



**HOLLY PRESS KIT**  
**FOR STUDENTS, ALUMNI**  
**AND FACULTY**  
**2010**



**CHILD SEXPLOITATION.  
EXPOSE IT. FIGHT IT. END IT.**  
REDLIGHTCHILDREN.ORG

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150 West End Avenue, Suite 27H, New York, New York 10023 (212)724.3254

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your interest in RedLight Children and the K11 Project, a three-part film series highlighting the issue of child exploitation and slavery.

RedLight Children and Priority Films gladly invite you to have your University organize a screening of our film, **Holly**. To watch the trailer, please visit <http://priorityfilms.com/holly.php>

If you interested in organizing a fundraising and awareness screening in your community and/or University, please use this information and press kit to help you get started.

**WHAT:** A screening of the film, with the option to have a unique Q&A (subject to location) with the filmmakers. You may decide you'd like to add an after-screening reception as well.

**WHO:** Students, alumni, faculty and the greater community in your area

**WHERE:** Please let us know if you are interested in bringing it to your community and/or University.

**HOW MUCH:** There is a **\$500** screening fee for all Universities who would like to screen one of our films. If you would like to request one of the filmmakers to do a special Q&A session after the screening, we also request an honorarium to be provided and to cover any possible transportation expenses.

**In order to bring the film to your University or local venue, for further information and questions please contact Jennifer Munz, Director of Development by e-mail at [jen.munz@redlightchildren.org](mailto:jen.munz@redlightchildren.org) or call at 703.635.4431.**

Respectfully yours,

Guy Jacobson, Esq.  
**Founder & Executive Director**  
**RedLight Children/ Priority Films**

### HOW TO PROMOTE YOUR SPECIAL SCREENING (PRIORITY FILM & REDLIGHT CHILDREN)

#### DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Screening of **Holly** (2007) for students, alumni, faculty and greater community  
Q&A Session with **Holly** filmmakers (depending on location and date of screening)w

#### PRIOR TO EVENT CHECKLIST

- 1) **Send out** personal e-mails inviting friends, colleagues, etc. to screening.
- 2) **Utilize** social networking websites (Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, etc.) to:
  - a. Send out mass invites to event.*
  - b. Encourage people to learn more about the issue and sign up for our monthly e-newsletter by signing up at [www.redlightchildren.org](http://www.redlightchildren.org)*
- 3) **Make** flyers/handouts listing so that the community/students can get involved with RLC.
- 4) **Get** flyers describing event approved for posting at your school.
  - a. Ask Resident Advisors to allow flyers to be posted in student dorms.*
- 5) **Consult** your school's Campus Activities Board/Organization of Student Affairs to obtain contact information for various student clubs.
  - a. Contact individual group leaders/dept. chairs/teachers to extend the invitation to their members/students.*
  - Organizations can promote screening as event relevant to group's issues, discussions and course material.*
  - b. Suggest that student groups/teachers/etc. buy tickets in bulk to help subsidize ticket costs to their members/students.*
- 6) **Get** the school newspaper or similar student publications to promote the event.

## HOW TO PROMOTE YOUR SCREENING

### POTENTIAL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GROUPS TO CONTACT:

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- Amnesty International
- Asian Pacific American Coalition (APAC)
- Cambodian Student Association
- Catholic Culture Club
- Circle K
- College Democrats
- Community Service Organizations
- Global Outreach
- Greek Council/Associations (Fraternities/Sororities)
- Humanus
- Jewish Students Organization (JSO)
- Journal of Global Affairs
- Middle Eastern Students Association (MESA)
- Model United Nations
- National Organization for Women (NOW)
- Pre-Law Association/Undergraduate Law Society
- Psychology Association
- Rainbow Alliance
- Resident Hall Association (RHA)
- Respect Life
- Society of Anthropology and Sociology
- Student Organization of Latinos (SOL)
- Student World Assembly
- Speech and Debate
- United Student Government (USG)
- Vietnamese Student Association
- Words Beyond Borders

