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LIONSGATE AND TWISTED PICTURES ANNOUNCE *SAW III* FOR HALLOWEEN 2006

Original Creative Team Reunited For Next Film In Twisted And Lionsgate's *Saw* Franchise; Film to be Dedicated to Late Twisted Pictures Principal And *Saw* Producer Gregg Hoffman

***Saw* Franchise Has Grossed Nearly \$250 Million In Worldwide Box Office And Sold Nearly 10 Million DVD's To Date For Lionsgate**

SANTA MONICA, CA, and VANCOUVER, BC, March 2, 2006 – Lionsgate (NYSE and TSX: LGF), the leading independent filmed entertainment studio, and Twisted Pictures today announced plans to develop and produce *Saw III*, the next film in the psychologically intense and disturbing horror franchise, for an October 27, 2006 wide release. The film will be directed by Darren Lynn Bousman (*Saw II*), with story by Leigh Whannell and James Wan (*Saw*, *Saw II*) and screenplay by Whannell. The Twisted Pictures team of Mark Burg and Oren Koules will return as producers with Whannell and Wan set to executive produce. The announcement was made by Peter Block, Lionsgate President of Acquisitions and Co-productions, Jason Constantine, Lionsgate Senior VP of Acquisitions, and the Twisted Pictures team of Mark Burg and Oren Koules.

Saw II set a Lionsgate record with a three-day opening weekend of \$31.7 million last Halloween, becoming the widest release in Lionsgate history and achieving one of the best opening weekends ever for a horror sequel. With a domestic box office of over \$87 million and more than \$148 million in worldwide theatrical box office, *Saw II* easily eclipsed the \$55 million domestic box office total of the original *Saw*. *Saw* and *Saw II* have grossed nearly \$250 million in combined worldwide box office.

Saw II debuted as the #1 DVD in North America two weeks ago, becoming the fastest-selling theatrical DVD release in Lionsgate history with 3.9 million units sold in its first week alone. The movie was also released on VHS and UMD. The *Saw* franchise has sold nearly 10 million units to date for Lionsgate.

“Yes, there will be more blood,” said Block and Constantine. “*Saw III* will involve the same creative forces responsible for the tremendous success of *Saw II*. The Twisted team of Mark and Oren, along with Darren, James and Leigh, have all agreed to be prominently involved in *Saw III*. We are proud to be partnered with some of the most disturbing creative talents on the planet, and the *Saw* franchise will ensure that gore becomes every bit as much a Halloween staple as ghosts, goblins and candy corn.” Block noted that the film will be dedicated to Twisted Pictures principal and *Saw* producer Gregg Hoffman, who passed away in November 2005.

“We have been discussing story lines that extend the *Saw* franchise to new limits and beyond with Lionsgate for the past several months,” said Burg and Koules. “The most

important element of any franchise is remaining true to the roots of its success. We believe that we are developing a script that is certain to please the *Saw* franchise's core fans while adding fresh, terrifying and unimaginable new twists to the *Saw* saga. Jigsaw himself would be proud."

Saw III joins an upcoming Lionsgate slate that includes Trent Cooper's *Larry The Cable Guy: Health Inspector* (March 24), the inspirational *Akeelah And The Bee*, starring Laurence Fishburne, Angela Bassett and Keke Palmer (April 28), the provocative Sundance sensation *Hard Candy* (April), Lionsgate's first entry in the Spanish-language feature film marketplace, *La Mujer de mi Hermano*, starring telenovela sensation Barbara Mori (April) and the horror film *See No Evil*, starring WWE superstar Kane (May 19).

Lionsgate is the premier independent producer and distributor of motion pictures, television programming, home entertainment, family entertainment and video-on-demand content. Its prestigious and prolific library is a valuable source of recurring revenue and a foundation for the growth of the Company's core businesses. The Lionsgate brand is synonymous with original, daring, quality entertainment in markets around the globe.

Twisted Pictures is helmed by Mark Burg and Oren Koules. *Saw*, one of the most profitable films of 2004, was their first picture under the new label and was also distributed by Lionsgate. Twisted is currently in postproduction on *Catacombs*, the first film under the previously-announced nine-picture deal between Twisted and Lionsgate, and is in production on *Silence* for Universal Pictures.

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