
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS ACQUIRES SUNDANCE HIT *THE GUARD*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25th -- **Park City, Utah** – Sony Pictures Classics has acquired US and Latin American rights to the action comedy *THE GUARD*, written and directed by John Michael McDonagh and starring Brendan Gleeson as an unorthodox Irish policeman who joins forces with a straitlaced FBI agent, played by Don Cheadle, to take on an international drug-smuggling gang.

The deal was negotiated on behalf of the producers by Rena Ronson and David Flynn of UTA and Metropolis Film Sales with Sony Pictures Classics.

Written and directed by John Michael McDonagh and starring Brendan Gleeson and Don Cheadle as the ill-matched pair of lawmen, *THE GUARD* also stars Liam Cunningham, David Wilmot, Rory Keenan with Mark Strong, Fionnula Flanagan and Dominique McElligott, Sarah Greene, Slovenian newcomer Katarina Cas, Pat Shortt and Darren Healy.

THE GUARD is produced by Reprisal's Chris Clark and Flora Fernandez Marengo and Element's Ed Guiney and Andrew Lowe, with Martin McDonagh, Don Cheadle, Lenore Zerman, Tim Smith, Paul Brett, Ralph Kamp and David Nash as executive producers.

THE GUARD is a Reprisal Films and Element Pictures production in association with Prescience, Aegis Film Fund, UK Film Council and Crescendo Productions and with the participation of Bord Scannán na hÉireann/the Irish Film Board.

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 (92 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>.