

## MEDIA RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

**MADE-IN-SASKATCHEWAN HOLLYWOOD THRILLER  
*THE MESSENGERS*  
SET FOR THEATRICAL RELEASE ACROSS NORTH AMERICA TODAY**

*Columbia Pictures' feature filmed on location in southern Saskatchewan's scenic Qu'Appelle Valley and in the Canada Saskatchewan Production Studios in Regina*

**February 2, 2007 (Regina, SK, Canada)** The Saskatchewan Film and Video Development Corporation (SaskFilm) is pleased to announce that the made-in-Saskatchewan feature film, ***The Messengers***, is set for a North American theatrical release on 2500 screens today. The film will screen in theatres across the province in Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and Prince Albert.

"We're pleased that Saskatchewan's competitive tax credit incentives, state of the art production facility and scenic locations were successful in attracting another studio picture to the province," says Susanne Bell, Acting CEO and Film Commissioner, SaskFilm.

Los Angeles-based Columbia Pictures, Ghost House Pictures and Blue Star Pictures selected Saskatchewan to produce the film after meeting with SaskFilm executives in Los Angeles. Throughout the summer and fall of 2005, producers alternated between filming in the Canada Saskatchewan Production Studios in Regina and on location near Indian Head, where they cultivated 6500 sunflowers across four acres on a farm specifically for the film.

"Every movie has its own distinct characteristics and unique requirements. Building a house on location near Indian Head, planting sunflowers out of season, bringing 22 ravens from Prague, all added to the excitement of making a horror movie," says Saskatchewan producer, Rhonda Baker.

Directed by the Pang Brothers (*The Eye*), ***The Messengers***, is a horror thriller starring Kristen Stewart (*Panic Room*), Dylan McDermott (*The Practice*), Penelope Ann Miller (*Vanished*) and John Corbett (*Sex and the City*) and features a family which has left big city life for a secluded farm in North Dakota. Soon after they arrive at their new home, 16 year-old Jess (Stewart) and her three year-old brother begin seeing ominous apparitions that no one else can see, and are repeatedly attacked by something from the other side. Now they must try desperately to warn the rest of the family before it's too late.

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**The Messengers** is produced by Sam Raimi, Rob Tapert, William Sherak and Jason Shuman, and written by Mark Wheaton, from a story by Todd Farmer. The film has been rated PG-13 for mature thematic material, disturbing violence and terror.

**Ghost House Pictures** has quickly become the preeminent horror brand in Hollywood. With the creative autonomy and the ability to self-finance, develop, package and produce broad appeal theatrical films, the company has delivered such record-breaking hits as *The Grudge* and *Boogeyman*. Formed in May 2002, Ghost House Pictures is dedicated to producing commercial horror films for the studios and major independents worldwide. Ghost House's upcoming slate includes: Takashi Shimizu's horror sequel *The Grudge 2*; Sebastian Gutierrez's *Rise* starring Lucy Liu; *Dibbuk Box*; and a remake of the seminal horror classic *The Evil Dead*.

**Columbia Pictures**, part of the Columbia TriStar Motion Picture Group, is a Sony Pictures Entertainment company. Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE) is a subsidiary of Sony Corporation of America (SCA), a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Sony Corporation. SPE's global operations encompass motion picture production and distribution; television production and distribution; digital content creation and distribution; worldwide channel investments; home entertainment acquisition and distribution; operation of studio facilities; development of new entertainment products, services and technologies; and distribution of filmed entertainment in 67 countries. Sony Pictures Entertainment can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.sonypictures.com>.

**SaskFilm and Video Development Corporation (SaskFilm)** enables the film, television and interactive industry in Saskatchewan to continually enhance the quality, quantity and marketability of its products and resources. SaskFilm was established to stimulate and foster the development of an indigenous film, television and interactive industry through the administration of the Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit Program; management of the state of the art Canada Saskatchewan Production Studios; and by providing financial assistance to qualified production companies for purposes of developing, producing and distributing film, television and interactive products. Visit [www.saskfilm.com](http://www.saskfilm.com).

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