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**AFI FEST 2006 presented by Audi ANNOUNCES
A TRIBUTE TO PENÉLOPE CRUZ
&
GALA PRESENTATION OF PEDRO ALMODÓVAR'S "VOLVER"
SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS ANNOUNCED**

LOS ANGELES, CA, September 28, 2006 – AFI FEST 2006 presented by Audi: AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival has selected Penélope Cruz as the recipient of the Festival's annual Tribute. The Tribute to Penélope Cruz will take place at Arclight Hollywood's Cinerama Dome on Thursday, November 2, 2006. Pedro Almodóvar's highly acclaimed film VOLVER in which Cruz stars, will also premiere that evening immediately following the Tribute as part of the Festival's Centerpiece Gala series. VOLVER, which was recently announced as Spain's official selection to the 79th Oscar Best Foreign Film category, is a Sony Pictures Classic release starring Cruz, Carmen Maura, Lola Dueñas, Blanca Portillo and Yohana Cobo.

"Penélope Cruz is an actress whose dynamic spirit truly shines through every character she creates. Our challenge in choosing an artist each year is to find someone with a compelling body of work about whom we crave to know more. There is no doubt that Penélope fits this criteria," said AFI's Director of Programming Nancy Collet. "Both Penélope and Pedro Almodóvar have been good friends of the Festival for many years. We are delighted to welcome them back and host this very special evening for them."

The Tribute will be a celebration of Penélope Cruz's career and will include a lively on-stage conversation, film clips, a few surprises and visits from special friends. The Tribute is made possible through a collaborative partnership with the Skirball Cultural Center.

Set in Spain, VOLVER is a dramatic comedy that explores the generational story of three women—a good mother (Maura) who is desperately in love with a man who is far from being a saint, a young mother (Cruz) carrying a hard life upon her shoulders and an illegal hairdresser (Dueñas) whose shop is the meeting point for all the neighborhood gossips.

"From ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER to TALK TO HER to BAD EDUCATION, AFI FEST has been a good luck charm for Pedro Almodóvar and his movies. The showing of his new film this year should be another unforgettable evening. VOLVER is the work of a world master at the peak of his form featuring the performance of a lifetime by Penélope Cruz," said Michael Barker & Tom Bernard, co-presidents of Sony Pictures Classics.

The AFI FEST Tribute has become a signature event at the Festival, consisting of a single, special, live on-stage tribute to a leading figure in the international motion picture community. Previous AFI FEST Tribute recipients have included Pedro Almodóvar, Michael Caine, Johnny Depp, Anjelica Huston, Jessica Lange, Ang Lee and Louis Malle.

Penélope Cruz has proven herself to be one of the most versatile, young actresses by playing a variety of compelling characters. First introduced to American audiences in the Spanish films JAMON, JAMON and BELLE EPOQUE, in 1998 she starred in her first English language film, HI-LO COUNTRY for director Stephen Frears, opposite Woody Harrelson, Patricia Arquette and Billy Crudup. In 1999, Cruz won the Best Actress award at the 13th Annual Goya Awards given by the Spanish Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences for her role in Fernando Trueba's THE GIRL OF YOUR DREAMS.

Confirming her status as Spain's hottest international actress, Cruz won pivotal roles in films as diverse as ALL THE PRETTY HORSES, WOMAN ON TOP, OPEN YOUR EYES, TWICE UPON A YESTERDAY, BLOW, CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN, VANILLA SKY, MASKED & ANONYMOUS, FAN FAN LA TULIPE, DON'T TEMPT ME, DON'T MOVE, GOTHIKA, HEAD IN THE CLOUDS, NOEL, CHROMOPHOBIA, and SAHARA.

VOLVER is the third collaboration between Cruz and Almodóvar. The two first worked together in 1997 on LIVE FLESH and again in the critically acclaimed ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER, which was awarded the Golden Globe and Oscar for Best Foreign Film in addition to being a Closing Night Film of AFI FEST.

In addition, AFI FEST 2006 announces the World Premiere of Karen Moncrieff's THE DEAD GIRL (USA, Dramatic Feature), an engaging story surrounding the dark mystery of a young woman's death. As clues are gradually revealed, the lives of seemingly unrelated people begin to intersect. THE DEAD GIRL's impressive ensemble cast includes: Josh Brolin, Rose Byrne, Toni Collette, James Franco, Marcia Gay Harden, Mary Beth Hurt, Brittany Murphy, Giovanni Ribisi, Mary Steenburgen, Kerry Washington, and Piper Laurie. The film will screen as part of AFI's Special Presentation series.

