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AFI FEST FILM FESTIVAL
2006 Festival



AFI FEST 2006 Report

PROJECT	COUNTRY	ACQUISITION INFO	SYNOPSIS	TALENT
ANTONIA	Brazil	Downtown Filmes (Brazil) and Red Envelope Entertainment (USA)	Friends since childhood, Preta, Barbarah, Mayah and Lena are backup singers in a rap group fronted by a gang of testosterone-laden men. Dreaming of the opportunity to make something of their lives, the girls form their own group, Antonia. But what chance do they stand against poverty, sexism and the everyday danger of life in the favela?	P: Tata Amaral P: Georgia Costa Araujo D: Tata Amaral W: Tata Amaral W: Roberto Moreira C: Chico Andrade C: Barao C: Nathalye Cris C: Valney Damasceno
BANQUET aka YE YAN	China	Aquired by Alexandra Films (Bulgaria) Buena Vista International (Australia) (Australia) EcoFilmes (Portugal) GAGA Communications (Japan) Long Shong Entertainment Multimedia Company (Taiwan) Media Asia (USA) Momentum Pictures (Spain) Momentum Pictures (UK) Shapira Films (Israel) Shaw Organisation (Singapore) Studio Canal (France)	Ancient China - the Imperial Court. The emperor dies mysteriously. His death starts a journey of loyalty and betrayal, conspiracy and slaughter, and love and hatred a la Shakespeare's Hamlet.	EP: Yuen Wo-Ping EP: Wang Zhonglei P: Wang Zhongjun D: Feng Xiaogang W: Sheng Heyu W: Qiu Gangjian C: Ziyi Zhang C: Daniel Wu C: Ge You C: Xun Zhou



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CASHBACK	UK	Atlantic Film (Sweden), Gaumont/Columbia TriStar Films (France) Moonlight Films (Netherlands)	An art student suffering from insomnia gets a job at a supermarket working the graveyard shift in an attempt to while away his sleepless nights.	EP: Daphne Guinness EP: Norman Merry EP: Peter Hampden EP: Vijay Thakur P: Sean Ellis P: Lene Bausager D: Sean Ellis W: Sean Ellis C: Sean Biggerstaff C: Emilia Fox C: Shaun Evans C: Stuart Goodwin
DANIKA	USA	First Look Studios acquired for worldwide distribution through its First Look Television Division.	When devoted wife and mother, Danika Merrick, begins experiencing a series of terrifying delusions, she wonders whether she is actually having visions of future events or she is slowly slipping into insanity.	EP: Jeffrey T. Barnes EP: David Ebner EP: Richard Allen P: Lorena David P: Mark Roberts P: John F.K. Parenteau P: Dan Bickel P: Michael Urbanski D: Ariel Vromen W: Josh Liebner C: Marisa Tomei C: Regina Hall C: Craig Bierko C: Kyle Gallner



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DARK CORNERS	USA/UK	Sold to Union Station Media acquired all US and Canadian distribution rights from Shoreline Entertainment.	A troubled young woman falls asleep and wakes up as someone else, stalked by hideous creatures.	P: Morris Ruskin P: Nigel Thomas D: Ray Gower W: Ray Gower C: Thora Birch C: Toby Stephens C: Christien Anholt
DARKBLUEALMOSTBLACK	Spain	A-Film Distribution (Netherlands) Irfan Film (Turkey) (TV) MK2 Diffusion (France) Mongrel Media (Canada) Strand Releasing (USA)	After his father has a stroke, Jorge is forced to take over his father's job. After meeting a woman named Antonia,, Jorge learns to stop feeling responsible for everything and finally confront his own wishes.	EP: Jose Antonio Felez D: Daniel Sanchez W: Daniel Sanchez C: Hector Colome C: Antonio De La Torre Lopez C: Roberto Enriquez C: Marta Etura
DEAD GIRL	USA	Partnering with Lakeshore Entertainment, Henry Winterstern's First Look Pictures will distribute in North America.	An examination of the lives touched by the loss and/or discovery of a missing girl's dead body.	EP: David Scott Rubin EP: Terry A McKay EP: Temple Williams EP: Eric Reid P: Tom Rosenberg P: Gary Lucchesi P: Henry Winterstern D: Karen Moncrieff W: Karen Moncrieff C: Mary Steenburgen C: Bruce Davison C: Josh Brolin C: Giovanni Ribisi



