



MEDIA RELEASE

28.11.08 – 28.12.2008

For further information please contact
Ella Holmes
ella@embassypictures.com
M +61 (0) 406 726 178

Independent Feature Film Supported by JVC AUSTRALIA

This summer stay off the back roads...

Australia is becoming famous for its low budget horror/ thriller films. Made for less than the price of a luxury car, *The Backpacker* relied on donations and support from companies and individuals. Generosity came in the form of a professional camcorder from JVC Australia, private investments and local volunteers and contributions. In September this year, the skeleton crew of 9 embarked on a month long journey to shoot the thriller deep into the Australian bushland around Tamworth NSW. They are now in the cutting room in Sydney, and their vision is coming to life.

First time directing and producing team, Dion Boland and Tara Simmonds explain; "shooting guerrilla style with minimum crew, equipment and cast is the only way we could have pulled it off. Our dedicated team often doubled up on roles. It was not unusual to see our star Vincent Stone (Superman Returns) carrying the tripod across the mountainous terrain."

"Keeping our team and equipment light was our main priority" Boland explains; "We approached JVC because we knew their professional camera range was light, sturdy and functional in the harshest conditions."

Having a dedicated, talented team of professional filmmakers was crucial to the success of the shoot explains Boland, "Our crew were amazing, they worked harder than we ever expected. The locals in the area were also a saving grace. They supplied us with accommodation, cars, important local area knowledge and the all important catering."

"We have a great vision for this film," Boland explains. "Like all Producers and Directors, we've put our heart and soul into the project and want it to succeed. I think we've got a winner on our hands."

Reminiscent of the 1970's thriller *Deliverance*, *The Backpacker* follows Ben Cross, a young Australian war veteran as he's relentlessly hunted through unforgiving terrain by psychopath Vincent Malek. A cruel and twisted killer, Malek forces Ben to play a deadly game of cat and mouse. Ben must draw on his strength and experience to survive, and unravel the truth along the way.

The Backpacker is due for completion in early 2009