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NEWS RELEASE

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS, STRAND RELEASING, FIRST LOOK STUDIOS AMONG SEVERAL US DISTRIBUTORS REPORTING AFI FEST *PRESENTED BY AUDI* ACQUISITIONS

VITUS, DANIKA, GRBAVICA and FISSURES among titles doing brisk trade through AFM/AFI FEST partnership

December 7, 2006 (Los Angeles)—AFI FEST presented by Audi today announced that a record level of business transpired through films represented at both this year's AFI FEST and American Film Market. Activity among US distributors was particularly heavy throughout AFI FEST, with a record 56 titles in Official Selection at AFI FEST also being represented at AFM.

Sony Pictures Classics picked up North America rights to **VITUS**, which is Switzerland's official entry in the foreign-language Oscar© race and was the winner of the Audience Award for Best Feature Film at AFI FEST, where it had its North American premiere. The film's sales agent Media Luna Entertainment also sealed a deal at the AFM with Korea's CNS Entertainment. The film has sold to 20 other territories, including almost all of Latin America to Cineplex, Mexico to Quality Films, Argentina and Brazil, as well as to Belgium and Luxembourg, France, Japan and China.

"Having had VITUS at AFI FEST and winning the audience award was truly a fantastic experience, and made VITUS take off in real life. It was the perfect platform to promote the film and was the key for our sales company Media Luna to find the ideal American distributor with Sony Pictures Classics. For us, an American dream in Switzerland comes true," said Producer Christof Neracher.

"AFI FEST together with AFM provides us with all of the tools we need. I've been a long time fan of the Festival as well as the Market and this year, especially, I saw the synergy of the two in action. The teamwork and networks that I was given access to really contributed to our sale to Sony Pictures Classics and we are thrilled!" said Ida Martins, Managing Director of Media Luna Entertainment.

First Look Studios has acquired **DANIKA** for worldwide distribution through its First Look Television Division. First Look previously made the announcement during the AFM and AFI FEST. **DANIKA**, which played in the newly inaugurated Dark Horizons section of AFI FEST, stars Craig Bierko and Marisa Tomei.

Strand Releasing bought three films programmed at this year's AFI FEST, including **GRBAVICA**, which played as a US Premiere in the International Competition at AFI FEST 2006, and is the Bosnia & Herzegovina Oscar© submission. **GRBAVICA** was also the winner of the Grand Jury Prize at AFI FEST. Strand also acquired North American rights to the Hungarian Oscar© entry **WHITE PALMS**, which had its US Premiere in the World Cinema section, as well as **YOUR LIFE IN 65 MINUTES** from Madrid-based Latido, which debuted in North America as part of the Latin Cinema Series.

"Being able to see a film that's for sale at the market with an audience at the Festival gives us the ability to make intelligent decisions and, as a result, pick fantastic films. To have films at both is really an invaluable asset for everyone," said Jon Gerrans, Co-President of Strand Releasing.

US remake rights to Alante Kavaite's **FISSURES** ("ECOUTE LE TEMPS") were sold to producers Joe Dante and Elizabeth Stanley who are teaming to make an English-language version of the Gallic film. The deal was announced at AFM on the eve of the film's World Premiere at AFI FEST. Eduardo Rodriguez is already attached to direct and Greg Pak has committed to adapt the screenplay.

"The enthusiastic response to the screenings at AFI FEST and AFM confirmed our belief that **FISSURES** is the kind of unique and imaginative film which lends itself to reinterpretation for English-language audiences," said Dante and Stanley.

FISSURES producer Antoine Simkine added that, "Having both AFM and AFI at the same time is fantastic and the buzz travels well. One amplifies the other."

AFI FEST Official Competition selection **FISSURES** theatrical rights were sold to England and Turkey and television rights were sold to Brazil, Indonesia/Malaysia/Singapore and Israel.

Making its World Premiere at AFI FEST, **DARK CORNERS** was sold to Union Station Media, who acquired all US and Canadian distribution rights from Shoreline Entertainment. Shoreline also sold distribution rights for its psychological thriller to

Japan, Italy and Australia.

Maya Releasing acquired **SCREAMERS** for the US following its World Premiere at AFI FEST. **SCREAMERS** also won the Grand Jury Prize in the International Documentary Competition at AFI FEST.

FOUR MINUTES was also a big seller and as a result, Wolfe Releasing picked up U.S. rights. Additionally, the film will now be released in 20 countries. **FOUR MINUTES** sold to Brazil (Bitelli Films), Argentina (Alfa Films), Greece, Romania, Bulgaria and the former Yugoslavia (Prooptikki). **FOUR MINUTES** had its US premiere in the World Cinema section at this year's AFI FEST.

Showtime Networks bought rights to Julie Stevens and Gil Cates Jr.'s documentary **LIFE AFTER TOMORROW**, a Special Presentation at this year's AFI FEST.

