

NEWS RELEASE



**AFI FEST 2008 PRESENTED BY AUDI ANNOUNCES
FOURTEEN TITLES IN OFFICIAL SELECTIONS**

**FILMS INCLUDE ONE WORLD, THREE NORTH
AMERICAN PREMIERES**

Los Angeles, CA, September 3, 2008—AFI FEST 2008 presented by Audi: AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival announces 14 films that will screen at this year's Festival (October 30-November 9) including the World Premiere of the documentary, *PLAYING COLUMBINE*, as well as the North American Premieres of *THE DESERT WITHIN*, *GOGOL BORDELLO NON-STOP* and *LAKE TAHOE*.

Danny Ledonne's *PLAYING COLUMBINE* takes a look at the history and controversy created by the video game "Super Columbine Massacre RPG!" from its creation through the 2006 shooting at Dawson College in which the game was singled out by the media as an influence on the shooter. The game's removal from the Slamdance 2007 Guerrilla Gamemaker Competition resulted in half of the competition's entries, as well as a sponsor, pulling out of the festival in protest. The screening will mark the highly anticipated film's World Premiere.

Making their North American Premieres at AFI FEST this year are two Mexican films, *THE DESERT WITHIN* and *LAKE TAHOE*. Directed by Rodrigo Pla, *THE DESERT WITHIN* is a drama which follows the downward spiral (and resulting influence on his children) of a father convinced that he has received a vision from God telling him that he must take his family to the desert to build a church and forge a new life. Fernando Eimbcke's *LAKE TAHOE* is a minimalist comic-drama about a young man who meets a handful of bizarre and off beat characters in a Yucatan one-horse town as he seeks replacement parts for the car he just crashed.

Also making its North American Premiere will be Margarita Jimeno's *GOGOL BORDELLO NON-STOP*. The documentary is a behind-the-scenes look at the gypsy punk band Gogol Bordello and their charismatic leader and front man, Eugene Hütz.

AFI FEST also announces 10 films currently playing at the Toronto International Film Festival that will screen for Los Angeles audiences for the first time at AFI

FEST this fall.

“These films represent remarkably unique views of our world from newer artists like Matteo Garrone, Ari Folman, Kelly Reichardt and Lisandro Alonso to the more established voices such as Arnaud Desplechin and Paul Schrader. They are films that have either already been celebrated and talked about at film festivals, internationally, or are sure to inspire enthusiastic discussion and debate at ours,” said Rose Kuo, AFI FEST Artistic Director.

Those films include:

ADAM RESURRECTED (Germany/Israel/USA)

Director: Paul Schrader

Based on the novel by Yoram Kaniuk, the film by AFI alum Schrader (D '69) is about a former circus clown who was spared the gas chamber so that he might entertain thousands of Jews as they marched to their deaths. Years later, he becomes the ringleader at an asylum in the Negev desert populated solely by Holocaust survivors. The film stars Jeff Goldblum and Willem Dafoe.

A CHRISTMAS TALE (Un conte de Noël) (France)

Director: Arnaud Desplechin

A drama focusing on a tense Christmas reunion of a family fractured by a past tragedy and forced to reconcile despite their dysfunction due to the onset of another crisis. The film stars Mathieu Almaric and Catherine Deneuve.

GOMORRAH (Italy)

Director: Matteo Garrone

Based on Roberto Saviano's expose' of Italy's Neapolitan Camorra crime organization, the film traces the day-to-day lives of various people touched by the syndicate and the ever-simmering betrayal, violence and often tragic results of its influence.

THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD (South Korea)

Director: Kim Jee Woon

Set in the 30s, the film is a reinvention of the Spaghetti western, featuring three men embodying the title descriptions who each meet on a train in the middle of the lawless Manchurian desert and face off against each other - as well as the Japanese army and hordes of bandits.

LION'S DEN (Argentina/South Korea/Brazil)

Director: Pablo Trapero

The film is a profile of a woman jailed for a murder she may or may not have committed, who discovers she is pregnant and now must raise her child behind bars.

LIVERPOOL (Argentina/France/The Netherlands/Germany/Spain)

Director: Lisandro Alonso

The film follows the journey of an alcoholic ship worker who takes leave of his job to make an unwelcome return to his small hometown and visit his dying mother and developmentally challenged daughter.

SHAKESPEARE AND VICTOR HUGO'S INTIMACIES (Mexico)

Director: Yulene Olaizola

This documentary uses the recollections of the director's grandmother to explore her relationship with a former lodger and his possible connection to a series of murders in Mexico City.

SKIN (UK/South Africa)

Director: Anthony Fabian

Set in 1955 and based on a true story, the film looks at the social and personal impact on two white Afikaner parents and their daughter in rural South Africa, after the girl is born with dark skin. The film stars Sophie Okonedo, Sam Neill and Alice Krige.

WALTZ WITH BASHIR (Israel/Germany/France)

Director: Ari Folman

The animated documentary investigates the involvement of an Israeli army brigade in the wholesale slaughter of a Lebanese refugee camp by Christian Phalangist militiamen.

WENDY AND LUCY (USA)

Director: Kelly Reichardt

Michelle Williams stars as a young woman, broke and out of options, who sets out on a dramatic journey to find a better life with her dog. The cast also includes Will Patton, Larry Fessenden, and Will Oldham.

AFI FEST 2008 will run October 30-November 9, 2008. Passes went on sale September 2 and individual film and event tickets go on sale to the public on October 10. To order passes and tickets and to get 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 its 22nd year as a program of the American Film Institute, AFI FEST 2008 presented by Audi will take place October 30-November 9. 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.

AFI FEST 2008 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, the Philanthropy Project and the Hollywood Sign Trust. AFI FEST is made possible in part by a grant from the Academy Foundation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. AFI FEST is proud to continue its collaborative partnership with the Skirball Cultural Center.

AFI FEST 2008 presented by Audi is sponsored in part by American Airlines, ArcLight Hollywood, RR Donnelley, Farmers Insurance, AT&T, Samsung, Absolut Vodka, Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Midway Car Rental and Stella Artois. The Los Angeles Times is the Festival's Presenting Media Partner.

The American Film Market (AFM), November 5 – November 12, 2008, is the market partner of AFI FEST. Together, AFI FEST and AFM provide the only concurrent festival/market event in North America. AFI FEST is the only FIAPF-accredited film festival in the United States.

AFI PROJECT: 20/20 is an American Film Institute international initiative designed to enhance cultural exchange, understanding and collaboration through filmmakers and their films from the US and abroad. It is an unprecedented cultural diplomacy effort that is the only international filmmaker exchange supported by all of America's cultural agencies—National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)— and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

About Audi of America, Inc.

Audi offers a line of premium vehicles through a network of 270 dealers including 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 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.

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