



**South Australian
Film Corporation**



Arclight films
Worldwide Sales

ESCAPE FROM PRETORIA COMMENCES PRODUCTION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

'FIRST LOOK IMAGE' OF DANIEL RADCLIFFE AS FREEDOM FIGHTER TIM JENKIN

Wednesday March 13, 2019

Arclight Films, MEP Capital and the South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC) today announced production has commenced on the true-life prison break feature film *Escape From Pretoria*.

Daniel Radcliffe (*Harry Potter*, *Jungle*, *The Woman In Black*) and Australian actor Daniel Webber (*The Dirt*, *11.22.63*, *The Punisher*) star as political prisoners and freedom fighters Tim Jenkin and Stephen Lee. A 'first-look' image from the production featuring Radcliffe and Webber has been released today.

UK actor Ian Hart (*Mary*, *Queen Of Scots*, *God's Own Country*, *Land and Freedom*), Mark Leonard Winter (*Pine Gap*, *Cleverman*, *Balibo*) and Nathan Page (*Miss Fisher & the Crypt of Tears*, *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, *Underbelly*) join the cast.

Based on an extraordinary true story, *Escape From Pretoria* follows Jenkin and Lee, two white South African twenty-somethings who were branded 'terrorists' and imprisoned in 1978 for their involvement in covert anti-apartheid operations for the ANC (African National Congress).

Incarcerated in Pretoria Maximum Security Prison, Jenkin and Lee – joined by a fellow inmate - decide to send the regime a clear message and escape. After months of meticulous surveillance, breath-taking ingenuity, and in a race against time as the authorities strengthen the prison security defenses, the group craft wooden keys for each of the ten steel doors between them and freedom.

Francis Annan makes his feature film directorial debut from the screenplay he co-penned with LH Adams, based on Tim Jenkin's autobiography *Inside Out: Escape from Pretoria Prison*.

"We are delighted to be collaborating with the brilliant team at the SAFC and MEP Capital, and the producers at BeaglePug and Footprint Films," Arclight Chairman Gary Hamilton said today. "They are fantastic partners to bring this extraordinary tale to life and we look forward to seeing this incredible film in cinemas around the world very soon."

South Australia's Minister for Industry and Skills, Hon. David Pisoni MP said: "South Australia's increasing ability to attract major international productions to shoot here is testament to our diverse and unique locations and world-class crews and facilities. The Marshall Liberal Government is investing in our local film industry to ensure we are globally competitive."

Escape from Pretoria is produced by Arclight's Hamilton and Michelle Krumm and BeaglePug's David Barron (*Kenneth Branagh's Cinderella, Harry Potter, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*), Footprint Films' Mark Blaney (*This is Not A Love Song, Africa United*) and Jackie Sheppard (*Africa United*).

"Footprint Films and BeaglePug are thrilled to be working with the SAFC, Arclight Films and MEP Capital to bring to life one of the most daring and ingenious prison escapes of the twentieth century," said UK Producers David Barron, Mark Blaney and Jackie Sheppard.

"We're also very excited to be working with the immensely talented Francis Annan and our outstanding cast on this astonishing true story. Much more than just another prison break thriller, *Escape From Pretoria* is a story of our time, a story of risking everything in the fight for freedom and equality, against injustice and oppression."

Escape From Pretoria will be post-produced in Melbourne, having received support through Film Victoria's PDV incentive program. The film is an Australian/UK co-production between Hamilton Entertainment, BeaglePug, and Footprint Films.

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ABOUT SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FILM CORPORATION:

South Australian Film Corporation was the first screen agency to be established in Australia. SAFC's state-of-the-art Adelaide Studios features world-class sound stages, production offices and outstanding post sound facilities. The studios, South Australia's unique creative and collaborative screen hub, is the shared home of the SAFC and many top production companies and practitioners.

Recent SAFC-supported feature films include *Never Too Late*, *Top End Wedding*, *Animals*, *Hotel Mumbai*, *Storm Boy*, *I Am Mother*, *Cargo* and Venice award-winners *The Nightingale* and *Sweet Country*.

ABOUT MEP CAPITAL

MEP Capital is a New York-based investment firm dedicated to creating and financing aspirational and compelling independent content across film, television, music, and new media formats. Since 2013, the firm has supported world-class producers, rights holders, and creative entrepreneurs through a flexible approach to financing.

ABOUT BEAGLEPUG

David Barron formed BeaglePug in 2013 as a development and production vehicle primarily for his own projects. Credits to date are *Cinderella* for Disney, *The Legend of Tarzan* for Warner Bros and the independent noir thriller *Terminal*, starring Margot Robbie, Simon Pegg and Mike Myers. BeaglePug has an active development slate, encompassing original material and literary adaptations for both film and television.

