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16th November 2011
For Immediate Release

Cannes Jury winners at the GC Film Festival

The exceptional Russian drama **Elena**, winner of the Un Certain Regard Jury Prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival and also the winner of the Grand Prize of the Jury of Cannes 2011, the critically acclaimed **Once Upon a Time in Anatolia** will both screen at this year's Gold Coast Film Festival Nov 21-27 at Birch Carroll and Coyle Cinemas, Australia Fair Shopping Centre.

In **Elena**, Elena (Nadezdha Markina) and Vladimir (Andrey Smirnov) are an older couple who met late in life. Both have a child from a previous marriage – Elena an unemployed desperate son, and Vladimir a careless and distant daughter. When Vladimir has a heart attack and, lying in his hospital bed, realises that his life is coming to a close, he reunites with his daughter and decides that she will inherit his entire fortune. Focused on helping her son, the usually docile and subservient Elena hatches a plan to give her child and his family a real chance in life.

Nadezhda Markina, the star of *Elena*, and 2011 Asia Pacific Screen Award Nominee for Best Performance by an Actress has confirmed she will be attending the Gold Coast Film Festival on Tuesday 22 November at 6pm to introduce the film and also to participate in a 20 min Q&A following the film.

The movie is directed by Andrei Zvyaginstev, whose previous films **The Return** and **The Banishment** have received great critical success.

"**Elena** allowed me to explore a central idea of modern days: survival of the fittest, survival at any cost. Deep down inside, each human being is devastatingly alone. Solitude is the beginning, the end, and the thin red line that runs through the life of every human being. Humanitarian ideas in the modern world are being devalued as we speak leading people to turn inwards, gravitating towards their ancient



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instincts." Director, Andrey Zvyaginstev.

Once Upon a Time in Anatolia is as much an experience as it is a film. As brooding as it is beautiful. In the film, revered Turkish director Nuri Bilge Ceylan (**Distant, Three Monkeys**) tells the story of a group of men including Doctor Cemal (Yilmaz Erdogan, **Vizontele**) and Commissar Naci (Yilmaz Erdogan, **Görünmeyen**) who set out upon the Anatolian steppes in search of a dead body. What follows is a miraculous moral tale of the human condition that must be seen to be believed.

Once Upon A Time In Anatolia producer (**Zeynep Özbatur**) and cinematographer (**Gohkan Tiryaki**) will attend the Gold Coast Film Festival on Wednesday 23 November at 6.30pm to introduce the film and participate in a 20 min Q&A session following the film. The film is nominated for Best Feature Film, Achievement in Directing, Achievement in Cinematography and Best Screenplay at the 2011 Asia Pacific Screen Awards.

Nuri says that the film is based not only on memory, but on experience of a place where bureaucrats must isolate themselves from the small communities they live in so to remain objective. "...it's not based on my memories, it's more than that. My co-scriptwriter was one of those people as well. He's a doctor and in Turkey when you get your license you're required to spend at least two years working in remote places in Anatolia. He worked in the town depicted in the film, and had an experience exactly like the one in our story: a murder happened and they spent an entire night looking for the body."

Director, Nuri Bilge Ceylan.

"The pedigree of these two films could not be higher. They are a both wonderful additions to this year's film festival program." Casey Marshall Siemer, Festival Director.

The Gold Coast Film Festival presented by Australia Fair Shopping Centre, will be held November 21-27 at Birch Carroll and Coyle Cinemas at Australia Fair Shopping Centre in Southport. Gold Coast City Council's Film Gold Coast is the major Government sponsor of the event.



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The full program of films and events will be available to view at www.gcfilmfestival.com from October 17. **Tickets on sale NOW!**

The Gold Coast Film Festival: Get Some Action!

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For further information please contact GCOFF National Publicist: **Tracey McMullan** MODE PR Mob: 0405 124 535 or tracey@modepr.com.au

Poster Art, Production Notes and Images for Films are available at www.gcfilmfestival.com