*\*\*\*\* These are just a few examples of possible organizations that may be interested in attending this event. Most importantly, we want to promote event BEFORE it happens to the entire student body, as well as providing students with information about the goals of RedLight Children.*

## ABOUT PRIORITY FILMS

Priority Films is a cutting edge 'micro studio' with a focus on low budget, high quality, and commercial films. We have created a strong grassroots approach to our films, since we want to grow out of a community, and create films that our audiences love. Among our films, we have produced the K11 Project: the most comprehensive film project about child trafficking and child prostitution to date. For more information about Priority Films, please visit [www.priorityfilms.com](http://www.priorityfilms.com)

## ABOUT THE K-11 PROJECT

Produced by Priority Films, the K11 project is the most comprehensive film project about child trafficking and child sexual exploitation to date including:



### REDLIGHT (2010)

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Lucy Liu produced and narrated REDLIGHT, an inspiring and powerful feature documentary about child sex exploitation. Filmed over a four year period, REDLIGHT focuses on the personal stories of the victims and two remarkable advocates for change: grass-roots activist Somaly Mam and politician Mu Sochua. Both have since been nominated for the Noble Peace Prize and won other numerous human rights awards around the world.

Using footage smuggled out of the brothels and harrowing testimonials, REDLIGHT follows the plight of several current and former child sex slaves. Some are trying to regain entry into the cambodian society to find some semblance of normality after their horrific experiences. Other stories highlight the plight of victims who are attempting to bring perpetrators to justice. Their torturous yet ultimately heroic battles to find witnesses and take brothel owners to court are dramatically brought to life in this topical and moving feature documentary.

For more information about the film, visit [www.redlightthemovie.com](http://www.redlightthemovie.com)



### HOLLY (2007)

A feature length narrative film based on the true stories of abducted children and their fight for freedom. Starring Ron Livingston, Virginie Ledoyan, Udo Kier, the late Chris Penn and Thuy Nguyen. Shot on location in Cambodia, including many scenes in actual brothels in the notorious red light district of Phnom Penh, HOLLY is a captivating, touching and emotional experience.



### THE K-11 PROJECT (CURRENTLY FILMING)

The film follows the exhilarating and ruthless journey of filmmakers from The K11 Project as they try to document an explosive subject in one of the most dangerous and corrupt places in the world.

## ABOUT OUR PARTNERS



CHILD SEXPLOITATION.  
EXPOSE IT. FIGHT IT. END IT.  
REDLIGHTCHILDREN.ORG

### ABOUT REDLIGHT CHILDREN

RedLight Children is a grassroots, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization seeking to generate conscious concern and inspire immediate action against child sexploitation and trafficking worldwide. RedLight Children tackles multiple dimensions of the issue of child exploitation and human trafficking.

Our inclusive blueprint charts three phases of attack on this crime against humanity: Raising awareness through feature films, documentaries and education campaigns; Correcting, improving, and enforcing current legislation; Allocating the appropriate resources to mirror the size and scope of the epidemic.

Today, **“EXPOSE IT. FIGHT IT. END IT,”** is our rallying cry. For more information about RedLight Children, how to get involved, and/or how to make a donation online, please visit [www.redlightchildren.org](http://www.redlightchildren.org)



### ABOUT LEXISNEXIS®

LexisNexis® ([www.lexisnexis.com](http://www.lexisnexis.com)) is a leading global provider of content-enabled workflow solutions designed specifically for professionals in the legal, risk management, corporate, government, law enforcement, accounting and academic markets. LexisNexis originally pioneered online information with its Lexis® and Nexis® services. A member of Reed Elsevier [NYSE: ENL; NYSE: RUK] ([www.reedelsevier.com](http://www.reedelsevier.com)), LexisNexis serves customers in more than 100 countries with 15,000 employees worldwide.

