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# SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

## SONY PICTURES CLASSICS UNLOCKS "TIM'S VERMEER"

**NEW YORK (July 29, 2013)** - Sony Pictures Classics announced today they have acquired worldwide rights to the documentary *TIM'S VERMEER*, directed by Teller of *PENN & TELLER* fame. Produced by Teller's stage partner Penn Jillette and Farley Ziegler, the film follows Tim Jenison, a Texas based inventor, as he attempts to solve one of the greatest mysteries in all of art: How did 17th century Dutch Master Johannes Vermeer ("Girl with a Pearl Earring") manage to paint so photo-realistically, 150 years before the invention of photography? Jenison's epic research project ultimately succeeds as he uses 17th century technology -- lenses and mirrors -- to develop a technique that might have been used by Vermeer, supporting a theory as extraordinary as what he discovers.

Spanning a decade, Jenison's adventure takes him to Delft, Holland, where Vermeer painted his masterpieces; on a pilgrimage to the North coast of Yorkshire to meet artist David Hockney; and eventually even to Buckingham Palace, to see the Queen's Vermeer.

Teller has gathered a notable crew including Composer Conrad Pope (*MY WEEK WITH MARILYN*) and Post-Production Sound Supervisor Larry Blake (*BEHIND THE CANDELABRA*) as well as award-winning Editor Patrick Sheffield and Director of Photography Shane F. Kelly (*A SCANNER DARKLY*).

Says Jillette, "My buddy, Tim Jenison, told me over supper he was going to try to paint a Vermeer. Tim is a genius, but I'm a skeptic. I wanted to see him do it. Teller has been the Penn & Teller de facto director since our beginnings so we made a movie of Tim's whole monomaniacal trip. Having Sony Pictures Classics as the first words on the screen means it's more than just a couple of Vegas magicians and an eccentric inventor in his garage -- now, it's a real film that will change the history of art."

"This is an important and brilliant film. We have been admirers of Penn and Teller for decades. We look forward to presenting *TIM'S VERMEER* to audiences around the world," states Sony Pictures Classics.

*TIM'S VERMEER* will be released in 2014.

## **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 31 Academy Awards® (27 of those at Sony Pictures Classics) and have garnered 135 Academy Award® nominations (109 at Sony Pictures Classics) including Best Picture nominations for AMOUR, MIDNIGHT IN PARIS, 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, a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Sony Corporation. SPE's global operations encompass motion picture production and distribution; television production and distribution; home entertainment acquisition and distribution; a global channel network; digital content creation and distribution; operation of studio facilities; development of new entertainment products, services and technologies; and distribution of entertainment in more than 142 countries. For additional information, go to <http://www.sonypictures.com/>.