

Press Release



Man to Man to open the 55th Berlinale

The 55th Berlin International Film Festival will open on February 10, 2005 with the world premiere of *Man to Man* by French director Régis Wargnier.

This historical adventure epic tells the story of a group of anthropologists who have embarked on a research trip to Africa in the 1870s. The main roles in the all-star cast are played by Joseph Fiennes (*Luther, Shakespeare in Love*) and Kristin Scott Thomas (*Four Weddings and a Funeral, The English Patient*). Supporting roles are filled by Iain Glen (*Gorillas in the Mist*), Hugh Bonneville (*Notting Hill*) as well as Flora Montgomery (*Friday Night In*).

The film will run in the Competition of the Berlin International Film Festival.

Régis Wargnier, who made his international breakthrough in 1992 with *Indochine*, wrote the screenplay to *Man to Man* together with renowned bestselling Ghana-born author William Boyd (whose books include *A Good Man in Africa*).

A British and French co-production, *Man to Man* depicts the search for the so-called "Missing Link" – the connection between man and ape much discussed by scientists in the 19th century. After the anthropologists encounter a tribe of pygmies in Africa, they send a couple back to Scotland for research purposes. *Man to Man* portrays not just the beginnings of modern evolutionary science, but also its unscrupulous abuse for selfish motives.

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