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For immediate release

BRIGHT PICTURES UK options film rights to
The English American, a novel by Alison Larkin
Larkin to adapt into screenplay; Roger Goldby to direct

Producer Sarah Sulick of Bright Pictures announced today that she has signed an agreement to option the film rights to Alison Larkin's bestselling comic novel about a British adoptee's identity crisis and the search for her American birth parents which leads her to the Big Apple. The book – published by Simon and Schuster in the US – was released in hardback last year and the paperback will be released on November 17th on the back of a nationwide publicity tour including TV, radio and other public appearances.

The English American sprang from Larkin's hit autobiographical one-woman show of the same name, last seen in the UK at the Soho Theatre as part of the London Comedy Festival. The Times called it "Hugely entertaining, marvellously light-footed."

The novel tells the story of 28-year-old Pippa Dunn, an untidy, cheerful bundle of energy who, like Larkin herself, was adopted into a loving, proper English family. When she discovers that her birth parents are from the American South, she moves state-side to meet them and learns the real meaning of "nature versus nurture" and "culture clash." She ends up in NYC, where she unexpectedly finds true love – and a new vocation as a cabaret performer.

Roger Goldby (*The Waiting Room*) is attached to direct. Goldby said of the book: "It's a wonderful uplifting story which clearly has all the right ingredients and potential to make a brilliant film. Pippa is such a strong central character – her journey to find herself is beautifully drawn and the book keeps you on the edge of your seat wanting to know how it will all turn out. I intend to make sure the film does the same!"

"We've been pursuing Alison's book for over a year now and are thrilled to have closed the deal", says producer Sulick, "It's not often that you come across a property that is genuinely transatlantic in concept and with such a pertinent issue at its heart. As an Anglo-American myself, I instantly connected to Pippa, and her quest for love and a place in the world".

Goldby and Sulick's previous collaboration, *THE WAITING ROOM* (2008), was released by Lionsgate in the UK and IFC Films in the US (DVD will be available Spring 2010 in the US). Critics called the film "irresistibly engaging" (*BBC Radio 1*), "funny and touching"

(*Variety*), "intelligent and well-observed" (*Sunday Express*), and "Better than Sex & the City!" (*The Culture Show*).

Author Larkin is currently on a publicity tour to promote *The English American's* paperback release. Early reviews have called the book "funny, charming and poignant – the kind that you can't resist reading in a single day." (*Chicago Sun-Times*). It was chosen as *Vogue's* "Most Powerful Book of the Season"; *Family Circle's* "Best Beach Read"; and *Redbook's* "Book Club Pick of the Month". It is a bestselling audio book, recently selected by Audible as number two on their list of "Top 20 All-Time Great Audiobooks Read by Authors".

Larkin – also a successful comedienne – has been commissioned to write the film script for Bright Pictures, which she will commence in early 2010. She says "I am truly delighted that my novel found its way across the pond to Bright Pictures in the UK. Roger Goldby is simply a wonderful director and will bring out both the humour and pathos of the book. I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to write the screenplay myself and really look forward to taking this story to the big screen".

Bright Pictures is a feature film company founded and jointly managed by producer Sarah Sulick and Oscar-nominated writer/director Roger Goldby. Bright Pictures' primary aim is to develop and produce contemporary stories by original voices in a variety of genres that will reach a mainstream cinema audience. The company is currently packaging its next project – a road movie called *The Time of Their Lives*, written and directed by Goldby – to shoot summer 2010. Sir Tim Rice is executive producing and Lucy Bevan (*An Education*) is casting.

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