

PRESS RELEASE

Picture Tree International Announces Strong 2014 Berlinale Line-Up

- [**PTI secures distribution rights to German blockbuster FACK JU GÖHTE**
- [**LOS ÁNGELES to enjoy its world premiere in the Berlinale "Forum" section**
- [**Also new to the PTI portfolio: WEST and DREAMLAND**

Berlin, 16 January 2014 – The international sales and production outfit **Picture Tree International (PTI)** has secured the global distribution rights for the hit screwball romcom **FACK JU GÖHTE / SUCK ME SHAKESPEER**. With over six million tickets sold and a box office exceeding US\$ 60 million, the film was Germany's most successful release in 2013. PTI will present this box-office blockbuster directed by Bora Dagtekin ("Turkish for Beginners") and starring Elyas M'Barek ("The Wave", "The Physician") and Karoline Herfurth ("The Reader", "We are the Night") at the **2014 European Film Market** (6-14 February) in Berlin. The fast-paced film tells the story of Zeki Müller (M'Barek), an ex-con and substitute teacher who uses unorthodox yet effective methods to bring an unruly class back on track. Zeki's highly entertaining encounters with his prim and proper fellow teacher Lisi Schnabelstedt (Herfurth) recently earned the film a spot on the pre-selection list for the 2014 GERMAN FILM AWARDS. Just after the film's release, the number of fans on M'Barek's Facebook page shot up to 1.5 million. PTI will also market the TV rights to FACK JU GÖHTE in cooperation with Red Arrow, the international sales arm of Pro7Sat.1. The rights to the film's "free-TV" premiere in Germany were secured by Pro7.

World Premiere of LOS ÁNGELES in the Berlinale "Forum" Section on 8 February 2014

Damian John Harper's drama **LOS ÁNGELES** has been chosen as one of the films in the "FORUM" section at the 2014 Berlinale and will celebrate its world premiere during the festival's opening weekend (Saturday 8 February) at the Cinestar 8. Harper is a US born director and anthropologist who spent one year researching the culture and social structures of the Southern Mexican community in which the story of Los Angeles is set. He moved on to study directing at Munich's Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen (HFF). **LOS ÁNGELES** is his directorial debut and was produced by the Cologne/Berlin-based Weydemann Bros. The film centres on a young Mexican man pressured to carry out a murder on behalf of a gang in his home village in order to buy his way to Los Angeles. In the film, Harper works through some of his experiences during his one-year stay in Mexico. **TEARDROP**, Harper's graduating film at the HFF, already won numerous awards at over 50 festivals worldwide.

Also new in the Picture Tree International Portfolio: WEST and DREAMLAND

Another strongly anticipated title of the PTI line-up at this year's Berlinale is the gripping East-West drama **WEST** directed by Christian Schwochow ("November Child", "The Tower") starring Jördis Triebel ("Me and Kaminski", "Emma's Bliss"). Triebel's performance recently earned her a spot on the Best Actress shortlist for the GERMAN FILM AWARDS. Senator Film Verleih ("The Untouchables") is set to release the film in Germany at the end of March. **WEST** focuses on chemist Nelly Senff, who emigrated from the GDR to West Germany in the late 70s and ends up at the infamous refugee transit camp Berlin-Marienfeld, where she is grilled by the Allied intelligence services. The film by öFilm-Produktion, zero one film and Terz Filmproduktion in co-production with Senator Film, WDR, SWR, rbb and ARTE, is loosely based on Julia Franck's novel "Lagerfeuer" ("Bonfire") and recently received the FIPRESCI as well as "Best Actress" award for Jördis Triebel at the 2013 Montréal World Film Festival.

