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AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE AND SHORTS INTERNATIONAL SIGN EXCLUSIVE DEAL

The American Film Institute (AFI) has appointed SHORTS INTERNATIONAL as the exclusive worldwide distributor of its short film library. Headquartered in London and New York, SHORTS INTERNATIONAL is the world's largest shorts distributor. The AFI Library consists of hundreds of high-quality short films produced at the world-renowned AFI Conservatory and the AFI Directing Workshop for Women.

The AFI Conservatory offers advanced professional training in narrative storytelling, granting MFA degrees in six filmmaking disciplines—Cinematography, Directing, Editing, Producing, Production Design and Screenwriting. The AFI Conservatory's alumni include some of the world's most prominent filmmakers, including Jon Avnet, Caleb Deschanel, Scott Frank, Carl Franklin, Marshall Herskovitz, Janusz Kaminski, Mimi Leder, David Lynch, Terrence Malick, John McTiernan, Robert Richardson and Ed Zwick. The AFI Library of short films also includes films made in the esteemed Directing Workshop for Women—a groundbreaking program dedicated to increasing the number of women working professionally as directors.

"The AFI Conservatory is devoted to the hands-on training of storytellers—as well as to providing a bridge to the profession for our filmmakers. We are very proud of the work done here at AFI—and in looking for a partner to bring these films to larger audiences worldwide, we were particularly inspired by the progress SHORTS INTERNATIONAL has made to get shorts a new, fresh audience," states Jonathan Estrin, Executive Vice President, AFI.

The AFI Conservatory library of shorts includes numerous award-winning shorts including MY MOTHER DREAMS THE SATAN'S DISCIPLES IN NEW YORK (Academy Award winner), SENZENI NA? (Academy Award nominee), WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON (Student Academy Award winner) and JOHN (Student Academy Award, DGA Award for Best Student Director). In addition, many of the AFI shorts feature notable SAG actors, including Martin Sheen, Chris Penn, Dakota Fanning, James Franco and Mel Gibson.

"AFI is the leading educator of the hottest new filmmaking talent. We're deeply honoured to be selected as AFI's partner in bringing these exciting films to audiences everywhere," states Carter Pilcher, CEO, SHORTS INTERNATIONAL.

SHORTS INTERNATIONAL represents short films from many independent filmmakers and institutions, including the British Film Institute, the Welsh SGRIN Agency, the Royal Welsh College, Universal's Hypnotic catalogue and Spain's Morphe Art Pictures as well as AFI. As the largest distributor of short films to leading film broadcasters such as HBO, Canal+ and Sundance, the company has earned its place in the short film walk of fame and is set to make further strides with this impressive catalogue.

SHORTS INTERNATIONAL has recently focused on fast-changing technologies and their dynamic impact on the delivery of short form content. The addition of the prestigious AFI Conservatory library of short films will enhance its unique ability to fulfill programming across all media.

More on the American Film Institute:

AFI is a national institute providing leadership in screen education and the recognition and celebration of excellence in the art of film, television and digital media. AFI trains the next generation of filmmakers at its world-renowned Conservatory, maintains America's film heritage through the *AFI Catalog of Feature Films* and explores new digital technologies in entertainment and education through the AFI Digital Content Lab and K-12 Screen Education Center. As the largest nonprofit exhibitor in the US, AFI ON SCREEN encompasses the annual AFI FEST presented by Audi: AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival—as well as year-round programming at ArcLight Hollywood and the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland, including SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival. AFI AWARDS, the annual almanac for the 21st century, honors the most outstanding motion pictures and television programs of the year, while **AFI's 100 Years . . .** series has ignited extraordinary public interest in classic American movies. And, during the past 33 years, AFI's Life Achievement Award has become the highest honor for a career in film.

Additional information about AFI is available at AFI.com.

More on Shorts International:

SHORTS INTERNATIONAL is fast becoming a leader in pioneering the distribution of short films. Developing a bespoke short film channel, SHORTSTV, for the highly publicised O2 and Arqiva (formerly NTL Broadcast) Mobile TV trials due to start in September, SHORTS INTERNATIONAL are able to provide the depth and diversity of films demanded in both a mobile environment as well as other broadcast mediums.

Shorts International have been specialists in short film distribution for over 5 years. They have the largest dedicated short film library in the world, incorporating titles from The BFI, America's Hypnotic catalogue, Spain's Morphe Art Pictures, The Royal College of Art and many other international film bodies. They supply and programme short films to over 200 international broadcast clients including, HBO, Channel 4, Canal + and Arte.

Further information can be found at www.shortsinternational.com.

For further information on SHORTSTV, see www.shortstelevision.com.

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