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NEWS RELEASE

Subject: "LOST HORIZON"
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FRANK CAPRA'S RESTORED, UNCUT "LOST HORIZON" TO BE REISSUED

Frank Capra's acclaimed 1937 masterpiece, "Lost Horizon," starring Ronald Colman, Jane Wyatt, John Howard, Margo, Thomas Mitchell, Edward Everett Horton, Isabel Jewell, H.B. Warner and Sam Jaffe, will be presented in its original, uncut 132-minute version by Columbia Classics. The film will play in limited engagements across the country during the summer, including a San Francisco opening on July 2nd at the Castro Theatre.

Based on James Hilton's novel, "Lost Horizon" stars Ronald Colman as a young English diplomat who, along with a group of other passengers, survives a plane crash and comes across an idyllic Utopian community hidden away in the Himalayas of Tibet. "Lost Horizon" was the winner of two Academy Awards from a field of seven nominations (including Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor, Best Art Direction and Best Score).

A re-issue of Columbia Classics, "Lost Horizon" is presented as a restoration project of The National Center for Film and Video Preservation at the American Film Institute. The restored version is the result of thirteen years of intensive research and reconstruction by Robert Gitt, now with the U.C.L.A. Film Archives.

Due to the faith that Harry Cohn (then Vice President of Production at Columbia) had in their 'whiz-kid' director, Frank Capra, "Lost Horizon" was produced at a staggering budget of \$4 million in 1937 (which would be the equivalent of a \$45 million feature film today).

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"Lost Horizon" was released in only three markets in its original 132-minute roadshow version, which was immediately cut to 123-minutes for standard release. In 1941, a shortened version of 110-minutes with the title of "Lost Horizon of Shangri-La" was re-issued and circulated widely amongst the armed services during the first years of World War II. It was only then that the film finally broke even financially.

A subsequent re-release in 1947, with the original title and a running time of 118-minutes, enjoyed moderate success. With the onslaught of commercial television in the early fifties, however, the truncated 110-minute version of "Lost Horizon of Shangri-La" became the standard television syndication fare into the '70's.

With the release of the musical version of "Lost Horizon" in 1973, the original "Lost Horizon" was withdrawn from television syndication and never re-entered. The 118-minute version of "Lost Horizon" (the 1947 reissue version) has received extremely limited play in revival theatres across the country ever since.

The restoration of "Lost Horizon" is the result of a 12-year effort involving a worldwide search of archival film vaults and the painstaking matching and repair of footage from all surviving versions of the film.

In 1969, Columbia Pictures offered a collection of nitrate prints to the American Film Institute Theatre to be used for screening purposes. "Lost Horizon" was one of these nitrate prints, and it was discovered that the film ran 116 minutes. The Theatre turned the print over to the A.F.I. Archives, whose Technical Officer at that time was Robert Gitt. He spent initial weeks comparing different prints of "Lost Horizon" as well as fine grain master positives of the film provided by Columbia. This yielded a print about 10 minutes longer than the version seen on television, and one of much better overall quality.

Following this beginning, a worldwide search was initiated. With the cooperation of the International Federation of Film, and the on-going help of Columbia Pictures, all known surviving versions

were located and compared for variations by Gitt. This included material on the film held by the National Film Archives in London, where a full-length soundtrack was located, along with an additional three minutes of missing footage. In Canada, Columbia located a 16mm television print of the film, dubbed in French, that also yielded more precious minutes of the original version.

Now, for the first time in 49 years, Capra's epic adventure will be released in its full-length version, exactly as Capra filmed it.

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Preserved by The National Center for Film and Video Preservation at The American Film Institute. Restoration directed by Robert Gitt, with the cooperation and assistance of The British Film Institute; Columbia Classics; The Library of Congress, Division of Motion Pictures, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound; and, the U.C.L.A. Film, Television and Radio Archives.

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Additional Publicity Materials Available

Press Kits (original 1937 version with updates)
Black and White Photography
3/4" film clips