



**OLE BORNEDAL TO ADAPT AND DIRECT *THE HUSBAND*,
BASED ON DEAN KOONTZ NOVEL, FOR RANDOM HOUSE FILMS & FOCUS FEATURES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK, May 20, 2009 – Award-winning filmmaker Ole Bornedal has signed to direct the thriller *The Husband*, based on the bestselling Dean Koontz novel of the same name. *The Husband* is a co-production in their unique partnership of Random House Inc.'s Random House Films division and Focus Features; worldwide rights will be held by Focus. The announcement was made today by Focus CEO James Schamus and Random House Films President Peter Gethers.

Mr. Bornedal has commenced writing the newest draft of the screenplay adaptation, which had most recently been scripted by Glenn Gers. *The Husband* was published in 2006 in hardcover in the U.S. and Canada by the Bantam Books imprint of Random House, Inc; the paperback edition was published in 2007 in the U.S. and Canada by Bantam. Each edition was #1 on their respective New York Times Bestseller lists as well as in many countries around the world.

The storyline follows an ordinary working man whose love for his wife is put to a harrowing series of tests over a 60-hour period, beginning when his peaceful workday is shattered by a phone call from a stranger.

Mr. Schamus and Mr. Gethers said, "Ole's work, as a writer/director who deftly crafts human-scaled stories of suspense and drama, makes him the ideal filmmaker to bring Dean's gripping bestseller to the screen."

Mr. Bornedal's newest thriller as writer/director, *Deliver Us from Evil*, has just been released in his native Denmark. *Just Another Love Story*, also a thriller he directed from his original screenplay, was released earlier this year in the U.S. to critical acclaim. Remake rights to the latter film as well as to his 2007 thriller *The Substitute* have been acquired by Mandate Pictures, with Sam Raimi to produce both films through his Ghost House Pictures. Mr. Bornedal has won awards at the Montreal World Film Festival and the Fant-Asia Film Festival, among others.

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Dean Koontz' books have sold more than 400 million copies worldwide to date, with over 17 million sold each year. 44 of his novels have been New York Times bestsellers; 10 have reached the #1 position in hardcover, 14 in paperback. The Times has praised his writing as "psychologically complex, masterly and satisfying." Mr. Koontz is published in 38 languages; his German publisher is Heyne, an imprint of Verlagsgruppe Random House.

Focus creative executive Matthew Plouffe is supervising the film for Focus president of production John Lyons and Mr. Gethers is supervising for Random House Films.

In the unique multi-year filmmaking partnership between Random House Films and Focus, the companies develop movies together and co-finance and co-produce a substantial slate of feature films for theatrical release, all based on books published by Random House imprints in North America and internationally. Random House Films and Focus jointly acquire film rights for the books and partner together on script development, director selection, all phases of production, and marketing and publicity. Films co-produced by Focus with Random House Films are jointly owned, with Focus holding worldwide distribution and sales rights.

Focus Features and Focus Features International (FFI) (www.filminfocus.com) together comprise a singular global company, dedicated to producing, acquiring, financing, selling, and distributing original and daring films from emerging and established filmmakers – films that challenge mainstream moviegoers to embrace and enjoy voices and visions from around the world. The company's flexible and nuanced approach to distribution allows it to support a wide range of films, from those geared to a single local market to worldwide hits. The company operates as Focus Features domestically, and as Focus Features International overseas.

Domestically, the Focus Features slate includes Cary Joji Fukunaga's epic dramatic thriller *Sin Nombre*, winner of 2 awards at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival; writer/director Jim Jarmusch's *The Limits of Control*, starring Isaach De Bankolé; *Away We Go*, directed by Academy Award winner Sam Mendes and starring John Krasinski and Maya Rudolph; Shane Acker's animated fantasy epic *9*, starring Elijah Wood and Jennifer Connelly and produced by Tim Burton and Timur Bekmambetov; Academy Award-winning writer/director Sofia Coppola's *Somewhere*; *Greenberg*, the new film from writer/director Noah Baumbach, starring Ben Stiller; Academy Award-winning writer/directors Joel and Ethan Coen's *A Serious Man*; and *Taking Woodstock*, the new film from Academy Award-winning director Ang Lee.

Focus Features and Focus Features International are part of NBC Universal, one of the world's leading media and entertainment companies in the development, production, and marketing of entertainment, news, and information to a global audience. Formed in May 2004 through the combining of NBC and Vivendi Universal Entertainment, NBC Universal owns and operates a valuable portfolio of news and entertainment networks, a

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premier motion picture company, significant television production operations, a leading television stations group, and world-renowned theme parks. NBC Universal is 80% owned by General Electric and 20% owned by Vivendi.

Random House, Inc. (www.randomhouse.com), the U.S. division of Random House, the world's largest trade book publisher, is home to many of the world's foremost and most popular authors of adult and children's books. Random House has more than 120 publishing imprints in the U.S. and Canada, which publish books in hardcover, trade and mass market paperback, audio, electronic, digital, and other emerging formats. More than fifty Random House authors have been awarded Nobel Prizes and the company's books have won numerous Pulitzer Prizes, National Book Awards, Newbery honors, and other major literary recognitions. Since 1998, Random House has placed more than 1,500 of their titles on The New York Times weekly national bestseller lists from their U.S. publishing divisions, which include the Bantam Dell, Doubleday Broadway, Crown, Alfred A. Knopf, Random House Adult Publishing Groups and Random House Children's Books. Random House's publishing companies in Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, Latin America, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Japan, and Korea are publishing leaders in their territories.

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