



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**ALEXANDER PAYNE'S *NEBRASKA* NAMED OPENING NIGHT FILM  
AND *MANDELA: LONG WALK TO FREEDOM* TAKES THE CENTERPIECE  
SLOT AT 2013 MIDDLEBURG FILM FESTIVAL**

*The Inaugural Middleburg Film Festival Takes Place in Middleburg, VA on October 24-27, 2013*

**Middleburg, VA, August 22, 2013** – The 2013 Middleburg Film Festival announced today that Alexander Payne's highly anticipated film *Nebraska* will open the inaugural festival, taking place October 24-27 in Middleburg, VA. Justin Chadwick's *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* is the centerpiece selection. The Middleburg Film Festival will be held in the historic town of Middleburg, VA, located in Virginia's countryside, a short drive from our Nation's Capital.

The Middleburg Film Festival, founded by Sheila C. Johnson with Susan Koch, Executive Director, and Connie White, Programming Director, at the helm, will kick off on October 24, 2013 with the opening night film and party. The festival's signature event is an orchestral concert featuring the works of a noted film composer, accompanied by movie clips. Other activities and programs include: One-on-One Conversations with renowned filmmakers and actors; farm-to-table dinners and wine tastings at local vineyards; and master classes with leading members of the film industry. A "Conversation with Director Lee Daniels and former *Washington Post* Writer Wil Haygood" will take us behind the scenes of the critically acclaimed, *Lee Daniels' The Butler*.

"We are honored to host *Nebraska* and *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* at the inaugural Middleburg Film Festival," said Sheila C. Johnson, Founder and Board Chair. "Both films are beautifully-told stories that represent the best in filmmaking and that is exactly what the Middleburg Film Festival is all about."

*Nebraska*, which had its world premiere at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival, is the story of a quiet old man (Bruce Dern) whose mild-mannered son (Will Forte) agrees to drive him from Montana to Nebraska to claim a non-existent \$1 million sweepstake prize. The film moves from the comic to melancholy and regret, painting an unforgettable story of an aging father and his son. The Paramount Pictures release is due in theaters November 22.

*Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*, slated to have its world premiere at the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival, is based on South African President Nelson Mandela's autobiography of the same name. It chronicles his journey from growing up in small village to leading the fight against apartheid and spending 27 years in prison before becoming the first democratically elected President of South Africa. Idris Elba (*Prometheus*, *The Wire*) stars as Nelson Mandela, Naomie Harris (*Skyfall*) stars as Winnie Mandela, with Justin Chadwick (*The Other Boleyn Girl*) directing. The Weinstein Company release is due in theaters November 29.

The complete slate of films will be announced mid-September. For film listings and screening times, event schedule, FAQs and to order tickets please visit: [www.middleburgfilmfestival.com](http://www.middleburgfilmfestival.com)

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### **About Middleburg Film Festival**

The Middleburg Film Festival offers four days of films in a spectacular setting. A carefully curated selection of narrative and documentary films will screen in an intimate theatre environment, followed by Q and A's with filmmakers and actors. The films include festival favorites, premieres, and Academy Award contenders.

Venues throughout Middleburg include the National Sporting Library, Hill School, Middleburg Community Center, the newly opened Salamander Resort & Spa (the official filmmaker venue) and Boxwood Winery.

Festival attendees will also be able to experience the natural beauty, local food and wine and warm hospitality of historic Middleburg and the Piedmont countryside at the height of fall foliage. The intimate and relaxed settings provide the ideal backdrop for bringing together filmmakers, actors, opinion leaders, journalists, and filmgoers to engage in conversation and celebrate the best in film.

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### **Media Contacts:**

Marian Koltai-Levine  
[Marian.Koltai@pmkbnc.com](mailto:Marian.Koltai@pmkbnc.com)  
(212) 373-6130

Lee Meltzer  
[Lee.Meltzer@pmkbnc.com](mailto:Lee.Meltzer@pmkbnc.com)  
(212) 373-6142