# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 19, 2006

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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# Cast In Gray Selected to Rhode Island International Film Festival

**Chicago, Illinois** - Life is a Dream Productions today announced that its short film, CAST IN GRAY, has been selected into competition at Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) to be held in Providence, Rhode Island August 8-13. RIIFF represents the ninth film festival for Cast In Gray.

Now in its tenth year, RIIFF's recognizes achievement and innovation in a variety of filmmaking and storytelling disciplines. RIIFF is one of only 47 film festivals out of 1,950 worldwide that are recognized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as a qualifying festival for the short film category of the Academy Awards. The festival is also recognized as one of the top 10 short film festivals and top 10 international film festivals in the United States.

"We are very excited about being selected to this high-profile festival," said Christopher Gentry, producer of the film. "It will obviously give the film more exposure in the industry to help us promote our feature film projects."

Cast In Gray was produced by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film tells the story of a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog while stranded in a rainstorm. Written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth, the film stars Timothy Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo. In its current film festival run, Cast In Gray has won four awards including two Best Narrative Short awards.

In addition to three feature length films on Life is a Dream Productions' development slate, the filmmakers are currently raising financing for a feature film based on Cast In Gray. "Many people who have seen the film ask us, 'What happens to the main character?'" Gentry said. "Audiences across the United States have connected with the short film, and we are confident that the feature film version will be successful in the same way."

## About Cast In Gray (TRT 39 minutes; not rated):

Cast In Gray was shot on location in Macomb, Illinois by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film was written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth and stars Timothy Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo. Frank T. Herbert, a native of Macomb, Illinois, co-produced the film. Sasha Redulic, an award-winning cinematographer from Los Angeles, was cinematographer on the film.

*Tagline*: In this sumptuously shot short film from writer-director I. Michael Toth, a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog forces the man to reconsider the possibilities of his life.

*Synopsis*: Stuck in a rainstorm in the middle of nowhere, a man offers shelter in his broken down car to a hitchhiker and his dog. As the hours pass and the rain continues, the man wonders if his



decision to let them in was one of a series of bad choices he made in his life – or is the chance encounter with this enigmatic stranger a godsend opportunity to solve his own problems.

## **About Life is a Dream Productions:**

Life is a Dream Productions Inc. was formed in October 2000 by producer Christopher Gentry and writer-director I. Michael Toth to develop and produce independent feature films for worldwide distribution. The Chicago-based production company currently has four feature films in development.

#### **About I. Michael Toth:**

I. Michael Toth has written, produced, directed and edited a number of award-winning television programs, documentaries, short films, music videos and commercials in the US and Europe. He has four screenplays in development for production, one that includes an adaptation of a play by Academy Award winning screenwriter Steve Tesich. Toth is a graduate of the prestigious University of Arts School of Film and Television in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro.

# **About Christopher Gentry:**

Christopher Gentry formed Life is a Dream Productions in October 2000 with writer-director I. Michael Toth, where he develops and produces films for Toth. Prior to producing the award-winning short film Cast In Gray, Gentry spent 14 years as a corporate banker with FleetBoston Financial, BankBoston, Mellon Bank and Sanwa Bank. He holds a B.S. degree in Corporate Finance from Arizona State University. He is a member IFP/Chicago, a national organization of independent filmmakers with over 9,000 members.

#### About the Cast:

Timothy Burke, who plays the role of The Man, has appeared in lead and supporting roles in five feature films including The Return, The Devil's Placebo and Mitchellville (Jury Special Mention, CineVegas Film Festival). Burke trained at National Theater Institute with Richard Digby Day and Morris Carnovsky. Stephen Angus, who plays the role of The Man with the Dog, has appeared in a number of stage plays, films and television programs. His stage credits include leading roles at many theatres in the Midwest and on the East Coast; most recently at Victory Gardens in Chicago, where he played The Pilot in The Sweet Little Prince. His television credits include the recurring character Alex Carew on NBC's Homicide: Life On The Street, appearances in episodes of America's Most Wanted and Missing: Reward. Stephen has also appeared in the films Quiz Show, Forrest Gump, Pecker, and Le Pelican. Bibo, who plays the role of the Dog, met actor Stephen Angus one sunny morning while wandering the streets of Washington, D.C., and they have been fast companions ever since.



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 7, 2005

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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# "Cast In Gray" Wins Two Best of the Midwest Awards

Chicago, Illinois - Life is a Dream Productions today announced that its short film, Cast In Gray, won two Best of the Midwest awards at the Midwest Independent Film Festival (MWFF). Timothy Burke won the award for Best Actor for his leading performance as The Man, while Best Sound Design went to writer-director, I. Michael Toth. The awards ceremony took place last night at the Landmark Century Centre Cinema in Chicago.

Cast In Gray held its Chicago Premier at MWFF last June as headliner to a sold out audience. "I'm extremely pleased with the awards for Michael and Tim," said Christopher Gentry, producer of the film. "Both awards are well-deserved and reflect the outstanding contributions made by our entire cast and crew."

Toth wrote the screenplay specifically for Burke, Stephen Angus and Angus' dog, Bibo. "It's a great honor to win the award," Burke said. "I'm definitely looking forward to working with Michael and Stephen again." Burke, who attended Chicago's Columbia College Film School and trained at National Theater Institute with Richard Digby Day and Morris Carnovsky, has appeared recently in five feature films. He is set to star in Life is a Dream Productions' feature length version of Cast In Gray (working title, Gray Black White).

A graduate of film and television at the University of Arts, Film and Television in Serbia and Montenegro, Toth wrote, directed, edited and did sound design for the film. Prior to coming to the U.S. in 1985, he worked on a number of award-winning European feature films and television shows while writing, producing and editing a number of documentaries and short films. He has worked in Chicago as a commercial director and in 2000 dedicated himself to writing and directing feature films with producer and Chicago banker Gentry.

"The sound design for the film was conceived really as the musical bed for the film," Toth said. "It also plays a character in the film, serving to remind the audience of nature's presence." Toth said in addition to location sound recorded and mixed by Tom Beach, he incorporated a lot of sound effects to bring the day-long rainstorm that hold the characters hostage to life.

Cast In Gray was produced by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film was shot in spring 2004 in downstate Macomb, Illinois and tells the story of a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog while stranded in a rainstorm.

Over the past year Cast In Gray has screened at seven film festivals around the country and won two Best Narrative Short Film awards. Toth and Gentry are developing the film into a feature length film and have three other feature projects in development. "Many people who have seen Cast In Gray ask us, 'What happens next?'" Gentry said. We think there is the potential for an interesting feature film that will connect with a film-going audience."



# About Cast In Gray (TRT 39 minutes; not rated):

Cast In Gray was shot on location in Macomb, Illinois by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film was written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth and stars Timothy Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo. Frank T. Herbert, a native of Macomb, Illinois, co-produced the film. Sasha Redulic, an award-winning cinematographer from Los Angeles, was cinematographer on the film.

