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**'UNDERGROUND'**  
**SCREENING AT THE SENI 'FIGHTING SPIRIT' FILM FESTIVAL 2008**  
Followed by Q&A with Director and Producer  
**April 27th 2008, 10:00am, EXCEL Centre, London**



Lancaster, England / April 14th 2008 --- The independent action based feature film 'Underground', produced by Intense Productions in association with T-Tech Digital Media, is to be screened as part of the Fighting Spirit Film Festival at the world renowned SENI Expo, the International Combat Sports Show, at the EXCEL Centre in London, on Sunday April 27th 2008 at 10am followed by a 30mins Q&A with the film's Director Chee Keong Cheung and Producer and Performer Mark Strange.

SENI is the biggest interactive martial arts Festival weekend in the World, and offers the ideal platform for 'Underground'. It is being screened to celebrate the Best of British Independent Martial Arts Movies, screening alongside other British made films 'Ten Dead Men' and 'Sucker Punch'.

Now entering its 10th year, SENI is dedicated to Martial Arts, Combat Sports and Extreme Fitness. A spectacular, cutting edge expo, SENI has steadily grown over the years

to become the industry's acknowledged meeting place, visited by thousands of dedicated martial artists exponents, instructors and enthusiasts and a melting pot for the entire industry to exchange ideas and discover the latest innovations, products, arts and services.

Senio8 also sees the first ever Bruce Lee Museum as its centre-piece, with personal appearances by such Lee luminaries as Shannon, his daughter, Bob Wall, the villain in three Bruce Lee movies and Richard Bustillo, a personal student of Lee himself.

In keeping with its reputation for innovation and progression, the SENI show introduced the Fighting Spirit Film Festival at Senio6 to instant success and acclaim. Since its inception, the Festival has hosted the first British screenings of such high profile Martial Arts movies as 'Warrior King', 'District 13' 'Dragon Tiger Gate' and 'City of Violence'.

Senio7 also caused a sensation by screening 'Two Kings' featuring rare archive footage of Bruce Lee and Elvis Presley, footage never before seen in Europe. Although only in its third year, the festival has already been supported by personal appearances, Q&A sessions, seminars and demonstrations by such stars as John Saxon, Gordon Liu, Don Wilson, Diana Lee Inosanto, Scott Adkins and Silvio Simac. Senio8 will no doubt be attended by more action movie stars!

Joe Long, one of the co-founders of SENI, says, "This year at Senio8, we are privileged to be in a position to screen three of the UK's cutting edge action films at the Fighting Spirit Film Festival. 'Underground', 'Ten Dead Men' and 'Sucker Punch' are a true representation of British action and talent."

Malcolm Martin of SENI adds, "I'm delighted that SENI is promoting independent British movies this year which gives the British public the opportunity to see that films like 'Underground' can kick-ass with the best of them."

One of the leads of 'Underground' and 'The Bourne Ultimatum', Joey Ansah, will be at Senio8 to promote his role in 'Underground', and will also be holding a screen-fighting workshop on Sunday after the screening of 'Underground'.





'Underground' follows the story of twelve fighters who compete in an illegal underground tournament for the prize of £500,000. The fighters come from a variety of backgrounds, each hand-picked for a gruelling no-holds barred competition which pushes each fighter to their limits. Each fighter has their own reason for competing and each give everything they have to take the prize... but there can be only one winner!

Producer and Performer of 'Underground' Mark Strange says: "We want to highlight British independent film making and showcase the British martial arts and acting talents, and where better to do it than SENI? The majority of the actors in our film come from a real fighting background, which adds an authenticity to the action, which I am sure will satisfy fight fans! 'Underground' is a really exciting and visually dynamic fight fest that is already thrilling audiences across the globe. I hope that as many people as possible see the movie and share the thrills."

Director and Producer of 'Underground' Chee Keong Cheung says: "We're very pleased to have the opportunity to showcase 'Underground' at SENI alongside other independent British productions. Truly one of a kind event in the world and with such a large audience, SENI is an ideal platform for the launch of 'Underground' and it is truly a privilege to be part of. We're very excited and looking forward to having the opportunity to showcase 'Underground' to the SENI audience."