ABOUT FOOTPRINT FILMS

Established in 1994, Footprint Films is a partnership between producers Mark Blaney and Jackie Sheppard. Features include the directorial debut of screenwriter Simon Beaufoy, *The Darkest Light* (Pathé/BBC Films/Studio Canal) and the world's first simultaneous theatrical and online release, in 2002, *This Is Not A Love Song* (UK FILM COUNCIL/Footprint). Including their 2010 feature *Africa United* (Pathé, BBC Films, BFI) which saw emerging talent Debs Paterson directing, many of Footprint's features have been helmed by first time feature directors, something Jackie and Mark encourage through their support of, and consultancy to, The Pitch Film Fund. Footprint has produced a number of notable short films including the multi-award winning *I Am Sami*, shot in Kurdistan (N Iraq). Other projects in development include British comedy *Sumo Girls*.

ABOUT ARCLIGHT FILMS

Arclight Films is one of the world's leading international sales companies for theatrical, television and home entertainment. Arclight Films has sold over 300 motion pictures including the Best Picture Oscar® winner *Crash*, Golden Globe® Best Picture Nominee *Bobby* and *Lord of War* starring Nicolas Cage, Jared Leto and Ethan Hawke and the recent Oscar® nominated feature *First Reformed* (for Best Original Screenplay).

Arclight Films' slate includes the big budget Chinese co-production *Killer 10* to be directed by Phillip Noyce, the sci-fi thriller *Possessor* starring Andrea Riseborough, Christopher Abbott, Sean Bean, Jennifer Jason Leigh, and Stacy Martin, directed by Brandon Cronenberg, the female-led Vietnamese action thriller *Furie* starring *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*'s Veronica Ngo, and the high-octane sci-fi thriller *Replicate*.

The company's recent films include the highly anticipated Hotel Mumbai starring Armie Hammer, Dev Patel, Nazanin Boniadi, Anupam Kher, and Jason Isaacs, directed by Anthony Maras which will be released in the US by Bleeker Street on March 22nd, writer and director Paul Schrader's critically acclaimed First Reformed released theatrically by A24, starring Ethan Hawke and Amanda Seyfried, and has received several nominations and awards including the Academy Award, Gotham Awards, Critics' Choice Award and the Indie Spirit Awards, among other accolades, and the successful biopic Jungle starring Daniel Radcliffe released by eOne.

Arclight's past films include 2016 Official Cannes Directors' Fortnight selection Dog Eat Dog starring Nicolas Cage and Willem Dafoe, The Confirmation starring Clive Owen and Maria Bello, directed by Academy Award-winner Bob Nelson (Nebraska), 2016 Sundance Official Selection Frank & Lola starring Imogen Poots and Michael Shannon, Predestination starring Ethan Hawke released through Sony Pictures, Last Knights starring Clive Owen and Morgan Freeman, Paper Planes starring Sam Worthington, and Shangri-La Suite starring Emily Browning and Luke Grimes.

Arclight Films additionally encompasses subsidiary labels Darclight Films, the edgy genre-driven division of the company whose films include the worldwide horror hits Wolf Creek, Wolf Creek 2 and action thriller Bait 3D (the highest grossing Australian film in the history of Chinese cinema), and Easternlight, a specialty arm showcasing Asian cinema with the largest film library of any non-Asian-based indie film label. Films sold under the Easternlight banner include the worldwide blockbuster Forbidden Kingdom starring Jackie Chan and Jet Li, 14 Blades starring Donnie Yen, and legendary auteur Chen Kaige's Sacrifice.

The latest additions to Easternlight include Triple Threat starring Tony Jaa, Iko Uwais, Tiger Chen and Celina Jade, Guardians Of The Tomb starring Kellen Lutz and Bingbing Li, Snow Girl And The Dark Crystal starring Bingbing Li, Wolf Warrior starring Wu Jing (which opened #1 at the Chinese Box Office, earning more than \$32.5M in one weekend) Outcast starring Nicolas Cage, Special Id Starring Donnie Yen, and Badges Of Fury.

Arclight Films maintains a presence at all major motion picture and television festivals and markets with offices in Los Angeles, Sydney, Hong Kong, Beijing and Toronto.

ABOUT FILM VICTORIA:

Film Victoria is the State Government agency that provides strategic leadership and assistance to the film, television and digital media sectors of Victoria. Film Victoria works to increase screen activity in the state and strengthen the Victorian screen industry, through funding the production and development of screen content, industry placements, filming incentives, location assistance, industry events and partnership activities.