

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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AUSTIN FILM COMPANY COMPLETES FIRST MAJOR FEATURE FILM

AUSTIN, Texas (Feb. 21, 2008) – Bright Shining City Productions, an Austin-based film company, announced today the completion of its first full-length feature film, “Forgiveness,” a compelling reflection on the Nazi holocaust in Poland and its impact on its survivors and succeeding generations.

Filmed entirely in the Austin area, the film’s Polish-born director and producer Mariusz Kotowski said the film is a milestone in the company’s growth, expanding the creative and technical horizons for projects in development, or already set for production.

The film, he said, was completed ahead of schedule and below its budget, yet it projects qualities and screen values seen only in more ambitious and expensive projects.

“We accomplished a great deal with the resources at hand,” he said. “The film represents a good, solid, effort, and lays the groundwork for more ambitious projects in the future.”

Kotowski, a former dance instructor and choreographer in Poland, London, and New York, studied directing at New York University before setting up his film company in Austin.

“Forgiveness” is a deep and fascinating film exposing the internal conflicts among Jewish and Christian survivors of the holocaust in Poland. It penetrates the veil of secrecy, anger, and shame that continues to permeate the Polish collective memory, haunting both survivors and their descendants alike – wherever they may be.”

The film will be presented at numerous ethnic and general interest film festivals over the next few months before distribution is planned on a national and international level, he added.

The 84 minute film, written by the award-winning screenwriter Allan Knee, based on a story by Kotowski, was produced with Gilda Longoria, and stars Shelley Calene-Black, Juli Erickson and Sydney Barrosse. Juli Erickson plays the role of Apollonia, an elderly Polish mother forced reveal her family’s darkest secrets in the winter of her years. Shelley Calene-Black plays daughter Maria, who is unexpectedly faced with her family’s tragic and horrific legacy. Sydney Barrosse plays Sarah, the grieving daughter of a Jewish woman who, upon her death, left behind a diary that for the first time details in words, the justification of her decades-long silence. This opens an opportunity for forgiveness and understanding between the Polish-American families.

This is Kotowski’s second major project in as many years – the first being the award-winning and widely acclaimed documentary, “Pola Negri: Life is a Dream in Cinema,” also set for national and international distribution in the near future.