



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **ERIC BANA'S FILM "LOVE THE BEAST" MAKES WEST COAST PREMIERE AT OPENING NIGHT OF WHEELS ON REELS FILM FESTIVAL**

CATHEDRAL CITY, CA, September 30, 2009 -- Without a doubt, one of this summer's hottest film stars is Australian film actor, Eric Bana. He kicked off the summer season as the heavily made-up villain in *Star Trek*, then co-starred with Adam Sandler in the comedy/drama *Funny People*. Then, before our Speedo's had time to dry, he starred opposite Rachel McAdams in *The Time Traveler's Wife*.

But months before this unbelievable string of back-to-back box office hits put Eric Bana in the summer spotlight, his directorial debut made its US premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York this past spring. The documentary entitled *Love The Beast* will make its West Coast premiere at the inaugural Wheels On Reels Film Festival, October 23 & 24 at the Mary Pickford Theatre in Cathedral City, California.

Wheels On Reels is not your typical film festival. It's a film festival focused on the interactions of man and machine, more specifically automobiles and motorcycles, as that complex and sometimes emotional relationship continues to inspire filmmakers of all kinds in so many ways. Hollywood has Cannes and Sundance, while Wheels On Reels calls to a uniquely different demographic. In this case, exhaust-loving, gear-shifting, tire-burning, speed-craving motor-heads.

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*Love The Beast* was written and directed by Bana, and it is the story of a 25-year love affair with his '74 Ford Falcon XB Coupe. What's most unique about the story is that although the documentary tells the story of Bana's passion for his Ford muscle car, it was filmed almost in its entirety in Australia. Yet, it is a story that will strike an emotional cord with every man in America who owns or dreams of owning a muscle car. The film delves into Bana's man-car relationship with appearances by television psychologist Dr. Phil McGraw, talk show personality Jay Leno, and *Top Gear* host Jeremy Clarkson.

Other films selected for screening at the inaugural event include: *Truth In 24*, a documentary narrated by Jason Statham that chronicles the Audi Sport Racing Team in their attempt to earn a record fifth consecutive win at the 24 Hours of Le Mans; *The Rock Store*, a brilliant documentary by an award-winning stuntman that introduces you to Ed and Vern Savko, owners of a gas station and convenience store in the Santa Monica Mountains; and *The Indian*, a debut film by Southern California native James R. Gorrie about how the rebuilding of 1917 Indian motorcycle repairs a relationship between a father and a son.

Tickets to the Wheels On Reels Film Festival are \$20 per screening, and go on sale Saturday, October 3 at Palm Springs Subaru. Proceeds will help provide advanced-level driving instruction for teens in the Palm Springs area. Sponsors include: Bridgestone Tire, Meguiar's, Palm Springs Subaru, Holiday Inn Palm Springs City Center, R&R Broadcasting, Desert Entertainer, SwissTrax Interlocking Flooring Tiles, and KESQ News Channel 3's ABC, FOX and CW affiliates for the Palm Springs area. For Festival show times and other information call 760-213-6826, or visit [www.WheelsOnReels.com](http://www.WheelsOnReels.com).

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