

Donna Daniels Public Relations

1375 Broadway, Suite 403
New York, NY 10036
ph: 212.869.7233 fx: 212.869.7114

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Sony Pictures Classics to Fully Finance Oscar Nominated Writer/Director David Mamet's "REDBELT"

Classics to handle worldwide distribution

New York, NY. April 13, 2007. Sony Pictures Classics announced today that they have agreed to fully-finance "REDBELT," the next film by writer and director David Mamet (Screenwriter: "Wag the Dog," "The Verdict," and "The Untouchables"/Director: "The Spanish Prisoner" and "State and Main"). The company will also handle worldwide distribution for the film.

"REDBELT" is scheduled to begin production this May in Los Angeles with Mamet directing from his original script. "REDBELT" is an American samurai film, set in the west-side Los Angeles fight world. A world inhabited by bouncers, cage-fighters, cops, and special forces types - "REDBELT" is the story of Mike Terry, a Jiu-jitsu master who has avoided the prize fighting circuit, choosing to instead pursue a life of honor and education by operating a self-defense studio in Los Angeles. Terry's life is dramatically changed however when he is conned by a cabal of movie stars and promoters. In order to pay off his debts and regain his honor Terry must step into the ring for the first time in his life.

"REDBELT" currently stars Golden Globe nominee Chiwetel Ejiofor ("Children of Men," "Melinda and Melinda," "Dirty Pretty Things," and "American Gangster"). "REDBELT" is produced by Chrisann Verges ("Warm Springs" and "Mrs. Harris") with Oscar nominee Robert Elswit ("Good Night, and Good Luck" "Syriana," "Boogie Nights," and "Tomorrow Never Dies") in the role of Director of Photography. Also on board are Production Designer, David Wasco ("Kill Bill: Vol. 1 & 2," "Collateral," "The Royal Tenenbaums," "Pulp Fiction," and "Reservoir Dogs") and Editor, Barbara Tulliver ("Lady in the Water," "Signs," and "The Spanish Prisoner").

Sony Pictures Classics released the following statement: "REDBELT" is a project that could only spring from the pen and camera of David Mamet. "REDBELT" promises an action drama unlike anything made before surrounding the world of Jiu-jitsu. We're so pleased one of America's finest maverick filmmakers is back with Sony Classics. And, boy, is he back with a vengeance, and we love it."

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