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CEBUANO IN HOLLYWOOD

CEBU, Philippines (July 17, 2008) – At 30 years old, Cebu native Kristoffer Villarino is making a mark on the film industry in the Philippines and abroad. He has edited four international films, the most recent of these being *Midnight Movie*, a slasher film set for distribution in North America, Germany and Thailand.

Villarino was handpicked by the film's director, Jack Messitt, for the role of head editor. The two met while working on *Irreversi*, where Jack held the position of director of photography. Villarino commented on the opportunity, "[*Midnight Movie*] was Jack's first movie... he is very skilled. For him to put his trust in me felt really good."

While in L.A. working on the film, Villarino remained objective by keeping his distance from the set, it is essential that editors see the footage from an outsider's point of view. Each week he would meet with the director and show him the edits. Villarino valued the experience working with Jack and commented on his role: "It is a huge responsibility being an editor. Editors can make huge decisions about the flow of the film and have to argue with the director if something doesn't work."

Although more a fan of suspense than slasher films, Villarino enjoyed the script and engrossed himself in the genre to prepare for his work on *Midnight Movie*. The film is an homage to '80s slasher films such as *Jason*, *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, *Psycho* and other teen horror movies of that time. Shots were purposefully created to emulate iconic scenes from these cult classics to provoke a nostalgic reaction from viewers familiar with the classic thrillers. Although technology has advanced significantly in the last twenty years, the special effects remained purposefully traditional. Along with the "teen horror movie factor," the film attempts to garner recognition as a commentary on viewer enjoyment of violence.

The movie was completed in April 2008 and Villarino is happy with the final product. He was able to combine the scary, yet funny, duality into the film that he pictured from that start, "viewers jump and they laugh."

About *Midnight Movie*

Midnight Movie is a slasher film that takes place in a run-down theater in a sleepy, suburban town. A group of friends attend a midnight screening of a 1970s cult horror film and heckle the old black-and-white scenes. The film turns deadly when the killer emerges from the screen to hunt down each viewer one-by-one.

Peace Arch will distribute *Midnight Movie* in the U.S. and Canada. During the Cannes Film Festival, the film was sold to KSM for distribution in Germany and Right Beyond for distribution in Thailand.



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About Kris Villarino

Villarino was born in Cebu City where he now lives with his wife and one-year-old daughter. He attended high school and college at the University of San Carlos, graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Advertising.

Currently, Villarino works as head editor at Bigfoot Entertainment, a position he has held for four years. To date, he has edited four feature length films and is currently working on his fifth, titled *Deep Gold*. He is also slated to edit a dual-language feature currently in development that will be set in three countries: Korea, Vietnam and the U.S.

About Bigfoot Entertainment

Bigfoot Entertainment is an international production and film financing company based in Hong Kong and Los Angeles. Bigfoot's premier studio location is in Cebu/Philippines where the company invested an excess of one billion PHP into BIGFOOT STUDIOS, a state-of-the-art production facility with equipment comparable to leading film studios in Los Angeles such as 35mm cameras, HD cameras, Moviebird cranes, Panther dolly, and the RED camera.

Bigfoot Entertainment - leaving lasting footprints in the world of entertainment!

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