

Media Release
18 August 2008

SAM WORTHINGTON IS KEEN ON LONG TAN MOVIE ROLE

Sam Worthington, who is currently starring alongside *The Dark Knight's* **Christian Bale** in *Terminator Salvation* now shooting in the US, has told the producers he is keen to be considered for a major role in the Bruce Beresford directed film about the seminal conflict of the Vietnam War – the Battle of Long Tan.

"I believe Long Tan to be a very important story to tell. It's a true tale that touched me so much, especially when I had the privilege of meeting the soldiers two years ago," said Worthington in a message to the Battle of Long Tan producers, Sydney-based Red Dune Films and Beverly Hills, California-based partner Brainstorm Media.

Worthington, who recently completed a starring role in **James Cameron's** *Avatar*, narrated the award-winning documentary on Long Tan produced by **Martin Walsh**, of Red Dune Films, for the History Channel's 40th anniversary of the battle in 2006.

Walsh has been developing a feature version of the story since 2004.

"On the 42nd Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, Red Dune Films and Brainstorm Media are delighted that the long overdue acknowledgement of the gallantry shown by D Company 6RAR has coincided with receipt of an outstanding screenplay from writers **Bruce Beresford** and **Justin Monjo**, which will bring the remarkable story of the 108 men of D Company to the big screen," said Walsh.

"Bruce and Justin have captured all the drama of the battle and the extraordinary real life characters who fought in it, and have given us the tools we need to attract a dream ensemble cast and financing for our feature film."

Producing the film with Walsh is **Charles Hannah**, a US-based Australian with 14 feature film credits, including the internationally acclaimed box office success *World's Fastest Indian*, which starred Oscar winner Anthony Hopkins. Hannah brokered the deal between Red Dune and Brainstorm Media. Brainstorm Media's **Meyer Shwarzstein** is executive producing with **Peter Wetherell**, President of Magus Entertainment.

The producers aim to commence production by mid 2009, with Queensland as the most likely location for the Australian base in Nui Dat and the nearby rubber plantation where the battle took place.

"The **Commanders** at the Battle of Long Tan, who are marking the 42nd anniversary today, are fully behind the film project," said Walsh.

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