

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL[®]
SEP | 8-17 | 2005

2 Carlton Street • Suite 1600 • Toronto, ON • M5B 1J3 • press office: 416-934-3200 • switchboard: 416-967-7371 • fax: 416-581-0214

August 23, 2005

NEWS RELEASE #51

**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF TOMMY LEE JONES'
THE THREE BURIALS OF MELQUIADES ESTRADA A GALA
PRESENTATION**

Toronto – **THE THREE BURIALS OF MELQUIADES ESTRADA**, the directorial debut of Academy Award*-winning actor Tommy Lee Jones, makes its North American premiere as a **Gala Presentation** at the 30th **Toronto International Film Festival**. Starring Tommy Lee Jones, the film travels the border country that straddles West Texas and Northern Mexico to tell the story of friendship and redemption. The film also stars Barry Pepper, Dwight Yoakam, January Jones, and Julio César Cedillo.

The body of Mexican farmer Melquiades Estrada is found in a shallow grave in the Texas desert where it was hastily buried after his murder. Making no attempt to solve the crime, the local authorities rapidly transfer the corpse to a pauper's grave in the cemetery. Pete Perkins (Tommy Lee Jones), a ranch foreman and Melquiades' best friend, plans to honour his promise to provide him with a proper burial in his Mexican hometown.

When the authorities fail to investigate the crime, and hastily prepare another burial, Perkins takes it upon himself to track down the murderer. A beacon of humanity in this remote part of Texas, Perkins identifies and kidnaps the murderer and forces him to offer Melquiades the respect and true peace he deserves. Perkins forces the killer to transport Melquiades to his own personal El Dorado in Mexico, and so offers his friend a memorable journey to his third burial.

Directed by Tommy Lee Jones, **THE THREE BURIALS OF MELQUIADES ESTRADA** is written by Guillermo Arriaga. Produced by Michael Fitzgerald, Luc Besson, Pierre-Ange le Pogam, and Tommy Lee Jones, the film is a presentation of Europacorp and Javelina Film Company.

Gala Presentations at Roy Thomson Hall are made possible through the sponsorship of VIACOM, Paramount Pictures Canada Distribution Inc., and Showtime Networks Inc.

-30-

For more information, please contact Tonia Addison in the Press Office at 416-934-3200.

*Academy Award is the registered trademark and service mark of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Toronto International Film Festival Group is a charitable, cultural and educational organization devoted to celebrating excellence in film and the moving image.