*Tagline:* In this sumptuously shot short film from writer-director I. Michael Toth, a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog forces the man to reconsider the possibilities of his life.

*Synopsis*: Stuck in a rainstorm in the middle of nowhere, a man offers shelter in his broken down car to a hitchhiker and his dog. As the hours pass and the rain continues, the man wonders if his decision to let them in was one of a series of bad choices he made in his life – or is the chance encounter with this enigmatic stranger a godsend opportunity to solve his own problems.

## **About Life is a Dream Productions:**

Life is a Dream Productions Inc. was formed in October 2000 by producer Christopher Gentry and writer-director I. Michael Toth to develop and produce independent feature films for worldwide distribution. The Chicago-based production company currently has four feature films in development.

#### **About I. Michael Toth:**

I. Michael Toth has written, produced, directed and edited a number of award-winning television programs, documentaries, short films, music videos and commercials in the U.S. and Europe. He has four screenplays in development for production, one that includes an adaptation of a play by Academy Award winning screenwriter Steve Tesich. Toth is a graduate of the prestigious University of Arts School of Film and Television in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro.

#### **About Christopher Gentry:**

Christopher Gentry formed Life is a Dream Productions in October 2000 with writer-director I. Michael Toth, where he develops and produces films for Toth. Prior to producing the award-winning short film Cast In Gray, Gentry spent 14 years as a corporate banker with FleetBoston Financial, BankBoston, Mellon Bank and Sanwa Bank. He holds a B.S. degree in Corporate Finance from Arizona State University. He is a member IFP/Chicago, a national organization of independent filmmakers with over 9,000 members.

# **About the Cast:**

Timothy Burke, who plays the role of The Man, has appeared in lead and supporting roles in five feature films including The Return, The Devil's Placebo and Mitchellville (Jury Special Mention, CineVegas Film Festival). Burke trained at National Theater Institute with Richard Digby Day and Morris Carnovsky. Stephen Angus, who plays the role of The Man with the Dog, has appeared in a number of stage plays, films and television programs. His stage credits include leading roles at many theatres in the Midwest and on the East Coast; most recently at Victory Gardens in Chicago, where he played The Pilot in The Sweet Little Prince. His television credits include the recurring character Alex Carew on NBC's Homicide: Life On The Street, appearances in episodes of America's Most Wanted and Missing: Reward. Stephen has also appeared in the films Quiz Show, Forrest Gump, Pecker, and Le Pelican. Bibo, who plays the role of the Dog, met



actor Stephen Angus one sunny morning while wandering the streets of Washington, D.C., and they have been fast companions ever since.



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 2, 2005

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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# "Cast In Gray" Nominated for Four Best of the Midwest Awards

Chicago, Illinois - Life is a Dream Productions today announced that its short film, Cast In Gray, has been nominated for four Best of the Midwest awards at the Midwest Independent Film Festival (MWFF), including Best Drama, Best Director (Michael Toth), Best Actor (Timothy Burke) and Best Sound Design (Michael Toth).

Cast In Gray held its Chicago Premier at MWFF last June as headliner to a sold out audience. "We are honored to be recognized by such a great and growing supporter of independent film," said Christopher Gentry, producer of the film. "Certainly Michael Toth's and Timothy Burke's nominations are well-deserved. They reflect the outstanding contributions made by our entire cast and crew."

A graduate of film and television at the University of Arts, Film and Television in Serbia and Montenegro, Toth wrote, directed, edited and did sound design for the film. Prior to coming to the U.S. in 1985, he worked on a number of award-winning European feature films and television shows while writing, producing and editing a number of documentaries and short films. He has worked in Chicago as a commercial director and in 2000 dedicated himself to writing and directing feature films with producer and Chicago banker Gentry.

"I'm proud that the film is receiving recognition, knowing how much work was put forth by everyone that contributed," Toth said. "This film presented a number of creative challenges on such a small budget, particularly getting the rain and other elements of nature to look and sound right." Toth said in addition to location sound recorded and mixed by Tom Beach, he incorporated a lot of sound effects to bring the day long rainstorm that hold the characters hostage to life.

Cast In Gray was produced by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film was shot in spring 2004 in downstate Macomb, Illinois and tells the story of a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog while stranded in a rainstorm. The film stars Timothy Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo.

Toth wrote the screenplay specifically for Burke, Angus and Bibo. "I'm obviously honored to be nominated," Burke said. "It was a great experience for me to work with such a talented director and alongside a great actor in Stephen Angus." Toth said his approach to directing the actors was in part based on their approach to acting. "You have to be sensitive to each individual actor and how they like to work," Toth said. "For my part, I try to help channel that energy into the character and the performances."

Over the past year Cast In Gray has screened at seven film festivals around the country and won two Best Narrative Short Film awards. Toth and Gentry are developing the film into a feature length film and have three other feature projects in development. "Many people who have seen



the film ask us, 'What happens next?'" Gentry said. We think there is the potential for an interesting feature film that will connect with a film-going audience."

The 2005 Best of the Midwest Awards, which recognizes the finest in independent filmmaking throughout the Midwest, will be held on Tuesday, December 6th at Landmark's Century Centre Cinema. Winners are chosen via online balloting from both the public and the MWFF Screening Committee. Voting is now active and continues through Wednesday, November 16th.

## About Cast In Gray (TRT 39 minutes; not rated):

Cast In Gray was shot on location in Macomb, Illinois by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film was written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth and stars Timothy Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo. Frank T. Herbert, a native of Macomb, Illinois, co-produced the film. Sasha Redulic, an award-winning cinematographer from Los Angeles, was cinematographer on the film.

*Tagline:* In this sumptuously shot short film from writer-director I. Michael Toth, a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog forces the man to reconsider the possibilities of his life.

*Synopsis*: Stuck in a rainstorm in the middle of nowhere, a man offers shelter in his broken down car to a hitchhiker and his dog. As the hours pass and the rain continues, the man wonders if his decision to let them in was one of a series of bad choices he made in his life – or is the chance encounter with this enigmatic stranger a godsend opportunity to solve his own problems.

#### **About Life is a Dream Productions:**

Life is a Dream Productions Inc. was formed in October 2000 by producer Christopher Gentry and writer-director I. Michael Toth to develop and produce independent feature films for worldwide distribution. The Chicago-based production company currently has four feature films in development for production through 2007.

#### **About I. Michael Toth:**

I. Michael Toth has written, produced, directed and edited a number of award-winning television programs, documentaries, short films, music videos and commercials in the US and Europe. He has four screenplays in development for production, one that includes an adaptation of a play by Academy Award winning screenwriter Steve Tesich. Toth is a graduate of the prestigious University of Arts School of Film and Television in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro.

