



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS ACQUIRES NORTH AMERICAN RIGHTS TO ALEX PETTYFER'S DIRECTORIAL DEBUT 'BACK ROADS'**

Los Angeles, CA (**AUGUST 16, 2018**) – Samuel Goldwyn Films announced today that the company has acquired North American rights to actor Alex Pettyfer's directorial debut **BACK ROADS**. Pettyfer (*ELVIS & NIXON*) also stars in the film alongside Jennifer Morrison (TV's *Once Upon a Time*), Nicola Peltz (*TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION*), Chiara Aurelia (*GERALD'S GAME*), Hala Finley (TV's *Man With a Plan*), June Carryl (*SWEET NOVEMBER*), with Robert Patrick (TV's *Scorpion*), and Oscar nominated Juliette Lewis (*AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY*).

Based on the Oprah's Book Club selection and New York Times bestselling novel by Tawni O'Dell, **BACK ROADS** explores the impact of family trauma with a powerful and visceral noir thriller that leaves audiences breathless until the last moment. The film is slated for a late 2018 Theatrical release.

After his mother, (a gritty Juliette Lewis), is imprisoned for killing his abusive father, Harley Altmyer (Alex Pettyfer) is left to care for his three younger sisters in rural Pennsylvania. Harley forgoes his college education, working dead-end jobs to pay the bills and raise his siblings, including his rebellious and promiscuous 16-year-old sister, Amber (Nicola Peltz). Scarred by his past, Harley becomes infatuated with Callie Mercer (Jennifer Morrison) the older married woman who lives nearby. Things take a dangerous turn when they embark on an affair and shocking family secrets soon begin to emerge. As Harley's life spirals out of control, unspoken truths leading to a devastating conclusion come to the surface and threaten to consume him.

**BACK ROADS** was directed by Alex Pettyfer and written by O'Dell and Adrian Lyne. The film marks the debut feature from Upturn Productions, LLC, Pettyfer and financier and producer Craig Robinson's production company established in 2015. Both produce alongside Ashley Mansour, Jake Seal, Dan Spilo and Infinity Film's Michael Ohoven, (Oscar Nominee for *CAPOTE*). Executive Produced by Simon Wetton, Ben White, Palmer Murray, Ali Jazayeri, and Amy Rodrigue.

"Alex Pettyfer brings a deft hand to his directorial debut eliciting powerful and emotional performances from the cast," says Peter Goldwyn, President of Samuel Goldwyn Films. "We are delighted to bring this noteworthy film to the public."

Said producer, Craig Robinson, "We were honored to be invited to premiere this rare and powerful story that is both timeless and extremely relevant at the Tribeca Film Festival; continuing with an exceptional distributor like Samuel Goldwyn to release **BACK ROADS** into the North American market will delight fans of the novel who have long-awaited the film version of this beloved story on screen."

The deal was negotiated by Miles Fineburg and Peter Goldwyn on behalf of Samuel Goldwyn Films and Oliver Wheeler of ICM on behalf of the filmmakers. Hyde Park International is handling foreign sales.

**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 COLD SKIN from director Xavier Gens; A BOY A GIRL A DREAM starring Omari Hardwick and Meagan Good; and the biopic MAPPLETHORPE starring Matt Smith.

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