



TRADES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Showtime picks up Lisa Kudrow series

Showtime has picked up Lisa Kudrow's online series "Web Therapy" for the network. The network will take the project's 45 short episodes (which run about five to 10 minutes each) and string three together for each half-hour episode. Showtime will also commission additional content as interstitial material to fill each episode. "I'm a huge Lisa Kudrow fan, and I think it's a clever show she's put together," said Showtime entertainment president Robert Greenblatt. "It's a great little coup for us." In "Web Therapy," Kudrow plays a therapist who dispenses advice via webcam. The series will debut on Showtime by the end of the year.

Leslie Mann, Kate Bosworth join 'Moon'

Leslie Mann and Kate Bosworth have been cast in "Goodnight Moon," a semi-autobiographical drama from Elgin James, the writer-director who started a street gang in the Boston area before ending up at Sundance Labs. Chris Coy and Kyle Gallner also are joining the cast, which sees Juno Temple and AnnaSophia Robb as young girls who find themselves in trouble after they run away to Los Angeles and hook up with skaters and street kids. Mann plays Temple's mom, a woman who works at a secondhand clothing store but whose best years are behind her. Bosworth will be Mann's sister. Coy will play an opportunistic, sociopathic street kid, and Gallner is a skater; both use the girls to run a scam that goes bad.

Former 'Sunny' writers ink deal with UMS

Two former writers on "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" have signed an overall deal with Universal Media Studios. Sonny Lee and Patrick Walsh have reached a one-year deal to develop comedy projects for the studio. The ICM-repped Lee and Walsh started in the business just four years ago as pages for NBC in Manhattan, where their spec comedy script about the network's page program caught the attention of NBC executive vp comedy Jeff Ingold. Overall deals typically are reserved for seasoned showrunners, but UMS is looking to make more deals with up-and-coming talent.

Two writers join Broken Lizard comedy

Robbie Pickering and Jase Ricci have been hired to work on the screenplay for the Broken Lizard comedy "Mustache Riders," set up at Paramount. Johnny Knoxville is attached to star in and produce the stoner Western, which Lizard regular Jay Chandrasekhar will direct. Lizard member Paul Soter originally penned the screenplay. Bill Gerber ("Gran Torino") also is producing with Knoxville's Dickhouse Prods. ("Jackass: The Movie"), Broken Lizard and Richard Perello ("Beerfest"). Repped by Verve and Benderspink, Pickering and Ricci also have an adaptation of Gitty Daneshvari's "School of Fear" in development with producer Graham King at Warner Bros.

'Sherlock Holmes' stays atop video charts

There's no stopping "Sherlock Holmes." Aided by a dearth of new high-powered theatrical releases, the Warner Home Video actioner remained on top of the national home video sales and rental charts the week ending April 18. "Sherlock" had no real competition for the top spot on the Nielsen VideoScan First Alert sales chart, snagging the No. 1 for the second consecutive week. 20th Century Fox's "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel" and Warner's "The Blind Side" also repeated at No. 2 and No. 3. The top-selling new release, the 20th Century Fox comedy "Crazy on the Outside," debuted at No. 4 after a limited theatrical release. The film marks the directorial debut of Tim Allen and opened in theaters without being screened for critics.

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