



## PRESS RELEASE

### **PTI Brings New European Cinema to the 2015 Cannes Film Market Picture Tree International presents advance market premieres of ADAMA and THE MIDWIFE and introduces upcoming titles including MAMMAL, A HEAVY HEART and EGON SCHIELE biopic**

Berlin, 5 May 2015 – **Picture Tree International (PTI)** is getting ready for Marché du Film (13 – 22 May 2015) where the Berlin-based world sales and production company will be presenting a number of recently completed titles from across the continent. Having its market premiere on home turf, poetic French animation tale **ADAMA** by Simon Rouby takes viewers of all ages on a young boy's adventurous journey from his African village to the trenches of WWI. Antti J. Jokinen's Lapland-set **THE MIDWIFE** (KÄTILÖ) tells a passionate love story between a Finnish midwife and a Nazi officer in the last months of WWII. Dieter Berner's biopic **EGON SCHIELE** (in pre-production) shines a light on a young man's life in early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Austria and his relationship with women – a young man who became one of the most outstanding painters of his time. Rebecca Daly's **MAMMAL** (in post-production) starring Academy Award nominee Rachel Griffiths is a compelling and unorthodox love story about a woman grieving her son and the relationship she develops with a homeless youth. **MAMMAL** is produced by FASTNET's Macdara Kelleher ("Strangerland"). In **A HEAVY HEART** (HERBERT; in post-production), Student Academy Award winner Thomas Stuber tells the touching story of a lone wolf who takes a long time to find the meaning of his fading life.

**ADAMA** (France 2015) by **Simon Rouby**, whose short film "Blind Spot" was nominated for a Cinéfondation Award at Cannes, is the director's first feature-length film. It will celebrate its domestic premiere in the feature competition of Annecy International Animation Film Festival in June 2015 after having won the Work in Progress Award at the festival's 2014 edition. The hero of this poetic animation movie is Adama, a boy from a West African village who sets off on a journey to Europe to find his brother – and suddenly finds himself between the frontlines of a continent in the grip of war. The year is 1914. **ADAMA** was produced by Philippe Aigle and Séverine Lathuilliere for Naïa Productions in co-production with Pipangaï Studio and France 3 Cinéma. The film will have a wide release in France by Océan Films on October 21, 2015.

*Market screenings: Thursday, 14 May | 10:00 a.m. | Palais G  
Saturday, 16 May | 5:30 p.m. | Palais D*

**THE MIDWIFE** (KÄTILÖ; Finland 2015) is based on the award-winning novel by Katja Kettu. Set against the historical backdrop of the Lapland War in 1944/45, a conflict between Germany and Finland in the aftermath of WWII, the drama tells the story of a Finnish midwife (**Krista Kosonen**; "Jade Warrior", "Purge") who falls in love with a Finnish-German Nazi officer. While the two lovers put their life at risk to be with each other, their will to survive becomes so strong that it bypasses the expectations of morality. Director **Antti J. Jokinen** directed Finland's official 2013 Academy Award entry "Purge" as well as "The Resident" starring Hilary Swank and Christopher Lee. **THE MIDWIFE** was produced by Markus Selin and Jukka Helle for Solar Films ("Frozen Land", "Vares" crime series), with Nordisk Film distributing the film in Scandinavia in autumn 2015.

*Market screening: Friday, 15 May | 5:30 p.m. | Palais D*

**EGON SCHIELE** (Austria/Luxembourg 2016; in pre-production) presents to the viewer the charismatic and provocative painter who died of the Spanish flu in 1918 at not even 30 years old. Newcomer **Noah Saavedra** plays the young artist whose controversial paintings made him one of the most prominent painters of the Viennese Modern Age in this biopic by **Dieter Berner** ("Joint Venture"; lead actor of Michael Haneke's "The Seventh Continent"). Principal shooting will take place in summer 2015 with completion scheduled for spring 2016. Franz Novotny and Alexander Glehr are producing **EGON SCHIELE** for Novotny & Novotny Filmproduktion ("Therapy for a Vampire", "Jew Suss: Rise and Fall") in co-production with Amour Fou Luxembourg ("The Notebook", "Hannah Arendt").

**Rebecca Daly**, whose debut feature "The Other Side of Sleep" premiered at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival Directors' Fortnight, is currently in post-production on her second feature film **MAMMAL** (Ireland/Luxembourg/The Netherlands 2015). Academy Award nominated and Golden Globe winning actress **Rachel Griffiths** ("Six Feet Under", "Muriel's Wedding") plays a lonely woman living in Dublin whose teenage



son has gone missing. One day, she takes a homeless youth (Irish rising star **Barry Keoghan**; “Love/Hate”, “Trespass Against Us”) into her house, and an unorthodox relationship begins to develop between them. Conor Barry and Macdara Kelleher are producing the film for Fastnet Films in co-production with Calach Films and Rinkel Film. **MAMMAL** will be brought to Irish audiences by Wildcard Distribution with Cinéart distributing the film in Benelux countries.

