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Well Go USA Acquires Kore-eda Dramatic Thriller *MONSTER* Following Worldwide Premiere at Cannes

PLANO, Texas (May 31, 2023) – Leading international and indie film distributor Well Go USA Entertainment has acquired U.S. rights to the Cannes International Film Festival-debuting dramatic thriller **MONSTER**, which was named this year’s Best Screenplay (written by Yuji Sakamoto) at Cannes. **MONSTER** is directed by acclaimed Japanese filmmaker and previous Palme d’Or winner Kore-eda Hirokazu (*Shoplifters*, *Broker*), with music by the late Oscar-winning composer Ryuichi Sakamoto (*The Last Emperor*). The film will be slated for release in American theaters in late 2023 or early 2024.

“We are thrilled to bring **MONSTER** to Kore-eda fans across the U.S., and particularly honored to highlight this final project of the renowned late composer Ryuichi Sakamoto,” said Doris Pfardrescher, President and CEO at Well Go USA. “In keeping with Director Kore-eda’s reputation as a master of nuance and detail, and aided by an exemplary screenplay and score, **MONSTER** beautifully and eerily captures how a single story can be experienced in vastly different ways from person to person, even if they experience that event in tandem.”

MONSTER was directed by Kore-eda Hirokazu (*Broker*, *Shoplifters*) and written by Yuji Sakamoto (*We Made A Beautiful Bouquet*), with cinematography by Ryoto Kondo (*Shoplifters*). The film stars Ando Sakura (*Shoplifters*), Nagayama Eita (*Hara-Kiri: Death of a Samurai*), and newcomers Kurokawa Soya and Hiiragi Hinata. When a widowed mother (Ando Sakura) notices that her young son (Kurokawa Soya) has begun exhibiting strange behaviors, she brings her concerns to the staff at his school. Discovering that a teacher (Nagayama Eita) is responsible, she demands an explanation. But as the story unfolds through the multilayered perspectives of mother, teacher and child, the truth gradually emerges, and proves much more complex than anyone expects.

The acquisition was negotiated by Doris Pfardrescher on behalf of Well Go USA and by Eva Diederix at Goodfellas as well as CAA Media Finance on behalf of the filmmakers. Gaga Corporation is managing all sales in Asia; Goodfellas (f.k.a. Wild Bunch International) will be handling all other international sales.

ABOUT WELL GO USA ENTERTAINMENT

Well Go USA Entertainment (www.wellgousa.com) is an Oscar®-nominated theatrical and home entertainment distribution label that specializes in bringing the best in action, genre and independent films from the U.S. and around the world to North America. Well Go titles can be seen across a variety of platforms, including in theaters, on-demand, via DVD and Blu-ray and on television, as well as on mobile and connected devices through martial arts and action channel Hi-YAH! (www.hiyahtv.com). Well Go USA Entertainment’s corporate headquarters is in Plano, Texas, with an additional office in Taiwan.

Chrissy Walker
Well Go USA Entertainment
972.265.4317
chrissy@wellgousa.com

Sarah Clinton
Well Go USA Entertainment
972.265.4317
sarah@wellgousa.com

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