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“Commit to the Line” Premieres At Coolidge Corner Theatre
Chronicles the recovery and empowerment of local filmmaker and cancer survivor
Panel discussion follows

(Brookline, MA) February 1, 2008 -After two surgeries for uterine cancer, Rachelle Dermer fought to reclaim her life, or at least the life she'd known. She found her way back to physical and mental health through a combination of mountain biking and filmmaking. The result is her feature film “Commit to the Line” that premieres on Thursday, February 21 at 7 P.M. at the Coolidge Corner Theatre. The film will be followed by a panel discussion with medical experts, recovery activists and people who starred in, or were part of, the film's making.

Dermer, who is currently the Chair of the Photography Department at The New England Institute of Art (www.artinstitutes.edu/boston) says, “Capturing on film the honesty of women in all stages of their lives who are attempting to conquer their fears and push their limits, has been the most meaningful and healing thing I've done in my life.”

The film, written, produced and directed by Dermer, chronicles her experiences at a woman's mountain biking camp in Whistler, Canada. The film takes us through her – and many other women's experiences - as they each conquer their fears and confront their demons. At the film's conclusion, each participant, in her own way, has achieved her personal goal.

Following the film, Dermer will lead an informal discussion. Sharing the stage will be:

- *Diane Cotting of the Cotting Connection. After battling cancer, Cotting returned to the sport of rowing and founded her organization to help others,*
- *Dr. Ursula Matulonis, renowned oncologist at the Dana-Farber Center Institute*
- *Daamiann Skelton, the film's featured coach and retired professional downhill racer who has been featured in films such as “Kranked III” and “Hardihood”*
- *Dr. Trude Kleinschmidt, Harvard Psychiatrist and Director of Program Development at The Pavilion, McLean Hospital, who has an academic interest in the effects of trauma and fear in women's' lives,*
- *Christopher McKenzie, the film's editor.*

More information is available at www.committotheline.com

The film screens at 7 pm in the upstairs theater at the Coolidge. Film lovers and anyone confronting cancer and its related issues are encouraged to attend. The theatre's regular admission will be charged.

The New England Institute of Art is one of The Art Institutes (www.artinstitutes.edu) a system of over 40 education institutions located throughout North America providing an important source of design, media arts, fashion and culinary arts professionals. The New England Institute of Art (www.artinstitutes.edu/boston) offers Associate in Science degrees in Broadcasting, Audio Production and Photography, and Bachelor of Science Degree programs in Advertising, Audio & Media Technology, Digital Filmmaking & Video Production, Graphic Design, Interactive Media Design, Interior Design, Media Arts & Animation and Photography. Its Center for Professional Development offers Certificate Programs in

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