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Contact:

Tyler Measom / Jennilyn Merten
tmeasom@leftturnfilms.com / jennilyn@leftturnfilms.com
801.836.1578 / 801.949.5086

OPRAH WINFREY NETWORK ACQUIRES POLYGAMY FILM

Film exposing Warren Jeffs polygamist crimes to be broadcast nationally

SALT LAKE CITY—July 29, 2010 — The Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) recently announced the acquisition of *Sons of Perdition*, a documentary film directed and produced by Tyler Measom and Jennilyn Merten. *Sons of Perdition* will air in the spring of 2011 as part of Oprah's newly developed Documentary Film Club.

"Oprah's ongoing commitment to penetrating, humane journalism and true appreciation for the importance of storytelling, make us both delighted and proud to be part of the OWN brand." said Merten.

Sons of Perdition made its world premiere at the 2010 Tribeca Film Festival. The film was acquired by BBC Storyville and aired in the United Kingdom this month to enthusiastic reviews.

Sons of Perdition takes viewers inside the lives of three teenage boys after they escape from the Fundamentalist Latter Day Saints compound on the Utah/Arizona border. The film exposes the crimes of Warren Jeffs through never-before-seen photos, footage and rare audio recordings and champions the cause of his victims, the growing number of FLDS escapees. The film was acquired by OWN along with several five other social issue documentaries that fit the network's messaging.

"All of these documentaries fundamentally explore human interaction, relationships and emotions," said Lisa Erspamer, chief creative officer for OWN. "We're excited to provide viewers with new perspectives and new ways of looking at core themes that shape and affect their lives."

Four years in the making, *Sons of Perdition* exposes uncovers the oldest polygamist community in the United States. Here men have plural wives, donate their property to the church and swear total obedience to their prophet. In 2003, a new leader came to power: Warren Jeffs, the despised son of the former prophet. A student of Hitler, Jeffs attempted to cleanse his flock by banning public schooling, "gentile" books and

recreations like sports, movies and television. He excommunicated hundreds of prominent elders, giving their wives and children to other men. Hundreds of teenage boys were exiled to the streets of neighboring communities. Many more fled, giving up their families and salvation for the hope of freedom. Like many of the boys, the film's three young exiles find themselves suddenly penniless and adrift, and searching for meaning in a strange new world, mainstream America.

In light of the ongoing legal and political issues surrounding the FLDS and Warren Jeffs, the directors expect to pursue the subject for some time.

Measom and Merten are partners in Left Turn Films, a full service boutique production company. Impact Partners and BBC Storyville, in association with Motto Pictures and Cactus Three, made *Sons of Perdition* possible.

OWN is a joint venture between Oprah Winfrey and Discovery Communications, designed to entertain, inform and inspire people to live their best lives. OWN will debut January 1, 2011, in approximately 80 million homes, on what is currently the Discovery Health Channel.

For more information about the film or the acquisition, visit www.sonsofperditionthemovie.com or www.oprah.com/own

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