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BMW of North America Announces the Return of BMW Films with “The Escape.”

- **Clive Owen to Reprise His Role as the Driver in the 15th Anniversary Homage Film from Academy Award® Nominated Director Neill Blomkamp, co-starring Dakota Fanning, Jon Bernthal and Vera Farmiga.**
- **“The Escape” will premiere on Sunday, October 23, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. EST on BMWFilms.com.**
- **Blomkamp Joins A-List Stable of BMW Films Directors Including Academy Award® winners Alejandro G. Iñárritu and Ang Lee; Joe Carnahan, John Frankenheimer, Wong Kar-wai, Guy Ritchie, Tony Scott and John Woo.**
- **“The Hire,” Comprised of Eight Original BMW Films, Was Released Over Two Seasons from 2001-2002 and Received Over 100MM Views Online Without the Benefit of High-Speed Internet or YouTube.**

Woodcliff Lake, NJ – September 20, 2016... BMW of North America announced today the return of BMW Films with **“The Escape,”** a short film from **Academy Award® nominated director Neill Blomkamp** (“District 9,” “Elysium”) featuring original BMW Films star and Oscar® nominated actor **Clive Owen** (“Closer,” “Children of Men”), who reprises his role as The Driver. Presented as an homage to the 15th anniversary of the original BMW Film series, “The Escape” also **stars Dakota Fanning** (“War of the Worlds,” “I am Sam”), **Jon Bernthal** (“The Punisher,” “Daredevil”) and Oscar® nominee **Vera Farmiga** (“The Departed,” “Up in the Air”). “The Escape” will premiere on Sunday, October 23, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. EST on BMWFilms.com.

The critically acclaimed original series, “The Hire,” included eight short films which were released in two seasons from 2001-2002. Each film featured then rising-star Owen as the mysterious Driver hired to complete various missions and was directed by some of Hollywood’s best and brightest talent.

“The Escape.”

BMW not only brought back Owen for “The Escape,” but also Bruce Bildsten as Creative Director, Brian DiLorenzo as Executive Producer and David Carter, who in addition to serving as a creative consultant, co-wrote the film alongside Blomkamp. The trio then brought together a group of producers and designers to bring the film to life.

“The Hire” – 8 Original BMW Short Films.

With “The Escape,” Blomkamp joins the A-list stable of original BMW Films directors from the seminal project including Academy Award® winners **Alejandro G. Iñárritu and Ang Lee; Joe Carnahan, Wong Kar-wai, Guy Ritchie, John Woo and the late John Frankenheimer and Tony Scott.** “The Hire” also featured A-list talent in front of the camera including: **Gary Oldman, Stellan Skarsgård, Forest Whitaker, Mickey Rourke, James Brown, Don Cheadle, Madonna, Adriana Lima, Danny Trejo, Kathryn Morris, Marilyn Manson, Ray Liotta, Robert Patrick and Dennis Haysbert.**

“The Hire” was released exclusively online at BMWFilms.com and received more than 100MM views prior to the proliferation of high-speed internet connectivity and introduction of YouTube.

Season 1 of “The Hire” premiered on BMWFilms.com on April 26, 2001 with John Frankenheimer’s **“Ambush,”** followed by **“Chosen”** from Ang Lee, who would go on to win Academy Awards® for “Brokeback Mountain” and “Life of Pi.” The third film in the series, **“The Follow,”** was directed by Wong Kar-wai and featured Forest Whitaker, Adriana Lima and Mickey Rourke. Rounding out Season 1 was Guy Ritchie’s **“Star,”** featuring Madonna, and **“Powder Keg,”** starring Stellan Skarsgård, directed by then up-and-comer and current multiple Academy Award® winner Alejandro G. Iñárritu. Season 1 was executive produced by David Fincher (“The Social Network,” “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo”) and was viewed over 11 million times in four months.

Season 2 of “The Hire” was executive produced by Tony and Ridley Scott and debuted in October 2002 with John Woo’s **“Hostage,”** featuring Maury Chaykin, and was followed by Joe Carnahan’s **“The Ticker.”** Tony Scott’s **“Beat the Devil,”** starring James Brown and Gary Oldman, completed the series.

“The Hire”– Awards and Accolades.

After the first two films in “The Hire” series debuted online, Wong Kar-wai’s third film, “The Follow,” made its debut at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2001 to critical acclaim. In the media, The New York Times said, “The BMW films tingle with zest,” while Time magazine added, “It surely deserves the attention of discerning movie watchers.”

“The Hire” inspired the Cannes International Advertising Festival to create the Titanium Lion in 2003, to honor creative ideas that point to a new direction for the industry and redefine the creative landscape. Besides winning the inaugural Titanium Lion, the films went on to win the top honor in virtually every creative competition. They were named “The Best of the Digital Decade” by The One Show in 2011 and were named to the Clios Hall of Fame in 2009. The Hire series was inducted into the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in 2003.

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BMW Group In America

BMW of North America, LLC has been present in the United States since 1975. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars NA, LLC began distributing vehicles in 2003. The BMW Group in the United States has grown to include marketing, sales, and financial service organizations for the BMW brand of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, the MINI brand, and the Rolls-Royce brand of Motor Cars; Designworks, a strategic design consultancy based in California; a technology office in Silicon Valley and various other operations throughout the country. BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC in South Carolina is part of BMW Group’s global manufacturing network and is the exclusive manufacturing plant for all X5 and X3 Sports Activity Vehicles and X6 and X4 Sports Activity Coupes. The BMW Group sales organization is represented in the U.S. through networks of 341 BMW passenger car and BMW Sports Activity Vehicle centers, 153 BMW motorcycle retailers, 126 MINI passenger car dealers, and 36 Rolls-Royce Motor Car dealers. BMW (US) Holding Corp., the BMW Group’s sales headquarters for North America, is located in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.

Information about BMW Group products is available to consumers via the Internet at:

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