



molehill productions ltd

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Announcement **Sam Jackson's Secret Video Diary** **The most improbable film release of 2007...**

- Five year's after actress Posy Miller's death, her debut feature film is finally released - a film she never knew she was making.
- Worldwide simultaneous release as a pioneering "pay what you like" movie download

It is the latest twist in a story so utterly bizarre you couldn't (as they say) make it up. **Sam Jackson's Secret Video Diary** (nominated for a **British Independent Film Award** in 2005) is finally to be released on Friday December 28th, 2007 - and the public can choose how much, or how little, they pay for it. The date has been chosen because it will be the week of the fifth anniversary of the sudden death of the film's leading actor, **Posy Miller**. By any standards, this is a long time to wait before making a posthumous screen appearance, but this is partly explained by the seemingly impossible fact that the film was filmed, edited, and indeed written, **AFTER** her death. This genuinely is a film Posy never even knew she was making.

Production history

In 2002, Posy shot some speculative fragments for a demo TV microdrama for fledgling UK production company **Molehill Productions**. The concept was a one-woman video diary, which would be shown on TV for four minutes a night for nine weeks as a supposedly real confessional into phone dating, which goes horribly wrong. The demo was made in secrecy to preserve the reality – even Posy's family had no idea she was doing it. However, while the real TV development execs were responding to the demo, fate tragically intervened. In the space of a week, Posy fell ill and then died of acute leukaemia on Christmas Eve, 2002.

Guy Rowland, Deborah Garrett and Chris Healey are the Molehill trio who had made the tape with Posy, and had all loved her instantly. They met her family and friends at the funeral for the first time, and told them what Posy had spent part of her final year doing. When the relatives and mates subsequently saw the footage, they unanimously considered it her best surviving work. But however good the clips were, the original story could now never be told, since the clips were only fragments of a much bigger story which could never be completed.

Rowland eventually hit upon a radical solution - make a new story about the search for Sam Jackson, who was now a missing person. Shot as a documentary, the film would follow Sam's friends after the discovery of some of her tapes (as in life, made in secrecy from her friends). It would also star many of Posy's actor friends, and would be a tribute to a remarkable person that all three filmmakers discovered they couldn't just let go.

Filming and editing ran throughout 2004 and 2005, culminating in an appearance at the **13th Raindance Film Festival** in London, strong reviews ("*Impactful, heartfelt and courageous*" from **BBC Online**) and the **British Independent Film Award** nomination. However, the film ran immediately into major music rights issues - never originally intended for public viewing, some of Posy's clips had commercial tracks embedded, which took a further 18 months to resolve. As it stands, this microbudget movie now remarkably includes songs by **Radiohead, Robbie Williams, Nelly Furtado** and **A-ha**.

New release

The film is certainly one-of-a-kind, with conventional distributors raving about how good it is, but how impossible it would be to market. The makers therefore have decided to yet again buck convention, and take a leaf out of **Radiohead's** book. Molehill will offer the film to the public initially as a **DIVX** download only - and individuals can decide how much to pay for it, from nothing upwards. Additionally, Molehill are donating 10% of all income from downloaded film sales to **Leukaemia Research**, and 10% to **Missing People** [*editors' notes on these charities below*].

Sam Jackson's Secret Video Diary is not the only film Molehill are releasing on that day - **Beyond Fiction: The Story of Posy Miller and Sam Jackson's Secret Video Diary** is an accompanying feature-length documentary that can also be downloaded, also for an amount of the customer's choosing. This film contains intimate footage which captures the euphoria of casting and filming with Posy, the heartbreak that followed and the immensely difficult but rewarding journey through making the movie itself.

Sam Jackson's Secret Video Diary, and the accompanying documentary Beyond Fiction will both be available for download from Friday December 28, 2007 at:

www.samjacksonmovie.co.uk

For however much, or however little, anyone wants to pay!

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.samjacksonmovie.co.uk>
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NOTES FOR EDITORS OVER:

Notes for editors

About DIVX

DIVX is a video format which has become enormously successful in recent years due to internet peer-to-peer file-sharing technology. The free codec enabling computers to play DIVX movies has been downloaded 220 million times, enabling owners of Macs or PCs running Windows or Linux to play them using their regular software media players. There are also over 90 million consumer electronic devices that can already play DIVX movies, such as DVD players.

It enables near DVD-quality for a fraction of the file sizes. On a modern fast internet connection (8mbps), it should be possible to download Sam Jackson's Secret Video Diary in around 10 minutes. More information on the DIVX format can be found at www.divx.com.

Missing People

Sam Jackson's Secret Video Diary was made with the co-operation of the charity **Missing People** (previously the **National Missing Persons Helpline**). Missing People is the UK's only charity that works with young runaways, missing and unidentified people, their families and others who care for them. The UK charity directly finds around 10 missing people each week. To make a donation online visit www.missingpeople.org.uk.

Leukaemia Research

Leukaemia Research is the only charity in the UK dedicated exclusively to researching blood cancers and disorders including leukaemia, Hodgkin's and other lymphomas, and myeloma. 24,500 people are newly diagnosed with one of these conditions every year in the UK. More information can be found at www.lrf.org.uk.

Molehill Productions Ltd

Molehill Productions is a small UK based film and TV production company formed in 2000 with the aim of making projects that appeal to both heart and head. Several scripts are in development. To date, they have completed two films – **Sam Jackson's Secret Video Diary** in 2005, and the documentary **Beyond Fiction: Posy Miller and the Story of Sam Jackson's Secret Video Diary** in 2007.

Sam Jackson's Secret Video Diary – Synopsis

Samantha Jackson disappeared in August 2003. Following the discovery of tapes Sam made for a secret reality TV project, a documentary crew follows Sam's friends and colleagues in the search for clues. Will the tapes lead them to the truth? What really happened to Sam Jackson?