

NEWS RELEASE



**AFI FEST 2009 PRESENTED BY AUDI ANNOUNCES
FOX SEARCHLIGHT'S "FANTASTIC MR. FOX"
OPENING NIGHT FILM**

Los Angeles, CA, September 22, 2009—AFI FEST 2009 presented by Audi: announces that FOX Searchlight's FANTASTIC MR. FOX has been selected as the Festival's Opening Night Gala presentation. FANTASTIC MR. FOX will have its North American Premiere when it opens AFI FEST on Friday, October 30, 2009 at Grauman's Chinese Theatre. The Opening Night Gala is presented by Audi of America.

FANTASTIC MR. FOX, visionary director Wes Anderson's first animated film, uses classic handmade stop motion techniques to tell the story of the best-selling children's book of the same title by Roald Dahl (author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *James and the Giant Peach*).

Mr. and Mrs. Fox (voiced by George Clooney and Meryl Streep) live an idyllic home life with their son Ash (Jason Schwartzman) and visiting young nephew Kristofferson (Eric Anderson). But after 12 years, the bucolic existence proves too much for Mr. Fox's wild animal instincts. Soon he slips back into his old ways as a sneaky chicken thief and in doing so, endangers not only his beloved family, but the whole animal community. Trapped underground and with not enough food to go around, the animals band together to fight against the evil Farmers Boggis, Bunce and Bean—who are determined to capture the audacious, fantastic Mr. Fox at any cost. Additional voice cast includes Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, Willem Dafoe and Michael Gambon. The film is due for release on November 13.

(FOX SEARCHLIGHT HOLDING QUOTE)

"We are thrilled that AFI FEST has chosen FANTASTIC MR. FOX for its Opening Night Gala," said XXXX. "We think Wes has created a wonderfully entertaining film and believe there couldn't be a better way to introduce it to the public than a gala event at the Chinese to open AFI FEST."

(BOB GAZZALE)

"Quote about Wes Anderson"

(ROSE KUO HOLDING QUOTE)

"All of us at AFI FEST are delighted to present this uniquely creative work that we feel will launch the film festival with absolute fun and style. The combination of Anderson's signature take on Roald Dahl's world with the note perfect voice performances make it an absolute joy to behold," said Rose Kuo, AFI FEST Artistic Director.

Free tickets are available to all Festival screenings in advance at AFI.com, at the Mann Theatres (6925 Hollywood Blvd.) beginning October 26, or on the day of scheduled screenings via rush lines. Guaranteed 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 supported in part by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission; the Department of Cultural Affairs; Los Angeles County Arts Commission; Community Redevelopment Agency; City of Los Angeles and the Hollywood Sign Trust. AFI FEST is made possible in part by a grant from the Academy Foundation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. AFI FEST is proud to continue its collaborative partnership with the Skirball Cultural Center.

AFI FEST 2009 presented by Audi is sponsored in part by American Airlines, Absolut Vodka, Little Black Dress Wine, Stella Artois, Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Mann Theatres, RR Donnelly, [Los Angeles Times](http://LosAngelesTimes.com) and American Film Market (AFM). [Entertainment Weekly](http://EntertainmentWeekly.com) is the Presenting Media Sponsor.

About Audi of America, Inc.

Audi of America Inc. and its 270 dealers offer a full line of German-engineered luxury vehicles. The Audi line-up is one of the freshest in the industry with 23 models, including 12 models launched during model years 2008 and 2009. Audi is among the most successful brands globally. Last year AUDI AG recorded its 12th consecutive record year for sales and profit growth. Visit www.audiusa.com or www.audiusanews.com for more information regarding Audi vehicle and business issues.

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