



PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2007

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**LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION:  
FILMING BEGINS ON LUHRMANN'S EPIC 'AUSTRALIA'**

After more than 2 years of research, writing and preparation, one of the most anticipated Australian films in recent history, **Baz Luhrmann's AUSTRALIA**, officially commences filming Monday 30 April.

Writer/producer/director **Luhrmann** is once again teamed with Academy Award® winner **Nicole Kidman** [MOULIN ROUGE!, THE HOURS, THE OTHERS] (with whom he last worked on the worldwide campaign for Chanel No. 5) and leading man **Hugh Jackman** [THE PRESTIGE, THE FOUNTAIN, X-MEN TRILOGY, KATE & LEOPOLD]. All three are thrilled to be back in their homeland and working with the world renowned cast and crew.

Luhrmann said: "We are in a wonderful creative place in the Australian film industry where daring independent films like TEN CANOES can be made alongside groundbreaking digital animation like HAPPY FEET. And here we are about to embark on our epic AUSTRALIA, working with the best of world talent, in inspirational locations, in our own home country."

Joining **Kidman** and **Jackman** is a who's who of Australian acting talent including legends **Ray Barrett**, **Bryan Brown**, **Jack Thompson** and **Bill Hunter** who will feature alongside **David Wenham**, **Ben Mendelsohn**, **John Jarrett**, **Kerry Walker**, **Barry Otto**, **Matthew Whittet**, **Arthur Dignam**, **Bruce Spence**, **Tony Barry**, **Sean Hall**, **Essie Davis**, **Eddie Baroo**, **Nathin Butler**, **Jacek Koman**, **Sandy Gore**, **Yuen Wah** [KUNG FU HUSTLE] from China and indigenous cast **Lillian Crombie**, **Ursula Yovich** [JINDABYNE], **Angus Pilauki**, **Crusoe Kurrdal**, **Jamie Gulpilil**, **David Ngoombujarra** [RABBIT PROOF FENCE, THE MISSING], **David Gulpilil** [TEN CANOES, THE TRACKER, RABBIT PROOF FENCE] and 11 year old Broome boy **Brandon Walters**, in his feature film debut.

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Double Academy Award® winning Production & Costume Designer **Catherine Martin** [MOULIN ROUGE!, WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO+JULIET, STRICTLY BALLROOM] will again inspire with her visual expertise, re-creating outback Australia and Darwin of the 1930s.

**AUSTRALIA**, a romantic action-adventure set in the country's northern outback prior to World War II, centres on an English aristocrat, Lady Sarah Ashley (Nicole Kidman), who finds herself unexpectedly fighting to save a cattle station the size of Belgium. When local cattle barons plot to take her land, she reluctantly joins forces with a rough-hewn cattle drover (Hugh Jackman) to drive 1500 head of cattle across northern Australia's breathtaking, yet brutal landscape. Love ensues, but they must still face the bombing of Darwin by the Japanese forces that had attacked Pearl Harbor only months earlier.

Filming is planned over an epic 5 month shoot and will take the cast and crew to four states and territories including locations in **Bowen, Kununurra, Darwin** and surrounding areas, as well as **Sydney**.

Produced by **Baz Luhrmann, G. Mac Brown** and **Catherine Knapman** under Luhrmann's Sydney-based **Bazmark Films** banner, **AUSTRALIA** will be distributed worldwide by News Corporation's Twentieth Century Fox.

**The cast and crew of AUSTRALIA would like to thank everyone in advance for their support during filming.**

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