

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WORLD PREMIERE OF *AS SLOW AS POSSIBLE*
AT HOT DOCS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2008

Toronto, March 18, 2008 – Triptych Media and Giraffe Productions are proud to announce the World Premiere of *As Slow As Possible*, a film by **Scott Smith** with author **Ryan Knighton**, at the **2008 Hot Docs International Film Festival**, in Toronto.

As Slow As Possible will screen in competition as part of the **Canadian Spectrum** programme on Friday, April 18th at 9:30pm at the Royal Theatre and on Tuesday April 22nd, at 12:00pm at the ROM Theatre. Filmmaker Scott Smith and subject Ryan Knighton will be attending the festival screenings and will introduce the film.

Fifteen years ago, on his 18th birthday, Canadian author Ryan Knighton ("**Cockeyed**") was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, and told he would slowly go blind. After 15 years, Ryan has less than 1% of his vision left, in one eye. He waits for the day when this last sliver of eyesight will go, and he will be left completely blind.

As Ryan adjusts to what he calls 'the new social order' of his body, he proposes to venture beyond the familiar streets of his own neighbourhood on a journey to **Halberstadt, Germany** - to find the organ playing the notorious **639 year long performance** of the **John Cage** composition "*As Slow as Possible*", and on the occasion of a note change.

The organ's signal has found a listener in Knighton - who in turn has found a personal metaphor in the sound of 'one thing giving away to another'.

While caning his way into the uncertainty-riddled experience of a road trip, Knighton contemplates his own change – the challenge of letting go of his 'sighted' identity, while still waiting for his new 'blind' one to emerge. The experience unfolds like a Cage piece itself – a series of chance encounters in the form of airports, train stations, the unfamiliar hubbub of foreign cities, and people - some of whom don't believe he's blind at all, and one whom offers him something profound.

Scott Smith is the Vancouver-based director of *rollercoaster* (TIFF 1999), and *Falling Angels* (TIFF 2003). *As Slow As Possible* is his first feature documentary.

The film was produced by Robin Cass of Triptych Media (*Lilies, Falling Angels, upcoming High Life*), Avi Federgreen of Federgreen Entertainment (*Heyday, Highlife, It's Me Gerald*), and Scott Smith, through his company Giraffe Productions (*rollercoaster*). *As Slow As Possible* was made with the assistance of the CBC, British Columbia Film, and the BC Arts Council.

For more information, please visit the official website: www.as-slow-as-possible.com

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Media Inquiries: For further information or to arrange interviews with director Scott Smith, or subject Ryan Knighton, please contact Robin Cass, producer, at robin@triptychmedia.ca or at **416-703-8866 ext. 225**.