



MEDIA RELEASE: 37 SOUTH: BRIDGING THE GAP

****UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL WEDNESDAY 11 JULY****

INDUSTRY PLAYERS HEAD FOR 37 SOUTH

MELBOURNE, Wednesday 11 July, 2007 – Top Australian producers and key international companies, including Paramount, Sundance, Seed and Becker, have confirmed their participation at the **Melbourne International Film Festival** (MIFF) inaugural international film financing forum **37 South: Bridging the Gap**, MIFF announced today.

International guests include:

- Paramount Pictures (USA) International Senior Vice-President of International Co-production and Worldwide Acquisitions **Ellen Pittleman**;
- Sundance Channel (USA) Senior Director of Acquisitions **Gail Gendler**;
- ContentFilm (Europe) International Acquisitions Manager **Beatrice Neumann**;
- Lightning Entertainment (USA) Co-President **Richard Guardian**;
- The Works (Europe) Head of Acquisitions **Tom Strudwick**;
- Fortissimo Films (Australia) Senior Vice President of Acquisitions & Development **Ashley Luke**;
- A3 Crosby (Asia) International Film Fund and Si-Mi.com co-founder **Simone Govic**;
- Highpoint Media Group (Europe) Head of Development **Piers Nightingale**;
- NZ Films Head of Sales and Marketing **Kathleen Drumm**;
- Myriad Pictures (USA) President and CEO **Kirk D'Amico**;
- Becker International (Europe/Australia) Head of Sales and Acquisitions **Iain Canning**
- Slingshot (Europe) Head of Development, **Rachel Connors**;

Key local financiers are also represented, including Madman, Roadshow, Accent, Aztec, Hopscotch, International Finance Group (IFG), OmniLab Media Group and Hugh Jackman's Seed, as well as Australian Government sector screen agencies.

Running **26-28 July 2007**, **37 South: Bridging the Gap**, supported by the Victorian Government, will offer top producers such as John Maynard (*Romulus My Father*, *The Bank*), Liz Watts (*Home Song Stories*, *Little Fish*), Bridget Ikin (*An Angel at My Table*, *Look Both Ways*), Michael McMahon (*Home Song Stories*), David Redman (*Strange Bedfellows*) as well as emerging talent, the chance to present and advance their projects to these key international and local financiers across a range of networking opportunities alongside Australia's largest film festival, the **Melbourne International Film Festival**.

There will be a number of sessions running throughout the event giving producers the opportunity to discuss their projects with industry professionals including;

- One-on-one sessions – producers who have market-ready projects were invited to register their interest in early July and will be given the opportunity for face-to-face time with international professionals to discuss their projects;
- Roundtable sessions – a number of emerging producers will be given the opportunity to participate in roundtables with industry professionals to discuss the type of projects they seek;
- Open sessions – a number of industry discussions will take place to discuss film financing in the age of new Australian incentives, what sales agents look for and distribution opportunities.

These sessions will be open to the public.



In collaboration with the Melbourne Writers Festival, **37 South** will present the **Books at MIFF** breakfast on July 26th. This event will bring together the worlds of publishing and film, giving publishers and literary agents the chance to pitch books with cinematic potential to film and TV producers and screenwriters. Actor **William McInnes** (*Sea Change*, *Look Both Ways*) will moderate the event using case studies including **Steve Jacob's** upcoming feature *Disgrace* (2008), starring John Malkovich. *Disgrace* is based on the 1999 Booker Prize winning novel of the same name by author J. M. Coetzee.

"In addition to being about great stories, sound development and audience connection, filmmaking is an international people and financing business, which is why the inaugural line-up for 37 South aims to advance Australian film projects by putting selected local producers and key international financiers face-to-face in the context of Australia's largest public film festival," said **37 South Consulting Manager Mark Woods**. "Meanwhile, 37 South's program of open session panel discussions between the international and local financiers will prove most timely given the profound changes presently underway for Australian film financing in light of the recently announced enhancements in federal film funding arrangements."

The 2007 Melbourne International Film Festival runs from July 25th – August 12th with the Programme Guide out on Friday July 13. The inaugural **37 South: Bridging The Gap** will run July 26th – July 28th.

For all media enquires or interview requests please contact Limelight PR:

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25 July—12 August 56th Melbourne International Film Festival melbournefilmfestival.com.au