#### **About Christopher Gentry:**

Christopher Gentry formed Life is a Dream Productions in October 2000 with writer-director I. Michael Toth, where he develops and produces films for Toth. Prior to producing the award-winning short film Cast In Gray, Gentry spent 14 years as a corporate banker with FleetBoston Financial, BankBoston, Mellon Bank and Sanwa Bank. He holds a B.S. degree in Corporate Finance from Arizona State University. He is a member IFP/Chicago, a national organization of independent filmmakers with over 9,000 members.

## About the Cast:

Timothy Burke, who plays the role of The Man, has appeared in lead and supporting roles in five feature films including The Return, The Devil's Placebo and Mitchellville (Jury Special Mention, CineVegas Film Festival). Burke trained at National Theater Institute with Richard Digby Day



and Morris Carnovsky. Stephen Angus, who plays the role of The Man with the Dog, has appeared in a number of stage plays, films and television programs. His stage credits include leading roles at many theatres in the Midwest and on the East Coast; most recently at Victory Gardens in Chicago, where he played The Pilot in The Sweet Little Prince. His television credits include the recurring character Alex Carew on NBC's Homicide: Life On The Street, appearances in episodes of America's Most Wanted and Missing: Reward. Stephen has also appeared in the films Quiz Show, Forrest Gump, Pecker, and Le Pelican. Bibo, who plays the role of the Dog, met actor Stephen Angus one sunny morning while wandering the streets of Washington, D.C., and they have been fast companions ever since.



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 1, 2005

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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# Cast In Gray Selected to Los Angeles International Shorts Festival

Chicago, Illinois - Life is a Dream Productions today announced today that its short film, CAST IN GRAY, has been selected into competition at Los Angeles International Short Festival to be held at ArcLight Cinemas in Hollywood, CA September 6-13. LA Shorts Fest represents the seventh festival for Cast In Gray this year.

LA Shorts Fest is the largest short film festival in the world and is accredited by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences. 19 past festival participants have received Academy Award nominations for their films, and the last five winners have went on to win the Oscar. This year the festival received over 1,100 entries and last year drew over 10,000 moviegoers, filmmakers and entertainment executives.

"We are very excited about this high-profile and prestigious event," said Christopher Gentry, producer of the film. "Being in the heart of the movie industry, we'll have ample opportunities to talk with the many industry people in attendance about sales of Cast In Gray and financing for our other feature projects."

Cast In Gray was produced by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film tells the story of a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog while stranded in a rainstorm. Written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth, the film stars Timothy Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo.

In its first two film festivals, Cast In Gray won "Best Narrative Short" awards at both festivals. The film has also screened at Phoenix Film Festival and at Midwest Independent Film Festival in its Chicago Premiere in front of a sold out audience. The film was recently selected into competition at Tahoe/Reno International Film Festival to be held August 24-28 in Lake Tahoe, NV and at IFP Market & Conference to be held September 19-22 in New York City.

In addition to three feature length films on Life is a Dream Productions' development slate, the filmmakers are working on a script for a feature film based on Cast In Gray. "Many people who have seen the film ask us, 'What happens to the main character?" Gentry said. We think there is the potential for an interesting feature film that will connect with a film-going audience."

## About Cast In Gray (TRT 39 minutes; not rated):

Cast In Gray was shot on location in Macomb, Illinois by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film was written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth and stars Timothy Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo. Frank T. Herbert, a native of Macomb, Illinois, co-produced the film. Sasha Redulic, an award-winning cinematographer from Los Angeles, was cinematographer on the film.



*Tagline*: In this sumptuously shot short film from writer-director I. Michael Toth, a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog forces the man to reconsider the possibilities of his life.

*Synopsis*: Stuck in a rainstorm in the middle of nowhere, a man offers shelter in his broken down car to a hitchhiker and his dog. As the hours pass and the rain continues, the man wonders if his decision to let them in was one of a series of bad choices he made in his life – or is the chance encounter with this enigmatic stranger a godsend opportunity to solve his own problems.

## **About Life is a Dream Productions:**

Life is a Dream Productions Inc. was formed in October 2000 by producer Christopher Gentry and writer-director I. Michael Toth to develop and produce independent feature films for worldwide distribution. The Chicago-based production company currently has four feature films in development for production through 2007.

### **About I. Michael Toth:**

I. Michael Toth has written, produced, directed and edited a number of award-winning television programs, documentaries, short films, music videos and commercials in the US and Europe. He has four screenplays in development for production, one that includes an adaptation of a play by Academy Award winning screenwriter Steve Tesich. Toth is a graduate of the prestigious University of Arts School of Film and Television in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro.

## **About Christopher Gentry:**

Christopher Gentry formed Life is a Dream Productions in October 2000 with writer-director I. Michael Toth, where he develops and produces films for Toth. Prior to producing the award-winning short film Cast In Gray, Gentry spent 14 years as a corporate banker with FleetBoston Financial, BankBoston, Mellon Bank and Sanwa Bank. He holds a B.S. degree in Corporate Finance from Arizona State University. He is a member IFP/Chicago, a national organization of independent filmmakers with over 9,000 members.

# **About the Cast:**

Timothy Burke, who plays the role of The Man, has appeared in lead and supporting roles in five feature films including The Return, The Devil's Placebo and Mitchellville (Jury Special Mention, CineVegas Film Festival). Burke trained at National Theater Institute with Richard Digby Day and Morris Carnovsky. Stephen Angus, who plays the role of The Man with the Dog, has appeared in a number of stage plays, films and television programs. His stage credits include leading roles at many theatres in the Midwest and on the East Coast; most recently at Victory Gardens in Chicago, where he played The Pilot in The Sweet Little Prince. His television credits include the recurring character Alex Carew on NBC's Homicide: Life On The Street, appearances in episodes of America's Most Wanted and Missing: Reward. Stephen has also appeared in the films Quiz Show, Forrest Gump, Pecker, and Le Pelican. Bibo, who plays the role of the Dog, met actor Stephen Angus one sunny morning while wandering the streets of Washington, D.C., and they have been fast companions ever since.



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 22, 2005

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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# Cast In Gray Selected to IFP Market & Conference

Chicago, Illinois - Life is a Dream Productions today announced that its short film, CAST IN GRAY, has been selected into competition at IFP Market & Conference to be held at Angelika Film Center in New York City September 19-22. IFP Market represents the sixth festival for Cast In Gray this year.

IFP Market & Conference is organized by the Independent Film Project (IFP), the largest non-profit independent film organization in the world, with over 9,000 members. It is the only US independent film event where screenwriters, directors and producers present their work directly to industry executives. With more than 1,000 personal meetings between filmmakers and high-level industry executives; four days of screenings; dozens of workshops, master classes; panels; and daily special events, the event is intended to expand business relationships and advance film projects in the commercial marketplace.

