



## TRADES

Friday, March 26, 2010

### 'Robin Hood' to open Cannes

Universal's "Robin Hood," directed by Ridley Scott and starring Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett, has been selected as the opening-night film for the upcoming Festival de Cannes. The film will screen out of competition May 12, the opening day of the festival, which ends May 23. The film was written by Brian Helgeland ("L.A. Confidential," "Mystic River") and portrays the beginnings of the Robin Hood legend. Scott is a familiar face at the festival, having been to the Riviera in 1977 with prize winner "The Duellists" and in 1991 with "Thelma and Louise." The film, which also stars Max Von Sydow, Lea Seydoux and William Hurt, will be released in France on the day it screens at the festival and in the rest of the world May 14.

### 'Smallville' star behind Syfy comedy project

Syfy is making a push into live-action comedy with "Saved by Zeroes," a single-camera half-hour from former "Smallville" star Michael Rosenbaum, Sony and Happy Madison. Rosenbaum and Jonathan Silverman are set to star in the project, created by Rosenbaum and based on his personal experiences. It revolves around two friends, former actors on a science fiction show that has since developed a cult following, who have hit rock bottom and must work together to get their lives back on track. Although Syfy's lineup remains 70% drama, the network is serious about adding live-action half-hours in addition to the comedic hourlongs it now has, including the hit "Warehouse 13," Syfy senior vp Andrew Plotkin said. "It helps us counterprogram and bring in younger audiences," he said. Syfy has one half-hour series on the air, the animated "Outer Space Astronauts."

### Two CBS pilots add cast members

Terry Kinney has joined CBS' drama pilot "The Line," and Thomas Middleditch has joined Josh Schwartz's CBS comedy pilot "Hitched." "Line" centers on an ATF agent (Dylan Walsh) who hunts down the most dangerous criminals. Kinney, repped by ICM and manager Emily Gerson Saines, will play a bank robber who is a poet, philosopher and sociopath. The ensemble "Hitched," which Schwartz co-wrote with Matt Miller, revolves around a newlywed couple (Kristin Kreuk and Jack Carpenter) dealing with their family and friends.

### Relativity Media options 'Down' screenplay

Relativity Media has optioned the original screenplay "Down" from freshman scribe Greg Russo. Described by one person who read it as " 'Buried' meets '1408,' " the supernatural thriller centers on a guy trapped in an elevator. Russo, a Vassar graduate who is new to the business, is repped by Manage-Ment. Relativity has "MacGruber," which received its world premiere last week at SXSW, releasing through Rogue Pictures in May. The company is filming the thriller "Sanctum" and the Steven Soderbergh-directed actioner "Knockout."

**Don Johnson in talks to star in ABC comedy**

Don Johnson is in negotiations to topline ABC's comedy pilot "Southern Discomfort." Additionally, Steve Talley has landed a lead role in the project. "Discomfort" centers on a tough, hard-core conservative Texan (Johnson) whose life is turned upside down when his grown kids move back in. Talley, repped by Gersh and Lighthouse, will play the eldest son, a slacker who kissed off a baseball scholarship to pursue writing.

**Central Talent Booking**