Press Release

Wes Anderson's *Isle of Dogs* to Open the 68th Berlinale

The 68th Berlin International Film Festival will open at the Berlinale Palast on February 15, 2018 with the world premiere of Wes Anderson's animated film *Isle of Dogs*.

Anderson has previously presented three films in the Berlinale *Competition*: *The Royal Tenenbaums* (2002), *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* (2005), and *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (2014) which opened the 64th Berlin International Film Festival and won the Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize.

"I'm most delighted that Wes Anderson will kick off the Berlinale *Competition* again. *Isle of Dogs* will be the first animated film to open the Festival – a film that will capture audiences' hearts with its Wes Anderson charm," says Festival Director Dieter Kosslick.

Isle of Dogs tells the story of Atari Kobayashi, 12-year-old ward to corrupt Mayor Kobayashi. When, by Executive Decree, all the canine pets of Megasaki City are exiled to a vast garbage-dump, Atari sets off alone in a miniature Junior-Turbo Prop and flies to Trash Island in search of his bodyguard-dog, Spots. There, with the assistance of a pack of newly-found mongrel friends, he begins an epic journey that will decide the fate and future of the entire Prefecture.

The voice cast includes Bryan Cranston, Koyu Rankin, Edward Norton, Liev Schreiber, Bill Murray, Bob Balaban, Jeff Goldblum, Scarlett Johansson, Kunichi Nomura, Tilda Swinton, Ken Watanabe, Akira Ito, Greta Gerwig, Akira Takayama, Frances McDormand, F. Murray Abraham, Courtney B. Vance, Yojiro Noda, Fisher Stevens, Mari Natsuki, Nijiro Murakami, Yoko Ono, Harvey Keitel and Frank Wood.

Following their collaboration on *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, Anderson, Scott Rudin, Steven Rales and Jeremy Dawson return as producers on *Isle of Dogs*, which was produced by Indian Paintbrush and filmed at 3 Mills Studios in London. Christoph Fisser, Henning Molfenter and Charlie Woebcken of Studio Babelsberg serve as executive producers. Fox Searchlight Pictures will distribute the film worldwide in partnership with Indian Paintbrush.

Isle of Dogs will release in US cinemas on March 23, 2018. Internationally, the film will open in cinemas from April 2018.

Press Office
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