



November 1, 2002

**MEDIA ALERT**

**DIRECTOR SAM MENDES  
SPEAKS TO AFI CONSERVATORY FELLOWS**

**WHAT:**

Academy Award®-winning director Sam Mendes will participate in a Harold Lloyd Master Seminar (HLMS) with a screening of the widely acclaimed Depression-era drama *ROAD TO PERDITION*, immediately followed by a candid Q&A session with AFI Fellows.

**WHEN:**

Wednesday, November 6, 2002. The screening begins at 3 p.m. Mendes will speak at approximately 5:00 p.m.

**WHERE:**

The AFI Campus at 2021 N. Western Avenue (North of Franklin), Los Angeles, CA, 90027.

**ABOUT AFI CONSERVATORY'S HAROLD LLOYD MASTER SEMINARS:**

Rated one of the AFI Conservatory's most popular programs by Fellows and guest speakers, the Harold Lloyd Master Seminar (HLMS) series brings accomplished filmmakers to the Los Angeles Campus to share their work and experiences with AFI Fellows. The series constitutes a unique oral history of filmmaking by featuring leaders in the creative community, discussing their craft with new generations of filmmakers. Not only do the seminars promote a dialogue and idea exchange between established and emerging filmmakers, but also the transcripts serve to document how the seminar guests have matured as artists over time.

In the 2001-2002 AFI Conservatory year alone, Jon Avnet, Tom Hanks, Janusz Kaminski, Val Kilmer, Baz Luhrmann, David Lynch, Paula Wagner and Laura Ziskin all appeared for Harold Lloyd Master Seminars with AFI Fellows. Past seminar guests have included Robert Altman, Michelangelo Antonioni, Alan Ball, Ingmar Bergman, Francis Ford Coppola, Federico Fellini, Amy Heckerling, Charlton Heston, Jack Nicholson, Edward Norton, Sidney Poitier, Steven Spielberg, Robert Towne and many others.

**ABOUT THE FILM:**

*ROAD TO PERDITION* is a tale of two fathers: Michael Sullivan (Tom Hanks), a hit man for the Irish mob in Depression-era Chicago; and Mr. John Rooney (Paul

Newman), Sullivan's boss and the man who raised him as a son. Two sons: Michael Sullivan, Jr. (Tyler Hoechlin) and Connor Rooney (Daniel Craig), each desperate to earn his father's favor. Jealousy and competition put them all on a collision course, ultimately bringing Sullivan's work into his private life and leading to the death of his beloved wife (Jennifer Jason Leigh) and youngest son, Peter (Liam Aiken). Now Michael Sullivan and his surviving son are set on a journey instigated by tragedy and fueled by revenge. ROAD TO PERDITION is a portrait of two families whose fates are determined by the complex and often combative relationships between fathers and their sons and sons and their fathers.

**ABOUT SAM MENDES:**

Prior to directing and producing ROAD TO PERDITION, Mendes made his feature film directorial debut on the Academy Award-winning Best Picture AMERICAN BEAUTY, which was a not only a box office smash, but also the most honored film of 1999. Mendes won numerous Best Director awards for his work on AMERICAN BEAUTY, including the Academy Award, a Golden Globe, the Directors Guild of America Award, the Los Angeles Film Critics Award and the Broadcast Film Critics Award, among others.

Mendes began his directing career in the theatre. Soon after his graduation from Cambridge University in 1987, he directed Dame Judi Dench in *The Cherry Orchard*, which brought him a Critics Circle Award for Best Newcomer. He joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1990, and in 1992, became artistic director of the reopened Donmar Warehouse in London. During his tenure at the Donmar, he directed numerous productions and won Olivier Awards for Best Director for his work on *The Glass Menagerie*, *Company*, *Othello* and *Cabaret*. The Broadway production of *Cabaret* garnered four Tony Awards, including one for Best Revival of a Musical, three Drama Desk Awards and three Outer Critics Circle Awards.

**Your coverage is invited.**

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Limited Capacity.

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