

Garth Davis to direct 'A Long Way Home', based on the extraordinary life story of Saroo Brierley

Sydney 22 April 2013 – Academy Award®-winning production company See-Saw Films (*The King's Speech*, *Shame*) and Sunstar Entertainment announced today that acclaimed director Garth Davis will direct the feature film *A Long Way Home*, based on the autobiography by Saroo Brierley. Saroo's incredible life story made headlines and touched hearts around the world last year.

Most recently, Garth Davis co-directed, with Jane Campion, the critically acclaimed and visually arresting six-hour mini series *Top of the Lake*. *Top of the Lake* was executive produced by See-Saw Films' Emile Sherman and Iain Canning (*The King's Speech*, *Shame*), produced by Philippa Campbell (*No.2*, *Rain*) of Escapade Pictures, and was co-produced by BBC Two, UKTV in Australia and New Zealand and Sundance Channel in the United States.

Garth is also well known for directing memorable and award-winning commercials. His work has won gold at the London International Award show, the prized Gold Lion at Cannes, and in 2010 he received a finalist nomination from the DGA (Directors Guild of America) for best commercials director.

Emile Sherman says, "Garth Davis has highly developed cinematic sensibilities and creative integrity, with a keen eye for story and a deep appreciation of the actor/director relationship. Iain and I were very impressed by his stunning work on *Top of the Lake* and we are delighted that he will bring his talent to *A Long Way Home*."

At just 5 years old, Saroo found himself 1500km from home, having fallen asleep aboard a train bound for Calcutta. Scared and alone without the words to say he was lost or even the knowledge of where he came from, Saroo was forced to live a life on the streets. Saved from an orphanage by an Australian couple, he was brought up in Tasmania always wondering if he would ever see his Indian family again. Aided by the support of his adopted parents and the technology of Google Earth, Saroo was able to track down his Indian mother and family, ending a 25-year journey and bringing to a close a story that would capture the world's imagination.

Saroo's autobiography, *A Long Way Home*, will be released by Penguin Publishing on June 24 in Australia.

Academy Award®-winning producers Emile Sherman and Iain Canning founded See-Saw Films in 2008. See-Saw is a UK and Australian company specialising in international Film and Television. Recent productions include the multi-Academy Award®-winning *The King's Speech*, directed by Tom Hooper, and starring Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter. See-Saw followed up *The King's Speech* with Steve McQueen's award-winning *Shame*, starring Michael Fassbender and Carey Mulligan. See-Saw is currently in production on *Tracks*, directed by John Curran and starring Mia Wasikowska. See-Saw's first television series, Jane Campion's

Top Of The Lake, starring Elisabeth Moss and Holly Hunter has just finished its run on the Sundance Channel and UKTV and will be broadcast on BBC Two later in the year.

Sunstar Entertainment was formed in 2010 and is helmed by Andrew Fraser, Daniel Starling and Shahen Mekertichian, who also recently announced they would produce the highly anticipated film TRUE SPIRIT, the true story of Australian sailor Jessica Watson who in May 2010 became the youngest person ever to sail solo around the world, non-stop and unassisted. It is slated for release in early 2014. The film will be shot in Australia, with locations in Sydney and the Gold Coast. Paramount Pictures Australia has acquired domestic distribution rights.

Sunstar Entertainment represents both Jessica Watson and Saroo Brierley.

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