

Michigan actor making his mark in faith based films

Steven Sutherland sets his sites on Hollywood as his latest film gets world-wide distribution

LANSING, MICHIGAN, U.S.A., July 14, 2015 /EINPresswire.com/ -- It was one of the last days on the set of "Ashes of Eden", and [Michael Joiner](#) (Sony Pictures "The Grace Card") has co-star [Steven Brian Sutherland](#) in a head lock as they ham it up for a picture. They are taking a break from one of their many their dramatic scenes and goofin around like a couple of kids in 5th grade.

Ashes of Eden, which recently secured world-wide distribution through Lightworx entertainment, was where the two rising faith based film actors met.

"These two hit it off from the get go", says Writer/director Shane Hagedorn. "Michael is known for his stand up comedy, so I knew he'd be a cut up on the set...but once we yelled action, they both knew how to make the transformation."

"Sutherland's performance," says director Hagedorn "was one of the most nuanced and raw performances I've ever seen". Put him together with a rock sold pro like Michael Joiner, and I knew we had a directors

dream.

Sure enough, Sutherland went on to receive rave reviews for his performance as "Red", the troubled teen in "Ashes of Eden," which led to other starring roles.

Not long after "Ashes of Eden" wrapped, Joiner got a call to star in a film called "Surrender", by the same producers who cast him as their lead in the edgy "Broken Faith." After I accepted the role," says Joiner, "I asked the producers who they cast as the young lead ." They said, "we're still looking." I told them, "I got the perfect actor."

That's when Joiner called Steven and told him he was going to star in another movie.

"Michael talked to the producers and got me the audition", says Sutherland, "even though they really didn't want to get a relatively unknown actor like myself."

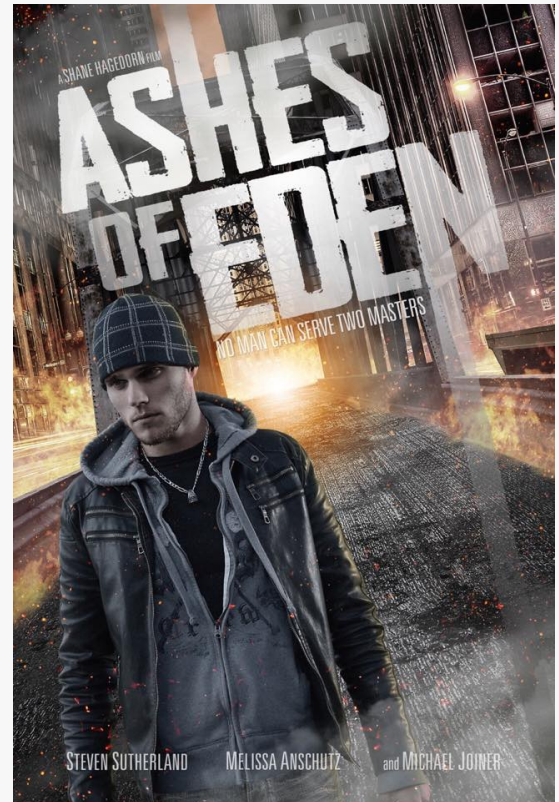
I told Steven, "Don't worry, you're gonna blow them away." says Joiner, "and he did."

"I auditioned VIA skype and they hired me on the spot" says Sutherland.

And once again, within weeks Sutherland and Joiner found themselves living the dream together.

"Except we shot straight all nighters in the freezing cold on this one," says Joiner, "And our ambition to behave as goofballs in between takes sometimes took a backseat to taking a nap in a heated area."

Surrender, which was shot in the Ozarks, Missouri, has won several awards since hitting the film festival circuit. And both Joiner and Sutherland's performances, as well as the directing and writing, are receiving rave reviews from audiences and critics alike.



Now, with Ashes of Eden securing distribution, Steven has to decide if Hollywood is calling his name. He recently sought his good friend, Michael's, advice, seeing that Joiner worked and studied in Hollywood himself for over ten years before moving back to Kansas City, MO.

"I asked Mike" Atlanta or Hollywood?" and without skipping a beat, he said, "Hollywood."

Joiner, who stars in several upcoming faith based films, including "[Chasing Grace](#)" (www.chasinggracemovie.com) which he also produced, says Sutherland has that "James Dean" thing goin on, and Hollywood loves an actor with that cinematic charisma.

"I think a lot of Stevens intensity comes from how much he has been through already in his short life.

Steven lost his father to suicide when he was only 14 years old. "One of the last things he said to me (in a note) was, "I know you'll be a great actor some day."

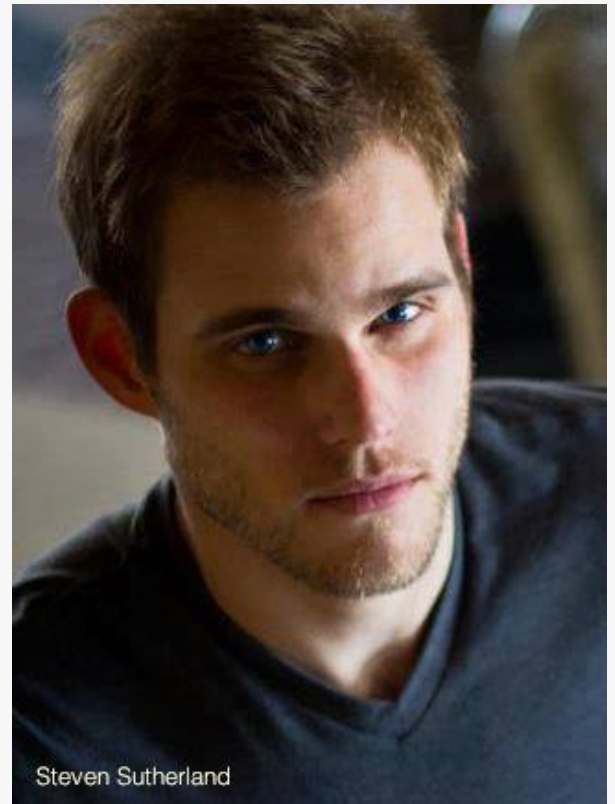
By all accounts I think its safe to say Stevens father is looking down from heaven and very satisfied.

For More info or to schedule an interview with Steven Brian Sutherland and/or Michael Joiner, please contact; Serious Comedy Agency (661) 414 2992 seriouscomedy@aol.com

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