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Cannes 2006



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French sales label Celluloid Dreams has reported a "robust" Cannes on its bulging slate, led by the newly-announced English-language remake of Michael Haneke's *Funny Games* starring Naomi Watts. The film, which will be released in the UK by co-producer Tartan Films, was snapped up by a raft of eager buyers including Germany's X-Verleih, Lucky Red in Italy, Canada's Seville, California for all of Latin America, and Sponge in Korea.

Central Partnership signed on for all of Eastern Europe, with Triangel taking Scandinavia, Cinelibre for Benelux, Bir Films for Turkey, Italia in the Middle East, Rosebud in Greece, Festive Films in Singapore and Portugal's Atalanta.

Another English language debut - Francois Ozon's recently wrapped UK-set *The Real Life Of Angel Devereil* starring Romola Garai, Sam Neill and Charlotte Rampling - also reported brisk business, selling to Concorde in Germany, ABC Distribution in Benelux, Triangel in Scandinavia, Switzerland's Filmcoopi, Hungary's Budapest, Poland's Gutek, Italia for the Middle East, Pro-Video in Romania, Chantier Films for Turkey, Canada's Seville, Singapore's Festive Films, Mexico's Tarantula and Sponge for Korea.

Kenneth Branagh's trip to the Croisette to woo buyers with footage from his opera adaptation *The Magic Flute* also paid off with Toshiba Entertainment signing on for Japan, Sponge taking Korea, France's Films Du Losange, United King taking Israel, the Middle East going to Italia, Lumiere signing on for Benelux, Eastern Europe going to EAP, Audio Visual taking Greece, ESR Films Brazil, Mirius Tuck for the Former Yugoslavia and Atalanta for Portugal.

One of the festival's critical hits, Ray Lawrence's Directors Fortnight title *Jindabyne*, also reported brisk business, going to Benelux (Cineart), Switzerland ( Filmcoopi), Scandinavia (NonStop Entertainment), Latin America pan-TV (HBO), Romania (Prorum), Brazil (Casablanca), Argentina (Alfa), Colombia (Babilla), Mexico (Tarantula), Israel (United King), Portugal (LNK), Middle East (Italia Film) and the former Yugoslavia (Discovery).

Johnnie To's out of Competition title *Election 2* went to the US with Tartan Films as previously reported, but also worldwide with Optimum taking it for the UK, Hopscotch for Australia, EMS for Germany, Avalon for Spain, ITI in Poland, Canada's Remstar, California for Brazil, Strada Films in Greece, Romania's Independenta, United King in Israel, Victory Production in Benelux, Discovery in the former Yugoslavia and Atalanta in Portugal.

Marco Bellocchio's Un Certain Regard title *The Wedding Director* sold to France (Films Sans Frontieres), Australia (Palace), Brazil (Casablanca), Switzerland (Filmcoopi), Malaysia/Indonesia (Suraya Film), Israel (United

King) and Romania (Independenta).

And the first film on the new Celluloid Nightmares imprint, the Austrian slasher title *Dead In 3 Days* by Andreas Prochaska, logged saes in Greece (Strada Films), Turkey (Bir Films), Middle East (Italia), Latin America (California), Singapore and Malaysia (Suraya Film) and Israel (United King).

Said Celluloid's chief Hengameh Panahi, "Projects that we took on just before the start of Cannes paid off enormously. Results on the Haneke remake of *Funny Games* were spectacular. It's a reprise of last year when our Todd Haynes Bob Dylan movie *I'm Not There* surprised everyone and then sold everywhere."

Celluloid also announced an untitled project from *Six Feet Under* creator Alan Ball which also logged brisk business with deals to be confirmed later.

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