



Thursday 15th September, 2016

DAVID NGO’S RABBIT SHOOT STARTS IN ADELAIDE

Filming started this week in Adelaide on South Australian producer David Ngo’s new feature film *Rabbit*.

Rabbit was the winning pitch at the 2015 Melbourne International Film Festival’s 37 South Market where it was selected to attend London’s Production Finance Market and secured initial private funding.

Just one year later the film is now in production with additional support and investment provided by the South Australian Film Corporation.

Written and directed by Luke Shanahan, the film stars Australian actors Adelaide Clemens (*The Great Gatsby*, *Rectify*), Alex Russell (*Goldstone*, *Cut Snake*) and Jonny Pasvolsky (*Mortdecai*) alongside Belgian actress Veerle Baetens (*The Broken Circle Breakdown*) and Adelaide-based English actor Charles Mayer (*Ip Man 2*).

Rabbit is a psychological thriller exploring the link between identical twins and their ability to communicate telepathically.

Almost a year after her identical twin disappears, 25-year-old medical student Maude Ashton is haunted by visions of her abduction. Convinced she is still alive, Maude follows the clues to a derelict caravan park where she discovers her fate is intrinsically linked to that of her sister.

Rabbit has become the fourth feature film to be shot in South Australia this year, and is among the eight feature films and one major TV series to be produced in South Australia over the last twelve months.

The four feature films shot so far this year in South Australia, which include *Hotel Mumbai*, *Cargo* and *Bad Blood*, have generated more than \$10 million in economic benefit for the State.

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“With State government support and investment through SAFC, it means that the State has been home to production on projects from international Hollywood movies to locally developed independent films,” said Minister Snelling.

Rabbit is being filmed over the next five weeks in twenty locations across metropolitan Adelaide including the city, Adelaide Hills and Murray Bridge, with 96 South Australian cast and crew being employed on the film.

Alongside Producer David Ngo key local crew includes: Daniel Joyce (Co-Producer), Julie Byrne (Line Producer), Travis Kalendra (Art Director), Amy Baker (Production Designer), Anita Seiler (Costume), and Bec Buratto (Make-Up).

Producer David Ngo said I'd looked at doing many other films as my follow up to *One Eyed Girl*, but everything felt like a version of something else.

"What Luke is creating is something truly original. The film is an intense ride into the world of twins and telepathy that shows just how far we'll go to save the person we love, said Mr. Ngo.

"It's Rosemary's Baby for a new generation. The SAFC have been so supportive since the very start and we couldn't be happier shooting here in South Australia. It truly is the home of independent cinema in this country."

Director Luke Shanahan said we had a simple premise. I told David that I loved the longshot European films where the master shot covers much of the action and then close-up is used, but only sparingly for effect.

"I wanted my work to sit and breathe without an overactive cutting process," said Mr. Shanahan.

"Let the actors talk. Let the images speak. David shared that vision. It seemed like a perfect marriage working with him as he has taste and is a great creative sounding board. It wasn't just about schedules."

South Australian Film Corporation Chief Executive Annabelle Sheehan said getting *Rabbit* made is a South Australian success story with the local project's positive reception nationally and internationally coming home to benefit the State.

"David Ngo is a talented producer whose determination and commercial savvy is testament to South Australia's creative energy and innovation," said Ms Sheehan.

"He's assembled a very talented predominately South Australian cast and crew for this production, and along with other recent films it's fantastic to have such continuity of local work on great edgy independent features."

Rabbit is being produced by David Ngo's Projector Films and has secured Australian and New Zealand distribution through Vendetta Films and world sales through LevelK.

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