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**AFI FEST 2004 PRESENTED BY AUDI CELEBRATES FINALE
WITH
US PREMIERE OF THE SEA INSIDE**

Top Audience Award Goes to HOTEL RWANDA

November 14, 2004 (Los Angeles)— Sold-out screenings, star-studded red carpet arrivals and standing ovations for international cinema masters like Pedro Almodóvar, Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Terry George were just some of the highlights from AFI FEST 2004 presented by Audi, which concluded tonight at ArcLight Hollywood's Cinerama Dome with the US Premiere of New Line Cinema's SEA INSIDE. Written and directed by Alejandro Amenábar, the film stars Javier Bardem. Both filmmaker and star were in attendance.

Although attendance figures are still being tabulated, festival organizers have seen a 20% increase in Box Office receipts over the previous year, and the number of attending filmmakers – representing 40 countries – has also doubled since the 2003 edition. The increase in audiences and attending filmmakers has been attributed to the consistently strong programming featuring dozens of US and World Premieres, the conveniently centralized "AFI FEST Village" location at ArcLight Hollywood, and critical industry alliances like the Kodak CONNECT program, the launch of European Film Promotion's "New Faces in European Cinema" program and the recently announced alliance with the American Film Market (AFM).

Director of Programming Nancy Collet said, "Over the last 10 days, we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from filmmakers, audiences, sponsors and press. AFI FEST 2004 presented by Audi has been extremely successful on every level."

Added Festival Director Christian Gaines, "It's a thrill to provide a world-class global film event for the people of Los Angeles, and to make a significant impact on the international film community."

The 10 days of screenings included a number of sold-out films, including Ivo Trajkov's THE GREAT WATER, Luis Mandoki's INNOCENT VOICES, Asia Argento's THE HEART IS DECEITFUL ABOVE ALL THINGS, Dick Rude's LET'S ROCK AGAIN!, Terry George's HOTEL RWANDA, Wash Westmoreland's GAY REPUBLICANS, Robin Scovill's THE OTHER SIDE OF AIDS, Prachya Pinkaew's ONG BAK: THAI WARRIOR, Jonathan

Jakubowicz's SECUESTRO EXPRESS, Rafal Zielinski's DOWNTOWN: A STREET TALE, Gurinder Chadha's BRIDE AND PREJUDICE, Niels Mueller's THE ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON, Pete Travis' OMAGH, Quentin Lee's ETHAN MAO, Christophe Barratier's LES CHORISTES, Pedro Almodóvar's BAD EDUCATION, and the TRIBUTE TO PEDRO ALMODÓVAR. Additionally, this year's four SHORTS PROGRAMS were extremely well-attended, many with sell-out crowds.

AFI FEST 2004 kicked off with the US Premiere of BEYOND THE SEA, directed by and starring Kevin Spacey, and showcased more than 136 films from 42 countries. In addition to opening and closing night, this year's festival included red carpet gala presentations of HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS, directed by Zhang Yimou, BAD EDUCATION, directed by Pedro Almodóvar, WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S THE MERCHANT OF VENICE, directed by Michael Radford, and A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT, directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet. AFI FEST 2004 also featured a Tribute to internationally acclaimed director Pedro Almodóvar.

Luminaries from around the globe attended AFI FEST 2004, including, *Mark Addy, Shohreh Aghdashloo, Pedro Almodóvar, Alejandro Amenábar, Sharif Atkins, Kevin Bacon, Eric Balfour, Javier Bardem, Gael Garcia Bernal, Thora Birch, Orlando Bloom, Kate Bosworth, Benjamin Bratt, Red Buttons, Gurinder Chadha, Don Cheadle, Lynn Collins, Kevin Costner, Penelope Cruz, Vondie Curtis-Hall, Willem Dafoe, Tim Daly, Dodd Darren, Rosario Dawson, Michael Des Barres, Stephen Dorff, Flea, Joseph Fiennes, Jodie Foster, Cuba Gooding Jr., John Goodman, Joshua Jackson, Jean-Pierre Jeunet, Scarlett Johansson, Udo Kier, David Lynch, Oliver Martinez, Emily Mortimer, Brittany Murphy, Edward James Olmos, Hailey Joel Osment, Ron Pearlman, Pink, Michael Radford, Robert Rodriguez, Kyra Sedgwick, Kevin Spacey, Harry Dean Stanton, Paprika Steen, Patrick Swazye, Audrey Tautou, Marissa Tomei, Gaspard Ulliel, Deborah Kara Unger, James Van Der Beek, Leslie Anne Warren, Ziyi Zhan, and many more.*