**A HEAVY HEART** (HERBERT; Germany 2015; in post-production) is a drama by **Thomas Stuber**, who won a Silver Student Academy Award for “Of Dogs and Horses” (2012), the adaptation of a short story by **Clemens Meyer** (author of the novel “As We Were Dreaming”). The two writers teamed up once more for the script of **A HEAVY HEART**, which was nominated for a German Script Award. The film follows former boxing champ Herbert (**Peter Kurth**; “Good Bye Lenin!”, “Gold”) who, when diagnosed with a fatal disease, struggles with the hard shell he has grown over the years. With not much time left, he tries to reconnect with his daughter Sandra (**Lena Lauzemis**; “If Not Us, Who?”) who is afraid of letting the father who once abandoned her become a part of her life again. Undine Filter and Thomas Král are producing for Departures Film in co-production with Anatol Nitschke/deutschfilm. Wild Bunch / Senator Film Verleih will be releasing **A HEAVY HEART** in Germany in autumn 2015.

**Mark Noonan**’s feature debut **YOU’RE UGLY TOO** (Ireland 2015) was one of only three films nominated for the European Film Academy’s Young Audience Award 2015. The film celebrated its world premiere in the 2015 Berlin International Film Festival’s Official Selection where it was nominated for the Berlinale Best First Feature Award. **Aidan Gillen** (“Game of Thrones”, “The Wire”, “Calvary”, “The Dark Knight Rises”) plays Will, who is released from prison on compassionate leave to care for his niece Stacey (**Lauren Kinsella**; “Albert Nobbs”) after the death of her mother. Struggling with each other and the new situation, they attempt to establish a family life in a trailer park somewhere in the Irish midlands. The film was produced by John Keville and Conor Barry for Savage Productions. Element Pictures will be releasing the film in the UK; international distributors include Pandora Film (Germany and Austria), Edko Films (Hong Kong), 2i Film (Former Yugoslavia) and Angel Films (Denmark).

*Market screenings:*      *Wednesday, 13 May | 5:30 p.m. | Palais F*  
   *Tuesday, 19 May | 9:30 a.m. | Palais H*

**BLUE BLOOD** (SANGUE AZUL; Brazil 2014), opening film of the 2015 Panorama at Berlin International Film Festival and winner of three awards at the 2014 Rio International Film Festival, screened at the festivals in Miami (Knight Competition) and Jeonju, among others. The passionate drama by director **Lirio Ferreira** (“Árido Movie”) tells the story of a man who returns to the paradisiac island of his childhood, which he was banned from as a ten-year-old because of his mother’s fear of a forbidden attraction between the boy and his sister. Having joined a travelling circus and grown into Zolah, the Cannon Man (**Daniel de Oliveira**; “Boca”, “Cazuza: Time Doesn’t Stop”), he is now back on the island with the circus, longing for his interrupted past and the love he lost. **BLUE BLOOD** was produced by Renato Ciasca and Drama Filmes in co-production with Beluga, Telecine, Oliver Kwon, Frederico Porto and Filip Jan Rymysza. It will be released in Brazil by Imovision on June 4, 2015.

*Market screening:*      *Thursday, 14 May | 6:00 p.m. | Palais C*

**ELECTROBOY** (Switzerland 2014) is the first documentary by award-winning feature film director **Marcel Gisler** (“Rosie”, “Fögi Is a Bastard”). Having locally premiered at Locarno’s Critic’s Week and screening in competition at the 2015 DOK.fest Munich, the film won the 2015 Swiss Film Award for Best Documentary as well as Best Editing. **ELECTROBOY** tells the breathtaking true life story of a young man who leaves his claustrophobic Swiss surroundings for the wide world in search of fame and recognition. In a series of success stories **Florian Burkhardt** reinvents himself time and again, changing settings and careers like other people change their shirts. **ELECTROBOY** was produced by Anne-Catherine Lang and Olivier Zobrist for Langfilm (“Benny’s Video”) and was released in Switzerland by Vinca Film.

