Press Release

CHICAGO BY ROB MARSHALL TO OPEN THE BERLINALE 2003

The 53rd Berlin International Film Festival will open with the Miramax Films Production of the famous Broadway musical *Chicago* on February 6, 2003.

The star-studded cast for this screen debut by Broadway choreographer Rob Marshall includes Renée Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Richard Gere and Queen Latifah.

"I am delighted that we will be able to start the coming Berlinale with this splendid cinematic experience and these international stars. *Chicago* will get audiences in the right mood for the festival", Festival Director Dieter Kosslick remarked about the opening film for the Berlinale 2003.

Chicago, 1929. Murder. Passion. Fame. Sex. And all that Jazz.

Everyone loves a legend, but in Chicago, there's only room for one. The Windy City's promise of adventure and opportunity dazzle Roxie Hart (Renée Zellweger), an outwardly innocent performer who dreams of singing and dancing her way out of her ho-hum life. Roxie's one wish is to follow in the golden footsteps of vaudeville performer Velma Kelly (Catherine Zeta-Jones).

Roxie gets her wish when some very wrong steps land both the star and the starlet in prison for separate murder charges.

Under the crooked care of the prison Matron Morton (Queen Latifah), Roxie meets up with legendary lawyer Billy Flynn (Richard Gere). He agrees to take Roxie's case for an immodest fee. Roxie's career explodes, to the chagrin of her mentor. But the clever Miss Kelly has a few surprises left for her second act...

Based on the award-winning musical by John Kander, Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse, Chicago is a stunning spectacle full of intrigue, love, betrayal, rivalry and friendship, a pageant of music and dance that adroitly shifts between reality and fantasy, as Roxie's world moves from the prison to the courtroom to the stage.

Chicago will be presented as an out-of-competition screening and distributed in Germany by Buena Vista International.

December 13, 2002

53. Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin
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Ein Geschäftsbereich der Kulturveranstaltungen des Bundes in Berlin (KBB) GmbH

Seit dem 17.07.2002 i st die Haus der Kulturen der Welt GmbH (HKW) mit der Berliner Festspiele GmbH (BFS) zur Kulturveranstaltungen des Bundes in Berlin (KBB) GmbH rückwirkend zum 01.01.2002 verschmolzen. Alle Rechte und Pflichten der Berliner Festspiele GmbH gehen auf die Kulturveranstaltungen des Bundes in Berlin GmbH über.
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