

## **'Lurking Woods' - It's The Script That Matters**



*Lurking Woods Executive Producer Jag Pannu* **By Salbiah Said**

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- While directors and actors tend to get the lion's share of glory, filmmakers would be lost without a good script written by a talented screenwriter.

To quote Alfred Hitchcock: "To make a great film you need three things - the script, the script and the script."



*Jag Pannu (right) and Rod Manikam going through the script.*

Jag Pannu who owns Jag Pannu Productions says it was the script that drove him to co-produce 'Lurking Woods' with Rod Manikam, director and owner of Rodman Pictures Pty Ltd.

"The script was fantastic. After reading it, I straight away jumped aboard and became executive producer of 'Lurking Woods.' I found it amazing and an interesting script. That's how I got involved in this project," Pannu told Bernama Lifestyle and Youth.

The script was written by KL-based Desmond Hew, who works in a bank. The 80-minute all-Australian cast and crew suspense thriller, which is directed by actor and former stuntman Rizal Halim, will hit the IMAX cinemas in Malaysia in October.



*Rizal Halim with his trophy he receives at Cannes Festival.*

## **DENTIST TURNS FILMMAKER**

Pannu is a dentist by profession and runs a dental practice in Australia. But his other major passion is in production of feature films, says Pannu, who set up the company in August 2012 in Willetton, Western Australia.

Ipoh-born Pannu, who is also an actor, is known for his feature films - Raven's Cabin (2012); Twisted Minds (2013) and Broken Contract (2015).

"I've always been passionate about filmmaking for a long time. The opportunity arose when I came to Australia," says Pannu, who received training as an actor for six years since 2001.

He also attended scriptwriting and production classes before producing his first feature film.

"The most rewarding part of making this film (Lurking Woods) is the fact that it is receiving a lot of exposure in Malaysia.

## NOMINATION AT WASA

"At the moment, I am working on a project to produce my new film which is expected to be released either March or April next year. The title has not been confirmed," says Pannu.

Jag Pannu Productions' feature film 'Twisted Minds' secured a nomination for Best Long Form Drama at the 26th West Australian Screen Awards (WASA). Also securing a nod was Manikam's 'Infected Paradise' for Best Feature Film Long Form at the awards.

'Lurking Woods' is about the joyous reunion of six lifelong friends which takes a grisly turn when they are hunted down by a murderous assailant. As tensions mount, they find the bonds of friendship being strained to its breaking point in this nail-biting suspense thriller.

Other two executive producers of the film are Taiping-born Malaysian businessman Ong Teng Boon who is based in Australia, Australians Rowan Scott and Darryl Westrup.

Westrup is an Australian actor and personal assistant to Manikam and owner of Auswebtech. Rizal and Azman Yeop Jr, both based in Malaysia are associate producers. Lead actors are Daniel Berenger, Hope Devaney, Troy Coward, Dominique Shenton, Kyle James Sargon, Chloe Brown and Michael Rainone.

For Pannu, it has been an amazing experience co-producing Lurking Woods, especially backed by a strong cast and crew, with the director, Rizal, whom he describes as "one of the best."

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