

April 18, 2002

Business is booming at Brightlight Pictures Inc.

(Vancouver, BC) - With three features shooting this spring, "Try Seventeen", "Punch", and "House of the Dead", the Vancouver based production company is building a solid Westcoast filmmaking presence. From romantic comedy to provocative drama to multi-million dollar high-tech horror, producers Stephen Hegyes and Shawn Williamson continue to reflect their considerable talent and experience in Brightlight's burgeoning production slate.

Principal photography on "Try Seventeen", a romantic comedy from Millennium Films began on March 19. "Try Seventeen" follows the exploits of a college-bound teenager who learns more about life and love from the inhabitants of his apartment building than at school. Starring major young actors: Elijah Wood ("Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring"), Franka Potente ("Run Lola Run", "Blow"), and Mandy Moore ("A Walk to Remember", "The Princess Diaries"); Jeffrey Porter ("The Liars' Club") is directing Charles M. Kephart's script. Executive producers Avi Lerner, John Thompson and Boaz Davidson join the producing trio of Mike Elliot, Michele Weisler, and Holly Wiersma. Rounding out the producers are Randy Emmett and George Furla of Emmett/Furla Films. Shawn Williamson of Brightlight Pictures is line producing.

Writer/Director Guy Bennett's debut feature "Punch" started production on Monday, April 15th. The coming-of-age drama "Punch" explores a father and daughter's volatile relationship and the pain of finding the right emotional distance between yourself and those whom you love. "Punch" stars veteran Canadian actor, Gemini Award Winner and twice Genie nominated Michael Riley ("Mile Zero", "The Last Debate", "Power Play"). Acting opposite Riley is the director's twenty-one year old daughter, up-and-coming actress, Sonja Bennett.

Producer Stephen Hegyes, whose credits include Bruce Sweeney's "Last Wedding", which opened the Toronto International Film Festival in 2001, and Mina Shum's "Double Happiness", is no stranger to producing provocative films. World-wide distributor Jeff Sackman of Thinkfilm, will executive produce with Brightlight's Shawn Williamson. Williamson headed up production at Vancouver Production Company Shavick Entertainment for two years before co-founding Brightlight Productions with Stephen Hegyes in 2001. Shawn has also produced 18 television movies (networks include TBS, E! Entertainment, Fox Family & TVA) and three series.

"House of the Dead", based on Sega's popular video game, goes to camera in early May. A rave on an abandoned island sets the stage for "House of the Dead" and its team of zombie-battling college students on a mission to defeat the undead. Bringing his unique talents for suspense and horror to the production, noted German commercial and music video director Uwe Boll ("Blackwoods", "Homeroom") is teaming up with Brightlight's Producer Shawn Williamson ("Dead In A Heartbeat", "Sanctimony", "Tail Lights Fade", and "Finder's Fee"). Writers Mark Altman and Dave Parker created "House of the Dead"

as a prequel to the video game. Altman will also be acting as executive producer for Mindfire Entertainment. "House" is slated for a spring 2003 release, coinciding with Sega's next "House of the Dead" video game.

Brightlight Pictures, a feature film and television production company based out of Vancouver, BC, develops, finances and produces independent feature films and television projects. Producers Stephen Hegyes and Shawn Williamson are the principles.

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