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TwentyOne Entertainment to launch at the Red Sea International Film Festival with in competition film NORAH

- TwentyOne Entertainment is a new entertainment acquisition and distribution company based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- NORAH is selected to be in the main competition at Red Sea International Film Festival
- Global entertainment distribution executive Paul Chesney named new CEO of TwentyOne Entertainment

(Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – 7 November, 2023) - TwentyOne Entertainment announced its formation today, as it prepares to launch the company at the upcoming Red Sea International Film Festival 2023 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, (30 November – 9 December, 2023). The first feature film on the TwentyOne Entertainment slate is NORAH, from Saudi writer-director Tawfik Alzaidi, which has been selected to be in the main competition at the Festival.

Set in Saudi Arabia in the 90s, NORAH is a deeply moving story about the power of art to inspire and change minds and hearts. Written and directed by Tawfik Alzaidi, the cast features rising star Yaqoub Alfarhan ("Rashash"), newcomer Maria Bahrawi and acclaimed actor Abdullah Alsadhan ("Tash ma Tash"). NORAH is the first Saudi Arabian feature film to shoot entirely in the AlUla region in Saudi Arabia, an extraordinary area of natural beauty and heritage.

For further information on NORAH and the Electronic Press Kit (EPK), please visit: www.norahmovie.com

TwentyOne Entertainment's newly appointed CEO, Paul Chesney said, "It is very exciting to be launching at the Red Sea International Film Festival and a great honour to have such a groundbreaking film as NORAH to be the first on our slate. Our goal is to consistently deliver a high-quality cinematic entertainment experience and be an innovative leader in this fast developing market. We look forward to building strong partnerships throughout the region and around the world."

NORAH's writer, director and producer, Tawfik Alzaidi said, "I am proud that the first screening of "NORAH" film is going to be in the official competition at the Red Sea International Film Festival in Jeddah. It will be seen first by a Saudi audience, in my country, before it is released in cinemas around the world. This has been my goal since the first day of shooting."

Tawfik Alzaidi continued, "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has undergone an incredible growth and transformation in recent years in all fields. The film industry is part of this development and growth, and Saudi Arabia has now become a well-equipped location for filmmaking. One of my goals while making NORAH was to make a high quality, international standard film and to create a new identity for Saudi film, which will have a great impact on local and international audiences. I am excited to be collaborating with TwentyOne Entertainment to put my treasured first feature film out into the world."

Aligned with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 initiative, TwentyOne Entertainment will acquire and distribute new, high-quality cinematic Arabic and international content to cinemas and across traditional broadcast and streaming platforms within the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The company will also distribute its new Arabic content to other territories around the world.

Tawfik Alzaidi is considered to be a leading and influential member of the new cinema wave in Saudi Arabia. Alzaidi wrote, directed and produced NORAH, his homegrown debut feature film. He began directing his own short films in 2006 and the short film "The Silence" won Gulf Short Film Award in Muscat IFF in 2009.

Paul Chesney has previously held senior management roles at major entertainment companies, such as Universal and Disney, as well as new technology start-ups and new studio developments, overseeing distribution and day-to-day business operations, driving company transformation and building and managing functional teams.

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About TwentyOne Entertainment:

TwentyOne Entertainment is a film acquisition and distribution company based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The company distributes high-quality Arabic and international cinematic content in cinemas and post-theatrically in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). It works with several different platforms, building strong partnerships throughout the MENA region and around the world. The company's vision is to deliver a distinguished cinematic entertainment experience to global audiences.

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