

NEWS

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CHANG SHAO TO UNLEASH 'TENGU'

ERIE, PA. 18 February 2011 -- Producer-director Mark Steensland and screenwriter Rick Hautala have acquired the screen rights to Graham Masterton's novel "Tengu" via their Chang Shao Trading Company shingle.

Deal comes on the heels of preparing their latest short film, "The Weeping Woman," starring Stephen Geoffreys and based on the story by British writer Paul Kane, for the festival circuit.

First published in 1983, "Tengu" takes its name from the most terrible of all Japanese demons, a living force of evil that infects its followers with the mad strength of the berserk and the capacity to survive attack from any weapon. At the close of World War II the Tengu was Japan's most terrifying secret weapon. Now the demon is unleashed again, this time in a diabolical plot to wreak vengeance on America for the nuclear destruction of Hiroshima.

"['Tengu'] is a classic revenge story," said Steensland, "and in many ways I think it is even more relevant today than when it was first published."

Masterton is the author of more than 35 horror novels and three short story collections. His debut novel, "The Manitou," was an instant bestseller and was previously adapted into a 1978 film starring Tony Curtis and Susan Strasberg. He has won both the Edgar Award and the Bram Stoker Award and was a nominee for the World Fantasy Award.

Hautala is the author of more than 30 best-sellers, including "Night Stone" and "Little Brothers." Steensland has previously directed features "The Last Way Out" and docu "The Gospel According to Philip K. Dick." Together, the duo has made a string of successful short films (including "Lovecraft's Pillow," based on a Stephen King idea, "Dead@17," based on Josh Howard's graphic novel series now in development with producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura, "Peekers," which collected six awards in more than 25 festival appearances and "The Ugly File," based on the Ed Gorman story). Steensland and Hautala were most recently hired by Paradox Entertainment to adapt "Conan" creator Robert E. Howard's short story "Pigeons From Hell" into a feature film.

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