

**DI BONAVENTURA PRODUCTIONS AND
SPITFIRE PICTURES JOIN FORCES ON *GALILEO***

Los Angeles, November 5, 2003 – Lorenzo di Bonaventura’s di Bonaventura Productions and Guy East and Nigel Sinclair’s Spitfire Pictures announced today that they will join forces to produce a theatrical motion picture based on the life of the famous 17th century scientist Galileo Galilei.

The project which is tentatively entitled *Galileo* was pitched to di Bonaventura and Spitfire by writer Vera Blasi, who will write the screenplay. Vera Blasi is best known for her screenplay *Woman on Top*.

Galileo is a tale of an extraordinary man caught in the potentially fatal battle between science and religious dogma. He is credited with developing the telescope and he was an ardent supporter of Copernicus’ theory that the Earth traveled around the Sun – for which the Catholic Church branded him a heretic. The History Channel considers Galileo one of the 100 most important people of the millennium and Time Magazine credits him as being one of the most influential men in history.

Di Bonaventura brought the project to Spitfire who will co-develop the project with di Bonaventura as part of its non-exclusive first look deal with Intermedia. Alex Brunner will oversee the project for Spitfire.

“Vera Blasi has demonstrated the ability to tackle complex characters,” stated Lorenzo di Bonaventura. “When she brought me this story I knew the combination of Galileo’s incredible and historically compelling life combined with Vera’s storytelling ability would give us a great movie. We are very happy that Nigel Sinclair and Spitfire share our enthusiasm and we look forward to working with them.”

Adds Sinclair, “*A Man for All Seasons* was one of my favorite movies of all time. When Lorenzo invited us to meet Vera, and we heard her pitch we felt that this movie could take us back into that territory. We love Vera’s work and we are excited to combine with Lorenzo and her on this project.”

Guy East and Nigel Sinclair’s Spitfire Pictures is an independent feature film and television production company. Currently, Spitfire is developing an eclectic slate of high profile feature and television projects. Their first feature, *Masked and Anonymous*, was released by Sony Classics in the United States on July 25th. They are currently producing the definitive anthology of Bob Dylan’s life up to 1966, being directed by the acclaimed director Martin Scorsese and co-produced with the BBC and Bob Dylan’s company. Sinclair and East’s long list of executive producer credits include *Sliding Doors*, *The Wedding Planner*, *Iris*, *Life of David Gale*, and the box office smash hit *Terminator 3, The Rise of the Machines*.

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