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CHRISTOPHER NOLAN NAMED SHOWEST DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

NOLAN'S NEXT FILM IS WARNER BROS. PICTURES' AND LEGENDARY PICTURES' HIGHLY ANTICIPATED *THE DARK KNIGHT*

LOS ANGELES — ShoWest has named **Christopher Nolan** ShoWest Director of the Year, it was announced today by Mitch Neuhauser, co-managing director of the event that will be held March 10 - 13, 2008 in Las Vegas. Nolan will be presented with the ShoWest Director of the Year Award at ShoWest's closing night ceremony on Thursday, March 13th at Bally's and Paris Las Vegas.

"Christopher Nolan is one of the most talented directors working today, whose films consistently achieve both critical acclaim and box office success. With an eclectic body of work that spans from *Following* to *Batman Begins*, his next release is the much-anticipated *The Dark Knight*. Nolan's films are as unique as they are exciting, and with each new film he continues to push the envelope of creativity. His ability to grab hold of an audience from the opening frame and not let go until the very end of each film is a testament to his ability as a master storyteller. ShoWest is thrilled to honor him as its 2008 Director of the Year."

Opening on July 18, 2008, *The Dark Knight* reunites Nolan with star Christian Bale, who returns to continue Batman's war on crime. With the help of Lieutenant Jim Gordon (Gary Oldman) and District Attorney Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart), Batman sets out to destroy organized crime in Gotham for good. The triumvirate proves to be effective, but they soon find themselves prey to a rising criminal mastermind known as the Joker (Heath Ledger), who thrusts Gotham into anarchy and forces the Dark Knight ever closer to crossing the fine line between hero and vigilante.

Nolan's lifelong pursuit began at an early age when he started out making movies with his father's Super 8mm camera. He used the guerrilla techniques he learned at the University College of London's film society to make his first feature, *Following*, which enjoyed success at international film festivals. His second feature, *Memento*, won four Independent Spirit Awards, including Best Feature, Best Director and Best Screenplay. Nolan also garnered a DGA Award nomination, as well as Oscar and Golden Globe Award nominations for Best Screenplay. His other honors included the Los Angeles, London and Broadcast Film Critics Awards for Best Screenplay. In 2005, Nolan co-wrote and directed *Batman Begins*, a blockbuster that thrilled critics and fans alike. He more recently co-wrote and directed the acclaimed hit *The Prestige*.

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. Nielsen Business Media Film Group also includes ShowEast, CineAsia, Cinema Expo International and Film Journal International, as well as its sister publication The Hollywood Reporter.

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