



Australia, Canada and Singapore join forces on *STORMWORLD*

(embargoed until 5 pm GMT Wed Oct 10, 2007)

Australia's Great Western Entertainment Pty Ltd (GWE) has brought together production, investment and broadcast partners from Canada, Singapore and Australia into its new kids/family sci-fi series *Stormworld*.

Brightlight Pictures Inc of Vancouver will co-produce the live action 26 x ½ hour series with Great Western under GWE's WiKKiD.tv brand. Joining the adventures of Canadian teenage characters Jason and Lee on *Stormworld* is Singapore's TheatreRed.

Kevin Campbell, Chairman of GWE, announced today that the Australian-Canadian co-production would enter production in January next year. Principal photography will take place in Perth, Singapore, Vancouver and the remote Kimberley coast in North-West Australia.

"Producer Paul Barron and I want to thank the Film Finance Corporation of Australia, the Media Development Authority of Singapore, TheatreRed, ScreenWest and Lotterywest (WA) who have all worked together to finance this exciting international co-production," said Mr Campbell. "We also want to thank Australia's Nine Network, ABC-TV and Disney Channel Australia; Daro Film Distribution; and Canada's CTV (Space Channel) for their support."

Worldwide distribution of *Stormworld* will be handled by Daro Film Distribution of Monaco. Pierre-Andre Rochat of Daro confirmed pre-sales of the series to Ireland, Romania and Hungary and that the series would be launched at MIP in April 2009.

Brightlight Pictures partner Stephen Hegyes said that the Vancouver company was "delighted to be involved in this ambitious drama series. It is an excellent example of our company's interest in developing relationships with Australian and Asian partners to produce high quality feature films and TV dramas for the international market."

Dr Christopher Chia, Chief Executive Officer, MDA said: "The tripartite partnership shows the excellent progress and content for the international market, following our co-production agreement signed with Australia just last month, and our agreement with Canada. *Stormworld* leads the way for more high-quality children's drama productions between our countries."

TheatreRed CEO Ian Hogg said that *Stormworld* was their company's first major drama project and one that would provide an invaluable stepping stone to more Singapore-based co-productions.

ScreenWest CEO, Ian Booth, said he was delighted to see WA co-production opportunities of this calibre being undertaken and he was looking forward to the production of this exciting series that brings together talented film-makers from Singapore and Canada in a project that utilises Western Australia's outstanding cast, crew and unique landscapes.

Stormworld was created by UK writer John Goldsmith and Paul Barron. The Canadian co-producers are Stephen Hegyes and Shawn Williamson of Brightlight Pictures with Ian Hogg of TheatreRed as Co-Executive Producer. The series will be directed by BAFTA award-winning director Mark DeFriest and Edward McQueen-Mason. Series writers include David Ogilvy, Robert Greenberg, Kelly Lefever, Coral Drouyn, Vanessa Yardley, Bryan McQueen-Mason, Alex Burrows and Victor Gentile. The series is scheduled to enter Principal Photography in January 2008 and will be delivered in early 2009.

GWE and TheatreRed have already begun development on a new drama series entitled *tyger, tyger* to follow into production after *Stormworld*. The two companies are also negotiating a co-production of a documentary series about modern civil aviation. Mr Barron explained that GWE regarded *Stormworld* as both an exciting project in its own right but also as the first project in an ongoing production slate that would combine Singaporean and Australian finance and creative personnel with international partners.

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