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For Immediate Release

## **105 European Films under the European Film Promotion Banner at the 2005 Toronto International Film Festival®**

Returning for the ninth consecutive year to the Toronto International Film Festival, **European Film Promotion (EFP)** with support from the **European Union's MEDIA Programme**, is pleased to be representing over 100 European films and co-productions from seventeen European nations and providing services to its members at its umbrella stand in the OMDC Sales Office. Among other activities, EFP will be overseeing the debut of its **Film Sales Support (FSS)**, a fund designed to encourage and support the efforts of Sales Companies selling films in the Festival. Claudia Landsberger, EFP's President remarked: *"We are pleased that between 40 and 50 marketing campaigns will receive the support of FSS. It tells us that Toronto remains the most important entrée into the North American market and a logical place to focus our efforts."*

The prestigious 'Gala' and 'Special Presentations' sections of the Festival will showcase 21 new European films, among them two highly anticipated films directed by actors: the British actor Richard E. Grant brings a story of conflict in 1950s South Africa to the screen in his first feature **Wah-Wah**; and the Icelandic actor and theatre director Baltasar Kormakur returns to Toronto with the thriller **A Little Trip to Heaven**, his 3<sup>rd</sup> feature and his first in English. The small nation of Iceland is also represented by the big **Beowulf & Grendel**, a blood-soaked medieval adventure based on the Anglo-Saxon poem by the Canadian-Icelandic director Sturla Gunnarsson; while the big nation of Germany weighs in with a Gala shot in Africa – **Die Weisse Massai/The White Masai** directed by rising star Hermine Huntgeburth. Other talents to watch are Josef Fares, the Lebanese-Swedish director (a Toronto discovery with *Jalla!Jalla!*) whose autobiographical **Zozo** receives its international premiere, and the Hungarian director and noted cinematographer Lajos Koltai whose heart-wrenching first feature **Sorstalanság/Fateless** is an epic-sized co-production (with Germany and the UK) concerning the fate of a young Jewish-Hungarian boy during the second world war. Two gifted French *auteurs* and Toronto favorites – Laurent Cantet and Anne Fontaine – return with their new films, respectively **Vers le sud/Heading South** and **Entre ses mains/In His Hands**. In the *auteur* category, two fascinating entries are Danis Tanović's **L'Enfer/Hell**, the centre-piece of a trilogy written by the late Polish director Krystof Kieslowski, and Tanović's follow-up to the Oscar®-winning *No Man's Land*; and **All the Invisible Children**, the Italian-produced anthology film about the world's abandoned children by such international name directors as Emir Kusturica, Ridley Scott, J. Woo, and Spike Lee.

When it comes to bringing classic books and plays to the screen, no nation has the track record of Britain, and this year three beloved English novels are the subject of films: **Pride and Prejudice**, a lavish first feature by the successful television director Joe Wright; **Oliver Twist**, shot on striking Prague locations and powerfully dramatized by Roman Polanski; and **Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story** re-imagined as a film-within-a-film by iconoclastic British director Michael Winterbottom. And for sheer fun, few Galas at Toronto will compete with the U.K. productions **Wallace & Gromit – The Curse of the Were-Rabbit** and **Mrs. Henderson Presents** – the former, the first animated feature by Nick Park & Steve Box, and the latter, the new Stephen Frears' film with Dame Judy Dench playing a real-life theatre impresario notorious for her all-nude revues.

Now a Toronto tradition, the 'Masters' section will feature the newest films of many of cinema's most renowned directors including: **Caché/Hidden** (France/Austria) by Michael Haneke; **Manderlay**

(Denmark) by Lars von Trier; **Iberia** (Spain) by Carlos Saura; **Obaba** by Montxo Armendáriz (Spain); **Breakfast on Pluto** (Ireland) by Neil Jordan; **Free Zone** (Israel/France) by Amos Gitai; and this year's Cannes Festival Palme d'Or winner **L'Enfant/The Child** (Belgium/France) by Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne.

