

Montréal, Québec – May 13, 2010 - **EMA FILMS is delighted to announce it has secured production financing for A BOTTLE IN THE GAZA SEA.**

EMA FILMS is pleased to announce that production funding has been secured for *A BOTTLE IN THE GAZA SEA*, a co-production with France's TS Productions (winners of seven César awards in 2009 for *Séraphine*). Based on a novel by Valérie Zenatti (*Quand j'étais soldate*), the author has co-written the script with director Thierry Binisti (*L'Outremangeur*).

*Set within the day-to-day struggles of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, **A BOTTLE IN THE GAZA SEA** presents the touching story of seventeen-year-old Israeli Tal and twenty-year-old Palestinian Naïm. Both were born in the land where earth cracks and burns, where fathers bury their children. They have reached the age at which, in the Western world, young people take the plunge and embrace life. Yet, they are trapped by volatile circumstances that they have had no part in creating. Simple things carry them through the days. A message in a bottle. An e-mail correspondence. And the slim hope that their burgeoning friendship may give them the strength to face the real world and seize it in order to change it, imperceptibly.*

Backed by Telefilm Canada and SODEC in Canada, the film has also confirmed financing in France from France 3 Cinéma, Ciné Cinéma and Canal+. The film will be distributed by Filmoption International in Canada, by Diaphana Distribution in France and represented by Roissy Films internationally. Filming began in Israel in April 2010 and will continue through to the beginning of June. The producers are happy to confirm the participation of Agathe Bonitzer as Tal (*La Belle Personne, Un chat un chat*), Mahmud Shalaby as Naïm (*Jaffa*), Hiam Abbass as Naïm's mother (*The Visitor, Amreeka*) and Jean-Philippe Écoffey as Tal's father (*The Diving Bell and the Butterfly, Mères et Filles*). The director of photography is Laurent Brunet (*Séraphine, Tehilim*).

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**EMA FILMS is also delighted to announce that, following the confirmation of development financing earlier this year, producer Anne-Marie Gélinas will be in Cannes to attend the Producers Network and look for international sales agents for MY PRESENT AGE.**

EMA FILMS, with Canadian partner Buffalo Gal Pictures, was able to secured development financing through Telefilm Canada and Corus early this year, for *MY PRESENT AGE*, an exciting new feature film adaptation. The film is also a co-production with Australia – New Holland Pictures – and the partners will be present in Cannes to secure an international sales agent for the film.

Anne-Marie Gélinas and John Hazlett, the producer-director team behind *These Girls* (starring David Boreanaz and Caroline Dhavernas), have joined with rising-star screenwriter Karen Walton (*Ginger Snaps*), Cathy Overett of Australia's New Holland Pictures (*Separation City*) and Phyllis Laing of Manitoba's Buffalo Gal Pictures (*The Stone Angel*) to bring literary luminary Guy Vanderhaeghe's celebrated comic novel, *MY PRESENT AGE* to the big screen.

***MY PRESENT AGE** is the comic tale of Ed, a down-on-his-luck-divorcee-to-be, suffering from literary delusions – and hallucinations. When Ed finds out that his estranged wife Victoria is pregnant, but that her new superstar writer boyfriend wants nothing to do with the child, he has to contact her – which is easier said than done... So, with the help of Rubacek, an enigmatic young punk, he embarks on a quixotic quest to find her.*

Both Telefilm Canada and Corus Entertainment have committed development financial support to the English-language feature. The writing team has recently delivered an exciting script and now the production team will turn its attention to casting in Australia, Canada and the US. With production financing to be secured in the coming months, production is slated for early 2011.

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