

Stop Press: Peter Jackson Says Yes to The Hobbit!



MUCH TO the delight of Tolkien fans everywhere, Peter Jackson has announced that he will return to produce **The Hobbit** and a sequel. The news comes four years after Jackson delivered the last of the **Lord of the Rings** movies, which is also about the same time that rumours he might take on the prequel novella began.

The director has said that he is "very pleased" to have announced the project with "our old friends at New Line." He also added "**The Lord of the Rings** is a legacy we proudly

share with [producer] Bob [Shay] and [executive producer] Michael [Lynne], and together, we share that legacy with millions of loyal fans all over the world. We are delighted to continue our journey through Middle Earth. I also want and our new friends at MGM for helping us find the common ground necessary to continue that journey."

As with the **LOTR** series, both **Hobbit** movies will be filmed simultaneously but with a staggered release, the first slated for 2010 and the second 2011. Pre-production is set to begin as soon as possible, so the next step is surely to find a suitable director... 🍷



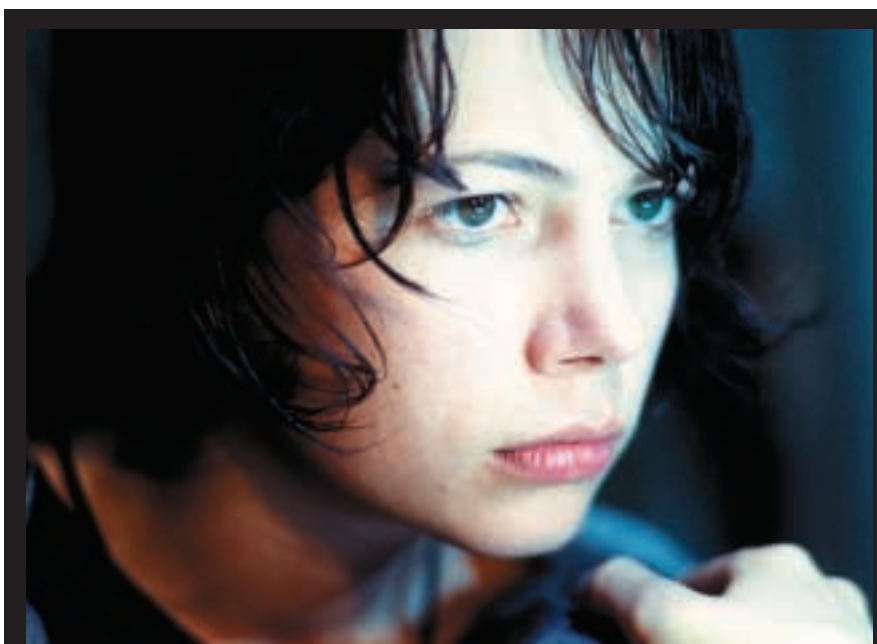
Bird's Eye Film Festival 2008

FROM MARCH 6th-13th 2008, Birds Eye View will be showcasing a programme of innovative and inspirational shorts, features and documentaries from women all over the world, screening at leading London film venues (mainly the Institute of Contemporary Arts and the BFI Southbank).

Special features of the 2008 festival programme include a comedy retrospective, which celebrates early women pioneers in silent comedy such as Dorothy Arzner, Mary Pickford and Marion Davies. There will be discussion and debate on these issues, and some of the UK's leading contemporary female comics, including Jo Brand, will introduce screenings. In partnership with the BFI the festival has confirmed In Conversation with Victoria Wood, an evening event taking place on March 11th.

Other events include screenings of women's films from developing countries, a look at fashion in film, skills training for women film-makers, 'bring a baby' screenings and International Women's Day Celebration Party.

For more information and ticket details, visit the festival website www.birds-eye-view.co.uk. 🍷



Williams Joins Trip to Shutter Island

MICHELLE WILLIAMS (**BROKEBACK Mountain**) has joined the cast of **Shutter Island**, the drama directed by Martin Scorsese (**The Departed**) for Paramount Pictures. The film is an adaptation of the best-selling novel by Dennis Lehane, and tells the story of US Marshal Teddy Daniels who, still grieving for the death of his wife, travelled to Shutter Island in 1954 to discover how a multiple murderer escaped from a criminal hospital on the remote island. Williams (*left*, in **Land of Plenty**) is to play the wife of Daniels, who is to be portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio. Also starring will be Mark Ruffalo and Ben Kingsley. 🍷