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FULL SCHEDULE AND IMAGES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 13, 2009

Paul Haggis Speaks at the Mondavi Center: “The Art and Craft of Hollywood”

Davis, Calif.—In “From ‘Crash’ to ‘The Valley of Elah’: The Art and Craft of Hollywood,” filmmaker **Paul Haggis** speaks at the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts**, UC Davis, **Monday, May 11**, at **8 p.m.** in **Jackson Hall**. The creative force behind the films “**Million Dollar Baby**” and “**Crash**,” Haggis is the first person in film history to write back-to-back winners of the Academy Award for Best Picture. A two-time Emmy winner and knowledgeable veteran of the Hollywood scene, Haggis’ talk addresses the practical and magical aspects of writing for the camera and maintaining one’s integrity in an industry of compromise.

Pricing for is \$45/35/25 for regular tickets and \$22.50/17.50/12.50 for students and children. Purchase tickets online at MondaviArts.org, through the Mondavi Center box office at 530-754-2787 or 866-754-2787 (toll-free), or at the door. Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. This event is presented as part of the Mondavi Center’s **Distinguished Speakers Series**.

In a related event, as part of the **Focus on Film Series: Paul Haggis Picks**, the Mondavi Center will screen **Sidney Lumet’s “Dog Day Afternoon”** in the **Studio Theatre** on **Monday, May 18**, at **6:30 p.m.** Pricing is \$10 for regular tickets and \$5 for students and children.

Says **Don Roth**, Mondavi Center executive director, “We asked Mr. Haggis to share with us those films that most influenced the way he makes movies. We think his choices make for great viewing and give insights into his filmmaking philosophy, which will make his talk even more fascinating.”

Writer, director and producer **Paul Haggis** is the award-winning filmmaker who, in 2006, became the first screenwriter to write two Best Film Oscar winners back-to-back—for “**Million Dollar Baby**” (2004), directed by Clint Eastwood, and for “**Crash**,” which Haggis himself directed. For “**Crash**,” he won Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay. The film also received an additional four nominations, including one for Haggis’ direction.

In 2006, Haggis' screenplay collaborations included the duo Clint Eastwood productions "Flags of Our Fathers" and "Letters from Iwo Jima," the latter earning him his third screenplay Oscar nomination. He also helped pen "Casino Royale," which garnered considerable acclaim for reinvigorating the James Bond spy franchise, and wrote the screenplay for the next Bond production, "Quantum of Solace."

Haggis' directorial follow-up to "Crash" was "In the Valley of Elah," which he wrote, directed and produced. The film, which was shown at the Mondavi Center in March as part of Focus on Film: Paul Haggis Picks, is a suspense drama of a father's search for his missing son.

Most recently, Haggis and his partner Michael Nozik formed Hwy 61 Films, based at United Artists. Their first venture is an adaptation of the celebrated Australian novel "The Ranger's Apprentice."

Haggis was born in London, Ontario, and moved to California in his early 20s. For more than two decades he has written, directed and produced television shows such as "thirtysomething" and "The Tracey Ullman Show," and also developed credits as a pup writer on many Norman Lear sitcoms. He created the acclaimed if short-lived CBS series "EZ Streets," which The New York Times cited as one of the most influential shows of all time, noting that without it "there would be no 'Sopranos.'"

- **Paul Haggis: "The Art and Craft of Hollywood"**
- **Mon., May 11, 8 p.m.**
- **Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall**
- **9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)**
- **\$45/35/25 regular; \$22.50/17.50/12.50 students, children**
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