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**FOX INTERNATIONAL CHANNELS ANNOUNCES THE FIRST EVER
WORLDWIDE GLOBAL TELEVISION SERIES PREMIERE OF
THE LISTENER, A NEW SCRIPTED DRAMA SERIES**

FIC will premiere the show in 180 countries simultaneously in March.

The Listener Asia Launch is scheduled on 6 March 2009

LOS ANGELES, ASIA (JAN. 15, 2009) – Fox International Channels (FIC), today announced the first-ever worldwide global premiere of its new television drama series, ***The Listener***, the first week of March 2009. FIC will premiere the show before its debut in the US (NBC) and Canada (CTV) later this year. In Asia, the show will have its first showing exclusively on FX at 11pm (Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines) and 10pm (Thailand) on 6 March 2009.

Produced by Shaftesbury Films, ***The Listener***, a 13 one-hour episode drama series about a young paramedic who has the unique ability to read minds, will premiere in the same week on all Fox entertainment TV channels in 180 countries around the world, including: UK, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Argentina, Mexico, Japan, Korea, Poland, Brazil and Turkey, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines.



“We chose to follow the same release model used for movies,” said Sharon Tal Yguado, Vice President of Development at FOX International Channels. “All FIC’s regions are working together on a global premiere, which will take place the first week of March. Shine-Reveille, our international partner on this show, has sold the rights to the series in almost every territory outside of FIC’s markets. Those territories will follow our premiere.”

“The first ever global television series premiere of ***The Listener*** is another bold attempt by FIC to bring the edge of entertainment to audiences around the world. FX viewers in Asia are always privileged to receive the latest and best dramas keeping them ahead of general entertainment. We brought *Mad Men*, the latest 2009 Golden Globe Best Television Series (Drama) to Asia, as our channel launch premiere back in November 2008; and I am confident that ***The Listener*** premiere with its striking storyline will create huge excitement in Asia, bringing with it a thirst for Canadian dramas”, says Sonia Jackson, Senior Vice President, Marketing, FOX International Channels in Asia.

“The financing of ***The Listener*** represents a timely model – bringing North American broadcasters, CTV and NBC, together with a major international network, FOX,” said Christina Jennings, Chairman and CEO, Shaftesbury Films. “The contribution and support of FIC has been terrific and we look forward to a successful launch of the series around the world.”

The series is about Toby Logan (Craig Olejnik *The Timekeeper*), a 25 year-old paramedic who has a big secret- he’s a telepath. Until now, Toby has kept his ability hidden, exploring its possibilities only with his long time mentor and confidante Dr. Ray Mercer (Colm Feore – *24: Redemption, Changeling*). Making the rounds in Toronto with his energetic paramedic partner Osman “Oz” Bey (Ennis Esmer – *Young People F*#king*), ***The Listener*** follows Toby as he tries to help people in crisis and in the process unravel the truth about his past. While his professional life is in check, Toby’s personal life could use its own rescue. It’s a good thing he has Oz’s good humour to keep him centered and living in the moment. And with the help of the tough but tender Detective Charlie Marks (Lisa Marcos - *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*) and his ER doctor ex-girlfriend Olivia Fawcett (Mylène Dinh-Robic – *Da Vinci’s City Hall*), Toby realizes his gift can help others.



“**The Listener** is a global content project for FIC, who’s also been involved in the development and production of the series,” said Sharon. “It is a unique TV series that combines three of the most successful genres: crime, medical and paranormal. Its young sexy cast and its great sense of humor make it a very enjoyable watch.”

The Listener was developed by award-winning Shaftesbury Films, in association with CTV, FIC, and NBC. Executive producers include: International Emmy award-winner Christina Jennings and Scott Garvie for Shaftesbury Films, Michael Amo (*Blessed Stranger: After Flight 111*), Tom Chehak (*ReGenesis*) and Clement Virgo (*Poor Boy’s Game*). **The Listener** is distributed internationally by Shine- Reveille

In Asia, FX is available on StarHub TV channel 87 in Singapore, now TV Channel 524 in Hong Kong, SkyCable in the Philippines, and True IPTV in Thailand.

About Fox International Channels

FOX International Channels (FIC), a unit of FOX Entertainment Group, is the wholly-owned global pay television subsidiary of News Corporation. FIC develops and distributes wholly-and majority-owned entertainment, factual, sports, and movie channels in virtually all markets across Europe, Africa, Latin America, and Asia. With a stable of 20 channel brands, FIC broadcasts over 95 television services in 29 languages. These networks and their related mobile, non-linear and high-definition extensions, reach over 350 million subscribing households worldwide. In Asia, FIC is represented by NGC Network Asia, LLC.

About Shaftesbury Films

Founded in 1987, Shaftesbury Films has established a reputation as one of Canada’s leading producers of high quality film and television programming. Recent productions include, the drama series Murdoch Mysteries for Citytv and UKTV; the drama series ReGenesis for The Movie Network, Movie Central and Showcase; the record breaking TV movies In God’s Country and Eight Days to Live, starring Kelly Rowan for CTV; the Emmy-nominated TV movie, The Robber Bride starring Mary-Louise Parker for CBC; and the highly successful kids series Life



with Derek, currently airing on Family Channel and Disney Channel, and in over 120 countries worldwide. Most recently, Shaftesbury has established a Digital Media division, Smokebomb Entertainment. Visit the Shaftesbury website at www.shaftesbury.ca

About FX

FX brings bold and edgier content for savvy male and female viewers in Asia who are looking for sophisticated entertainment. The cutting-edge programming, character-driven stories that resonate with discerning audience, humor and entertainment push existing TV entertainment standards to a new level. This versatile channel symbolizes an alternative lifestyle by extending this invigorating experience to the Internet with fxtvasia.com with a wide array of online activities, allowing viewers to completely immerse themselves in FX. FX broadcasts in Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines in Asia.

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