

Silence will help stop child abuse.

By MERILYN MacKENZIE – Gold Coast Sun
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SILENCE - how long can you hide? is a short film by a Gold Coast team keen to take the world by storm and donate all profits to the fight against child abuse.

Producer Craig Kocinski is hoping the film about a 13-year-old girl called Sarah will become an educational movie for schools and universities worldwide.

Silence, written and directed by Michael Yee, was originally intended to be a horror movie and a commercial venture.

But early in the preproduction stage, Kocinski and Yee realised there was more to the story.

"We were discussing the script and about how in the story the girl is reading a fairytale when someone comes to the front door," said Mr Kocinski.

"We thought it would be really horrible if it was a man coming after her.

"When my friend heard about it, she opened up and told me about her own sexual abuse as a child.

"It opened up a whole new way of addressing the film."

Kocinski said he and Michael then decided the film would be about child abuse.

A long list of Gold Coast film industry identities offered to sponsor the film, including Warner Roadshow Studios, Atlab, Kodak, FX Pro Art, and Dolby Laboratories.

"It really lit a fire in our bellies, said Mr Kocinski.

"Initially, we thought we could make a lot of money by making a horror film.

"Then we changed our minds and we decided to make it a community project.

"We wanted to do it really well and donate all the money to charity.

"That inspired us even more and because we weren't going to make any money out of it, people who wouldn't have been interested in a commercial venture, offered to help us."

Mr Kocinski said while the film was never made to make money, more financial support was needed to finish production and launch it at the Cannes Film Festival in May.

"The Cannes Film Festival, which is arguably the world's most prestigious festival, is our first chance to procure a world-wide audience," he said.

"In 2005 there were 4454 distributors and 3540 journalists there, and we see this as an opportunity to get Silence on to the world stage."

Mr Kocinski said the level of community support and commitment had been staggering.

"There is so much more to this than just the movie.

"The whole reason for making the movie is to help stop child abuse - to get this into schools around the world.

"We want to get it seen, be it on the news, or in film festivals.

"We want people who have been abused to watch this film and feel that they are not alone, that they are not to blame, that it is not their fault, and that there is some light at the end of the tunnel."

But Mr Kocinski said to succeed, the film needs more support from the Gold Coast business community.

"We desperately need a company or a group of companies, that wants to be part of something great," he said.

For further information phone Craig Kocinski on 0417 643 373 or log into

www.locustvalleyfilms.com.