**Simon Jaquet**’s debut feature **CHRIEG** (Switzerland 2014) premiered in the New Directors competition of the 2014 San Sebastián International Film Festival. At the drama’s centre is Matteo (**Benjamin Lutzke**), a 15-year-old boy who is sent to a boot camp in the Swiss Alps by his parents. The farmer, who was supposed to take care of the kids, has long lost control, and three violent teenagers have taken over. Little by little, Matteo earns their respect and together they fight their own war against grown-ups, against everything. **CHRIEG** screened at the festivals in São Paulo, Torino and Guadalajara, among others, and it had a special screening at the 2015 Berlin International Film Festival. The film won prestigious Max Ophüls Award in Saarbrücken, Germany in 2015, received the Jury Prize and Best Actor Award at the 2014 Marrakech International Film Festival, and won the



2015 Swiss Film Award for Best Cinematography. **CHRIEG** was produced by Christian Davi, Christof Neracher and Thomas Thümena for Hugofilm (“Vitus”, “The Murder Farm”, “Lovely Louise”) and was released in Switzerland by Outside the Box.

Comedy **THERAPY FOR A VAMPIRE** (DER VAMPIR AUF DER COUCH; Austria/Switzerland 2014) by **David Ruehm** (“The Escape”) had its international premiere at Busan’s Open Cinema in front of an audience of 4000. The vampire screwball comedy, set in early 1930’s Vienna, shows Dr. Sigmund Freud (**Karl Fischer**; “Dead in 3 Days”) treating a new patient: mysterious Count Geza von Közsnöm (**Tobias Moretti**; “The Dark Valley”, “The Weekend”) who can no longer bear the “eternally long” relationship with his narcissistic wife (**Jeanette Hain**; “The Reader”, “Poll”). Dr. Freud does not know that the von Közsnöms are vampires, tied together for hundreds of years and hating each other ferociously by now... **THERAPY FOR A VAMPIRE** was produced by Alexander Glehr and Franz Novotny for Novotny & Novotny Filmproduktion and co-produced by Hugofilm. It was released domestically by Thimfilm; 2015 releases include South Korea (Company L) and Germany (MFA+ Filmdistribution).

Biopic **THE PILGRIM – PAULO COELHO’S BEST STORY** (NÃO PARE NA PISTA – A MELHOR HISTÓRIA DE PAULO COELHO; Brazil/Spain 2014) tells the amazing and true journey of Paulo Coelho’s life that turned him into a writer of tales millions of people all over the world enjoy. The feature debut by **Daniel Augusto** starring brothers **Júlio Andrade** (“Obra”, “Between Us”) and **Ravel Andrade** (“5 Ways to Close Your Eyes”) – who play Paulo Coelho at different stages of his life – as well as **Paz Vega** (“Sex and Lucía”, “Spanglish”, “Talk to Her”) was released theatrically in Brazil by Sony. **THE PILGRIM** had its international festival premiere at the 2015 Miami International Film Festival and will be released in the US by Music Box Films in 2015. The film was produced by Iôna de Macêdo and Carolina Kotscho for Dama Filmes and Angélica Huete for Babel Films. Further international releases include Russia (Luxor), Scandinavia (Future Film), Spain (Vercine), South Korea (Micon), Turkey (Yeni Bir Film), Czech Republic & Slovakia (Cinemart), Hungary (Anjou Lafayette) and Former Yugoslavia (2i Film).

**Mathieu Urfer**’s feature film debut **PAUSE** (Switzerland 2014) celebrated its world premiere at Locarno’s Piazza Grande. The romantic comedy tells the story of songwriter Sami (**Baptiste Giliéron**) whose happy-go-lucky attitude causes his girlfriend Julia (**Julia Faure**; “Camille Rewinds”) to put their relationship on hold. Coached by his friend Fernand (**André Wilms**; “Le Havre”, “La Vie de Bohème”), an old alcoholic guitar player, Sami has to convince Julia she is the only one for him. The film’s director of photography is Aki Kaurismäki regular **Timo Salminen** (“The Man Without a Past”, “Leningrad Cowboys Go America”), while most of the original score – which was awarded the 2015 Swiss Film Award – was composed by director Mathieu Urfer himself. Produced by Elodie Brunner for Box Productions, **PAUSE** was released in Switzerland by Filmcoopi.

Picture Tree’s 2015 **Cannes market office** will be located at **Riviera (booth # E3)**, attending representatives are **Andreas Rothbauer**, Founder & Managing Director; **Yuanyuan Sui**, Operating Officer – Sales & Acquisitions; **Barbie Heusinger**, Sales & Acquisitions Latin America, Spain and Portugal; **Rickard Olsson**, Acquisition Consultant; and **Moritz kleine Bornhorst**, Sales Assistant. Please find all contacts at [www.picturetree-international.com](http://www.picturetree-international.com).

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