### WHY IS LEXISNEXIS INVOLVED IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND HOW?

LexisNexis is committed to help combat human trafficking as part of its efforts to advance the Rule of Law – the basic concept that a functioning society requires a strong legal system and set of laws respected by everyone, including the government. Together with public and private partners, LexisNexis supports various anti-human trafficking efforts through promoting awareness, sponsoring victims support, and assisting with training and education initiatives.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



**GUY JACOBSON,**  
DIRECTOR, STORY BY, WRITER  
AND PRODUCER

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Guy Jacobson is a filmmaker and global activist. As a former New York attorney and investment banker, he now serves as President of Priority Films. In 2004 after an eye-opening sabbatical, Guy Jacobson founded the RedLight Children Campaign, an NGO aimed at ending all forms of child sexploitation. **Holly**, the highly acclaimed feature film released in 2007, spearheaded the initial phase of the campaign and served to raise awareness for the global epidemic.

Over the past twenty years Jacobson has produced several television programs, written and published 15 books, and authored numerous newspaper and magazine articles. In addition to **Holly**, his seventh screenplay, Jacobson has produced two documentaries on the issue of child sexploitation. RedLight is now opening in theatres in the US & Internationally.

For his efforts in the fight against child sex trafficking, Jacobson was honored with the U.S. State Department's prestigious Global Hero Award in 2008. He currently lives and works in New York City.



**ADI EZRONI,**  
PRODUCER

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Adi Ezroni is an award winning actress, television host, film producer, and active anti-trafficking activist. She is the lead actress in two of Israel's highest rating television series Hatufim and Matay Nitnashek. She is the recipient of the Israeli Golden Screen Award for her years hosting the No.1 children channel in Israel and has acted in international productions including *Djihad*, directed by Felix Olivier. Ezroni is also the co-founder of both Spring Pictures and Priority Films, the latter of which produced **Holly**, REDLIGHT and *The K11 Journey*. She makes her directorial debut in REDLIGHT. As a result of these three films as well as her work to stop child trafficking and sexual exploitation, she was awarded the US State Department 2008 Anti Trafficking Hero Award.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



**GUY MOSHE,**  
DIRECTOR, PRODUCER  
AND WRITER

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An up and coming writer–director who has established himself as a fresh new face in Hollywood, Moshe has written for Bergman Lustig Productions, Millennium Films and others. His short films were featured at several international film festivals. **Holly** marks his feature directorial debut. He is currently working on a samurai action film titled, BUNRAKU.



**AMIT KORT,**  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

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An entrepreneur and real estate developer, Kort has been focusing on different projects in New York City for the past 10 years.

## STARRING IN THE FILM



**RON LIVINGSTON,**  
STARRING AS PATRICK

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Ron Livingston is an American film and television actor. His acting credits include roles in Office Space, Sex and the City, and HBO's Band of Brothers. He earned his B.A. degree in Theatre Studies and English Literature from Yale University. He began his acting career while still an undergraduate, getting his stage credits with the Williamson Theatre Festival and Manhattan Class Company. It was Livingston's work in the film "**Holly**" that first brought him into contact with the issue of human trafficking and sexual slavery. This film was shot entirely on location in Cambodia and Livingston became intimately aware of the depth and breadth of this problem. The film follows Holly (Thuy Nguyen), a 12 year old Vietnamese girl, sold by her parents, and now highly valued for her virginity. By chance, Ron Livingston's character and Holly meet and he resolves to save her from a horrific fate. He states, "The sexual trafficking and slavery of children is one of those evils that most of us are either too squeamish to acknowledge, too cowardly to challenge, or too comfortable to address. Somaly Mam is none of those things. She is one of the true bonafide heroines of our time, and is making a real difference in the lives of real children. I urge each of you to give freely and generously to this very worthy cause. Every contribution helps to make a difference."



**THUY NGUYEN,**  
STARRING AS HOLLY

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Thuy was born in Vietnam and moved to the Los Angeles area in 2003 where she was discovered at an open call for **Holly** at 14 years old. She previously appeared in Ham Tran's JOURNEY FROM THE FALL and is currently shooting a feature film in Vietnam. She currently lives and attends high school in Orange County.

