

MEDIA ALERT: TONI COLLETTE joins the cast of JASPER JONES

Academy Award® nominee **TONI COLLETTE** (*The Sixth Sense*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Muriel's Wedding*, upcoming *Miss You Already*) has joined the cast of **JASPER JONES**, the film adaptation of the multi-award winning coming of age mystery novel by Craig Silvey.

Collette joins **Levi Miller** (*Terra Nova*, upcoming *Pan*, *Blue Dog*), **Angourie Rice** (*These Final Hours*, upcoming *The Nice Guys*) and **Aaron McGrath** (*GLITCH*).

Collette will play the role of Ruth Bucktin, mother to Charlie Bucktin (**Miller**). It is over one eventful summer in 1965 that Charlie, lured by adventure and mystery, experiences the trials of teenage love and discovers what it means to be truly courageous. **McGrath** has been cast as the titular character Jasper Jones and **Rice** as the intelligent and mysterious Eliza Wishart, who is also the object of Charlie's affections.

"**Toni Collette** is, quite simply, one of the greatest actors of her generation" said producer Vincent Sheehan. "The depth and insight she will bring to the unique role of Ruth Bucktin and having her work alongside the exciting emerging talent in our cast, will be invaluable in bringing Craig Silvey's acclaimed novel to life."

Collette had her breakthrough role as the lead in the now classic *Muriel's Wedding*. She then went on to a string of successful international roles before being nominated for an Academy Award® for Best Actress in a Supporting Role for *The Sixth Sense*. Since then her success has continued, starring in films such as the Academy Award® nominated *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Hitchcock*, *Enough Said* and as the lead in the TV series *United States of Tara*. **Collette** can next be seen opposite Drew Barrymore in the upcoming *Miss You Already* and is also one of the voices in *Blinky Bill The Movie*, currently in cinemas.

The best-selling novel **JASPER JONES** was published in 2009 and has made waves around the globe, with author Craig Silvey receiving critical acclaim and developing an ardent fan base. It has won multiple awards, including the Book of the Year at the Australian Book Industry Awards in 2010 and continues to captivate readers of all ages.

JASPER JONES will be directed by Rachel Perkins (*Bran Nue Dae*, *Radiance*, *One Night the Moon*). The film is produced by Bunya Productions David Jowsey (*Mystery Road*, *Mad Bastards*) and Porchlight Films Vincent Sheehan (*The Hunter*, *Animal Kingdom*). Production Designer is Herbert Pinter (*Mao's Last Dancer*), Margot Wilson (*Bran Nue Dae*) is Costume Designer and Mark Wareham (*Felony*) will be Director of Photography. The novel was adapted for the screen by Shaun Grant (*Snowtown*, *Berlin Syndrome*) and Craig Silvey.

Principal photography is set to commence in October in the south west of Western Australia.

International sales will be managed by Mongrel International, and Madman Entertainment will release the film in Australia.

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