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AMANDA PEET STARS IN THE MARCH 29 US DVD DEBUT OF
'ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES' – A MOVING AND HUMOROUS TALE OF
HUMAN EVOLUTION
AVAILABLE FROM MONARCH HOME VIDEO

In the spirit of *The Big Chill*, Robert Weston Ackerman's screenplay, based on his acclaimed off-Broadway play ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES, is brought to life by an ensemble cast of some of the fastest rising stars in film and television. Amanda Peet (*Lot Like Love*, *Melinda Melinda*, *Something's Gotta Give*, *Identity*, *The Whole Nine Yards*) stars along with Elon Gold (*Cheaper by the Dozen*, NBC's "In-Laws"), Jean Louisa Kelly (*Mr. Holland's Opus*, CBS' "Yes, Dear"), Michael Kelly (*Dawn of the Dead*, USA Network's "Kojak"), Jonathan LaPaglia (UPN's "7 Days," "New York Undercover," *Deconstructing Harry*), and Sybil Temchen (*Restaurant*, USA Network's "Kojak"). Winner of the San Diego Film Festival Best Jury Prize and the Golden Medal for Best First Feature at the Houston Film Festival, ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES follows up dozens of film festivals worldwide and a very limited theatrical run with its US DVD debut March 29 on the Monarch Home Video label.

ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES unfolds over a weekend in a summerhouse where six late twenties friends have reunited for the past ten years. The retreat incites a series of life crises that force them to confront their relationships and lives, leading them to discover what it really means to grow up.

Given three out of three stars by the Houston Chronicle, reviewer Brenda Gunter says, "Picture the cast of 'Friends' before its members became household names. Place this new talented cast in a lakeside summer home in upstate New York, and you have the genesis for Robert Weston Ackerman's autobiographical screenplay."

Paul, a Darwin-spouting evolution buff, has invited five college friends, one of whom he married, for annual reunions here for the past nine years. And while he's perfectly happy with the status quo, the other five, including his pregnant wife, pursue their own agendas. One of the six, an attorney who retreats into work after surviving a bout with cancer and a broken relationship, provides the catalyst for provocative conversation. Haunting dream sequences thoughtfully illustrate the group's evolution as they approach

the big 3-0. "If Douglas Coupland (Generation X) had written 'The Big Chill,' this might have been the result," says Gunter.

ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES is a production from Nickoll Arcade Films, an independent production company headed by David Nickoll, recipient of the Sundance Institute's Mark Silverman Fellowship for New Producers. The film is directed by Andres Heinz.

For more information on the film go to www.originofthespeciethemovie.com

ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES

Pre-order date: March 7, 2005

Street date: March 29, 2005

SRP: VHS \$39.95, DVD \$24.95

Rating: "R"

VHS Cat. #: MHV 7707

Pay Per View 90 days/Cable Window: 6 months

MHV Savings Pack save \$15.00/One VHS, two DVDs Cat. # MHV 7709

Format: VHS, DVD, Color

Screeners/Color Art: Avail. upon request

Genre: Drama

Running Time: 90 minutes

DVD Cat. #: MHV 7708