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No. 1 Norwegian dark comedy 'Troll Hunter' to capture the Gold Coast

Trolls. Aren't they those cute little things in the gift shop with the wide eyes, big bellies and fluorescent Don King haircuts? In Norway, they are anything but.

A group of students investigating a series of mysterious bear killings find themselves following the poacher they assume is responsible for the deaths, only to learn that the man is, in fact, a troll hunter. So begins **Troll Hunter**, the dark Norwegian fantasy film which will screen at the 2011 Gold Coast Film Festival, presented by Australia Fair Shopping Centre.

"I wanted to do a film about a Norwegian heroic movie character, but I wanted it to be grounded in something truly Norwegian. That meant placing the character in a world of trolls, but in a modern setting." André Øvredal, Director.

Shot as a 'found footage' mockumentary akin to blockbusters like Paranormal Activity and Cloverfield, **Troll Hunter** deviates from the expected by delivering a spectacularly riveting adventure dusted with dry humour, rather than preying on viewers with classic horror techniques. The documentary approach is key to telling the story – and is perhaps the only way to give the audience the sense that trolls, in fact, exist. "It brings an incredible sense of realism," Øvredal explains. "We're insisting that this is real. The trolls are part of a dirty reality."

The insistence on reality is, in fact, what has made the film so incredibly popular in its country of origin, Norway, where it is considered by fans as not simply a monster movie, but as a dark comedy. As Øvredal explains, "These are figures from fairy tales being explained scientifically, in a matter-of-fact manner, as if they really exist. I mean, we're explaining how a troll works, why they



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turn to stone, and the actors deliver it perfectly. You have to be completely dry about it – the flatter the delivery, the funnier it is. And the Norwegian audiences see this, and they laugh, because it's so ridiculous to have all this explained in a film that pretends to be so serious."

The film stars, and in fact was written for, Otto Jespersen, the famous and controversial Norwegian comedian, which makes the film both fun and exciting. "What I wanted him to bring was his sense of humor. He's well known for this kind of really crass, dark, negative sense of humor that everybody laughs at, because it's just filled with sarcasm. I just thought that was perfect." Øvredal, Director.

Troll Hunter is a monster comedy flick that won't disappoint fans looking for interesting and exciting special effects. Everything about the trolls has been carefully orchestrated. "I sat with the animators day and night, had daily meetings, for hours, going through the trolls' movement and behavior. We worked on it quite a lot." André Øvredal, Director.

The Gold Coast Film Festival presented by Australia Fair Shopping Centre, will be held November 21-27 at Birch Carroll and Coyle Cinemas at Australia Fair Shopping Centre 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 will be available to view at www.gcfilmfestival.com from October 17. **Tickets on sale NOW!**

The Gold Coast Film Festival: Get Some Action!

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For further information please contact GCF National Publicist: **Tracey McMullan** MODE PR Mob: 0405 124 535 or tracey@modepr.com.au

Poster Art, Production Notes and Images for Films are available at www.gcfilmfestival.com