

 **AFI FEST COMES TO PALM SPRINGS**
AFI LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
APRIL 25-29

NEWS RELEASE

'AFI FEST COMES TO PALM SPRINGS'

Five Critically-Acclaimed Features from AFI FEST 2002 Come to Coachella Valley

Los Angeles, California, April 11, 2003—American Film Institute (AFI) and Camelot Theatres will once again join forces to present the third annual "AFI FEST COMES TO PALM SPRINGS." Five award-winning and critically acclaimed films from the 2002 AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival (AFI FEST) will be screened from Friday, April 25th through Tuesday, April 29th, 2003.

Various filmmakers will attend to discuss their work, including director Tasha Oldham and producer Noelle Wright from *THE SMITH FAMILY* as well as *XX/XY* director Austin Chick. The four-day event will commence with an opening night reception to celebrate the AFI FEST partnership with Camelot Theatres.

AFI FEST director Christian Gaines said, "The American Film Institute is elated to bring the best of our festival to the Camelot Theatres and we are grateful for the opportunity to bring this sampling of exceptional films to the enthusiastic Palm Springs audience."

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS / FILMS:

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

Friday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m.

THE MAN ON THE TRAIN (L' HOMME DU TRAIN (France, 2002, English subtitles)

Friday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. & Sunday, April 27 at 1:00 p.m.

Directed by: Patrice LeConte. Cast: Jean Rochefort, Johnny Hallyday, Jean-Francois Stevenin, Charlie Nelson and Pascal Parmentier.

In this deeply moving film, Patrice Leconte explores two of France's most famous entertainers, Jean Rochefort and Johnny Hallyday, whose connection is described with an uncanny mix of humor and emotion.

Awards: 2003 Nomination Best Foreign Film David di Donatello Awards, 2003 Winner Lumiere Award, Lumiere Awards, France, 2002 Winner Audience Award Best Actor & Best Film, Venice Film Festival and 2002 Nomination Golden Lion, Venice Film Festival

THE SMITH FAMILY (USA, 2002)

Saturday, April 26 at 1:00 p.m. & Monday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Directed by: Tasha Oldham

The Smiths of Salt Lake City, Utah, are the seemingly picture-perfect Mormon family. But, after the Smith husband (and father) reveals his hidden homosexuality, their entire world crumbles. Told through interviews, home video footage and moments of candid family life, **THE SMITH FAMILY** is a remarkable tale of faith, commitment, love and hardship.

Awards: 2002 Winner Audience Award Best Documentary AFI FEST and 2003 Winner DGA Award, Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Documentary, Directors Guild of America

THE DANCER UPSTAIRS (Ecuador, Italy, Spain, 2002, English subtitles)

Sunday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. & Tuesday, April 29 at 1:00 p.m.

Directed by: John Malkovich. Cast: Javier Bardem, Juan Diego Botto, Laura Morante, Elvira Minguez, Alexandra Lencastre and Oliver Cotton.

John Malkovich's feature directorial debut follows policeman Agustin Rejas as he tries to save his Latin American nation from a guerilla and falls in love with his daughter's ballet teacher.

XX/XY (USA, 2002)

Saturday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m. & Monday, April 28 at 1:00 p.m.

Directed by: Austin Chick. Cast: Mark Ruffalo, Kathleen Robertson, Maya Stange, Petra Wright, Kel O'Neill, Joshua Spafford & David Thornton.

Austin Chick has fashioned a rich, involving drama about the sheer messiness of being in love, told in two parts, which chronicles the romantic life of a charming animator and three friends.

Awards: 2002 Nomination, Grand Jury Prize, Dramatic Feature, Sundance Film Festival

GRILL POINT (HALBE TREPPE) (Germany, 2002, English subtitles)

Tuesday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Directed by: Andreas Dresen. Cast: Axel Prahl, Steffi Kühnert, Gabriela Maria Schmeide, Thorsten Merten

In **GRILL POINT**, two friendly couples in the city of Frankfurt/Oder, East Germany, jump-start their bogged-down existence after adultery threatens to turn their lives upside down. Instead, they discover that small miracles are possible even in a place like East Germany - if you believe in them!

Awards: 2002 Silver Bear & Grand Jury Award Berlin Film Festival, 2002 Silver Hugo for Best Director & Best Ensemble Chicago Film Festival, 2003 German Film Critics' Award for Best Feature and 2003 Bavarian Film Award for Best Direction & Best Actor

LOCATION / TICKET INFORMATION:

Films will be shown at Camelot Theatres, 2300 Baristo Road, Palm Springs, California

Individual screening tickets are on sale now. General admission tickets are \$7.00 per person and seniors are \$5.00 per person. Box-office hours are 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily.

For more information please call 760.325.6565 or visit www.CamelotTheatres.com Filmmaker and AFI staff interviews, as well as film artwork available upon request.

ABOUT AFI

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 Film Theater at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC; the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland; and the AFI Life Achievement Award, the highest honor given for a career in film. AFI's annual almanac for the 21st century, AFI AWARDS, honors the most outstanding motion pictures and television programs of the year. In addition, AFI's 100 Years . . . 100 Movies, 100 Stars, 100 Laughs, 100 Thrills, 100 Passions and 100 Heroes & Villains (airing June 2003) have ignited extraordinary public interest in classic American movies. More information about AFI can be found by visiting its Web site, located at www.AFI.com.

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