

# F. & M. E.

---

## FILM & MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT LTD

*May 13 2011*

**Dutch Production house Springfilm and UK producer Film and Music Entertainment announce end of shooting their Manila-shot fiction feature *Snow White* (aka *Lilet Never Happened*). Internationally known Dutch Star Johanna Ter Steege joins all local cast. Post production to take place in the Netherlands and Norway.**

*For Immediate Release:*

Dutch director Jacco Groen's feature film *Snow White* (aka *Lilet Never Happened*) a powerful, realistic and emotional look at the dark underbelly of child prostitution in the Philippine capital Manila has just wrapped today after a three month shooting period with Dutch actress Johanna Ter Steege joining the cast to play the role of Gloria, an aid worker with Manilla streetkid sex workers.

The drama script is based on the real life story of a child prostitute in Manila who, having reached the end of her possibilities, attempts suicide as a desperate way out of her terrible life. Her story is very much the story of the more than one million other children working in the global commercial sex trade today.

"*Snow White* is the story of how a young girl, struggling to survive in the streets of Manila, spirals down into child prostitution." Says director Groen, best known for his hard hitting social documentaries, "She is a fighter. She is a dreamer. She is a rebel and she thinks she can handle the world with her wits. But she has to face up to reality when she runs out of innocent dreams."

In the tradition of Jodie Foster (*Taxi Driver*) and Brooke Shields (*Pretty Baby*), Lilet is bravely played by the very young Philippina actress Sandy Talag best known for her roles in Philippino movies *Bahay kubo: A pinoy mano po!* and *Seance* .

"We started shooting without closing the financing," says F&ME's Mike Downey, "but this is one of those rare cases as a producer when you have to decide to go ahead with the shoot and plunge headlong in – in this case, because if we waited any longer, Sandy Talag, the young actress who plays Lilet, will have grown up and be no longer able to play the part. She is an actress in a million. Jacco would never have been able to find someone like her again."

**34 Fouberts Place, London W1F 7PX**

**Tel: 020 7478 7527 Fax: 0207 691 9712**

office@fame.uk.com

Co registration No. 4114840 VAT No. 830 7039 47

Registered Office: 99 Kenton Road, Kenton, MDDX HA3 OAN

Behind the camera are Belgian cinematographer Danny Elsen, known for his camera work on *The Alzheimer Affair* (2003), *Loft* (2008), *Bluthochzeit (AKA The Wedding Party)*, 2005) and many more successful international feature films. He and Jacco Groen are no strangers to collaboration having teamed up on a number of projects.

The Dutch National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO) and the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment are amongst the film's financiers, along with Springfilm Foundation, Filmmore, Witsenburg Natural Products are all participating in the finance. The producers and director are concerned that as well as making a good film - that the film will have a wider impact. That's why - right from the get go – they have been actively seeking the involvement of Philippino and global NGO's. In order for them to use the film and the publicity it generates in bringing about the desired, and much needed political action to stop this horrific form of abuse.

“When I first read the screenplay of *Snow White*, and then looked at the test shoot,” says prolific UK producer Mike Downey, “I was blow away by the depth of authenticity of Jacco’s narrative voice as well as the unbelievable performance of the child actress who plays Lilet. Her incarnation of this mere child, forced into utter degradation by virtue of the place and class she is born into was one of the most moving things I have ever seen on film. Now that we have shot the film – these things I still hold to be true.”

#### **For Further Information**

**Please contact:**

**Ed Rigg at Film and Music Entertainment (34 Foubert’s Place, London W1  
Tel: + 44 7762123300, [Ed.Rigg@fame.uk.com](mailto:Ed.Rigg@fame.uk.com))**

**Jamillah van der Hulst at Springfilm (Jan Tooropstraat 29, studio 3.01, 1062 KB  
Amsterdam; tel.: +31-6-24628554, [jamillahvanderhulst@gmail.com](mailto:jamillahvanderhulst@gmail.com))**

**34 Fouberts Place, London W1F 7PX  
Tel: 020 7478 7527 Fax: 0207 691 9712  
[office@fame.uk.com](mailto:office@fame.uk.com)**

Co registration No. 4114840 VAT No. 830 7039 47  
Registered Office: 99 Kenton Road, Kenton, MDDX HA3 OAN

## Notes for Editors

Film and Music Entertainment was launched on the German stock market in 1999 by Mike Downey and Sam Taylor. In 2003 they successfully engineered a management buy-out prior to the parent company's delisting in 2004.

In UK Film Council's publication of its Annual Statistical Yearbook 2010 is list as the top production company involved in the production of films in the UK over the three-year period 2007 to 2009.

F&ME has a back catalogue of rights in over 40 feature films.

Stephen Daldry director of *Billy Elliot*, *The Hours* and *The Reader* acts as F&ME's company chairman and exec produces their in-house films.

Downey and Taylor were founder shareholders in Shotgun Pictures, the Munich-based low budget film finance enterprise and has produced in the last years: *Open Water 2*, *Princess* by Anders Morgenthaler (Cannes Directors Fortnight Opener 2006), *Suely in the Sky*, and *My Black Little Heart*.

Taylor recently stepped down from the Pact Skillset Board.

Downey has been voted in as board member of the European Film Academy for two successive terms and is currently serving his second term on the BAFTA Council, and first term on the BAFTA Film Committee. Downey is also a member of the White Ribbon Foundation dedicated to eradicating death in childbirth in the third world.

The F&ME catalogue can be viewed on their website [www.fame.uk.com](http://www.fame.uk.com)

**34 Fouberts Place, London W1F 7PX**  
**Tel: 020 7478 7527 Fax: 0207 691 9712**  
office@fame.uk.com

Co registration No. 4114840 VAT No. 830 7039 47  
Registered Office: 99 Kenton Road, Kenton, MDDX HA3 OAN