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**THE 17TH ANNUAL HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES THE FESTIVAL'S
OPENING, CENTERPIECE AND CLOSING FILMS**

**Opening Night Film is *The Greatest*
Centerpiece Film is *Solitary Man*
Closing Night Film is the US Premiere of *The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus***

East Hampton, NY – September 4, 2009 – The Hamptons International Film Festival announced their Opening, Centerpiece and Closing night films for the 2009 festival.

Opening the festival is *The Greatest*, the directorial debut by Shana Feste starring Susan Sarandon, Pierce Brosnan, Carey Mulligan and Zoe Kravitz. It's the story of a family that's disintegrating as they deal with the death of their child and their surviving son's drug use. *The Greatest* explores the ways in which love can persist and life can re-assert itself in the face of seemingly all-consuming tragedy.

The Centerpiece film is *Solitary Man*, directed by Brian Koppelman and David Levien, starring Michael Douglas, with Danny DeVito, Susan Sarandon and Mary-Louise Parker, Jesse Eisenberg and Jenna Fisher. Douglas stars in this tale of a New York businessman experiencing a mid-life slump so severe that it is more catastrophe than crisis.

Closing the festival is US premiere of *The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus*, directed by Terry Gilliam and starring the late Heath Ledger, as well as Johnny Depp, Jude Law, and Colin Farrell who stepped in to assume Mr. Ledger's role after he passed away during production. The film also stars Andrew Garfield, Christopher Plummer and Lily Cole. Doctor Parnassus is the proprietor of a traveling "Imaginarium" in which paying customers are invited to cross into a hallucinatory otherworld to uncover their true selves. Terry Gilliam gives free rein to his signature whimsicality in the Imaginarium's rich, cartoonish, constantly shifting landscape, and the adventurous film brims with affectionate nods to its late star, Heath Ledger.

“We are so excited to feature Shana Feste’s moving and unique film as the opener of our 17th edition” says Director of Programming David Nugent. “Pierce Brosnan, who does double duty in THE GREATEST as both star and producer, has delivered a stirring performance and we’re delighted that he will be joining us for the festival.”

“We are proud to present SOLITARY MAN as the festival’s Centerpiece screening” continues Nugent “Produced by Steven Soderbergh, and featuring Michael Douglas in an eye opening performance, this is a film that is sure to be a hot ticket at this year’s festival.”

“It is truly an honor to present the U.S. Premiere of Terry Gilliam’s THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS,” say Executive Director Karen Arikian. “Heath Ledger was a terrific actor, and someone who all of us - industry and public alike held dearly as an artist. For the Hamptons to be the first festival in the U.S. to share his last film with our audiences is truly an honor.”

The 2009 Hamptons International Film Festival takes place Thursday to Monday, October 8th – 12th, which includes Columbus Day Weekend.

The Hamptons International Film Festival is supported by American Airlines, Altour and c/o The Maidstone Hotel.

ABOUT THE HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Hamptons International Film Festival was founded to celebrate the Independent film - long, short, fiction and documentary - and to introduce a unique, varied spectrum of international films and filmmakers to the public. The Festival is committed to exhibiting films that express fresh voices and differing global perspectives, with the hope that these programs will enlighten audiences, provide invaluable exposure for filmmakers and present inspired entertainment for all.

For more information about the Festival, [and to become a member](#), please visit our website at www.hamptonsfilmfest.org.

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