



OUAT MEDIA AND ELEVATION PICTURES ENTER DISTRIBUTION PARTNERSHIP

**Catalogue of selected internationally-acclaimed short films to be released
on iTunes & Apple TV**

Press Release

September 24, 2021

TORONTO, ON — **Ouat Media** today announced a partnership with **Elevation Pictures**, linking the Toronto-based Academy Award winning short film sales company with Canada's largest film distributor. Together the two acclaimed companies will release selected short films from Ouat Media's catalogue for sale on iTunes & Apple TV, including this week's releases of 2021 Sundance Grand Jury Prize Winner LIZARD (dir. Akinola Davies Jr), and 2020 Canadian Screen Award Winner for Best Live Action Short Drama, PICK (dir. Alicia K. Harris).

"At Ouat Media we have the privilege of representing some of the world's best short films, and we're thrilled that Elevation Pictures shares our appreciation for the creatively daring, bold and diverse voices found in short film today," said **Inga Diev, General Manager, Ouat Media**.

"We're excited to work with one of the leading short film distributors to bring their titles to a global audience. Ouat Media's films speak to important issues and themes that resonate with people everywhere." said **Omar Chalabi, Director of TV & Digital, Elevation Pictures**.

PICK (10 min, Canada, dir. Alicia K. Harris) is the story of a young girl who wears her afro to school and must deal with the unexpected consequences. The film has received the 2020 Canadian Screen Award for Best Live Action Drama. Director Alicia K. Harris was recently announced as the recipient of Reelworld's 2021 Trailblazer Award, recognizing outstanding achievements by racially diverse professionals in the Canadian entertainment industry. Alicia's work is dedicated to sharing the unique stories of Black women and girls, and showcasing the light and joy in Black people.

LIZARD (18 min, UK/Nigeria, dir. Akinola Davies Jr.) is the story of a resilient eight-year-old girl witnessing the underbelly in and around a megachurch in Lagos, Nigeria. The film has recently garnered attention at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival (Winner: Short Film Grand Jury Prize), and the 2021 BAFTA Awards (Nominee: British Short Film).

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About Ouat Media

Based out of Toronto, Canada, Ouat Media specializes in distribution and worldwide sales of short films, with a particular focus on titles by industry's rising stars premiering at the world's leading film festivals. To date, Ouat Media has represented 3 Academy Award winners and 12 Academy Award nominees, including *Feeling Through*, a recent nominee in the Best Live Action Short Film category at the 93rd Academy Awards. A wholly-owned subsidiary of the independent Canadian media group Channel Zero, Ouat Media is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year.

About Elevation Pictures

Founded in 2013 with finance partner Teddy Schwarzman of Black Bear Pictures, Elevation Pictures has established itself as one of Canada's leading film and television companies. Elevation's team of seasoned production and distribution executives are committed to bringing an elevated and robust film and television slate to audiences.

Elevation Pictures is known for releasing award-winning films, including Academy Award Best Screenplay winner *The Imitation Game* starring Benedict Cumberbatch; Academy Award Best Picture winner, *Moonlight*; Academy Award Best Actress winner Brie Larson starring in *Room*; and Academy Award Best Actor winner Anthony Hopkins starring in *The Father*.