

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**2009 HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL TO HONOR INTERNATIONAL ACTRESS & STAR OF
'THE WARRIOR AND THE WOLF' MAGGIE Q WITH MAVERICK AWARD***Media Invited to HIFF Closing Day Press Conference With Maggie Q on October 23*

HONOLULU, HI (September 24, 2009) – The 29th Annual Hawaii International Film Festival, the premier international film event in the Pacific, is honored to present and spotlight Hawaii-born actress Maggie Q with its "Maverick Award." Her newest film, the Chinese epic tale *THE WARRIOR AND THE WOLF*, directed by Tian Zhuangzhuang, will close the festival on Saturday, October 24th at 7:00 p.m. The screening is sponsored by Hawaii National Bank.

Maggie will receive the Maverick Award during HIFF's closing press conference on Friday, October 23rd. The Maverick Award is given in honor of a cinema artist who defies the rules, forging a unique film career, and transcending labels and thresholds to vacillate between Hollywood and global cinema.

"Hawaii is always excited to recognize one of its own success stories and this year we are proud to honor local girl from Mililani, Maggie Q, who is clearly making a name for herself across the globe," says HIFF executive director Chuck Boller.

Adapted from Japanese writer Yasushi Inoue's novel, the fantasy film tells the love story of an ancient Chinese general set within the context of an ancient war that took place before the unification of China. The film also stars Japanese A-list actor Jo Odagiri.

Over 170 films from 36 different countries will be featured at this year's festival. HIFF's 2009 program is being held at the Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Cinemas from October 15–25. Tickets go on sale Friday, October 1st for HIFF Ohana members and Monday, October 5th to the public. General admission tickets are available for \$10 or \$9 for students, seniors, children and military. Tickets may be purchased in person at HIFF's box office at 650 Iwilei Road #101 across from Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Cinemas or by phone at (808) 548-5905. For more information please visit us at www.hiff.org.

FILM SYNOPSIS – THE WARRIOR AND THE WOLF

Fifth Generation director Tian Zhuangzhuang's *THE WARRIOR AND THE WOLF* is a circular narrative that explores the debasement of humanity through war and destruction, but on a painterly, elegant and serene canvas. Based on a short story by Japanese writer Yasushi Inoue, the film takes place in an era of war during the Qin Dynasty period – before the unification of China. Thousands of soldiers are sent to remote regions at the edges of the known world, beaten down by a barrage of battles and adversaries. Many of these soldiers lose touch with civility and basic humanity. But valiant Lu Chenkang (Joe Odagiri) is different. He retains his heroism and is pure of heart and mind. Determined to stay the course and retain his humanity, Lu tends to a pet wolf cub.

When his commander and friend, General Zhang Anliang (Tou Chung-hua), is badly injured just before the beginning of winter, Lu takes over command of the troops. Forced to find shelter in the village of the

mysterious Harran tribe, he discovers a beautiful, yet reclusive young woman (Maggie Q). An outcast and a widow, she fights Lu in every way she can before surrendering to his passionate embrace, having fallen for him against her better judgment. She seems to possess the almost magical ability to take his mind to a place where memories collide with dreams and legends – a place where humans were once wolves.

Director Tian's latest is a departure from his usual fare; less free spirited than his earlier work, such as THE BLUE KITE, and more disciplined. Joe Odagiri and Maggie Q – two of the biggest Pan-Asian stars working today – deliver daring performances that delve into some dark territory. It also doesn't hurt that their presence provides sex appeal too.

THE WARRIOR AND THE WOLF, in the end, is a visually stunning and epic tale of wild humanity; pensive and quiet scenes are in stark contrast to bloody action sequences of macabre beauty that the Chinese have definitely mastered in cinematic portrayal. The filmgoer will be transported to a world where memory, temporal time and fantasy collide.

CLOSING FILM

U.S. Premiere

China 2009 | Mandarin w/ English subtitles | 100m

Director: Tian Zhuang Zhuang

Producer: Bill Kong, Hao Li, Satoru Ogura, Han Sanping

Cinematographer: Wang Yu

Script: Tian Zhuang Zhuang, Yasushi Inoue

Cast: Joe Odagiri, Maggie Q, Tou Chung-hua

24-Oct 7:00 PM Regal Dole Cannery Cinemas

Festival Information

Established in 1981, the Hawaii International Film Festival is dedicated to the advancement of understanding and cultural exchange among the peoples of Asia, the Pacific and North America through the medium of film. HIFF is the premier international film event in the Pacific and has won the praise of governments, filmmakers, scholars, educators, programmers and film industry leaders throughout the world. For the discovery and exhibition of Asian and Pacific features, documentaries and short films in the nation, it is a primary source. The festival has premiered such movies as ONCE WERE WARRIORS, THE PIANO, SHINE, SHALL WE DANCE, Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN and CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON. Plus, DEPARTURES, a Japanese film, had its U.S. premiere at HIFF in 2008, won the HIFF Audience Award and then went on to win the 2009 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

HIFF's major sponsors include: Regal Entertainment Group, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Hawaii, Halekulani, Hawaii Tourism Authority and The VILCEK Foundation.

The 2009 Hawaii International Film Festival will be held October 15-25. Images of the films can be downloaded at <http://picasaweb.google.com/hiff2009images/2009FallFilmImages?authkey=Gv1sRgCOjSudrp5ob2iwE&feat=directlink>. For more information please visit our website at www.hiff.org.

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