

# H2O, Brightlight plug in five pics

## L.A.'s, Vancouver's prod'n co. to spend \$50 mil

By [BRENDAN KELLY](#)

MONTREAL -- Los Angeles-based [H2O Motion Pictures](#) and Vancouver's [Brightlight Pictures](#) have pacted to co-produce five pics for \$50 million.

The slate includes "People Who Knock," an adaptation of the [Patricia Highsmith](#) novel penned by [Doug Taylor](#) and directed by Vancouver helmer [Lynne Stopkewich](#) ("[Kissed](#)"), with [Alliance Atlantis](#) and [BBC Films](#) co-financing. Also on the slate is Samuel L. Jackson starrer "[Running Wild](#)," based on the novel by J. G. Ballard ("[Empire of the Sun](#)"), scripted by [David Leland](#) ("[Wish You Were Here](#)"). The thriller, which is also partly financed by Alliance Atlantis, will shoot on Vancouver Island next summer.

H2O is run by [Andras Hamori](#), the former president of Alliance Pictures and producer of "[Max](#)" and "Owning Mawhoney."

Partners [Stephen Hegyes](#) and [Shawn Williamson](#) run Brightlight, formed two years ago. Its past pics include [Bruce Sweeney](#)'s "[Last Wedding](#)."

Other pics to be co-produced by the two companies include "White Clouds," based on a script by [Dennis Potter](#) ("[The Singing Detective](#)") and set to shoot next year in Italy. "[With Prejudice](#)" is based on the [New Yorker](#) article "Harriet, the Spy Club" by [Ted Friend](#) and the script is penned by [Michael Stokes](#). Pathe will distribute the pic in England and France.

Also set to shoot is "Peachland," written by Montreal screenwriter Kate Schlemmer and to be directed by Spanish helmer [Maria Ripoll](#) ("[Tortilla Soup](#)"). [ThinkFilm](#) has Canadian rights to the comedy, which blends romance with Latin music and dance.

Brightlight is shooting "[Alone in the Dark](#)" in Vancouver, starring [Christian Slater](#), [Tara Reid](#) and [Stephen Dorff](#). Twenty million-dollar pic is based on the Atari videogame.

The company is also in pre-production on "[White Noise](#)," a co-production with [Gold Circle Films](#) that Hegyes describes as "a creepy thriller in the same vein as 'The Sixth Sense.' "

This article was linked to the Variety site, unlike the other Variety articles, the address is: <http://www.variety.com/index.asp?layout=story&p=0&articleid=VR1117890079&s=h&categoryid=13&cs=1>

Just incase that was linked for a particular reason.