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FACING MONSTERS RIDES WAVE OF INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS BACK TO AUSTRALIA IN TIME TO WIN BIG DURING AWARDS SEASON

Beyond West is delighted to share that *Facing Monsters*, its seminal feature documentary about Western Australian “slab wave” surfer Kerby Brown, has been a big winner at some of Australia’s most prestigious awards events in the past week.

The film won two 2022 AACTAs – Best Cinematography in a Documentary and Best Sound in a Documentary - and picked up The Audio Network Award for Best Editing in a Documentary Feature from the Australian Screen Editors Guild and won a WA Screen Culture Award for Outstanding Achievement in Cinematography.

This latest news comes hot on the heels of a hugely successful past few months that has seen the completion of the Australian and New Zealand theatrical release, an ongoing American theatrical and festival run - some with Q&A sessions from Kerby and the team - and screenings at several leading international film and surf festivals. In addition, the film has recently launched on Australian and US TVOD platforms, which now means this award-winning film is readily available to rent and own on the likes of Amazon and iTunes.

Facing Monsters has also won awards at four major international festivals:

- Toronto Documentary Film Festival 2022 – Best Cinematography
- Newport Beach Film Festival 2022 - Best Documentary Feature (Action Sports)
- Solento Surf Festival 2022 – Film of the Year
- Portuguese Surf Film Festival 2022 – Audience Award

Surflife, the international ‘go-to’ information resource for surfers, called the film “Surely the best-shot, if not simply the best, movie about a surfer ever made”, however, the film’s success at home and overseas can be attributed to the fact that it is so much more than a conventional surf movie. While ***Facing Monsters*** follows Kerby Brown on his quest to ride a ferocious slab wave off the spectacular southern coast of Western Australia that no one on the planet has surfed before, it’s also a film about fear, addictions and family bonds; exploring what drives Kerby, what anchors him, and why he’s obsessed with pitting himself against one of nature’s most intimidating forces.

Facing Monsters is an original idea arising from a discussion between Beyond Entertainment’s Frank Chidiac and director of photography Rick Rifici (*Breath, Blueback*). Kerby’s journey was brought to life by Academy Award-nominated director Bentley Dean (*Contact, Tanna*) and produced by Chris Veerhuis (*Red Dog: True Blue, Breath*) along with executive producers Frank Chidiac, Susanne Morrison and co-producer Sonya Rifici.

Beyond's executive producer Frank Chidiac comments: "We are really thrilled to have won these major awards; they are a real testament to the incredible talents of the combined team. ***Facing Monsters*** is one of the most extraordinary projects I have ever been involved in. Not only is it visually quite breathtaking and suspenseful, but as a study of obsession, it is also thought-provoking, emotive and purposeful, transporting viewers to places and feelings rarely experienced on screen."

Beyond West executive producer Susanne Morrison adds: "We take immense pride in the fact that this uniquely Australian story now has a number of Australian awards to go with its international accolades and hope this heightened profile – and new accessibility via TVOD platforms - will bring even more new viewers across Australia to this incredible film."

Facing Monsters was produced by Beyond West and Red Eye Productions in association with Veerhuis Pictures, with funding from Screenwest and Screen Australia. Garage Entertainment, a division of Madman Entertainment, distributes the film internationally.

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