"We are very pleased to be selected to attend this event," said Christopher Gentry, producer of the film. "Not only do we get to screen our film to audiences and compete for awards, we'll have ample opportunities to talk with the many industry people in attendance about sales of Cast In Gray and financing for our other feature projects."

Cast In Gray was produced by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film tells the story of a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog while stranded in a rainstorm. Written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth, the film stars Timothy Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo.

In its first two film festivals, Cast In Gray won "Best Narrative Short" awards at both festivals. The film has also screened at Phoenix Film Festival and at Midwest Independent Film Festival in its Chicago Premiere in front of a sold out audience. The film was recently selected into competition at Tahoe/Reno International Film Festival to be held August 24-28 in Lake Tahoe, NV.

In addition to three feature length films on Life is a Dream Productions' development slate, the filmmakers are working on a script for a feature film based on Cast In Gray. "Many people who have seen the film ask us, 'What happens to the main character?'" Gentry said. We think there is the potential for an interesting feature film that will connect with a film-going audience."

## About Cast In Gray (TRT 39 minutes; not rated):

Cast In Gray was shot on location in Macomb, Illinois by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film was written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth and stars Timothy Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo. Frank T. Herbert, a native of Macomb, Illinois, co-produced the film. Sasha Redulic, an award-winning cinematographer from Los Angeles, was cinematographer on the film.



*Tagline*: In this sumptuously shot short film from writer-director I. Michael Toth, a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog forces the man to reconsider the possibilities of his life.

*Synopsis*: Stuck in a rainstorm in the middle of nowhere, a man offers shelter in his broken down car to a hitchhiker and his dog. As the hours pass and the rain continues, the man wonders if his decision to let them in was one of a series of bad choices he made in his life – or is the chance encounter with this enigmatic stranger a godsend opportunity to solve his own problems.

## **About Life is a Dream Productions:**

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# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 20, 2005

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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# Cast In Gray Selected to Tahoe/Reno International Film Festival

**Chicago, Illinois** - Life is a Dream Productions today announced that its short film, CAST IN GRAY, has been selected into competition at Tahoe/Reno International Film Festival (T-RIFF) to be held August 24-28 in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. T-RIFF represents the fifth festival for Cast In Gray this year.

T-RIFF's premier venue, Sand Harbor Starlit Amphitheater, is Nevada's most prestigious and magical outdoor venue overlooking beautiful Lake Tahoe. With its eye on the success of emerging filmmakers, the festival presents a five-day exploration of discovery through soulstirring and spirited independent films that open the hearts and minds of film lovers.

"We're very excited to be selected to screen at this wonderful outdoor festival overlooking Lake Tahoe," said Christopher Gentry, producer of the film. "We've been very encouraged by the success we've had with the film so far on the festival circuit, where we've won some awards and received very favorable audience response."

Cast In Gray was produced by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film tells the story of a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog while stranded in a rainstorm. Written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth, the film stars Timothy Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo.

In its first two film festivals, Cast In Gray won "Best Narrative Short" awards at both festivals. The film has also screened at Phoenix Film Festival and at Midwest Independent Film Festival in its Chicago Premiere in front of a sold out audience.

In addition to three feature length films on Life is a Dream Productions' development slate, the filmmakers are working on a script for a feature film based on Cast In Gray. "Many people who have seen the film ask us, 'What happens to the main character?'" Gentry said. We think there is the potential for an interesting feature film that will connect with a film-going audience."

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Synopsis: Stuck in a rainstorm in the middle of nowhere, a man offers shelter in his broken down car to a hitchhiker and his dog. As the hours pass and the rain continues, the man wonders if his decision to let them in was one of a series of bad choices he made in his life – or is the chance encounter with this enigmatic stranger a godsend opportunity to solve his own problems.

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Christopher Gentry formed Life is a Dream Productions in October 2000 with writer-director I. Michael Toth, where he develops and produces films for Toth. Prior to producing the award-winning short film Cast In Gray, Gentry spent 14 years as a corporate banker with FleetBoston Financial, BankBoston, Mellon Bank and Sanwa Bank. He holds a B.S. degree in Corporate Finance from Arizona State University. He is a member IFP/Chicago, a national organization of independent filmmakers with over 9,000 members.

### **About the Cast:**

Timothy Burke, who plays the role of The Man, has appeared in lead and supporting roles in five feature films including The Return, The Devil's Placebo and Mitchellville (Jury Special Mention, CineVegas Film Festival). Burke trained at National Theater Institute with Richard Digby Day and Morris Carnovsky. Stephen Angus, who plays the role of The Man with the Dog, has appeared in a number of stage plays, films and television programs. His stage credits include leading roles at many theatres in the Midwest and on the East Coast; most recently at Victory Gardens in Chicago, where he played The Pilot in The Sweet Little Prince. His television credits include the recurring character Alex Carew on NBC's Homicide: Life On The Street, appearances in episodes of America's Most Wanted and Missing: Reward. Stephen has also appeared in the films Quiz Show, Forrest Gump, Pecker, and Le Pelican. Bibo, who plays the role of the Dog, met actor Stephen Angus one sunny morning while wandering the streets of Washington, D.C., and they have been fast companions ever since.



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 23, 2005

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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# Cast In Gray Sets Date for Chicago Premiere Film to Headline Midwest Independent Film Festival

Chicago, Illinois - Life is a Dream Productions today announced that it has set the date for the Chicago Premiere of its award-winning short film, Cast In Gray. The film will be shown at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, June 7 at Landmark Century Centre Cinema in Chicago, Illinois as the headline film for the Midwest Independent Film Festival.

The screening will be attended by writer-director, I. Michael Toth and producers Christopher Gentry and Frank Herbert. A question and answer period with the filmmakers will take place immediately following the screening.

"We're very excited to have our Chicago Premiere for this film in conjunction with the Midwest Indie," Gentry said. "We've had great success with the film on the festival circuit, where we've won some awards and audiences have responded very favorably towards the film. This will be a chance for us to share our film with many of our crew, friends and other supporters that haven't yet seen it."

Cast In Gray was produced by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film tells the story of a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog while stranded in a rainstorm. Written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth, the film stars Timothy Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo.

In its first two film festivals, Cast In Gray won "Best Narrative Short" awards at both festivals. The film screened at the Phoenix Film Festival in April and just recently in Macomb, where the film was shot. "Cast In Gray is an exceptional, carefully crafted film, and we are thrilled to be presenting its Chicago Premiere," said Mike McNamara, Director of Programming for the Midwest Independent Film Festival.

In addition to three feature length films on Life is a Dream Productions' development slate, the filmmakers are working on a script for a feature film based on Cast In Gray. "Based on audience response to Cast In Gray, we think there is the potential for an interesting feature film that will connect with a film going audience," Gentry said. "Right now we're going through the creative process to see what is there."

For ticket information for the Chicago Premiere of Cast In Gray, and on the Midwest Independent Film Festival, call 312-642-4222, or visit www.midwestfilm.com.



