

## **Tilda Swinton and Michael Winterbottom Receive Career Excellence Award at ADFE 2011**

Abu Dhabi, UAE – October 20, 2011

The Abu Dhabi Film Festival (ADFF) has today announced that British film luminaries Tilda Swinton and Michael Winterbottom will receive Black Pearl Career Excellence Awards at the Festival.

Award-winning director, writer and producer Michael Winterbottom (*The Trip, A Mighty Heart, The Road to Guantanamo, Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story, Welcome to Sarajevo*) will receive a Black Pearl Career Excellence Award at a ceremony at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival (ADFF) today. Winterbottom is in Abu Dhabi to present his most recent feature *Trishna*, starring Freida Pinto, which is screened at the Festival tonight, 9:45 p.m., at the Abu Dhabi Theater.

Academy-Award winning Scottish actress Tilda Swinton (*The Chronicles of Narnia, Michael Clayton, Adaptation, Orlando*) is set to receive her honor at the Awards Ceremony tomorrow (October 21), in recognition of her striking talent and numerous arresting performances in a wide range of films. Swinton's most recent film, *We Need to Talk About Kevin*, which premiered to great acclaim in Cannes, marked its Middle East premiere in the Festival on October 15. The film screens again on October 21, 8:45 p.m. at VOX 1.

“This year we are thrilled to present two Black Pearl Awards for Career Excellence to two major filmmaking talents from the UK: the luminous, piercingly intelligent and utterly unique screen presence that is Tilda Swinton, and the extraordinarily versatile, prolific and apparently indefatigable director, Michael Winterbottom,” said Peter Scarlet, ADFF’s Executive Director.

The Feature Awards Ceremony also includes a special screening of *Steve*, a critically acclaimed short comedy starring Colin Firth and Keira Knightley. The film was written and directed by ADFF’s special guest Rupert Friend, whose acting credits include *Five Days of War*, *Lullaby For Pi*, *The Kid*, *Cheri*, *The Young Victoria*, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Libertine* and, most recently, *Renee*. Friend will be on hand to personally introduce his film.

To find out about interview opportunities with Rupert Friend, Tilda Swinton and Michael Winterbottom during their stay in Abu Dhabi, please send an email to [ggilgen@adff.ae](mailto:ggilgen@adff.ae).

## **ABOUT THE FESTIVAL**

*The Abu Dhabi Film Festival (formerly the Middle East International Film Festival) was established in 2007, with the aim of helping to create a vibrant film culture throughout the region. Presented each October by the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH)*

*under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Sultan Bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage, the event is committed to curating exceptional programs to engage and educate the local community, inspire filmmakers and nurture the growth of the regional film industry.*

*With its commitment to presenting works by Arab filmmakers in competition alongside those by major talents of world cinema, the Festival offers Abu Dhabi's diverse and enthusiastic audiences a means of engaging with their own and others' cultures through the art of cinema. At the same time, a strong focus on the bold new voices of Arab cinema connects with Abu Dhabi's role as a burgeoning cultural capital in the region and marks the Festival as a place for the world to discover and gauge the pulse of recent Arab filmmaking.*

*ADFF 2011 is made possible in part through the generous support of its partners: MAKE UP FOR EVER (Principal Partner); Jaeger-LeCoultre and Emirates Motor Company/Mercedes-Benz (Major Partners); Etihad Airways, VOX Cinemas, TwoFour54, YahLive, Blackberry and Abu Dhabi Media (Official Partners); CNN, Radio 1, Radio 2, OSN, MUBI, Synaxis Media and Variety (Media Partners) and Masdar (Our World Partner).*

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