



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Picture Tree International Grows Its Scope in Toronto! Strong line-up at the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival includes MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS and METALHEAD**

Berlin, August 23, 2013 – The international sales and production outfit **Picture Tree International (PTI)** is taking two top productions to this year's Toronto International Film Festival (tiff) on September 5-15, 2013. First up is **MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS**, a stunning historical drama directed by Thomas Imbach and covering the life and times of embattled Scottish queen Mary Stuart. This Swiss-French production will celebrate its North American premiere in tiff's "Special Presentations" section. Next up is **METALHEAD**, the latest feature film from acclaimed Icelandic director Ragnar Bragason. The film tells the story of Hera, a grief-stricken girl who immerses herself in the world of heavy metal music after experiencing a family tragedy. **METALHEAD** will enjoy its world premiere in tiff's "Contemporary World Cinema" section.

**MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS** is an extraordinary psychological study of the famous Scottish queen, portrayed here by the young French actress Camille Rutherford. Directed by Thomas Imbach, the multiple award-winning Swiss director of such films as **LENZ**, **DAY IS DONE** and **WELL DONE**, the film provides a modern take on the key moments in Mary Stuart's life, including her youth and marriage in France, her return to Scotland, her relationship to Queen Elisabeth I and, of course, her execution. Imbach and his Swiss team take up the challenges posed by this stereotypically "British" theme and "while in many ways a traditional period drama, its time-shifting structure and dreamlike narration manages to critique the very strictures of the genre." (Indiewire). **Piers Handling**, head of the Toronto International Film Festival, praises "the absolute 'rightness' of everything in this film" and calls it "amongst the most thrilling treatments of a historical subject I have ever seen." **MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS** enjoyed its world premiere in competition at Locarno.

Imbach wrote the screenplay, which is based on Stefan Zweig's "Maria Stuart," together with **Andrea Staka**, recipient of the Golden Leopard in Locarno for her film **FRÄULEIN**, and **Eduard Habsburg-Lothringen**, a descendant of Maria Stuart. Cinematographer **Rainer Klausmann** has worked on a number of films including **DOWNFALL** and **THE EXPERIMENT** (Oliver Hirschbiegel), **HEAD-ON** (FATIH AKIN). **MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS** is a Swiss production involving Okofilm Productions, SRF Swiss Television and ARTE. In Switzerland, the film will be distributed by Pathé Films and released there this fall.

#### **Screenings in Toronto:**

*Press & Industry: September 8, 2013, 1 pm, Scotiabank 10*

*Public Screenings: September 9, 2103, 7 pm, Scotiabank 2; September 11, 2013, 9 am, Cinema 1; September 14, 2013, 9:30 am, Cinema 1*

#### **Publicist MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS:**

Touchwood PR, Andréa Grau, [info@touchwoodpr.com](mailto:info@touchwoodpr.com)



**METALHEAD** is a moving comic drama directed by Ragnar Bragason (CHILDREN, PARENTS). The story begins in 1970, the year in which both Hera Karlsdottir and heavy metal music – as represented by the release of Black Sabbath's first album – were born. After a pleasant and uneventful childhood on an Icelandic farm, Hera witnesses the death of her heavy-metal-loving brother in a tragic accident. While her parents attempt to flee from their own guilt and grief, Hera dives deeper into the world of heavy metal, which she finds in her dead brother's still untouched room. She remakes herself in her brother's image and uses both music and her dreams to find solace, sanctuary and a way to express her deepest emotions.

Ragnar Bragason is one of Iceland's most important contemporary directors. He has received the EDDA national film award 24 times along with many other international festival awards. **METALHEAD**'s renowned editor, Valdís Óskarsdóttir, has worked on the Dogma film Mifune and on the Oscar-nominated **THE MONGOL** and also received a BAFTA for best editing for **ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND** starring Jim Carey and Kate Winslet in 2004. **METALHEAD** is a production of Mystery Production and Hummelfilm.

**Screenings in Toronto:**

*Press & Industry: September 5, 2013, 6 pm, Scotiabank 3 and September 11, 2013, 2 pm, Scotiabank 6*

*Public Screenings: September 7, 2013, 6:15 pm, Scotiabank 4, September 9, 2013, 4 pm, Scotiabank 6, September 13, 2013, 9 am, Scotiabank 10*

**Publicist METALHEAD:**

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Picture Tree International (PTI) was founded at the beginning of 2013 in Berlin, Germany. Among the other projects included in PTI's 2013 Toronto line-up are **HUMAN**, a co-production project with Blind Spot Pictures (Finland) and Perfect Circle Productions (Canada). Filming on **HUMAN**, a thriller, is set to begin in 2014. **VICTOR "YOUNG" PEREZ** is a French-Israeli-Bulgarian co-production that tells the true story of Victor Perez, a Jewish-Tunisian boxer during the Second World War in Europe. The film is currently in post-production: it is scheduled for release in France at the end of 2013 and will be distributed by Océan Films.

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**About Picture Tree International:**

Picture Tree International (PTI) is an integrated distribution and production company with a clear international alignment. PTI's core business focuses 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's two co-founders, Andreas Rothbauer and Alec Schulmann, first worked together back in 2005 on the Oscar-nominated film "Mongol: The Rise of Genghis Khan" (2007).

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