

MOVING PICTURES

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New kid on the Eastern Bloc

By Liza Foreman

FRANCHISE PICTURES HAS sold a package of eight titles to new player Eastern European Acquisitions Pool (EEAP). The Berlin-based company has taken all rights for all eastern European territories including Russia, Poland and the Czech Republic. Titles include Peter Hyams' *A Sound of Thunder*, Rob Reiner's *Alex & Emma*,

Tristan and Isolde and *Spartan*.

"It's our first big deal and we are really pleased to have the company in action so soon after the launch," said managing director Alexander van Dulmen.

Spartan is a David Mamet project about a secret services guy who discovers a plot in the White House. *Tristan and Isolde* is being produced

by Ridley Scott and directed by Kevin Reynolds. It tells the tale of an English knight who threatens peace between Ireland and England when he asks for the hand of the king's daughter.

Launched earlier this month, EEAP specialises in acquisitions for the former Eastern Bloc, working with a network of distribution partners in select territories. The main shareholders are Czech licensing player AQS and A-Co, a second outfit owned by van Dulmen and Tomek Kaczewski of Poland's Kino Swiat.

A Co acts as a consultant for companies looking to move into the region to work on special projects. The company is already consulting

on a proposed German-Polish TV station and on producing financial news with Germany's N-TV.

Meanwhile, EEAP plans to acquire all rights for all countries in the region. The company will acquire primarily on behalf of Kino Swiat for Poland, AQS for the Czech Republic, Gemini for Russia and Discovery for the former Yugoslavia.

"Eight countries from the former Eastern Bloc will be joining the EU next year," said van Dulmen, "making trading that much easier and at the same time awakening more interest in the region. It is a huge advantage for people to deal with one player when selling to the area."

Miramax makes more moves into Korea

By Frank Segers

THE MIRAMAX-CINEMA Service relationship, at least at the AFM, seems to be the beginning of a beautiful friendship. On the heels of a "mid-six-

upward. A minimum guarantee is put at more than US\$1 million.

The Miramax deal for *Jail Breakers*, a comedy about a pair of prisoners who escape jail and then try to break back in when their names turn up on a pardon list, is

for remake rights only. The title is a certifiable box-office hit in South Korea. The remake will reportedly co-star rappers Redman and Method Man, and will be released by Miramax's mainstream horror-comedy unit, Dimension.

In other transactions, Cinema Service reports that *The Classic*, a love story directed by Kwack Jae-young, has been sold to Hong Kong's EDKO.

Deals for Taiwan and Singapore are pending.

Whore does good business for Dolores

