: he has his eye on the winners and banks on them. Independent film is lucky to have his good eye and acumen on the scene.

Morris S. Levy will be available for interviews now and at the DESCENT press conference Friday, April 27th, 11:30 a.m. at the Clearview Chelsea West for press-only, right after the press screening that morning. Please contact Nadine Jolson Jolson Creative 310-474-1776 office / 310-614-3214 cell / email: <u>jolsoncreative@mac.com</u>