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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 7, 2015

**Clay Stafford Options Peter Straub's "Pork Pie Hat"
for American Blackguard Entertainment**

NASHVILLE – Not since 1981's *Ghost Story* with Fred Astaire, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and Patricia Neal has critically acclaimed author Peter Straub seen his work on the big screen. This won't be the case for long. Clay Stafford – through his company Jazz Maker Films, a subsidiary of American Blackguard Inc. – has optioned the Straub-penned book *Pork Pie Hat*.

Pork Pie Hat is the story of the fictional jazz legend of the same name and an unthinkable, tormenting event that he has never disclosed. Hat is sick and nearing the end of a long slide through the depths of alcoholism and depression, and the time has come for him to reveal what he saw and, more importantly, what he did.

"It would be really wonderful to see *Pork Pie Hat* made into a movie," Straub said. "I'd love to see a good actor take on the role of the older Lester Young, and the main part of the story, which takes place on Halloween night in the 1920s in the Deep South, would – if done right – be full of excitement, mystery, thrills, and heartbreak. That's a movie I'd love to see."

Peter is a *New York Times* bestselling author of seventeen novels, which have been translated into more than twenty languages. They include *Ghost Story*, *Koko*, *Mr. X*, *In the Night Room*, and two collaborations with Stephen King, *The Talisman* and *Black House*. Peter has also written two volumes of poetry and two collections of short fiction, and he edited the Library of America's edition of H.P. Lovecraft's *Tales*. He has won the British Fantasy Award, seven Bram Stoker Awards, two International Horror Guild Awards, and two World Fantasy Awards. In 1998, he was named Grand Master at the World Horror Convention. In 2006, he was given the HWA's Lifetime Achievement Award and was the Killer Nashville Writer's Conference 2011 Guest of Honor.

Clay Stafford is an award-winning and bestselling author, screenwriter, filmmaker, and songwriter. Some of Clay's projects include the feature-length documentary, *One Of The Miracles: The Inge Meyring Smith Story*, and the music CD, *XO*, with fellow mystery writer Jeffery Deaver. Previously associated with Universal Studios and PBS, he is currently President/CEO of American Blackguard, a media company located in Nashville,

Tennessee. He is also the founder of the annual Killer Nashville Writers' Conference now in its tenth year. His most recent project, available October 2015, is an anthology of short stories written by Killer Nashville alumni Jeffery Deaver, Anne Perry, Donald Bain, Jefferson Bass, and more.

American Blackguard is an independent film, television, stage, music, event, and publishing company. Incorporated in 2002, it was originally formed in 1978 under the original name The Clay Stafford Company by then 16-year-old writer and filmmaker Clay Stafford. For over three decades and under the helm of Clay Stafford, American Blackguard's staff has been involved in all aspects of publishing, film & television, stage, and music production. It has also served as a loan-out corporation for staff employees to outside companies.

"I've long been a fan of Peter Straub," Stafford said. "He's one of the best writers I know and certainly one of the most critically acclaimed. It's been way overdue since someone told Peter's stories on film. We're about to change that."

Links:

www.AmericanBlackguard.com

www.PeterStraub.net

www.ClayStafford.com