



PRESS RELEASE

PTI With Four Market Premieres and High-caliber Upcoming Titles at AFM

Berlin, October 21st, 2015 – **Picture Tree International** (PTI) will be coming to the **American Film Market** in Santa Monica (4 – 11 November 2015) with a number of high-profile market premieres and projects. Among the four market premieres is Bora Dagtekin's record-breaking **FACK JU GOEHTE 2**, which scored close to 7 million admissions after a month in domestic release and is about to top the result of the first installment, which recorded close to 8 million admissions and sold to more than 40 territories. Another market premiere is Matthias Schweighöfer's **THE MANNY** (DER NANNY), also a top 5 German box office success in 2015 in its release by Warner Bros Germany. Two further German-language films will be coming to AFM from successful North American festival premieres at TIFF: Elisabeth Scharang's **JACK** is – based on a true story – the psychological study of a serial killer turned celebrated literate. Student Academy Award winning Thomas Stuber already scored raving reviews for his heart-wrenching drama about an East German ex-boxer, **A HEAVY HEART** (HERBERT), which will also screen as a market premiere in Santa Monica.

Upcoming highlights in PTI's AFM line-up include Rebecca Daly's **MAMMAL** starring Academy Award nominee Rachel Griffiths and 2015 BFI *UK Star of Tomorrow* Barry Keoghan; Dieter Berner's biopic **EGON SCHIELE – DEATH AND THE MAIDEN** (working title) that portrays the short life of the famed and controversial Austrian painter who died at only 28; and Florian Gaag's thriller drama **LENALOVE** about a girl who falls victim to cyber-bullying.

Standing at 7 million admissions, **FACK JU GOEHTE 2** (Germany 2015) is on its way to taking the lead in the 2015 German box office charts. The record-breaking sequel to school comedy **FACK JU GOEHTE / SUCK ME SHAKESPEER** – the most successful German production in 2013 – recorded the biggest ever domestic opening for a German film, grossing 17.6 million Euro in the first week following its September 10 release and reaching 4 million admissions in the second. **FACK JU GOEHTE 2**, written and directed by **Bora Dagtekin** („Fack ju Goethe“, „Turkish for Beginners“), reunites con teacher Zeki Müller (**Elyas M'Barek**, „Who Am I“, „The Physician“) and his colleague Lisi Schnabelstedt (**Karoline Herfurth**, „Vincent Wants to Sea“, „The Perfume“) with their chaotic class – on a school exchange trip to Thailand! And the students are in prime form, displaying their full spectrum of social incompetence and cultural ignorance... Following successful local releases of **FACK JU GOEHTE** in various countries, PTI pre-sold Part 2 to a number of territories including Czech Republic and Slovakia (Cinemart), Russia and CIS (Luxor), Hungary (Big Bang) and Former Yugoslavia (2i Film). **FACK JU GOEHTE 2** was produced by Bora Dagtekin and Lena Schömann for Constantin Film Produktion.

AFM market screenings: *Thursday, November 5 | 3:00 p.m. | Doubletree 1*
Friday, November 6 | 1:00 p.m. | Doubletree 1

With currently more than 1.6 million admissions, comedy **THE MANNY** (DER NANNY, Germany 2015) is ranging among the highest-grossing domestic productions in German cinemas this year. Writer, director and producer **Matthias Schweighöfer** (“What a Man”, leading parts in “Friendship!”, “Rabbit Without Ears”) plays Clemens, a man with a lot of work and very little time for his kids. When he hires a new, male nanny, he does not know that Rolf (**Milan Peschel**, “Stopped on Track”) is only taking the job because he wants to take personal revenge on Clemens... A Pantaleon Films production, **THE MANNY** was produced by Matthias Schweighöfer, Marco Beckmann and Dan Maag and was released in Germany by Warner Bros.

AFM market screening: *Sunday, November 8 | 9:00 a.m. | Doubletree 2*

JACK (Austria 2015), the second feature film by **Elisabeth Scharang** (“In Another Lifetime”), presents the haunting psychograph of Jack Unterweger, who polarized intellectuals, justice and the media alike in 1990s Austria. His suicide following the conviction for multiple murder left many questions unanswered, and 20 years later, his story has not lost any of its mystery. **Johannes Krisch** (“Revanche”) plays the enigmatic title character who goes from murderer of a woman to ladykiller, from jailbird poet to society darling, with **Corinna Harfouch** (“Downfall”) and **Birgit Minichmayr** (“Everyone Else”) co-starring. Produced by Dieter Pochlatko for epo-film, the film had its world premiere at Locarno's Piazza Grande and screened in TIFF's Contemporary World Cinema.

AFM market screening: *Thursday, November 5 | 1:00 p.m. | Doubletree 2*

TIFF premiere **A HEAVY HEART** (HERBERT; Germany 2015) 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. Undine Filter and Thomas Král produced for DEPARTURES Film in co-production with Anatol Nitschke/deutschfilm (“Victoria”). The „powerful character study“ and “impressive debut” (*The Hollywood Reporter*) celebrated its world premiere at TIFF and will be released domestically by Wild Bunch Germany in spring 2016.

AFM market screening: *Friday, November 6 | 3:00 p.m. | Tunnel Post 1*

Following its September release by Nordisk Film in Finland, **THE MIDWIFE** (KÄTILÖ; Finland 2015) broke box-office records by registering the best opening for a domestic drama and is now nearing 200,000 admissions in its home country. The film 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. 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). The film premiered in Competition at Shanghai IFF, where Krista Kosonen was awarded the prize for Best Actress, and it had its North American premiere at Montreal World Film Festival.

AFM market screening: *Saturday, November 7 | 8:45 a.m. | Doubletree 2*

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, and it won prestigious Finders Series Award as well as the prize for Best Irish First Feature at Galway Film Fleadh. 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, and it screened at the festivals in Montreal and Mill Valley. **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. The film was produced by John Keville and Conor Barry for Savage Productions and was released in Ireland by Element Pictures.

AFM market screening: *Sunday, November 8 | 11:00 a.m. | Fairmont 2*

Picture Tree’s AFM line-up further includes several highly awaited upcoming titles. **MAMMAL** (Ireland/Luxembourg/The Netherlands 2016), the second feature by **Rebecca Daly** whose debut “The Other Side of Sleep” premiered at Directors’ Fortnight in Cannes, stars Academy Award nominee Rachel Griffiths (“Six Feet Under”, “Muriel’s Wedding”) as a lonely woman living in Dublin who takes a homeless youth into her house. This youth is played by **Barry Keoghan** (“71”, “Norfolk”) who was recently announced at BFI London Film Festival as one of Screen International’s prestigious *UK Stars of Tomorrow – Class of 2015*. **MAMMAL** will have its world premiere in early 2016.

From writer/director **Florian Gaag**, whose 2006 debut feature “Wholetrain” has developed into a cult movie among young people since its premiere at the Berlin Film Festival, comes a new film that deals with the challenges teenagers have to face today: **LENALOVE** (in post-production) tells the story of a girl who falls victim to cyber-bullying, and as threats, lies, blackmail and endangerment culminate in her disappearance, the façade of harmonious life in suburbia soon falls apart. **LENALOVE** is scheduled for a German release in the first half of 2016.

Dieter Berner’s biopic **EGON SCHIELE – DEATH AND THE MAIDEN** (working title; in production) shines a light on a young man’s life in early 20th-century Austria and his relationship with women – a young man who became one of the most outstanding painters of his time. Newcomer **Noah Saavedra** plays the controversial artist, and Thimfilm will release **EGON SCHIELE** in Austria in 2016.

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