

Media Release
For immediate release
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STUDIOCANAL AUSTRALIA & SEE PICTURES ANNOUNCE

**RAFE SPALL, RONNY CHIENG, ZAHRA NEWMAN AND NONI HAZELHURST
TO STAR IN JOSH LAWSON'S**

LONG STORY SHORT

PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMMENCES 26 AUGUST 2019, SYDNEY



L-R: Dena Kaplan, Ronny Chieng, Josh Lawson, Rafe Spall, Zahra Newman
Photo credit: Maria Boyadgis

SYDNEY Australia – STUDIOCANAL Australia and See Pictures are thrilled to announce that principal photography commences today on **Josh Lawson's** romantic comedy *Long Story Short*, with major production investment from **Screen Australia**, in association with **Create NSW** and **Spectrum Films**.

STUDIOCANAL will handle worldwide sales.

The four-week shoot will take place in Sydney with a stellar cast led by British actor Rafe Spall (*I Give it a Year*, *The Big Short*, *Jurassic World*) and supported by an incredible Australian ensemble including AACTA and HOPMAN award winning Zahra Newman, actor/comedian Ronny Chieng (*Crazy Rich Asians*), screen icon Noni Hazlehurst (*A Place to Call Home*), Dena Kaplan (*Dance Academy*) and Josh Lawson (*Anchor Man*). Lawson will direct his original screenplay. Jamie Hilton is producing alongside Michael Pontin and Isabel Stanfield for See

Pictures, marking a second collaboration with Lawson after their Toronto break out *The Little Death* in 2014. Executive Producers are Josh Lawson, Sonia Borella, Josh Pomeranz, Charlie Tynan and Will Gammon.

The story follows Teddy (Spall), who wakes up the morning after his wedding to discover that every few minutes he's jumping forward to the next year of his life. He must use every precious moment wisely to keep from losing the love of his life, and to learn to love the life he's losing.

Long Story Short follows Lawson's recent Oscar nomination for Best Live Action Short at the 2018 Academy Awards for *The Eleven O'Clock*, which he wrote, produced and starred in. Lawson's first feature *The Little Death* won the SxSW Audience Award and premiered at the Toronto Film Festival in 2014 and was released in over 30 territories. It has been remade in four languages, most notably the 2017 box office smash, *Kiki Love to Love*, which did over 1M admissions in Spain.

Lawson says: "It really is a dream come true to be making this film with a cast and crew of this stellar caliber. We're all excited and grateful to be able to tell a story with such heart and positivity, and to set it in Sydney makes it all the sweeter."

Spall says: "Josh's screenplay is miraculous, and I couldn't be happier to be playing Teddy. It's wonderful to be staying with my family on Sydney's stunning beaches and working with such an amazing team of people."

Hilton says: "Josh is a remarkable comedic talent in front of and behind the camera. To have Rafe Spall here in Australia supported by such an incredible Australian cast is a dream situation. We look forward to working with STUDIOCANAL to bring this movie to audiences the world over."

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About STUDIOCANAL

STUDIOCANAL, a 100% affiliate of CANAL+ Group held by Vivendi, is Europe's leader in production, distribution and international sales of feature films and TV series, operating directly in all three major European markets - France, the United Kingdom and Germany - as well as in Australia and New Zealand.

STUDIOCANAL owns one of the most important film libraries in the world, boasting more than 5,500 titles from 60 countries. Spanning 100 years of film history, this vast and unique catalogue includes among others the iconic *Terminator 2*, *Rambo*, *Breathless*, *Mulholland Drive*, *The Pianist* and *Belle de jour*.

STUDIOCANAL has fully financed box office hits *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, *Paddington 1 and 2*, *The Commuter* and *Shaun The Sheep*. Upcoming films backed by STUDIOCANAL include Marjane Satrapi's *Radioactive*

featuring Rosamund Pike, *The Secret Garden* produced by David Heyman starring Colin Firth, Aardman Studios' stop-motion film *A Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon*.

STUDIOCANAL is actively developing and distributing high-end TV series through its network of award-winning European production companies, including TANDEM in Germany (*Shadowplay*), the UK's RED Production Company (*Years and Years*), Spain's BAMBÚ PRODUCCIONES (*On Death Row*) and France's STUDIOCANAL ORIGINAL (*Mouche*). STUDIOCANAL is also an associate of Danish-based SAM Productions founded by Søren Sveistrup and Adam Price (*Ride Upon The Storm*) as well as of UK-based GUILTY PARTY PICTURES; Benedict Cumberbatch's production company SUNNYMARCH TV (*Patrick Melrose*) and URBAN MYTH FILMS (*War of the Worlds*).

About See Pictures

See Pictures is home to producers Jamie Hilton, Sonia Borella and Michael Pontin who work with Australia's top talent to create film and television for international audiences. Recent credits include an adaptation of Tim Winton's novel *Breath* alongside Mark Johnson (*Breaking Bad*, *The Notebook*) and Simon Baker (*The Mentalist*), Stephan Elliot's *Swinging Safari* (Guy Pearce, Kylie Minogue), Michael Petroni's *Backtrack* (Adrien Brody, Sam Neill), crime drama *Outlaws* aka *1%* and Josh Lawson's *The Little Death*. They are currently in post-production on comedic drama *June Again* (Noni Hazelhurst, Claudia Karvan, Stephen Curry), which STUDIOCANAL will release, and *Go!* a high-octane family film from the co-writer of *Paper Planes* and the director of *Top Gear*.

Production Credit

Long Story Short is a See Pictures production. Major production investment from Screen Australia, in association with Create NSW and Spectrum Films.