The film **DREAMLAND** is Swiss director and author Petra Volpe's feature film debut. Volpe, who won the TV Prize at the Baden-Baden TV Festival for her TV film "Frühling im Herbst" (Autumn Spring Fever), shot **DREAMLAND** with a high-calibre international ensemble of actors, including Marisa Paredes ("Todo sobre mi madre", "Habla con ella"), Devid Striesow ("The Counterfeiters", "Drei"), Ursina Lardi ("The White Ribbon", "Lore") and Luna Mijovic ("Atmen", "Grbavica"). The film's cinematographer is Judith Kaufmann ("Vier Minuten", "Die Fremde"), who has already won a number of German Film Awards. **DREAMLAND** is an episode-based film in which four people encounter a young Bulgarian woman, MIA, who works as a street prostitute, over the course of the day on Christmas Eve. The film is a production of Zodiac Pictures in coproduction with Wüste Film Ost as well as SRF, SRG, SSR and ARTE.

METALHEAD, VICTOR "YOUNG" PEREZ, MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS and SILENT SUMMER Round Out the Line-Up

After making waves in Toronto, Ragnar Bragason's moving heavy-metal drama **METALHEAD** has been invited to compete at other international film festivals in Rotterdam, Santa Barbara and Göteborg. Njuta Film will release the film in Sweden after its premiere in Göteborg. At the beginning of the year, PTI added Madman Distribution in Australia/NZ to its sales. The film tells the story of Hera, whose brother dies in a tragic accident for which she feels responsible. She soon finds solace and sanctuary in the world of heavy metal. Director Ragnar Bragason is one of Iceland's most important contemporary directors and has already received the EDDA national film award 24 times as well as many other international festival awards. **METALHEAD** is a production of Mystery Production und Hummelfilm.

The captivating true story of the Tunisian-Jewish boxing world champion, **VICTOR "YOUNG" PEREZ** directed by Jacques Ouaniche, will soon enter US cinemas (distributed by Synkronized/Millennium) and has also been sold to Latin America (Amarok), the CIS-Baltic countries (Luxor) and South Korea (Sejong). In 1931 and 1932, Victor Perez became the youngest world champion in boxing history: in 1943 he was deported to Auschwitz. The film is a French-Israeli-Bulgarian coproduction from Noé Productions and Mazel Productions in co-production with Transfax Films (Israel), Pierantoni and Partners (Bulgaria) and GMI (UK).

Thomas Imbach's **MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS** is an extraordinary cinematic portrait of Maria Stuart and will celebrate its UK premiere in March at the Glasgow Film Festival in Scotland. Mousetrap will distribute the film in the USA and Curious in Australia/New Zealand. This in-depth psychological study was shown in the "Special Presentation" category in Toronto and at the AFI Festival in Los Angeles. Swiss director Imbach wrote the script together with Andrea Staka ("Das Fräulein") and Eduard Habsburg-Lothringen, a descendant of Maria Stuart. **MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS** is a Swiss production from Okofilm Productions, SRF and ARTE.

The comedy **SILENT SUMMER** directed by Nana Neul and starring Dagmar Manzel will have its international festival premiere as the closing film at the Berlin & Beyond Festival this January in San Francisco. Silent Summer is a charming film with surprising plot twists that examine the confusions and complications of a long-standing marriage. The film will be brought to German cinemas in 2014 by Zorro Film and is a co-production of 2Pilots Filmproduktion with SWR.

The quirky horror comedy **AMERICAN BURGER** directed by Bronita Drake & Johan Bromander focuses on a bus load of American students who embark on a trip to Europe and unsuspectingly end up at a frighteningly odd snack stand in the middle of nowhere. In the role of sales agent, Picture Tree International will present the film at the EFM in a "work-in-progress version" on behalf of Sweden's LittleBig Productions. Simultaneously, LittleBig Productions is in preparation to release **AMERICAN BURGER** online this May under their own direction. For both PTI and LittleBig Productions, this is an exciting experiment in combining direct online distribution paths with the traditional licensing model.

Picture Tree International at the European Film Market 2014 in Berlin:

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About Picture Tree International:

Berlin-based Picture Tree International (PTI) is an integrated distribution and production company with a clear international focus. PTI's core business concentrates on the worldwide licensing of film rights and the co-production of international feature films using an integrated business model that links distribution with production. The company was co-founded in early 2013 by Andreas Rothbauer and Alec Schulmann, who first worked together in 2005 on the Oscar-nominated film "Mongol: The Rise of Genghis Khan" (2007).

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