

AFI FEST 2003 ANNOUNCES CALL FOR ENTRIES

Festival Preparations Begin **With Early Deadline for Submissions—June 6**

LOS ANGELES, CA, February 24, 2003—AFI FEST 2003, the AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival, running November 6-16, 2003 in Hollywood, California—announces today its Call for Entries.

The early deadline for all film submissions is June 6. The final deadline for shorts (under 30 minutes) is July 3. The final deadline for features (over 30 minutes) is July 18. Decisions will be announced no later than October 3, 2003. Submission forms are available at www.AFI.com, or by calling 1.866.AFI.FEST.

AFI FEST 2003 will feature over 140 films and will include an International Competition of first and second-time filmmakers, as well as international competitions for documentaries and shorts. The festival will also feature ambitious regional showcases of international cinema: Asian New Classics, European Film Showcase, Latin Cinema Series and American Directions.

AFI FEST 2003 will also continue its traditions of Opening Night, Centerpiece and Closing Night Premieres, along with the highly anticipated Filmmaker Tribute and Retrospective, which have most recently featured Ang Lee and Michael Caine.

AFI FEST is committed to providing filmmakers with the opportunity to garner an award for their work. Last year, award winners received prizes and in-kind services valued at more than \$75,000. AFI FEST 2003 award categories include:

- International Feature Competition Jury Award
- International Documentary Competition Jury Award
- International Shorts Competition Jury Award
- Feature Audience Award
- Documentary Audience Award
- Shorts Audience Award

Following a very successful first year at a new location, AFI FEST will again use the famed Cinerama Dome for gala events and the ArcLight Hollywood's upper-floor theatres for all Festival screenings. The venue creates a village-like atmosphere with the majority of screening, receptions and events within the film arts complex or within walking distance.

AFI FEST 2003 also presents the 3rd Annual KODAK CONNECT program. Open exclusively to delegates with films at AFI FEST 2003, this unique and valuable program offers filmmakers the opportunity to meet with representatives from all aspects of the film community in an intimate setting of one-on-one meetings, breakfasts, lunches, roundtables and other educational and networking opportunities. In 2002, KODAK CONNECT attracted more than 100 high-profile representatives from Hollywood's distribution, financing, development, marketing and publicity communities.

Now in its 17th year, AFI FEST is one of the nation's fastest-growing film events and the premier international film festival in Los Angeles. It is also the oldest film festival in Los Angeles. Capturing the cultural diversity of Los Angeles, AFI FEST provides new and established filmmakers with a crucial avenue of exposure to the film community, while celebrating the accomplishments of filmmakers from around the world.

AFI FEST 2003 is supported in part by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

AFI FEST 2003 is proud to continue its collaborative partnership with the Skirball Cultural Center.

AFI FEST 2003 corporate sponsors include DELL, Absolut, Eastman Kodak, Hollywood Celebrity Diet and the Chrysler Million Dollar Film Festival. For information regarding sponsorship and marketing opportunities, please call 323.856.7739.

In addition to work from emerging filmmakers, AFI FEST has presented the US or World Premieres of many acclaimed films, including AMORES PERROS; ANTWONE FISHER; ARARAT; BEFORE NIGHT FALLS; CITY OF GOD; MONSTER'S BALL; NO MAN'S LAND; O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?; THE QUIET AMERICAN; and SWEET SIXTEEN.

AFI is the preeminent organization dedicated to advancing and preserving the art of film, television and other forms of the moving image. AFI trains the next generation of filmmakers, coordinates nationwide film preservation efforts and explores new technologies in moviemaking. AFI also presents the best of film through the AFI Los

Angeles International Film Festival (AFI FEST); the AFI National Theater at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC; the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland (opening in April 2003); and the AFI Life Achievement Award, the highest honor given for a career in film. More information about AFI can be found by visiting its Web site, located at www.AFI.com.

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