## STARRING IN THE FILM



**VIRGINIE LEDOYEN,**  
STARRING AS MARIE

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Virginie was born in Aubervilliers, France, near Paris. At the age of 2, she was already shooting advertisements for television. At 9, she started going to the Ecole des Enfants du Spectacle, and, while still a child, made her film debut in *LES EXPLOITS D'UN JEUNE DON JUAN* (1987). She was nominated for the César (the French equivalent of an Oscar) for most promising actress in 1993, 1994 and 1995. Her international breakthrough was in 1999, when she became ambassador for the cosmetics company L'Oréal; this led to her casting in Danny Boyle's *THE BEACH* with Leonardo DiCaprio. Her subsequent films include Francois Ozon's *8 FEMMES* (8 Women), Jean-Paul Rappeneau's *BON VOYAGE*, and Francis Veber's *LA DOUBLURE* (The Valet).



**UDO KIER,**  
STARRING AS KLAUS

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Born in Cologne, Germany during World War II, Udo Kier is best-known for his many offbeat, eccentric roles and his participation in numerous horror films. His first "hit" film was *HEXEN BIS AUFS BLUT GEQUALT* (Mark of the Devil). On an airplane trip, Kier met director Paul Morrissey, who offered him the lead role in the 3-D *FLESH FOR FRANKENSTEIN*. It was this film, along with *BLOOD FOR DRACULA*, that made Udo a cult figure. In the 1990s his visibility increased in America with his breakthrough role in Gus Van Sant's *MY OWN PRIVATE IDAHO*. Udo went on to be cast as Pamela Anderson's sidekick in *BARB WIRE* and co-starred with Jim Carrey in *ACE VENTURA: PET DETECTIVE*. Some of his more than 150 film credits include *SUSPIRIA*, *LILI MARLEEN*, *FOR LOVE OR MONEY*, *BREAKING THE WAVES*, *THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO*, *BLADE*, *ARMAGEDDON*, and *SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE*. Over his 40-year career Udo has worked with several brilliant directors: Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Wim Wenders, Dario Argento, Gus Van Sant, and Werner Herzog. He continues to work often with Lars von Trier, appearing in *DOGVILLE* and *MANDERLAY*. Kier's diverse acting career ranges from art house films (*ZENTROPA*) to gore fests (*GERMAN CHAINSAW MASSACRE*) to television commercials. He says he loves horror films and wants to do more of them, most recently appearing in Rob Zombie's *HALLOWEEN*. Currently Udo lives in California, but spends much of his time working in Europe.

## FEATURED IN THE FILM



**CHRIS PENN,**  
STARRING AS FREDDIE

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Chris Penn made his acting debut at the age of sixteen in Francis Ford Coppola's acclaimed 1983 film RUMBLE FISH. His successful acting career included roles in over fifty films, a network television series and numerous guest-starring roles for television. In the 1980s, Chris co-starred with Kevin Bacon in the musical FOOTLOOSE and with actor-director Clint Eastwood in the Western, PALE RIDER. He also starred opposite Tom Cruise in the high school football film ALL THE RIGHT NOISES. Chris starred alongside brother Sean Penn as well as their mother Eileen Ryan in the film AT CLOSE RANGE. His film career catapulted in the 1990s when he starred in Quentin Tarantino's cult classics RESERVOIR DOGS and TRUE ROMANCE. His starring role in Abel Ferrara's THE FUNERAL earned him the award for Best Supporting Actor at the 1996 Venice Film Festival. Chris made appearances in several more films including Robert Altman's SHORT CUTS, Lee Tamahori's MULHOLLAND FALLS, and Brett Ratner's RUSH HOUR and AFTER THE SUNSET. **Holly** was one of Penn's final performances. The actor passed away in his Santa Monica condominium on January 24, 2006 at the age of 40.

