

Story

Weinstein prepares for controversy over *Sicko*

Jeremy Kay in Cannes

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Harvey Weinstein arrives in Cannes this week with a battalion of lawyers and PR gurus ahead of a possible legal tow that threatens to overshadow the world premiere of Michael Moore's *Sicko*.

Moore's expose of the US healthcare industry is set to outdo the controversy over his 2004 Palme D'Or winner *Fahrenheit 9/11*.

The film has stirred up the US Treasury where officials claim Moore violated travel restrictions in taking a group of ailing Ground Zero relief workers for treatment in Cuba.

Sicko is scheduled to screen on Saturday and Weinstein has hired attorney David Boies and Matthew Hiltzik of Freud Communications along with political strategist Chris Lehane, and PR guru Ken Sunshine to handle any backlash. The Weinstein Company (TWC) will release the film in North America on Jun 29.

TWC international sales chief Glen Basner has completed *Sicko* sales in: France (TF1), Italy (RAI), Australia (Village Roadshow), German Free TV (ARD/Degeto), CIS (West Film), and Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, former-Yugoslavia, and the Czech Republic (EEAP).

Deals have also closed in: Greece (Odeon), Portugal (Lusomundo), Scandinavia (AB Svensk), Iceland (Sena), India (PT Parkit Films), and Indonesia (PT Amero Mitra Film).

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