



ORION PICTURES AND SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS ACQUIRE U.S. RIGHTS TO JULIA HALPERIN AND JASON CORTLUND'S 'BARRACUDA'

Los Angeles – July 11, 2017 — Orion Pictures and Samuel Goldwyn Films have secured the U.S. rights to Julie Halperin and Jason Cortlund's suspense drama **BARRACUDA** (previously LA BARRACUDA). The film premiered in competition at SXSW and was nominated for a Grand Jury Award in the Narrative Feature category. It also won top prizes at the Oak Cliff and Hill Country film festivals. BARRACUDA stars Allison Tolman ("*Fargo*"), Sophie Reid (BEAUTY AND THE BEAST), JoBeth Williams (POLTERGEIST) and Luis Bordonada (TRANSPICOS). The film features live music performances by Butch Hancock, Bob Livingston, Colin Gilmore, The Mastersons, and The Harvest Thieves.

Merle's life begins to splinter when Sinaloa (Sophie Reid), the half-sister she never knew existed, appears on her doorstep in Texas. Initially distrustful of this enigmatic woman, a bond quickly forms between the two sisters. As Merle (Allison Tolman) allows Sinaloa into her life, Sinaloa reveals a quiet fury to Merle through her music. Sinaloa's fierce attachment places Merle's career aspirations, her relationship to her mother, and even her impending marriage in jeopardy. Merle fights to keep her world together while Sinaloa's increasingly intense and erratic behavior threatens to erupt into something much darker.

"Allison and Sophie give strong and emotional performances in **BARRACUDA**," says Samuel Goldwyn Films' President, Peter Goldwyn. "We are excited to be working with the filmmakers and bring their film to the largest audience possible."

"It's been encouraging to hear audiences have such enthusiastic reactions to a character-driven story about complex female relationships. People are hungry for things they haven't seen before," says co-director Julia Halperin. "We're really pleased that Orion Pictures and Samuel Goldwyn Films are helping to bring BARRACUDA to a wider audience."

Julia Halperin and Jason Cortlund co-directed BARRACUDA from a screenplay by Cortlund. The film is produced by David Hartstein, Nancy Schafer, and Executive Produced by Henry V. Alfano, Bruce Beresford (TENDER MERCIES) and Ian Brownell.

The deal was negotiated by Peter Goldwyn on behalf of Samuel Goldwyn Films and Nancy Schafer on behalf of the filmmakers.

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About Orion

Orion, an arm of MGM, is focused on distributing films across multiple platforms.

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, 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 Sundance cult-hit LILA AND EVE starring Academy Award® winner Viola Davis and Jennifer Lopez; Morgan Matthews compelling drama A BRILLIANT YOUNG MIND; 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; and Carles Torrens' physiological thriller PET starring Dominic Monaghan. Current Samuel Goldwyn Films releases include: 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; and the contemporary fairy tale THIS BEAUTIFUL FANTASTIC starring Jessica Brown Findlay, Academy Award® nominated Tom Wilkinson, Andrew Scott, and Jeremy Irvine. Upcoming films include Avi Nesher's Israeli box office hit PAST LIFE; Justin Chon's racially charged GOOK; and the British children's classic SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS.

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