

NEWS RELEASE



**AFI FEST 2009 PRESENTED BY AUDI
ANNOUNCES HALLOWEEN PROGRAMMING
FEATURING
“THE HOLE” IN 3-D, “THE LOVED ONES,”
“WAKE IN FRIGHT,” “BEST WORST MOVIE”**

Los Angeles, CA, September 29, 2009—AFI FEST 2009 presented by Audi today announced films scheduled for Halloween, all of which celebrate horror genre. Joe Dante’s *THE HOLE*, Sean Byrne’s *THE LOVED ONES*, Ted Kotcheff’s *WAKE IN FRIGHT* and Michael Stephenson’s *BEST WORST MOVIE* will screen on Saturday, October 31 at the Mann Chinese 6 Theatres in Hollywood.

Presented in 3-D, Joe Dante’s family friendly thriller *THE HOLE* marks an auspicious return to the big screen by the celebrated genre director after 11 years. In the film, two young brothers stumble upon a mysterious hole in their basement that houses an evil force that can create a physical manifestation of their deep-seated fears. After unwittingly unleashing the force, the brothers must team with the teenage girl next door to find a way to defend themselves against the darkness. The film stars Chris Massoglia, Haley Bennett, Nathan Gamble, Bruce Dern and Teri Polo.

THE HOLE will mark the first time a feature film has been presented in 3-D at AFI FEST or its precursor, Filmex since Paul Morrissey’s *FLESH FOR FRANKENSTEIN* in screened in 1977. Michael Medaglia’s short film *THE RATSNITCH ANGEL* was presented in 3-D in 2006.

The Midnight Madness Audience Award winner of this year’s Toronto Film Festival, Sean Byrne’s *THE LOVED ONES* is an Australian thriller about a troubled high school senior who finds himself trapped in a bizarre “prom” and fighting for his life after he is abducted by a psychotic father-and-daughter pair. The film stars Xavier Samuel (who will star in *ECLIPSE*, the third installment of the *TWILIGHT* film saga), Robin McLeavy, John Brumpton and Victoria Thaine. *THE LOVED ONES* screening will be sponsored by Fangoria Entertainment.

Also hailing from Australia is Ted Kotcheff’s underground classic *WAKE IN FRIGHT*. Originally released in 1971, the film was nominated for the Golden Palm at the Cannes Film Festival and has developed a reputation as one of

Australia's great, lost films. Recently recovered and restored, the film is a brutal and uncompromising thriller about a young teacher who arrives in a rough outback mining town planning to stay overnight before catching a plane to Sydney. However, his dealings with the hard-drinking, violent locals and a harrowing kangaroo hunt plunge the man headlong toward his own destruction. The film stars Donald Pleasence and Gary Bond.

Michael Stephenson's documentary BEST WORST MOVIE looks at both the behind-the-scenes origins of TROLL 2 and the film's journey to become a cult classic years after its initial release. Two decades later, Stephenson, the legendarily inept film's child star, unravels the improbable, heartfelt story of an Alabama dentist turned cult movie icon and an Italian filmmaker as they try to come to terms with this genuine, internationally revered cinematic failure.

Also screening on Halloween will be the previously announced South Korean Academy Award pick, Bong Joon-ho's MOTHER and the acclaimed RED RIDING TRILOGY of films.

"These are films that are targeted specifically to AFI FEST audiences looking for excitement on Halloween," said AFI FEST Director of Programming Robert Koehler. "They run the gamut from the family friendly scares of THE HOLE, to the incredible Australian duo of THE LOVED ONES and WAKE IN FRIGHT, to the intense crime dramas of the RED RIDING TRILOGY."

"Rollicking cult movie worship and Ozploitation lead the way in our celebration of Halloween at AFI FEST this year," added AFI FEST Senior Programmer Lane Kneedler. "We are thrilled to be embracing fringe filmmaking and alternative cinema once again as core components of our festival. When audiences come to Hollywood and Highland on Saturday night, we will deliver an unforgettable Halloween experience."

Complimentary tickets are available beginning on October 16 to all Festival screenings in advance at AFI.com/AFI_FEST at the Mann Chinese 6 Theatres (6925 Hollywood Blvd.) beginning October 26, or on the day of scheduled screenings via Rush Lines. Priority seating to all screenings can be secured by becoming a patron of the Festival and purchasing an AFI FEST Patron Pass. For more details, visit AFI.com.

About AFI FEST

AFI is a national institute providing leadership in screen education and the recognition and celebration of excellence in the art of film, television and digital media. Celebrating its 23rd year as a program of the American Film Institute, AFI FEST 2009 presented by Audi will take place October 30-November 7. Kicking off the awards season each year, AFI FEST offers a crucial avenue of exposure to the entertainment community, while providing appreciative audiences with a festive atmosphere and the very best of world film, right in the center of the film capital of the world.

AFI FEST 2009 presented by Audi is sponsored in part by American Airlines; Absolut Vodka; Little Black Dress Wines; Stella Artois; Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel; Mann Theatres; RR Donnelly; the Los Angeles Times; American Film Market (AFM); the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission; the Department of Cultural Affairs; and the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency. AFI FEST is made possible in part by a grant from the Academy Foundation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and is proud to continue its collaborative partnership with the Skirball Cultural Center. Entertainment Weekly is the Presenting Media Sponsor.

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