

Abu Dhabi Film Festival Honours Jake Eberts' contribution to the film industry with an Award in his honour

Black Pearl Award for Best Documentary named after the award-winning producer

Abu Dhabi, UAE – October 26, 2013: The Abu Dhabi Film Festival (ADFF) announces that it is commemorating the life of multi-award winning producer Mr. Jake Eberts, by renaming its leading documentary award in his honour. The renaming of this high-profile award acknowledges his contribution to the film industry. Known as *The Jake Eberts Black Pearl Award for Best Documentary*, it will be presented as part of ADFF's 2013 festival and awards. ADFF, powered by twofour54, takes place annually to help create a vibrant film culture for the region.

Jake Eberts (July 10, 1941 - September 6, 2012) was known for producing exceptional movies, including: *'Chariots of Fire'*; *'Gandhi'*; *'Dances with Wolves'* and *'Driving Miss Daisy'*. His films won 37 individual Oscars including four for Best Picture. Born in Canada, Jake developed a long relationship with the UAE, which strengthened after his most significant visit in 2007, when he went on to play a significant role in many Abu Dhabi film industry's milestones. The National Geographic Channel; Abu Dhabi's film investment fund, Imagenation, and its multi-million dollar deal with Participant Films, all benefited from his contribution, with the later producing the films *'Contagion'* and *'The Help'*.

Ultimately, Jake Eberts became a great friend to Abu Dhabi, sharing in its vision to be a regional epicenter for the film and entertainment industry. In the late part of his career, he turned his attention to making IMAX films and documentaries. His acclaimed documentary *'Journey to Mecca'* debuted in Abu Dhabi in 2009 with a three night gala at an IMAX theatre built especially for the purpose.

Ali Al Jabri, Director of the Abu Dhabi Film Festival, said:

"Jake Eberts was involved in some of the most successful films of all time, consistently producing work that engaged your mind and touched your heart. He became a great

friend of Abu Dhabi and our film industry is fortunate to have been enriched by his influence. This award will be an annual reminder of the film projects in which he was involved, which have been enjoyed by so many.”

To further honour Eberts legacy, a new Screening Room based at twofour54 intaj, the media production arm of twofour54, will be named after Eberts. The Screening Room will be part of the upgraded twofour54 post-production facilities to be completed early next year.

To contact the Abu Dhabi Film Festival Press Office, email press@adff.ae

Pictures and Footage can be downloaded from our FTP server.

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About The Abu Dhabi Film Festival

The Abu Dhabi Film Festival (ADFF), powered by twofour54, is presented each October to help create a vibrant film culture throughout the region. With a focus on Arab cinema and the wealth of emerging and established film talent from around the world, ADFF has become one of the most anticipated cultural events in Abu Dhabi, helping to enhance the Emirate as a hub of creativity.

Abu Dhabi Film Festival is committed to curating exceptional programs and engaging and educating the local community with their own and other cultures through the art of cinema. The work of Arab filmmakers is presented in competition with that of the international film industry’s most acclaimed talent.

About twofour54

twofour54, the commercial arm of the Media Zone Authority-Abu Dhabi, is one of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region’s leading media and entertainment hubs. As part of its mission, twofour54 is driving the development of the creative industries in the region, supporting talent and content development initiatives, creativity and young entrepreneurs.

Its initiatives are contributing to the growth and diversity of the Abu Dhabi economy and its campus is home to over 200 local, regional and international companies, including Ubisoft,

Cartoon Network, Sky News Arabia, CNN, Flash Entertainment, Sport 360, Reed Exhibitions, Charisma, Tahadi and Jawaker.

twofour54 provides a range of services including: training across all media sectors; business development and funding support to UAE nationals and other Arabs with great ideas; a creativity lab that allows members to get involved in creative projects; and it facilitates world-class content through its production and post-production facilities. These services are supported by tawasol, facilitating easy business set-up and providing ongoing support services.

twofour54 powers the Abu Dhabi Film Festival, Abu Dhabi Media Summit and TROPPEST Arabia each year to drive the development of a vibrant film and entertainment industry.