

MEDIA RELEASE



MIFF PREMIERE FUND SELECTS MIDGET MAYHEM and BLAME

MELBOURNE: 16 September 2009 – *Machete Maidens & Midget Mayhem*, a new feature documentary from acclaimed director Mark Hartley, and *Blame*, a psychological thriller from debut feature director Michael Henry, are the latest production co-financing offers from the **Melbourne International Film Festival MIFF Premiere Fund**.

Hartley, whose **MIFF Premiere Fund** co-financed *Not Quite Hollywood* opened **MIFF 2008**, returns to the **MIFF Premiere Fund** as writer/director/ associate producer with producer Veronica Fury on *Machete Maidens & Midget Mayhem*, a fast-moving odyssey into the little-explored province of Filipino genre filmmaking – complete with miniature James Bonds, karate kicking soul sisters, anorexic Rambos and gun-toting nuns. Peaking during the oppressive Marcos regime, the country became a back-lot for B-movie makers and cinematic visionaries alike, ranging from Roger Corman to Francis Ford Coppola along with a clutch of Australians!

The feature debut of writer/director Michael Henry and producers Ryan Hodgson, Melissa Kelly and Michael Robinson, *Blame* is a psychological thriller concerning a group of young vigilante assailants confronted with the realities of their intervention as their quest for apparent justice takes them to a place from which they can never return. *Blame* was pitched at 2008's **MIFF 37°South Market: PostScript&Direct** (speed dating for writers/directors with producers) and 2009's **MIFF 37°South Market: Bridging the Gap** (producer pitching to sales agents and distributors).

The two new investments round-out the **MIFF 2010 Premiere Fund** slate, which includes

- > *Kin*: a romantic comedy from feature debut director **Amanda Jane** and producer **Nicole Minchin**, starring **Steve Bisley, Rhonda Burchmore, Essie Davis, Geoff Paine, Adam Zwar, Nadine Garner, Josh Lawson** and **Isabel Lucas**.
- > *Matching Jack* (aka *Love & Mortar*): a romantic family drama from veteran Melbourne director **Nadia Tass** and producers **David Parker** and **Richard Keddie**, starring **James Nesbitt, Richard Roxburgh, Kodi Smit McPhee** and **Jacinda Barrett**.
- > *Ben Lee: Catch My Disease*: a feature documentary by **Amiel Courtin-Wilson** (2003 **MIFF Accelerator** alumni) about pop music, spirituality, fame, family and celebrity which profiles the 29 year-old star and includes interviews with **Winona Ryder, Claire Danes, Jason Schwartzman** and **Michelle Williams**.

This brings to 16 the number of feature films supported by the **MIFF Premiere Fund**. **MIFF 2009** included the world premieres of the following **MIFF Premiere Fund** titles: *Balibo, Blessed, Bran Nue Dae* and *The Loved Ones* (which are screening at the Toronto International Film Festival) as well as feature documentary *Indonesia Calling*. The **MIFF Premiere Fund**, which commenced in September 2007, provides strategic minority financial supports to a range of local theatrical documentaries and narrative feature films that will have their premieres at **MIFF**. See www.melbournefilmfestival.com.au for more details on **MIFF**.

Applications for Round Seven (7) of the **MIFF Premiere Fund**, which will give priority to projects that can premiere at **MIFF 2011**, open 22 September and close 23 October with decisions due by 14 December 2009. Guidelines and application forms are available at www.miffpremierfund.com.

Louise Heseltine | 8660 4816 | 0402 054 143 | louise@limelightpr.com.au
Asha Holmes | 8660 4815 | 0403 274 299 | asha@limelightpr.com.au
Joanna Finney | 8660 4816 | 0401 817 546 | joanna@limelightpr.com.au
LIMELIGHT PR | PO Box 1199 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Australia 8011

Limelight^{PR}