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SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS ACQUIRES NORTH AMERICAN RIGHTS TO DAMON CARDASIS' MUSICAL DRAMA *SATURDAY CHURCH*

Los Angeles, CA (September 5, 2017) – Samuel Goldwyn Films announced today the acquisition of the coming-of-age musical drama **SATURDAY CHURCH**. The film is Damon Cardasis' foray into writing and directing and stars Luka Kain (ADAM), Margot Bingham (BARBERSHOP: THE NEXT CUT), Regina Taylor (TV's "The Unit"), Marquis Rodriguez (3 GENERATIONS), MJ Rodriguez (TV's "The Carrie Diaries"), Indya Moore, Alexia Garcia, Kate Bornstein (TV's "I am Cait"), and Jaylin Fletcher. The company has acquired North American rights and is slated to release in theaters, on demand, and digital this coming January.

SATURDAY CHURCH is a Spring Pictures (A LATE QUARTET) and Round films (MAGGIE'S PLAN) presentation in association with 19340 Productions. The film was written and directed by two time WGA award nominee Damon Cardasis. It was produced by Mandy Tagger-Brockey, Adi Ezroni, Damon Cardasis, Rebecca Miller; Executive Produced by Sharon Chang, Luigi Caiola, Isabel Henderson, and Lia Mayer-Sommer.

SATURDAY CHURCH tells the story of 14-year-old Ulysses, a shy and effeminate boy, who finds himself coping with new responsibilities as "man of the house" after the death of his father. Living alongside his mother, younger brother, and conservative aunt, Ulysses is also struggling with questions about his gender identity. He finds an escape by creating a world of fantasy filled with dance and music. Ulysses' journey takes a turn for the better when he encounters a vibrant transgender community, who take him to "Saturday Church," a program for LGBTQ youth. Ulysses manages to keep his two worlds apart; appeasing his aunt and discovering his passion for the NYC ball scene, and voguing, until his double life is revealed. Ulysses must find the courage to be who he truly is, all while risking losing those he cares about most.

"**SATURDAY CHURCH** is a modern musical that not only reflects our times but is incredibly entertaining," says Peter Goldwyn, President of Samuel Goldwyn Films.

"My hope was to direct a musical film celebrating love regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation or race that would entertain and touch a wide audience. I am honored that Samuel Goldwyn will be distributing my first film as a writer-director, and thrilled to share Ulysses' musical journey," says writer-director Damon Cardasis.

The deal was negotiated by Peter Goldwyn of Samuel Goldwyn Films and Marc Simon of Fox Rotchild on behalf of the filmmakers. CAA repped the film for North America, Westend Films handles international.

ABOUT THE PRODUCERS

Producers Mandy Tagger Brockey and Adi Ezroni produced **SATURDAY CHURCH** under their Spring Pictures banner. The two have recently been tapped to co-head KESHET FILMS, the recently formed global feature development and production division of Keshet International.

Spring Pictures' other credits include Demetri Martin's Tribeca Award Winner **DEAN**, SXSW's Gamechanger Award winner **KELLY & CAL** and Toronto selection **A LATE QUARTET** starring Philip Seymour Hoffman and Christopher Walken.

ABOUT ROUND FILMS

Round Films is co-run by filmmakers Rebecca Miller and Damon Cardasis who have several projects in the pipeline, ranging from feature films to television. Its most recent film, the critically-acclaimed *Saturday Church*, is written and directed by Cardasis with Miller producing alongside Spring Picture's Mandy Tagger Brockey and Adi Ezroni. It was picked up for distribution by Samuel Goldwyn Films to be released later this year. In 2016, Sony Pictures Classics released the critically-acclaimed art house hit *Maggie's Plan*, written and directed by Miller; starring Greta Gerwig, Ethan Hawke, and Julianne Moore; and produced by Miller, Cardasis, and Rachael Horovitz.

Upcoming for Round Films are the HBO documentary, *Arthur Miller: Writer*, directed by Miller, and produced by Miller, Cardasis and Cindy Tolan; and the feature film, *She Came To Me*, starring Amy Schumer and Nicole Kidman, which Miller wrote, will direct, and produce with Cardasis and Odd Lot Entertainment. Round Films is currently in development with Wells Tower's adaptation of his novel Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned, and a multi-part TV adaptation of Miller's novel Jacob's Folly, among multiple scripts for film and television.

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: 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; Avi Neshet's Israeli box office hit PAST LIFE; the British children's classic SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS; and Justin Chon's racially charged GOOK. Upcoming films include; SXSW winner MOST BEAUTIFUL ISLAND directed by and starring Ana Asensio; the Norwegian WWII drama THE KING'S CHOICE; and Quinn Shephard's directorial debut BLAME. www.samuelgoldwynfilms.com

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