# About Cast In Gray (TRT 39 minutes; not rated):

Cast In Gray was shot on location in Macomb, Illinois by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film was written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth and stars Timothy Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo. Frank T. Herbert, a native of Macomb, Illinois, co-produced the film. Sasha Redulic, an award-winning cinematographer from Los Angeles, was cinematographer on the film.

*Tagline:* In this sumptuously shot short film from writer-director I. Michael Toth, a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog forces him to reconsider the possibilities of his life.

*Synopsis*: Stuck in a rainstorm in the middle of nowhere, a man offers shelter in his broken down car to a hitchhiker and his dog. As the hours pass and the rain continues, the man wonders if his decision to let them in was one of a series of bad choices he made in his life – or is the chance encounter with this enigmatic stranger a godsend opportunity to solve his own problems.

#### **About Life is a Dream Productions:**

Life is a Dream Productions Inc. was formed in October 2000 by producer Christopher Gentry and writer-director I. Michael Toth to develop and produce independent feature films for worldwide distribution. The Chicago-based production company currently has four feature films in development for production through 2007.

#### **About I. Michael Toth:**

I. Michael Toth has written, produced, directed and edited a number of award-winning television programs, documentaries, short films, music videos and commercials in the US and Europe. He has four screenplays in development for production through 2007, one that includes an adaptation of a play by Academy Award winning screenwriter Steve Tesich. Toth is a graduate of the prestigious University of Arts School of Film and Television in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro.

# **About Christopher Gentry:**

Christopher Gentry formed Life is a Dream Productions in October 2000 with writer-director I. Michael Toth, where he develops and produces films for Toth. Prior to producing the award-winning short film Cast In Gray, Gentry spent 14 years as a corporate banker with FleetBoston Financial, BankBoston, Mellon Bank and Sanwa Bank. He holds a B.S. degree in Corporate Finance from Arizona State University. He is a member IFP/Chicago, a national organization of independent filmmakers.

#### **About the Cast:**

Timothy Burke, who plays the role of The Man, has appeared in lead and supporting roles in five feature films including The Return, The Devil's Placebo and Mitchellville (Jury Special Mention, CineVegas Film Festival). Burke trained at National Theater Institute with Richard Digby Day and Morris Carnovsky. Stephen Angus, who plays the role of The Man with the Dog, has appeared in a number of stage plays, films and television programs. His stage credits include leading roles at many theatres in the Midwest and on the East Coast; most recently at Victory



Gardens in Chicago, where he played The Pilot in The Sweet Little Prince. His television credits include the recurring character Alex Carew on NBC's Homicide: Life On The Street, appearances in episodes of America's Most Wanted and Missing: Reward. Stephen has also appeared in the films Quiz Show, Forrest Gump, Pecker, and Le Pelican. Bibo, who plays the role of the Dog, met actor Stephen Angus one sunny morning while wandering the streets of Washington, D.C., and they have been fast companions ever since.

# About Midwest Independent Film Festival:

The Midwest Independent Film Festival is the nation's only monthly film festival, presenting audiences with the finest independent cinema in the Midwest every first Tuesday of the month. The Midwest Indie also offers filmgoers the unique opportunity to meet directors and actors who introduce their films and hold question and answer sessions after the screenings. The festival prides itself on showcasing emerging directors, powerful artistic visions, and strong cinematic stories. These exceptional films combine with an exciting social atmosphere and a state-of-the-art digital screening venue to create one of the premier festivals in the Midwest.



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 9, 2005

# FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Christopher Gentry Life is a Dream Productions Inc. +1 (773) 517-4118 www.castingraymovie.com www.lifeisadreamprod.com

# Cast In Gray Sets Date for Macomb Screening

**Chicago, Illinois** - Life is a Dream Productions today announced that it has set the date for the Macomb screening of Cast In Gray, a film shot on location in Macomb last year. The film, which runs 39 minutes, will be screened on Saturday, May 14 at the University Union's Sandburg Theater on the campus of Western Illinois University. Screening times are 5:00 pm for the public and 7:00 pm for local media and guests attending by invitation.

Both screenings will be attended by writer-director, I. Michael Toth and producers Christopher Gentry and Frank Herbert. A question and answer period with the filmmakers will take place immediately following both screenings.

"We're very excited to show our film to the local community who supported us during the filming there," said Gentry, who grew up in Macomb and now lives in Chicago. "We've had great success with the film so far on the festival circuit. Audiences have responded very favorably towards the film."

Cast In Gray was shot on location in Macomb during the spring of 2004 using a Chicago crew and local WIU students. The film tells the story of a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog while stranded in a rainstorm. The film was written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth and stars Timothy Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo. Herbert, a native of Macomb, co-produced the film with Gentry.

In its first two film festivals Cast In Gray won "Best Short Film" awards at both festivals. The film recently screened at the Phoenix Film Festival and will have its Chicago Premiere at the Midwest Independent Film Festival on June 7 at the Landmark Century Centre Cinema in Chicago.

The filmmakers have been developing a script for a feature film based on Cast In Gray, which Gentry says they plan to film once financing is secured. "We are just beginning the process of raising money from private investors to finance a feature length version of Cast In Gray," Gentry said. "That film will be available for commercial release to audiences in theaters worldwide." Herbert added, "When you see the short film, you can understand why we are making the feature length version. Audiences continually ask us, 'what happens next?'"

To reserve seating at the 5:00 public screening of Cast In Gray, call 309-837-3219. The screening is free and seating is limited.

# About Cast In Gray (TRT 39 minutes; not rated):

Cast In Gray was shot on location in Macomb, Illinois by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film was written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth and stars Timothy



Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo. Frank T. Herbert, a native of Macomb, Illinois, co-produced the film. Sasha Redulic, an award-winning cinematographer from Los Angeles, was cinematographer on the film.

## **About Life is a Dream Productions:**

Life is a Dream Productions Inc. was formed in October 2000 by producer Christopher Gentry and writer-director I. Michael Toth to develop and produce independent feature films for worldwide distribution. The Chicago-based production company currently has four feature films in development for production through 2007.

# **About I. Michael Toth:**

I. Michael Toth has written, produced, directed and edited a number of award-winning television programs, documentaries, short films, music videos and commercials in the US and Europe. He has four screenplays in development for production through 2007, one that includes an adaptation of a play by Academy Award winning screenwriter Steve Tesich. Toth is a graduate of the prestigious University of Arts School of Film and Television in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro.

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Christopher Gentry formed Life is a Dream Productions in October 2000 with writer-director I. Michael Toth, where he develops and produces films for Toth. Prior to producing the award-winning short film Cast In Gray, Gentry spent 14 years as a corporate banker with FleetBoston Financial, BankBoston, Mellon Bank and Sanwa Bank. He holds a B.S. degree in Corporate Finance from Arizona State University. He is a member IFP/Chicago, a national organization of independent filmmakers.

