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# SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SONY PICTURES CLASSICS DRIVES AHEAD WITH NIGEL COLE'S LATEST MADE IN DAGENHAM**

NEW YORK, NY (**April 13, 2010**) – Sony Pictures Classics announced today that they have pre-emptively purchased US and multiple foreign rights to Nigel Cole's (CALENDAR GIRLS, SAVING GRACE) latest film, MADE IN DAGENHAM. The film, inspired by a true story, was written by William Ivory and produced by Stephen Woolley (THE CRYING GAME, SCANDAL, INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE), and Elizabeth Karlsen (LITTLE VOICE, LADIES IN LAVENDER, MRS HARRIS) through their Number 9 Films label.

HanWay Films represents Worldwide sales – it's CEO Tim Haslam, and the film's producers Elizabeth Karlsen and Stephen Woolley negotiated the sale to Sony Pictures Classics.

MADE IN DAGENHAM was originally developed with funding from the UK Film Council, and its production has been backed by BBC Films, BMS Finance, Lip Sync Productions and the UK Film Council.

The film stars Golden Globe winner Sally Hawkins (for Mike Leigh's HAPPY-GO-LUCKY), Rosamund Pike (AN EDUCATION, PRIDE AND PREJUDICE), Miranda Richardson (HARRY POTTER, THE YOUNG VICTORIA), Bob Hoskins (A CHRISTMAS CAROL, WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT, MONA LISA), Andrea Riseborough (star of the upcoming remake of BRIGHTON ROCK), and Richard Schiff (star of THE WEST WING).

MADE IN DAGENHAM is a rousing, inspirational, entertaining and often hilarious dramatization inspired by the true story of the 1968 strike at the Ford Dagenham car plant, where female workers walked out in support of equal pay. The actions of these women - the Erin Brockoviches of 1960s Essex - had an impact not only around the UK but the world, leaving a lasting legacy that had a permanent impact on women's role in society.

"With the subject of women's rights front and center, MADE IN DAGENHAM is one of those unknown true stories of triumph audiences love to embrace, brilliantly directed by Nigel Cole, perfectly acted by Sally Hawkins, Miranda Richardson, Rosamund Pike, Geraldine James and Bob Hoskins. We are honored and delighted to be working once again with our old friends Liz, Stephen, HanWay and BBC Films," said Sony Pictures Classics.

"This is a project very close to our hearts and is a moving and emotionally rich film that will have an effect on both female and male viewers wherever it is shown. We are extremely excited to be reunited with the Sony Pictures Classics team who we have worked closely with on many films over a thirty year period," said producers Stephen Woolley and Elizabeth Karlsen.

Director Nigel Cole added, "It's fantastic that Sony Classics will be taking the story of these wonderfully empowering women to US audiences; as they showed with AN EDUCATION they will be great partners for our film."

## **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® (22 of those at Sony Pictures Classics) and have garnered over 100 Academy Award® nominations (85 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 <http://www.sonypictures.com>.



BBC Films is the feature filmmaking arm of the BBC. It aims to make strong British films with range and ambition, bringing the best of British talent to audiences. BBC Films is firmly established at the forefront of British independent filmmaking, and co-produces around eight films a year, working in partnership with major international and UK distributors.

Creative Director Christine Langan is responsible for the development and production slate. Jane Wright is Managing Director, responsible for running the business operations and marketing.

Recent hits include Lone Scherfig's Academy Award®-nominated and BAFTA award-winning AN EDUCATION; Armando Iannucci's Academy Award® and BAFTA award-nominated IN THE LOOP; Jane Campion's Academy award-nominated BRIGHT STAR and Andrea Arnold's BAFTA award-winning FISH TANK.

Forthcoming films include STREETDANCE, Britain's first-ever 3-D movie, which hits UK cinemas on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010; Nigel Cole's MADE IN DAGENHAM, Rowan Joffe's feature debut BRIGHTON ROCK, and Ayub Khan Din's follow up to EAST IS EAST, WEST IS WEST directed by Andy DeEmmony.

## **ABOUT THE UK FILM COUNCIL ([www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk](http://www.ukfilmcouncil.org.uk))**

- The UK Film Council is the Government and Lottery-backed lead agency for film in the UK, supporting the UK film industry, celebrating UK film culture and nurturing UK film talent at home and abroad.
- Since its creation in 2000 the UK Film Council has backed more than 900 films, shorts and features, which have won over 300 awards and entertained more than 200 million people around the world. The UK Film Council generates £5 for every £1 of Lottery money it invests.
- Its support develops new filmmakers, funds exciting new British films and gets a wider choice of films to audiences throughout the UK. It also invests in training British talent, promoting Britain as an international filmmaking location and raising the profile of British

films abroad. In addition, it funds the British Film Institute.

- Films backed by the UK Film Council include BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM, BRIGHT STAR, THE CONSTANT GARDENER, FISH TANK, GOSFORD PARK, HAPPY-GO-LUCKY, IN THE LOOP, THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND, MAN ON WIRE, NOWHERE BOY, RED ROAD, ST TRINIAN'S, THIS IS ENGLAND, TOUCHING THE VOID, VERA DRAKE and THE WIND THAT SHAKES THE BARLEY.

Current UK Film Council funding initiatives include:

- the world's first Digital Screen Network, which has invested in 240 digital screens in cinemas across the country, increasing film choice, bringing the 3D experience to a wider audience, and ensuring the UK has more digital screens than any other European country;
- over 200 film societies and independent regional film venues;
- UK film festivals, including the Edinburgh International Film Festival, the BFI London Film Festival and the Sheffield International Documentary Film Festival;
- working with Skillset, the UK skills and training industry body for the creative industries, to enable almost 7000 people to further their filmmaking careers;
- giving over 20,000 young people the opportunity to get involved in filmmaking through First Light Movies and Mediabox;
- sponsoring the pilot and now the current rollout of FILMCLUB to thousands of schools, introducing new generations of children to the best of British and international cinema.