

Fantasia

For immediate release

**Park Chan-wook's THIRST,
Jury Prize at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival,
North American premiere screening at the Fantasia Festival!**

Montreal, June 15, 2009 – The Fantasia Film Festival is proud to announce the North American premiere screening of THIRST from South Korea's Park Chan-Wook. This film was awarded the Jury Prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

The Fantasia Festival audience originally discovered Park Chan-wook in 2001 with his JOINT SECURITY AREA followed by SYMPATHY FOR MR. VENGEANCE in 2003, the first film of his « Vengeance » trilogy. He then achieved international recognition with his cult film OLD BOY (Grand Prize Winner, Cannes 2004) and with the award-winning LADY VENGEANCE at the Venice Mostra in 2005. He has since then become one of South Korea's most influential filmmakers.

THIRST draws its inspiration from Emile Zola's novel Thérèse Raquin. Blending cheerfully different genres such as horror, burlesque, romance and baroque, Park Chan-wook tells us the story of a priest going through a moral crisis. After being used as a guinea pig in a medical experiment, he eventually transforms himself into a vampire with irrepressible passions. THIRST is a Korean-American co-production.

The movie will be released in the United States (in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco) the 31st of July and was at the top of the South Korean charts from the moment it came out, with more than one million admissions the first weekend. Alliance Vivafilm is the Canadian distributor.

More details to follow during the festival's press conference, **Monday June 29th at 10:30 a.m.**

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Source: Valérie Truong
Communications, Fantasia Festival
T: 514.876-1760 | valerie.fantasia@gmail.com

www.fantasiafestival.com (complete details on the 2009 edition available end of June)