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Timothy Burke, who plays the role of The Man, has appeared in lead and supporting roles in five feature films including The Return, The Devil's Placebo and Mitchellville (Jury Special Mention, CineVegas Film Festival). Burke trained at National Theater Institute with Richard Digby Day and Morris Carnovsky. Stephen Angus, who plays the role of The Man with the Dog, has appeared in a number of stage plays, films and television programs. His stage credits include leading roles at many theatres in the Midwest and on the East Coast; most recently at Victory Gardens in Chicago, where he played The Pilot in The Sweet Little Prince. His television credits include the recurring character Alex Carew on NBC's Homicide: Life On The Street, appearances in episodes of America's Most Wanted and Missing: Reward. Stephen has also appeared in the films Quiz Show, Forrest Gump, Pecker, and Le Pelican. Bibo, who plays the role of the Dog, met actor Stephen Angus one sunny morning while wandering the streets of Washington, D.C., and they have been fast companions ever since.



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 5, 2005

# FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Christopher Gentry, Producer Life is a Dream Productions Inc. +1 (773) 517-4118 www.castingraymovie.com www.lifeisadreamprod.com

Susan W. Woods, Director East Lansing Film Festival +1 (517) 336-5802 www.elff.com

# Cast In Gray Awarded Best Narrative Short Film at East Lansing Film Festival Second Festival Earns Film's Second Top Award

**East Lansing, Michigan** - Producer Christopher Gentry and writer-director I. Michael Toth accepted the award for Best Narrative Short film at the East Lansing Film Festival for Cast In Gray. The festival was held March 30 – April 3, 2005 in East Lansing, MI.

The award is the second best short film award in as many festivals for Cast In Gray. Erin Kay Burke, Program Director of the festival called the film "a rare, beautifully subtle film."

In February, Cast In Gray screened in competition at the Golden Film Festival and took home a Golden Nugget Award for Best Narrative Short. "Michael Toth has created a visually beautiful and thought-provoking work that successfully combines the elements of cinematography and drama," said Laurel Hunter, co-director for the Golden Film Festival. "The piece is well-conceived, written, acted, directed, imaginative and unpredictable, while relatively straightforward and highly engaging. It is hands down among the very best of the Golden Film Festival. We are very confident that this film will experience great success, and that Michael Toth will go on to make a significant mark on American cinema."

Cast In Gray, which runs 39 minutes, tells the story of a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog. Stranded in a day-long rainstorm in the middle of nowhere with the hitchhiker (played by Angus) and his dog (played by Bibo), the man (played by Timothy Burke) is forced to reconsider the possibilities of his life.

Toth and Gentry recently teamed up to make feature films written and directed by Toth and produced by Gentry. Currently, the two have four projects in the works. "I have tremendous respect for Michael Toth and his talent," Gentry said. "He's one of those unique filmmakers that don't come along too often. Cast In Gray is a great example of his skill with film narrative, both as a writer and as a director, and it shows the quality of filmmaking we are capable of producing."

The filmmakers decided to make a short film to promote making a full-length feature film based on Cast In Gray. Toth recently completed the screenplay, which is currently titled Gray, White and Black. The story is told in three interconnected parts. Cast In Gray will make up the first part of the film. "Cast In Gray ends with our main character making a monumental decision that changes the direction of his life, or so it would seem," Toth said. "The audience is curious about what happens to this guy. Where does he go, and how did he come to this point in his life? In



the short film, Cast In Gray, we pose a lot of interesting ideas, which makes people think and wonder about different interpretations. In the feature film, Gray, White and Black, we will work with the same premise, but we'll see more of the main character's life to get behind what makes him tick."

In addition to Cast In Gray cast members Burke, Angus and Bibo, the film will feature Irena Micijevic-Rodic, a London-based actress who recently won the Best Actress Award at the Film Festival Novi Sad for her leading role in Magic. "Michael doesn't think small and, from the beginning, had a bigger story based on Cast In Gray in mind," Gentry added. "The script is great, and I'm really excited about making the film and getting it out for people to see. The main thing we are working on now is financing for the film, which will likely come from private backers," Gentry said.

"We want to make films that matter, personal films that are universal, and films that will be remembered long after we're gone," Toth said of his and Gentry's partnership. Gentry added, "Making a great film is not easy. Michael knows what it takes, and we are both very passionate about making our mark on world cinema."

Their hard work seems to be paying off. The Golden Film Festival marks Cast In Gray's first festival appearance and first award. In April, the film will screen in competition at the East Lansing Film Festival and at the Phoenix Film Festival. The filmmakers said they are finalizing plans for a Chicago premiere in June, as well as a screening in Macomb, Illinois where the film was shot.

# About Cast In Gray (TRT 39 minutes):

Cast In Gray was shot on location in Macomb, Illinois by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film was written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth and stars Timothy Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo. Frank T. Herbert, a native of Macomb, Illinois, co-produced the film. Sasha Redulic, an award-winning cinematographer from Los Angeles, was cinematographer on the film.

## **About Life is a Dream Productions:**

Life is a Dream Productions Inc. was formed in October 2000 by producer Christopher Gentry and writer-director I. Michael Toth to develop and produce independent feature films for worldwide distribution. The Chicago-based production company currently has four feature films in development for production through 2007.

# About I. Michael Toth:

I. Michael Toth has written, produced, directed and edited a number of award-winning television programs, documentaries, short films, music videos and commercials in the US and Europe. He has four screenplays in development for production through 2007, one that includes an adaptation of a play by Academy Award winning screenwriter Steve Tesich. Toth is a graduate of the prestigious University of Arts School of Film and Television in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro.

## **About Christopher Gentry:**

Christopher Gentry formed Life is a Dream Productions in October 2000 with writer-director I. Michael Toth, where he develops and produces films for Toth. Prior to producing the award-winning short film Cast In Gray, Gentry spent 14 years as a corporate banker with FleetBoston



Financial, BankBoston, Mellon Bank and Sanwa Bank. He holds a B.S. degree in Corporate Finance from Arizona State University. He is a member IFP/Chicago, a national organization of independent filmmakers.

## **About the Cast:**

Timothy Burke, who plays the role of The Man, has appeared in lead and supporting roles in five feature films including The Return, The Devil's Placebo and Mitchellville (Jury Special Mention, CineVegas Film Festival). Burke trained at National Theater Institute with Richard Digby Day and Morris Carnovsky. Stephen Angus, who plays the role of The Man with the Dog, has appeared in a number of stage plays, films and television programs. His stage credits include leading roles at many theatres in the Midwest and on the East Coast; most recently at Victory Gardens in Chicago, where he played The Pilot in The Sweet Little Prince. His television credits include the recurring character Alex Carew on NBC's Homicide: Life On The Street, appearances in episodes of America's Most Wanted and Missing: Reward. Stephen has also appeared in the films Quiz Show, Forrest Gump, Pecker, and Le Pelican. Bibo, who plays the role of the Dog, met actor Stephen Angus one sunny morning while wandering the streets of Washington, D.C., and they have been fast companions ever since.