France is represented at the Festival by over thirty French films and co-productions, including two chamber dramas by name directors, starring two of France's greatest actresses: François Ozon's **Le Temps qui reste/Time to Leave** featuring Jeanne Moreau as a bohemian grandmother who is called on to comfort her dying gay grandson; and Patrice Chéreau's **Gabrielle** with Isabelle Huppert as the title character who breaks up with her husband following the pair's intimate revelations. First features to watch for are **Marock**, Laïla Marrakchi's ebullient portrait of rich teenagers in Marrakech in 1997, **Douches froides/Cold Showers**, documentarian Antony Cordier's fictional portrait of the sexual coming of age of a working class student with a troubled family life, and **L'Annuaire/The Ring Finger**, Diane Bertrand's tale of the surreal events that befall a young woman after she loses her finger in an industrial accident.

New talent is prominently on display among the equally numerous British productions and co-productions in the Festival. Stephen Wooley, the noted producer (*The Crying Game*) makes his directing debut with **Stoned**, a film about the sordid life and suspicious death of Brian Jones, former member of the Rolling Stones. Another film sure to draw interest in Toronto is **Festival**, Annie Griffin's biting, multi-character black comedy shot against the real backdrop of the 2004 Edinburgh Fringe festival. Black comedy would seem to be the tone of **Brothers of the Head**, a first feature about Siamese twins who are groomed into a freakish rock'n'roll act from the *Lost in La Mancha* team of Keith Fulton and Louis Pepe.

Special note must be made of Toronto's selection of two films each from Hungary and Czechoslovakia, among EFP's newest members: **A Porcelánbaba/The Porcelain Doll** a magic realist rendering of three short stories set on a farm by veteran Hungarian director Péter Gárdos; and **Nyócker!/The District!**, Hungarian animator Áron Gauder's feature debut, a Romeo and Juliet story set in a Budapest ghetto. Another animator, the Czech filmmaker Mária Procházková is represented by her live-action feature **Žralok v hlavě/Shark in the Head**; and the comedy **Šťěsti/Something Like Happiness**, a second feature by Bohdan Sláma, rounds out the Eastern European program.

The 'Contemporary World Cinema' and 'Discovery' sections of the Festival are providing world or international premieres for 7 very interesting new European films. Anders Thomas Jensen's newest film **Adam's Æbler/Adam's Apples**, a black comedy about blind faith, is one of Denmark's top-grossing films of the summer. **Een Ander Zijn Geluk/Someone Else's Happiness**, a polished first feature by Flemish director Fien Troch, is a psychological thriller about a woman who discovers the body of a child in the road. **Sommer vorm Balkon/Summer in Berlin** is German director Andreas Dressen's follow-up feature to his sleeper hit *Halbe Treppe*. The Austrian film **Spiele Leben/You Bet Your Life**, the story of a compulsive gambler, is a first feature by Antonin Svoboda, the producer of last year's Toronto discovery *Darwin's Nightmare*. The award-winning Finnish director Klaus Härö premieres his second feature **Äideistä parhain/Mother of Mine**, the fictional story of one child set against the historical backdrop of the Finnish-Russian war when 80,000 children were sent to foster homes in Sweden. Spanish director Alberto Rodríguez has a world premiere with his realistic coming-of-age story **7 Virgines/7 Virgins**, that takes place during a young man's 48-hour leave from juvenile detention to attend his brother's wedding. And from the prolific, young Danish director Nicolas Winding Refn comes the highly anticipated **Pusher III – I'm the Angel of Death**, the third instalment in his harrowing and violent portrait of drug dealers in the Copenhagen underworld.

Among the films travelling to Toronto from Venice are: **O Fatalista!/The Fatalist** (Portugal), Joao Botelho's freewheeling adaptation of Denis Diderot's Jacques le fataliste, in which themes of sex, power and religion combine over the course of a bizarre journey through the Portuguese countryside; Abel Ferrara's **Mary** (Italy/USA) in which Juliette Binoche plays an actress whose life is changed by the role of Mary Magdalene; and two ambitious documentaries – Michael Glawogger's **Workingman's Death** (Austria/Germany) an essay on the brutal effect that manual labor has on an increasingly invisible international work force, and Philip Gröning's **Die Grosse Stille/Into Great Silence** (Germany/Switzerland) the first film ever made about the daily life of the Carthusian monks.

Documentaries constitute a fascinating strand of world cinema and Toronto celebrates the form with the presentation of 9 European documentaries. In addition to the above mentioned are: **Brunnen/The Well**, a documentary about Orson Welles by Swedish director Kristian Petri; and **Sisters in Law** (UK) by Kim Longinotto and Florence Ayis and **All About Darfur** (Sudan/UK) by Taghreed Elsanhoury, both of which examine different aspects of African society today. Another major documentary deals with world terrorism: **The Giant Buddhas** focuses on the Taliban's wanton destruction of a masterpiece of ancient art and is the newest film from Swiss director Christian Frei, whose *War Photographer* was a Oscar nominee.

