

National Federation of the Blind Conducts Successful Nationwide Protests Against Movie *Blindness*

Urges Miramax, Disney to Pull Film from Theaters

Baltimore, Maryland (October 6, 2008): In the wake of a successful nationwide action against the Miramax film *Blindness*, which consisted of seventy-two protests in front of cinemas showing the film in thirty-seven states, the National Federation of the Blind today urged Miramax and its parent company, the Walt Disney Company, to remove the film from theaters immediately.

“The film *Blindness* is clearly a failure; critics are unimpressed and audiences are uninterested,” said Dr. Marc Maurer, President of the National Federation of the Blind. “Meanwhile, parents have called us to express concern about the effect this film will have on their blind children; people who have seen the film have told our members that they agree with our position; and the reputations of Miramax and the Walt Disney Company, as well as those of the director and cast, have suffered by their names being associated with such an outrageously false depiction of blind people. Miramax and the Walt Disney Company should act swiftly to prevent more damage to the hopes and aspirations of blind Americans, including blinded soldiers coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, by removing this offensive work from theaters as soon as practicable. There is no money in misrepresenting the blind. In the process of distributing and promoting a film that presents a grossly distorted portrait of blindness and blind people, Walt Disney officials have hurt the lives of millions of human beings.”