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Public Relations

L.A. SUPERHEROES ILLEGAL IN HOLLYWOOD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2013
The New York International
Independent Film & Video Festival
Audience Award Winner

A New Film by Yelena Popovic & Alexandros Potter

Music by Alexander Zisiades

Based on True Events

Modeling is a tough business but not as tough as the FBI on
an illegal immigrant with a fake passport ... and crooks as “friends”

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On June 21, 2013 *L.A. Superheroes: Illegal in Hollywood*, a new film by Yelena Popovic, will open at the Laemmle NoHo and in select AMC theatres in Los Angeles. This dramatic comedy was written, produced, co-directed and stars Yelena Popovic. *L.A. Superheroes* is a collection of real-life stories, witnessed firsthand, by the struggling artists that would go on to put this project together. Life in L.A. can be brutally difficult, especially if you are insistent on not “selling out”; and if you are an immigrant, things can get really complicated. Yelena is struggling to get by as an aging actress/model and immigrant, in a tough-as-nails business. When she is forced to operate outside the law to obtain her green card, she is faced with the consequences and realizes that the thing she values even more than her career is her integrity. Her only true friend in the city is Auto, a misfit pizza guy/musician, who steps up possibly risking his own life, without expecting anything in return. In the end Yelena discovers that true L.A. Superheroes aren’t necessarily the most powerful and definitely aren’t manufactured on a sound stage.

“I was a model who had very promising carrier ahead but couldn’t quite utilize it fully due to immigration problems that haunted me for almost twenty years.” Says Popovic “Not being able to travel outside of the US for ten years made the business of acting and modeling even more difficult and impossible.” During the time she was a student at Playhouse West Popovic wrote a script inspired by Greta Garbo, whom many had told her she resembled. Mark Rydell was set to direct it and Al Pacino was interested in portraying Louis B. Mayer, however Rydell insisted that he wouldn’t direct it unless there was a big name attached to the role of Garbo. Popovic turned down their offer and tried to raise the money on her own. After realizing a big budget movie wasn’t going to be the right vehicle for her as an actor, she began writing about her own experiences in Hollywood as a struggling model and illegal immigrant. “This movie is a labor of love, and most importantly we didn’t have to wait for anyone.

Things happened organically and anyone who is an actor, director, musician or a writer in this town knows that you can wait for ‘the phone call’ or ‘the money’ for a lifetime and most of the time it doesn’t happen. The good news is, nowadays one can do it by yourself.” Alex Zisiades, who composed the music for the film, also contributed to the script and the character of Auto is based on him. “Shortly before we started to shoot ‘LA Superheroes’ my father, to whom this film is dedicated, who I hadn’t seen for ten years, passed away.’ Says Popovic “Since I didn’t have my green card yet, I couldn’t go to his funeral. It is just a sad immigrant story that so many of us immigrants share. “

Yelena Popovic & Alexandros Potter founded Simeon Entertainment in 2008 with the intention of developing, producing and distributing feature films. Today, Simeon Entertainment is proud to be theatrically distributing L.A. SUPERHEROES, a feature film, which they developed, directed, produced and fully financed.

*****A percentage of the revenue from L.A. Superheroes will go to help struggling immigrants through St. James ETC and CHIRLA.**

CAST OF L.A. SUPERHEROES

Yelena Popovic –Helena

Popovic started her career as a model at the age 15 in Belgrade, Serbia. She was part of ELITE Modeling competition ‘The Look of The Year,’ which set off her modeling career in Milan, Paris and New York. She modeled for world famous fashion designers such as Alberta Ferretti, Roberto Cavalli, Giorgio Armani and has been photographed by leading industry photographers such as Patrick Demarchelier, Marco Glaviano, Michael Thompson and Helmut Newton. She also appeared in multiple national commercials for Sears, Marshalls and Jack in the Box. Popovic is an actress, writer, producer and director. Her first acting role was in *Castaway*, directed by Robert Zemekis. She has written, directed and developed projects including *L. A. Superheroes*, *Passport To Heaven* and *Greta Garbo*. She studied at Playhouse West, a training ground for actors, writers and directors, founded by Robert Carnegie and Jeff Goldblum in 1981. It has since been recognized by industry professionals as one of the premier acting schools in the United States.

Alexander Zisiades - Auto

Zisiades is a union actor, composer, performance artist, professional poker player, and hero to children. He has appeared in multiple national commercial campaigns, playing a rock star in all of them. *L.A. Superheroes* is his first starring role in a theatrical production. It is also the first feature film soundtrack, which he has scored.

Catherine Carlen – Angie

Carlen was born in Cookeville, Tennessee. She studied with Uta Hagen for years as well as Stella Adler and Susan Batson. She is a lifetime member of The Actors Studio, currently teaches acting at The Lee Strasberg Institute in Los Angeles, and is a private coach to many well-known stars in Hollywood. She completed a feature, which she produced, directed and starred in called *Running Out of Time in Hollywood*; She recently started production on a web-series.

T.J. Castronovo - Sunny

As an actor, Castronovo has performed in over one hundred TV shows and for three years played Tommy the Bartender in *TAXI*. As a television and film producer, his work includes: forty-two episodes of the series *Tales From The Darkside* and *CBS M.O.W. Police Brass* starring Carroll O'Conner; the feature films *Double Revenge*, *The Shipment*, *The Boiler Maker* and most recently *Window Of Opportunity*. Castronovo received the Drama League Critics Award for directing *BROOKLYN USA* at the Actor's Forum Theater. Other directorial credits of stage and film include: the feature film *The Biz*; two episodes of *Tales From The Darkside* and the off-Broadway world premiere production of "Wild Mushrooms," which he directed at JPAS in New Orleans. His production company, CRC Entertainment, produced "Viagra Falls", a hit comedy that toured the United States and Canada and he directed the New Orleans production. CRC Entertainment is currently working on turning "Viagra Falls" into a feature film.

