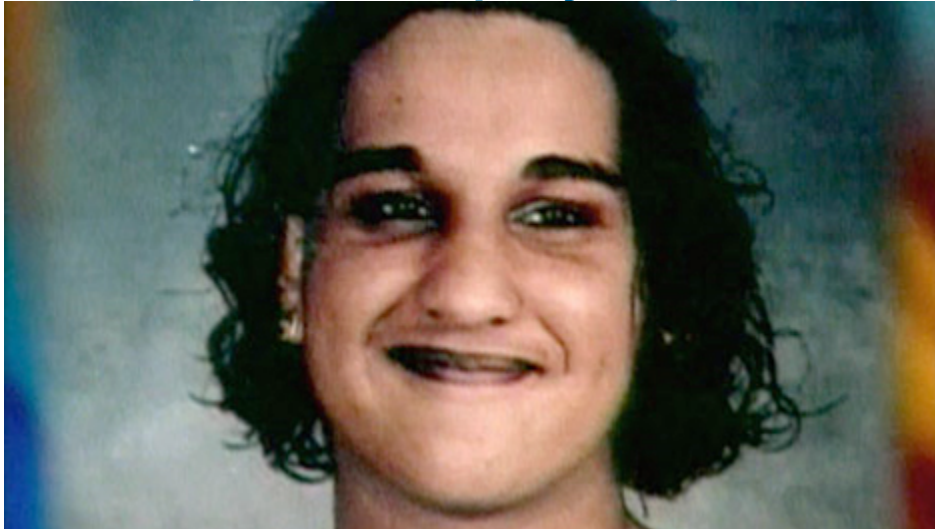




Witherspoon's company to produce Virk's story



Reena Virk is seen in this undated handout photo.

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VANCOUVER — A production company owned by actress Reese Witherspoon is teaming up with two Canadian companies to develop a film about the Reena Virk slaying.

Witherspoon's company, Type A Films, has partnered with Brightlight Pictures and Rhombus Media on the project.

The B.C. girl was beaten and drowned near Victoria after being bullied by a group of teens in 1997.

"Under the Bridge" will be based on a 2005 book on the killing by Rebecca Godfrey.

Liz Levine, Brightlight's executive director of development, says they expect to announce the main cast, director and writer within the next two months.

She says production is expected to begin in 2011 in British Columbia, with a release date set for 2011/2012.

"Everybody comes to the story with the realization that this is an important story to tell," says Levine, adding that Witherspoon will be "really intimately involved."