

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 6, 2007 - "AUSTRALIA" HEADS WEST!



Baz Luhrmann's epic movie *Australia* resumes principal photography today in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia. Filming in WA follows three weeks of shooting on the stages of Fox Studios in Sydney. *Australia* commenced production April 30 on location in Sydney before moving to Bowen, North Queensland and then to the Top End in Darwin.

Luhrmann, the writer/producer/director of such films as *Moulin Rouge*, *Romeo + Juliet* and *Strictly Ballroom*, conceived the project three years ago and insisted that the film be shot on location in the inspirational locations of our own home country. He sees these regions as one of the last great frontiers in the world today and is thrilled to be able to expose international audiences to their natural wonders. Inspired by what Luhrmann refers to as the brilliant color palette and drama of the East Kimberley landscape, he and his company are thrilled to have arrived in Kununurra to commence work on this pivotal section of the film shoot.

Filming will take place throughout the region over the coming weeks and will include scenes shot at the spectacular homestead set designed by two-time Academy Award-winner Catherine Martin. Lady Sarah Ashley, played by Nicole Kidman, journeys to the homestead accompanied by the Drover, played by Hugh Jackman, as the film begins.

In addition to Kidman and Jackman, a cast of stellar Australian actors will be featured in the film including David Wenham (*300*, the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy) and screen legends Jack Thompson and Bryan Brown, reunited together for the first time since their starring roles in the award-winning classic film *Breaker Morant*. Other featured actors shooting in the region include David Gulpilil (*The Tracker*, *Rabbit Proof Fence*), David Ngoombujarra (*Rabbit Proof Fence*, *The Missing*) and 11 year-old actor Brandon Walters in his feature film debut.

Australia is set in the country's northern outback prior to World War II and centers on an English aristocrat, Lady Sarah Ashley (Nicole Kidman), who finds herself unexpectedly fighting to save a cattle station the size of Belgium. When local cattle barons plot to take her land, she reluctantly joins forces with a rough-hewn cattle drover (Hugh Jackman) to drive 1500 head of cattle across northern Australia's breathtaking, yet brutal landscape. Love ensues,

but they must still face the bombing of Darwin by the Japanese forces that had attacked Pearl Harbor only months earlier.

Produced by Baz Luhrmann, G. Mac Brown and Catherine Knapman under Luhrmann's Sydney-based Bazmark Film banner, Australia will be distributed worldwide by News Corporation's Twentieth Century Fox.