
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

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SONY PICTURES CLASSICS ACQUIRES SYLVAIN CHOMET'S LATEST FILM THE ILLUSIONIST

NEW YORK, NY (April 26, 2010) – Sony Pictures Classics announced today that they have acquired all North American rights to Sylvain Chomet's THE ILLUSIONIST from Pathe. The film is based on an unproduced screenplay by Jacques Tati and is produced by Bob Last and executive produced by Jake Eberts and Philippe Carcassonne (COCO BEFORE CHANEL). THE ILLUSIONIST had its world premiere at the Berlin Film Festival as a Berlinale Special Selection. It is planned for an end of year release.

Sony Pictures Classics previously worked with Chomet on his Academy Award® nominated film THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE and Carcassonne on COCO BEFORE CHANEL.

THE ILLUSIONIST details the story of a dying breed of stage entertainer whose thunder is being stolen by emerging rock stars. Forced to accept increasingly obscure assignments in fringe theaters, garden parties and bars, he meets a young fan who changes his life forever.

"Collaborating with Sylvain on THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE was such a fantastic experience; we are so thrilled to be back partnering with him again on THE ILLUSIONIST, as well as our friends at Pathe, and producers Bob Last, Jake Eberts and Philippe Carcassonne. With a moving storyline and a work of art in each frame, audiences both young and old will connect with this film," stated Sony Pictures Classics.

"There could not be a better home for THE ILLUSIONIST, Sony Pictures Classics understands the strengths of Sylvain's work and have the passion required to take the film to the widest possible audience. I am delighted to be working with SPC again," said producer Bob Last.

Executive producer Philippe Carcassonne adds, "We're obviously thrilled to work again with the team behind so many of tomorrow's classics - which is exactly what I hope THE ILLUSIONIST will soon become."

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>.