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**“FRITZ: The Walter Mondale Story” Documentary to
Premiere on Twin Cities Public Television**

*Filmmaker Melody Gilbert's new documentary will have its broadcast
premiere on Twin Cities Public Television in December*

ST. PAUL (December 1, 2008) – “FRITZ: The Walter Mondale Story,” a new feature-length documentary directed by award-winning Minnesota filmmaker Melody Gilbert and produced by Jan Selby, will have its broadcast premiere on Twin Cities Public Television on Wednesday, December 17th at 7p.m. The film explores the life and legacy of former Vice President Walter Mondale and his efforts to inspire a new generation to consider a life in public service. The documentary will be rebroadcast on Friday, December 26th on TPT2 and it will be shown statewide on TPT 17 on December 27th at 7 p.m.

“I think Melody Gilbert helps us teach history in a unique way that we should cherish,” said Walter Mondale after seeing the documentary.

“FRITZ: The Walter Mondale Story” features interviews with President Jimmy Carter, Vice President Al Gore, Senator Geraldine Ferraro, Governor Arne Carlson, colleagues, students and the Mondale family. The film, which is narrated by Mr. Mondale’s daughter Eleanor Mondale, also features family home videos, rare archival footage and recently declassified papers from Mr. Mondale’s years in the White House as Vice President to Jimmy Carter.

“This film is named after me, but it’s really a film about Minnesota. It’s a Minnesota story,” said Mr. Mondale. “Our values, the causes I’ve fought for, my family, what I learned here, the joys and blessings of public service. Service, decency and caring about the community—that’s the Minnesota story.”

Director Melody Gilbert wanted to make a film about Mr. Mondale when she realized that no one had ever made a feature-length film made about the former vice president. “He was a man ahead of

his time in so many ways and I was really drawn to him for believing in those ideas when they weren't so popular," she said. "I'm old enough to remember when he selected Geraldine Ferraro to be his running mate when he ran for president and that had a big impact in my life as it did for so many other women." She was also inspired by his courageous and continuous fight for civil rights and human rights over the years.

At first, Mr. Mondale didn't want to be involved in the movie because he had been in the media spotlight for so much of his life and was enjoying living a quieter life. Gilbert said he eventually "gave in and let me follow him around on and off for the past two years." Still, making the movie wasn't easy because "Mr. Mondale doesn't like to brag about himself," Gilbert said. "I'm known for making films where people open up to me, but Mr. Mondale was the toughest interview I have ever had."

What emerges in the film is a profile of a true public servant with a genuine concern for helping people. Mr. Mondale's hand in history, which includes service as a U.S. Senator, Vice President and Ambassador to Japan, includes important work in civil rights, workers' rights, environmental issues and much more, including how he changed the role of vice president. "You can divide every vice president in American history into two categories," said former Vice President Al Gore in the documentary. "Pre-Walter Mondale and post-Walter Mondale."

Mr. Mondale currently spends much of his time at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute teaching and inspiring young people to get involved in public service as well as looking back on his time as vice president. "We told the truth, obeyed the law and kept the peace," he said. "I'm proud of that." Mr. Mondale's eldest son Ted recently saw the documentary and he said, "This film is telling a story for years to come about why you should stand up for your ideals. While it might take 20, 30 or 40 years to come to fruition, it's important to do, and it's important to dedicate your life to public service."

"We were delighted to work with Melody Gilbert and her team to give this terrific film statewide broadcast on Public Television," said Bill Hanley, Executive Vice President of Twin Cities Public Television. "Vice President Mondale's story is so quintessentially 'Minnesotan' that we know the broadcast will be an inspiration to thousands of Minnesota families during the holiday season."

The documentary features archival footage from several resources, including TPT, WCCO-TV, Eleanor Mondale's home video collection and the KSTP news archive at the Minnesota Historical So-

ciety. Randal Dietrich, director of the Minnesota Historical Society's Moving Pictures Film Festival, said the movie will become a part of the permanent Mondale historical archives at the Minnesota Historical Society. "It is important to preserve Mr. Mondale's legacy for future generations because Mr. Mondale not only helped shape world events and crucial cultural initiatives like the civil rights movement, but he also embodies the ideals of public service that were so prevalent in that generation," Dietrich said.

After the TPT broadcast, "FRITZ" will be available on COMCAST ON DEMAND in January 2009 and DVDs will be distributed to libraries and schools around the state. DVDs will also be available through the FRITZ website. To view a trailer of the movie or to find out more about "FRITZ: The Walter Mondale Story," go to www.mondalefilm.org.

About the Director and Producer of FRITZ

Director Melody Gilbert is an award-winning independent documentary filmmaker, journalist and educator from St. Paul, Minn., who has worked in film and television for more than 25 years. She is co-founder of Darn Good Documentaries (www.darngooddocs.com), along with Jan Selby, the producer of FRITZ. Ms. Gilbert also directs and operates her own film production company, Frozen Feet Films (www.frozenfeetfilms.com). She has made six independent feature-length documentaries in six years that have been seen in international film festivals (Amsterdam, Warsaw, Greece), in theaters and on international television networks (France, Switzerland, Belgium and more) and on the Sundance Channel. Two of her films are available on Netflix. Her documentaries have been featured on Oprah, CNN, Good Morning America and ABC New and in the New York Times and Newsweek. She is the recipient of grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Jerome Foundation and she also received the prestigious McKnight Foundation Artist Filmmaking Fellowship. Prior to making films, Ms. Gilbert was an Emmy-award winning broadcast journalist at television stations around the country as well as a college professor who has taught courses at the University of Minnesota, Carleton College and in Kyrgyzstan and Romania.

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