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Indie film *Split Ends* aims at women filmgoers over 35

Director Dorothy Lyman is currently in post-production on the independent feature, *Split Ends*. The Emmy® winning actress wrapped the film in late July. The film is expected to enter the film festival circuit in early 2009.

Split Ends follows a small town hairdresser, Lizzie Munro, as she battles to save her business from an international developer and corrupt town officials. In the process, the forty-something Lizzie struggles with the realities of her messy love life. The script by Libby Christensen, Melissa Sweeney, and Gila Zalon is based on a true story. The romantic comedy was conceived and cast to reach female movie-goers 35 years of age and over, an increasingly important demographic that made *Sex and the City* and *Mamma Mia!* summer box-office hits.

CORINNA MAY, a member of the renowned Shakespeare & Company troupe stars as Lizzie Munro, New York-based actor LAWTON PASEKA co-stars as developer Warren Brown, and BEAU BAXTER plays a local café owner whose romantic involvement with Lizzie is not without its complications. *Sopranos* regular VINCENT PASTORE is featured as the town's mayor, Anthony "Tiny" Provenzano.

The cast includes JICKY SCHNEE, NITYA VIDYASAGAR, KATE RUSSO, BEAU BAXTER, JANET SARNO, and PETER McROBBIE in supporting roles.

"I was fortunate to work with such a talented ensemble," states Ms. Lyman, whose role as Opal Gardner

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on *All My Children* earned her two daytime Emmys®. She played Naomi Harper in the long-running *Mama's Family*, and went on to direct 75 episodes of CBS' hit comedy, *The Nanny*. Her first feature directing assignment, *The Northern Kingdom*, garnered numerous awards at film festivals, and has been picked up for distribution by Vanguard Cinema.

The film's producers, Gila Zalon, Bob Pusateri, and Ms. Christensen, feel strongly about the opportunity independent film offers to tell women's stories. "The film industry is flooded with action films aimed at the young male audience," explains Ms. Zalon. "we want to give adult women a chance to go to the movies and have an entertaining experience that reflects their lives."

Historic Botany Village in Clifton, New Jersey, stood in for Manningtree, *Split Ends'* small town. Many businesses along the town's main street participated in the filmmaking effort, providing locations and logistical support. "The people of Botany Village were supportive in every way," states Co-Producer Jimmy Allen. "They really responded to the script because they fight irresponsible development and economic uncertainty every day."

Cinematographer Jendra Jarnagin captured the small-town feel of the fictional Manningtree. The film is edited by Anisha Tomlinson. Grammy® and Emmy® nominee Bill Cunliffe is slated to provide an original score.

For more information about the production, please contact Back Pocket Productions at (973) 324-5929.

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