



MEDIA RELEASE

STRICT EMBARGO
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THE HUNTER COMMENCES FILMING IN AUSTRALIA

Porchlight Films' psychological thriller, *The Hunter* commenced filming in Tasmania this week. Set against the daunting majesty of the Tasmanian wilderness, it's directed by Daniel Nettheim, produced by Vincent Sheehan and will star twice Oscar nominated actor Willem Dafoe (*Spider-man, The English Patient, Platoon*), Frances O'Connor (*Blessed, Artificial Intelligence: AI, Mansfield Park*) and Sam Neill (*Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole, Jurassic Park, The Piano*).

The Hunter is the story of Martin, a mercenary sent from Europe by an anonymous biotech company to the Tasmanian wilderness on a dramatic hunt for the last Tasmanian tiger. Based on the novel of the same name by acclaimed author Julia Leigh, it has been regarded as a bold and distinctive piece of Australian literature, striking a chord around the world that continues to resonate.

The ensemble cast includes Morgana Davies (*The Tree, Green Fire Envy*), Jacek Koman (*Defiance, Romulus, My Father, Children of Men*), Dan Wyllie (*Animal Kingdom, Muriel's Wedding*), Sullivan Stapleton (*Animal Kingdom*), John Brumpton (*Red Hill, The Loved Ones, Last Ride*), Callan Mulvey (*Thunderstruck, Rush, Underbelly*) and newcomer Finn Woodlock.

Producer Vincent Sheehan said "it has been a long journey and we are thrilled to finally be here in Tassie, filming in a magnificent location and working with such a talented brew of Tasmanian & mainland crew."

Sheehan is one of the founding partners of Porchlight Films, one of Australia's leading production companies with a catalogue of award winning feature films. Sheehan produced the low budget independent Australian box office hit *Mullet* and the acclaimed *Little Fish* starring Cate Blanchett. Porchlight's most recent feature *Animal Kingdom*, starring Guy Pearce, Ben Mendelsohn, Joel Edgerton and Jacki Weaver, won the World Cinema Jury Prize at Sundance 2010.

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