



MEDIA RELEASE

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Award Winning Director of Photography joins forces with Embassy Pictures

This summer stay off the back roads...

Sydney based director Dion Boland and experienced director of photography, John Purnell have joined forces to create a vision of Australian terror, *The Backpacker*.

“On the lonely back roads of rural Australia a dark and deadly secret from the past awaits returned soldier Sergeant Ben Cross. Vincent Malek; a cruel and twisted killer forces Ben to play a deadly game of cat and mouse. Relentlessly hunted through unforgiving terrain, Ben must draw on all his strengths to survive, and unravel the truth along the way.”

Purnell is an award winning documentary filmmaker whose experience has taken him all over Australia, working in some of the most beautiful, remote locations. The backpacker took him to bushland near Murrurundi & Nundle Purnell explains. “We shot in some incredible locations around Tamworth in rural NSW, There were extraordinary rock formations, green rolling fields, mountains and ruminants of old mining settlements.”

“We were able to get some absolutely stunning scenes out of the landscape, the sunsets in particular over the prehistoric rock formations is certainly one to remember.”

Dion Boland, first time feature film director, who also co-wrote *The Backpacker* with Producer Tara Simmonds praises Purnell’s work. “He is a very talented location cinematographer, he is able to produce some amazing images with no more then then camera he is using.”

The Backpacker was shot over 1 month by a skeleton crew of only 9, something rarely seen in today’s film industry. “Keeping the crew and equipment light and mobile was of utmost importance to shooting the feature under budget and within the strict time frame. Having a tight knit crew and a great cast was the key to our success” explains Boland.

“We were very grateful that John (Purnell) came on board to shoot *The Backpacker* he as defiantly added to my vision, in a very positive way.

The Backpacker is due to be completed in early 2009.