



MEDIA RELEASE

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26 October 2010

For Immediate Release

Gold Coast Film Festival Gets Wasted

The highly anticipated debut film from writer director Ben C Lucas **WASTED ON THE YOUNG** will open this year's Gold Coast Film Festival presented by Australia Fair Shopping Centre on November 10. Principal actor **Alex Russell** will attend the event and will introduce the film to a full cinema of ticket holders, invited guests and VIPs following the opening night red carpet at Australia Fair Birch Carroll and Coyle Cinemas.

In the 'always on' but disaffected society of an elite high school, step brothers Zack and Darren occupy opposite ends of the school's social hierarchy. At one of Zack's parties Xandrie, the only person with whom Darren ever connected, is drugged, assaulted and left for dead. After Xandrie doesn't show up at school Darren tries to find out what happened but no-one knows, says or does anything. No-one can or they just don't care.

When Xandrie finally does return to school it sets off a chain reaction with fatal results as Xandrie realises that nothing will be achieved by taking revenge. Darren decides that if he doesn't do something then no-one will. Darren's plan plays out at another one of Zack's parties and soon the brothers have their lives at the mercy of popular opinion.

Sydney actor Oliver Ackland (*The Proposition*), recipient of the inaugural Australians in Film Heath Ledger Scholarship last year, leads the cast of **WASTED ON THE YOUNG**, alongside Adelaide Clemens (*X-Men Origins: Wolverine*), TJ Power (*Eat, Pray, Love*), newcomer Alex Russell and Georgina Haig (*Road Train, Underbelly*).

Set on the social battleground of an elite high school, it focuses on the extreme alienation and brutality that plague classrooms all over the country in a way said to compare to the raw and realistic works of such acclaimed directors as Gus Van Sant (*Elephant*) and Michael Haneke (*Funny Games*).



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WASTED ON THE YOUNG was the sole wholly Australian made film vying for the \$60,000 prize at Sydney's Film Festival this year before being picked up for distribution by Paramount Pictures.

"This film is filled with new exciting and vibrant Australian screen talent, so it gives me great pride to announce that **WASTED ON THE YOUNG** will open our film festival and that Ben C Lucas will be with us to introduce the film on the night." Casey Marshall Siemer, Festival Director.

The Gold Coast Film Festival presented by Australia Fair Shopping Centre, will be held November 10-16 at Australia Fair Birch Carroll and Coyle Cinemas in Southport. Gold Coast City Council's Film Gold Coast is the major Government sponsor of the event. The full program of films and events is online at www.gcfilmfestival.com

WASTED ON THE YOUNG will have a wide release in cinemas 3 March 2011.

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