



# VILLAGE ROADSHOW LIMITED

Web Site: [www.villageroadshow.com.au](http://www.villageroadshow.com.au)

17 April 2000

## Village Roadshow and Warner Bros. Bring Hollywood to Melbourne

Warner Bros./Village Roadshow Pictures have secured the film production of best selling novelist's Anne Rice *Queen of the Damned*. It will be filmed in Melbourne as a major release and will provide a significant boost for the Victorian economy.

*Queen of the Damned* is the third volume of Anne Rice's vampire chronicles. Its film production follows the success of the Warner Bros. film based on her first book *Interview with the Vampire*.

*Queen of the Damned* is a modern-day vampire thriller, tracing the story of the vampire 'Lestat' who has reinvented himself as a rock star. While the film's storyline is based in the United States and London, the movie will be shot in Melbourne and directed by Melburnian Michael Rymer (*Angel Baby*).

The Victorian Premier, Mr Steve Bracks said "We are excited that Melbourne has been selected as the location for this movie given the tough local and international competition for Hollywood productions. I am particularly pleased about the economic benefits this production will bring to Victoria as well as gaining the opportunity to showcase this State as a significant movie production centre."

Chairman of Village Roadshow Limited, Mr John Kirby, said today "This project will be the third movie that Warner Bros. and Village Roadshow have produced in Australia, clearly demonstrating the confidence we have in this country's film industry.

"In the past, Melbourne has been a location that has been overlooked by major producers. However, the first class facilities and the enthusiastic support we have received from all quarters has made the decision to bring Hollywood to Melbourne an easy one.

"The movie, in addition to its Melbourne location, will give around 10,000 Melburnians the chance to appear in a Hollywood style production. In a major entertainment event, Triple M Melbourne will help cast 10,000 extras for a rock concert featured in the movie." Mr Kirby added.

**VILLAGE ROADSHOW LIMITED      ACN 010 672 054**

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Box 2581, GPO Sydney 2001 · Telephone (02) 9552 8600 · Fax (02) 9660 3213  
**Registered Office:** Warner Roadshow Movie World Studios: Pacific Highway, Oxenford, QLD, Australia 4210  
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This project falls under the recently expanded partnership between Warner Bros. and Village Roadshow Pictures to produce 40 movies over the next five years.

Other projects under the partnership yet to be released include:

- *Space Cowboys* starring Clint Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones, James Garner and Donald Sutherland;
- *Red Planet*, filmed in Coober Pedy in outback South Australia, stars Val Kilmer, Carrie-Anne Moss and Tom Sizemore;
- *Miss Congeniality* starring Sandra Bullock; and
- *Ocean's 11* starring George Clooney;

*Space Cowboys* and *Red Planet* are scheduled for release in Australia in September and December respectively. The remaining projects are expected to be released in the United States between the third quarter of this year though to the end of 2001.

John Kirby commented "Our expanded Partnership with Warner Bros. has taken Village Roadshow into the big league of Hollywood movie production. The six films completed have already achieved a gross box office of around US\$1 billion and we are quietly confident of the quality of projects currently in development.

"For shareholders, the partnership creates value by enabling Village Roadshow to directly participate in big budget movie production in a partnership where risks are shared. Increasing the number of films to be produced will also grow this business's future income streams." Mr Kirby added.

Production of *Queen of the Damned* in Melbourne is expected to begin in August 2000.



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## Village Roadshow and Warner Bros. Production Partnership

Apart from movie production, the Village Roadshow Group has a 25 year relationship with Warner Bros., including:

- cinemas in Australia, Taiwan, Italy and the United Kingdom;
- theme parks on the Gold Coast; Warner Bros. Movie World, Sea World and Wet 'n' Wild Water Park; and
- film distribution in Australia, Singapore and Greece.

Projects under the recently expanded production partnership between Village Roadshow Pictures and Warner Bros. include:

### Completed

<i>Practical Magic</i>	Starring Nicole Kidman, Sandra Bullock
<i>Analyze This</i>	Starring Billy Crystal & Robert DeNiro
<i>The Matrix</i>	Filmed in Sydney and starring Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne & Carrie-Anne Moss
<i>Deep Blue Sea</i>	Samuel L. Jackson & Saffron Burrows
<i>Three Kings</i>	George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg, Ice Cube
<i>Three to Tango</i>	Matthew Perry, Neve Campbell, Dylan McDermott

### Movies Waiting Release

<i>Gossip</i>	
<i>Space Cowboys</i>	Starring Clint Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones, James Garner & Donald Sutherland;
<i>Red Planet</i>	Filmed in Coober Pedy in outback South Australia, stars Val Kilmer, Carrie-Anne Moss and Tom Sizemore

### Pending Projects

<i>Miss Congeniality</i>	Starring Sandra Bullock
<i>Ocean's 11</i>	Starring George Clooney
<i>Queen of the Damned</i>	Directed by Michael Rymer (Angel Baby)

Movies produced under the partnership are exclusively distributed by Warner Bros. on a worldwide basis, with the exception of Australia, Singapore and Greece, where they are distributed by Village Roadshow.

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