



## TRADES

**Tuesday, March 2, 2010**

### **Dustin Hoffman to star in HBO pilot 'Luck'**

Dustin Hoffman is headed to television. In his first major TV series gig, the Oscar winner has signed to topline HBO's horseracing drama pilot "Luck," from Michael Mann and David Milch. The project is described as a provocative look at the worlds of horseracing and gambling told through a diverse group of characters surrounding a racetrack. It centers on an intelligent, intuitive tough man (Hoffman) who always has been involved with gambling, from bookmaking and money laundering to casino operations. Recently released from prison after four years, he teams with Gus Economou (Dennis Farina), his longtime chauffeur and muscle, to craft a complex plan involving the track. They recruit Turo Escalante (John Ortiz), a successful trainer with a sordid reputation.

### **Starz Ent. nabs rights to 'Pillars of the Earth'**

In its first major acquisition since Chris Albrecht took over as chairman and CEO, Starz Entertainment has nabbed U.S. television rights to "The Pillars of the Earth," a \$40 million, eight-part miniseries based on Ken Follett's best-seller about the building of a cathedral in 12th century England. Directed by Sergio Mimica-Gezzan ("Heroes"), the series stars Ian McShane, Rufus Sewell, Matthew Macfadyen and Donald Sutherland. It was produced by German-based Tandem Communications and Canada's Muse Entertainment in association with Ridley and Tony Scott's Scott Free Films. Follett's novel, which has sold 14 million copies worldwide, is an epic tale of good vs. evil told against the religious, social and political struggles of medieval Europe.

### **Sean Bean joins 'Death Race 2'**

Sean Bean is starring opposite Luke Goss in "Death Race 2," the prequel to Universal's 2008 Jason Statham starrer. Universal is putting out the feature, now shooting in South Africa, as part of its DVD Originals banner. "Smokin' Aces 2: Assassins' Ball" was the label's most recent release. Also in the cast are Lauren Cohan, Ving Rhames, Danny Trejo and Frederick Koehler. Paul W.S. Anderson, who directed the 2008 movie, is producing with Jeremy Bolt. Roel Reine is directing.

### **'Modern Family' director boards 'Arthur'**

Jason Winer, a key figure behind the ABC freshman hit "Modern Family," is set to direct "Arthur," Warner Bros.' remake of the 1981 comedy that sees Russell Brand stepping into the role originated by Dudley Moore. Larry Brezner is producing with Kevin McCormick and Chris Bender. The original movie centered on a boozey playboy who is set to inherit a fortune if he marries an heiress his family thinks will make something out of him. However, he falls in love with a working-class woman and turns to his valet for help when his family makes him choose between money and love.

### **'Dexter' actress joins ABC drama pilot**

"Dexter" alumna Julie Benz has been tapped to star opposite Michael Chiklis in ABC's drama pilot "No

Ordinary Family." In other pilot castings, Christina Chang also has come aboard "No Ordinary Family," Jaime King and Mehdad Brooks have joined ABC's hourlong "Generation Y," Fran Kranz has landed a role on NBC comedy "Friends With Benefits," Alexandra Breckenridge has come aboard Fox's comedy "Traffic Light," "Friday Night Lights" alumna Adrienne Palicki and Bryce Johnson are set for Fox's drama "Midland," and veteran Peggy Lipton and Escher Holloway have been added to ABC's dramedy "Cutthroat." "Family" revolves around a typical American family led by Jim (Michael Chiklis), a once aspiring artist-turned-police artist, who suddenly finds themselves with new "abilities."

### **Central Talent Booking**