# **About East Lansing Film Festival:**

The East Lansing Film Festival screens independent and foreign feature, documentary, short and students films from around the world. Since its creation in 1997, in cooperation with the City of East Lansing and Michigan State University, the festival has been dedicated to bringing quality foreign and independent films to the state of Michigan in order to expose its audience to diverse cultures, ideas, and creative works.

### ###

### Background:

Cast In Gray was filmed on location in Macomb, Illinois, a place Gentry knows well, considering he grew up there. "Very important to the success of this film was the choice of locations where we would make the movie," Gentry said. "The feelings and emotions of the characters, the themes and ideas of the story needed to be reflected by the surroundings and environment. The film has much to do with the forces of nature quietly at work in our lives. Macomb was an obvious choice for me simply because of the beautiful, open landscape surrounding the town, as well as knowing that we would need a lot of local support to make the film."

After considering transporting a crew of 30 from Chicago to a remote location, Gentry immediately called on his longtime friend Frank Herbert. "Frank did a great job picking out my suits for homecoming dances. So, I figured he could help me make a movie in Macomb. I sent him a list of about 20 items we needed, and he had everything covered in about 48 hours."

The two Macomb natives, who have remained close friends since childhood, received a lot of support from their hometown of Macomb. "We had a small budget to work with on this film and, given some challenging logistical and creative aspects of the script, we needed local help, and we got it." Herbert said. "Since it rains the entire time of the story, we not only needed help from Mother Nature, we needed to make sure it rained all through filming." Gentry and Herbert asked the Macomb Fire Department if they could help make rain. "It didn't rain at all during



filming. Someone told me it was the driest month in 124 years," Herbert said. "The fire department was amazing in what they did for us. People who have seen the film can't believe that the rain is manmade."



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 7, 2005

# FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Christopher Gentry Life is a Dream Productions Inc. +1 (773) 517-4118 www.castingraymovie.com www.lifeisadreamprod.com

Susan W. Woods, Director East Lansing Film Festival +1 (517) 336-5802 www.elff.com

# MSU Alumnus at East Lansing Film Festival

Former Theater Student Stars in Award Winning Independent Film

Chicago, Illinois – Actor and Michigan State University alumnus, Stephen Angus, will attend the East Lansing Film Festival on April 3 to talk about his leading role in the award-winning short film Cast In Gray. Angus stars in the 39-minute short film, which won the Best Short Narrative Award last month at the Golden Film Festival in Golden, Colorado. The film will screen in competition at the Phoenix Film Festival April 8-10, and at the Midwest Film Festival in Chicago on June 7.

Angus graduated from MSU in 1986 with a degree in Humanities. While pursuing his degree, he spent a lot of time in the Theatre Department. "I garnered enough credits to have theatre performance become one of the three focuses of study for my humanities degree," Angus said. In his spare time he played sax in the local band Let's Talk About Girls.

Since graduating, Angus has been active in theater, television and film. He began his theater career in Ann Arbor at the old Performance Network. In 1995, he was a founding member of the T.UT.A. theater company in Washington, D.C. (now based in Chicago), where he continues to be active. He has also performed in leading roles at a number of theatres in the Midwest and on the East Coast. After filming Cast In Gray last Spring, he starred opposite Mike Nussbaum in the The Sweet Little Prince at Chicago's Victory Gardens Theater, a T.U.T.A. production he coadapted from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's original play.

Angus's roles in television have included the recurring character, Alex Carew, on NBC's Homicide: Life On The Street, and appearances in episodes of America's Most Wanted and Missing: Reward. He also appeared in the feature films Quiz Show, Forrest Gump and Pecker.

"My studies and training at MSU have served me well." Angus said from his home in Boulder, Colorado. "As with many good and valuable experiences, the years have been kind to what's left of the memories. So, I'm excited to be coming back to campus with a film that I think reflects the bold spirit of true independent filmmaking today."

Cast In Gray tells the story of a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog. Stranded together in a daylong rainstorm in the middle of nowhere, the man is forced to reconsider the possibilities of his life. Angus stars as the hitchhiker, and his longtime canine companion, Bibo, plays the dog, roles written specifically for the two by Chicago-based writer-director, I. Michael Toth.



Toth recently completed a feature length screenplay based on Cast In Gray, and has cast Angus to play a leading role in the feature film. "Stephen is a versatile actor that has great range and can change appearances to create interesting characters," Toth said. "His performance in Cast In Gray is great, and I am looking forward to working with him on the feature film."

Cast In Gray screens on Sunday, April 3 at 4:30 pm at Wells Hall Theaters (Bresson – A) on the campus of MSU. For more information on the film, go to <a href="https://www.castingraymovie.com">www.castingraymovie.com</a>. For more information on the East Lansing Film Festival, call 517-336-5802, or go to <a href="https://www.elff.com">www.elff.com</a>.

## About Cast In Gray (TRT 39 minutes):

Cast In Gray was shot on location in Macomb, Illinois by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film was written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth and stars Timothy Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo. Frank T. Herbert, a native of Macomb, Illinois, co-produced the film. Sasha Redulic, an award-winning cinematographer from Los Angeles, was cinematographer on the film.

#### **About I. Michael Toth:**

I. Michael Toth has written, produced, directed and edited a number of award-winning television programs, documentaries, short films, music videos and commercials in the US and Europe. He has four screenplays in development for production through 2007, one that includes an adaptation of a play by Academy Award winning screenwriter Steve Tesich. Toth is a graduate of the prestigious University of Arts School of Film and Television in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro.



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 27, 2005

# FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Christopher Gentry Life is a Dream Productions Inc. +1 (773) 517-4118 www.castingraymovie.com www.lifeisadreamprod.com

Laurel Hunter Golden Film Festival +1 (303) 868-8985 www.goldengreat.org

# Cast In Gray Awarded Best Narrative Short Film at Golden Film Festival

**Golden, Colorado** - Producer Christopher Gentry and writer-director I. Michael Toth accepted a Golden Nugget Award for Best Narrative Short Film at the Golden Film Festival for Cast In Gray. The festival was held February 24-27 in Golden, Colorado. The film was also nominated for the Best of Fest Award, as well as the Audience Choice Award, and had the second highest attendance at the festival.

"Michael Toth has created a visually beautiful and thought-provoking work that successfully combines the elements of cinematography and drama," said Laurel Hunter, co-director for the Golden Film Festival. "The piece is well-conceived, written, acted, directed, imaginative and unpredictable, while relatively straight-forward and highly engaging. It is hands down among the very best of the Golden Film Festival. We are very confident that this film will experience great success, and that Michael Toth will go on to make a significant mark on American cinema."