Principal photography on 'Underground' was completed after 35 days in the UK, and filming was undertaken in Lancaster, Leyland, Preston and London. The film features a total of 13 fights, with the fights arranged by Dave Forman, whose credits include Warner Bros. 'Batman Begins', 'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles' and 'The Last Samurai'. Additional fight arranging was undertaken by Matt Routledge ('Mersey Cop', 'Crazy in Love') and Mark Strange ('Medallion', 'Twins Effect', 'Displaced'). The film was photographed by Jake Corbett ('Ninety Days') and BAFTA award-winning Simon Dennis ('Woman in Winter', 'Reverb') in Lancashire and London.

A four week nationwide search was undertaken to find the 12 principal fighters for 'Underground'. With several hundred submissions, there was a diverse and impressive array of highly skilled and talented performers who auditioned from across the country for a part in 'Underground'.

The cast of 'Underground' features Mark Strange ('Medallion', 'Twins Effect', 'Displaced'), 3 times World Kickboxing Champion Nathan Lewis ('Fight School', 'Batman Begins'), Joey Ansah ('Bourne Ultimatum', 'Spooks'), Danny John-Jules ('Blade 2', 'Red Dwarf') and Sophie Linfield ('Football Factory', 'The Monk') to name a few.



Joey Ansah, recently seen alongside Matt Damon in the 'The Bourne Ultimatum', which picked up 2 BAFTA awards and 3 Oscars, says about 'Underground', "What I really liked about the film was its approach to action. To be able to put together some really hard hitting gritty fights, using just pure physical ability, talent and pain threshold.... Nothing action wise has come out of the UK like this before."



'Underground' is the feature film directing debut of Chee Keong Cheung, who has produced, directed, consulted and advised on a wide variety of projects, working with filmmakers from across the globe. He has worked and forged strong working relationships with some of the industry's most respected talent, including Oscar winning cinematographer Jack Cardiff OBE ('Black Narcissus', 'The African Queen'), acclaimed British film producer Tim Hampton ('Aliens', 'Don't Look Now'), British producer Parminder Vir OBE, and British singing sensation Corinne Bailey Rae. Chee recently completed production on his second feature film as director,

'Bodyguard: A New Beginning', starring Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa ('The Last Emperor', 'Memoirs of a Geisha'), which is due for release in 2008.

Producer and actor in 'Underground' Mark Strange, has previously had the immense privilege of working with action legends Jackie Chan and Donnie Yen in Hong Kong on 'The Twins Effect' and 'The Medallion'. He also appeared in the blockbuster 'Batman Begins' and the British independent Sci-Fi action feature film 'Displaced', which Mark also produced and which featured the voice-over talents of Sir Ian McKellen. Mark has recently completed work on 'Bodyguard: A New Beginning', alongside Hollywood actor Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa ('Memoirs of a Geisha', 'Mortal Kombat').



An intensive post production period followed principal photography. The picture edit was undertaken by RTS award winning Editor Mark Towns (UK TV series 'The Apprentice') of Mimic Media. The score for Underground was composed by Stuart Hancock (EMR), utilising a 15 piece orchestra.

'Underground' was also co-produced by Andy Torkington of T-Tech Digital Media, a North West based multimedia and video production company, specialising in quality media production, advertising, and programming content. The film was co-written and produced by Oliver Morran, and executive produced by Jim

Howell and Simon Barnes of Park Entertainment ('Lawnmower Man', Ridley and Tony Scott's 'The Hunger', 'Bob the Butler'), Mike Leeder (Jet Li's 'Fearless', 'Rush Hour 3') and BAFTA nominated Chris Atkins ('Sixteen Years of Alcohol', 'Taking Liberties'). Worldwide sales on 'Underground' are being handled by London based sales agent Park Entertainment.

'Underground' was recently awarded an Honourable Mention Award for Stunts at the prestigious Accolade Film Festival in California USA.

Further information on Underground can be found on the film's official website:

[www.undergroundmovie.co.uk](http://www.undergroundmovie.co.uk) or  
[www.myspace.com/undergroundmovie](http://www.myspace.com/undergroundmovie) or  
[www.intenseproductions.co.uk](http://www.intenseproductions.co.uk)

#### **SENI EXPO - 26th-27th April 2008 at EXCEL, London**

For details on SENI and 'Underground' screening info, please visit: [www.senishow.com](http://www.senishow.com)

Tickets for SENI can be purchased online via Ticketmaster - [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)  
or by calling 0844 847 1699.

Entry to SENI for the day is priced at £8.50 and the screening itself is free, with only 200 seats available.

#### **TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Running Time: 87mins  
Aspect Ratio: 1.78:1 (Anamorphic Widescreen)  
Sound: 5.1 Surround Sound  
Language: English

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

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