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SONY PICTURES CLASSICS ACQUIRES NORTH AMERICAN RIGHTS TO “STEEP”

Documentary Showcases World’s Most Breathtaking and Gravity-Defying Sport,
Extreme Skiing

New York, NY. June 29, 2007. Sony Pictures Classics announced today that it has acquired North American rights to “STEEP,” which had its world premiere in the Spotlight Section of this year’s Tribeca Film Festival.

“STEEP” traces the sport of Extreme Skiing from its beginnings in the mountains high above Chamonix, France to the aerial acrobatics and death-defying descents performed by the current generation of Big Mountain Skiers. The film merges rarely seen images of the sport’s beginnings with magnificent original footage of the sport today, including BASE-jumping with skis off cliffs in the remote backcountry of British Columbia and Alaska, skiers overtaken by an avalanche in Iceland; and descents in the mountains of France so dangerous they will never be repeated. Shot in stunning high-definition, “STEEP” is about a group of exquisitely gifted and daring athletes who have taken the sport of skiing far beyond the confines of the ski resort and into a vertical world where only a few have ventured before.

“STEEP” was produced by High Ground Productions in association with The Documentary Group. It was written and directed by Mark Obenhaus (*“The Kennedy Assassination, Beyond Conspiracy,”* and the Sundance Grand Jury Prize Nominee *“Einstein on the Beach: The Changing Image of Opera”*). Executive Producers are J. Stuart Horsfall, Mark Obenhaus, and Tom Yellin. Producers are Jordan Kronick, Gabrielle Tenenbaum. Cast includes such world renowned skiers as Ingrid Backstrom, Chris Davenport, Doug Coombs, Shane McConkey, Andrew McLean, Seth Morrison, Eric Pehota, and Glen Plake.

Sony Pictures Classics released the following statement: “Mark Obenhaus has created a spectacular documentary that represents the authentic look and feel of unbelievable skiing acrobatics performed by these thrill-seeking athletes. We are very excited to be bringing this visually stunning film to audiences.”

"We are thrilled to be working with Sony Pictures Classics," The Documentary Group president Tom Yellin said. "They have a long track record of finding the best audiences for the best films. We believe they give the film a wonderful opportunity to be seen by skiers and non-skiers alike."

The deal was negotiated on behalf of the filmmakers by Josh Braun of Submarine and by Michael Barker, Tom Bernard and Dylan Leiner on behalf of Sony Pictures Classics.

The Documentary Group was founded in 2006 by the core members of PJ Productions, the producers and directors who were for many years the team behind legendary broadcaster Peter Jennings' acclaimed documentaries at ABC News. Its credits include the feature film, "*Operation Homecoming*" and the ABC specials "*To Iraq and Back*" and the Peabody Award-winning "*Out of Control: AIDS in Black America*."

"STEEP" was written and directed by Mark Obenhaus. Executive Producers; J. Stuart Horsfall, Mark Obenhaus, and Tom Yellin. Producers; Jordan Kronick, Gabrielle Tenenbaum. Editor; Peter R. Livingston, Jr. Cinematographer; Erich Roland. Music; Anton Sanko. Cast; Ingrid Backstrom, Doug Coombs, Chris Davenport, Shane McConkey, Andrew McLean, Seth Morrison, Eric Pehota and Glen Plake. Running Time; 92 minutes. USA.

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