

AWOKEN

START OF PRODUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

Adelaide, Australia (March 1, 2018) Meridian Pictures today announced that principal photography on feature film, **AWOKEN**, will commence on Monday, March 5, 2018.

Starring Erik Thomson (*800 Words, The Black Balloon, Storm Boy*), Sara West (*Bad Girl, Peter Allen: Not The Boy Nextdoor, One Eyed Girl*) and Benson Jack Anthony (*800 Words, Emo The Musical*), the film marks the debut for director/producer/writer **Daniel J. Phillips**. A suspense-driven mystery/horror, the film is centred around Karla (West), a young medical student who is trying to cure her brother, Blake (Anthony) from a terminal sleep illness called Fatal Familial Insomnia (FFI), where you are unable to sleep until you die. On her quest to treat him, a more sinister reason for his condition is revealed.

Says award-winning filmmaker Phillips, who co-wrote the screenplay with **Alan Grace**, *"I wanted to make the type of horror film not dependent on blood and gore to win its fans, but terrifying sequences they will never forget, and characters grounded in reality."*

"We've all seen scary films that make us afraid to go to sleep - this will be the first one that will make us afraid to stay awake."

Awoken is produced by Melbourne-based producer **Craig McMahon** (*Red Hill, Crawlspace*) with Meridian Pictures' **Charles Billeh** (*SLAM, Cast from the Storm*) and Daniel J Phillips.

While Sara West plays the role of Karla, Benson Jack Anthony will play her brother Blake, and Erik Thomson their trusted father figure who offers a new way to treat the disease, Robert.

Awoken is a Meridian Pictures production, supported by the South Australian Film Corporation and distributed in Australia and New Zealand by Rialto Distribution. International sales agent is Richard S. Guardian of Guardian Entertainment International.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Erin Jameson – Jameson & Co
erin(at)jamesonandco(dot)com

+61 419 323 663