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# SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

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Press Contact: Eric Kops (323) 822-4800  
Lauren Burton (212) 334-0333

## **BARKER AND BERNARD STAY FOUR MORE YEARS WITH SONY PICTURES**

**Culver City, CA, (May 5, 2009)** – Sony Pictures Classics (SPC) co-Presidents Michael Barker and Tom Bernard have signed on for four more years with Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE), it was announced today by Michael Lynton, chairman and chief executive officer, and Amy Pascal, co-chairman. The deal will extend the 18 year relationship with Sony Pictures and allows Barker and Bernard to continue to oversee the banner's film slate as well as day-to-day operations which include releasing, producing, and acquiring high quality independent films.

During their tenure, SPC has garnered critical acclaim and financial success for over 300 films and forged relationships with many of today's top filmmakers including Woody Allen, Pedro Almodóvar and Jonathan Demme. SPC films have received more than 20 Academy Awards and more than 70 Oscar® nominations, most recently two nominations for Best Actress, Anne Hathaway (*Rachel Getting Married*) and Melissa Leo (*Frozen River*); a Best Original Screenplay nomination for Courtney Hunt (*Frozen River*); and two Best Foreign Language Film nominations (*The Class* and *Waltz with Bashir*).

"Michael and Tom have brought to audiences worldwide some of the most memorable and significant films in recent history, and we are proud to have them and their entire team at Classics as part of the Sony Pictures family," said Lynton. "The diversity of our film slate is an important factor in our success and stability over the years, and Michael and Tom have been an instrumental part of that story."

"Sony is family. Sony is home. It is as exciting for us now as it was when we first started here eighteen years ago. We are proud of the library of films and amazing filmmakers we have nurtured over the years," said Barker and Bernard. "The quality of support and encouragement we receive from Michael, Amy, Howard Stringer, and all the divisions at Sony with whom we interface, excites us about the present and, most importantly, empowers us to face and look forward to the challenges and triumphs of the future."

"One of the real pleasures of all my years with this company has been knowing and working with Michael and Tom, and experiencing the great films and filmmakers they have introduced to me and to the world," said Pascal. "I am so proud to continue this great relationship for many more years to come."

The current SPC slate includes the Tribeca Film Festival's opening night film, Woody Allen's *Whatever Works* with Larry David; James Toback's riveting documentary, *Tyson*; Duncan Jones' science fiction film, *Moon* (produced by the Sony Pictures Worldwide Acquisitions Group); Carlos Cuarón's *Rudo y Cursi*; Stephen Elliot's *Easy Virtue*; and the new highly anticipated Almodóvar film, *Broken Embraces* (Barker and Bernard's ninth collaboration with the filmmaker). Currently on screen is the box office success *Every Little Step*, James Stern and Adam del Deo's documentary about *A Chorus Line* and *Sugar*, from filmmakers Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck (*Half Nelson*).

Additional future releases include *It Might Get Loud*, the new Davis Guggenheim (*An Inconvenient Truth*) film featuring Jimmy Page, the Edge, and Jack White; *An Education*, Lone Scherfig's Sundance hit, based on the Nick Hornby novel; *Coco Before Chanel*, Anne Fontaine's telling of the early years of Coco Chanel starring Audrey Tautou; *Please Give*, from filmmaker Nicole Holofcener (*Friends with Money*); and *The Damned United*, directed by Tom Hooper, written by Peter Morgan, and starring Michael Sheen (produced by the Sony Pictures International Motion Picture Production Group).

At SPC, Barker and Bernard have also had a strong record presenting the auspicious debuts of major filmmakers including Charlie Kaufman (*Synecdoche, NY*), Robin Swicord (*The Jane Austen Book Club*), Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (*The Lives of Others*), Phil Morrison (*Junebug*), Tommy Lee Jones (*Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada*), Todd Solondz (*Welcome to the Dollhouse*), Neil LaBute (*In The Company of Men*), Christopher Guest (*Waiting for Guffman*), Tom Tykwer (*Run Lola Run*), and Ed Harris (*Pollock*).

SPC has had critical and commercial success with theatrical documentaries and animated features such as *Crumb*, the Academy Award® winning *Fog of War, Dogtown and Z Boys, Who Killed the Electric Car, Winged Migration*, and the Academy Award® nominated animated features *Waltz with Bashir, Persepolis*, and *The Triplets of Belleville*. Additionally, the company has garnered eight Academy Awards® for Foreign Language films including *The Lives of Others, The Counterfeiters, and All About My Mother*.

### **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.

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>.