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**DEBRA GRANIK AND AL MILGROM TO RECEIVE  
FILMNORTH GALA AWARDS**  
**The region's premier professional film organization  
celebrates 31 years**

St. Paul, Minn. (October 9, 2018)— FilmNorth, the Minneapolis-St. Paul based nonprofit organization empowering media artists in The North to tell their stories and build successful careers, announced today that it will honor Oscar® nominated filmmaker Debra Granik (*Leave No Trace*, *Winter's Bone*) and Minnesota film legend Al Milgrom at the annual FilmNorth Gala on Thursday, November 15.

Director/Writer Debra Granik will receive the FilmNorth Award, which recognizes outstanding achievement, innovation and artistry in film. Al Milgrom will receive the inaugural FilmNorth Legacy Award in recognition of his significant and lasting impact on the Minnesota film community.

Best Buy will return as the Presenting Sponsor. This year's Gala will take place at the celebrated Minneapolis restaurant, Sweet Chow, owned by local film industry leaders Julie Hartley, Greg Cummins and Ami Francis.

Debra Granik's films have been universally praised by audiences and critics alike - netting nominations and wins at the Academy Awards, Golden Globes and Independent Spirit Awards along with prizes at the world's best film festivals. Granik's most recent film, *Leave No Trace* looks to continue her winning streak. This heartbreaking look at a family living outside traditional society is already garnering awards season buzz.

Al Milgrom changed the cultural landscape of the Twin Cities by founding the University of Minnesota Film Society in 1962 and running the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival for decades. Over his career Milgrom has brought thousands of films and filmmakers to Minnesota and influenced generations of filmmakers.

"FilmNorth is thrilled to honor Debra Granik and Al Milgrom. Every one of Debra's films is a work of art, made with unmatched skill and heart. In the span of four feature films she's now firmly established as one of the best directors in the US," said Andrew Peterson, Executive Director of FilmNorth. "And Al Milgrom has been an inspiring and influential force in our community for decades. Al has had a profound impact on countless filmmakers—not only in The North, but around the world. It will be a very special night."

The FilmNorth Gala serves as a fundraiser for FilmNorth, which celebrates its 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary this year. FilmNorth supports the media arts community in The North (Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota and Wisconsin) through youth programs, master classes, continuing education, exhibitions and screenings, and fiscal support.



The 31st anniversary Gala will take place on November 15 from 7-11 p.m. at Sweet Chow (116 N 1st Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55401). The Awards will be presented at 8 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at <https://tinyurl.com/FilmNorthGala2018>

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### **About FilmNorth**

Founded in 1987, FilmNorth's mission is to empower artists to tell their stories, launch and sustain successful careers, and advance The North as a leader in the national network of independent filmmakers. We achieve our mission by nurturing a vibrant, diverse community of film and media artists; providing education and resources at every stage of their careers; and celebrating their achievements. [www.myfilmnorth.org](http://www.myfilmnorth.org)