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**SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS ACQUIRES NORTH AMERICAN RIGHTS
TO DANIEL Y-LI GROVE'S *THE PERSIAN CONNECTION*
(PREVIOUSLY *THE LONER*)**

A Neon-Noir Fever Dream Set in the Persian Underbelly of Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA (March 21, 2017) – Samuel Goldwyn Films announced today that the company has acquired North American rights to Daniel Y-Li Grove's ***THE PERSIAN CONNECTION*** (previously *The Loner*). Featuring a stellar cast amassed by Casting Director Yesi Ramirez (Moonlight), the film stars Reza Sixo Safai (*A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night*), Helena Mattsson (*Surrogates*), Julian Sands (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*), and Parviz Sayyad (*Checkpoint*). The film, which had its debut at the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival, is slated for release in theaters, on demand, and digital this summer.

As a child soldier, Behrouz (Reza Sixo Safai) miraculously survived the Iran-Iraq War to be squirreled away to the streets of Los Angeles. After two decades under the ruthless Iranian mobster Cirrus Golshiri (Parviz Sayyad), Behrouz leaves the underworld to follow his American Dream of becoming a "Real Estate Man". But after a chance encounter involving a high-stakes poker game, he is brought back into the life he left behind and accused of stealing from his former boss. Behrouz and his Russian girlfriend Oksana (Helena Mattsson), must hunt down missing drugs as events from his past and present clash spiraling out of control. ***THE PERSIAN CONNECTION*** is an electric neon-noir fever dream set in the Persian opium underworld of Los Angeles.

"The Persian Connection is an artistic take on a modern gangster film," says Peter Goldwyn, President of Samuel Goldwyn Films. "Daniel's imagining of the gritty side of Tehrangeles is a unique world from a neon lens, of which the likes you've never seen before."

"I'm supremely honoured to be working with an astute team behind such an historic brand as Samuel Goldwyn, who have defined themselves over the decades as the voice of smart, meaningful and progressive American cinema," says writer/director Daniel Y-Li Grove.

THE PERSIAN CONNECTION is directed, written, and executive produced by Daniel Y-Li Grove. The film is produced by Seth Caplan, Reza Sixo Safai, Executive Produced by Patrick Grove, Luke Elliott, and Associate Produced by Malcolm Granath. Starring Reza Sixo Safai, Helena Mattsson, Parviz Sayyad, Julian Sand, Laura Harring, Dominic Rains, Nikolai Kinski, Gregory Kasyan and Daniel Zolghadri.

The deal was negotiated by Peter Goldwyn and Jill Karole of Samuel Goldwyn Films and Joe Della Rosa and Nick Ogiony of CAA, on behalf of the filmmakers.

ABOUT SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS

Samuel Goldwyn Films is a major, independently owned and operated motion-picture company that develops, produces and distributes innovative feature films and documentaries.

The company is dedicated to working with both world-renowned and emerging writers/filmmakers and committed to filmed entertainment that offers original voices in uniquely told stories. This is best exemplified by the Academy Award® nominated *THE SQUID AND THE WHALE* and *SUPER SIZE ME*,

AMAZING GRACE and Julie Delpy's hit comedy 2 DAYS IN PARIS. Past Goldwyn titles include: HARRY BROWN starring Michael Caine, the box office smash FIREPROOF and the 2010 independent hit MAO'S LAST DANCER. Samuel Goldwyn Films also released THE WHISTLEBLOWER, a powerful, ripped-from-the-headlines thriller starring Academy Award® winner Rachel Weisz, and the 2012 critics' darling ROBOT & FRANK, starring Academy Award® nominee Frank Langella and Academy Award® winner Susan Sarandon.

Additional Samuel Goldwyn Films releases include: Gilles Bourdos' RENOIR, the lush film about the famous painter's later years and France's official submission for the 2014 Academy Awards®; Jason Wise's films SOMM & SOMM: Into the Bottle; 2015 Academy Foreign Language Film Award® nominee TANGERINES; the Israeli dark comedy THE FAREWELL PARTY; the Sundance cult-hit LILA AND EVE starring Academy Award® winner Viola Davis and Jennifer Lopez; Damon Gameau's eye-opening THAT SUGAR FILM which takes on the sugar industry; and Morgan Matthews compelling drama A BRILLIANT YOUNG MIND. Current Samuel Goldwyn Films releases include: festival favorite CHICKEN PEOPLE, directed by Nicole Lucas Haines about three show chicken competitors; TRANSPECOS, the directorial debut and 2016 SXSW Audience Award Winner by Greg Kwedar; Ian Old's award-winning BURN COUNTRY with Academy Award® winner Melissa Leo, James Franco and breakout lead Dominic Rains; Carles Torrens' physiological thriller PET starring Dominic Monaghan; and YOUTH IN OREGON, the dramatic comedy of a 3,000 mile journey about life with Academy Award® nominated Frank Langella, Billy Crudup, Christina Applegate, Mary Kay Place, and Josh Lucas. Upcoming films include the contemporary fairy tale THIS BEAUTIFUL FANTASTIC starring Jessica Brown Findlay, Academy Award® nominated Tom Wilkinson, Andrew Scott, and Jeremy Irvine; and Avi Nesher's Israeli box office hit PAST LIFE.

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