
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

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SONY PICTURES CLASSICS ACQUIRES MICHAEL HOFFMAN'S THE LAST STATION

NEW YORK, NY (October 3, 2009)- Sony Pictures Classics announces its acquisition of rights in North America and Latin America to Michael Hoffman's *THE LAST STATION* from Los Angeles based The Little Film Company. The film played to great acclaim at the recent Telluride Film Festival.

THE LAST STATION is a German-Russian production, made with the full support of the Tolstoy family and filmed mainly in the German state of Saxony-Anhalt. The film was produced by Chris Curling (*HANNIBAL RISING*), Jens Meurer (*RUSSIAN ARK*, *BLACK BOOK*), Bonnie Arnold (*TARZAN*, *TOY STORY*). It was executive produced by Andrei Konchalovsky.

The film stars Academy Award® winner Helen Mirren (*THE QUEEN*), Christopher Plummer (*THE INSIDER*, *A BEAUTIFUL MIND*, and the upcoming SPC release *THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS*), James McAvoy (*ATONEMENT*, *WANTED*), Ann-Marie Duff (*THE MAGDALENE SISTERS*) and Academy Award® nominee Paul Giamatti (*SIDEWAYS*, *CINDERELLA MAN*).

"With *THE LAST STATION*, Michael Hoffman has crafted a film that is not only beautifully made but showcases some of the world's greatest actors in roles of a lifetime. The film is also incredibly entertaining and moving and we look forward to working with our friends Jens Meurer, Chris Curling and Robbie Little to bring it to audiences," said Sony Pictures Classics.

"After spending four years of my life making *THE LAST STATION*, it's such a relief and a pleasure to be working with talented people you can trust. I love the guys at Sony Pictures Classics. It's a perfect home for our film," said director Michael Hoffman.

Jens Meurer states, "We (the producers) are very pleased to be working with Sony Classics again, and share high hopes for the film. We were there with them in Telluride and saw how well the film worked with audiences. Sony Classics is the best distributor to take *THE LAST STATION* places in the US, and also to work closely with Warner Brothers Germany, Optimum in the UK and our other distributors."

"We are delighted that Michael Barker and Tom Bernard will be releasing the film in America. It is the result we have been hoping for, while Michael Hoffman has been making the film with us for last 2 years," added Chris Curling.

Screenwriter and Director Michael Hoffman (*A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT DREAM*, *SOAPDISH*) adapted Jay Parini's highly acclaimed 1990 novel of the same name. Set in 1910 in Russia, *THE LAST STATION* is a historical drama about the last days of famed Russian writer Leo Tolstoy. When a young intellectual (James McAvoy) arrives at the rural estate of Tolstoy (Christopher Plummer), he finds himself caught up in a power struggle between Tolstoy's wife, Countess Sofya (Helen Mirren), and the conniving leader of a Utopian society (Paul Giamatti) begun by the writer himself, about how the legacy of Tolstoy's literary estate will be handled after his death.

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.

Sony Pictures Classics have recently released TYSON, EVERY LITTLE STEP, WHATEVER WORKS, MOON, IT MIGHT GET LOUD, COCO BEFORE CHANEL, and THE DAMNED UNITED. Their upcoming release slate includes AN EDUCATION, and BROKEN EMBRACES as well as COCO CHANEL AND IGOR STRAVINSKY, THE WHITE RIBBON, WILD GRASS, A PROPHET, BLOOD SIMPLE, IMAGINARIUM OF DR. PARNASSUS, MICMACS, TAMARA DREWE, LEBANON and GET LOW.

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>.