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**Independent film production company builds slate of short films for an international audience**  
*Toy Gun Films prepares to release it's sophomore short film produced in Tokyo*

**LOS ANGELES** – Following a slew of film festival awards including Best Short Film at the Beverly Hills Film Festival and Best Short Film at the Los Angeles Intl. Film Festival for “En Tus Manos”, Toy Gun Films has just finished shooting its sophomore short film in Japan entitled “Paper Flower” and is in active development on short films to be produced in Africa and Russia.

Brent Green and Jeff Goldberg co-founded Toy Gun Films in 2009 as a non-profit independent production company with the vision of telling powerful stories from around the world with the hope of infusing pop culture with tales that champion moral courage. Six months later, they were on location in Colombia producing “En Tus Manos”, a short film with a non-violence message, which has been screened by approximately 3 million young people throughout Latin America via Toy Gun’s partner organization One Hope’s alternative distribution network. The film starred Paulina Gaitan (*Sin Nombre, Trade*) alongside an entirely Colombian cast.

“Paper Flower” explores the issues surrounding the phenomenon of “Enjo-kosai,” or “compensated dating” in Japan. During compensated dating, men give teenage girls who are often from upper-middle class families money or gifts in return for dates that typically end with sex. The film is scheduled for release at the beginning of 2011.

“Paper Flower” is the directorial debut for Green, 26, who faced the challenge of directing his first film in Tokyo, a notoriously difficult production location. Shooting the performances in Japanese language coupled with the general cultural differences between Japan and the US were additional obstacles that were difficult to surmount. Goldberg, 27, wrote the screenplay and worked with a team to adapt the screenplay for Japan. Both Green and Goldberg served as the film’s producers.

Shot entirely in Japanese on location in Tokyo, “Paper Flower” tells the story of two childhood friends growing up in Tokyo where a casual form of prostitution known as “compensated dating” has become a disturbing trend. When they each experience heartbreaking losses, they are forced to decide how much of themselves they are willing to give in order to find true love.

“We were fascinated by the notion that young affluent girls in Tokyo would participate in Enjo Kosai and we wanted to develop a film that explored the relational pressures and societal values that seem to motivate this sort of behavior,” says Green. “Our hope is that this film will encourage its audience to take a step back and reevaluate the various forces in their lives that they may be allowing to determine their own self-worth.”

“What we found through this process is that there is an intense desire for love and acceptance, a profound fear of failure, and an unhealthy obsession with the acquisition of material possessions, which are all themes that are by no means exclusive to Japanese culture, but are in fact very relevant to American culture and a good portion of the world“ says Goldberg.

Toy Gun Films collaborated with Dentsu Casting and Entertainment in Tokyo to hire an ensemble cast that consisted of Japanese stars Anna Ishibashi, Ayami Kakiuchi, and Yoshiyuki Morishita (*Kill Bill*). Renowned music video director of photography Thomas Marvel served as the film's cinematographer, and musician Aska Matsumiya composed an original score for the film. Aska received critical acclaim for writing and composing the music for Spike Jonze's recent short film "I'm Here".

More information surrounding "Paper Flower" and other Toy Gun Films projects is available at [www.toygunfilms.com](http://www.toygunfilms.com), [www.paperflowerthemovie.com](http://www.paperflowerthemovie.com), and [www.facebook.com/toygunfilms](http://www.facebook.com/toygunfilms).

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