



2011 SXSW FILM ENTRY, "FLY AWAY," AVAILABLE APRIL 26 ON VOD, DIGITAL AND DVD

Beth Broderick, Ashley Rickards and Greg Germann Star in Janet Grillo's Powerful Film

"Exceptional performances by two femme leads and sensitive but unsentimental storytelling throughout." – Variety

April 14, 2011, New York, NY — Timed to its film festival debut and theatrical release, **FLY AWAY**, a new feature film directed by Emmy Award® winner **Janet Grillo** (*Autism: The Musical*), will be available April 26 on Digital, VOD and DVD platforms. An award-winning script and compellingly real performances portray the poignant story of a single mother of an autistic teenager facing the challenge every parent eventually does: when to let your child go.

Jeanne (Broderick) has cared for Mandy (Rickards) since the day she was born, growing closer every day to a child who is charmingly offbeat one moment and nearly impossible to manage the next. In the local dog park, Jeanne – who is divorced – encounters Tom (Germann), an easygoing and accepting neighbor who sparks a romantic interest, but she finds juggling Mandy's care and her own career leaves little room for a new man. As the pressures of work and her child's needs increase, she must decide whether or not to enroll Mandy in a therapeutic residential facility. Over the course of a few weeks, Jeanne is confronted with the most difficult decision a parent can make: to let go, allowing her child to grow, but also grow apart; or to hold on tight and fall together. *FLY AWAY* also stars JR Bourne, Reno, Elaine Hall and Zachariah Palmer.

"Gripping, life-enhancing... Not since Patty Duke in *The Miracle Worker* has any actor portrayed a handicapped child (especially one with autism) with the same depth of passion and realism." – Rex Reed, *The New York Observer*

FLY AWAY, Grillo's feature film directorial debut, premiered as an official selection at the 2011 SXSW Film Festival, followed by official entries in the 2011 Palm Beach International Film Festival and Arizona International Film Festival. A multi-city screening event for **FLY AWAY** is planned for the week of April 11 in conjunction with **Autism Speaks**, to which 10% of proceeds from DVD sales and 15% of proceeds from VOD rentals will be donated. The film opened theatrically in New York, Los Angeles and Washington, DC on April 11.

Written by Grillo, *FLY AWAY* is the winner of the 2010 Best International Screenplay Award at the Swansea Bay International Film Festival in Wales. Grillo's second short film, *FLYING LESSONS* – the inspiration for her new film – premiered at the Palm Springs International Film Festival in August of 2008, and went on to win several awards at festivals across the U.S. and Canada. *FLY AWAY* is written, directed and produced by Grillo; producer Pavlina Hatoupis; executive producers Catherine Hardwicke, Lee Adhemar G. Feldshon and David F. Schwartz.

Pricing: \$24.95 U.S. DVD; \$35.99 CAN

Runtime: 80 minutes, plus extras

Rating: Not rated
Catalog #: NNVG243241

Language: English Color: Color

Sound: Dolby Digital 2.0

Genre: Drama

About New Video

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