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# Studio Movie Grill Honors Vets and Their Families To Commemorate Veterans Day

Special Screenings of MIDWAY - Lionsgate's New WWII Film Include SMG's Movies + Meals Program

**Dallas, TX – November 07, 2019**: Studio Movie Grill (SMG) continues it's collaboration with Lionsgate Entertainment on its Movies+Meals program by offering multiple screenings in California and Texas of the highly anticipated Roland Emmerich directed World War II feature film *MIDWAY* (in theaters 11/08/19). The studio's support will include special outreach screenings for members of the Wounded Warriors Project and the Veterans in Media and Entertainment groups in California and Texas to acknowledge and thank veterans and their families for their loyal service.

In keeping with its mission to open hearts and minds, one story at a time, the SMG Access™ initiative was launched nationwide last summer and is the only theater-loyalty program focused on positively impacting underserved children and members of the local community. Through their ticket purchases, along with loyalty rewards, SMG guests are able to assist SMG in offering movies and meals to local nonprofits and under-resourced community members with the hope of harnessing the power of movies to inspire and change lives. Since the program's inception in June 2018, multiple studios have joined the movement by offering screenings and giving SMG the opportunity to give back more than 40,000 Movies + Meals during the program's first year.

"SMG is enormously grateful for the continued partnership with Lionsgate and their ongoing and generous support of our Movies+Meals program, especially for these opening weekend screenings of *MIDWAY* honoring those who served our vets this Veterans Day," said Brian Schultz, Founder & CEO. "As this film recounts the unforgettable story of the Battle of Midway, as told through the experiences of the WWII leaders and the sailors who fought it, showcasing this historical moment will allow a new generation of audiences the opportunity to witness this legendary battle it as is a powerful teaching opportunity."

Directed by Roland Emmerich (*White House Down, Independence Day, Godzilla*) and starring Ed Skrein, Patrick Wilson, Luke Evans, Aaron Eckhart, Nick Jonas and Etushi Toyokawa, *MIDWAY* centers on the Battle of Midway, a clash between the American fleet and the Imperial Japanese Navy which marked a pivotal turning point in the Pacific Theater during WWII. The film, based on the real-life events of this heroic feat, tells the story of the leaders and soldiers who used their instincts, fortitude and bravery to overcome the odds. The film also features Tadanobu Asano, Luke Kleintank, Jun Kunimura, Darren Criss, Keean Johnson, Alexander Ludwig, with Mandy Moore, Dennis Quaid and Woody Harrelson.

Said Will Preuss, SVP of In-Theatre Marketing at Lionsgate, "We are delighted to support SMG's efforts by offering screenings of *MIDWAY* to our valiant veterans groups and look forward to other opportunities year round where we might help to help provide hope to underserved children in their communities and to join SMG guests in supporting purposeful outreach and a loyalty program designed to give back to local community members through Movies + Meals. *MIDWAY* is a powerful

film and underscores the importance of remembering our history. We can't think of a better partner to help spread that message of support and empowerment than SMG."

The special screenings of *MIDWAY* for invited veterans groups will take place at theaters in Texas on 11/7 and on Veterans Day (11/11) at the newest SMG location in Glendale, CA.

The Wounded Warriors Project is the beneficiary of the screenings in Texas. Since 2003, the Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) has been meeting the growing needs of warriors, their families, and caregivers – helping them achieve their highest ambition.

Members of the Veterans in Media and Entertainment (VME) and their families will celebrate Veteran's Day at SMG Glendale, CA. Founded in 2012 as a grassroots movement and a 501(c)3, VME is a professional association of U.S. military veterans working in, or aspiring to work in, media and entertainment.

Studio Movie Grill (SMG) is the leader of the in-theater dining concept operating 333 screens in 10 states nationwide. For the past 20 years, committed to making a difference in the communities it serves, SMG has contributed millions of dollars as part of its expansive outreach programs. SMG's legacy programs include Special Needs Screenings, its Chefs for Children program and an annual Opening Hearts & Minds Award, which strives to help families and acknowledge local heroes. SMG Access™ further differentiates Studio Movie Grill and allows loyal guests to actively participate in helping support its mission. Going to the movies has never been more meaningful and loyal guests can join SMG on its mission to impact a million lives.

## **About Studio Movie Grill**

Established in 1998, Studio Movie Grill ("SMG") modernized the traditional movie-going experience by combining first-run movies with full-service, in-theater dining. SMG has swiftly grown to 333 screens in 10 states with further expansion planned. SMG was named to Inc. Magazine's List of "Fastest Growing Private Companies" three years in a row, placed 12<sup>th</sup> in Box Office Magazine's Giants of the Industry in 2018 with key films grossing as high as #4 in North America. Honoring its commitment to Opening Hearts and Minds, One Story at a Time™, SMG's legacy programs include Special Needs Screenings, Chefs for Children program and annual Opening Hearts & Minds Award, which strive to help families and acknowledge local heroes. In June 2018, SMG created a unique loyalty program, SMG Access™ which, as loyal guests earn rewards, allows them to join SMG in offering movies and meals for underserved community members. To date, this program has offered over 40,000 movies and meals. For additional information, visit www.studiomoviegrill.com.

#### About MIDWAY

MIDWAY centers on the Battle of Midway, a clash between the American fleet and the Imperial Japanese Navy which marked a pivotal turning point in the Pacific Theater during WWII. The film, based on the real-life events of this heroic feat, tells the story of the leaders and sailors who used their instincts, fortitude and bravery to overcome the odds. It was directed by Roland Emmerich.

**ONE-LINE:** The story of the Battle of Midway, told through the experiences of the WWII leaders and sailors who fought it.

Studio: Lionsgate Entertainment

Rating: PG-13 - For sequences of war violence and related images,

language and smoking.

Release Date: Nov. 8, 2019

Official Website: <a href="https://midway.movie">https://midway.movie</a>

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