
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

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SONY PICTURES CLASSICS ANNOUNCES THE ACQUISITION MICHAEL HANEKE'S THE WHITE RIBBON

NEW YORK, NY (May 13, 2009) -- Sony Pictures Classics has finalized a pre-Cannes acquisition of Michael Haneke's competition entry, *THE WHITE RIBBON*. The acquisition marks their second collaboration with the acclaimed filmmaker having previously released his film *CACHE* in 2005. SPC has acquired all rights to the film in North America from sales company Les Films du Losange.

THE WHITE RIBBON is set just prior to the start of WWI, where the quiet life of a small German village is mysteriously eroded by a series of inexplicable events. The film is a co-production between X-Filme Creative Pool in Germany, Les Films du Losange in France, Wega Film in Austria and Lucky Red in Italy. *THE WHITE RIBBON* was produced by Margaret Menegoz (*CACHE*, *FUNNY GAMES*), Stefan Arndt (*RUN LOLA RUN*, *GOODBYE, LENIN!*), Veit Heiduschka and Michael Katz.

"We have been pursuing *THE WHITE RIBBON* since it was a kernel of an idea in Michael Haneke's mind. We are convinced this is his masterwork. It is a privilege and a pleasure to be releasing Michael's latest film and to work again with him and his amazing producers Margaret Menegoz and Stefan Arndt," said SPC Co-Presidents Michael Barker and Tom Bernard.

After our perfect collaboration on *CACHÉ*, I am delighted to share with Sony Classics as a new adventure *THE WHITE RIBBON*," said writer/director Michael Haneke. "Since the beginning, Sony Classics followed the story with its usual engagement. I remember our conversation at the Premiere of *CACHÉ* in New-York. I told Sony Classics the story and they let me know and feel their interest. I hope we will share together joy and success."

Written and Directed by Michael Haneke, *THE WHITE RIBBON* marks Haneke's fifth Cannes competition appearance (*FUNNY GAMES*, *CODE UNKNOWN*, *THE PIANO TEACHER*, *CACHE*). In 2005, Haneke was awarded Best Director for *CACHE*. He was previously awarded The Grand Prize of the Jury in 2001 for *THE PIANO TEACHER*, a film for which Benoit Magimel won Best Actor and Isabelle Huppert won Best Actress

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>.