
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

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Press Contact: Bebe Lerner (323) 822-4800
Sheri Goldberg (646) 723-3800

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS ACQUIRES ALL NORTH AMERICAN RIGHTS TO LIFE, ABOVE ALL

New York (June XX, 2010) – Sony Pictures Classics announced today that they have acquired all North American rights to the highly acclaimed LIFE, ABOVE ALL from Munich based world sales company Bavaria Film International. The film was an official selection at this year's Cannes Film Festival and received overwhelmingly positive responses from critics and audiences alike, also winning the "Francois Chalais Prize," awarded to those films dedicated to the values of life affirmation and journalism. The film was previously sold to ARP for France and Nachshon for Israel with Senator handling German speaking Europe.

LIFE, ABOVE ALL, directed by Oliver Schmitz (MAPANTSULA, PARIS JE T'AIME) is based on the 2005 award-winning novel CHANDA'S SECRETS by Allan Stratton. It is a suspense-filled drama about a young girl in South Africa who fights to rescue the people she loves. Through dramatic storytelling, the film captures the enduring strength of loyalty, the profound impact of loss, and a fearlessness that is powered by the heart.

SPC and Bavaria previously worked together on RUN LOLA RUN, GOOD BYE, LENINI!, THE MAN WITHOUT A PAST, and I SERVED THE KING OF ENGLAND. LIFE, ABOVE ALL is a Dreamer Joint Venture production in co-production with Senator Film Produktion, Enigma Pictures and Niama-Film.

"I am exceedingly happy that Sony Pictures Classics is releasing LIFE, ABOVE ALL in North America. I have always admired their unfailing ability to honor cinema at its best and really look forward to working with them. I am very proud of LIFE, ABOVE ALL and especially my ever so talented young actors. May audiences everywhere open their hearts to them!" stated director Oliver Schmitz.

"For a film of this kind you can't ask for a better US-distributor than Sony Pictures Classics. I had every confidence that they would see the tremendous potential in the film. And I was rarely, if ever, moved in the same way as in this Cannes premiere. I am very pleased to be working with SPC again and would like to thank both them and my colleague Stefanie Zeitler for negotiating the deal so thoughtfully", commented Thorsten Ritter, Bavaria Film International

"Anyone privileged to witness the ovations following the screenings in Cannes knows this film is a winner across the board, an exceptionally well made and profoundly moving experience. We are pleased to be working with Oliver Schmitz, a director we have been following with great interest for some time, and our friends at Bavaria," said Sony Pictures Classics.

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>.