



Monday, December 7, 2009

## 'Blind Side' tackles box office competition

Warner Bros. and Alcon Entertainment's "The Blind Side" sacked the competition at the domestic box office, grossing an estimated \$20.4 million from 3,326 theaters in its third game of the season. "Blind Side" has become a B.O. phenom, turning into an all-audience title after initially being driven by older females. Cume is \$129.3 million. While it's normally a slow sesh, the domestic B.O. continues to run at record levels, with the weekend up 22% over the same frame last year. Summit Entertainment's "New Moon" remained a top player, grossing an estimated \$15.7 million from 4,124 theaters in its third weekend for a domestic cume of \$255.6 million. "New Moon" won the weekend at the international B.O., grossing an estimated \$40.7 million for a foreign cume of \$314.5 million and massive worldwide total of \$570.1 million -- nearly \$200 million more than "Twilight's" global cume.

## 'Late Show' ups pair to exec producers

Eric Stangel and Justin Stangel have been upped to exec producer rank on "The Late Show With David Letterman." The Stangel brothers have been co-head writers on the CBS latenighter show since 2000, and they are the longest-serving head writers in "Late Show's" 16-year history. The pair started on the Worldwide Pants production in 1997. "We hope one day to have a fountain soda machine in our office," the Stangels joked. The brothers join Worldwide Pants prexy Rob Burnett, Jude Brennan, Barbara Gaines, Maria Pope and Matt Roberts as "Late Show" exec producers. In other moves, 25-year Letterman staffer Kathy Mavrikakis has been upped to supervising producer. "Late Show" vets Nancy Agostini and Brian Teta have advanced to producer status, while Sarah Billington has been named segment producer.

## 'Monk' exits on record-breaking high

"Monk," USA's long-running OCD detective comedy/drama, is leaving the small screen on a high note. The USA drama concluded its run on Friday with a series finale that attracted just under 9.5 million viewers -- making it the most-watched episode of a regular drama series ever in basic cable. "Monk" had seen its numbers rise recently as the show headed toward its conclusion after eight seasons. The show's penultimate episode -- part one of the two-part finale -- scored 5.8 million viewers, which had been its best numbers in more than 18 months. "It's truly gratifying to have been on the air for eight years and to finish the run with a beautiful episode that people wanted to be a part of," said Mandeville Films' David Hoberman, who was an exec producer on the show. "'Monk' has achieved a lot in its eight years on the air -- this being one of them." Tony Shalhoub starred in the long-running hit as Adrian Monk, a San Francisco police detective who suffers a nervous breakdown after his wife is killed. The show followed Monk as he recovered enough to become a private eye; in the finale, Monk finally solves the mystery of who was responsible for his wife's death.

## CBS takes Patterson 'Private'

CBS is developing a drama based on author James Patterson's upcoming novel "Private." Twentieth Century Fox TV and Imagine TV are behind the project, which has received a script plus penalty commitment from the Eye. Jason Cahill ("Fringe") is on board to write the adaptation, which is expected to be delivered to the network in the coming days. "Private" centers on ex-Marine and former CIA agent Jack Morgan, who takes over his father's detective and security business. Patterson co-wrote "Private" with Maxine Paetro; book is currently scheduled to be released on June 28. Cahill will exec produce the project, along with Imagine's Brian Grazer and David Nevins. Patterson would also get a credit. Patterson's "Women's Murder Club" book series was turned into a short-lived ABC drama, while his novels "Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas" and "First to Die" were adapted as TV movies. His books "Kiss the Girls" and "Along Came a Spider" were adapted as features. Cahill's other credits include "The Sopranos," "NYPD Blue" and "ER."

### **Producers develop 'Pictures'**

David Permut ("Youth in Revolt") is teaming with Dave Gross and Jesse Shapira to produce the romantic teen comedy "Pictures of You," penned by Joshua Friedlander. Story, set in a Florida resort town, centers on a teenage boy who finds a lost camera on the beach. After developing the film, he ends up on a quest to find the girl of his dreams, whose picture was discovered inside the camera. Permut Presentations will produce with Gross & Shapira's No Trace Camping and Permut VP Steve Longi will co-produce. Permut's looking to attach a director next. "Pictures of You" was on the 2007 Black List of top unproduced screenplays. Friedlander recently sold his spec script "One Night Stan" to Lionsgate. Dimension will release "Youth in Revolt," starring Michael Cera, Zach Galifianakis and Justin Long, on Jan. 8. Permut's other projects include the John De Lorean Story, "A Life in the Day" by Tony Gittelsohn about Beatles' manager Brian Epstein and the recently announced "Chippendales" with Tony Scott directing and producing. Gross and Shapira start production on the hockey comedy "Goon" by Jay Baruchel and Evan Goldberg in April.