



South Australian
Film Corporation



ACADEMY AWARD® WINNER HILARY SWANK TO STAR IN SCI-FI THRILLER “I AM MOTHER”

October 18, 2017

Academy-Award® winning actress, Hilary Swank, will star in the highly anticipated sci-fi thriller *I AM MOTHER*, it was announced today.

A two-time Oscar® winner for her work in the critically acclaimed *Boys Don't Cry (2000)* and *Million Dollar Baby (2005)*, Ms. Swank joins rising young actress Clara Rugaard (*Good Favour, Teen Spirit*) in the stylish, thought-provoking feature that brings a dark, electrifying edge to a unique mother-daughter story.

Director Grant Sputore commented: *“It is a privilege to welcome Hilary Swank to our film. She is a remarkable performer who always brings tremendous commitment and honesty to the screen. I’m excited about the journey ahead with Hilary and the talented Clara Rugaard.”*

I AM MOTHER will be Grant Sputore’s feature debut, following a run of award winning commercials. Sputore is joined by Steven Annis as director of photography whose DP credits include music videos for Pink, Lorde, Ed Sheeran, Taylor Swift, U2 and commercial work for Apple, Google and Nike.

The legendary special effects team at WETA Workshop (*Avatar, The Lord of The Rings*) has created the titular robot. Hugh Bateup leads production design (*Cloud Atlas, Jupiter Ascending, Sense8, The Shallows*) with costume designer Mariot Kerr (*Tracks, The Leftovers*). Editor is Sean Lahiff (*Cargo, Jungle*).

Principal photography recently commenced at South Australia’s Adelaide Studios.

Based on an original concept by director Grant Sputore and screenwriter Michael Lloyd Green, *I AM MOTHER* tells the story of a lonely teenage girl, ‘Daughter’ (Rugaard), who is the first of a new generation of humans raised by ‘Mother’ - a kindly robot designed to repopulate the earth following the extinction of mankind. But their unique bond is threatened when a blood-drenched woman (Swank) inexplicably arrives, calling into question everything Daughter has been told about the outside world - and her Mother’s intentions.

Ms. Swank, an award-winning actress, and producer, previously starred in Tommy Lee Jones’ critically acclaimed *The Homesman*, which debuted at the Cannes Film Festival, *Freedom Writers, Conviction*, and the international box office hit *P.S. I Love You*. She was recently seen in Steven Soderbergh’s comedy *Logan Lucky*. She will next be seen in Danny Boyle’s television series *Trust* starring as Gail Getty, the mother of kidnapped heir John Paul Getty III. Ms. Swank is represented by WME.

I AM MOTHER is produced by Southern Light Films' Timothy White and The Penguin Empire's Kelvin Munro. Anna Vincent and Michael Lloyd Green co-produce.

Executive producers on the film are Paris Kasidokostas-Latsis, Terry Douglas and Jean-Luc De Fanti from Rhea Films (*Good Time* and *American Made*) along with Bryce Menzies, Philip Wade, John Wade and Grant Sputore.

I AM MOTHER is an Australian production financed by Hercules Film Investments with major investment from Screen Australia and the South Australian Film Corporation in association with Adelaide Film Festival, Screenwest, Lotterywest, Fin VFX, Blockhead and Kojo.

Mister Smith Entertainment is handling international sales, with WME Global's Graham Taylor overseeing U.S. sales. StudioCanal is handling distribution in Australia and New Zealand.

Greg Denning, StudioCanal's National Sales and Acquisitions Manager said: "StudioCanal is very proud to be releasing I AM MOTHER in Australia and New Zealand. The filmmakers have assembled a wonderful team to bring this story to the screen, and we're thrilled that they've now attracted the calibre of Hilary Swank for the pivotal role of Woman. She is the perfect choice, and adds another layer of quality to this smart, refreshingly bold, and riveting Sci Fi thriller."

For further information:

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About The Penguin Empire

The Penguin Empire's work has been recognised at almost every major advertising award show around the world: including the D&AD, Cannes Lions, NY Festivals and the Clios. Based in Western Australia and working with a growing roster of talented filmmakers, the Penguin Empire is developing a slate of market driven feature films and television projects to be produced in Australia for international audiences. I AM MOTHER is the company's debut feature.

About Southern Light Films

Based in Australia and New Zealand, Southern Light Films is the company of veteran film producer Timothy White. He has produced or executive produced over forty-five films and feature length documentaries and launched the careers of many debut directors. His films include *The Dark Horse*, *Son of a Gun*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Out of the Blue*, *Two Hands* and *Oscar & Lucinda*.

About Mister Smith Entertainment:

Led by CEO David Garrett, Mister Smith Entertainment (MSE) launched in May 2012. The company is involved in the financing, co-financing and licensing of high-quality mainstream feature films and filmmaker driven movies for the global market.

The current MSE film slate includes Max Minghella's directorial debut *Teen Spirit* starring Elle Fanning; the romantic drama *Midnight Sun* starring Bella Thorne, Patrick Schwarzenegger and Rob Riggle, directed by Scott Speer; and *The Silence* starring Stanley Tucci, and Kiernan Shipka, directed by John Leonetti.

About StudioCanal:

StudioCanal, a 100% affiliate of CANAL+ Group held by Vivendi, is Europe's leader in production, right acquisition, distribution and international sales of feature films and TV series. StudioCanal operates directly in all three major European markets, France, the United Kingdom and Germany, as well as in Australia and New Zealand.

StudioCanal owns one of the most important film libraries in the world, boasting more than 9000 titles from 60 countries, including 6000 feature films among which are the iconic *Terminator 2*, *Breathless*, *Mulholland Drive* and *Belle de jour*.

StudioCanal has fully-financed recent box office hits like *Paddington*, *Shaun the Sheep* and *Non-Stop*. Upcoming films backed by StudioCanal include *The Commuter* featuring Liam Neeson, the highly-anticipated *Paddington 2* by Paul King, and Aardman Studios' stop-motion movies *Early Man* by Nick Park and *Shaun the Sheep 2*.

StudioCanal is actively developing and distributing high-end TV series through its network of award-winning European production companies, including Tandem Productions in Germany (*Crossing Lines*, *Spotless*), the UK's RED Production Company (*The Five*, *Happy Valley*), Scandinavia's SAM created by Soren Svestrup and Adam Price (*Borgen*, *The Killing*), and Spain's BAMBÚ PRODUCCIONES (*Grand Hotel*, *Velvet*). StudioCanal has also stakes in the UK's SunnyMarch TV, created by Benedict Cumberbatch, Urban Myth Films and Guilty Party.