



**BHUTTO, a Piercing Inquiry Into the Elusive Politics of Pakistan and the Life and Assassination of the First Female Prime Minister of a Muslim Country, has U.S. Theatrical Premiere December 3 in NY and LA**

**National roll out follows**

**Special advance screenings November 17 & 30 at 6pm**

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**New York, NY, October 14, 2010 – First Run Features** is pleased to invite you and a guest to a special advance screening of **BHUTTO**, the acclaimed new film by Duane Baughman about the life and intrepid political career of Benazir Bhutto, see below to RSVP. **BHUTTO** casts an unblinking lens on the ascent of the first woman ever elected to lead a Muslim state and uncovers the slippery mechanisms and murderous politics that define modern day Pakistan. The current President, Asif Ali Zardari, is Benazir's widower, and her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was Pakistan's first democratically elected president, making Benazir's story and that of Pakistan itself inextricably fused. Perhaps the most strategically important country in the international War on Terror, Pakistan is the recipient of billions of dollars in U.S. aid and is the Muslim world's sole nuclear power. With recent U.S.-Pakistani relations under strain and the fate of American foreign policy hanging in the balance, **BHUTTO** is an essential and in-depth exploration of the country.

An official selection of the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year, **BHUTTO** will have its U.S. theatrical premiere in New York and Los Angeles on December 3<sup>rd</sup> followed by a nationwide roll out. The documentary features interviews with experts, friends and Bhutto family members – frequently offering confrontational and opposing views – including: Asif Ali Zardari, current President of Pakistan; children Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari and Assefa Bhutto Zardari; Pakistan expert, co-author and friend Mark Siegel; Pervez Musharraf, former Pakistani President now living in exile in London, who has announced his intention to regain power; Condoleezza Rice, former U.S. Secretary of State; Peter Galbraith, former U.S. diplomat; Arianna Huffington, Benazir's college friend; sister Sanam Bhutto; niece Fatima Bhutto, and others. And, using newly uncovered never-before-heard audio tapes, **BHUTTO** features Benazir telling her own story in her own voice.

From the heart-pounding opening sequence, **BHUTTO** unravels for the viewer a Pakistan flailing in the throes of Jihad. With a population of 180 million, of which 97% is Muslim, 50% of the country is under 18 years old. And sadly, 60% of its citizens live on under \$2 a day. The sixth largest country in the world, this South Asian nation is a powder-keg with an arsenal of 90 nuclear warheads and an average of three terrorist attacks a week since Bhutto's death in 2007.

Benazir Bhutto, educated at Harvard and then at Oxford, was as beloved by the people of her native Pakistan as she was reviled by the nation's male-dominated military establishment and ruling class. Referred to as the "Kennedy's of Pakistan," privilege, violence, controversy, and assassination remain the hallmarks of her family legacy. Breaking through the draconian social impediments on women, Benazir not only became Prime Minister, but did so by staring down her father's murderer, military strongman Zia ul-Haq, in an epic political showdown. Almost three years after her death by a suicide bomb attack and shooting on December 27, 2007, Benazir remains a polarizing force in the Muslim world, glorified by some for advancing democracy, vilified by others for alleged corruption. Yet, she stands as a symbol of reconciliation and the fight between terrorism and moderation that unfolds on the world stage today. With breathtaking original footage of the most incendiary turning points in Pakistan's

modern history, **BHUTTO** delivers an eye-opening dose of the country's tumultuous 62-year existence, its momentous clashes with India, and the Bhutto family history that runs deep through the DNA of Pakistan's feudal past. The connection to understanding Pakistan can only be made by understanding Benazir's story.

A Duane Baughman Film, **BHUTTO** is directed by Duane Baughman and Johnny O'Hara and produced by Duane Baughman, Mark Siegel, and Arleen Sorkin. **BHUTTO** was produced by Yellow Pad Productions in association with Icon TMI.

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*"A worthy portrait of a phenomenal woman, Bhutto is as thorough a history of the late Pakistani prime minister and her country as one can imagine...not just coherent but exciting."*  
— John Anderson, *Variety*

*"Lively, thorough and involving. The history not just of Benazir Bhutto but also of her star-crossed family and the Pakistan their lives revolved around."*  
— Kenny Turan, *Los Angeles Times*

**Special Advance Screening**

Magno Screening Room, 729 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, between 48<sup>th</sup> & 49<sup>th</sup> Streets, New York, NY:  
Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm (Review 2)  
Tuesday, November 30 at 6:00pm (Review 1)

**RSVP**: Julia Pacetti, JMP Verdant, jmpverdant@earthlink.net, (917) 584-7846

**For downloadable photos and press notes, go to:**  
[http://firstrunfeatures.com/bhutto\\_press.html](http://firstrunfeatures.com/bhutto_press.html)