



## ORION PICTURES AND SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS ACQUIRE NORTH AMERICAN RIGHTS TO ZACHARY COTLER AND MAGDALENA ZYZAK'S 'MAYA DARDEL'

**Los Angeles – June 22, 2017** — Orion Pictures and Samuel Goldwyn Films announced today they have acquired the North American rights to Zachary Cotler and Magdalena Zyzak's directorial debut **MAYA DARDEL** (previously *A CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES*). The film premiered in competition at the 2017 SXSW Film Festival and was nominated for the SXSW Grand Jury Award. **MAYA DARDEL** stars Lena Olin (*THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING*), Alexander Koch ("*Under the Dome*"), Nathan Keyes (*THE KINGS OF SUMMER*), Jordan Gavaris ("*Orphan Black*"), Chris Voss (*FIVE GRAND*), and Rosanna Arquette (*PULP FICTION*).

The film depicts the final weeks leading to the ambiguous disappearance of Maya Dardel, an internationally respected poet and novelist, who lived until 2016 in the Santa Cruz Mountains of California. Maya announces on National Public Radio that she intends to end her life and that young male writers may compete to become the executor of her estate. They are challenged intellectually, emotionally, erotically, until one of them begins to fathom Maya's end game.

"Lena Olin's performance is exceptionally moving in **MAYA DARDEL**. She brings life to the character and is supported by clear direction and vision from first time directors Zachary and Magdalena," says Samuel Goldwyn Films' President, Peter Goldwyn.

"We're pleased to be working with seasoned companies that continue to support arthouse cinema. We especially respect Orion Pictures and Samuel Goldwyn Films' commitment to theatrical distribution in the digital era." say co-directors Zachary Cotler and Magdalena Zyzak.

**MAYA DARDEL** was co-written and co-directed by Zachary Cotler and Magdalena Zyzak. The film is produced by Mike S. Ryan, Morgan Jon Fox, Dariusz Jabłoński, Violetta Kamińska, Izabela Wójcik, and executive produced by Craig R. Johnson.

The deal was negotiated by Peter Goldwyn on behalf of Samuel Goldwyn Films and Bill Straus of Bridge Independent 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; and Morgan Matthews compelling drama A BRILLIANT YOUNG MIND. Current Samuel Goldwyn Films releases include: festival favorite CHICKEN PEOPLE, directed by Nicole Lucas Haimés about three show chicken competitors; TRANSPICOS, 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; 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; the contemporary fairy tale THIS BEAUTIFUL FANTASTIC starring Jessica Brown Findlay, Academy Award® nominated Tom Wilkinson, Andrew Scott, and Jeremy Irvine; and Avi Neshet's Israeli box office hit PAST LIFE. Upcoming films include Justin Chon's racially charged GOOK; the British children's classic SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS, and Francis Lee's GOD'S OWN COUNTRY. [www.samuelgoldwynfilms.com](http://www.samuelgoldwynfilms.com)

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