



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NEW SAUDI PRODUCTION COMPANY, RED PALM PICTURES,  
IS ANNOUNCED AND KICKS OFF WITH  
TAWFIK ALZAIDI MULTI-PICTURE DEVELOPMENT DEAL**

**(Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – 27 November, 2023)** - Former Universal Pictures executive Paul Chesney announced the creation of Red Palm Pictures today, ahead of the upcoming Red Sea International Film Festival. Based in Riyadh, the new privately owned production company will develop and produce original feature film, TV and documentary content for theatrical and streaming release in MENA and around the world. Paul Chesney will head up Red Palm Pictures as Chief Executive Officer, in addition to the recently launched distribution company TwentyOne Entertainment. Both of these new production and distribution businesses will operate together under one roof.

Saudi writer and director Tawfik Alzaidi (NORAH) has agreed a multi-picture development deal with the company, starting with four projects. The first project will be the feature film THURAYA, an action and adventure drama, written and directed by Tawfik Alzaidi. The film is currently in development and scheduled to start shooting in late 2024. Tawfik Alzaidi's debut feature film, NORAH, is in competition at the Red Sea Film Festival and will have its world premiere at the event on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023. For further information on NORAH, please visit [www.norahmovie.com](http://www.norahmovie.com)

“There is a new wave of filmmaking in Saudi Arabia right now and remarkable undiscovered talent, both behind and in front of the camera,” said Paul Chesney, CEO, Red Palm Pictures. “Our goal is to be at the forefront of this growth and

transformation and to nurture those filmmakers and give them local stories from within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as international co-productions. I am thrilled to be working with the visionary Tawfik Alzaidi and very excited to be helping him bring his incredible imagination and ideas to life.”

Tawfik Alzaidi added “I could not be more excited to enter this partnership with Paul Chesney and Red Palm Pictures who understand and value my dreams as a filmmaker in the new Saudi Arabia. My ambition is to make important and memorable stories with limitless imagination and to establish Saudi Arabia as a real creative force in the global film community.”

Tawfik Alzaidi is considered to be a leading and influential member of Saudi Arabia’s new generation of filmmakers. He wrote, directed and produced his feature film NORAH for the big screen, with the aim to break away from Saudi Arabia’s YouTube and TV culture. He began directing his own short films in 2006 and the short film "The Silence" won Gulf Short Film Award in Muscat IFF in 2009 during the country’s conservatism era.

Paul Chesney has previously held senior management roles at major entertainment companies, such as Universal and Disney, as well as new technology start-ups and new studio developments, overseeing distribution and day-to-day business operations, driving company transformation and building and managing functional teams.

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**About Red Palm Pictures:**

Based in Riyadh, Red Palm Pictures is a Saudi cinematic film and series production company that develops and produces original content for theatrical release and streaming, both for local and international distribution. The company collaborates with creative talent from around the world to ensure the highest standard of storytelling and production, writing, developing and creating films, TV

series and documentaries. Red Palm Pictures' aim is to provide audiences with premium entertainment and be the home for great filmmakers to express their vision and thrive in an environment that inspires and produces exciting and thought-provoking content for all.

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