

ARUBA



One Happy Island

2 March 2010

RICHARD GERE TO OPEN THE NEW INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL IN ARUBA

Richard Gere has been announced as the official host of the inaugural Aruba International Film Festival, which will launch this June in the Dutch Caribbean island of Aruba.

In addition to opening the Festival, the actor will be bestowed with a special humanitarian award and participate in the Festival's *'In Conversations With'* series, engaging the Festival audience.

The Aruba International Film Festival will take place from 4-10 June, as the Caribbean island nation becomes the latest inductee to the international film festival circuit. The friendly character of the island will set the tone for the Festival's inviting ambiance.

Aiming to connect the audience, the movies and the movie-makers, the annual Festival will bring participants from around the world to view a wide selection of films, join in discussions, take part in workshops and panels, as well as attend special parties and events.

A number of premieres and major studio films are expected to be showcased throughout the festival, to complement the independent, art-house selections from around the world.

Commenting on Richard Gere's presence, the festival's organising committee said:

"Richard Gere has an iconic presence and is revered around the world. We are both honoured and excited to have him attend the first Aruba International Film Festival and take such an active role in the event."

Organisers are looking to secure another high-profile celebrity to endorse the closing night, with additional details on the official line-up to be announced in the coming weeks.

For more information on the inaugural Aruba International Film Festival please go to www.aiff.aw. For more information on visiting Aruba please go to www.aruba.com

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

A high-res photograph of the Richard Gere is available upon request.

For media information please contact:

The Saltmarsh Partnership

Tom Panagos tom@saltmarshpr.co.uk 0207 902 2794