## FILM CREDITS

### CAST

Holly — Thuy nguyen  
Patrick — Ron Livingston  
Marie — Virginie Ledoyen  
Klaus — Udo Kier  
Freddie — Chris Penn  
Ohn — Teerawat Mulvilai  
Vibal — Chaiyaporn Torphon  
Barbara — Tharinee Songkiathana  
Ian — Pornpatchaya Supannarat  
Mama San — Montakan Ransibrahmanakul  
Ma Tommy — Sahajak Boonthanakit  
Trungta — Kositchaimongkol  
Vietnamese Official — Kovit Wattanakul  
Doctor — Hy Sorim  
Police Lieutenant — Kun Daravann  
Thom — Hun Sophy  
Captain — Keo Ratha  
Sharon — Osnat Tamir  
Kiri — Kosal  
Dacil — Keo Seriemony  
Emma — Adi Ezroni  
Police Officer — Mudha Dann  
Girl 1 — Chhit Socheata  
SUV Man — Ea Sokhan  
Gas Vendor — Kem Sereyvuth  
Café Owner — Net Nguyen  
Prak — Dy Sethy  
Taxi Driver — Toot  
Girl #1 — Sorn Tola  
Girl #2 — Lina  
Girl #3 — Srey Cham  
Svay Pac Patron Govert — Van Den Wittenboer

### BATTAMBANG STREET CHILDREN

Rath Saly  
Ban Cheavay  
Chhan Chham  
Nge Seth  
Choeurt Chhorn  
Yoeurm Thanin  
Mao Socha  
Toeurn Kem  
Sam Va  
Thorn Sreymao  
Chhoeurt Chhoeurn  
Vann Seiha  
Yoerum

### EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Amit Kort  
Jennifer Krychowecky  
David Weiner  
Charles Feng

### PRODUCER

Guy Moshe  
Nava Levin

### THAILAND CASTING

Non Jungmeier

### 1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Joel Nishimine

### LINE PRODUCER

Elizabeth Slavutsky

### UNIT MANAGER

Elmer Jones

### PRODUCTION MANAGER

Marco Jimenez

### 2ND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Philip Wagner

### 2ND 2ND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Leehe Levin

### KEY SET PA

Danny Whitehead

### OFFICE PA

El Ras Ali  
Lorcan Murphy

### SET PA

Han Pin

### PRODUCTION ACCOUNTANT

Kate Royce

### ASST. ACCOUNTANT

Nop Sovatha

### NY PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Betsy Hart

## FILM CREDITS

### **NY PA**

Elena Zucker  
Victoria Chalut

### **ASSOCIATE PRODUCER**

Jenni Triangle  
Daniel Kedem  
Suet Batten

### **ART DIRECTOR**

Ken Larson

### **ART DEP ASSISTANT**

Karin Yakter

### **PROPERTY MASTER**

Keren Kohen

### **ASST PROPS**

Sonny Chhoun

### **SET DRESSER**

Yin Soeum

### **SWING GANG**

Chhan Parhas  
Touch Pisit

### **SCRIPT SUPERVISOR**

Sharon Watt

### **2ND UNIT DIRECTOR**

Guy Jacobson

### **1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA/ 2ND UNIT DP**

Ludvic Litee

### **“B” CAMERA 1ST ASST**

Brett Walters

### **2ND AC**

Nicholas Huyhn

### **CAMERA PA**

Yoni Kedem

### **STILL PHOTOGRAPHER**

Elkana Jacobson

### **STILL PHOTOGRAPHER ASST**

Ruth Jacobson

### **COSTUME DESIGNER**

Rotem Noyfeld

### **WADROBE SUPERVISOR**

“P’ Air “ – Mutita Na Songkla

### **SET COSTUMER**

“P’ Im “ – Punjaporn Puerkpun

### **WADROBE PA**

Chin Somaly

### **GAFFER**

Matt Schuman

### **BEST BOY ELECTRIC**

Steve Siddell  
Sommat Saengsinchai  
Sakkarin Srilert

### **ELECTRICIAN**

Ly Souan Narith  
Ean Kim Hun

### **KEY GRIP**

Ron Morales

### **BEST BOY GRIP**

Pichet Surasangwan  
Louis Lovegrove

### **GRIP**

Surat Thongwang

### **LOCATION MANAGER**

Judy Chui

### **LOCATION ASSISTANT**

Travis “Teko” Jones

### **LOCATION LIAISON**

Yan Sorkum  
“Boat” Sompot Chidgasornpongse  
Sochunthy Chea Vong Domnang  
Jack Stephens  
Borom Chea

