



247 centre street floor 2 nyc ny 10013  
p 212.274.1989 • f 212.274.1644 • <http://www.zeitgeistfilms.com/DVDpressroom>  
For home media requests contact Patrick Higgins at [patrick@zeitgeistfilms.com](mailto:patrick@zeitgeistfilms.com)

## ONE OF THE TOP ANIMATED FEATURES OF 2009! ZEITGEIST RELEASES "A TOWN CALLED PANIC" ON DVD

New York (May 26, 2010) —Based on the Belgian cult TV series **released by Aardman Studios (makers of the legendary *Wallace & Gromit* series)** and one of 2009's most lauded theatrically-released animated films, ***A TOWN CALLED PANIC*** is a hilarious and delightfully wacky stop-motion extravaganza **for children and adults alike.**

Prior to its successful theatrical release in over 75 cities around the country, ***A TOWN CALLED PANIC*** was the first ever stop-motion feature to be officially selected by the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. The film was also the winner of the Fantastic Fest Audience Award in Austin, garnered a César (French Oscar) Nomination, and made the 2009 Oscar Shortlist for Best Animated Feature. ***A TOWN CALLED PANIC* comes to DVD on July 20, 2010.**

***A TOWN CALLED PANIC*** stars three plastic toys named Cowboy, Indian and Horse who share a rambling house in a rural town that never fails to attract the craziest events. Cowboy and Indian's plan to surprise their Horse with a homemade barbeque pit goes awry when the 50 million bricks they accidentally order online show up on their doorstep. This sets off a raucous chain of events as the trio travels to the center of the earth, treks across frozen tundra (complete with giant snowball-throwing robot penguin) and discovers a parallel underwater universe of treacherous, pointy-headed creatures. And with panic a permanent feature of life in this papier-mâché village, will Horse and his equine girlfriend—the flame-tressed music teacher Madame Longray (voiced by sultry French film star Jeanne Balibar)—ever find a quiet moment alone?

Zeitgeist's DVD release of ***A TOWN CALLED PANIC*** boasts an eye-popping digital transfer, created from hi-def elements. Supplemental materials include: *La Fabrique de Panique* (52 mins): A new behind-the-scenes documentary; video interviews with the filmmakers; "Obsessive Compulsive": a new short chosen by the ***PANIC*** filmmakers as the winner of Zeitgeist's Stop-Motion Animation Contest; plus: deleted scenes, test shot comparisons, a production photo gallery and more.

***A TOWN CALLED PANIC* Film/DVD info:** 2009 • 75 minutes • Belgium • Color • In French with optional English subtitles • 2.35:1 original theatrical aspect ratio • Stereo • Not Rated

**Note: Zeitgeist's DVD release of *A Town Called Panic* is available in the U.S. only.**

Celebrating more than 20 years as one of America's preeminent independent distributors, New York-based Zeitgeist Films has built an impressively diverse catalogue of foreign, documentary and arthouse titles by such renowned directors as Todd Haynes, Jan Svankmajer, Peter Greenaway, Abbas Kiarostami, Guy Maddin, Kirby Dick, Atom Egoyan, Agnès Varda, François Ozon, Derek Jarman, Yvonne Rainer, Olivier Assayas, Philippe Garrel, Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Carlos Saura and the Quay Brothers. Notable releases include Oscar winner ***Nowhere in Africa***; blockbuster doc ***The Corporation***; dance doc hit ***Ballets Russes***; Oscar nominee ***Sophie Scholl—The Final Days***; Oscar nominee ***My Country, My Country***; Sundance winner ***Into Great Silence***; 2008 Oscar nominee ***Trouble the Water***; and the 2009 Cannes-winning Kazakh charmer ***Tulpan***. In March 2010, Zeitgeist began its national theatrical rollout of the Italian comic gem ***Mid-August Lunch***, a new film from the creators of ***Gomorrah***. Launched in 2001, Zeitgeist Video has released dozens of discs (praised by *The New York Times*, *Time*, *Entertainment Weekly* and others) including the remastered Two-Disc Edition of Quay shorts, entitled ***PHANTOM MUSEUMS***; a Four-Disc Box Set of Jarman masterworks entitled ***GLITTERBOX***, with Oscar winner Tilda Swinton; an Essential Edition of Assayas' cult fave ***Irma Vep*** starring Maggie Cheung; and ***GARREL X 2***: a two-disc set from post-New Wave master Philippe Garrel, featuring ***I Can No Longer Hear the Guitar*** (1991) and ***Emergency Kisses*** (1989).



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CRITICAL ACCLAIM FOR *A TOWN CALLED PANIC*

**“PURE PLEASURE!** Stéphane Aubier and Vincent Patar have created **A TRULY MAGICAL ANIMATED WORLD**—fantastic, absurd and frantic. As a film-maker, the only honest response to their work is ‘I wish I’d thought of that!’” —Peter Lord, producer of *Wallace & Gromit* and co-founder of Aardman Animation

“Made with **AN ANARCHIC, ANYTHING-GOES SPIRIT**, this is truly a film, not to mention a town, where you never know what's going to happen next.” —Kenneth Turan, *Los Angeles Times*

“It's **A SOPHISTICATED FANTASIA** that adults should enjoy equally. (In other words, it's the perfect family entertainment.)” —Peter Rainer, *Christian Science Monitor*

**“SOMETHING TRULY SPECIAL!** Imaginative visuals that are paraded non-stop before the viewer's dazzled eyes.” —Peter Brunette, *Hollywood Reporter*

**“AIMED DIRECTLY AT YOUR INNER 8-YEAR-OLD, AND IT STRIKES HOME.”**  
—Walter Addiego, *San Francisco Chronicle*

**“ENGAGINGLY LOONY!** Draws on Aardman and Chuck Jones alike.... Energizing for kids and ridiculous for adults.” —Nicolas Rapold, *Film Comment*

**“HILARIOUS!** Brilliantly imaginative and definitely one of my favorite films of the year.”  
—Christopher Campbell, *MTV.com*

**“CRITICS' PICK!** Fast-paced and exciting! An absurdist, chaotic version of the pastoral European countryside.... Reminiscent of *South Park* and *Wallace and Gromit* movies, but less pointed, more poetic.”  
—Mike Hale, *The New York Times*

**“DELIRIOUS. HILARIOUS. ABSOLUTELY ONE-OF-A-KIND.”** — Shawn Levy, *Portland Oregonian*

“Plays as if the directors...smoked very strong hashish and stumbled on a chest of old plastic toys! **HAS A TRANSCENDENT SILLINESS ALL ITS OWN.**” —David Edelstein, *New York magazine*

“Despite a cast of 1,500 plastic toy figures, *A Town Called Panic* was probably made for less than it cost to produce 10 seconds of *Avatar* and is, in some ways, **AN EVEN WEIRDER, MORE INGROWN, RAUCOUS FANTASY.**” —J. Hoberman, *The Village Voice*

**“SPLENDID, SMILE-INDUCING FUN!”** —Steven Rea, *Philadelphia Inquirer*

“So this is what **DEADPAN SLAPSTICK SURREALIST** Belgian stop-motion animation looks like. I like it!”  
—Michael Phillips, *Chicago Tribune*