



## WARNER INDEPENDENT PICTURES

Founded in August 2003, Warner Independent Pictures finances, produces, acquires and theatrically distributes up to 10 feature films per year, each usually budgeted under \$20 million. A Warner Bros. Entertainment company headquartered at the studio's Burbank lot, Warner Independent is dedicated to bringing visionary, provocative and entertaining feature films to theatrical audiences in the U.S. and Canada. The company also handles domestic distribution of selected foreign films produced through Warner Bros. Pictures International's local production programs in various overseas territories.

Led by a hand-picked team of seasoned motion picture executives, Warner Independent has quickly established itself as a leading distributor of specialized film. In June 2005, less than a year after releasing its first film, Warner Independent opened a re-edited version of Jac Jacquet's remarkable nature documentary, *March of the Penguins*, with new narration by Morgan Freeman. The film went on to take in \$77 million at the domestic box office, making it the second-highest grossing documentary (excluding large format and comedy concert films) and the highest grossing French film of all time. The critically acclaimed picture also won numerous honors, including the Audience Award for Best International Feature at the Los Angeles Film Festival and the National Board of Review's Best Documentary award, culminating in the Oscar for Best Documentary.

Warner Independent's *Good Night, and Good Luck*, which premiered in theaters in October 2005, was nominated for six Academy Awards and four Golden Globes and won Best Film of the Year from the National Board of Review. Written and directed by George Clooney and focusing on the conflict between television newsman Edward R. Murrow and Senator Joseph McCarthy, the film was nominated by the Directors Guild of America for Best Director (George Clooney), by the Producers Guild of America for Motion Picture Producer of the Year (Grant Heslov), by the Writers Guild of America for

Best Original Screenplay (Clooney and Heslov) and by the Screen Actors Guild for both Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role (David Strathairn) and for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture.

In 2005, Warner Independent also released Palestinian director Hany Abu-Assad's controversial drama *Paradise Now*, which won Best Foreign Film at the Golden Globes and the Independent Spirit Awards as well as from the National Board of Review. It was also nominated for the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar.

Other Warner Independent releases have included director Richard Linklater's *Before Sunset*, starring Julie Delpy and Ethan Hawke, which was nominated for a Best Original Screenplay Oscar; *A Very Long Engagement*, directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet (*Amelie*) and starring Audrey Tautou (*The Da Vinci Code*), which was nominated for Oscars in Art Direction and Cinematography; John Curran's *We Don't Live Here Anymore*, starring Mark Ruffalo, Laura Dern, Peter Krause and Naomi Watts; *Everything is Illuminated*, written and directed by Liev Schreiber and starring Elijah Wood; and director John Maybury's *The Jacket*, starring Adrien Brody, Keira Knightley, Kris Kristofferson and Jennifer Jason Leigh.

Upcoming Warner Independent releases include:

- *A Scanner Darkly*, a cerebral, hallucinogenic adaptation of Philip K. Dick's novel, directed by Richard Linklater and starring Keanu Reeves, Robert Downey Jr., Woody Harrelson and Winona Ryder. The film has been selected to premiere at the Cannes Film Festival.
- *The Science of Sleep*, directed by Michel Gondry (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*), starring Gael García Bernal and Charlotte Gainsbourg
- *The Painted Veil*, directed by John Curran (*We Don't Live Here Anymore*), starring Naomi Watts and Edward Norton
- *Infamous*, written and directed by Douglas McGrath (*Emma*, *Nicholas Nickleby*), starring Toby Jones, Sandra Bullock and Daniel Craig

- Christopher Guest's *For Your Consideration*, starring Bob Balaban, Ed Begley, Jr., Ricky Gervais, Eugene Levy, Michael McKean, Catherine O'Hara, Parker Posey and the rest of Guest's regular ensemble

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