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HOWARD PANTER AND ROSEMARY SQUIRE LAUNCH THEIR NEW VENTURE TRAFALGAR ENTERTAINMENT GROUP WITH THE ACQUISITION OF TRAFALGAR RELEASING (FORMERLY OPERATING AS PICTUREHOUSE ENTERTAINMENT) AND THE PURCHASE OF TRAFALGAR STUDIOS

Sir Howard Panter and Rosemary Squire OBE announced today the acquisition of Trafalgar Releasing (formerly operating as Picturehouse Entertainment), an award winning, market-leader in global event distribution, to be known as Trafalgar Releasing.

This multi million purchase coincides with the completed acquisition by the theatrical impresarios of London's Trafalgar Studios, with its two London Theatres.

Trafalgar Entertainment's next theatre production at Trafalgar Studios will star Tony and Emmy Award winning Stockard Channing in *Apologia* "Sharp, funny, wise & humane" (Daily Telegraph) written by Alexi Kaye Campbell, and directed by Jamie Lloyd. It will preview at Trafalgar Studios from 29 July 2017. Among other productions Howard Panter will also continue to produce The Rocky Horror show globally, including new productions in New York, Germany and Australia.

Trafalgar Releasing works with some of the world's most renowned arts institutions, distributing high-profile live content to cinemas in the UK and around the world from the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Bolshoi Ballet, Glyndebourne, the National Theatre, the Metropolitan Opera and the Royal Opera House.

Recent Trafalgar Releasing announcements have included David Gilmour Live at Pompeii screening in approximately 2000 cinemas around the world, Donmar presents Julius Caesar, the first part of Phyllida Lloyd's Shakespeare Trilogy and Alone in Berlin Live from IWM London, a preview featuring Emma Thompson followed by a lively and inspiring discussion

exploring the themes of the film. Tickets for these events under the company's new ownership are now on sale.

Sir Howard Panter and Rosemary Squire OBE, Joint CEOs of Trafalgar Entertainment Group, said:

"We find the concept of a company operating across rights, theatre and screening very exciting indeed. Trafalgar Releasing has a strong track record in partnership working and our two organisations are an excellent fit. We're thrilled to be working with such an ambitious and talented young team from across theatre and film – all of us enjoy being in at the beginning of something new and have a shared passion for broadening access to the very best live arts and entertainment."

Marc Allenby, CEO, Trafalgar Releasing, said: "We are all very excited to be part of the Trafalgar Entertainment Group, Rosemary and Howard's track record speaks for itself and there is a strong belief that we can find synergies between their wider activities and the growth of Trafalgar Releasing."

Additionally, Trafalgar Releasing distributes award winning feature films which have previously included Paul Verhoeven's Academy Award nominee and Golden Globe winner, *Elle*, starring Isabelle Huppert, BAFTA winner *The Imposter*, *20,000 Days On Earth*, featuring Nick Cave; *The Lobster*, starring Colin Farrell and Rachel Weisz; *Green Room* with Patrick Stewart; Todd Solondz' *Wiener-Dog*, starring Greta Gerwig and Danny Devito, *Swiss Army Man* with Daniel Radcliffe and Jim Hosking's BIFA-winner debut *The Greasy Strangler*.

With the wealth of expertise gained as they built from the ground up the Ambassador Theatre Group into the world's number one live-theatre company, Howard and Rosemary are planning to turn Trafalgar Entertainment into a live entertainment business that will own and operate distinctive, stylish, cultural buildings as well as creating innovative theatre productions and distributing exciting live-streaming content. They aim to create a boutique theatre brand with rehearsal studios, alongside a club with a distinctive customer experience. The venture has already attracted many from the creative industries and a wide variety of investors from a range of industries from private equity to media and entertainment. These include a number of high net worth individuals and representatives of family offices.

Howard and Rosemary's stewardship will also allow Trafalgar Releasing to increase its distribution activities across North America and to aid this a new office will shortly be opened in New York.

Notes to Editors

About Trafalgar Entertainment Group

Trafalgar Entertainment Group is the holding company for a live entertainment business based at the iconic Trafalgar Studios in London's West End. It is the latest venture from Sir Howard Panter and Rosemary Squire OBE – two of the most influential entertainment entrepreneurs of the last twenty years.

The venture will build a fully integrated and well-resourced live entertainment platform operating across property, rights, production, content distribution, live-streaming and venue management. It aims to create a scalable boutique theatre brand with a distinctive customer experience. Board members include: Chairman Greg Dyke, Howard Panter, Rosemary Squire, Richard Lenane, Clive Hollick, Jim Tanner, Bob Bartner, Laurence Isaacson, Peter Norris, Richard Steeves, and Lyn Goleby.

