

BROKEN HILL

For Immediate Release

Aussie Movie - Broken Hill – Wins Best Film At Europe’s Largest Children’s Film Festival

Melbourne, Australia, 24th August: Independent Australian movie written and directed by Dagen Merrill – *Broken Hill* – has just received three major awards at the 39th International Giffoni Film Festival including Best Film in the thirteen plus category.

“Hundreds of young teenagers from over thirty countries voted for *Broken Hill* and were particularly moved by the movie’s theme of music and how it related to young people, such as the love and the depth of the relationship between parents and sons,” said writer/director Dagen Merrill.

Giffoni International Film Festival (<http://www.giffoniff.it/en/index.php>) is Europe’s largest children’s film festival held in Italy where the judges are teenagers who have a passion for films and movie making and vote on the movies they like.

Apart from Best Film, *Broken Hill* also won The Special CGS Award (Social-cultural Cineclubs for Young People) and the ARCA Cinemagiovani Award where the jury noted: “For having told, through a boy’s dream, how creativity and music can overcome the limits of a narrow-minded society, whose sight is blurred by prejudice. For having shown that if you believe in yourself and in your potential and you cultivate your own passions, without giving up when faced to obstacles or letting be disheartened, you can make your dreams come true”

Broken Hill stars Alexa Vega (from *Spy Kids* fame), Academy Award Winner Timothy Hutton (*Ordinary People, Leverage*) and first time promising Australian actor Luke Arnold.

Luke was especially noticed by audiences with his good looks and acting ability and is a promising new Australian talent following in the footsteps of Mel Gibson and Heath Ledger they said.

Broken Hill is the first feature film from Audience Alliance which was founded by a former Australian Ad Agency owner, Peter Rancie and plans to release further features along similar themes as *Broken Hill*.

The movies’ producer Chris Wyatt (*Napolean Dynamite; Think Tank; Beneath*) teamed up with Aussie film producer Julie Ryan and filmed in Australia’s outback of South Australia and New South Wales.

Broken Hill will premier in Melbourne, Australia on 24th August 2009 and open in limited release in the USA from 11th September 2009.

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