

**July 18, 2007**

**World Premieres of “American Venus”, “Normal” and “They Wait” Three Brightlight Pictures’ Productions Selected for Toronto International Film Festival**

(VANCOUVER, BC) - Stephen Hegyes and Shawn Williamson, principals of Vancouver-based Brightlight Pictures, are proud to announce that three of the company’s recently-produced features have been selected for the Toronto International Film Festival in September. **American Venus**, **Normal** and **They Wait** will each have its world premiere at the prestigious Toronto event.

Written and directed by Bruce Sweeney, **American Venus** is a psychological drama about mother daughter conflict, figure skating and gun addiction, starring Rebecca De Mornay (*Risky Business*, *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle*) in a tour-de-force performance as a woman spiraling out of control. The film also stars Jane MacGregor (*Flower and Garnett*), Matt Craven (*The Life of David Gale*, *Jacob’s Ladder*) and Nicholas Lea (*Whistler*, *X Files*). Produced by Stephen Hegyes, with Shawn Williamson executive producer, **American Venus** is a Brightlight Pictures production.

No stranger to the Toronto Festival, Sweeney’s feature debut, *Live Bait*, won the \$25,000 CITY TV Prize for Best Canadian Film at the 1995 event. *Last Wedding*, which Sweeney wrote and directed and Hegyes produced, was the official opening night gala in 2001.

Written by Carl Bessai and Doug Taylor, with the story by Trevor Markwart, **They Wait** is directed by Ernie Barbarash (*Cube Zero*). A supernatural thriller starring Jaime King (*Sin City*, *Pearl Harbor*), **They Wait** is inspired by true events and tells the terrifying tale of one family’s life-threatening encounter with angry spirits during Hungry Ghost Month, a festival still celebrated in Taiwan but which has virtually disappeared from mainland China. Terry Chen (*Almost Famous*, *Snakes on a Plane*, *I, Robot*), Cheng Pei Pei (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*) and Michael Biehn (*The Terminator*, *Aliens*, *The Abyss*) also star. A Brightlight Pictures production, **They Wait** is produced by Stephen Hegyes, Shawn Williamson and Andrew Koster.

**Normal**, written by Carl Bessai and Travis McDonald and directed by Bessai (*Severed*, *Emile*), tells how a deadly car accident brings together a group of previously unrelated people. Kevin Zegers and Carrie-Anne Moss (*The Matrix* trilogy, *Memento*) star. **Normal** is produced by Carl Bessai and Andrew Boutilier. Stephen Hegyes and Shawn Williamson are executive producers.

Stephen Hegyes says, “We’re thrilled to have three films selected for this prestigious and important event. The Toronto Festival proves itself, year after year, as the premiere launching pad for independent productions, and I couldn’t be happier to return with another film by Bruce.”

Shawn Williamson says, “Brightlight has had a couple of banner years, and this is a great acknowledgment that we’re moving and growing in the right direction. We’re very proud to have a hat-trick of films selected for Toronto’s preeminent international showcase.”

The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Toronto International Film Festival runs September 6 to 15. **American Venus** and **Normal** will be showcased in the Contemporary World Cinema section. **They Wait** will be presented in Canada First!

Brightlight Pictures develops, finances and produces independent feature films and television projects for the domestic and international marketplace. Company principals and producers, Stephen Hegyes and Shawn Williamson, have produced over 60 productions in the last 12 years and over 20 productions since the launch of the company in 2001. *White Noise*, starring Michael Keaton, has grossed more than \$100 million since opening in January 2005. BLP recently produced its sequel, *White Noise 2: The Light*, starring Nathan Fillion and Katee Sackhoff; as well as *American Venus*, directed by Bruce Sweeney and starring Rebecca DeMornay and Jane McGregor; *Dungeon Siege: In the Name of the King*, starring Jason Statham, Ray Liotta, Burt Reynolds and John Rhys-Davies, and *They Wait*, starring Jaime King. BLP also line produced for Nu Image/Millennium Films and Emmett Furla Films *88 Minutes*, starring Al Pacino; and *Wicker Man*, starring Nicolas Cage. Most recently, BLP line produced the Fox 21 series *Saved*, and the features *Addicted*, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar, and *Passengers*, starring Anne Hathaway. The company is currently in production with *About a Girl*, a TV series for Global and the N Network. More information about Brightlight Pictures can be found at [www.brightlightpictures.com](http://www.brightlightpictures.com).