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DRAMA/ MEX	Mexico	IFC Entertainment acquired North American rights	Three intense human relationship stories are interlaced during one night in contemporary Acapulco.	EP: Gael Garcia Bernal EP: Diego Luna EP: Pablo Cruz EP: Gabriel Garcia EP: Kyzza Terrazas EP: Yibrán Asuad EP: Renato Ornelas P: Gabriel Garcia P: Miriana Moro P: Santiago Paredes D: Gerardo Naranjo W: Gerardo Naranjo C: Fernando Becerril C: Diana Garcia C: Miriana Moro C: Juan Pablo Castaneda
FISSURES aka <i>ECOUTE LE TEMPS</i>	France	US remake rights were sold to producers Joe Dante and Elizabeth Stanley. Theatrical rights were sold to England and Turkey and television rights were sold to Brazil, Indonesia /Malaysia/Singapore and Israel.	After Charlotte's mother is murdered, she decides to take action. As a sound engineer, she uses her equipment to carry out her own investigation. While listening to a recording just made in the house where the murder took place, Charlotte discovers a strange phenomenon--sounds from the past blend with sounds from the present.	P: Antoine Simkine D: Alante Kavaite W: Alante Kavaite C: Emilie Dequenne C: Nadia Barentin C: Etienne Chicot C: Mathieu Demy



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FOUR MINUTES	Germany	Wolfe Releasing picked up US rights	An examination of runner Roger Bannister, who beat the record for the 4-minute mile in the early 1950s.	EP: Bud Greenspan EP: Gerald Abrams EP: Nancy Beffa P: Lynn Raynor D: Charles Beeson C: Shaun Austin-Olsen C: Christopher Plummer C: Phillip Craig C: Darcy Dunlop
FROZEN DAYS	Israel	Sold territories to Iceland (Myndform) and CIS (Videogram).	Miao is a young woman roaming the streets and nightclubs of Tel Aviv. She lives in empty apartments and surfs the Internet chat rooms. One night she decides to meet Alex, her chat buddy. The road leading to the blind date is full of obstacles, mistaken identities and possible madness.	EP: Edouard Douek EP: Ehud Bleiberg P: Danny Lerner P: Asaf Rab P: Alon Lerner D: Danny Lerner W: Danny Lerner C: Maor Cohen C: Sandra Sadeh C: Anat Klauzner C: Uli Sternberg
GLUE	Argentina	Picture This! picked up US rights and Filmmuseum Distributie (Netherlands)	15-year-old Lucas fills the hot days of summer by succumbing to his adolescent desires, experimenting with drugs, music and sex alongside two cohorts equally bored with life in their small desert town.	EP: Isabel Coixet P: Alexis dos Santos P: Soledad Gatti-Pascual D: Alexis dos Santos W: Alexis dos Santos C: Veronica Llinas C: Nahuel Perez Biscayart C: Nahuel Viale C: Ines Efron



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GRBAVICA: THE LAND OF MY DREAMS	Bosnia and Herzegovina / Austria/ Germany/ Croatia	Strand Releasing bought GRBAVICA was also the winner of the Grand Jury Prize at AFI FEST 2006.	In Bosnia, a single mother ,Esma, lives with her 12-year-old daughter Sara in Sarajevo's Grbavica neighborhood. Together they face the past while attempting to build a future.	P: Barbara Albert P: Bruno Wagner P: Damir Ibrahimovic D: Jasmila Zbanic W: Jasmila Zbanic C: Dejan Acimovic C: Bogdan Diklic C: Emir Hadzihafizbegovic C: Mirjana Karanovic
HOST	South Korea	Sold to India (Indo-Overseas), Beneluz (A-Film), Turkey (Bir Film), Vietnam (Vietnam Media) and the Philippines (Suraya).	An idyllic landscape turns suddenly to bedlam, when a terrifying creature climbs up onto the riverbank and begins to crush and eat people. A father ,Gang-du, is forced to infiltrate the forbidden zone near the Han River to rescue his daughter from the clutches of the horrifying Host.	EP: Choi Yong-bae EP: Kim Woo-taek EP: Jeong Tae-sung P: Choi Yong-bae D: Bong Joon-Ho W: Bong Joon-Ho W: Ha Jun-weon W: Baek Cheol-hyeon C: Scott Wilson C: Bae Doo-na C: Song Kang-ho C: Byun Hee-Bong
INLAND EMPIRE	USA	Lynch himself has secured US and Candian distribution rights to the film.	A blonde actress is preparing for her biggest role yet, but when she finds herself falling for her co-star, she realizes that her life is beginning to mimic the fictional film that they're shooting.	EP: Merik Zydowicz P: David Lynch P: Mary Sweeney D: David Lynch W: David Lynch C: Laura Dern C: Diane Ladd C: Mary Steenburgen C: Justin Theroux



