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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

YOUTH PRODUCERS FROM LISTEN UP! CAPTURE PEABODY AWARD FOR “BEYOND BORDERS: PERSONAL STORIES FROM A SMALL PLANET” AIRED ON IFC

(New York, NY) **“Beyond Borders: Personal Stories from a Small Planet” will receive broadcasting’s highest honor, the George Foster Peabody Award. Listen Up! Youth Media Network produced the 1-hour documentary, which aired on the Independent Film Channel.**

The nine stories that make up “Beyond Borders” come from youth filmmakers in Sierra Leone, Ukraine, Colombia, Jordan, Guatemala, New York, Illinois, Virginia, and Utah. "Beyond Borders: Personal Stories from a Small Planet" was funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which has a longstanding commitment to applying knowledge to solve the problems of people.

Listen Up!, the global network for young filmmakers, funded international youth production teams to produce documentaries for "Beyond Borders." Each team produced a short documentary that examines what youth most fear and how they build security in their lives, families and communities. This inspiring collection of stories connects youth producers around the world and helps bridge a new sense of optimism. Listen Up! also developed a comprehensive curriculum for the documentary project for middle and high school students.

"IFC is honored to have been able to provide a showcase for such remarkable films, created by such remarkable young filmmakers from around the world," said Evan Fleischer, VP Alternative Platform and Business Development at IFC. **"We're thrilled to receive this Peabody Award, IFC's first, for so noble a cause."**

“We have always known what youth media can accomplish, and this award cements that understanding in the public mind,” said Listen Up! Director Rhea Mokund. **“This award really belongs to the youth filmmakers; it’s their imagination and hard work that’s being rewarded,”** added Creative Director Austin Haerberle.

Listen Up! is part of Learning Matters, Inc., a non-profit organization that also provides education coverage for the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer on PBS and produces The Merrow Report, public television's premier series on youth and learning. It received a Peabody Award in 2001 for “School Sleuth, The Case of an Excellent School.”

The Listen Up! youth media network connects young video producers and their allies to resources, support, and projects. Its goals are to develop the field and achieve an authentic youth voice in the mass media. Adobe Youth Voices is now the principal supporter of Listen Up!, which was started with a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in 1998. The Annenberg Foundation, the Open Society Institute and the Surdna Foundation have also provided funding.

About IFC Television: The Independent Film Channel (IFC) is the first and most widely distributed network dedicated to independent film 24 hours a day, uncut, uncensored and commercial-free. The network is part of IFC Companies – the only brand to operate in every area of independent film to include television, production, financing, distribution, digital, on-demand and exhibition. IFC Companies uses its unique cross-platform to broaden the audience of independent film and to provide independent filmmakers with a strong voice. IFC Companies is a division of Rainbow Media Holdings, LLC.

For more information on Listen Up! call Listen Up! at 212-725-7000 or visit the Listen Up! website at www.listenup.org/beyondborders.