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**FILMRISE ACQUIRES NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTION
RIGHTS TO EMMY AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR
ALLISON OTTO'S FEATURE-LENGTH
TRUE-CRIME DOCUMENTARY
"THE THIEF COLLECTOR"**

From the Producer of "Won't You Be My Neighbor"

- 2022 SXSW Grand Jury Nominee -

"An art-heist documentary with an 'Oh. My. God.' factor" – Variety

- Film Features Glenn Howerton

Co-Creator, Director, Writer and Star of "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"

[Click Here](#) for Trailer

New York, NY – March 22, 2023 – FilmRise, the New York-based film and television studio and streaming network, has acquired North American distribution rights to the true-crime documentary feature film "**The Thief Collector**" from Emmy Award-winning director Allison Otto (*"The Love Bugs"*). The film was produced by Caryn Capotosto (Museum & Crane), Jill Latiano Howerton and Joshua Kunau (Roots Productions) with XTR. Bryn Mooser, Kathryn Everett, Justin Lacob, Tony Hsieh, John Boccardo, Derek Esplin and Andy Hsieh are the film's Executive Producers. The SXSW Grand Jury nominated documentary follows the true story of one of the most elaborate art heists of the 20th century, the theft of "Woman-Ochre," Willem de Kooning's iconic painting, and the eccentric couple – both schoolteachers – at the center of the heist.

Einhorn states, “We are confident streaming audiences will be drawn to Allison Otto’s new film as it uniquely combines the strong appeal and captivating nature of crime documentaries together with the true story of one of the most audacious art heists in history, making it irresistible. We are also always thrilled to bring premium true crime stories by stellar independent filmmakers to our streaming offerings in the genre so we can reach even broader audiences.”

Synopsis

It was one of the most audacious and puzzling art thefts of a generation; in 1985, Willem de Kooning’s seminal work, “Woman-Ochre,” was brazenly sliced from its frame and stolen off the walls of the University of Arizona Museum of Art, disappearing into the desert. Over thirty years later, in a remote town in New Mexico, the \$160 million dollar painting was rediscovered in the unlikeliest of places – the home of an eccentric married couple with a keen eye for great works but a very unconventional method of collecting them.

“**The Thief Collector**” had its world premiere at the 2022 SXSW Film Festival where it was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize. It was also nominated for the Ad Hoc Docs Competition at the 2022 Cleveland International Film Festival.

The deal was negotiated by Gabriel Gazoul, Director of Acquisitions, New Release for FilmRise and Eric Sloss of Cinetic Media on behalf of the filmmakers.

About XTR

XTR is a premium global nonfiction entertainment studio. With a focus on audience appeal and a commitment to artistry, the award-winning studio works with outstanding creators to produce, distribute, finance, and develop films, series, and podcasts. XTR has a world-class production facility, XTR Studios, on the Eastside of Los Angeles that includes production and post-production facilities, a sound stage, and recording studio. Since its inception in 2019, XTR has produced and financed over 80 documentaries, including “They Call Me Magic,” on AppleTV+; MTV Documentary Films’ Oscar-nominated “Ascension”; and the Emmy and Peabody award-winning “76 Days.” In 2021, XTR launched DOCUMENTARY+, an AVOD platform and FAST channel that brings the

best in nonfiction film and television to over 80 million households in the US and nearly every country globally.

About FilmRise

FilmRise is a Brooklyn-based film and television studio and operator of the FilmRise Streaming Network, the world's largest independently owned portfolio of ad-supported streaming apps and FAST channels. Founded in 2012 by veteran producers and financiers Danny Fisher, Jack Fisher and Alan Klingenstein, FilmRise is a recognized market leader and innovator at the forefront of analytics-led curation and distribution. The company offers over 50,000 licensed and originally produced scripted and unscripted feature films and television episodes across all genres, including Gordon Ramsay's HELL'S KITCHEN and KITCHEN NIGHTMARES; hit culinary battle series, IRON CHEF beloved Stephen J Cannell series 21 JUMP STREET, HUNTER, BOOKER RENEGADE, and more; the Robert Stack-hosted true crime series UNSOLVED MYSTERIES; high-tech documentary crime series like FORENSIC FILES; American classic TV series THE RIFLEMAN, THAT GIRL and THE DICK VAN DYKE SHOW; long-standing British favorites such as PEEP SHOW, SHAMELESS, LINE OF DUTY, MIDSOMER MURDERS and DOC MARTIN; as well as popular family series HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN and HEARTLAND.

The company acquires and distributes an impressive movie library of award-winning, critically acclaimed feature films and documentaries, including the Tribeca Film Festival Best Documentary winner and three-time Emmy nominee REWIND; true crime feature thriller MY FRIEND DAHMER starring Ross Lynch and Anne Heche; two-time Spirit Award-nominated drama DRIVEWAYS, starring Hong Chau and Brian Dennehy; SURGE, the Sundance World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award winner starring Ben Whishaw; and the Sundance Grand Jury Prize-winning feature film THE MISEDUCATION OF CAMERON POST starring Chloë Grace Moretz.

FilmRise Original productions include true crime series BLOODLINE DETECTIVES HOSTED BY NANCY GRACE and MEET, MARRY, MURDER HOSTED BY MICHELLE TRACHTENBERG as well as the PBS documentary series ICON: MUSIC THROUGH THE LENS. For more information, go to: filmrise.com

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