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NOT TO BE RELEASED UNTIL THURSDAY, Jan. 28, 8:30 am (EST)

Olivia Newton-John to star in SCORE: A HOCKEY MUSICAL

Music icon Olivia Newton-John – whose career has spanned over four decades, from *Grease* in 1978 to her highly anticipated appearance on TV’s *Glee* this spring – will star in Michael McGowan’s ***Score: A Hockey Musical***, which begins principal photography in Toronto on February 1 and wraps March 8. Newton-John joins a cast of Canadian performers, featuring Marc Jordan, whose songwriting credits include Rod Stewart’s “Rhythm of My Heart”, and newcomer Noah Reid, who has won many accolades at music festivals, most recently the 2009 John Hirsch Award from the Stratford Festival.

Newton-John and Jordan play the intellectual parents of a teenage hockey phenom who goes from obscurity to overwhelming fame in a matter of weeks. The two will also co-write and sing the song for the film’s end credits.

The film – which combines our national sport with musical numbers – will be released by Mongrel Media in Canada on October 22. Mongrel also distributed McGowan’s *One Week*, which took in \$1.3 million at the Canadian box office.

Seventeen-year-old Farley (Reid) has led a sheltered life, raised on a diet of home schooling, organic living and trips to the art gallery. To his parents’ dismay, Farley loves to play shinny with the local rink rats (music artists Dave Bidini and Hawksley Workman). To their even greater dismay, Farley is scouted and signed by the owner (Stephen McHattie) of a junior league team, where he becomes an instant star. But Farley discovers that stardom comes with a price – including the expectation to fight on the ice. Throw in a changing relationship with his best friend (Allie MacDonald), and Farley finds himself losing his way.

Score: A Hockey Musical is being shot in various Toronto locations, including Nathan Phillips Square, Wychwood Park, the Art Gallery of Ontario and Weston Arena. It’s produced and directed by Toronto filmmaker Michael McGowan (*One Week, Saint Ralph*), who has also written the script and song lyrics.

The film is a Mulmur Feed Co. Production, produced by McGowan and Avi Federgreen, and executive produced by Richard Hanet (*One Week*) and Jody Colero, with the participation of Telefilm Canada, Astral Media The Harold Greenberg Fund and The Ontario Media Development Corporation, in association with the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit and the Ontario Film and Television Tax Credit. Cinematography is by Rudolph Blahachek, choreography by Amy Wright (TV’s *Grey Gardens*) and music composed by Jonathan Goldsmith.

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