



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **JOHN SAYLES' CLASSIC FILM 'THE SECRET OF ROAN INISH' HAS BEEN FULLY RESTORED TO 4K AND IS NOW AVAILABLE ON DIGITAL**

Los Angeles, CA (**April 30, 2020**) – Samuel Goldwyn Films is excited to announce that the company has acquired world-wide rights to the classic *The Secret of Roan Inish*, written and directed by John Sayles and produced by Maggie Renzi and Sarah Green. *The Secret of Roan Inish* is based on the novel *Secret of the Ron Mor Skerry*, by Rosalie K. Fry. The feature will be available for speciality theatrical screenings and will be available to buy or stream on digital May 8.

Fiona, an adventurous young Irish girl sent to live with her grandparents in a remote coastal village, finds herself intrigued with the nearby abandoned island of Roan Inish. In a land steeped in folklore, locals believe the elusive selkies -seals who can take on human form - inhabit the island, and family legend says Fiona's own brother was swept away by them in his infancy. A determined Fiona makes it her mission to unravel the secrets of Roan Inish and makes a wonderful discovery along the way.

UCLA Film & Television Archive and Roundabout Entertainment did a 4K digital restoration from the 35mm Original Picture Negative. The sound was up mixed from Stereo to 5.1 surround sound from a 35mm track negative.

### **From Producer Maggie Renzi:**

In 1988 when John Sayles and I visited friends with kids, every TV was playing a VHS of *Land Before Time* on a loop. Every single house with kids. I said to John, "We have to make a kids movie, just to help out." I had pestered him for years about making a movie from *Secret of the Ron Mor Skerry* by Rosalie K. Fry. It was my favorite book when I was 10 and I suppose it is still my favorite book for kids. Fiona is so brave and persistent. I'm happy to say the book is again in print, recently republished by New York Review Books in a pretty edition, with the original illustrations which we feature in the end credits of the movie. You can order it from your favorite independent bookstore, and when the libraries re-open, many libraries have it too.

More than 30 years later, *The Secret of Roan Inish* is streaming to households that need movies for kids even more than ever. I always loved hearing over the years that families got together to watch the movie again with each other's grandparents, parents, big kids, little kids for St. Patrick's Day, or Thanksgiving, or Christmas. This new streaming version has been beautifully restored to be viewed at home on our TVs and computers. It's going to be even more beautiful when we can watch it together in our favorite movie theaters. Until then, find it on AppleTV, Amazon Prime, YouTube Movies, Google Play, and make your way back to Donegal.

### **From Todd Wiener, Motion Picture Archivist, UCLA Film & Television Archive:**

The UCLA Film & Television Archive has been home to the Anarchists' Convention Collection (John Sayles' first short stories) since 2001, and it has been wonderful to closely collaborate with John and Maggie over the years. They are incredibly generous filmmakers who greatly respect and appreciate the behind-the-scenes archival work that we facilitate. *The Secret of Roan Inish* is the Archive's fifth formal restoration of one of their library titles.

### **From Samuel Goldwyn Films:**

This film is universally beloved and it's been a pleasure to work with John and Maggie (*Passion Fish*, *Matewan*, *Eight Men Out*, and *Return of the Secaucus Seven*) to bring this fully restored version from its original film negative to audiences worldwide. We look forward to continuing collaboration with this important filmmaking team.

### **About UCLA Film & Television Archive**

A division of UCLA Library, the Archive is internationally renowned for rescuing, preserving and showcasing moving image media and is dedicated to ensuring that the visual achievements of our time are available for information, education and enjoyment. The sixth-largest moving image repository in the world, and the second largest in the U.S., behind only the Library of Congress, the Archive's more than 450,000 holdings are stored in a state-of-the-art facility that meets and exceeds all preservation standards, from nitrate film to digital. The Archive Research and Study Center, located in UCLA Powell Library, provides free access to its holdings to researchers, writers and educators. Many of the Archive's projects are screened at prestigious film events around the globe, as well as locally at UCLA's Billy Wilder Theater. For more information, please contact Marisa Soto at (310) 206-8588 or [msoto@cinema.ucla.edu](mailto:msoto@cinema.ucla.edu).

### **About Samuel Goldwyn Films**

Samuel Goldwyn Films is a major, independently owned and operated motion-picture company that develops, produces and distributes innovative feature films and documentaries.

The company is dedicated to working with both world-renowned and emerging writers/filmmakers and committed to filmed entertainment that offers original voices in uniquely told stories. This is best exemplified by the Academy Award® nominated *Super Size Me*; the Alan Rickman and Chris Pine lead *Bottle Shock*; Sundance winner *Gook* written and directed by Justin Chon; the critically acclaimed feature debut by Francis Lee *God's Own Country*; Warwick Thornton's Australian western *Sweet Country* starring Sam Neill, Bryan Brown, and Hamilton Morris; the eye-opening documentary *Anita*; the Wim Wenders film, starring James McAvoy and Academy Award winner® Alicia Vikander, *Submergence*; the modern fairy-tale *This Beautiful Fantastic*; *Cold Skin* from director Xavier Gens; Ondi Timoner's bio-pic *Mapplethorpe* starring Matt Smith; *Summer Night* starring Lena Condor and Victoria Justice; Sci-Fi/Fantasy *Paradise Hills* starring Emma Roberts; Aaron Paul lead thriller *The Parts You Lose*; the documentary *Super Size Me 2: Holy Chicken*; the horror/thriller film starring Patrick Schwarzenegger and Miles Robbins *Daniel Isn't Real*; the road-trip comedy *Come As You Are*; Jamaican crime thriller *Shottas*; and *Endings, Beginnings* starring Shailene Woodley, Jamie Dornan, and Sebastian Stan. Upcoming releases include the dark-comedy *Judy & Punch*; action packed Scott Adkins lead film *Debt Collectors*; *Mr. Jones* starring James Norton, Vanessa Kirby, and Peter Sarsgaard; the sea shanty true story *Fisherman's Friends*; and the Australian romance *Dirt Music*.

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### **For further information, please contact:**

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