



Lauren Lewis Public Relations and Communications

Books should not be judged by their covers...as films should not be judged by their running times. The proof is Inside.

**ANTONIO DEL PRETE STARS IN GRIPPING SHORT FILM
INSIDE FROM DIRECTOR TRACIE LAYMON SELECTED AS
BEST SHORT NOMINEE AT MILAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2009**

***INSIDE* STANDS OUT WITH POWERFUL TALENT
IN FRONT OF AND BEHIND THE CAMERAS**

Tuesday May 5th, 2009, Los Angeles - ***INSIDE***, the debut film from newly formed production company Merit Pictures, is set for its worldwide premiere screening during this year's Milan International Film Festival (MIFF). Merit Pictures was established to serve as an innovative production entity devoted to quality filmmaking which is reflected throughout ***INSIDE***.



Nominated for a prestigious Leonardo's Horse Award which is hailed as the Italian Oscar of Independent Cinema, ***INSIDE*** stars the multi-talented

Antonio Del Prete as a man in anguish struggling for answers to what is mysteriously growing inside of him and ruining his life. After a desperate search for help for which there appears to be none, this once young, handsome, successful man must decide whether to keep fighting through the unbearable pain or take matters into his own hands.



An accomplished international actor Del Prete has amassed a long list of credits including the feature film *The Truth About Angels* directed by Lichelli Lazar-Lea which is also nominated for a prestigious award at the festival. Del Prete has also starred in numerous feature films including the blockbuster *Mission Impossible III* as well as on shows such as *Frasier* and *Empire*. Del Prete was born in

Naples, raised in Paris and now resides in Los Angeles.

Integral in turning the 14 minutes of ***INSIDE*** into a powerful film that leaves long lasting impressions is the immensely talented director Tracie Laymon who also wrote the short

working closely with Merit Pictures founder Louis J. Wilson. Laymon and Wilson, who first met working on the feature film *Bone Dry*, are presently collaborating to write and produce a new film that will serve as her feature film directorial debut. Merit Pictures will produce.

Wilson, a man of many interests and successful doctor and entrepreneur, has both the unwavering drive and know how to turn ideas into reality. After being introduced to the film industry through his involvement with *Bone Dry*, Wilson decided to establish Merit Pictures. Wilson's professional knowledge of medical care enhances the authenticity of *INSIDE* which he executive produced. Wilson, Oren Kamara and Damiano Tucci served as producers on the film.

A young director who is quickly establishing herself as one-to-watch in the industry, Laymon has already garnered numerous Jury Awards for her work on short films and music videos at film festivals including the South by Southwest Film Festival, the Memphis International Film Festival and this year's Las Vegas International Film Festival.

Working closely with Laymon to create the masterfully shot film was Director of Photography Laura Merians whose most recent work includes Leonardo DiCaprio's *Greensburg*, a documentary series that will air on Discovery's new network Planet Green.

Also lending their talent to *INSIDE* are Jamie Sorrentini (The Sopranos, Law and Order), Thomas James O'Leary (Phantom in the Broadway production Phantom of the Opera as well as in numerous feature films and television shows), Rob Monroe (Meadowlark Lemon Presents, Fudge) and Karissa Vacker (90210).



Merit Pictures is based in Wichita Falls, TX.

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