
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact: BeBe Lerner (323) 822-4800
Lauren Burton (212) 334-0333

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS ACQUIRES ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR ZHANG YIMOU'S LATEST FILM

Yimou To Remake Coen Brothers' Classic 'Blood Simple'

LOS ANGELES, CA, JULY 28, 2009 - Sony Pictures Classics announces its production partnership and the acquisition of rights in North America, Latin America, Australia and New Zealand to Zhang Yimou's currently untitled film, a remake of the Coen Brothers' 1984 debut feature, BLOOD SIMPLE. The film will be produced by Bill Kong.

The film will mark the eleventh collaboration between Zhang Yimou and the Sony Pictures Classics team, dating back to 1991's RAISE THE RED LANTERN. The relationship includes such films as THE STORY OF QIU JU, SHANGHAI TRIAD, HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS and Zhang's most recent film, the 2006 martial arts epic CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER starring Gong Li and Chow Yun-Fat. Sony Pictures Classics also owns the rights to Zhang's first film, 1987's RED SORGHUM.

Sony Pictures Classics Co-Presidents and Co-Founders, Michael Barker and Tom Bernard jointly stated: "The idea of a remake of BLOOD SIMPLE as seen through the eyes of Zhang Yimou's masterful visual elegance and clever narrative twists is genius. Our continued partnership over the years with both Zhang Yimou and Bill Kong has always been so fruitful. We are excited to be back in business with them."

The film will also be SPC's fifth collaboration with producer Bill Kong which began in 2000 with Ang Lee's Academy Award winning CROUCHING TIGER HIDDEN DRAGON, the highest grossing foreign language film in U.S. box office history, and includes HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS and CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER.

Zhang Yimou stated, "I am very happy working with Sony Pictures Classics again, they have always done a great job and I am looking forward to be with them again."

"I am so excited to be with Tom and Michael again, especially as this is the first film from Zhang Yimou after his 2008 Olympic Opening Event," added Kong.

Zhang's film will be a thriller-comedy remake of Joel & Ethan Coen's BLOOD SIMPLE, set in a Chinese noodle shop in a sand dune-specked desert, rather than a bar in an unnamed Texas town. The owner of the noodle shop's seemingly simple plan to murder his adulterous wife and her lover quickly spins out of control after the introduction of a gun into the lives of characters more accustomed to knives and swords.

Known for films with gorgeous cinematography and sumptuous settings, Zhang Yimou was chosen to create the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics, the most elaborate and complicated ceremonies ever. This film marks his return to filmmaking.

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.

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>.