



TRADES

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Virginia Madsen to star in ABC's 'Scoundrels'

Virginia Madsen has been tapped as the lead in ABC's comedic drama series "Scoundrels." "Scoundrels," based on the New Zealand series "Outrageous Fortune," is set for an eight-episode run in the summer. It centers on the matriarch (Madsen) of a family of criminals who decides that it's time for her brood to go straight after her husband is sentenced to a long prison term. Catherine O'Hara played the role in ABC's first adaptation of "Fortune," the 2008 pilot "Good Behavior."

Warners confirms 3D plans for 'Harry Potter' and other pics

Warner Bros. on Tuesday confirmed plans for the 3D release of the next "Harry Potter" movie and the one-week delay of action fantasy "Clash of the Titans," which the studio is making with Legendary Pictures, to April 2 to facilitate its conversion into 3D. Heat Vision reported both those developments Jan. 26. "We are experienced and have been successful in the conversion of 2D to 3D going back to such hits as 'The Polar Express,' select scenes in 'Superman Returns' and the last two Harry Potter films," Warners domestic distribution boss Dan Fellman said.

CBS, Fox pilots add cast members

Billy Gardell has landed the male lead in CBS' Chuck Lorre comedy pilot "Mike and Molly," and veteran Bollywood actor Harish Patel has joined Fox's comedy pilot "Nirvana." "Molly," from WBTV and executive producer Lorre, is a multicamera romantic comedy about Mike (Gardell), an overweight, charming police officer, and Molly, a pretty and plump woman, who meet at Overeaters Anonymous. Gardell, a comedian repped by APA and AML, recurred on NBC's "My Name Is Earl." "Nirvana," from 20th TV, revolves around grown-up Indian-American brothers and their immigrant parents. Patel will play the father. He co-starred in the original "Nevermind Nirvana" pilot for NBC in 2004.

Jason Bateman signs with CAA

Jason Bateman, who left UTA in early January, has landed at CAA. A Golden Globe winner for the much-loved TV show "Arrested Development," the actor has been spending his time on the movie side of the business. He was most recently seen in the Oscar-nominated "Up in the Air" as well as Universal's hit comedy "Couples Retreat." Last year also saw him in "The Invention of Lying," "Extract" and "State of Play." He will next star opposite Jennifer Aniston in the Mandate comedy "The Baster." Bateman continues to be managed by Michael Rotenberg of 3 Arts Entertainment.

The CW greenlights three dramas

The CW went for star power behind the camera in its latest round of pilot pickups, ordering dramas produced by "Heroes" star Hayden Panettiere and "Smallville" leading man Tom Welling. The network on Tuesday greenlighted "HMS," "Hellcats" and "Betwixt," all from WBTV and CBS Studios.

"HMS" and "Hellcats" received presentation orders, while "Betwixt" will film a full pilot. "HMS" is about the exploits of the sexy freshmen class at Harvard Medical School through the eyes of a young female student. "Mystic Pizza" writer Amy Holden Jones penned the script and is exec producing, with Panettiere serving as co-exec producer. "Hellcats," an ensemble show set in world of competitive college cheerleading described as "Election" meets "Bring It On," was penned by Kevin Murphy who is exec producing with Welling.

Central Talent Booking