

## NEWS RELEASE



NOV 1-11 2007

### **AFI FEST 2007 PRESENTED BY AUDI ANNOUNCES "LIONS FOR LAMBS" OPENING NIGHT FILM**

Los Angeles, CA, August 29, 2007—**AFI FEST 2007 presented by Audi:** AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival announces that United Artists' LIONS FOR LAMBS has been selected as the Festival's Opening Night Gala presentation. LIONS FOR LAMBS will have its North American Premiere when it opens **AFI FEST** on Thursday, November 1, 2007 at ArLight Hollywood's Cinerama Dome Theatre. The Opening Night Gala is presented by Audi of America.

Directed by Academy Award® winner Robert Redford, and starring Redford, Meryl Streep and Tom Cruise, LIONS FOR LAMBS is a powerful and gripping story that digs behind the news, the politics and a nation divided to explore the human consequences of a complicated war.

The film marks the first production from the new United Artists, which was reborn last year through a new partnership between Tom Cruise, Paula Wagner and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc.

"We are incredibly proud that AFI has chosen LIONS FOR LAMBS for its Opening Night Gala," said Wagner, UA's Chief Executive Officer. "We think it's an exciting film and an important film, and this is the perfect way to introduce it to the public."

The Opening Night Gala holds a unique significance this year, as the date will mark the first day on the job for AFI's new President and CEO Bob Gazzale, who succeeds Jean Picker Firstenberg to become only the third person to lead the American Film Institute since Lyndon B. Johnson announced the institute's creation in 1967.

"AFI is thrilled to host the premiere LIONS FOR LAMBS on Opening Night at **AFI FEST presented by Audi**, and to play a role in the celebration of new leadership at United Artists, which has for ninety years provided so many extraordinary moments in film history." said Jean Picker Firstenberg, President and CEO of AFI. "It is also an auspicious moment in AFI history as we welcome Bob Gazzale as President and CEO on November 1st. I can't imagine a more exciting film to commemorate the occasion and kick off the Festival."

**AFI FEST 2007** will run November 1-11, 2007. Passes go on sale September 5 and individual film and event tickets go on sale to the public on October 12. To order passes and tickets and to get ore information, visit [www.AFI.com](http://www.AFI.com) or call 1.866.AFI.FEST.

### **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. Celebrating its 21st year as a program of the American Film Institute, **AFI FEST 2007** presented by Audi will take place November 1-11, featuring international competitions of new films from emerging filmmakers, as well as global showcases of the latest work from great film masters and nightly red-carpet gala premieres. Kicking off the awards season each year, **AFI FEST** offers a crucial avenue of exposure to the entertainment community, while providing appreciative audiences with a festive atmosphere and the very best of world film, right in the center of the film capital of the world.

The American Film Market (AFM), October 31 – November 7, 2007, is the market partner of **AFI FEST**. Together, **AFI FEST** and AFM provide the only concurrent festival/market event in North America. More domestic sales of international titles and international territory sales occurred at **AFI FEST 2006** than any other US festival. AFI FEST is the only FIAPF-accredited film festival in the United States. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recognizes **AFI FEST** as a qualifying festival for the Short Films category for the annual Academy Awards®.

Additional information about **AFI FEST** is available at [www.AFI.com](http://www.AFI.com).

**AFI FEST 2007 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 is an American Film Institute project supported by a partnership of the Department of State, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

**AFI FEST 2007 presented by Audi** is sponsored in part by American Airlines, ArLight Hollywood, Absolut Vodka, Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Midway Car Rental and Stella Artois. [The Los Angeles Times](http://www.losangelestimes.com) is the Festival's Presenting Media Partner.

### **About Audi of America, Inc.**

Audi's history in America dates to 1969, when the brand was first introduced to the U.S. market. Today, a network of more than 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 and Cabriolet (November 2007 launch); the all-new S5 coupe (November 2007 launch) with 354 hp; the design-leading A6 sedan and Avant; the V10-powered high performance S6 sedan; the Audi Q7 performance SUV; the new all-aluminum Audi A8; the new S8 with V10 power; the all-new 2008 TT Coupe and Roadster models; and the all-new all-aluminum R8, one of the most

exclusive sports cars in the world. 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; Győr, Hungary; and Changchun, China (local market only). The parent company, AUDI AG, is headquartered in Ingolstadt, Germany.

### **About United Artists**

United Artists Entertainment LLC was formed in November 2006 under a partnership between Tom Cruise, Paula Wagner, and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc. (MGM), with Wagner serving as Chief Executive Officer. The historic United Artists brand was initially founded some 85 years ago by movie greats Douglas Fairbanks, Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, and D.W. Griffith and, throughout its history, has appeared on such iconic film franchises as Rocky, The Pink Panther, and James Bond.

###

### **Press Contact:**

John Wildman, Director, Press and Public Relations **AFI FEST 2007 presented by Audi**, 323.856.7839, [john.wildman@afi.com](mailto:john.wildman@afi.com)

Alison Deknatel, American Film Institute, 323.856.7896, [alison.deknatel@afi.com](mailto:alison.deknatel@afi.com)