

Brightlight Pictures' UK/Canada Co-Production Directed by Kari Skogland
GALA WORLD PREMIERE OF "FIFTY DEAD MEN WALKING"
AT TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

VANCOUVER, July 15, 2008 – **Fifty Dead Men Walking** will have its world premiere as a prestigious Gala Presentation at the Toronto International Film Festival, it was announced today by producers and Brightlight Pictures principals Stephen Hegyes and Shawn Williamson.

Filmed on location in Northern Ireland and starring Sir Ben Kingsley, Jim Sturgess, Kevin Zegers, Nathalie Press and Rose McGowan, **Fifty Dead Men Walking** is a UK/Canada co-production between Future Films and Vancouver-based Brightlight Pictures. Kari Skogland (*The Stone Angel*) directs from her own screenplay. Based on Martin McGartland's shocking true story of the same title, **Fifty Dead Men Walking** is produced by Peter LaTerriere, Kari Skogland, Stephen Hegyes and Shawn Williamson. Executive producers are Guy Collins, Stephen Margolis, Michael Ryan, Nicole Carmen-Davis, Karyn Edwards, Elsie Choi, Cindy Cowan and Kyle Lundberg.

In the 1980's when the Irish civil conflict was at its most treacherous, 22-year old Martin McGartland was recruited by the British police to infiltrate and spy on the IRA. He lived his life under constant threat of exposure and subsequent guaranteed torture and death, yet he continued because his information saved many lives. He enjoyed the buzz until one day he was discovered and had to escape against all odds. Inspired by a true story, to this day McGartland is on the run.

"**Fifty Dead Men Walking** is an extraordinary film," says Hegyes, "and we are delighted that it will have a prestigious gala premiere at Toronto. I am thrilled that we will launch Kari's film at this most important festival." Hegyes has a long relationship with TIFF: in 2001, *The Last Wedding*, directed by Bruce Sweeney and produced by Hegyes, opened the Toronto Festival while, last year, Hegyes and Williamson had three productions (*They Wait*, *American Venus*, *Normal*) selected for TIFF.

The 2008 edition of Toronto International Film Festival runs September 4 through 13.

Fifty Dead Men Walking is distributed in Canada by TVA Films. Handmade Films is handling international sales.

Brightlight Pictures develops, finances and produces independent feature films and television projects for the domestic and international marketplace. Company principals Stephen Hegyes and Shawn Williamson have produced over 70 productions in the last 10 years and over 30 productions since the launch of the company in 2001. *White Noise*, starring Michael Keaton, has grossed more than \$100 million since it opened in January 2005. Recent BLP productions include the sequel, *White Noise 2: The Light*; *American Venus*, starring Rebecca DeMornay; *Dungeon Siege: In the Name of the King*, starring Jason Statham; *They Wait*, starring Jaime King; and the upcoming *Far Cry*. BLP is also a leading service producer. For Nu Image/Millennium Films and Emmett Furla Films, BLP line-produced *88 Minutes*, starring Al Pacino, and *Wicker Man*, starring Nicolas Cage. BLP also line produced the upcoming *Possession*, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar; and *Passengers*, starring Anne Hathaway; as well as the Fox 21 series *Saved*. The company is currently in production with the second season of the hit Global TV series, *The Guard*, and *Stormworld*, a sci-fi series filming in Australia. More information about Brightlight Pictures can be found at www.brightlightpictures.com.

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