



## TRADES

Thursday, April 01, 2010

### **Bryan Cranston eyes Hanks-Roberts film**

Bryan Cranston is in final negotiations to co-star with Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts in "Larry Crowne." Hanks also is directing the dramedy for Vendome and Universal. Written by Hanks and Nia Vardalos, the story centers on the title character (Hanks), who is downsized from his job and decides to start over by enrolling in college. There he forms some unexpected bonds with fellow students while also catching the eye of a professor (Roberts). Cranston, star of AMC's "Breaking Bad," is playing Roberts' husband, a blogger who spends most of his time looking at porn. Hanks is producing with his Playtone partner Gary Goetzman. Vendome is financing the film, which begins principal photography this month in Los Angeles. Universal is distributing the movie domestically.

### **'Brothers & Sisters' duo joins 'Fringe'**

Former "Brothers & Sisters" showrunners Monica Breen and Alison Schapker have joined Fox's "Fringe," reuniting them with J.J. Abrams. Breen and Schapker will serve as co-executive producers on "Fringe," which recently was renewed for a third season. Breen and Schapker worked on Abrams' ABC series "Alias" and "Lost" before segueing to "Brothers" in 2007. In addition to working on the Warner Bros. TV-produced "Fringe," co-created and executive produced by Abrams, the two also will develop for the studio, most likely through Abrams' WBTV-based Bad Robot. "Fringe" is exec produced by Abrams, showrunner Jeff Pinkner, Bryan Burk and J.H. Wyman.

### **'Glee,' 'Modern Family' win Peabodys**

ABC's "Modern Family," Fox's "Glee," HBO's "In Treatment," Kermit and company and Craig Ferguson were among the 36 recipients of Peabody Awards unveiled Wednesday by the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. The winners, chosen by the Peabody board as the best in electronic media for 2009, were named during a ceremony on the university campus. The latest Peabody winners reflect great diversity in genre, sources of origination and content. The recipients also included HBO's "Thrilla in Manila," a doc that probes the politically charged Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier fights of the early 1970s, and "The Great Textbook War," a fair, balanced radio doc from West Virginia Public Broadcasting about a 1974 skirmish that presaged the "cultural wars" still raging in America. Along with ABC's multigenerational family comedy, Fox's invigorating musical dramedy about a high school choral club and HBO's mesmerizing therapy-session drama, Peabodys were bestowed on "The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency," HBO's series about a female private eye in Botswana, and "Endgame," a PBS/Masterpiece Theatre film about secret negotiations that facilitated the end of apartheid in South Africa.

### **'Titans' poised to dominate boxoffice**

Easter weekend will be sweetened with yet another 3D release, with Warner Bros.' "Clash of the Titans" sending distributors scrambling like so many tykes hunting holiday eggs. Toplined by Sam Worthington, the remake of the 1981 cult classic opens at 8 tonight in about 3,000 2D and 3D theaters. Starting on Friday, "Titans" will play in roughly 3,700 theaters, with about half showing the action

fantasy on at least one 3D screen and the others playing it in 2D only. That represents about 17% fewer 3D venues than DreamWorks Animation's "How to Train Your Dragon," which Paramount bowed last weekend in 2,178 3D theaters and 4,055 locations overall. But it seems enough to validate a decision by Warners just a couple months ago to convert "Titans" to 3D to exploit the format's surging popularity. "Dragon" will boast roughly the same number of 3D venues this weekend as the previous frame, when it bowed with \$43.7 million. Some had predicted that with the March 5 debut of Disney's "Alice in Wonderland," the industry's still-limited base of 3D cinemas would prevent "Dragon" or "Titans" -- or both -- from scraping together enough extra-dimensional distribution. As it turns out, the latter two pics have come out relatively unscathed, and "Alice" has shed hundreds of extra-dimensional playdates.

### **Paul Greengrass goes on a 'Fantastic Voyage'**

Paul Greengrass, coming off the Iraq War thriller "Green Zone," is moving into more commercial territory by going on a "Fantastic Voyage." The director is in talks to direct Fox's long-gestating remake of the 1966 sci-fi thriller which is being produced by James Cameron's Lightstorm Entertainment. The original "Voyage," made during the Cold War, revolved around a team of scientists who are shrunk to atomic size and sent on a miniature submarine to save the life of a defecting Soviet scientist. The story then followed the biological adventures the team encounters in trying to save the scientist and themselves. The new take hews closely to the original, minus the Cold War element, and will add snazzy up-to-date special effects and be delivered with the medium du jour, 3D. The project has seen many directors flirt with it, including Roland Emmerich and Tarsem Singh in recent years. CAA-repped Greengrass is known for his kinetic action movies that also effectively bring out dramatic and political elements, as exemplified in his "Bourne" films and "United 93." "Zone" was initially seen as a project to perfectly mesh those skills but the \$100 million movie has only grossed \$31 million, with some blaming the movie's Iraq war-setting as the cause of the poor performance.

**Central Talent Booking**