



TRADES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Jonah Hill set to star in 'The Sitter'

Jonah Hill will star in and David Gordon Green is in negotiations to direct "The Sitter" for Fox. Michael De Luca is producing. The irreverent comedy will harken to 1987's "Adventures in Babysitting." It follows a college student, suspended for the semester and living at home with his single mom, who has a night to remember when he gets talked into baby-sitting the eccentric kids next door: two boys and a wild 8-year-old girl. The duo's involvement reinvigorates the comedy that originally began life as a spec by Brian Gatewood and Alessandro Tanaka at Fox Atomic. The project consistently has attracted strong talent; Jonathan Levine was attached to direct it when it was at Atomic, and Zac Efron and Zach Galifianakis have circled it. A fall start date is being eyed.

Anchor Bay picks up 'Operation: Endgame'

Anchor Bay Films has acquired distribution rights in the U.S., U.K., Canada, Australia and New Zealand, to Fouad Mikati's action-thriller "Operation: Endgame," starring Zach Galifianakis, Rob Corddry, Odette Yustman, Emilie de Ravin and Ellen Barkin. Endgame centers around two rival teams of government assassins. The film was produced by Michael Ohoven of Infinity Media and Richard Kelly of Darko Entertainment. Infinity's Kevin Turen and Darko's Sean McKittrick also served as producers. A third quarter release is planned.

'Past Life' actress to star in NBC's 'Chase'

"Past Life" star Kelli Giddish has landed the lead in "Chase," Jerry Bruckheimer's drama pilot for NBC. Additionally, Ben Chaplin is set to star in David E. Kelley's drama pilot "Kindreds" for NBC, and it's "Happy Endings" for "Saturday Night Live" alumna Casey Wilson, who landed a lead in the ABC comedy pilot six months after her ouster from NBC's late-night program. In other pilot castings, "Wire" alum Domenick Lombardozzi is set to star opposite Laz Alonso in Fox's drama "Breakout Kings"; Eric Lange and Malcolm-Jamal Warner have landed lead roles in ABC's drama "True Blue"; comedy veterans Kurtwood Smith and Swoosie Kurtz have joined two high-profile CBS half-hour pilots, Chuck Lorre's "Mike and Molly" and Josh Schwartz's "Hitched," respectively; Leven Rambin, Vanessa Marano and Carlos Bernard of "24" fame have been added to ABC's dramedy series "Scoundrels"; and Valerie Cruz has been cast in "Off the Map," Shonda Rhimes' drama for ABC.

ABC picks up 'Southern Discomfort'

ABC has handed out a late pilot order to multicamera comedy "Southern Discomfort." The project, from Sony Pictures TV and Tantamount, was written by Chad Kultgen, who co-wrote last year's CBS comedy pilot "Waiting to Die," also from Sony and Tantamount. "Cheers" veteran Rob Long is executive producing with Eric Tannenbaum and Kim Tannenbaum. "Southern Discomfort" centers on a father whose life is turned upside down when his grown kids move back in with him.

'Avatar' tops 3D group's inaugural awards

Jim Cameron's "Avatar" shone brightly at the International 3D Society's inaugural kudos event Tuesday, copping a half-dozen Lumiere Awards and a People's Choice award for favorite live-action movie. The sci-fi fantasy, produced in motion capture and live action, also took the award as best live-action pic. Disney/Pixar's "Up" won for best animated film. The fledgling industry group staged the awards at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, with "Avatar" cast member Giovanni Ribisi representing "Avatar" filmmakers and actors in accepting accolades in various categories.

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