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## Status Update to start production in Vancouver

The family comedy, starring Ross Lynch, is produced by Shawn Williamson's Vancouver-based Brightlight Pictures and L.A.-based Offspring Entertainment.

By Regan Reid

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Production is set to begin on *Status Update*, a new family comedy from L.A.-based Offspring Entertainment and Vancouver's Brightlight Pictures.

The film, starring Ross Lynch from Disney Channel's *Austin & Ally*, will go to camera June 13 in Vancouver. It is being co-financed by Beijing-based DNA Pictures and its partner Heyi Capital, which have already acquired Chinese-language remake rights. It is being produced on a budget of around \$15 million.

Directed by *Step Up Revolution*'s Scott Speer, *Status Update* follows a teenager who discovers a magical app that causes his social media updates to come true.

While the majority of the films in Brightlight's catalogue are geared toward older audiences (*The Interview*, *Gunless*, *Fifty Dead Men Walking*), Brightlight president Shawn Williamson said the decision to come on board *Status Update* wasn't part of some master plan for his company to expand into targeting younger audiences.

"We are skewed younger on this, but I can't say that that was a market we were looking for. We are always looking for commercial product, things we can finance," he said in an interview with *Playback Daily*.

L.A.-based Voltage Pictures will handle international distribution rights for *Status Update*, which is the second film to come out of its three-year, five-picture [sales agency deal](#) with Brightlight.

*Status Update* is being produced by Offspring partners Adam Shankman and Jennifer Gibgot, Williamson and Voltage Pictures' Dominic Rustam. DNA's Mason Xu and Fan Dong will serve as executive producers alongside Brightlight's Arielle Boisvert and Voltage's Jonathan Deckter.

