

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Portland, OR – November 15, 2007

## **Laura Ramsey and Toby Hemingway star in “STREET” with Vivica A. Fox and Theresa Russell**



### **Independent film by Los Angeles writer/director York Shackleton currently shooting on location in Portland**

Two of Hollywood’s fastest rising talents – Laura Ramsey and Toby Hemingway – are starring with Vivica A. Fox and Theresa Russell in York Shackleton’s edgy drama, “STREET,” about a troubled teen from the suburbs who unwittingly falls in love with a homeless drug addict, and how she copes with the harsh realities of being homeless.

“This is the story of a girl who is dealing with a highly-protective and controlling mother,” says Shackleton, the Los Angeles-based writer and director who is currently shooting the film in Portland, Oregon, through November 30. “What happens is that the girl doesn’t really plan on running away, but she needs to get out. Then through a series of one unfortunate event after another, she ends up on the streets of Portland. And right when she wants to go home, this guy comes into her life. She doesn’t know it at the time, but he’s a struggling heroin addict. He’s very likeable, very charming, but at the same time,

highly manipulative. And the type of person she is –vulnerable and naïve – sets them up for a perfect match. So she decides to stay on the streets with this guy, and just when their love begins to blossom, he makes a very poor decision. I really wanted to expose what these kids go through and what they deal with.”

Inspired by actual events, “STREET” was brought to Shackleton by producer Kristin Jensen, whose sister spent three years as a transient in the homeless subculture of Portland and other West Coast cities. At the same time, she kept a journal of the experience, which provided the filmmakers with the kind of detail that only someone who’s lived it would know. “I thought it was a story that really needed to be told,” says Jensen, pointing out that between 1.6 million and 2.8 million youth run away in a year, according to the National Runaway Switchboard organization.

Laura Ramsey most recently completed filming in a starring role in DreamWorks’ “The Ruins,” due out next year. Her career breakthrough came last year in a shining performance as the love interest of Steven Strait in Renny Harlin’s supernatural thriller, “The Covenant,” for Sony Pictures’ Screen Gems. While still living in Wisconsin, she won a part in the film, “The Real Cancun,” from the producers of MTV’s “The Real World,” by beating out some 10,000 other aspiring actors. After moving to Los Angeles, Ramsey was discovered while waiting tables. Beginning with a half dozen episodes on the ABC sitcom, “The Days,” she went onto costar with Heath Ledger in Catherine Hardwicke’s (“Thirteen”) “Lords of Dogtown” for Sony Pictures and DreamWorks’ “She’s the Man,” opposite Amanda Bynes, among other films.

Born in Brighton, England, Toby Hemingway grew up in rural Ojai, just north of Los Angeles. After performing on stage in high school, he was accepted into the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. Following graduation, Hemingway relocated to Los Angeles and made his film debut in “The Covenant” in a principal role as one of the young warlocks – for which he worked opposite Ramsey in various scenes. In only his second film, Hemingway was selected to play a recovering heroin addict in “Feast of Love” by two-time Oscar-winning writer/director Robert Benton – allowing him to work with such veterans as Morgan Freeman and Greg Kinear.

One of the most admired actresses of her generation, Theresa Russell was honored with the prestigious National Association of Theater Owners’ “Star of Tomorrow” Award in 1986. While studying acting at the Lee Strasberg Institute, she made her film debut in 1976 in “The Last Tycoon,” starring Robert De Niro. Among her biggest hits have been last year’s “Spider-Man 3” (\$340 million worldwide box office), “Wild Things,” and her mesmerizing performance as a serial husband killer opposite Debra Winger in “The Black Widow.”

Actress Vivica A. Fox has been a sizzling success in such comedies as “Soul Food” and “Two Can Play That Game” – as well as the blockbusters “Kill Bill” (I and II) and “Independence Day,” among others. She was chosen as one of *People Magazine’s* “50 Most Beautiful People” in 1997 and as one of *Black Men’s Magazine’s* “10 Sexiest Women of 2001.” Among the many awards and nominations honoring her work, Fox won the Image Award for Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series for “1-800-Missing” and an MTV Award for “Independence Day.”

The son of Richard Shackleton, who wrote much of Lenny Bruce’s material, York spent his teen years as a champion snowboarder competing on the international circuit. Among other notable achievements, he was the innovator behind the now-popular ‘rodeo flip.’ By the late 1990s, Shackleton was appearing in national commercials for Mountain Dew and Taco Bell. At the same time, he began acting in independent films, eventually shifting over to producing and directing. After studying film at UCLA, he made his directorial debut with “Las Paraditas,” a feature documentary exposing the violence and corruption that surrounds the prostitutes of Tijuana, followed by “Kush,” starring Nick Annunziata, William Atherton, and Michael Bellisario.

“STREET” is also being produced by Brett Cranford, a television veteran who served as the “The Gray Man” and unit production manager on Gus Van Sant’s “Paranoid Park.” Romeo Antonio and Lenny Shapiro are serving as executive producers of the Endurance Pictures production. Among the other key crew members are cinematographer Adam Silver; production designer Tyler Robinson; art director Nate Smith; costume designer Amanda Needham; and casting directors Kelly Wagner (LA) and Simon Hill (OR).

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For set visits or high-res JPEGs, contact:

Lyla Foggia  
Foggia Public Relations LLC  
(503) 622-0232  
[lyla@foggiapr.com](mailto:lyla@foggiapr.com)