
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

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SONY PICTURES CLASSICS ACQUIRES ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR STEPHEN FREARS' LATEST FILM TAMARA DREWE

NEW YORK, NY (September 10, 2009)- WestEnd Films announces Sony Pictures Classics production partnership and acquisition of rights in North America and Latin America to Stephen Frears' upcoming production TAMARA DREWE. The film will be produced by Alison Owen (THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL, ELIZABETH) and Tracey Seaward (The Constant Gardener, The Queen) and is due to begin production in the English countryside on September 21st.

Known for his unique blend of wit and wickedness, Frears has directed such films as THE QUEEN, for which he was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Director and for which Helen Mirren received an Oscar for Best Actress, as well as DIRTY PRETTY THINGS, HIGH FIDELITY, THE GRIFTERS, DANGEROUS LIAISONS and his first theatrical film, MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDRETTE, which Sony Pictures Classics' Co-Presidents Michael Barker and Tom Bernard released in 1986 while running Orion Classics and which launched the career of actor Daniel Day-Lewis.

"To be involved with TAMARA DREWE is so exciting. The screenplay is so fresh and winning and after over 20 years we are working once again with one of our favorite directors, Stephen Frears. It is also a pleasure to be in business with West End, Ruby Films, and BBC," said Sony Pictures Classics.

WestEnd Films' Sharon Harel-Cohen stated, "WestEnd Films is so pleased to be financing Stephen Frears' next project and adding him to our slate of premier directors. We were utterly charmed by TAMARA DREWE and Stephen's unique sensibility is perfect to bring the project to life. We are also delighted to be reunited with our good friends at Sony Pictures Classics and have every faith in them to make the picture a success in the US."

Inspired by Thomas Hardy's classics fiction "Far From the Madding Crowd," Posy Simmonds' TAMARA DREWE first ran as a comic strip in The Guardian between September 2005 and October 2007 before being compiled into her popular graphic novel of the same name in 2007.

The story centers on an attractive young newspaper columnist who returns to the bucolic English country town of her youth to prepare her childhood home for sale. After a recent nose job transforms her into a seductive flirt, her presence in the hamlet sends ripples through a local writers retreat, awakening long dormant feelings with old friends and re-igniting former relationships.

The film stars Gemma Arterton (QUANTUM OF SOLACE, CLASH OF THE TITANS), Roger Allam (THE QUEEN, THE WIND THAT SHAKES THE BARLEY), Dominic Cooper (AN EDUCATION, MAMMA MIA!), Luke Evans (ROBIN HOOD, CLASH OF THE TITANS) and Tamsin Greig (CUCKOO, SHAUN OF THE DEAD). The film will be shot by Ben Davis (THE DEBT, KICKASS, STARDUST), designed by Alan MacDonald (CHERI, THE EDGE OF LOVE, THE QUEEN), edited by Mick Audsley (PRINCE OF PERSIA, DIRTY PRETTY THINGS, HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE, HIGH FIDELITY, DANGEROUS LIAISONS), with costumes by Academy Award nominated Consolata Boyle (THE QUEEN, ANGELA'S ASHES, CHERI) and music composed by Alexander Desplat (The fantastic Mr Cox, Coco Avant Channel).

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.

Sony Pictures Classics have recently released *TYSON*, *EVERY LITTLE STEP*, *WHATEVER WORKS*, *MOON*, and *IT MIGHT GET LOUD*. Their upcoming slate includes *COCO BEFORE CHANEL*, *THE DAMNED UNITED*, *AN EDUCATION*, and *BROKEN EMBRACES* as well as *COCO CHANEL AND IGOR STRAVINSKY*, *THE WHITE RIBBON*, *WILD GRASS*, *A PROPHET*, *BLOOD SIMPLE*, *IMAGINARIUM OF DR. PARNASSUS*, and *MICMACS*.

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>.