Terrorism and filmmaking will be the subject of a panel discussion in Toronto centred around two films from the Netherlands: **06/05: The Sixth of May** is the film that Theo van Gogh – a Toronto regular over the past twenty years – was post-producing when fatally stabbed by a Muslim fundamentalist; and **Allerzielen/All Souls** is a compilation film in which a dozen Dutch filmmakers and artists examine this painful event from a variety of perspectives.

A list of all the European films by country in the 2005 Toronto International Film Festival are on the following pages and will be updated on our website [www.efp-online.com](http://www.efp-online.com).

*Participating EFP member organizations in Toronto 2005 are: A.I.P. Filmitalia, Austrian Film Commission, British Council, Danish Film Institute, Finnish Film Foundation, Flanders Image, German Films, Greek Film Centre, Holland Film, ICAA/Spain, ICAM/Portugal, Icelandic Film Centre, Magyar Filmunió/Hungary, Swedish Film Institute, Swiss Films, Unifrance*

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## Films from Austria:

**WE FEED THE WORLD** by Erwin Wagenhofer (Austria) (RTR)

**WORKINGMAN'S DEATH** by Michael Glawogger (Austria) (RTR)

**YOU BET YOUR LIFE (SPIELE LEBEN)** by Antonin Svoboda (Austria) (DISC)

## *Co-productions:*

**HIDDEN (CACHÉ)** by Michael Haneke (France/Austria) (MAST)

## Films from Belgium:

**SOMEONE ELSE'S HAPPINESS (EEN ANDER ZIJN GELUK)** by Fien Troch (Belgium) (CWC)

**THE CHILD (L'ENFANT)** by Jean-Pierre & Luc Dardenne (Belgium/France) (MAST)

## Films from the Czech Republic:

**SHARK IN THE HEAD (ŽRALOK V HLAVI)** by Maria Procházková (Czech Republic) (DISC)

**SOMETHING LIKE HAPPINESS (ŠTĚSTÍ)** by Bodan Sláma (Czech Republic) (CWC)

## Films from Denmark:

**ADAM'S APPLES (ADAM'S ÆBLER)** by Anders Thomas Jensen (Denmark) (CWC)

**MANDERLAY** by Lars von Trier (Denmark) (MAST)

**PUSHER** by Nicolas Winding Refn (Denmark) (CWC)

**PUSHER II - WITH BLOOD ON MY HANDS** by Nicolas Winding Refn (Denmark) (CWC)

**PUSHER III - I'M THE ANGEL OF DEATH** by Nicolas Winding Refn (Denmark) (CWC)

**OVERCOMING** by Tómas Gislason (Denmark) (RTR)

## *Co-productions:*

**DEAR WENDY** by Thomas Vinterberg (Denmark/Germany/France/UK) (CWC)

## Film from Finland:

**MOTHER OF MINE (ÄIDEISTÄ PARHAIN)** by Klaus Härö (Finland) (CWC)

## Films from France:

**BACKSTAGE** by Emmanuelle Bercot (France) (CWC)

**GOOD GIRL (GENTILLE)** by Sophie Fillières (France) (CWC)

**MAROCK** by Laïla Marrakchi (France) (CWC)

**OCTOBER 17, 1961 (NUIT NOIRE)** by Alain Tasma (France) (CWC)

**RIVIERA** by Anne Villacèque (France) (CWC)

**À TRAVERS LA FÔRET** by Jean-Paul Civeyrac (France) (CWC)

**TIME TO LEAVE (LE TEMPS QUI RESTE)** by François Ozon (France) (CWC)

**13<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT (BANLIEUE 13)** by Pierre