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**“12 YEARS A SLAVE” DIRECTOR STEVE McQUEEN,
AND ACTRESS LUPITA NYONG’O
TO BE HONORED AT THE HOLLYWOOD FILM AWARDS**

HOLLYWOOD, CA (PRNEWswire) September 30, 2013 – Carlos de Abreu, founder and executive producer of the 17th Annual Hollywood Film Awards, announced today that Fox Searchlight’s “12 Years a Slave” director, Steve McQueen will be honored with the “Hollywood Breakout Director Award,” and actress Lupita Nyong’o will receive the “New Hollywood Award” for her great performance. The awards will be bestowed at the Hollywood Film Awards Gala Ceremony on Monday evening, October 21, 2013 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills.

“We look forward to celebrating this exceptionally talented director and actress for their outstanding work and creative vision,” said de Abreu.

Steve McQueen is a British artist and filmmaker. In 2008, McQueen’s critically acclaimed first feature HUNGER won the Camera d’Or at the Cannes Film Festival among countless other international prizes. He followed with 2011’s incendiary film experience, SHAME, a provocative drama about addiction and secrecy in the modern world. The film received numerous accolades and awards with McQueen winning the CinemAvvenire Award and FIPRESCI Prize at the Venice Film Festival as well as nominations from BAFTA, the British Independent Film Awards, the London Film Festival, Evening Standard British Film Awards and the Independent Spirit Awards.

In 1996, McQueen was the recipient of an ICA Futures Award, in 1998 he won a DAAD artist’s scholarship to Berlin and in 1999 - besides exhibiting at the ICA and at the Kunsthalle in Zürich - he also won the Turner Prize. McQueen has exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Musee d’Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Documenta (2002 and 2007) and at the 53rd Venice Biennale in 2009 where he represented Britain. His work is held in museum collections around the world including Tate, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Centre Pompidou.

In 2003, he was appointed Official War Artist for the Iraq war by the Imperial War Museum and subsequently produced the poignant and controversial project Queen and Country, which commemorated the deaths of British soldiers who died in the Iraq War by presenting their portraits as a sheet of stamps. In 2002, he was awarded the OBE and the CBE in 2011.

Born in London in 1969, McQueen lives and works in Amsterdam and London.

This winter, Lupita Nyong’o will co-star alongside Liam Neeson, Michelle Dockery and Julianne Moore in the thriller NON-STOP. This film is slated for a February 28, 2014 release by Universal Pictures.

The Kenyan actress is also a filmmaker, having served as the creator, director, editor, and producer of the award-winning feature-length documentary, *IN MY GENES*. The documentary follows eight individual Kenyans who have one thing in common: they were born with albinism, a genetic condition that causes a lack of pigmentation. In many parts of Africa, including Kenya, it is a condition that marginalizes, stigmatizes, and even endangers those who have it. Though highly visible in a society that is predominantly black, the reality of living with albinism is invisible to most. Through her intimate portraits, Nyong'o enables us see their challenges, humanity, and everyday triumphs.

A graduate of the Yale School of Drama's acting program, Nyong'o's stage credits include playing 'Perdita' in *The Winter's Tale* (Yale Repertory Theater), 'Sonya' in *Uncle Vanya*, 'Katherine' in *The Taming of the Shrew*, as well as being in the original production of Michael Mitnick's *Elijah*.

12 YEARS A SLAVE has won over audiences and critics alike at the Telluride and Toronto Film Festivals, as well as received the "People's Choice Audience Award" at Toronto this year. The film is based on an incredible true story of one man's fight for survival and freedom. In the pre-Civil War United States, Solomon Northup (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a free black man from upstate New York, is abducted and sold into slavery. Facing cruelty (personified by a malevolent slave owner, portrayed by Michael Fassbender) as well as unexpected kindnesses, Solomon struggles not only to stay alive, but to retain his dignity. In the twelfth year of his unforgettable odyssey, Solomon's chance meeting with a Canadian abolitionist (Brad Pitt) forever alters his life.

12 YEARS A SLAVE is directed by Steve McQueen (*HUNGER*) and written by John Ridley (*RED TAILS*). Producers are Brad Pitt (*MONEYBALL*), Dede Gardner (*EAT, PRAY, LOVE*), Jeremy Kleiner (*WORLD WAR Z*), Bill Pohlad (*TREE OF LIFE*), Steve McQueen (*SHAME*), Arnon Milchan (*BROKEN CITY*) and Anthony Katagas (*KILLING THEM SOFTLY*); executive producers are Tessa Ross (*SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE*) and John Ridley. The filmmaking team includes Director of Photography Sean Bobbitt, BSC (*HUNGER, SHAME*); production designer Adam Stockhausen (*MOONRISE KINGDOM*); editor Joe Walker (*HUNGER, SHAME*); Academy Award® nominated costume designer Patricia Norris (*THE ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES BY THE COWARD ROBERT FORD*) and Academy Award® winning composer Hans Zimmer (*INCEPTION, THE DARK KNIGHT RISES*).

The Hollywood Film Awards honors cherished stars, filmmakers and up-and-coming talent, and traditionally kicks off the film awards season with the biggest stars and top industry executives in attendance.

Last year's awards show received more than 41 million media impressions, in addition to more than 300 million online and print readers' impressions.

ABOUT DICK CLARK PRODUCTIONS

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ABOUT THE HOLLYWOOD FILM AWARDS®

The Hollywood Film Awards® founded in 1997 were created to celebrate Hollywood and launch the awards season. The recipients of the awards are selected by an Advisory team for their body of work and/or a film(s) that is to be released during the calendar year. In the last ten years, a total of 96 Oscar® nominations and 34 Oscars® were given to the honorees of the Hollywood Film Awards. For additional information, visit: www.hollywoodawards.com.

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