

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF CINEMAS (UNIC) ELECTS PHIL CLAPP AS PRESIDENT AND APPOINTS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cannes, 21.05.2013. Members of the International Union of Cinemas (“UNIC”) – Europe’s trade association representing cinema exhibitors and their associations – today elected Phil Clapp, head of the UK Cinema Exhibitors’ Association, as their new President. The organisation also announced the election of a new Board of Directors.

This refresh of the association’s board follows an organisational transformation which in 2011 saw UNIC move its head office from Paris to Brussels, sign up new company members and strengthen its profile amongst EU decision-makers and the wider international motion picture industry.

Commenting on his appointment, Phil Clapp said:

“I am delighted that fellow UNIC members have put their faith in me to continue the growth of the organisation initiated under the Presidency of Ad Weststrate. There are tremendous opportunities for UNIC in promoting the value that cinemas bring not only to audiences, but to the wider film industry. Taking on this challenge at a time when the industry is experiencing such huge innovation and change only adds to my enthusiasm for the time ahead.”

Ad Weststrate, who is stepping down after overseeing a period of successful and momentous change as President of UNIC, commented:

“After eight years of championing and defending European cinema exhibition – an industry that I owe so much to and hold very dear – and after overseeing a much-needed organisational transformation, we now move on to the next stage in our growth. Phil Clapp is an excellent choice to continue that process and extend the influence of UNIC. I wish him and exhibitor colleagues all the best for the coming years.”

UNIC’s newly appointed Board of Directors will include Senior Vice-President Jean-Pierre Decrette (Senior Vice-President of French exhibitors’ association FNCF), Vice Presidents Edna Epelbaum (UNIC-representative for Swiss association ACS), Mario Mazzetti (Managing Director of Italian association ANEC), Kim Pedersen (President of Denmark’s Danske Biografer), Jaime Tarrazon (Delegate of Spanish association FECE) and Treasurer Andreas Kramer (Managing Director of German HDF-Kino).

Notes for editors

UNIC

UNIC - the International Union of Cinemas - represents the interests of exhibitor trade associations and key cinema operators covering 24 countries in the European Union along with Norway, Russia, Turkey and Israel (<http://www.unic-cinemas.org>). Together these territories account for around 33,000 screens, enjoying annual admissions of over 1 billion and in 2012 over € 7.5 billion in box office.

Cinema performance in Europe 2012

Compared to the previous year, total admissions across UNIC territories in 2012 declined by 0.65 per cent, box-office increased by 3 per cent.

The biggest successes in European theatres were: Skyfall; The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey; The Dark Knight Rises; Ice Age: Continental Drift; and The Avengers.

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