JURY AWARDS

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS COMPETITION

GRAND JURY PRIZE

TWO CARS, ONE NIGHT (New Zealand)

Directed by Taika Waititi

SPECIAL MENTION

RYAN (Canada)

Directed By Chris Landreth

Jurors: Actor, *Shohreh Aghdashloo*; Film Critic, *Wade Major*; Filmmaker, *Ray McKinnon*

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

GRAND JURY PRIZE

THE TAKE (Canada)

Directed by Avi Lewis

SPECIAL MENTION

THE OTHER SIDE OF AIDS (USA)

Directed By Robin Scovill

Jurors: Filmmaker, *Xan Cassavetes*; Filmmaker, *Paola Di Florio*; Filmmaker, *Allen Hughes*

INTERNATIONAL FEATURE COMPETITION

GRAND JURY PRIZE

DUCK SEASON /TEMPORADA DE PATOS (Mexico)

Directed by Fernando Eimbcke

Jurors: Actor/Filmmaker, *Joshua Jackson*; Actor, *Emily Mortimer*; Film Scholar, *Peter Scarlet*

The Jury Award winners above received film-related prizes and in-kind from our sponsors including Eastman Kodak Company, Best Buy, Panavision, Variety, Indiewire, Avid, Entertainment Partners, Final Draft, ifilm and Ameoba Music.

AUDIENCE AWARDS presented by *Los Angeles Times*

BEST SHORT FILM

MY PARENTS/MEIN ELTERN

Directed by Neele Leana Vollmar

BEST DOCUMENTARY FILM

GAY REPUBLICANS

Directed by Wash Westmoreland

BEST FEATURE FILM

HOTEL RWANDA

Directed by Terry George

Now in its 18th year, AFI FEST presented by Audi—the AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival—is the longest-running film festival in Los Angeles and one of the most influential and fastest growing film festivals in North America. A program of the American Film Institute, AFI FEST spans 10 days each November, featuring international competitions of new feature films, documentaries and shorts from emerging filmmakers, global showcases of the latest work from the great film masters and red-carpet gala premieres.

Beginning this year, AFI FEST 2004 presented by Audi (November 4 - 14) and the 2004 American Film Market (November 3 - 10) have established a strategic alliance creating a formidable festival/market combination—the only one of its kind in North America—which will dramatically deepen the well of cultural and commercial possibilities for participants at both events. For more information on AFM, visit www.americanfilmmarket.com.

AFI FEST 2004 is sponsored in part by Audi of America, American Airlines, ArcLight Hollywood, Absolut Raspberri Vodka, Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Philips Electronics, Best Buy and Eastman Kodak Company.

AFI FEST 2004 presented by Audi is supported in part by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, as well as the City of Los Angeles, Cultural Affairs Department of Los Angeles and the Hollywood Sign Trust. AFI FEST 2004 presented by Audi is proud to continue its collaborative partnership with the Skirball Cultural Center. Made in Germany is made possible through the cooperation and support of the German Film Services + Marketing GMBH. New Faces In European Cinema is made possible through the cooperation and support of the European Film Promotion.

Audi of America is headquartered in Auburn Hills, Michigan, and markets performance-oriented European luxury vehicles: the sporty A4 sedan, A4 Avant and A4 Cabriolet models - the perfect union of power and control; the everyday sports car in the form of the S4 sedan, S4 Avant and S4 Cabriolet; the birth of Audi's sports car tradition - the TT Coupe and Roadster; the broad range of bold A6 sedans - the beautiful A6 Avant and the versatile allroad quattro; and the most progressive premium luxury car, the A8 in both extended and normal wheelbase versions. For more information about additional Audi-related events and corporate news, visit www.audiusa.com.

AFI advances film, television and other forms of the moving image through innovation in education and the recognition of excellence. AFI trains the next generation of filmmakers at its world-renowned Conservatory, maintains America's film heritage through the *AFI Catalog of Feature Films* and explores new digital technologies in moviemaking through AFI's New Media Ventures. As the largest nonprofit exhibitor in the US, AFI ON SCREEN offers year-round programming at the ArcLight Hollywood and the annual AFI FEST presented by Audi—The Los Angeles International Film Festival; at the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland—including the annual SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival—and at the AFI National Film Theater at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. The annual almanac for the 21st century, AFI AWARDS honors the most outstanding motion pictures and television programs of the year, while **AFI's 100 Years . . .** series has ignited extraordinary public interest in classic American movies. And, during the past 32 years, AFI's Life Achievement Award has become the highest honor for a career in film. Additional information about AFI is available at AFI.com.

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