Another Special Presentation and North American Premiere at AFI FEST 2006 is UK's THE HISTORY BOYS directed by Nicholas Hytner. This dramatic feature centers on an unruly class of bright, funny teenage boys in pursuit of sex, sport and a college degree. Bounced between their maverick English teacher, a young and shrewd professor hired to up their test scores, a grossly out-numbered history teacher, and a headmaster obsessed with results, the boys attempt to sift through it all to pass the daunting university admissions process. Their journey becomes as much about how

education works, as it is about where education leads. Based on the award-winning play that premiered at London's prestigious National Theatre, the actors from the stage version also star in the film.

Nicholas Hytner was awarded the 2006 Tony Award for Best Director in a Play for the Broadway production of *THE HISTORY BOYS* and Richard Griffiths reprises his Tony-Award-winning role in the film.

Seven other Special Presentations have also been added to this year's Festival line-up.

AIR GUITAR NATION (USA)

Director: Alexandra Lipsitz, Documentary Feature

The Air Guitar Championships have been held for years in Finland while America has been absent from the competitions...but no more! Fueled by pure rock energy, this documentary chronicles the unlikely birth of the US Air Guitar Championship and the intense rivalries that develop on the way to the event in Finland.

BUG (USA)

Director: William Friedkin, Dramatic Feature

Probing the blurry lines between paranoia and nightmarish reality, *BUG* is an intense, mind-bending psychological thriller in which nothing is quite as it seems. Directed by Academy Award Award® winner William Friedkin (*THE FRENCH CONNECTION*, *THE EXORCIST*) *BUG* stars Golden Globe nominee Ashley Judd, Harry Connick, Jr., Lynn Collins, Brian O'Byrne and Michael Shannon.

COME EARLY MORNING (USA)

Director: Joey Lauren Adams, Dramatic Feature

Lucy (Ashley Judd) is a 30-something woman who keeps waking up with a stiff hangover and a guy she doesn't even want to look at. If coming to grips with why she keeps repeating this pattern isn't enough, Lucy also begins to realize that she needs to get in touch with her familial past and, more importantly, with the person she has become.

LIES AND ALIBIS (USA)

Directors: Matt Checkowski and Kurt Mattilla, Dramatic Feature

Ray (Steve Coogan) is a reformed grifter who provides cheating spouses with the perfect cover for their affairs. When a seemingly minor job goes wrong, soon assassins and the fearsome Mormon are out for Ray.

MY NAME IS JACKIE BEAT (USA)

Director: Randolph Mark Viverito, Documentary Feature

In this concert-style documentary, the filmmaker follows the life of one of today's most notorious bad-girl drag performers – Jackie Beat. Backstage we meet Kent Fuher, the man behind Jackie Beat, an incredibly talented performer whose life is ruled by constant doubts and insecurities. As Kent Fuher travels between New York City, Toronto, Los Angeles, Fire Island and then across the Atlantic to Berlin, he constantly questions his life and profession and slowly reveals his personal life.

TV JUNKIE (USA)

Directors: Michael Cain and Matt Radecki, Documentary Feature

Rick Kirkham got his first video camera when he was 14 years old. It became his best friend and confidant. From that point on, he began documenting every facet of his life. Then, after his first break in TV as a dancer on AMERICAN BANDSTAND through various jobs in local TV news to a gig as national correspondent on INSIDE EDITION, Kirkham's professional life in front of the camera paralleled his personal obsession with it. Editing down 3,000 hours of footage, directors Michael Cain and Matt Radecki tell this unbelievable story that is both a cautionary tale and a gripping portrait of a TV junkie.

VENUS (UK)

Director: Roger Michell, Dramatic Feature

Maurice and Ian, a pair of grizzled veteran actors, , comfortable daily routine is disrupted by the arrival of Ian's grandniece, Jessie. Maurice (Peter O'Toole) takes the teenager under his wing, but is surprised to discover how very little he actually knows now that his own life is drawing to a close.

As previously announced, AFI FEST 2006 will be celebrating 20 years in 2006, with plans to celebrate AFI FEST and 15 years of FILMEX through a series of commemorative events, series and special programs throughout the 11-day Festival.

AFI FEST 2006 presented by Audi will run November 1-12, 2006. Passes are on sale now and individual event tickets go on sale on Friday, October 13, 2006. To order passes, tickets or for more information, visit 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 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 2005, with 129 films from 44 countries, AFI FEST was host to 522 filmmakers and guests from 35 countries. More than 60,000 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 ArLight 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 FEST 2006 presented by Audi is sponsored in part by American Airlines, ArcLight Hollywood, Absolut Vodka, Aquafina, Best Buy, Charriol, Eastman Kodak 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.

About Audi of America

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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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Editor's Note:

AFI FEST photos are available at:

<http://www.afi.com/about/press/afifest06/index.asp>

Getty Images is the Official Photographer of AFI. Daily imagery from AFI FEST 2006 will be available at www.gettyimages.com.

Additional images—including select daily hand-outs from Getty Images—as well as press information, production notes, archival materials and film stills are available at www.image.net.

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