



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS ACQUIRES NORTH AMERICAN RIGHTS TO  
ONDI TIMONER'S 'MAPPLETHORPE' STARRING MATT SMITH**

Los Angeles, CA (**JULY 10, 2018**) – Samuel Goldwyn Films announced today that the company has acquired North American rights to Ondi Timoner's feature film **MAPPLETHORPE**. The film stars Matt Smith (TV's *Dr. Who* and *The Crown*), Marianne Rendón (TV's *Imposters*), John Benjamin Hickey (*HOSTILES*), Mark Moses (TV's *Mad Men*), Carolyn McCormick (*THE POST*), Brian Stokes Mitchell (TV's *The Path*), and Kerry Butler (*THE MISEDUCATION OF CAMERON POST*). The film will be released in late fall.

Robert Mapplethorpe is arguably one of the most important artists of the 20th century. Mapplethorpe discovered himself both sexually and artistically in New York City throughout the 70's and 80's.

The film explores Mapplethorpe's life from moments before he and Patti Smith moved into the famed Chelsea hotel, home to a world of bohemian chic. Here he begins photographing its inhabitants and his new found circle of friends including artists and musicians, socialites, film stars, and members of the S&M underground.

Mapplethorpe's work displayed eroticism in a way that had never been examined nor displayed before to the public. The film explores the intersection of his art and his sexuality and his struggle for mainstream recognition. The biopic offers a nuanced portrait of an artist at the height of his craft and of the self-destructive impulses that threaten to undermine it all.

**MAPPLETHORPE** was directed by Ondi Timoner and co-written with Mikko Alanne. The film is produced by Eliza Dushku, Ondi Timoner, Nate Dushku, and Richard J Bosner; Executive Produced by Peter Palandjian and Sam Maydew

"Robert Mapplethorpe pushed the boundaries of the art world. This film boldly follows Mapplethorpe as he explores and brings them to the mainstream. Displaying a work that was shocking and beautiful" says Peter Goldwyn.

"I have been working to tell the story of Robert Mapplethorpe for 12 years in order to create an anthem for artists - to be visionary, to take on the impossible, to be uncompromising. He documented the gay sub-culture of the 1970s & 80s and turned that which society deemed obscene into fine art, while making photography a collectible art form and immortalizing a generation ravaged by AIDS with erotic portraiture. Matt Smith brings Mapplethorpe to life with an unflinching edge that offers a timeless & inspiring icon to this generation," says director Ondi Timoner.

The deal was negotiated by Peter Goldwyn, President of Samuel Goldwyn Films, and Nick Shumaker of UTA 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 SUPER SIZE ME; Sundance winner GOOK written and directed by Justin Chon; the critically acclaimed feature debut by Francis Lee GOD'S OWN COUNTRY; SXSW winner MOST BEAUTIFUL ISLAND; the high-school drama BLAME directed, written, and starring Quinn Shephard; LGBTQ musical drama SATURDAY CHURCH; ALLURE starring Evan Rachel Wood; Warwick Thornton's Australian western SWEET COUNTRY starring Sam Neill, Bryan Brown, and Hamilton Morris; the Wim Wenders film, starring James McAvoy and Academy Award winner® Alicia Vikander, SUBMERGENCE; the family film ZOO; and NANCY, a psychological thriller starring Andrea Riseborough. Upcoming films include the teen drama HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL; COLD SKIN from director Xavier Gens; and A BOY A GIRL A DREAM starring Omari Hardwick and Meagan Good.

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