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Christensen



Rhames

Stars find way to trio of pilots

By Nellie Andreeva

In the latest pilot-casting news, Erika Christensen has joined ABC's "Six Degrees," Gina Gershon is set to star in NBC's one-hour "Lipstick Jungle" and Ving Rhames will co-star in the CW's untitled Aquaman drama.

Additionally, Timm Sharp has landed the male lead in CBS' *See PILOTS on page 69*

between the lines



Search party

Video search engines have arrived—and they're poised to generate new business opportunities for Hollywood.

Debra Kaufman reports. *See page 18.*

'Eight' is enough at b.o.

Tops charts with \$25 mil bow; 'Date' close behind



Jake Gyllenhaal, left, Heath Ledger, Michelle Williams, Ang Lee, James Schamus celebrate backstage at Sunday's BAFA awards in London.

'Brokeback' rides BAFAs *Hoffman, Witherspoon top actors*

By Stuart Kemp

LONDON Ang Lee's "Brokeback Mountain" lassoed four prizes—best film, director, adapted screenplay for Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana, and supporting actor for Jake Gyllenhaal—to top

the Orange British Academy Film Awards on Sunday.

Philip Seymour Hoffman was named best actor for "Capote" and Reese Witherspoon won best actress for "Walk the Line." Thandie Newton took best supporting actress for her perfor-

See BAFAs on page 69

Reps riled over pilot talent deals

By Cynthia Littleton and Jesse Hiestand

It's a ritual of pilot season: Talent representatives complain about ever-tougher provisions in the standard studio contract offers to low-level actors, writers and producers.

But this year, talent representa-

tives are using particularly harsh words to characterize some new boilerplate language that sources say has been added to actor pilot-test option agreements offered by most of Hollywood's major TV production players.

The legalese that multiple sources at top talent agencies and *See DEALS on page 72*

By Brian Fuson

Buena Vista Pictures' "Eight Below," from Walt Disney Pictures, turned up the heat at the boxoffice during the four-day Presidents Day weekend as the PG-rated family film took first place and warmed to a better-than-expected estimate of \$25 million. It was the fourth-biggest debut during the holiday frame, marking the distributor's largest opening in February, and was a personal best for director Frank Marshall.

20th Century Fox's "Date Movie" also proved to be hot. The PG-13 film, directed by Aaron Seltzer and written by Seltzer and Jason Friedberg, *See BOXOFFICE on page 70*

Uni's Snider wooed for D'Works post

By Anne Thompson

Universal Pictures motion picture chairman Stacey Snider has entered into discussions that could lead to her moving to Paramount Pictures, where she would supervise DreamWorks.

Paramount parent Viacom Inc. *See SNIDER on page 71*



Snider

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McCarthy has 'Days' in his life

By Tatiana Siegel



McCarthy

Kevin Misher's Paramount-based Misher Films has tapped "The Station Agent" writer-director Tom McCarthy to pen the romantic comedy "Glory Days" for Paramount Pictures.

The story centers on a woman who attends her 10-year college reunion only to experience love and heart-break as she renews old friendships and a past romance.

Misher Films' Patrick Baker will oversee the project. See **McCarthy** on page 67

Starbucks will blend content unit with L.A.

By Carly Mayberry

Starbucks president Ken Lombard said the company's content division will be relocating from its Seattle headquarters closer to the hub of Hollywood.

Last week's disclosure came during a gathering of the non-profit Digital Coast Roundtable held at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica, where Lombard said its Starbucks Entertainment content unit will be relocating to Los Angeles.

The move demonstrates the company's commitment to its entertainment strategy, Lombard said. See **STARBUCKS** on page 67

Cease-fire in TW control battle

Icahn, media conglomerate come to a compromise

By Paul Bond

Carl Icahn's wrangling to take control of Time Warner has come to an amiable close, with the billionaire financier promising not to try to unseat board members this year and management agreeing to some of Icahn's suggestions for boosting TW's stock price.

The compromise Friday basically amounts to more of the same for TW, including a bigger stock-buyback program and more cost-cutting. The media conglomerate also will consider



Icahn

the appointment of two new independent directors recommended by Icahn. The company also agreed to review the Icahn-inspired report from investment bank Lazard for further suggestions. The report recommends that TW split itself into four separate companies, and Icahn had been insinuating that he was prepared to launch a

full-scale proxy battle in order to make something like that happen.

Friday's cease-fire was preceded by reports a day earlier that cited insiders saying that Icahn was preparing a scaled-down attack, opting to replace just five of TW's 14 board members this year. If he had pursued that plan, he would have had to nominate his slate by Sunday.

TW also hinted Friday that it might spin off more of Time Warner Cable than it had planned. Under the Lazard-Icahn plan, cable was one of the four new companies TW would have become. Currently, TW plans to spin off just 16% of Time Warner Cable.

Icahn's rumblings already See **TW** on page 67

Poor reception for sat radio

Sirius, XM shares see two-day slide

By Paul Bond

Sirius Satellite Radio settled its differences with Fox News Channel and reported quarterly results that were by some metrics better than Wall Street expected, though unimpressed investors punished shares of the company anyway.

That is probably because Sirius' results Friday highlighted for a second consecutive day the vast amounts of money it and rival XM Satellite Radio are spending to bring pay radio to the masses.

On Thursday, XM said a director, Pierce Roberts, resigned over what he sees as a looming finan-

cial crisis headed XM's way if the company doesn't end its free-spending ways (HR 2/17). Sirius, with Howard Stern and the NFL on board, has been spending even more than XM.

