

Exclusive Signing With Stars of British Action Films 'Underground' and 'Bodyguard: A New Beginning': Mark Strange, Nathan Lewis and Director, Chee Keong Cheung

Blockbuster Superstore, Preston - Saturday 5 December 2009, 6:00pm – 9:00pm

You are cordially invited to this unique and exciting event celebrating the DVD release of the critically acclaimed British independent action films; Underground and Bodyguard: A New Beginning, with proceeds donated to the Starlight Children's Foundation.

Attending the event will be stars, Mark Strange and Nathan Lewis and director, Chee Keong Cheung, who have redefined the image of British action cinema with these groundbreaking productions.

Underground follows the journey of twelve fighters, hand selected to compete in a no-holds-barred martial arts competition for a £500,000 prize. With a dazzling display of unrestrained martial artistry and a wide range of disciplines on offer, Underground re-examines the 'kumite' martial arts genre that gained popularity during the 1980s and turns it completely on its head. The film also features some of the UK's most impressive and exciting martial arts and action talent.

"Get Ready To Rumble in one of the toughest films of its kind!" – DVD Unlimited

"One of the most impressive and highly anticipated full blooded martial arts films made in the UK" – Matthew Dawson, Impact

In **Bodyguard: A New Beginning**, a loyal bodyguard to a Hong Kong gang boss is sent to the UK to protect a woman amidst escalating violence between rival Hong Kong gangs. As teams are sent to intercept the pair, the bodyguard faces his greatest challenge; ensuring the woman's safety and fulfilling his mission of escorting her back to Hong Kong. The film co-stars screen legends Cary-Hiroiyuki Tagawa from Mortal Kombat and Planet of the Apes and Richard Ng, best known from the Lucky Stars films starring Jackie Chan!

"Hong Kong style action thrown in with grainy, atmospheric British filmmaking... Bodyguard will blow you away!" – Mike Fury, Combat

"Sharp, tight and delivered with brutal impact" – Andrew Skeates, Far East Films

Both these new and exciting independent British Action Films are available on DVD in the UK on the Action Extreme label. Produced by people who are passionate about action cinema, these two independent films are not to be missed.

Mark Strange is an actor and producer gaining recognition as one of the most exciting action stars in the UK today. Having competed internationally in martial arts competitions for the past 20 years, he later worked in Hong Kong, appearing alongside Jackie Chan in The Medallion and working under Donnie Yen in Twins Effect. Following these experiences, Mark returned to the UK and completed Displaced, his first feature film as lead actor and producer. He would later appear in

the Hollywood Blockbuster, Batman Begins, before starring in Underground and Bodyguard: A New Beginning. For further information please visit www.markstrange.com

Nathan Lewis is a three time World Kick Boxing Champion and four time British Kick Boxing Champion, as well a former British National Kung Fu Champion. He remains active in the world of martial arts and has many credits working in film and television as both a screen fighter and stuntman. Prior to working on Underground and Bodyguard: A New Beginning, Nathan fought alongside Mark Strange in Christopher Nolan's Batman Begins.

Chee Keong Cheung has emerged as one of the most courageous up-and-coming directors working in action cinema today. His films, Underground and Bodyguard: A Beginning, have gained international acclaim and demonstrate his ability at pushing the boundaries on conventional action cinema and stylishly capturing raw fighting talent in cinematic glory. For further information please visit www.intenseproductions.co.uk

Proceeds from the signing will be donated to the Starlight Children's Foundation.

Starlight Children's Foundation brightens the lives of seriously and terminally ill children by granting their wishes and providing hospital entertainment to help take their minds off the pain, fear and isolation of their illness. Since beginning in 1987, the charity has changed the lives of families all over the UK.

Neil Swan Starlight CEO said:

“Starlight are delighted that Blockbuster Preston are hosting this event to help grant wishes for local children and those in Lancashire. Blockbuster have supported Starlight for many years and the money they have raised has granted 1000's of magical wishes for children suffering from serious and terminal illnesses and helped children in hospitals all over the country. This event will enable even more children to live their dreams and offer happiness to them at a time where they often feel alone and in pain. On behalf of Starlight and the children we help I would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved!”

Visit Starlight's website www.starlight.org.uk or call Starlight on 0207 262 2881 to learn more about the charity, to hear our recent news and to check ways in which you can help transform the lives of seriously and terminally ill children.

This exclusive signing will take place at:

**Blockbuster Superstore, Corporation St, Preston
6:00pm - 9:00pm Saturday 5 December 2009.**

For more information, please contact:

John Miller

Action Extreme
+44 7984491940
john@action-extreme.com

For more details on Starlight Children's Foundation, please contact:
Nikki Fox
Press Officer
Starlight Children's Foundation
0207 262 2881 #231 or nikki@starlight.org.uk