## FILM CREDITS

Theh Lien

### **CATERING**

Chez Dim – Dimitri Pinuad

### **TRANSPORTATION LIASON**

Pisey Meas

### **GENNY OP**

Sombun Khaehnak

### **CAMERA TRUCK DRIVER**

Rinwatthana Kamnordephet

### **ELEC TRUCK DRIVER**

Lop Akharakongpin

### **GRIP TRUCK DRIVER**

Den Attaphum

### **DRIVERS**

NGA Spreng

Kong Phila

Ly Yaul

### **MECHANIC**

Mr. Rith

### **MEDIC**

Dr. Bon Thorn

Ly Srey Vyna MD

### **MOTORCYCLE COACH FOR MR.LIVINGSTON & MRS. NGUYEN**

Daniel Kedem

### **THAI PRODUCTION SERVICES**

Legend Films

### **CAMBODIAN LOCATION SERVICES**

CTN

### **HEAD BODY GUARDS**

Man Lun

Pena Piang

### **FRANCE POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR**

Pascale Hornus

### **SUPERVISING SOUND EDITOR/RE-RECORDING MIXER**

Joe Milner

### **FOLEY SUPERVISOR**

Eryne Prine

### **FOLEY RECORDED AT**

Post Creations

### **FOLEY MIXER**

Nick Neutra

### **FOLEY ARTIST**

Cynthis Merrill

Doug Reed

### **CAMBODIAN LOCATION SOUND EFFECTS RECORDING**

Ryan Kennedy

### **DI COLORIST**

Julian Freed

### **U.S. LEGAL SERVICES**

Alison S. Cohen

### **EPSTEIN, LEVINSOHN, BODNE, HURWITZ & WEINSTEIN, LLP**

### **CAMBODIAN LEGAL**

David Chinaywa

### **ORIGINAL SCORE BY TON THAT TIET MUSICIANS**

Emmanuelle Ophelli

*Flute*

Didier Pateau

*Oboe*

Alain Damien

*Clarinet*

Paul Riveaux

*Basson*

Samuel Favre

*Percussion*

Daniel Ciampolini

*Percussion*

Nicholas Daudricourt

*Violin*

Christophe Desjardins

*Viola*

Eric Maria

*Cello*

## FILM CREDITS

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### **WITH PARTICIPATION OF THE “ CHOEUR DE CHAMBRE LES ELEMENTS**

Conductor, Joel Suhubiette

### **ADDITIONAL MUSIC**

Wickedmusic.tv

*“Every Exit An Entrance”*

*Written and Performed by “ The Couriers ”*

*Published by Wickedmusic.tv*

### **MR. KIER’S WADROBE PROVIDED BY HUGO BOSS BEHIND THE SCENES**

### **DP**

Daniel Kedem

### **SOUND**

Dvir Ackerman

### **ADDITIONAL SOUND**

Recordings Oded Raz

### **KEY MAKE UP**

Judy Lovell

### **MAKE UP**

Watana Garum

### **KEY HAIR**

Tanaporn Aranyaputi

### **BOOM OPERATOR**

Ken Strain

### **2ND BOOM**

Dvir Ackerman

### **SET TEACHER**

Ann Ackerman

### **CASTING ASSISTANTS**

“ AYE “ Chauyi Janrak Ongtong

November 9, 2007

## Righting Human Wrongs

By JEANNETTE CATSOULIS

There's a riveting story lurking inside "[Holly](#)," a documentary-fiction hybrid about sex trafficking in Cambodia. It's just not the one the filmmakers want to tell.

One of three films of the K11 Project (named for Phnom Penh's red-light district and designed to raise awareness of child prostitution), "[Holly](#)" continually douses its drama with the cold water of education. In Patrick ([Ron Livingston](#)), a numb American expat and smuggler, the film has a fascinating protagonist: a man without country or comfort. Yet when he becomes improbably obsessed with rescuing a 12-year-old Vietnamese virgin (Thuy Nguyen) from the clutches of traffickers, what could have been a gripping study of emotional resurrection devolves into a blurred odyssey of white guilt.

