

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**ACTOR JAMES FRANCO CHOOSES THE OLDE MILL INN IN BASKING RIDGE FOR A SCENE IN HIS NEW FILM, THE BROKEN TOWER**

**(January 4, 2010 Basking Ridge, NJ)** The Olde Mill Inn in Basking Ridge, NJ was recently the site of a scene in the new movie entitled *The Broken Tower*, which stars James Franco. Franco, who also directs the film, has recently been nominated for several major film awards including a Golden Globe for best actor (for the movie *127 Hours*, currently in theaters) and a SAG Award, also for *127 Hours*. This year's Golden Globe awards will telecast live on January 16, 2011, and James Franco has previously won a Golden Globe award for his portrayal of actor James Dean. Franco is scheduled to host the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Academy Awards on February 27, 2011 with Ann Hathaway, and he is currently on the December 2010 cover of GQ Magazine as a GQ Man of the Year. He is also known for his role in the *Spiderman* trilogy, as well as the *Pineapple Express* and opposite Sean Penn in *Milk*.

On a Sunday evening in November, a sizable film crew from the movie company Filmland entered quietly through the back door of the Olde Mill Inn, along with James Franco. They set up their equipment in the library on the third floor. Neither the hotel overnight guests nor the guests at a large party in the ballroom of the Inn realized what was going on.

The scene was shot in Basking Ridge on November 14<sup>th</sup>, but the film company requested that the Olde Mill Inn wait until the rest of the film was completed to mention it publicly. Previous sites for the film included Paris and an historic park in New Jersey; after departing the Olde Mill Inn, the film company left for their next scheduled scene in Mexico.

The Filmland producer had originally requested the Grain House Restaurant as the backdrop for the scene, but this would have involved shutting down the restaurant for the entire evening. Instead, the restaurant was re-created in the Olde Mill Inn, and the library was transformed using furniture and dishes from the Grain House as well as the antiques for which the Olde Mill Inn is known. During the scene, the two main actors also enjoyed a steak dinner that was prepared by the Grain House Restaurant.

*The Broken Tower* recounts the biography of the poet Hart Crane (actually the son of the man who invented Life Savers candy). Crane's wild life and tormented emotions were documented in his extensive correspondence, and his biography was skillfully assembled primarily from these letters by author Paul Mariani. James Franco purchased the rights to develop the biography as a film.

James Franco has risen to major fame after his first big break in the acclaimed but short-lived TV show, *Freaks and Geeks*. The show is a classic for connoisseurs of exceptional, but not necessarily widely accepted, television. Franco is also known as a man who likes to study, giving up acting for a while to pursue an amazingly heavy academic schedule at UCLA, then going on to graduate studies at NYU Film School and a Masters writing program at Columbia. He is currently in the PhD program at Yale for English. All of this is far from his original rebellious student role in *Freaks and Geeks*. Thoughtful and focused, James Franco played his movie scene at the Olde Mill Inn while frequently directing the camera crew and producer to keep the film on track. His only special request during the evening was for a pot of coffee in order to remain alert after a long day of shooting.

The Olde Mill Inn is situated on a scenic 10-acre country estate in Basking Ridge, and features two separate venues located on the same property. The Inn has a warmly elegant atmosphere with a spectacular stone courtyard for outdoor ceremonies or events, English gardens, a gazebo, a grand ballroom and beautifully decorated indoor spaces for weddings, social celebrations and corporate events.

The Grain House was actually the original Olde Mill Inn. The building, constructed in 1768, has been preserved to retain its entire original structure and unique history; the Grain House was originally part of a local mill that is believed to have ground the grain for George Washington's troops that were housed close by during the Revolutionary War. The Grain House features a tented patio for outdoor ceremonies, highlighted by lovely flower gardens and a curving fairytale garden path, and offers several private venue spaces for intimate weddings and celebrations.

The Olde Mill Inn and the Grain House both feature the delicious cuisine of nationally renowned Chef Walter Leffler, whose meals have graced the tables of United States Presidents and royalty from various countries. Menus offer contemporary American cuisine with international notes.

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**Contact:**

Sheila Palka, Marketing Director  
The Olde Mill Inn & Grain House Restaurant  
Telephone: 908-696-2304  
[spalka@theoldemillinn.com](mailto:spalka@theoldemillinn.com)