The festival kicked off Thursday, February 25 with an opening night reception that took place at the Miners Alley Playhouse. On Friday, Morgan Spurlock's Super Size Me, and Sense of Need, a feature film by Palestinian filmmaker Shady Srour, kicked off the festival. Cast In Gray was shown on Saturday night to a packed house. After the screening, Toth, Gentry and actors Stephen Angus and Bibo (the dog that appears in the film) took the stage for a Q&A with an enthusiastic audience. Angus said, "You never know, do you? You take risks and put your heart into your work. This was a gratifying moment, receiving such supportive feedback from a whole room of folks who honestly connected with the film."

The Awards Ceremony was held on Sunday night at the Foothills Arts Center. With the Academy Awards being projected on a big screen off to the side, the winners were announced and the awards were given to the filmmakers. After accepting the award with Toth, Gentry talked about where the film will go next and plans for a feature length film based on Cast In Gray. "We're thrilled about winning the Golden Nugget and, more importantly, by the audience's enthusiastic response to the film," Gentry said. "Now, everyone is gearing up for the next two festivals, and we are looking forward to more festivals in the US and abroad over the course of the year."

Cast In Gray, which runs 39 minutes, tells the story of a disillusioned man's chance encounter with a hitchhiker and his dog. Stranded in a day-long rainstorm in the middle of nowhere with the hitchhiker (played by Angus) and his dog (played by Bibo), the man (played by Timothy Burke) is forced to reconsider the possibilities of his life.



Toth and Gentry recently teamed up to make feature films written and directed by Toth and produced by Gentry. Currently, the two have four projects in the works. "I have tremendous respect for Michael Toth and his talent," Gentry said. "He's one of those unique filmmakers that don't come along too often. Cast In Gray is a great example of his skill with film narrative, both as a writer and as a director, and it shows the quality of filmmaking we are capable of producing."

The filmmakers decided to make a short film to promote making a full-length feature film based on Cast In Gray. Toth recently completed the screenplay, which is currently titled Gray, White and Black. The story is told in three interconnected parts. Cast In Gray will make up the first part of the film. "Cast In Gray ends with our main character making a monumental decision that changes the direction of his life, or so it would seem," Toth said. "The audience is curious about what happens to this guy. Where does he go, and how did he come to this point in his life? In the short film, Cast In Gray, we pose a lot of interesting ideas, which makes people think and wonder about different interpretations. In the feature film, Gray, White and Black, we will work with the same premise, but we'll see more of the main character's life to get behind what makes him tick."

In addition to Cast In Gray cast members Burke, Angus and Bibo, the film will feature Irena Micijevic-Rodic, a London-based actress who recently won the Best Actress Award at the Film Festival Novi Sad for her leading role in Magic. "Michael doesn't think small and, from the beginning, had a bigger story based on Cast In Gray in mind," Gentry added. "The script is great, and I'm really excited about making the film and getting it out for people to see. The main thing we are working on now is financing for the film, which will likely come from private backers," Gentry said.

"We want to make films that matter, personal films that are universal, and films that will be remembered long after we're gone," Toth said of his and Gentry's partnership. Gentry added, "Making a great film is not easy. Michael knows what it takes, and we are both very passionate about making our mark on world cinema."

Their hard work seems to be paying off. The Golden Film Festival marks Cast In Gray's first festival appearance and first award. In April, the film will screen in competition at the East Lansing Film Festival and at the Phoenix Film Festival. The filmmakers said they are finalizing plans for a Chicago premiere in June, as well as a screening in Macomb, Illinois where the film was shot.

## About Cast In Gray (TRT 39 minutes):

Cast In Gray was shot on location in Macomb, Illinois by Chicago-based Life is a Dream Productions. The film was written, directed and edited by I. Michael Toth and stars Timothy Burke and Stephen Angus, as well as Angus' dog Bibo. Frank T. Herbert, a native of Macomb, Illinois, co-produced the film. Sasha Redulic, an award-winning cinematographer from Los Angeles, was cinematographer on the film.

## **About Life is a Dream Productions:**

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Christopher Gentry formed Life is a Dream Productions in October 2000 with writer-director I. Michael Toth, where he develops and produces films for Toth. Prior to producing the award-winning short film Cast In Gray, Gentry spent 14 years as a corporate banker with FleetBoston Financial, BankBoston, Mellon Bank and Sanwa Bank. He holds a B.S. degree in Corporate Finance from Arizona State University. He is a member IFP/Chicago, a national organization of independent filmmakers.

### **About the Cast:**

Timothy Burke, who plays the role of The Man, has appeared in lead and supporting roles in five feature films including The Return, The Devil's Placebo and Mitchellville (Jury Special Mention, CineVegas Film Festival). Burke trained at National Theater Institute with Richard Digby Day and Morris Carnovsky. Stephen Angus, who plays the role of The Man with the Dog, has appeared in a number of stage plays, films and television programs. His stage credits include leading roles at many theatres in the Midwest and on the East Coast; most recently at Victory Gardens in Chicago, where he played The Pilot in The Sweet Little Prince. His television credits include the recurring character Alex Carew on NBC's Homicide: Life On The Street, appearances in episodes of America's Most Wanted and Missing: Reward. Stephen has also appeared in the films Quiz Show, Forrest Gump, Pecker, and Le Pelican. Bibo, who plays the role of the Dog, met actor Stephen Angus one sunny morning while wandering the streets of Washington, D.C., and they have been fast companions ever since.

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# Background:

Cast In Gray was filmed on location in Macomb, Illinois, a place Gentry knows well, considering he grew up there. "Very important to the success of this film was the choice of locations where we would make the movie," Gentry said. "The feelings and emotions of the characters, the themes and ideas of the story needed to be reflected by the surroundings and environment. The film has much to do with the forces of nature quietly at work in our lives. Macomb was an obvious choice for me simply because of the beautiful, open landscape surrounding the town, as well as knowing that we would need a lot of local support to make the film."

After considering transporting a crew of 30 from Chicago to a remote location, Gentry immediately called on his longtime friend Frank Herbert. "Frank did a great job picking out my suits for homecoming dances. So, I figured he could help me make a movie in Macomb. I sent him a list of about 20 items we needed, and he had everything covered in about 48 hours."



The two Macomb natives, who have remained close friends since childhood, received a lot of support from their hometown of Macomb. "We had a small budget to work with on this film and, given some challenging logistical and creative aspects of the script, we needed local help, and we got it." Herbert said. "Since it rains the entire time of the story, we not only needed help from Mother Nature, we needed to make sure it rained all through filming." Gentry and Herbert asked the Macomb Fire Department if they could help make rain. "It didn't rain at all during filming. Someone told me it was the driest month in 124 years," Herbert said. "The fire department was amazing in what they did for us. People who have seen the film can't believe that the rain is manmade."

