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BFI ANNOUNCES WINNER OF THE TIMES BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL GRIERSON AWARD

Thin is the directorial debut by acclaimed photographer and author **Lauren Greenfield** and is this year's winner of The Times BFI London Film Festival Grierson Award.

The award for director of the best feature-length documentary to be screened at the Festival will be presented at the film's UK premiere on Thursday 26 October at 9pm, in NFT 1, National Film Theatre.

Thin is a brilliant and original portrayal of the treatment of four women struggling overcome eating disorders. Sandra Hebron, Artistic Director of the festival, said: "this is a powerful and important film, allowing us to witness at close hand the complexities of this persistent and damaging illness." The jury was highly impressed that this was the director's first feature-length film, commenting on "the extraordinary level of trust which the film-maker achieved with both the institution and its patients."

Lauren Greenfield has previously received critical acclaim for her photography, exhibitions and books. *Fast Forward* is a powerful study of Los Angeles youth culture, while *Girl Culture* analyses how young women are obsessed with their need to present an idea of perfection by their appearance. *Thin*, a documentary shot in a classic *vérité* style, furthers this examination of issues surrounding female body image. Set in a US clinic that specialises in the treatment of eating disorders, the film focuses on the illness at its most acute and deadly stage. However, it also suggests the issues are prevalent to many who are regarded as 'healthy' in a society becoming ever more fixated by body size.

The Times BFI London Film Festival Grierson Award given by the Grierson Trust, commemorates the pioneering Scottish documentary maker **John Grierson** (1898–1972), famous for *Drifters* and *Night Mail* and the man widely regarded as the father of the British documentary. The Grierson Trust through its own annual awards – the British Documentary Awards – has a long-standing tradition of recognising outstanding films that demonstrate integrity, originality and technical excellence, and social or cultural significance.

The Times BFI London Film Festival Grierson Award was judged this year by Grierson Trustees Emma Hindley and Charlotte Moore, and from The Times BFI London Film Festival, Artistic Director Sandra Hebron and Programmer Michael Hayden. The jury was chaired by Angus Macqueen, Head of Documentary at Channel 4.

THE GRIERSON TRUST

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Notes to Editors

- The Times BFI London Film Festival Grierson Award is for the best feature-length documentary shown at the festival. The winner is selected by a jury with an expertise in, and passion for cinema from both The Grierson Trust and The Times BFI London Film Festival.
- The 50th Times BFI London Film Festival marks the second year for the presentation of The Times BFI London Film Festival Grierson Award.
- Winner of The Times BFI London Film Festival Grierson Award in 2005 was **Michael Glawogger** for *Workingman's Death*.

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