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LIFE AFTER TOMORROW	USA	Showtime Networks bought rights for television.	Explores the life-changing ramifications of being a child performer while following the lives of many orphan cast members of the hit Broadway musical, "Annie," as they revisit their experience in the show, their childhood, the family support structure, what happened when they left the show and returned to a "normal" childhood, and what they are doing with their lives today.	EP: Motty Reif EP: Chris Kelly P: Gil Cates, Jr P: Julie Stevens D: Gil Cates, Jr D: Julie Stevens C: Harve Presnell C: Sarah Jessica Parker C: William Berloni C: Danielle Brisebois
LIVES OF OTHERS	Germany	Sold to Eureka (South Korea), Singapore, Cathay (Malaysia), Ecofilms (Portugal), J-Bics (Thailand) and Edko (Hong Kong)	East Berlin, November 1984. A Thriller set in the five years before the Berlin wall comes down examines how the former East-German government ensured its claim to power with a ruthless system of control and surveillance.	P: Quirin Berg P: Max Wiedemann D: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck W: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck C: Martina Gedeck C: Matthias Brenner C: Hans-Uwe Bauer C: Volkmar Kleinert
SCREAMERS	UK	Maya Releasing acquired for the US.	A documentary examining why genocides keep occurring--from the Armenian genocide in 1915, to the Holocaust, Bosnia, Rwanda and now Darfur. With the contribution of the band 'System of a Down', whose members are all grandchildren of genocide survivors, the film traces the locations and stories of genocide in the last century.	P: Peter McAlevey P: Nick De Grunwald P: Tim Swain P: Carla Garapedian D: Carla Garapedian C: John Dolmayan C: Daron Malakian C: Shavo Odadjian C: Serj Tankian



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SECRET LIFE OF HAPPY PEOPLE	Canada	Christal Films purchased for Canadian distribution.	Thomas is shy and a dreamer. About to finish her university studies, he's finding it harder and harder to meet his parents' expectations and to fit into their idea of a happy family. Just then, a young woman enters and renews his ardour. Audrey changes his life.	P: Roger Frappier P: Luc Vandal D: Stephane Lapointe W: Stephane Lapointe C: Marc Beland C: Anne Dorval C: Marie Gignac C: Gilles Renaud
SPECIAL	USA	Spanish film distributor Notro Films acquired theatrical rights. Revolver Entertainment will distribute in the UK and Videoville Showtime will distribute in Canada.	Les Franken leads a painfully unremarkable life as a metermaid until he enrolls in a drug study for an experimental anti-depressant. An unexpected side effect of the drug convinces Les he is developing special powers and must quit his job to answer his new calling in life--superhero.	P: Frank Mele P: Edward Parks D: Hal Haberman D: Jeremy Passmore W: Hal Haberman W: Jeremy Passmore C: Michael Rapaport C: Alexandra Holden C: Josh Peck C: Paul Blackthorne
STEPHANIE DALEY	USA	Regent Releasing (USA)	The parallel journeys of 16-year-old Stephanie Daley, who is accused of murdering her newborn, and the forensic psychologist, Lydie Crane, who is hired to determine the truth behind Stephanie's continuing state of denial.	EP: Tilda Swinton EP: Doug Dey P: Sean Costello P: Jen Roskind P: Lynette Howell P: Samara Koffler D: Hilary Brougher W: Hilary Brougher C: Denis O'Hare C: Tilda Swinton C: Timothy Hutton C: Amber Tamblyn



