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Worthington wants to film Winton

Ross McRae, The West Australian

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Sam Worthington and Myles Pollard worked together on WA-shot surf movie Drift. Picture: Ian Munro/The West Australian

Sam Worthington is throwing his star power behind bringing Tim Winton's celebrated 1994 novel *The Riders* to the big screen.

The Rockingham-raised actor has teamed up with director Robert Connolly for the adaptation of the novel, which was short-listed for a Booker Prize in 1995.

"We are pushing to do it," he said.

"That is something I am passionate about. I love the book.

"We grew up on those books. You read them at school. And his books are very indicative of this State.

"If you can make that jump to a different medium, then it opens (up his books to a bigger, broader audience."

The star of Hollywood blockbusters *Avatar* and *Terminator Salvation* was in Perth to promote the WA-shot surf movie *Drift*, in which he stars alongside his friend Myles Pollard.

He went to the National Institute of Dramatic Art in Sydney with Pollard 16 years ago. Pollard, who also produced *Drift*, persuaded Hawaii-based Worthington to sign on for the movie after seven years in the making.

"I saw how he had grown and saw how the project had grown," Worthington said. "And we wrote the contract on the back of a napkin."

Next for Worthington is the release of the big-budget thriller *Ten*, in which he starred with Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has called him the next big action star.



Drift stars

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