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HOUSE OF FILMS AND NEW REAL FILMS OPTION RUSSELL SMITH'S HIGHLY ACCLAIMED NOVEL *GIRL CRAZY* FOR BIG SCREEN ADAPTATION

– SMITH TO WRITE SCREENPLAY –

“Vladimir Nabokov meets Elmore Leonard in Russell Smith's hot, steamy, ruthlessly lucid prose.” – Barbara Gowdy

To tweet this release:

August 31, 2010, Toronto – Canadian producers Bill House (House of Films Inc.), Jennifer Jonas and Leonard Farlinger ([New Real Films Inc.](#)) have joined forces to option, develop and produce the big screen adaptation of Russell Smith's ecstatically reviewed novel *[Girl Crazy](#)*. The producers have engaged the best-selling and award winning author (*[How Insensitive](#)*, *[Muriella Pent](#)*) and columnist for *The Globe and Mail* to pen the screenplay. Production is expected to commence in Toronto in 2011.

Tightly plotted and fast paced, ***Girl Crazy*** is a cinematic ride through one man's obsession with a younger woman. Justin, a dissatisfied college teacher, is immediately attracted to Jenna and her mixture of toughness, vulnerability and ripe sexuality. Jenna is unlike anyone Justin has ever known and through her he discovers a world of sex, drugs, and casual violence that at first frightens and then thrills him.

“I swear and promise I’m not trying to get into movies just to meet hot chicks. People have often told me my books read like blueprints for screenplays, so I’m very excited to be trying my hand at a real one,” said Russell Smith. “I’m especially excited because these producers really get the book”.

“Smith’s elegant prose and the cinematically structured story make *Girl Crazy* the perfect place to start an adaptation,” said producer Bill House.

“Leonard and I are so thrilled as ***Girl Crazy*** is the best reviewed book of the season and we are eager to be part of the team making this movie happen,” said producer Jennifer Jonas.

[Russell Smith](#) is a Canadian novelist and journalist. His 2004 novel *Muriella Pent* was named best fiction of the year by Amazon.ca. A well-known journalist and cultural commentator, he writes two weekly columns for *The Globe and Mail* and teaches fiction in the MFA program at the University of Guelph. He was the host and co-writer of the popular CBC Radio One program on language, “And Sometimes Y”.

Bill House (House of Films) is a Toronto-based producer. Most recently, House co-executive produced and co-created “Clean”, a one-hour pilot for CanWest Global/Showcase and produced *Foolproof* starring Ryan Reynolds. House is currently developing *The Pornographer’s Poem* by Michael Turner and several

projects for television. Previously House was the Executive Vice-President of Motion Pictures at Alliance Atlantis and the Director of Operations at Telefilm Canada.

Jennifer Jonas and **Leonard Farlinger (New Real Films)** are Toronto filmmakers and producers. New Real Films has made 10 feature films and works in a wide range of budgets and genres. It is an author-driven production company that creates, develops and produces original thought-provoking film. The latest production – **Trigger** starring Tracy Wright and Molly Parker and directed by Bruce Macdonald – is the inaugural screening at the Bell Lightbox in TIFF 2010. Jonas and Farlinger have produced *Leslie, My Name Is Evil*; *Monkey Warfare*; *Child Star*; *All Hat* (d. Farlinger); *The Perfect Son* (d. Farlinger); and several films by Bruce LaBruce, among others. Jonas and Farlinger are also developing for films for television.

Praise For Russell Smith's *Girl Crazy*:

Girl Crazy is a fine example of a writer at the peak of his impressive powers simultaneously embracing and subtly subverting the conventions of a traditional story form. ... It's a complex, thought-provoking read, masquerading as a traditional sex-fuelled romp."— Robert Wiersema, [Edmonton Journal](#)

"...it's smart, sassy, over-the-top sexy, and a hip, zippy, greasy read. ... A perfectly scripted and believable thrill ride to the dark side."— Gary Curtis, *The Hamilton Spectator*

"...most will fixate on the sex...but it's more about class than it is about sex...a hot floor show for those of us desperate for the present to finally get its time in the Canadian literary spotlight". — [The Globe and Mail](#)

"Smith excels at presenting the sexual fixations of the male psyche, slicing them apart and exposing the emotional impotence beneath."— [Quill & Quire](#)

"***Girl Crazy*** rips a mile a minute. Smith has pulled off the sort of author-reader telepathy that lesser writers can only dream about. The book is ridiculously visceral. ... Smith has a good ear for dialogue ... And he writes a mean love scene." — *The Montreal Gazette*

"This is a chatty, funny, sex-loving novel. Russell Smith's *Girl Crazy*, written in his trademark elegant prose, is clearly the work of a man who loves women and loves to write."— David Gilmour

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