Morel (France) (MM)

**BENARES** by Barlen Pyamootoo (France) (DISC)

**COLD SHOWERS (DOUCHES FROIDES)** by Antony Cordier (France) (CWC)

**REGULAR LOVERS (LES AMANTS REGULIERS)** by Philippe Garrel (France) (SPEC)

**FRANKIE** by Fabienne Berthaud (France) (VIS)

## *Co-productions:*

**IN HIS HANDS (ENTRE SES MAINS)** by Anne Fontaine (France/Belgium) (SPEC)

**FREE ZONE** by Amos Gitaï (Israel/France) (MAST)

**THE BETRAYAL (LA TRAHISON)** BY Philippe Faucon (France/Belgium) (VIS)

**THE THREE BURIALS OF MELQUIADES ESTRADA** by Tommy Lee Jones (USA/France) (SPEC)

**BORDER CAFÉ (CAFÉ TRANSIT)** by Kambozia Partovi (Iran/France) (CWC)

**THE RING FINGER (L'ANNULAIRE)** by Diane Bertrand (France/Germany/UK) (VIS)

**VIVA CUBA** by Juan Carlos Cremata Malberti (France/Cuba) (CWC)

**HIDDEN (CACHÉ)** by Michael Haneke (France/Austria)

**LIVE AND BECOME (VA, VIS ET DEVIENS)** by Radu Mihaileanu (France/Brazil/Israel/Italy) (CWC)

**HEADING SOUTH (VERS LE SUD)** by Laurent Cantet (France/Canada) (SPEC)

**GABRIELLE** by Patrice Chéreau (France/Italy) (VIS)

**HELL (L'ENFER)** by Danis Tanovic (France/Italy/Belgium/Japan) (GALA)

**THE FORSAKEN LAND (SUNLAGA NEU PINISA)** by Vimukthi Jayasundara (France/Sri Lanka) (VIS)

**THE WAYWARD CLOUD (TIAN BIAN YI DUO YUN)** by Tsai Ming Liang (France/Taiwan) (VIS)

**LES SAIGNANTES** by Jean-Pierre Bekolo (Cameroon/France) (VIS)

**UN COUPLE PARFAIT** by Nobushiro Suwa (Japan/France) (VIS)

**A PERFECT DAY** by Khalil Joreige, Joana Hadjithomas (Lebanon/France) (DISC)

**WAITING (ATTENTE)** by Rashid Masharawi (Palestine/France) (VIS)

## Films from Germany:

**SUMMER IN BERLIN (SOMMER VORM BALKON)** by Andreas Dresen (Germany) (CWC)

**THE WHITE MASAI (DIE WEISSE MASSAI)** by Hermine Huntgeburth (Germany) (GALA)

**INTO GREAT SILENCE (DIE GROSSE STILLE)** by Philip Gröning (Germany) (RTR)

### *Co-productions:*

**FALLEN (KRISANA)** by Fred Kelemen (Germany/Latvia) (VIS)

**MATADOR** by Richard Shepard (USA/Germany/Ireland)

## Film from Greece:

**KINETTA** by Yorghos Lanthimos (Greece) (DISC)

## Films from Hungary:

**THE DISTRICT! (NYÓCKER!)** by Áron Gauder (Hungary) (MM)

**THE PORCELAIN DOLL (A PORCELÁNBABA)** by Péter Gárdos (Hungary) (VIS)

### *Co-productions:*

**FATELESS (SORSTALANSÁG)** by Lajos Koltai (Hungary/Germany/UK) (SPEC)

## Films from Iceland:

**ELEVEN MEN OUT (STRÁKARNIR OKKAR)** by Robert Douglas (Iceland) (CWC)

**A LITTLE TRIP TO HEAVEN** by Baltasar Kormakur (Iceland) (SPEC)

**BEOWULF & GRENDEL** by Sturla Gunnarsson (Iceland/UK) (SPEC)

## Films from Ireland:

**THE TRAVELLER GIRL (PAVEE LACKEEN)** by Perry Ogden (Ireland) (DISC)

**BREAKFAST ON PLUTO** by Neil Jordan (Ireland) (MAST)

## Films from Italy:

**ALL THE INVISIBLE CHILDREN** by S. Veneruso, E. Kusturica, M. Charef, Jordan & Ridley Scott, S. Lee, K. Lund. J. Woo (Italy) (SPEC)

