

 **AFI FEST 2005**

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**AFI FEST 2005 presented by Audi ANNOUNCES
A TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY DEPP**

**WORLD PREMIERE OF "THE LIBERTINE"
FOLLOWING ON-STAGE TRIBUTE**

LOS ANGELES, October 13, 2005 - AFI FEST 2005 presented by Audi has selected actor Johnny Depp as this year's tributee. The Tribute to Johnny Depp will take place at ArcLight Hollywood on Friday, November 11, 2005, followed by the World Premiere of The Weinstein Company's THE LIBERTINE, starring Depp, Samantha Morton and John Malkovich, as part of the Festival's Special Screening series. The film is Laurence Dumore's directorial debut. (Picture of Johnny Depp available upon request).

"Our challenge each year in choosing a tributee is to find someone who is a highly accomplished artist about whom we crave to know more," says Christian Gaines, Director of AFI FEST. "Johnny Depp is such an artist. He has made interesting, risky choices in his career and has evolved into one of the most absorbing actors of our time."

Johnny Depp will make a rare appearance in a lively on-stage conversation with acclaimed film critic, commentator and author Richard Schickel. The Tribute will also include a career montage, and a series of clips that will take a close look at the work and art of this singular, stylish performer. The Tribute is made possible through a collaborative partnership with the Skirball Cultural Center.

"Johnny is a brilliant and truly unique actor, whose remarkable career has been defined by its diversity and veracity. The originality of both the characters he has portrayed, and the films he has made, further emphasize his integrity and passion," says Laurence Dumore, director of THE LIBERTINE. "I am delighted Johnny is being honored by AFI FEST."

THE LIBERTINE stars Depp as history's notorious enfant terrible, the Earl of Rochester. Rochester was a man of many contradictions: an anti-monarchist Royalist who was the confidant of British King Charles II (played by John Malkovich in the film); an atheist who converted to Christianity; and a poet and pornographer in Restoration-era Britain. The film follows how Rochester's famous cynicism is thrown for a loop

when he falls in love with a struggling young actress (Morton). *THE LIBERTINE* opens in New York and Los Angeles on November 23, and wide on January 13.

"Johnny's character in *THE LIBERTINE* is multifaceted and he conveys the complexities with brilliance," says Harvey Weinstein. "He is a true master and his performance in this film is outstanding."

Johnny Depp is one of the most versatile and compelling actors working in contemporary world cinema. His ability to recognize and then whole-heartedly immerse himself in memorable film roles has made him the rarest of movie stars—simultaneously iconoclastic yet eminently bankable—a true original. Pivotal performances in films as diverse as *CRY BABY*, *EDWARD SCISSORHANDS*, *WHAT'S EATING GILBERT GRAPE?*, *ED WOOD*, *DONNIE BRASCO*, *FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS*, *DON JUAN DeMARCO*, *BEFORE NIGHT FALLS*, *BLOW*, *CHOCOLAT* and *ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO* make his matinee idol good looks almost incidental to his work as a great actor.

More recently, *PIRATES OF THE CARRIBBEAN* (now with two sequels currently in production), *FINDING NEVERLAND*, and *CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY* have earned Depp a new legion of fans and made him more in demand than ever, with a slew of new projects in the pipeline.

As part of the Tribute, AFI FEST 2005 will also screen a retrospective of four of Depp's films during the 10-day Festival: *DEAD MAN* (1995), directed by Jim Jarmusch; *EDWARD SCISSORHANDS* (1990), directed by Tim Burton; *FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS* (1998), directed by Terry Gilliam; and *WHAT'S EATING GILBERT GRAPE?* (1993), directed by Lasse Hallström—whose latest film, *CASANOVA*, will close the Festival's program this year.

AFI FEST 2005 presented by Audi will run November 3-13, 2005. Passes are on sale now and individual event tickets go on sale to the public on Friday, October 14, 2005. To order passes and tickets and to get more information, visit www.AFI.com or call 1.866.AFI.FEST.

About Richard Schickel

Richard Schickel is a film critic, documentary filmmaker and movie historian, who has written over 30 books, among them *The Disney Version*; *His Picture in the Papers: D.W. Griffith: An American Life*; *Intimate Strangers: The Culture of Celebrity*; *Brando: A Life in Our Times*; *Matinee Idylls* and *Good Morning Mr Zip Zip Zip*. He has made 30 documentaries including *CHARLIE: THE LIFE AND ART OF CHARLES CHAPLIN*; *WOODY ALLEN: A LIFE IN FILM* and *SHOOTING WAR*, the latter of which is about combat cameramen in World War II. Schickel recently completed the book *Elia Kazan: A Biography*, and is working on a documentary about Martin Scorsese, which will be the 18th installment in a series of portraits of American film directors he has made over the course of his career. He also recently completed a reconstruction of Sam Fuller's classic war film *THE BIG RED ONE*, restoring over 45 minutes cut from the original release print. He has been reviewing movies for *Time* since 1972 and writes a monthly column, "Film on Paper," for *The Los Angeles Times Book Review*. He has held a Guggenheim Fellowship and was awarded the British Film

Institute Book Prize, the Maurice Bessy prize for film criticism and received an Honorary Degree from AFI.

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. Now in its 19th year, AFI FEST presented by Audi: AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival is the longest-running film festival in Los Angeles and one of the most influential film festivals in North America. The Festival spans 10 days each 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 2004, AFI FEST and the American Film Market established a strategic alliance, creating the only festival/market combination in North America. This alliance has successfully resulted in a unique combination of commerce and culture. The AFM runs November 2-9, 2005. For more information, visit www.americanfilmmarket.com.

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AFI FEST 2005 presented by Audi is sponsored in part by American Airlines, ArcLight Hollywood, Absolut Vodka, Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Best Buy, Eastman Kodak Company, Midway Car Rental, Aquafina and Stella Artois. The New York Times is the Festival's Presenting Media Partner. Additional partners include Indie 103.1, LA Weekly and Univision.

About Audi of America

Audi of America is headquartered in Auburn Hills, Michigan, and markets performance-oriented European luxury vehicles: the all-new versatile A3; the sporty A4 sedan, A4 Avant and A4 Cabriolet models—the perfect union of power and control; the everyday sports car in the form of the S4 sedan, S4 Avant and the S4 Cabriolet; the birth of Audi's sports car tradition—the TT Coupe and Roadster; the broad range of bold A6 sedans—the beautiful new A6 Avant; and the most progressive premium flagship sedan, the A8 in both extended and normal wheelbase versions. For more information about additional Audi-related events and corporate news, visit www.audiusa.com.

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