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TIME <i>aka Shigan</i>	South Korea	Seller Cineclick Asia concluded sales to Lifesize for North America. Bir Film (Turkey) Alfa Films (Argentina) Cinema Mondo (Finland) Festive Films (Singapore) Golden Village Entertainment (Singapore) Happinet Pictures (Japan) Sponge (South Korea)	A woman tries to transform herself through plastic surgery in order to save her long-term relationship.	EP: Michio Suzuki P: Kim Ki-duk D: Kim Ki-duk W: Kim Ki-duk C: Sung Hyun-ah C: Ha Jung-woo C: Park Ji-yeon C: Kim Seong-min
TRIAD ELECTION	Hong Kong / China	A-Film Distribution (Netherlands) ARP Sélection (France) Avalon Productions (Spain) Celluloid Dreams (worldwide) China Star Worldwide Distribution (Hong Kong) Eng Wah Cinema (Singapore) Long Shong Entertainment Multimedia Company (Taiwan) Optimum Releasing (UK) (DVD) Optimum Releasing (UK) Tartan USA (USA)	The post-1997 world of Chinese rule means that even the long-established Wo Shing Triad Society must change its ways and think north. But after the brotherhood was fractured by the ruthless grip of Chairman Lok, it was up to the younger generation to lead the way.	EP: Dennis Law EP: Charles Heung P: Dennis Law P: Johnnie To D: Johnnie To W: Yau Nai-hoi W: Yip Tin-Shing C: Lam Ka Tung C: Wong Tin-lam C: Lam Suet C: Mark Cheng



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VITUS	Switzerland	Sony Pictures Classics picked up North America rights. Winner of the Audience Award for Best Feature Film at AFI FEST, where it had its North American premiere.	Vitus is a boy who almost seems to be from another planet--he has hearing like a bat, he plays piano like a virtuoso and studies encyclopedias. No wonder his parents begin to anticipate a brilliant future for him. They want Vitus to become a pianist. However, the little genius prefers to play in his eccentric grandfather's workshop. He dreams of flying and of a normal childhood. Ultimately, with one dramatic leap, Vitus takes control of his own life.	P: Christian Davi P: Fredi M Murer P: Christof Neracher D: Fredi M Murer W: Fredi M Murer W: Lukas B Suter W: Peter Luisi C: Bruno Ganz C: Fabrizio Borsani C: Teo Gheorghiu C: Julika Jenkins
WHITE PALMS aka <i>FEHER TENYER</i>	Hungary / France	Strand Releasing bought for US distribution.	Inspired by the life of the director's younger brother, Zoltan Miklos Hajdu, who plays himself in the film and who performs with the famous Cirque du Soleil at Las Vegas.	EP: Mathieu Kassovitz EP: Peter Kassovitz EP: Kornel Sipos EP: Zsofia Kende EP: Fellegi Thomas P: Gabor Kovacs P: Agnes Pataki P: Peter Reich P: Ivan Angelusz D: Szabolcs Hajdu W: Szabolcs Hajdu C: Zoltan Miklos Hajdu C: Gheorghe Dinica C: Andor Lukats C: Oana Pellea



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WHO LOVES THE SUN	Canada	Christal films purchased for Canadian distribution.	Two childhood friends compete for the love of a woman.	EP: Karen lee hall P: Brendan Sawatzky P: Corey Marr P: Matthew Bissonnette D: Matthew Bissonnette W: Matthew Bissonnette C: Wendy Crewson C: Lukas Haas C: Adam Scott C: Molly Parker C: R H Thomson
WRISTCUTTERS	USA	After Dark Films purchased for Canada and USA theatrical.	Suicide is not the end, but only the beginning of a fascinating journey through the afterlife for souls in search of what they could not find in their previous lives.	EP: Jonathan Schwartz P: Chris Coen P: Tatiana Kelly P: Adam Sherman P: Mikal P Lazarev D: Goran Dukic W: Goran Dukic C: Azura Skye C: Patrick Fugit C: John Hawkes C: Shannyn Sossamon
YOUR LIFE IN 65 MINUTES aka <i>TU VIDA EN 65 MINUTOS</i>	Spain	Strand Releasing bought from Madrid-based Latido	Three young friends read the death notice of who they suppose to be an old schoolmate that they have not seen in a long time. The three go to the funeral home and from then on confusion and chance weave a story of friendship, love and death.	EP: Ricardo Garcia Arrojo P: Francisco Ramos P: Marta Esteban D: Maria Ripoll W: Alberto Espinosa C: Irene Montala C: Oriol Vila C: Nuria Gago C: Javier Pereira C: Marc Rodriguez C: Tamara Arias