
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS ACQUIRES AGNIESZKA HOLLAND'S IN DARKNESS

NEW YORK, NEW YORK (February 15, 2011) – Sony Pictures Classics announced today that they have acquired all US rights to Academy Award® nominee Agnieszka Holland's IN DARKNESS from sales agent Beta Cinema. The film, based on the true story "In the Sewers of Lvov" by Robert Marshall, is written by David F. Shamoon and stars Robert Wieckiewicz, Benno Fürmann (NORTH FACE, MERRY CHRISTMAS), Maria Schrader (AIMEE & JAGUAR) and Herbert Knaup (RUN LOLA RUN, THE LIVES OF OTHERS). IN DARKNESS is produced by The Film Works, Schmitz Katze Filmkollektiv and Zebra Films.

In IN DARKNESS, it is 1943, the Polish town of Lvov is occupied by the Nazis. Poverty grows. One day the selfish thief and burglar Leopold Socha encounters a group of Jewish refugees – and hides them for money in the labyrinth of the town's sewers. At first only interested in lucrative business the whole thing reaches more and more Socha's conscience. The Polish small-time crook makes up his mind and finally risks his own life for the refugees...

Director Agnieszka Holland said, "This story shows how fine the line is between the best and the worst of human nature."

"With IN DARKNESS, Agnieszka Holland has made her masterwork and is truly at the peak of her form and maturity. This new true story of WWII and the Holocaust is a revelation. It is a privilege and pleasure to be together again with our friends Agnieszka, Dirk Schuerhoff and Beta Cinema," states Sony Pictures Classics.

The acquisition of IN DARKNESS continues a longstanding and rich relationship between Michael Barker and Tom Bernard (while at Orion Classics) and Agnieszka Holland, who previously worked together on OLIVIER, OLIVIER and EUROPA, EUROPA. This also marks another wonderful collaboration with Beta Cinema, who negotiated the sales for Academy Award winners THE LIVES OF OTHERS and THE COUNTERFIETERS.

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 (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>.