Shot on location in the brothels and alleys of Phnom Penh, "[Holly](#)" has a grubby authenticity that fails to compensate for slack plotting and a monotonous tone. Udo Kier is dependably sleazy in the thankless role of an unrepentant pedophile, while the great [Virginie Ledoyen](#) is wasted as a human-rights worker whose only task is to remind us of the facts and figures of the under-age sex trade.

Countering the clumsy cross-pollination of drama and philanthropy, Mr. Livingston performs with increasing intensity and motivational ambivalence. In his hands Patrick is an irretrievably lost soul, as confused by his savior impulse as its beneficiary is.

*"Holly" is rated R (Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian). There is on-camera solicitation and off-camera acceptance.*

*HOLLY*

*Opens today in Manhattan.*

Directed by Guy Moshe; written (in English, Khmer and Vietnamese, with English subtitles) by Guy Jacobson and Mr. Moshe; director of photography, Yaron Orbach; edited by Isabella Monteiro de Castro; music by Ton-That Thiet; produced by Nava Levin, Mr. Jacobson, Adi Ezroni and Mr. Moshe; released by Priority Films. At the Clearview 62nd and Broadway, 1871 Broadway. Running time: 113 minutes.

WITH: [Ron Livingston](#) (Patrick), [Virginie Ledoyen](#) (Marie), [Chris Penn](#) (Freddie), Udo Kier (Klaus) and Thuy Nguyen (Holly).

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[http://www.seattlepi.com/movies/341585\\_holly30q.html](http://www.seattlepi.com/movies/341585_holly30q.html)

## 'Holly': An unsettling chronicle of child prostitution

*Last updated November 29, 2007 10:43 a.m. PT*

**By WILLIAM ARNOLD**  
P-I MOVIE CRITIC

Two months ago, the movie "Trade" exposed, in fictional terms, the Mexican trade in child sex slaves -- the horror of kids kidnapped off the streets and sold to brothels or wealthy pedophiles. "Holly" is the Far Eastern counterpart of the same story.

Like that earlier '07 film, this one is unflinching and relentless in its depiction of a sordid world, but it's in no way titillation masquerading as social commentary. The filmmaker's vision is harrowingly ugly and profoundly upsetting every step of the way.

The title character (Thuy Nguyen) is a 12-year-old Vietnamese prostitute from a small village who has been sold by her desperately poor parents to a sex trafficker, who has in turn sold her to a brothel in neighboring Cambodia, the international mecca of child prostitution.

Holly is seen mainly from the point of view of Patrick (Ron Livingston), a 30-something American peddler in illegal antiquities who gets to know her when his motorbike breaks down in front of her brothel and he's stranded for two days in the infamous K-11 red-light village.

When Holly runs away and embarks on a hopeless odyssey to return to her village, Patrick tries to help her, driven partly by guilt that he has had some sexual feelings for her, but mostly by a moral epiphany: He thinks if he can save this one child, he may be able to save his soul.

Filmed in Cambodia in the face of government harassment (with many scenes shot inside the brothels of Phnom Penh), the low-budget film was produced by activists of the Redlight Children Campaign, a grass-roots movement to "generate concern and immediate action against child sexploitation."

Even so, it works as more than a muckraking tract. The story is told with great passion and authority by first-time director Guy Moshe; and the ironic, tortured performances of Livingston, Udo Kier (as a

### MOVIE REVIEW

#### HOLLY

**DIRECTOR:** Guy Moshe

**CAST:** Ron Livingston, Thuy Nguyen, Virginie Ledoyen, Chris Penn, Udo Kier

**LANGUAGE:** English, Khmer and Vietnamese with English subtitles

**RUNNING TIME:** 113 minutes

**RATING:** R for disturbing sexual situations involving children, and for language

**WHERE:** Meridian 16

**GRADE:** B

john), the late Chris Penn (as an antiques dealer) and 14-year-old Thuy Nguyen are all first-rate.

In at least one way, "Holly" is probably a better, more honest movie than "Trade," because it doesn't betray itself with the semblance of a Hollywood ending. It's realistic enough to admit that there's probably no way to ever completely eradicate an evil for which there seems to be such an eager demand.

