
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

A TRIBE CALLED QUEST FINDS FANS AT SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

NEW YORK, NY (March 10, 2011) – Sony Pictures Classics announced today that they have acquired all North American rights to Michael Rapaport’s directorial debut, *BEATS, RHYMES & LIFE: THE TRAVELS OF A TRIBE CALLED QUEST*. Rival Pictures and State Street Pictures produced the film, which was in Documentary Competition at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival.

Sony Pictures Classics brokered the deal with The Paradigm Motion Picture Finance Group and Steven C. Beer at Greenberg Traurig.

BEATS, RHYMES & LIFE: THE TRAVELS OF A TRIBE CALLED QUEST documents the inner workings and behind-the-scenes drama that follow the band, A Tribe Called Quest, even today and explores what’s next for a group many claim are the pioneers of alternative rap. Having helped to pave the way for innovative hip hop artists, A Tribe Called Quest has kept a generation hungry for more of its groundbreaking music since the group’s much-publicized breakup in 1998. A Tribe Called Quest has three platinum albums - *Midnight Marauders*, *The Low End Theory* and *Beats, Rhymes & Life*, multiple Grammy nominations and headlined the 2008 “Rock the Bells” concert series alongside Snoop Dogg and Wu-Tang Clan.

Director Michael Rapaport learned his craft by working with some of the best directors in the industry. A highly respected actor, Michael has starred in and worked with such directors as Woody Allen in *MIGHTY APHRODITE* and *SMALL TIME CROOKS*, John Singleton in *HIGHER LEARNING*, James Mangold in *COPLAND* and Tony Scott in his break out performance in the Quentin Tarantino penned *TRUE ROMANCE*. Michael is currently in development with producer John Davis and Fox 21 on a 2011 version of *THE WHITE SHADOW*, as a cable television series. In 1994, Rapaport burst on the “Sundance” stage starring in the acclaimed movie *ZEBRAHEAD*.

Sony Pictures Classics said, “With *BEATS, RHYMES & LIFE: THE TRAVELS OF A TRIBE CALLED QUEST*, Michael Rapaport proves himself a major new director and in doing so gives the audience an inside look at one of hip hop’s most fascinating and influential groups. A Tribe Called Quest has a fan base spanning generations and this film will only serve to solidify that audience while opening doors for entirely new fans of both the band and Michael.”

“I couldn’t be more excited and proud that *BEATS, RHYMES & LIFE: THE TRAVELS OF A TRIBE CALLED QUEST* is being distributed by Sony Pictures Classics. As a first time filmmaker to have the support of SPC is like being signed by the NY Yankees. Telling this story was not only a labor of love, but also the most fulfilling accomplishment of my career,” states Michael Rapaport.

ABOUT SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Michael Barker and Tom Bernard serve as co-presidents of Sony Pictures Classics—an autonomous division of Sony Pictures Entertainment they founded with Marcie Bloom in January 1992, which distributes, produces, and acquires independent films from around the world.

Barker and Bernard have released prestigious films that have won 25 Academy Awards® (24 of those at Sony Pictures Classics) and have garnered over 100 Academy Award® nominations (93 at Sony Pictures Classics) including Best Picture nominations for *AN EDUCATION*, *CAPOTE*, *HOWARDS END*, AND *CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON*.

ABOUT SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT

Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE) is a subsidiary of Sony Corporation of America (SCA), a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Sony Corporation. SPE's global operations encompass motion picture production and distribution; television production and distribution; digital content creation and distribution; worldwide channel investments; home entertainment acquisition and distribution; operation of studio facilities; development of new entertainment products, services, and technologies; and distribution of filmed entertainment in more than 100 countries. Sony Pictures Entertainment can be found at www.sonypictures.com.