

**For Immediate Release:**

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**SAVINI AND CATALDI-TASSONI JOIN CAST OF *THE BAGGAGE CLAIM*,  
BANSHEE'S SEVERIN TO CONTRIBUTE ORIGINAL SCORE**

**Monessen, PA., May 26, 2010** - Legendary make-up effects artist, filmmaker and actor Tom Savini has accepted the leading role in director Irene Miracle's short film, *The Baggage Claim*. Based on the screenplay by Tim Lucas, *The Baggage Claim* is a production of The Factory Digital Filmmaking Program at Douglas with program director Robert Tinnell and film student Jason "Cartman" Baker serving as producers.

Savini's ties with the Factory run deep, as the film school is part of the Douglas Education Center in Monessen, PA, alongside the Tom Savini Special Make-up Effects Program. "Whenever possible I try to work alongside the students at DEC, but in this instance it was the material that attracted me - it was simply too good to pass up. Viewers are going to see a different side of me as an actor," said Savini, whose next big-screen appearance is in Robert Rodriguez's *Machete* alongside Robert DeNiro.

"Tom was my all time first choice for our leading man," says director Miracle. "No one has given Tom the chance to show his romantic side, so this will be a page turner for us all. Talk about a director's dream! I'm over the moon!"

Also making a special appearance in the film is actress Coralina Cataldi-Tassoni, best-known for her work in Dario Argento's *Opera*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Mother of Tears*, as well as Lamberto Bava's *Demons 2: The Nightmare Continues* and *Ghost Son*. She recently gave a tour de force performance in Simona & Claudio Simonetti's *The Dirt*.

Coralina is looking forward to this wonderful adventure. "I am honored that two very gifted artists like Tim Lucas, whom I consider a brother, and Irene Miracle called me on board to create something special alongside Robert Tinnell and The Factory Digital Filmmaking Program at Douglas Education Center. This is a chance to be part of a memorable experience and witness a new generation of film-makers as they go towards their bright artistic future."

Providing an original score for *The Baggage Claim* will be Steven Severin, legendary bassist/songwriter/lyricist of Siouxsie and the Banshees, who will be writing the film's music in collaboration with his wife, American composer Arban Severin. Steven's music has been heard in such films as *Visions of Ecstasy*, *The Craft*, *Showgirls* and *Batman Returns*.

"Irene and I are humbled and inspired to have attracted performers of such stature to our project," said screenwriter Lucas. "These are artists we've admired for years, and it's thrilling to look forward to working

with them and to be told we're giving them an opportunity to show sides of themselves their past work hasn't allowed them to explore."

"This is precisely the sort of interface between professionals and students we strive for here at The Factory," added Tinnell. "Although I must admit I'm pretty stunned at the caliber of talent we've managed to attract for the production, it represents a tremendous opportunity for these kids." Production on *The Baggage Claim* is scheduled to begin in late July in the studios of The Factory.

For more information on The Factory Digital Filmmaking Program at Douglas Education Center please visit [www.dec.edu](http://www.dec.edu).

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#### **ABOUT DOUGLAS EDUCATION CENTER**

Established in 1904, Douglas Education Center (DEC) is the premier creative career institution located in Monessen, PA. DEC creates an educational atmosphere that not only fosters the highest standards of excellence in all students, but also helps these students develop an awareness of social responsibility and ethical behavior. DEC offers programs in special make-up effects, digital film, illustration, graphic design, cosmetology, medical and business. DEC instructors are industry professionals who have actual working knowledge and experience in the programs in which they teach.

#### **ABOUT THE FACTORY DIGITAL FILMMAKING PROGRAM AT DOUGLAS**

The Factory Digital Filmmaking Program at Douglas is a sixteen-month program that prepares students with the skills to become filmmakers, producers, editors, gaffers, grips, and directors. Students receive hands-on experience with props, wardrobe and sets. This program also prepares students in a variety of other facets of filmmaking including marketing and distribution of finished products. Classes are forming now.