



Media Release
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Filming begins on Kiwi movie bound for Hollywood

Filming has started in Christchurch on a Kiwi movie bound for Hollywood.

Called "The Holy Roller", the film is a romantic comedy drama revolving around a struggling preacher who discovers hope and danger are a potent mix.

The film, with a budget of under \$1m, was written by Christchurch-based Australian actor Angus Benfield (*Lex & Rory, E-Street, Wait Up Harriet*), is directed by Kiwi director Patrick Gillies (*Offensive Behaviour & Kitty*).

The plot centres around the struggling pastor who is tricked into starting a church in a nightclub to pay a debt to an underworld boss, and deals with themes of hypocrisy, truth and the unlikely places hope can be found.

An internationally experienced team is working on the movie, including crew who have worked on Hollywood blockbusters *Spiderman, Men in Black, Tumbleweeds, Moulin Rouge* and *Mission Impossible 2*.

Actors include Jeremy Brennan (Australia), Michael Maxwell (Spain), New Zealand's Mark Hadlow, Frank Flash, Victoria Abbott, Ron Roger, Martin Howells and Patrick Duffy. Other locals include John Christoffels (DOP on *Sisterhood*) and Nadia Maxwell (*Hunger for the Wild*).

The film is aimed at international audiences in America, Australia and New Zealand. It is booked for a showing in Los Angeles to US distributors in the middle of this year with New Zealand audiences getting the chance to see it around the end of 2009.

Writer/producer Angus Benfield says filming in Christchurch was ideal due to the variety of locations within a short distance. The film is being shot on the latest 'RED camera' high definition technology and includes city and rural locations around Christchurch and Lyttelton.

"Business people here are very open hearted and generous, sponsoring equipment and locations. We are grateful for help so far from the Millennium Hotel, Christchurch Business Centre, Crown Limousines, the Christchurch City Council, local shop Etcetca and a whole lot of liquid caffeine from C4Coffee."

For more information please contact

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