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**ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING FILM PRODUCER JEREMY THOMAS
TO RECEIVE COOLIDGE AWARD APRIL 16-17**

**HISTORIC COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE'S ANNUAL CEREMONY
HONORS ORIGINAL AND OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CINEMA**

Boston, MA - The Coolidge Corner Theatre announces internationally award-winning British film producer **Jeremy Thomas** as the recipient of the 2008 **Coolidge Award**, to be celebrated April 16-17. Thomas will arrive in Brookline to accept the honor and to participate in related festivities including tributes from colleagues, a conversation with the audience and a panel discussion. Selected screenings from his filmography are being scheduled throughout late March and April. Currently Thomas is working as Executive Producer with German director Wim Wenders on *The Palermo Shooting*, now in post-production and featuring Giovanna Mezzogiorno, Dennis Hopper, Patti Smith and Lou Reed. He is also currently producing *Franklyn*, the debut feature film from director Gerald McMorrow.

Jeremy Thomas has produced over forty films and collaborated with such renowned film directors as Bernardo Bertolucci (*The Last Emperor*, *The Sheltering Sky*, *Little Buddha*), Nicolas Roeg (*Insignificance*, *Bad Timing*, *Eureka*), Nagisa Oshima (*Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence*), Julien Temple (*The Great Rock and Roll Swindle*), David Cronenberg (*Naked Lunch*, *Crash*) and Terry Gilliam (*Tideland*). In 1986 *The Last Emperor*, his epic achievement with Bertolucci, won a sweeping nine categories at the Academy Awards including "Best Picture." The Coolidge has scheduled a screening of *The Last Emperor* (which spotlights stunning cinematography by previous Coolidge Award recipient Vittorio Storaro) on March 24, kicking off retrospective screenings to be announced shortly. Among these and many other cinematic masterpieces, Thomas also produced the critically acclaimed *Sexy Beast* (2000), directed by Jonathan Glazer. Thomas produced and made his directorial debut with *All The Little Animals* (1998) starring John Hurt and Christian Bale. He began his film career in the early 1970s, most notably as film editor for director Ken Loach on *A Misfortune* (1973) and as assistant film editor on *Family Life* (1971).

In addition to his many film credits, Thomas is widely respected and revered in the international film community. He served as Chairman of the British Film Institute from 1992 until 1997 and is the recipient of many awards throughout the world, including the Michael Balcon British Academy Achievement and the European Achievement in World Cinema, Prix Screen International, European Film Awards 2006.

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He has served as President of the jury at Tokyo, San Sebastian, Berlin Film Festivals and Cannes (Un Certain Regard) in addition to participating on the main jury at Cannes. He was made a Life Fellow of the British Film Institute in 2000.

The annual **Coolidge Award**, recognizing a selected film artist whose work advances the spirit of original and challenging cinema, was launched in 2004. Previous honorees are film editor Thelma Schoonmaker in 2007 (*Raging Bull, Goodfellas, The Departed*), actress Meryl Streep in 2006 (*Sophie's Choice, Silkwood, The Devil Wears Prada*), Italian cinematographer Vittorio Storaro in 2005 (*Apocalypse Now, The Conformist, Reds*) and Chinese director Zhang Yimou in 2004 (*Hero, The House of Flying Daggers, Raise the Red Lantern*).

The Coolidge Corner Theatre is one of the nation's most prominent independently operated movie theaters, run by the not-for-profit Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation. Over the past several years, the theater has won numerous awards and recognitions for creative and innovative programming. In 2008 the Coolidge was among select distinguished cultural organizations to be awarded significant funding from the Cultural Facilities Fund, a program administered by MassDevelopment and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Over the past five years the Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation completed a successful 2.5 million dollar capital campaign supporting upgrades, renovations and a stunning restoration to the theater's original Art Deco detail. The annual Coolidge Award represents a continued commitment to celebrate bold contributions to cinema and a recognition of the theater's role in building audiences for this important work.

The Coolidge Award 2008 is made possible by the generous support of the Patricia Larsen Foundation, Scott Rosenberg, Susan and Robert Stoller, Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, Elizabeth Driehaus, LEF New England, Chobee Hoy Associates Real Estate, Inc., and Massachusetts Cultural Council. Additional support continues to grow from numerous individuals, sponsors and community-based businesses. More details about the Coolidge Award festivities will be announced in the coming weeks. The Coolidge Corner Theatre is located at 290 Harvard Street in the heart of Coolidge Corner, Brookline, Massachusetts. For information on programming, call 617-734-2500, or visit the website at www.coolidge.org.

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