About Sir Howard Panter and Rosemary Squire OBE

In 1992, Sir Howard Panter and Rosemary Squire OBE co-founded the Ambassador Theatre Group Ltd (ATG), the world's number one live-theatre company with as many as 46 venues in Britain, the US and Australia. ATG also became an internationally recognised award-winning theatre producer with productions in the West End and on Broadway and touring productions in the UK, North America, Australia and Asia. ATG is the market leader in theatre ticketing services through ATG Tickets, LOVETheatre and Group Line.

Howard Panter is one of the most influential figures in the Arts and Entertainment industry, both in the UK and around the world. A creative impresario, he has been responsible for nurturing the talents of some of the brightest lights in theatre persuading some of Hollywood's most celebrated stars to swap the silver screen to tread the boards in London's West End.

Howard has been behind some of the most important production companies in the West End, UK regions and Broadway, including Sonia Friedman Productions, Theatre Royal Brighton

Productions and Jamie Lloyd Productions. Howard is also Chair of The Rambert Dance Company.

Rosemary is recognized as one of the most prominent woman in British theatre of the modern era. She was chosen as one of the 100 women on the inaugural BBC Radio 4 Woman's Hour Power List, appearing at number 16 on the list which is intended to serve as a snapshot of the most powerful British women, or women operating in the UK today.

She currently chairs the Tick Tock Club for Great Ormond Street Hospital raising £10m for its current appeal, is a National Council Member of Arts Council England and co-chairs the Hall for Cornwall. She recently opened The sPace, a new theatre venue at Nottingham High School for Girls for both the school and the local community, which has been named in her honour.

Howard and Rosemary topped The Stage 100 Power List for a record seven years running, Sir Howard was knighted for services to theatre in 2013 and in 2014 Rosemary was the first woman ever to win the prestigious UK EY Entrepreneur of the Year.

Trafalgar Studios

Trafalgar Studios has an impressive reputation as one of London's most inspiring and innovative theatres. It is unique in housing two intimate, flexible performance spaces, presenting theatre from the very best national and international companies and providing a launch-pad for new work that might not otherwise be seen in the West End.

Recent productions in Studio 1 include Jamie Lloyd's *Trafalgar Transformed* seasons with *The Ruling Class* starring James McAvoy; *The Homecoming* starring John Simm, *Richard III* starring Martin Freeman and *Macbeth* starring James McAvoy. Other highlights include Robert Icke's production of *Oresteia*; *The Spoils* written by and starring Jesse Eisenberg and Sam Shephard's American classic *Buried Child* starring Ed Harris.

Studio 2 discoveries include Rod Beacham's *Lies Have Been Told – An Evening with Robert Maxwell*; Neil LaBute's *Bash*; *Rotterdam* and the hit comedy *The Play That Goes Wrong* which went on to take the West End by storm.

Trafalgar Studios will be the flagship and headquarters for now of Trafalgar Entertainment Group.

Trafalgar Entertainment Group Productions

The first production for Trafalgar Entertainment Group was Christopher Hampton's *The Philanthropist* directed by Simon Callow which opened in April 2017. This biting "bourgeois comedy" and clever inversion of Moliere's *The Misanthrope* boasts some of today's most exciting young stage and screen stars: Matt Berry (*The IT Crowd, Toast of London*); Simon Bird (*The Inbetweeners, Friday Night Dinner*); Lily Cole (*The Last Days of Troy, Ab Fab The Movie*); Charlotte Ritchie (*Call the Midwife, Fresh Meat, Siblings*); and Tom Rosenthal (*Friday Night Dinner, Chicken Soup with Barley*).

About Trafalgar Releasing

Launching in 2010, Trafalgar Releasing (formerly operating as Picturehouse Entertainment) quickly established itself as a passionate, award-winning, market leader in global event distribution, working in partnership to unite audiences with entertainment and the arts.

Trafalgar Releasing distributes more than 70 special events and films a year, around the world.

We work across music, theatre, high arts and feature films including *Rammstein: Paris*, directed by Jonas Akerlund, *Monty Python Live (mostly)*, *The Rocky Horror Show Live*, *Roger Waters The Wall* and *Almeida Live: Richard III*, starring Ralph Fiennes and Vanessa Redgrave. We have worked with Nick Cave on two feature films; *20,000 Days on Earth* (dir. Jane Pollard & Iain Forsyth) and *One More Time With Feeling* (dir. Andrew Dominik) as well as distributing award winning feature films like Paul Verhoeven's Academy Award nominee and Golden Globe winner, *Elle*, starring Isabelle Huppert, BAFTA winner, *The Imposter*, *The Lobster*, starring Colin Farrell and Rachel Weisz and *Green Room* with Patrick Stewart.

Trafalgar Releasing also has long standing distribution relationships with the world's most renowned houses and companies; distributing high-profile arts content to cinemas in the UK and around the world from the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal Opera House, The Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company, the Bolshoi Ballet, Glyndebourne, the National Theatre and the Metropolitan Opera.