

AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE (AFI) TO PREMIERE ALEXA-SASCHA LEWIN'S PROVOCATIVE NEW FILM, *THE HONEYSTING*, APRIL 9

Film Recently Acknowledged by the Humane Society of the United States at the Genesis Awards

Hollywood, CA, April 1, 2009 – Alexa-Sascha Lewin, one of only eight women to be awarded a place at this year's prestigious AFI's Directing Workshop for Women out of hundreds for applicants, will be premiering her narrative short film, *The Honeysting* at AFI on April 9th. AFI's Directing Workshop for Women only accepts those women who display excellence in the areas of film, television, and theatre.

The Honeysting is riveting ride down the dark alleys of Chinatown's underworld, where the slightest misstep can trigger the deadliest of consequences. We follow our hero on a mysterious adventure where nothing is as it seems and trusting the wrong person can be your last mistake.

Lewin follows in the footsteps of previous AFI's Directing Workshop for Women directors such as Maya Angelou, Lesli Linka Glatter and Randa Haines. With all the strides that women directors have made through the years, it has been again concluded in a recent report released by Dr. Martha Lauzen at San Diego State University that the numbers of women directors continues to decline each year. AFI's Directing Workshop for Women aims to correct that continuing deficit of female talent.

The Honeysting was written as a short film by Brad Rister based on his feature script by the same name. The film was produced by Maria A. Miller of Top Dog Films, Inc. and Nic Emiliani of Nie Productions.

A private premiere screening and celebration for *The Honeysting* will be held on Thursday, April 9th at 7:30pm.

Where: American Film Institute
Mark Goodson Theater
2021 N. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90027

The Honeysting premiere is sponsored by SKYY Vodka and Toasted Head Winery with catering by Le Cordon Bleu.

All Media and Entertainment Industry Professionals are invited to attend this screening and party.

For media interviews and invitation requests, please contact:

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Alexa-Sascha Lewin

Director

Alexa-Sascha Lewin spent eight years working as a natural history filmmaker. Her work found her trekking mountain gorillas through rebel-infested Rwandan jungles and hanging out of a helicopter to capture stampeding white rhinos in the South African bush. Alexa-Sascha began her career in narrative features, interning for Robert Redford's South Fork Pictures and Propaganda Films. After working in television and documentaries for PBS, ABC/Kane, Discovery Channel, A&E, and the BBC, Alexa-Sascha decided to transition back to narrative features. She collaborated on the development of several independent films with the Mount Film Company, and worked in Lithuania on Ed Zwick's latest film, *Defiance*, as the Assistant to the Producer. Alexa-Sascha was awarded the Panavision New Filmmaker grant and ACE grant for her first narrative film, *The Honeysting*. Alexa-Sascha holds a B.A. from Wheaton College, and studied at the University of Television and Film Munich, and Brown University.

Maria A. Miller

Producer

Maria is one of the founders of Top Dog Films, Inc. She studied film at UCLA and The Hollywood Film Institute with a concentration in film producing. Some of her producing credits include *The Winged Man* (executive producer), *The Indian and the Samurai* (producer), *The Honeysting* (producer), *Bubbles* (associate producer), *LA Actors* (production coordinator). Maria is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music with a degree in theatre and Chicago's Second City Conservatory Improv program. Prior to starting Top Dog Films, Maria worked for MTV Networks from 1997- 2004. Maria is a member of Women in Film (WIF). She also served as a film screener for the 2007 Venice, Italy Film Festival.

www.topdogfilms.com