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## 'Dark' sees light at First Independent

By Gregg Goldstein

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NEW YORK -- First Independent Pictures will handle North American theatrical distribution for Chen Shi-Zheng's dramatic thriller "Dark Matter," starring Liu Ye, Aidan Quinn and Meryl Streep.

Based on a true story, the film follows a Chinese science student (Liu Ye) invited by a professor (Quinn) to travel to the U.S. to study for his Ph.D., but the pressures of his new environment cause him to slowly unravel. Streep plays his mentor.

The film will be released in April, followed by a DVD release via a home video deal that is now being finalized. "Dark Matter" won the Alfred P. Sloan award when it premiered at last year's Sundance Film Festival.

The film was earlier slated as one of the first releases from executive producer Kirk D'Amico's Myriad Pictures. Janet Yang, Mary Salter, Andrea Miller produced the film, and Linda Chiu executive produced alongside D'Amico.

The deal was negotiated by First independent head Gary Rubin with Josh Braun of Submarine Entertainment.

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