

SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS FINDS 'THE COUSIN' IN VENICE

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*Ehud Bleiberg ('THE BAND'S VISIT') produced
the film with writer/director Tzahi Grad*

LOS ANGELES (October 9, 2018) – Samuel Goldwyn Films has landed the U.S. rights to writer/director/actor Tzahi Grad's film "**THE COUSIN**," which had its premiere at the 74th Venice Film Festival. The film has also won a FEDEORA European Film Critics Prize, and Best Actor wins for Grad at the Imagineindia Film Festival in Spain and at the Haifa International Film Festival.

In the film, a well-intentioned Arabic-Muslim handyman (Ala Dakka, "7 Days in Entebbe") upends the day-to-day lives of the locals in a small Israeli village. Shortly after his arrival, a young woman is assaulted and the community quickly turns accusatory. His employer (Grad, "Big Bad Wolves") is the only one who believes him, but even those loyalties are tested as more information and secrets are uncovered.

Ehud Bleiberg ("The Band's Visit") produced with Grad. Charles Wachsberg ("Manhattan Undying") and Nicholas Donnermeyer ("The Iceman") are executive producers.

"**THE COUSIN**" will continue making the rounds on the festival circuit before its theatrical/VOD release in early 2019. Bleiberg Entertainment is handling the worldwide sales and will be shopping to international distributors during the American Film Market in November.

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Samuel Goldwyn Films' upcoming releases include Ondi Timoner's "Mapplethorpe" starring Matt Smith; and Alex Pettyfer's directorial debut "Backroads," co-starring Jennifer Morrison, Nicola Peltz and Juliette Lewis. Recent releases include three Sundance acquisitions: the Andrea Riseborough-led "Nancy" (winner of the Walt Salt Screenwriting Award), "Night Comes On," and "A Boy. A Girl. A Dream", as well as the Alicia Vikander/James McAvoy romance "Submergence" and the Elisabeth Moss/David Tennant comedy "Mad to Be Normal."

Bleiberg Entertainment's current slate includes the Martin Campbell-helmed "Across the River and Into the Trees" starring Pierce Brosnan, based on the Ernest Hemingway novel; epic crime saga "Avengement" starring Scott Adkins; ensemble thriller "Burning Shadow" with Roxane Mesquida and

Julie Delpy; and the recently completed “All Creatures Here Below” starring Karen Gillan and David Dastmalchian. Earlier this month, Bleiberg’s production “Foreign Land” won the Israel Film Academy Award for Best Documentary.

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