



FROST/NIXON WORLD PREMIERE WILL OPEN THE TIMES BFI 52ND LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

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L-R: Frank Langella plays former U.S. President, Richard Nixon and Michael Sheen plays television personality David Frost.

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London - Wednesday 25 June: The Times BFI London Film Festival is proud to announce that this year's Festival will open on Wednesday 15 October with the world premiere of Universal Pictures' electrifying drama **FROST/NIXON**, from Oscar[®]-winning director/producer **Ron Howard** and Oscar[®]-winning producer **Brian Grazer**, together with BAFTA award-winning producers **Tim Bevan** and **Eric Fellner**.

Adapted for the screen from his own stage play by BAFTA-winning scriptwriter **Peter Morgan**, **FROST/NIXON** sees **Michael Sheen** and **Frank Langella** reprise their West End and Broadway roles as journalist David Frost and President Richard Nixon. They are joined by a powerful supporting cast including American actors **Kevin Bacon**, **Oliver Platt** and **Sam Rockwell**, as well as British performers **Rebecca Hall**, **Toby Jones** and **Matthew Macfadyen**.

In summer 1977, the televised David Frost/Richard Nixon interviews attracted the largest audience for a news program in the history of American TV. More than 45 million viewers—hungry for a glimpse into the mind of their disgraced former commander-in-chief and anxious for him to acknowledge the abuses of power that led to his resignation—sat transfixed as Nixon and Frost sparred in a riveting verbal boxing match over the course of four evenings.

Receiving its world premiere in the same city that launched the play's phenomenal success, FROST/NIXON not only re-creates the on-air interviews, but the weeks of around-the-world, behind-the-scenes manoeuvring between the two men and their camps as negotiations were struck, deals were made and secrets revealed...all leading to the moment when they would sit facing one another in the court of public opinion. Universal Pictures will release the film in the UK on 9 January 2009.

Sandra Hebron, the Festival's Artistic Director comments: "We're delighted to be opening our festival with this fascinating study of a unique moment in cultural and political life. Engrossing and entertaining by turns, and brilliantly performed, it is a film with strong London links and a perfect opener for this year's festival."

On having the film's world premiere in London, screenwriter and executive producer **Peter Morgan** noted: "I've been so fortunate with FROST/NIXON, working with two world-class directors in theatre and film and watching two lead actors at the top of their games. Now, having the film premiere at my hometown just completes a thrilling, fairy-tale ride for me."

On behalf of Working Title, producer **Eric Fellner** added: "We are thrilled to open the London Film Festival with FROST/NIXON, and it is entirely appropriate as London is where the journey began for all of us when we saw and were enthralled by the original play when it opened here in August 2006."

Imagine Entertainment's **Ron Howard** and **Brian Grazer** concluded: "We take great pride in documenting the lives of those who have changed our world. What David Frost and Richard Nixon said and did in their series forever altered public perception of authority figures and the media's role in interviewing them. We are honoured that the London Film Festival is allowing Imagine and Working Title to open its festival by showcasing our story of these two men and their stunning display of truths."

The full programme for The Times BFI 52nd London Film Festival will be announced on Wednesday 10 September.

The Festival runs from 15-30 October 2008

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