



## **ANEW, Japan's Wilco, Depth of Field, Rebirth Thriller *BIRTHRIGHT* Remake**

### ***Companies to Adapt Japanese Psychological Drama For English-Language Markets***

Los Angeles and Tokyo – December 9, 2014 – **All Nippon Entertainment Works (ANEW)**, along with award-winning Japanese production company **Wilco Co., Ltd** and multi-box office hit filmmakers **Depth of Field**, will adapt, develop and produce the Japanese horror thriller *BIRTHRIGHT* for the English-language market.

Targeted toward teens as well as adults, ANEW's latest feature further underscores the global entertainment studio's commitment to establish a cultural bridge between Japan's leading creative companies and prominent Hollywood community filmmakers, as well as to bring fresh and compelling Japanese IP to audiences internationally.

"Our newest endeavor, *BIRTHRIGHT*, not only marks the establishment of a new and valued relationship with Naoki Hashimoto's Wilco, but the continuation of a collaborative partnering with Depth of Field," ANEW's Senior Vice President, Creative Affairs, Annmarie Bailey said.

The original *BIRTHRIGHT* was produced, directed and written by Naoki Hashimoto, and released in 2011 as *SAITAI*. It screened at the 14<sup>th</sup> Shanghai International Film Festival in China, where it received a Special Jury Honor in the Asian New Talent competition. Mr. Hashimoto is working with Depth of Field partner and producer Andrew Miano and producer/creative executive Dan Balgoyen to adapt the story. Independent filmmakers Dallas Hallam and Patrick Horvath, who jointly directed and, with others, co-produced the acclaimed 2012 horror thriller *ENTRANCE*, have signed on to write the English language adaptation of *BIRTHRIGHT*.

This reborn version of *BIRTHRIGHT* focuses on a suburban mother who invites a stranger into the family, only to learn the young woman may be the daughter she secretly abandoned at birth. It becomes clear the stranger is hiding dangerous secrets of her own, which has a profound impact on the woman, her husband and their 15-year-old daughter.

"It is extremely gratifying to see *SAITAI* be provided the opportunity to achieve commercial success internationally, even though it wasn't why I originally made this project," Naoki Hashimoto said. "I have long believed Japanese culture deserves a wider audience, so I

am looking forward to collaborating with the Depth of Field team to adapt this story into English and I appreciate the ANEW's passion in bringing Japanese stories to a global audience."

"We immediately responded to *BIRTHRIGHT*, specifically its artfully sinister look at the nature of family and the innate human desire to be loved," Depth of Field's Dan Balgoyen said. "With ANEW and Wilco, we plan to evolve these themes further through Dallas and Patrick's adaptation of Mr. Hashimoto's original film."

In addition to the recently announced *GHOST TRAIN*, ANEW projects include *SOUL ReVIVER*, in association with Fields Corp. and filmmaker partners Edward Zwick and Marshall Herskovitz of Bedford Falls Prods., and a live action remake of TOEI Animation's robot anime *GAIKING*, with producer Gale Ann Hurd's Valhalla Entertainment, Inc.

#### **About All Nippon Entertainment Works, Inc.**

With offices in Tokyo and Hollywood, All Nippon Entertainment Works (ANEW) is a global entertainment studio that links world class filmmakers, the Hollywood creative community and studios with a consortium of major Japanese intellectual property rights holders to develop creative content, including films, books, toys, animation, and Manga, into global English-language motion pictures and television. ANEW is funded by the Innovation Network Corporation of Japan (INCJ), a public-private investment fund affiliated with the Japanese government. <http://www.an-ew.com/en/>

#### **About Wilco Co., Ltd.**

Wilco Co., Ltd. is a film production company established in 1991 by Naoki Hashimoto, who is also the director and screenwriter of the original Japanese version of *BIRTHRIGHT*. The company has produced a number of award-winning and internationally acclaimed feature films, receiving notices from such diverse sources as Locarno and Montreal. Hashimoto became President of Wilco in 1996. <http://www.wilco-jp.com/>

#### **About Depth of Field**

Depth of Field was founded in 1999 by brothers Chris and Paul Weitz and Andrew Miano following the Weitz brothers' breakout directorial debut of *AMERICAN PIE*. Over the course of the next 15 years, along with development executive, Dan Balgoyen, the Weitz brothers and Miano have taken on various roles producing, directing and writing to expand the diversity of feature films on their slate. Depth of Field credits include *ABOUT A BOY*, *IN GOOD COMPANY*, *THE GOLDEN COMPASS*, *NICK AND NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST*, *A BETTER LIFE* and *ADMISSION*. Depth of Field recently wrapped production on Christopher McCoy's directorial Debut, *GOOD KIDS*. Based in Los Angeles, Depth of Field also currently has a first look deal with Fox Television Studios.

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