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## **MILLA JOVOVICH TO STAR IN “FACES IN THE CROWD”**

OCTOBER 28th, 2009 (PARIS, FRANCE – LOS ANGELES, USA)

Milla Jovovich is set to star in Oscar-nominated writer/director Julien Magnat's psychological thriller *FACES IN THE CROWD* for Forecast Pictures, Radar Films and Minds Eye Entertainment. French – Canadian team Jean-Charles Lévy, Clément Miserez and Kevin DeWalt are producing alongside Hollywood-based producers Scott Mednick and Sylvain White.

International sales will be handled by Nicolas Chartier (Voltage Pictures).

*FACES IN THE CROWD* is a high concept feature revolving around *prosopagnosia*, a real-life neurological disorder sometimes known as face-blindness.

The script follows the story of Anna, a young woman who barely survives a brutal attack by a deranged serial killer and wakes up in a hospital only to discover her head injury has left her 'face-blind'. No longer able to recognize faces, she must now navigate a world in which facial features change each time she loses sight of them. All the while the killer is closing in, determined to eliminate this potential witness. Only Anna has seen the killer's face ... and he could be anyone.

Celebrated Hollywood director Sylvain White (*THE LOSERS*, *STOMP THE YARD*) will mentor Julien Magnat in his English-language directorial debut.

“We're delighted to be working with Milla Jovovich on this project”, says producer Jean-Charles Lévy. “Milla is a stunningly dynamic and brilliant actress; she is a perfect complement to Julien's writing and directing skills. His vision for the movie is really special. We are also very happy to be back in Canada for the third time in three years to shoot our latest feature.”

“It is very exciting to again partner with Jean-Charles and Kevin on this highly original and commercial thriller”, said Clément Miserez, who co-produced Mischa Barton's 2008 thriller *WALLED IN* with Forecast Pictures and Minds Eye Entertainment.

“Julien has written a breathtaking thriller that is truly original and I was hooked from the first read”, said Scott Mednick. “I'm excited to help bring this unique story to the screen”.

Jovovich is most famous for her performance as Alice in the *RESIDENT EVIL* franchise for which she is currently shooting the fourth installment. She is also starring in *THE FOURTH KIND* which will be released November 6<sup>th</sup> 2009 and opposite Robert De Niro and Edward Norton in the upcoming *STONE*.

Principal photography will begin March 2010.

The deal was brokered by Brandt Joel from WME Entertainment, Steve Warren from HJTJ and Steve Saltzman from Loeb & Loeb.

#### **ABOUT JULIEN MAGNAT**

Julien Magnat gained his diploma from France's prestigious national film school La FEMIS in 2000. His final year film that distinguished him as an exceptional new writer/director talent was THE ALL-NEW ADVENTURES OF CHASTITY BLADE, starring American actress Lisa Wilcox which got him his first Oscar nomination in the category of Best Student Short and the Grand Prize at the International Łódź Film Festival in Poland. This also established him as one of France's new filmmakers.

His first feature, BLOODY MALLORY, sprung from a Canal+ initiative of low-budget genre films for new filmmakers, released in theaters in France through Pathé, and sold to many countries including Japan, United Kingdom, Spain and Germany.

Julien Magnat has also been a regular writer on many TV series including SKYLAND (2005), THE GARFIELD SHOW (2009) and IRON MAN: ARMORED ADVENTURES animated series currently airing on the Nicktoons network.

#### **ABOUT FORECAST PICTURES**

Established in 2003 by Jean-Charles Lévy, Forecast Pictures is a French production company specializing in English speaking international co-productions. The company also has a consulting arm dedicated to international film financing. With a unique network of distributors, producers, financiers and talent around the world, Forecast offers innovative opportunities for independent producers and creative artists.

Forecast's credits as producer include WALLED IN and O JERUSALEM, and is currently finishing post-production on LULLABY FOR PI (starring Rupert Friend, Clémence Poésy and Forest Whitaker) coproduced with Killer Films' Christine Vachon and Minds Eye Entertainment, which will be released early 2010 by Studio 37 / Orange. Additional credits of Jean-Charles Lévy include Oscar-nominated FAR FROM HEAVEN and UNDER SUSPICION.

#### **ABOUT RADAR FILMS**

Founded by French producer Clément Miserez, Radar Films recently completed production of the French comedy MURPHY'S LAW for Gaumont. Clément Miserez previously produced WALLED IN alongside Jean-Charles Lévy and Kevin DeWalt and numerous critically acclaimed French shorts films.

RADAR FILMS has just inked a production deal with French distributor SND in respect to Pascal LAUGIER's English-speaking directorial debuts in the wake of the French hit MARTYRS.

#### **ABOUT MINDS EYE ENTERTAINMENT**

Kevin DeWalt has produced over 40 film and television projects while spearheading the development of a regional production company into an internationally recognized, vertically-integrated organization, which includes subsidiaries in distribution, production and visual effects/post-production. Minds Eye's recently wrapped production on the Canada-France co-production LULLABY FOR PI starring Rupert Friend, Clémence Poésy and Forest Whitaker.

In 2008 DeWalt launched a genre-specific subsidiary, Dark Eye Entertainment, which produced the feature films THE SHORTCUT and GRACE, which premiered to enthusiastic audiences at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. Two adult men fainted during the screening – by all accounts this was a first for the prestigious festival.

Minds Eye Entertainment's television event mini-series, PRAIRIE GIANT: THE TOMMY DOUGLAS STORY and THE ENGLISHMAN'S BOY received a combined 21 Gemini Award nominations and a total of seven wins, including best mini-series. Other recent credits include DOLAN'S CADILLAC, WALLED IN and HYBRID.

#### **ABOUT SCOTT MEDNICK**

Scott Mednick has been part of the producing team on such motion pictures as 300, SUPERMAN RETURNS, 10,000 BC and WE ARE MARSHALL. He executive produced WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE directed by Spike Jonze and upcoming will produce the TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES reboot for Paramount Pictures and will also produce the big screen adaptation of AMERICAN GLADIATORS.

#### **ABOUT SYLVAIN WHITE**

Sylvain White just completed shooting the highly anticipated feature film THE LOSERS for WB, starring Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Zoe Saldana, based on the graphic novel by Andy Diggle.

His first feature, STOMP THE YARD, opened in 2007 to number-one two-weeks in a row. On top of his music video and commercial work, Sylvain is currently packaging, writing and developing several feature film projects.

#### **ABOUT VOLTAGE PICTURES**

Voltage Pictures is a financing, sales and production company founded in 2005 by partners Nicolas Chartier and Dean Devlin (of Electric Entertainment).

Voltage Pictures' last titles include THE HURT LOCKER, GEORGE A.ROMERO'S SURVIVAL OF THE DEAD, THE WHISTLEBLOWER and MR NOBODY.

For further information on **prosopagnosia**, please go to <http://www.faceblind.org>