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B.C.'S Brightlight Pictures Secures CTF Funding for Local Series
With strong CHUM network backing, Victoria-based television series begins filming second season

(Vancouver) – B.C. film production company Brightlight Pictures is one of a limited number of Canadian producers able to secure prized first round Canadian Television Fund (CTF) funding for a B.C.-based television series being filmed this fall. With support from the CHUM media group, Brightlight was granted second season funding for the sci-fi comedy *Alienated*, even before the first season goes to air on SPACE: The Imagination Station in July.

“Over the past several years, we’ve developed an excellent working relationship with personnel at the CHUM network, and they believe in the quality of our work,” said Shawn Williamson, one of two principals at Brightlight Pictures. “Their backing and support in terms of helping us secure this important funding was critical to our ability to continue into a second year. In turn, we hope that *Alienated* will be a big hit with SPACE viewers,” said Williamson.

The series will resume filming in September in the Gordon Head area of Saanich, on the same set occupied last year. An open casting call for Vancouver Island talent is currently underway. Last year, local actor Chris Farquhar landed the role of 'Nick Morten' after attending the first open casting call held at The New VI in downtown Victoria. In the second season, producer Cynthia Chapman is seeking a number of Vancouver Island actors to play walk on parts.

In addition to skilled B.C. actors appearing in front of the screen, *Alienated* also features award winning local talent behind the scenes. Series writer and director Mark Sawers is B.C. born and raised and, over the past 12 years, has directed a variety of short films and TV series, including "The Kids in the Hall". Sawers' work titled "Shoes Off!" won Best Short Film in the International Critics Week section of the 1999 Cannes Film Festival, and three of his early short works garnered Genie nominations for Best Live Action Short Drama.

For Sawers, the ability to practice his craft at home is a good thing – both for him and the Canadian film sector. “As a B.C.-based director and writer, it’s great not to have to rely on foreign producers in order to work on significant projects,” said Sawers. “The value of companies like Brightlight Pictures partnering with local writers, directors and producers is that it supports and strengthens our entire industry.”

Saanich Mayor Frank Leonard, is pleased with the decision to continue filming "Alienated" in his Municipality. "Greater Victoria has some of the most scenic locations in the province and we are delighted that a major player in the BC Film Industry has chosen to come back and contribute to our local economy." said Leonard. "We look forward to the opportunity of enhancing Saanich's "Film Friendly" reputation by working again with the Brightlight Pictures staff and crew to make this series a success."

Saanich businesses and locations featured prominently in the 11 episodes filmed last fall. Mount Douglas High School appears as itself, and The New VI doubles as the radio station where lead

character 'Roger Blundell' works. One of CHUM's 17 specialty channels, SPACE: The Imagination Station is scheduled to air the first year series of Alienated as part of their Tuesday night line up, beginning July 8. Filming for the second season's 11 episodes is scheduled September through November.

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.

"Alienated" is a half-hour, sci-fi comedy series written and directed by Mark Sawers and produced by Cynthia Chapman. Executive produced by Brightlight Pictures, "Alienated" is funded in part by CHUM Television stations The New VI and SPACE: The Imagination Station.

For more information on Brightlight Pictures or the Alienated series contact:

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