



## NEWS RELEASE

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### SCREENWRITER AND DIRECTOR DAVID MAMET TO RECEIVE SHOWEST AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN FILMMAKING

#### MAMET'S WORK CAN BE SEEN IN SONY PICTURES CLASSICS *REDBELT*

LOS ANGELES — **David Mamet** will receive the ShoWest Award of Excellence in Filmmaking, it was announced today by Mitch Neuhauser, co-managing director of the event that will be held March 10-13, 2008 in Las Vegas. Mamet will be presented with his award at the Opening Day Luncheon to be held on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at Bally's Paris Las Vegas. The focus of this year's luncheon is going to be on the importance of Specialty and Independent films and distribution companies in today's marketplace.

"The work that David Mamet has produced is representative of the caliber of film ShoWest strives to showcase at An Evening of Independent Film," said Neuhauser. "His films, such as *State and Main*, *House of Games*, *The Winslow Boy* and *The Spanish Prisoner*, represent a high standard of artistic dignity deserving of such a recognition as the ShoWest Award of Excellence in Filmmaking and we are honored to be presenting this award to him this year."

Mamet's work can be seen in Sony Pictures Classics *Red Belt*, later this year. Set in the west-side Los Angeles fight world, a world inhabited by bouncers, cage-fighters, cops and Special-Forces-types, *Redbelt* is the story of Mike Terry (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a Jiu-Jitsu teacher who has avoided the prize fighting circuit, choosing instead to pursue an honorable life by operating a self-defense studio with a samurai's code. Terry and his wife, Sondra (Alicia Braga), struggle to keep the business running to make ends meet. An accident on a dark, rainy night at the Academy between an off duty officer (Max Martini) and a distraught lawyer (Emily Moritimer) puts in motion a series of events that will change Terry's life dramatically introducing him to a world of promoters (Rick Jay, Joe Mantegna) and movie star Chet Frank (Tim Allen). Faced with this, in order to pay off his debts and regain his honor, Terry must step into the ring for the first time of his life.

Mamet is a Pulitzer prize-winning playwright and two-time Oscar nominee, director, essayist, novelist and poet who has been a force in American theater since 1976 when his first staged plays immediately won Obie and New York Drama Critics Circle Awards. Currently the co-creator and executive producer of the hit CBS television series "The Unit," for which he also writes and directs, Mamet got his start as a playwright, first winning recognition and awards for his plays, "Sexual Perversity in Chicago" and "American Buffalo." He taught acting at his alma mater, Goddard College, as well as at the University of Chicago, Yale School of Drama and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where, with William H. Macy, he established a repertory company in 1988 known as the Atlantic Theater Company. Other plays that he wrote include "Glengarry Glen Ross," "Edmond" and "The Cryptogram." In related work, Mamet has adapted a number of plays, written children's plays and books, seven volumes of essays and three novels, numerous magazine articles, collaborated on many songs with his wife, songwriter and actress Rebecca Pidgeon and even had a taste of acting in television and film. As a screenwriter, Mamet has won acclaim for such films as *The Verdict*, *Wag the Dog*, *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, *The Untouchables*, *We're No Angels*, *Hoffa* and *The Edge*. More recently, Mamet has explored writing and directing with such writer-director credits as *House of Games*, *Things Change*, *Homicide*, *State and Main* and *The Spanish Prisoner*. *Redbelt* marks Mamet's tenth film as a writer-director.

ShoWest is the largest annual convention for the motion picture industry. It is the only international gathering devoted exclusively to the movie business and the single largest international gathering of motion picture professionals and theatre owners in the world. The 2008 edition of ShoWest will be held March 10 - 13, 2008 at Bally's and Paris Las Vegas and is expected to draw more than 5,000 members of the motion picture industry. Each year, ShoWest attracts delegates from more than 50 countries in North and South America, Europe, Asia and Australia. ShoWest is produced by the Film Group at Nielsen Business Media, the leading trade show producer in the U.S. The Nielsen Business Media Film Group also includes ShowEast, CineAsia, Cinema Expo International and Film Journal International, as well as sister publication, The Hollywood Reporter.

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#### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Heather Lewandoski  
ROGERS & COWAN  
310-854-8147 ph.  
hlewandoski@rogersandcowan.com

Jessica Erskine  
ROGERS & COWAN  
310-854-8129 ph.  
[ierskine@rogersandcowan.com](mailto:ierskine@rogersandcowan.com)

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