
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

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SONY PICTURES CLASSICS ACQUIRES ISRAELI FILM LEBANON FROM CELLULOID DREAMS

NEW YORK, NY (September 21, 2009) – Sony Pictures Classics announced today that they have acquired all US rights to the Israeli film, LEBANON from Celluloid Dreams. The film is written and directed by Samuel Maoz, a co-production between Metro Communications and Ariel Films and produced by David Silber, Ilann Gerard and Benjamina Mirnik. This is Maoz's first feature film.

LEBANON joins the classic body of films and the growing collection of recent Israeli films in which filmmakers look at experiences of young people at war and try to make sense of it. Set almost entirely inside an Israeli tank, four young men set out on a mission in what turns out to be a trip filled with fear, anxiety and ultimately death and the revelation of what makes life worth living. Recently included in the recent Toronto Film Festival where the film played to great acclaim, LEBANON will also be included in the prestigious New York Film Festival

"LEBANON is of those important films that will last forever in the marketplace. We are honored to be bringing LEBANON to the American public," said Sony Pictures Classics.

Ilann Gerard states, "This film has been a challenging, but rewarding journey in order to keep the integrity of Samuel Maoz's vision. Together with my co producers, Metro communications and Ariel Films, we are thrilled to have Sony Pictures Classics bringing this film to North America audiences and continue to open a marketplace for new Israeli talents."

Celluloid Dreams' Hengameh Panahi adds, "We are so pleased to continue our relationship with our friends at Sony Pictures Classics. We entrust our most valued projects to them because of their handheld care and passion."

With its acquisition of LEBANON, Sony Pictures Classics continues its recent relationship with new Israeli cinema on the heels of its successful releases of THE BAND'S VISIT and WALTZ WITH BASHIR. Sony Pictures Classics has worked with Celluloid Dreams on many films including PERSEPOLIS and the upcoming A PROPHET.

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's films are among the most prestigious films of all time. They have produced 24 Academy Award® winners (21 of those at Sony Pictures Classics) and have garnered over 100 Academy Award® nominations (72 at Sony Pictures Classics) including Best Picture nominations for CAPOTE, HOWARDS END, AND CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON.

Over the years, Barker and Bernard fostered relationships with many of the world's finest independent filmmakers including Robert Altman, Ang Lee, Richard Linklater, Guillermo del Toro, Francois Truffaut, David Cronenberg, Jonathan Demme, Woody Allen, Walter Salles, Todd Haynes, Nicole Holofcener, Errol Morris, Zhang Yimou, Wong Kar Wai, Ingmar Bergman, Neil Jordan, Francis Ford Coppola, and David Mamet.

Sony Pictures Classics have recently released TYSON, EVERY LITTLE STEP, WHATEVER WORKS, MOON, and IT MIGHT GET LOUD. Their upcoming slate includes COCO BEFORE CHANEL, THE DAMNED UNITED, AN EDUCATION, and BROKEN EMBRACES as well as COCO CHANEL AND IGOR STRAVINSKY, THE WHITE RIBBON, WILD GRASS, A PROPHET, BLOOD SIMPLE, IMAGINARIUM OF DR. PARNASSUS, MICMACS and TAMARA DREWE.

Additional honors include "The Honors Award" from the Director's Guild of America, the "Chevalier Order of Arts and Letters" from the French government, the Gotham Industry Lifetime Achievement Award (IFP), the FINDIE Award (IFP/West Spirit Awards), and the GLAAD Media Award. At Sony Corporation's global management conference, SPC received the "Distinguished Special Recognition" award two years in a row for their successful business operation.

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 <http://www.sonypictures.com>.