

BROKEN HILL

For Immediate Release

Aussie Movie - *Broken Hill* – Wins Another Best Film Award

Melbourne, Australia, 15th September: Australian movie *Broken Hill* took out the ‘Best Feature Film - Audience Choice’ Award on Sunday 13th September at the TriMedia Film Festival held in Fort Collins, Colorado (USA).

“*Broken Hill* has won Best Film here at TriMedia in the USA, and recently at the Giffoni Film Festival in Italy,” said Dagen Merrill, writer and director of *Broken Hill*.

Broken Hill starring Alexa Vega (*Spy Kids, Ruby and The Rockits*), Academy Award Winner Timothy Hutton (*Ordinary People, Leverage*), and Australia’s new and emerging talents Luke Arnold and Rhys Wakefield, premiered in Melbourne, Australia on the 24th of August 2009. *Broken Hill* opened in several regional test markets in the USA on 11th September, 2009 and will be released in Australia in early 2010.

The TriMedia Film Festival (<http://www.trimediamfestival.org/>) imposes a PG – 13 limit on festival entrants in an effort to celebrate films, television and theatre art that creates thought provoking and edgy content without relying on language, nudity or violence as an ‘easy way out’ option.

Broken Hill is about teenager Tommy McAlpine, played by Australia’s Luke Arnold, trying to follow his dreams of becoming a great composer while faced with the isolation of a drought-ridden sheep station in the middle of the Australian Outback.

Broken Hill is an Audience Alliance Picture (<http://www.audiencealliance.com/>), written and directed by Dagen Merrill, with LA based producer Christopher Wyatt (*Napoleon Dynamite*) and Australian producer Julie Ryan.

Broken Hill won three major awards in its first film festival entrance, at the Giffoni International Film Festival (Italy) receiving ‘Best Film’ in the thirteen plus category. Giffoni International Film Festival is Europe’s largest youth film festival (<http://www.giffoni.it/en/index.php>) where the judges are teenagers who have a passion for films and movie making and vote on the movies they like.

Australian Luke Arnold has recently received media publicity with comparisons to Heath Ledger and Mel Gibson – which the 25 year old has modestly brushed off.

“They’re both two big favourite actors of mine, and legends and people I look up to, so while comparisons are great and flattering, really it’s about the work you do,” said Luke, who studied acting at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

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