

P R E S S R E L E A S E

CONTACT: Mary Nelson, Communications Manager
• (804) 371-8204 • E-mail: Mnelson@virginia.org

For Immediate Release
January 27, 2003

VIRGINIA FILM OFFICE ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF “GODS AND GENERALS” FILMED IN VIRGINIA

RICHMOND, Va — The feature film “Gods and Generals,” shot on location in Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia, will open nationwide on February 21, 2003. It is a prequel to the acclaimed film “Gettysburg” and stars Stephen Lang as Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, Jeff Daniels as Colonel Joshua Chamberlain and Robert Duvall as Robert E. Lee. It was filmed on location in and near Lexington, Staunton and Winchester, Virginia. The film also features cameo appearances by several U.S. Senators including Senator George Allen from Virginia.

“Gods and Generals” was written, directed and produced by Ron Maxwell of Antietam Filmworks for Ted Turner Pictures and is based on the best-selling novel of the same title by Jeff Shaara. Having more than 150 speaking roles and utilizing thousands of historical interpreters and reenactors, the film is a moving and compelling retelling of the early years of the war from 1861–1863. Several of the scenes were shot using reenactors from the Cedar Creek reenactment in the fall of 2001.

The film begins in Lexington where Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson was a teacher at the Virginia Military Institute. It was in Lexington that he received his military commission, then left for battle leading a group of VMI students to battle. The remainder of “Gods and Generals” concentrates on several of the most fierce and destructive battles of the war including the Virginia battles of First Manassas (summer 1861), Fredericksburg (December 1862) and Chancellorsville (May 1863). Along with the battles and camp life, the film also depicts the everyday lives of the men, women and children whose lives were changed forever by the consequences of war.

The 2000 Virginia General Assembly created the Virginia Civil War Incentive Fund to recruit the film, which generated more than \$5 million in revenue for the state. As part of the agreement with Ted Turner Pictures, a short video presentation about Virginia historic sites will be included in the video and DVD versions of the movie and Virginia will also be featured in other promotional materials. A benefit premiere screening of the film is scheduled for February 18, 2003, in Richmond which will be a fundraiser for historic preservation in Virginia. The first Virginia screening is scheduled for February 13 in Lexington.

All of the Virginia battlefields featured in the film are open to the public as are other historic attractions including the VMI Museum, Stonewall Jackson House in Lexington, State Capitol in Richmond, and numerous buildings in historic Fredericksburg. The Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC) has information on many programs to provide visitors with an opportunity to visit the actual historical locations where the events of the film took place. Special tour packages have been developed and are available through the VTC website. VTC will also be sponsoring a give-away of tour packages through May 2002. For more information, visit the website at www.virginia.org or call the Virginia Tourism Corporation 1-888-CIVIL WAR.

###