Korean seller Cineclick Asia concluded sales of auteur Kim Ki-duk's latest work **TIME** to Lifesize for North America. Additionally, the Korean monster flick hit **THE HOST** which opens in France and the UK this month, was sold to India (Indo-Overseas), Beneluz (A-Film), Turkey (Bir Film), Vietnam (Vietnam Media) and the Philippines (Suraya).

Two-year-old independent Spanish film distributor Notro Films—producers of the acclaimed Cannes Director's Fortnight title **HONOR DE CALVALLERIA**—acquired theatrical rights to **SPECIAL**. The Michael Rappaport starrer was being sold at AFM and played as part of this year's American Directions section at AFI FEST 2006.

Germany's Beta Cinema made 30 deals at this year's AFM, many for the AFI FEST film **THE LIVES OF OTHERS**, directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck. The German Oscar entry© sold to South Korea (Eureka), Singapore, Malaysia (Cathay), Portugal (Ecofilms), Thailand (J-Bics) and Hong Kong (Edko). The film is being released in the US by Sony Pictures Classics.

Bleiberg Entertainments's **FROZEN DAYS**, which played as a North American Premiere in official competition at AFI FEST sold territories to Iceland (Myndform) and CIS (Videogram).

Since the formation of their strategic partnership in 2004, the American Film Market and AFI FEST presented by Audi has grown to become the largest gathering of film industry professionals in North America. The AFM was November 1-8, 2006 in Santa Monica and the AFI FEST took place November 1-12, 2006 in Hollywood. The association between the two events connects art and commerce, broadening the opportunities for all participants. While the AFM and AFI FEST are individually managed, their concurrent dates and combined programs bring value to the vast domestic and international constituency that attends the events.

AFI FEST 2006 presented by Audi kicked off with the US Premiere of **BOBBY**. Other highlights included the two Centerpiece Galas: **INLAND EMPIRE** and **THE FOUNTAIN**, and the Closing Night Gala, the World Premiere of **CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER**, directed by Zhang Yimou. Overall, the festival showcased a total of 111 features (91 narrative and 20 documentary films) and 36 shorts (33 narrative

and 3 documentary films) for a total of 147 films from 45 different countries. Of these films, 22 are World Premieres, 30 are North American Premieres and 28 are U.S. Premieres.

About AFI FEST 2006 presented by Audi

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 20 years as a program of the American Film Institute, AFI FEST 2006 presented by Audi will span 11 days in November, featuring international competitions of brand new films from emerging filmmakers, global showcases of the latest work from the great film masters and nightly red-carpet gala premieres.

In 2006, with 147 films from 45 countries, AFI FEST presented by Audi was host to over 500 filmmakers and guests from 45 countries. More than 65,000 attendees gathered at the AFI FEST Village in the heart of Hollywood for hundreds of screenings, receptions and special events, with the majority of activity headquartered at the state-of-the-art ArcLight Hollywood complex.

The American Film Market (AFM), November 1 – 8, 2006 is the market partner of AFI FEST. Together, AFI FEST and AFM provide the only concurrent festival/market event in North America. As the largest motion picture trade event in the world, AFM draws film community leaders from around the globe. Each year over 8,000 attendees converge on Santa Monica for deal making, screenings, seminars, networking and parties. For more information, visit www.americanfilmmarket.com.

AFI FEST 2006 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, City of Los Angeles and the Hollywood Sign Trust. AFI FEST is proud to continue its collaborative partnership with the Skirball Cultural Center.

AFI PROJECT: 20/20, a part of the US Government's Global Cultural Initiative, is supported by these organizations to enhance cultural exchange and collaboration through film: US Department of State, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

AFI FEST 2006 presented by Audi is sponsored in part by American Airlines, ArcLight Hollywood, Absolut Vodka, Aquafina, Best Buy, Charriol, Eastman Kodak Company, Hewlett Packard Company, Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Midway Car Rental, Moviefone, NEC and Stella Artois. The Los Angeles Times is the Festival's Presenting Media Partner. Additional media partners include Current TV, Indie 103.1, LA Weekly and Univision.

Additional information about AFI FEST is available at www.AFI.com.

About Audi of America

Audi's history in America dates to 1969, when the brand was first introduced to the U.S. market. Today, a network of over 260 Audi dealers currently offers a line of premium vehicles that include the Audi A3 compact; the sporty A4 sedan, Avant and Cabriolet models; the high performance S4 sedan, Avant and Cabriolet models; the high-revving RS 4 sports sedan; the design-leading A6 sedan and Avant; the V10-powered S6 sport sedan; the all-new Audi Q7 performance SUV; and the all-aluminum Audi A8 and S8 sedans.

Audi of America is headquartered in Auburn Hills, Michigan, and markets a line of luxury cars built in plants in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm, Germany; Bratislava, Slovakia; and Győr, Hungary.

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