**The Gift Begins Filming in Hong Kong**

**Highlights:**

* Short film about a 12-year-old boy who is challenged to give up his gift and the life-changing decisions that he faces
* Shot in Hong Kong by stellar Hong Kong-based production team, including Lisa Belcher, Harry Oram, Derrick Fong and Ines Laimins
* Stopbullying.gov partners with film to promote anti-bullying message to kids and parents

**Hong Kong, 18 May 2014** – Filming will begin today for *The Gift*, the short film about a 12-year-old boy who carries a gift with him wherever he goes, until one day he is challenged to give it up and destroy it. The true value of the gift may be revealed, or not.

Produced and directed by Lisa Belcher, she is delighted to bring the short story originally written by her brother, Steven Wayne, to the big screen. The production team includes Harry Oram, Producer/Writer, Derrick Fong, cinematographer, and Ines Laimins, writer/first AD. *The Gift* is filmed in Hong Kong and will be submitted to international film festivals.

"When I read this story ten years ago, it touched my heart. It has always been a dream of mine to bring this story to film, because the themes of parental love and anti-bullying are issues that I feel passionately about,” said Lisa Belcher, Director.

She continued, “My team and I want to share this beautiful story that follows one child’s struggles with bullying and the strains real life puts on the bond between father and son. We want to encourage children and parents alike to connect with each other and reflect upon these issues. Father figures are often poorly represented in modern media, so we really want to demonstrate the importance and power of a strong father figure and of the father-son relationship.”

**Getting involved**

The film will be a high quality production for theatrical release in Hong Kong and at film festivals overseas. Shot on location at Hong Kong International School (HKIS) and outdoor locations, the film embodies strong family values on screen and off screen. The majority of actors in the film are kids, giving them the opportunity to act on a film set with professional direction.

In pre-production a number of initiatives were conducted to engage Hong Kong kids and families in the filmmaking process and the messages of preventing and responding to bullying.

Earlier in April, an event “What’s in the Gift”, complete with a marquee, balloons and cookies was held at the Stanley Pier waterfront, to help provide information about the film. Participants were given an opportunity to share on video, something special about their father or father figure and afterwards received a “Gift Cookie”. Students from HKIS were invited to participate in a script to screen workshop-enabling students to create their own films using smartphones. William Belcher, an HKIS student, along with his peers, led The Gift Cupcake Drive to contribute to fundraising for the film.

Reaching out globally, the production of *The Gift* is being crowd sourced on the site [www.indiegogo.com](http://www.indiegogo.com). Crowdsourcing is an important tool for *The Gift* because it brings people together to accomplish the goal of telling this story through film and creates the opportunity for positive change that can have an impact.

**About the production team**

**Lisa Belcher** – American born female director, actress and screenwriter. Lisa has been involved in the film industry in many different capacities over the last decade. Lisa is an avid screenwriter, as well as done freelance acting. Lisa is Writer, Director and Producer of *The Gift*. Lisa most recently produced *My Name is Tanyusha* *(2014)* which is currently in post-production. Lisa has appeared in films including *Transformers: Age of Extinction (2014), Angel Sing (2013), and* TV Series *The Lying Game (2011).*

**Harry Oram** – Harry is Writer/Producer of *The Gift*. Harry studied method acting from the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute, New York City, New York. He is a Founder of HK Reels production company, and coproduced *My Name is Tanyusha (2014).* Harry has appeared in numerous films including *My Name is Tanyusha (2014), Iceman 2 (2014), Vor (2014), Saturnalia (2013), Cyber (2015), Iceman (2014), Stories Forlorn (2014),* and many other films.

**Derrick Fong** – Director of Photography of *The Gift*. Derrick is a Cinematographer, television producer and editor. Derrick’s film credits include *Heartless* (2014), Wing Chun (2014) and *Supercapitalist* *(2012)*. Derrick’s other short film cinematography includes *The Other End of the Gun (2009), Cut Short (2009), Anniversary (2009), Born from the Foot (2009), Breaking the Shell (2008), Imago Wings (2007), Kiari* (2007) and *Beeline (2007).*

**Ines Laimins** – Writer/First AD for The Gift. Ines is an American actress and photographer based in Hong Kong, fluent in Mandarin, she works locally and internationally in film, commercial, and TV. Recent work includes *Love Stalk* 愛•打卡 (2014), *Game On: Time to Pull the Strings (2014),* *My Name is Tanyusha* *(2014), TV Series Borgen* *(2013),* International films *Four Assassins* *(2012)*, *Dual Crisis* 親密敵人*(2011),* and *Wan Chai Baby (2010)*.

**For more information**

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