

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## “Canadian Filmmakers Put The ‘indie’ Back In Independent Film”

TORONTO – A pair of Canadian film producers have just completed their first feature film and are set for a world premiere later this year. The film – *Loaner* - is a cutting-edge crime-comedy about two young slackers who find themselves unwittingly caught up in the Los Angeles underworld. The film’s producers, Scott Edgecombe and Dave Keene, both hail from Ontario Canada. Scott Edgecombe, originally from Toronto, took time off while working as an actor and writer in Los Angeles to put himself through school, eventually graduating summa cum laude with a double major in Religious Studies and Child Development - an unlikely recipe for a film producer by anyone’s standards. Dave Keene (who also co-wrote the story for *Loaner*) was raised in the shadow of the world famous Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario. He went on to study at an equally unlikely place - Seminary in Saskatchewan - before taking a turn to Southern California as a Software Architect for Sony in San Diego, California. But producing movies was never forefront on either of their minds. That all changed when they met *Loaner*’s writer and director Jason Schmid. Keene remembers, “I was just going to help him come up with some technical stuff he was writing for a script, but one thing led to another and we found ourselves collaborating on a couple of screenplays. I had no idea I’d be producing one of them.” Schmid, who’s from Los Angeles by way of New Jersey, says of Keene, “Dave is the smartest guy I know. He can take any idea I have and make it better – that’s like gold to a screenwriter.” On Edgecombe, Schmid says, “Scott’s not only the guy who will pick up a light stand, or make phone calls, or whatever it takes to get stuff done, he’s actually the inspiration for one of the main characters, Ozob, although I’m not sure how much he really wants me telling people that.”

In recent years, the idea of an ‘independent film’ has become more and more difficult to separate from a ‘studio film’ as movies like *Inglorious Basterds* or *3:10 to Yuma* - big-budget star-studded films - have been categorized as ‘independent’. Keene notes, “When you have Quentin Tarantino and Brad Pitt in your film, you just can’t compare it to what we’re doing with *Loaner*.” Keene and Edgecombe estimate their entire budget for *Loaner* at a mere \$27,000 (CAD), a budget most movies would spend in less than one day. With a cast of 33 actors, 22 locations, 9 different vehicles to wrangle, and a complicated fight scene in a nightclub that required 50 extras, it seems like a nearly impossible task. While most films shoot for anywhere from 30 to 90 days or longer, filming on *Loaner* took only 18 days. Keene recalls, “We had a really small crew, so we were able to move fast – everyone was doing at least two or three jobs. Plus, I was using all my vacation days from Sony, so I wound up driving from San Diego to L.A. and back again every two or three days. It was kind of crazy”.

Actors even came in on their days off to help out - moving lights, setting up the lunch tables, whatever was needed. “Without a really enthusiastic group of people who were genuinely excited about the film, we could never have pulled it off.” Keene admits. Edgecombe adds, “Using unknown actors was also a huge factor in making this film for next to nothing. And the fact that every single actor in the film donated their time and didn’t take a penny for their work – that’s an even bigger deal.”

*Loaner* is headed for the film festival circuit, and like very other fledgling filmmaker out there, Edgecombe and Keene are eager to show their film to the world. “Jason (Schmid) and the rest of the cast and crew did such an amazing job with what they had to work with, we really want to show everyone how much talent there is in this film.” With the 2009 TIFF (Toronto International Film Festival) approaching in September, Edgecombe and Keene are optimistic about their chances of being selected for it, but also realistic, admitting, “A little film like ours has a pretty slim chance of being seen at a big festival like Toronto, but we like to think that we’re ‘the little film that could’. If the festivals can get back to the real spirit of independent films, you never know – we might have a shot!” Final selections for the 2009 TIFF are expected in mid-July.

*Loaner* stars Jesse Warren (“The Bannen Way”) as Doug, the hapless young slacker whose pursuit of a stolen car lands him in a world of crime and unlikely coincidence, and Josh Covitt as his loyal friend Ozob. The multi-ethnic cast also includes Jenn Wong, Chris Dollard, Dale E. Turner, Daniel Hagen, Bayani Ison, Daniel Lu, Antonio Farré, and Ken Gamble.

*Loaner* is a Blue Apples Media production from a screenplay by Jason Schmid, and is produced by M. Scott Edgecombe, Dave Keene, Markus Davids and Jason Schmid."

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