



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

February 17, 2014

TROPFEST NZ UNEARTH'S KIWI FILMMAKING TALENT

Winner Andrew Cooper scores LA film immersion course for "Help" thanks to MPA

NEW ZEALAND/SINGAPORE: On February 16, the Motion Picture Association (MPA) continued their long-standing support of emerging filmmakers at Tropfest New Zealand, the world's largest short film festival, awarding first place filmmaker Andrew Cooper with a prize to participate in a five-day film immersion course in Los Angeles.

Cooper's film *Help*, tells the story of a support group leader for wickedly weird addictions who discovers that he has an addiction of his own. 'Help' was one of the 14 finalist short films which delighted an estimated crowd of 8,000 at the TSB Bowl of Brooklands in New Plymouth last night.

Accepting his award, Cooper said, "To win the MPA and New Zealand Screen Association (NZSA) prize is amazing. I'm a filmmaker from a small country called New Zealand. I didn't go to film school and I'm going to go to the States and meet some people from some big companies and talk to some guys that can help us tell New Zealand stories, and get those opportunities to fund some projects and help some people to get some great stuff done."

Tropfest judge and renowned New Zealand actor and director Michael Hurst, said the winning film, "...had a great twist in it, was really well shot and acted, and cut straight to the chase... It was a clear winner for us."

Mike Ellis, President and Managing Director Asia Pacific, MPA said, "Tropfest is a short film festival phenomenon that continues to expand across the globe – most recently all across Southeast Asia – and provides an unparalleled launching pad for talented filmmakers. I've no doubt that all eyes will be on New Zealand's emerging talent as Tropfest screens in New Plymouth, and for many of them, this event will turbo-charge their film careers and put their creative work in the spotlight. Congratulations to Andrew Cooper, his creative colleague Nicola Peeperkoorn, and all of the finalists."

Andrew Cooper stumbled into film while working on Nicola Peeperkoorn's first feature film *The Richmond Family Massacre*. From then on, the two have collaborated on numerous film and corporate projects with Andrew taking up a role as co-writer and director. Andrew currently spends his weekdays as a Marketing Manager and many nights and weekend writing with his partners in crime, Nicola and Greg Smith. The trio is currently working on their newest feature film *Sex with an Alien*.

To view winning film *Help* and the other finalist films please click [here](#).

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About the MPA:

Promoting & Protecting Screen Communities in Asia Pacific

The Motion Picture Association (MPA) and the Motion Picture Association International (MPA-I) represent the interests of the six international producers and distributors of filmed entertainment. To do so, they promote and protect the intellectual property rights of these companies and conduct public awareness programs to highlight to movie fans around the world the importance of content protection. These activities have helped to transform entire markets benefiting film and television industries in each country including foreign and local filmmakers alike.

The organizations act on behalf of the members of the Motion Picture Association of America, Inc (MPAA) which include; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.; Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation; Universal City Studios LLC; Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures; and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. The MPA and the MPA-I have worldwide operations which are directed from their head offices in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. and overseen in the Asia Pacific by a team based in Singapore. For more information about the MPA and the MPA-I, please visit www.mpa-i.org.

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