



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SAMUEL GOLDWYN FILMS ACQUIRES NORTH AMERICAN RIGHTS  
TO MARTHA STEPHENS' SUNDANCE FILM  
'TO THE STARS'**

Los Angeles, CA (**Oct 2019**) – Samuel Goldwyn Films announced today that the company has acquired North American rights to Martha Stephens' feature film **TO THE STARS** which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in U.S. Dramatic Competition and has played other festivals worldwide including the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, where the film had its international premiere. The film stars Kara Hayward (*Manchester By The Sea*), Liana Liberato (*The Best of Me*), Tony Hale (*HBO's Veep*), Jordana Spiro (*Netflix's Ozark*), Malin Akerman (*Showtime's Billions*), Shea Whigham (*Amazon's Homecoming*), Lucas Jade Zumann (*TV's Anne with an E*), and Adelaide Clemens (*SundanceTV's Rectify*).

In a god-fearing small town in 1960s Oklahoma, bespectacled and reclusive teen Iris endures the booze-induced antics of her mother and daily doses of bullying from her classmates. She finds solace in Maggie, the charismatic and enigmatic new girl at school, who hones in on Iris's untapped potential and coaxes her out of her shell. When Maggie's mysterious past can no longer be suppressed, the tiny community is thrown into a state of panic, leaving Maggie to take potentially drastic measures and inciting Iris to stand up for her friend and herself.

"We were taken with the tender relationship between Liana Liberato and Kara Hayward's characters, as well as the delightful supporting cast of teens and adults that make this a memorable and heartfelt coming-of-age story. Martha Stephens is a visionary director that balances the comedy, drama, and growing pains of growing up," says Meg Longo of Samuel Goldwyn Films.

"Fifteen years ago while I was in film school, the last thing I'd see before shutting my eyes for the night was a poster of David Lynch's *WILD AT HEART* tacked onto my pockmarked wall. The iconic Samuel Goldwyn logo stamped at the poster's bottom represented a sort of success that I could only long for at that time. How cool is it to come full circle?" says Director Martha Stephens.

**TO THE STARS** was directed by Martha Stephens and written by Shannon Bradley-Colleary. The film was produced by Kristin Mann, Laura D. Smith, and Erik Rommesmo; and Executive Produced by Carlos Enrique Cuscó, Emerson Machtus. Natalia Busquets, Kevin Christianson, Joe Christianson, Karen Schlossman, Jeff Schlossman, Bill Wallwork, Kerri Elder, and Blake Elder. The film was financed by Northern Lights Films, Foton Pictures and Rockhill Studios, and produced in association with Prowess Pictures.

The deal was negotiated by Peter Goldwyn and Meg Longo on behalf of Samuel Goldwyn Films and CAA on behalf of the filmmakers. International rights to the film are represented by International Film Trust.

**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; NANCY, a psychological thriller starring Andrea Riseborough; COLD SKIN from director Xavier Gens; A BOY A GIRL A DREAM starring Omari Hardwick and Meagan Good, and Ondi Timoner's bio-pic MAPPLETHORPE starring Matt Smith'; SUMMER NIGHT starring Lena Condor and Victoria Justice; the Karen Gillan & David Dastmalchian lead film ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW, the action-packed film starring Scott Adkins AVENGEMENT; and Hari Sama's film THIS IS NOT BERLIN. Upcoming releases include sci-fi film AUGGIE starring Richard Kind; Sci-Fi/Fantasy PARADISE HILLS starring Emma Roberts; Aaron Paul lead thriller THE PARTS YOU LOSE; family animated film DILILI IN PARIS; and the horror/thriller film starring Patrick Schwarzenegger and Miles Robbins DANIEL ISN'T REAL.

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