



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - TUESDAY 1st March 2011

STONE to SCREEN in LA at TARANTINO'S SELECTION

Legendary cult filmmaker Quentin Tarantino has selected the iconic Australian 1974 biker classic STONE to screen in his personal selection of films at the New Beverley Cinema in Hollywood this March.

The famed director has long been a vocal advocate and supporter of the film and Sandy Harbutt, its creator. Harbutt co-wrote, produced, directed and starred in this story of 'the Gravediggers', a local bikie gang of ex-Vietnam Vets, whose numbers are being decimated by murder; and of the cop, 'Stone', who joins their ranks, finds the murderer, then betrays the gang by taking the killer in, thus denying 'the Gravediggers' their revenge and earning the gang's bloody wrath.

This classic film has gained a cult following and praise from around the world, no less so than from Tarantino himself, who has said, "STONE is his all time favourite biker film...it has the quintessential most realistic ending of any biker film in history...he knew he had it coming, he broke the code".

A forerunner to the Mad Max franchise, STONE and its creator, Harbutt, have earned a special place in Australian cinema history. Tarantino regards Harbutt as a 'visionary' and has spoken of the influence of the Australian auteur upon his own filmmaking.

The New Beverley Cinema, situated in the heart of Hollywood, is Los Angeles' longest running repertory theatre, showcasing a wide range of independent, classic, cult and foreign films. Tarantino is a long-time supporter of the venue and in March, he is curating their complete schedule, selecting some of his favourite films. **STONE will screen at midnight on March 12.**

At the 2009 Cannes' Film Festival, Harbutt's representatives presented a delighted Tarantino with an original 35mm film print of STONE, Sandy's own copy, to add to his vast collection. These two rusty canisters of film, bearing the cinema names where STONE screened, had travelled the length and breadth of the country - from Sydney to Wagga Wagga, to Bathurst, Darwin and everywhere in between. When STONE was released in 1974, it smashed box office records at cinemas and drive-ins all over the country as thousands flocked to see this counter-culture creation played out large on the big screen. Made for the sum of \$195,000 STONE grossed 1.5 million dollars - eight times its production budget - making it one of the most financially successful films in Australian history.

Later this year, there are plans to re-screen the original STONE - a remastered and re-classified Director's Cut - so a new audience of fans, as well as the old and die-hard devotees, can sit and once again *'take the trip'* that was STONE.

Harbutt, who now lives the quiet rural life, usually shuns the media but he is thrilled with the attention 'his baby' is receiving. In a rare concession, in honour of the Hollywood screening by Quentin Tarantino, Harbutt will be available for interview in Sydney on Thursday, 3rd March to speak about his cult classic.

STONE is screening - Midnight March 12, 2011. - at the New Beverley Cinema. Hollywood. Los Angeles 7165 W Beverly Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90036. USA. www.newbevcinema.com/calendar.cfm

**Contact Catherine Swinton at Catalyst PR for interviews: Catalyst PR Mobile: 0411333190
Post: PO Box 1127 Hunters Hill NSW 2110 Email: catswinton@bigpond.com ABN 65 047 974 511**