

SHANGHAI SPY DRAMA *FATHER JOHN* NAMED FINALIST IN PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS FAVORITE FILM PITCH CONTEST

Father John Will Compete with Four Other Film Pitches for Audience Support; Award to be Chosen in January at peopleschoice.com

Shanghai, China, Dec. 22, 2009 – For the first time, people all over the world will have a chance this January to let their voices be heard in Tinseltown. A high-profile film pitch contest, co-sponsored by the People's Choice Awards and the American Film Market, will give people an unprecedented choice in the films they want to see made. The contest has included at least one bold choice among its five finalists: a Shanghai-based contemporary spy drama was selected from hundreds of candidates as one of five films most likely to be made in 2010.

The film, *Father John*, is set in the film-noir atmosphere of nighttime Shanghai. It tells the story of John, a London-based spy who is sent to Shanghai after his cover is blown. There he encounters new kinds of danger and international intrigue.

One of the film's producers, David Minnihan, says he was thrilled by the response. "Going into the contest, I didn't have any expectations. I just gave my pitch and tried to show our project in its best light. I'm pretty excited that we got to this level, especially for the recognition it will bring to our film. I think our international story and gripping drama will appeal to people all over the world."

The contest was a collaboration between the People's Choice Awards (PCA) and the American Film Market (AFM), held last November. Industry professionals attending the market were given the opportunity to pitch their films on video during the eight-day market.

Afterward, the AFM assembled a group of industry leaders to select five finalists. Their pitches will be posted on www.peopleschoice.com — the official PCA Website — following CBS' broadcast of THE 2010 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS in early January, allowing fans to choose the ultimate winner: the film they would most like to see get made.

"Now, for the first time, fans will also have an influential voice in deciding what films get produced." Says PCA President Fred Nelson. "This is a very exciting development that takes our brand, pop culture, and user-generated video to an entirely new level."

The voting commences on January 6th and closes at 11:59 pm EST on January 20th, with the winner scheduled to be announced the next day. This gives people ample time to vote, be heard in Hollywood, and encourage the kind of filmmaking they want to see in the future.

Father John's website at www.FatherJohnTheMovie.net gives more information about the upcoming production, including synopsis, character descriptions, storyboard images, production blog, and bios of the Shanghai-based crew.

The People's Choice website at www.peopleschoice.com serves as a year-round destination for entertainment enthusiasts to voice their opinions on pop culture. Now in its 36th year, The People's Choice Awards is voted on entirely by the public for fan favorites in music, movies and television. Fred Nelson is the President of People's Choice, and the website and awards show are produced by Procter & Gamble Productions.

The AFM is produced by the Independent Film & Television Alliance (IFTA), the trade association representing the world's producers and distributors of independent motion pictures and television programs. For more information, visit www.AmericanFilmMarket.com.

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