



## CONTROL WINS EUROPA CINEMAS LABEL AT CANNES

May 25 2007: The British film CONTROL by the Dutch filmmaker Anton Corbijn has won the Europa Cinemas Label as Best European film in the Directors' Fortnight/Quinzaine des Réalisateurs section, it was announced today by a jury of four Europa Cinemas exhibitors.

This marks the fifth year that the Europa Cinemas Label will be awarded at Cannes, and complements the Labels awarded at the Panorama section in Berlin, the Venice Days section of the Mostra del Cinema, and Karlovy Vary.

CONTROL will now receive the invaluable support of extended theatrical exposure and additional promotion from the Europa Cinemas network.

The Directors' Fortnight Europa Cinemas Label jury consisted of **Jean Chenu** (Exhibitor, Ciné Mazarin, Aix en Provence, France); **Pekka Lanerva** (Acquisition Manager, Cinema Mondo, Finland); **Roland Perrière** (Exhibitor, Scala Cinema, Geneva, Switzerland) and **Anne Vervier** (Education Officer at Le Parc/Churchill cinemas in Liège, Belgium)

The jury issued the following statement about the winning film: " This is a very impressive and assured debut from a photographer renowned for his images of rock music's world, but he never allows the look of the film, beautiful though it is, to detract from the character development. The performances are all excellent, not just the leading characters. Thanks to the film, the dramatic story of Ian Curtis and Joy Division will strike a real chord with audiences around Europe 20 years later, and not just with connoisseurs and music lovers."

Sold internationally by Becker International (<http://www.beckerinternational.com.au/>), CONTROL stars Sam Riley, Samantha Morton, Craig Parkinson and Alexandra Maria Lara. The film is directed by Anton Corbijn from a screenplay by Matt Greenhalgh, adapted from Deborah Curtis' book "Touching from the Distance". The producers are Orian Williams, Anton Corbijn and Todd Eckert.

CONTROL is the story of Ian Curtis, lead singer of the now-legendary band Joy Division, who, in 1980, killed himself at the age of 23. Ian is a complex character of both intensity and contrast. Marrying at 19, his relationship with his wife Debbie is remarkable in its normalcy - a picture of the young Northern couple trying to create a life. Ian works in the Employment Exchange and Debbie is a homemaker. However, Ian's love of music and literature defines his life. We see the drive of the man and, as a result, Joy Division begin to succeed. As the band's profile grows, Ian is diagnosed with epilepsy, leaving him unsure of himself and his future. While dedicated to his wife and baby daughter, Ian yearns for real compatibility, which he finds in the form of a bright young journalist. The ensuing conflict between responsibility and desire, coupled with the increasing responsibilities of the band, the toll of performance and epileptic fits, renders Ian incapable of dealing with the world, and he chooses what, for him, seems the only way out.

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Founded in 1992, the Europa Cinemas network now consists of a remarkable 1689 screens in 690 cinemas in 403 cities in 55 countries. Europa Cinemas' aim is to support the programming and visibility of European films outside their country of origin, and to foster initiatives aimed at encouraging younger audiences to develop their interest in European films and cultural diversity.

Previous winners of the Europa Cinemas Label are:

Cannes/Directors' Fortnight

- 2003: The Mother (Roger Michell, UK)  
Kitchen Stories (BentHamer, Norway/Sweden)  
2004: In the Battlefields (Danielle Arbid, France/Belgium/Lebanon)  
2005: La Moustache (Emmanuel Carrère, France)  
2006 : 12 :08 East of Bucharest/A Fost sau n-a fost ? (Corneliu Porumboiu, Rumania)

Berlin/Panorama

- 2005: Live and Become (Radu Mihaileanu, France/Belgium/Israel)  
Crustacés et Coquillages (Olivier Ducastel, Jacques Martineau, France)  
2006 : Tough Enough/Knallhart (Detlev Buck, Germany)  
2007: El Camino de los Ingleses/Summer Rain (Antonio Banderas, Spain)

Venice/Venice Days

- 2004: Darwin's Nightmare (Hubert Sauper, Austria/France/Belgium)  
2005: Le Petit Lieutenant (Xavier Beauvois, France)  
2006: Azul Oscuro Casi Negro /Dark Blue Almost Black (Daniel Sánchez Arévalo,Spain)

Karlovy Vary (Main Competition and East of the West section)

- 2006: Frozen City (Aku Louhimies, Finland)

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