It's also likely to be a controversial movie because it dares to make the (politically incorrect) statement that child prostitution in Cambodia is less a phenomenon of perverted Western tourism than a deeply entrenched, long-accepted phenomenon of Cambodian culture -- and any attempt to end it without taking this fact into account is doomed to failure.

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## Holly

### **Bottom Line: Fine acting and directing shine a spotlight on a touchy topic.**

By Stephen Farber

Nov 9, 2007

It seems to be harder and harder for excellent movies on difficult subjects to find their way to theaters.

"Holly" was filmed more than two years ago. (Chris Penn, who died in January 2006, plays a supporting role.) After making the rounds at festivals, it finally is opening theatrically.

An unsparing look at child prostitution is a hard sell for audiences, but this movie is a memorable achievement, far superior to the recently released "Trade," another movie about sex trafficking.

Producer and co-writer Guy Jacobson was inspired to make the film when traveling in Cambodia several years ago and being approached by child prostitutes, some as young as 6 or 7. He worked with director Guy Moshe on fashioning the script, which is admirably lean and unsentimental and all the more powerful as a result.

They begin the film by intercutting the adventures of the two main characters. Holly (newcomer Thuy Nguyen) is a 12-year-old girl brought back to a Cambodian brothel after trying to escape. At the same time, Patrick (Ron Livingston), an American expatriate and gambler living in Cambodia, goes to work for a shady entrepreneur (Penn) and finds himself in the town where Holly is imprisoned.

When the two meet, he takes a paternal interest in her, and she sees him as a possible savior. At first Patrick tries to keep his distance, but eventually he decides to play a more active role in rescuing her.

Filmed on location in Cambodia, the picture benefits from an extraordinarily vivid atmosphere.

Many of the actors are nonprofessionals, adding to the sense of authenticity. The film successfully walks a fine line, underscoring the sordid nature of the sex trade without resorting to any exploitative or titillating scenes. The characterizations are also richly layered, aided by superb performances from the two stars.

The backgrounds of both characters are deliberately left fairly sketchy. We are told a bit about Holly's family in Vietnam, and there are allusions to Patrick's troubled past in America, but the script concentrates on their present dilemmas and leaves their back stories opaque.

Nguyen highlights Holly's fierce determination, which makes her vulnerability even more poignant. Livingston does a marvelous job of conveying Patrick's solicitousness without turning him into any kind of plaster saint. In fact, one of the most intriguing elements of the film is its acknowledgment that Patrick feels a tinge of attraction to Holly that is not purely platonic. His struggle against his darker impulses is the film's most provocative drama, eloquently expressed in Livingston's subtle performance.

Penn, Udo Kier as a cynical lawyer and Virginie Ledoyen as a human rights advocate have small parts, but all give strong performances. Technical credits are first-rate, and there is a haunting score by Ton-That Tiet. To its credit, the film ends without any false reassurances; it leaves the characters' fates unresolved. The last shot is a telling close-up of Holly that places the burden on the audience, daring us to open our eyes to the plight of abused children all over the world.

## HOLLY

Priority Films

Max Entertainment, Vox Entertainment, Autumn Entertainment Partners

Credits:

Director: Guy Moshe

Screenwriters: Guy Jacobson, Guy Moshe

Producers: Guy Jacobson, Adi Ezroni, Guy Moshe, Nava Levin

Executive producers: Jennifer Krychowecky, David Wiener, Charles Feng, Amit Kort

Director of photography: Yaron Orbach

Production designer: Gabriel Higgins

Music: Ton-That Tiet

Costume designer: Rotem Noyfeld

Editor: Isabella Monteiro de Castro

Cast:

Holly: Thuy Nguyen

Patrick: Ron Livingston

Marie: Virginie Ledoyen

Klaus: Udo Kier

Freddie: Chris Penn

Mama San: Montakan Ransibrahmanakul

Ma Tommy: Sahajak Boonthanakit

Running time -- 113 minutes

MPAA rating: R