**MARIO'S WAR (LA GUERRA DI MARIO)** by Antonio Capuano (Italy) (CWC)

### *Co-productions:*

**MARY** by Abel Ferrara (Italy/USA) (VIS)

**THE PASSION OF JOSHUA, THE HEBREW (LA PASSIONE DI GIOSUE)** by Pasquale Scimeca (Italy/Spain) (CWC)

## Films from The Netherlands:

**06/05: THE SIXT OF MAY** by Theo van Gogh (The Netherlands) (CWC)

**ALL SOULS (ALLERZIELEN)** compilation (The Netherlands) (CWC)

### *Co-productions:*

**PARADISE NOW** by Hany Abu-Assad (The Netherlands/Israel/Germany/France) (CWC)

**THE SMELL OF PARADISE** by Marcin Manon, Mariusz Pilis (The Netherlands/Poland) (RTR)

## Films from Portugal:

**THE FATALIST (O FATALISTA)** by João Botelho (Portugal/France) (CWC)

## Films from Spain:

**7 VIRGINS (7 VIRGENES)** by Alberto Rodriguez (Spain) (DISC)

**OBABA** by Montxo Armendáriz (Spain/Germany) (MAST)

**IBERIA** by Carlos Saura (Spain) (MAST)

### *Co-productions:*

**THE GRÖNHOLM METHOD (EL MÉTODO GRÖNHOLM)** by Marcelo Piñeyro (Spain/Argentina/Italy) (SPEC)



**SUD EXPRESS** by Chema de la Peña, Gabriel Velásquez (Spain/Portugal) (CWC)

**SISTERS (HERMANAS)** by Julia Solomonoff (Argentina/Spain) (DISC)

## Films from Sweden:

**THE WELL** by Kristian Petri (Sweden) (RTR)

**ZOZO** by Josef Fares (Sweden/UK/Denmark) (SPEC)

## Films from Switzerland:

**THE GIANT BUDDHAS** by Christian Frei (Switzerland) (RTR)

## Films from the UK

**BROTHERS OF THE HEAD** by Keith Fulton, Louis Pepe (UK) (VIS)

**FESTIVAL** by Annie Griffin (UK) (DISC)

**MISTRESS OF SPICES** by Paul Mayeda Berges (UK) (SPEC)

**OPA!** by Udayan Prasad (UK) (CWC)

**PRIDE AND PREJUDICE** by Joe Wright (UK) (GALA)

**SISTERS IN LAW** by Kim Longinotto, Florence Ayisi (UK) (RTR)

**STONED** by Stephen Woolley (UK) (DISC)

**WALLACE & GROMIT – THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT** by Nick Park & Steve Box (UK) (GALA)

**THE LAST HANGMAN** by Adrian Shergold (UK) (CWC)

**BLACK SUN** by Gary Tarn (UK) (RTR)

**EVIL ALIENS** by Jake West (UK) (MM)

**MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS** by Stephen Frears (UK) (GALA)

**TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE** by Mike Johnson, Tim Burton (UK) (SPEC)

**TRISTRAM SHANDY: A COCK AND A BULL STORY** by Michael Winterbottom (SPEC)

## *Co-productions with UK*

**WHERE THE TRUTH LIES** BY Atom Egoyan (Canada/USA/UK) (GALA)

**TIDELAND** by Terry Gilliam (UK/Canada) (MAST)



**REVOLVER** by Guy Ritchie (UK/France) (GALA)

**ISOLATION** by Billy O'Brien (UK/Ireland) (MM)

**SHOOTING DOGS** by Michael Caton-Jones (UK/Germany) (CWC)

**TSOTSI** by Gavin Hood (UK/South Africa) (CWC)

**WAH-WAH** by Richard E. Grant (UK/South Africa/France) (SPEC)

**RIVER QUEEN** by Vincent Ward (New Zealand/UK) (CWC)

**DREAMING LHASA** by Ritu Sarin, Tenzing Sonam (India/UK) (DISC)

**THE PROPOSITION** by John Hillcoat (Australia/UK) (VIS)

**ALL ABOUT DARFUR** by Taghreed Elsanhoury (Susan/UK) (RTR)

**THE PIANO TUNER OF EARTHQUAKES** by Timothy & Stephen Quay (UK/New Zealand) (VIS)

**Other co-productions:**

**BATTLE IN HEAVEN (BATALLA EN EL CIELO)** by Carlos Reygadas (France/Belgium/Mexico) (CWC)

**SOLNTSE (THE SUN)** by Alexandr Sokurov (Russia/Italy/France/Switzerland) (MAST)

**OLIVER TWIST** by Roman Polanski (UK/Czech Republic/France/Italy/USA) (SPEC)