Dannon Green - Russell

As an actor/comedian/scriptwriter, Dannon Green is known for his signature stand up comedy line "I don't want no trouble." He made his television debut on *Apollo Comedy Hour*. Hailing from Manhattan, New York and Philadelphia, Dannon is a comedian and actor who has been in various films, television sitcoms, and national commercials. His TV credits include UPN's sitcoms *Moesha*, *Girlfriends*, and *One On One*, and has worked on the WB sitcom *All About The Anderson's* starring Anthony Anderson and Nickelodeon's *Just Jordan* starring Little JJ. He has also been in the critically acclaimed series, *The Shield*, *Everybody Hates Chris* starring Chris Rock, as well as the Starz channel's hit stand up comedy series *Martin Lawrence's First Amendment*. Dannon has been featured in HBO's films *Butter*, *Supreme Sanction*, and *Desert Thunder*. Green was also featured in the films, *Baby Boy* and *The Luau* starring Brian Hooks and Faizon Love. He has been featured on BET's *Comic View* and TV One *The Funny Spot* hosted by Tony Rock as well as BET's *One Mic Stand* with Kevin Hart and TV One's *Comics Unleashed* with Dick Gregory hosted by Byron Allen. He just released his first Comedy DVD *I Don't Want No Trouble* and is currently working on his New Book "Never Look Back," which is a story about his life. He can also be seen in the most recent McDonald's commercial titled "The Barber shop". Dannon lost both his paternal and adopted mother at a young age and eventually made it to graduate school at the Ohio State University. Giving back he currently works at Five Acres, a home for foster children.

Rico Simonini - Josh

Simonini has worn the hats of actor, writer, producer, director and even theater owner. *L.A. Superheroes* represents yet another collaboration with his fellow Brooklynite and sage, Thomas (TJ) Castronovo. Since then, Rico has been blessed to work with talents such as Eric Roberts, Mark Wahlberg, Cameron Diaz, John Savage, and Faye Dunaway. Highlights of his theatrical journey include lead roles on stage in "Anna in the Tropics", "A Few Good Men", "A Thousand Clowns", "The Petrified Forest," "Glengarry Glen Ross," "Heaven Can Wait," and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" as well as screen roles in *Days of Our Lives*, *My Sister's Keeper*, *Max Payne* and *A Good Day to Die Hard*. In addition, Rico's education includes his alma mater, NYU, the American Conservatory Theatre, IO, Groundlings, the Joanne Baron Acting Studio, Circle of Confusion, Voltage Films, FISV (L.S. Oda).

Vince Palmieri - Joey

Palmieri's big break came when he was cast as Murray the cop in Neil Simon's play "The odd couple," which played statewide. His TV credits include *Cagney and Lacey*, *Divorce court* and *T.J. Hooker* and movies such as *California split* and *Stranger's Kiss*.

William Stanford Davis - Hal

Davis, born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, is no stranger to the stage. He got his start in an R&B band as a youngster and remained the front man throughout his college years. Soon to be bitten by the comedy bug, he spent the next few years working at many of the comedy clubs across the country. It was only then, he discovered his true passion Acting.

CREW FOR L.A. SUPERHEROES

Alexandros Potter - Producer/Director/Director of Photography

Potter makes his produciorial/directorial debut with *L.A. Superheroes*. He is currently an executive at IM Global, one of the leading film financing, production, sales and distribution companies in the world. Prior to this, Potter worked at Grosvenor Park Media, LP a recognized leader of independent film finance. As executive in the single picture film finance group, Potter was closely involved with projects such as *Defiance* and *Disaster Movie* theatrically released by Paramount Vantage and Lionsgate respectively.

Brian Foyster - Producer/Casting Director

Foyster has written, directed, and produced four short films and is proud to call *L.A. Superheroes* his first feature as a producer. He has acted on screen with Gabriel Byrne, Val Kilmer, Tom Beringer, and Ray Wise. He has been involved in over sixty-five theater productions in New York and Los Angeles as an actor, director, writer, or producer. He produced, directed, and acted in "The Lost Plays Of Tennessee Williams" (Critic's Choice, LA Times), which ran for five months and won two LA Weekly Theater Awards. Foyster has acted on stage opposite James Gandalfini, Frances McDormand, Cherry Jones, and Martin Landau, and has been directed by Paul Newman. He recently played the lead in "Deathtrap," which just won the LA Weekly Theater Award for Revival Production of the Year. He received a BFA in Acting from SUNY Purchase (Honors, President's Award), is a member of The Actors Studio, and serves on its Board of Directors.

Alexander Zisiades - Music Composer/Co-writer (See Cast bio)

Melanie DiPietro - Unit Production Manager/ 1st Assistant Director

DiPietro graduated from the University of Miami School of Communications in 2011. She produced three award winning short films as a student at UM, two of which were screened at Paramount Studios in Los Angeles. She already has one feature film, *Youth Of Christ*, in distribution and co-produced another feature that is currently in post-production. She recently premiered her feature film *The Shift*, starring Danny Glover, at the Palm Beach International Film Festival where it won the Audience Favorite - Best of Florida Award.