The resignation of XM's director and Sirius' quarterly results Friday spurred a sell-off in the sector. During those two days, XM shares lost 17.1% to \$21.57, a 52-week low, and Sirius shares shed 10.6% to \$5.26.

Sirius said that it lost \$311.4 million in the fourth quarter, up from a loss of \$261.9 million in the same quarter a year ago.

While the loss was a hair more See **SAT RADIO** on page 67

NL hooks up with Bosnak for '20 Times'

By Tatiana Siegel and Borys Kit

New Line Cinema has acquired Karyn Bosnak's upcoming novel "20 Times a Lady" for ContraFilm to produce.



Bosnak

Bosnak became a mini-media sensation three years ago, gaining notoriety for her lack of credit card restraint and creating a Web site begging for cash from the public. She wrote a book about her experience, "Save Karyn: One Shopaholic's Journey to Debt and Back," and netted a movie deal that saw her adapt her book for Sony-based Escape Artists.

Bosnak's new novel, which will See **"20 TIMES"** on page 67

NBC Uni to sites: Clip the clips

By Andrew Wallenstein

NBC Universal is leaning on popular Web sites engaged in video sharing to remove hundreds of copyrighted video clips derived from its TV networks.

A spokeswoman for the conglomerate confirmed that video-laden sites like YouTube.com are complying with warnings issued this month by its legal depart-

ment forbidding transmission of the clips, including the popular "Lazy Sunday" skit from NBC's "Saturday Night Live" that became a hit on the Internet.

"We have been making numerous take-down requests," an NBC Uni spokeswoman said. "This is an ongoing process. We are pleased to see these sites have been cooperating and trying to See **CLIPS** on page 67

TW

Continued from page 4—

had encouraged TW to up its stock-buyback program from \$5 billion to \$12.5 billion, though the agreement announced Friday has the company buying back \$20 billion in stock, with \$15 billion of that coming this year.

TW also had identified \$500 million in cost reductions this year, though it now said it would seek an additional \$500 million in reductions.

Icahn and TW chief executive Richard Parsons issued separate statements Friday in praise of their compromise.

"I am pleased by the many initiatives Dick Parsons has agreed to undertake and, as a result, I do not intend to nominate directors this year," Icahn said. "However, I remain committed to the tenets of the Lazard report and hope to be able to convince Dick, in our future meetings, to accept a number of its recommendations."

Said Parsons: "We are very pleased to have reached an understanding with Mr. Icahn. We appreciate his role as a significant shareholder as well as his constructive suggestions. As we've said, our board and management are committed to

building value for all of our shareholders."

Unclear at press time was where the arrangement leaves Frank Biondi. It had been Icahn's desire to install Biondi as chairman of TW and make him the CEO charged with overseeing TW's breakup.

Biondi who at different times has been head of Viacom, Universal Studios and HBO reportedly was to receive \$6 million for his support of Icahn and his quest and an additional \$4 million if he was made chairman and CEO of the company. Biondi joined the effort three weeks ago.

Shares of TW were down 1.1% on Friday to \$17.78, though they climbed 1.5% in after-hours trading once the company revealed details of its compromise with Icahn.

TW shares had climbed rapidly albeit moderately when Icahn began his corporate activism last year, though Friday the stock was cheaper than it was in August, when Icahn and some of his allies first met with Parsons to discuss specific proposals like increasing stock buybacks.

At the time, Icahn and his group owned less than 3.3% of TW, though the ranks of his backers since has grown to where they represent about 6% of TW shares. ■

Sat radio

Continued from page 4—

than analysts were expecting, Sirius also scored \$80 million in revenue, more than triple that of a year ago and ahead of the \$76 million analysts expected.

XM reported Thursday that it lost \$270.4 million on revenue of \$177.1 million.

Sirius added 1.1 million subscribers during the quarter, more than the 898,000 XM added in the frame. That Sirius outsold the larger XM for the first time is attributed to hype surrounding last month's arrival of Stern at Sirius.

The additions gave Sirius 3.3 million subscribers at year's end, compared with 5.9 million at XM.

While investors once expected both companies would be at break-even at about 2 million subscribers, that was before such high-priced content deals as Stern and the NFL for Sirius and Major League Baseball and Oprah Win-

frey at XM. Both companies now say they can be cash-flow positive by the fourth quarter.

Sirius said it would have 6 million subs at year's end, and XM has maintained that it would have 9 million.

Beyond such high-ticket items as Stern and sports, other content is getting pricier. Case in point: the Sirius-Fox reconciliation. While the two didn't disclose financial details, observers assume the terms were at least a bit more advantageous to Fox than their last deal was.

The two said Friday that the TV feed of the Fox News Channel will be up and running on Sirius on March 14, accompanied by a Fox News Talk channel with such personalities as Tony Snow, John Gibson, Bill O'Reilly and Alan Colmes.

The content is similar to that offered by XM. Sirius' previous relationship with Fox ended last year, and the two have been haggling over the price and details of a new deal since. ■

'20 Times'

Continued from page 4—

be published in July by Harper-Collins, centers on a woman who has hit her sexual quota 20 men and decides to track down the other 19 guys, hoping to have overlooked "the one." She will write the adaptation.

"When I told my mom what I was writing about, she was like, 'This one is fiction, right?'" Bosnak said. "And while a lot of guys in the book may be based on ex-boyfriends or people I knew, all in all it is fiction. I have yet to track down an old boyfriend."

Bosnak, who spent a year writ-

ing the book, said the idea came about when she was on the phone with friends and began looking up on the Internet the past men in their lives. She thought it would be funny to have a character track down every hookup in her past, not just boyfriends.

ContraFilm's Beau Flynn and Tripp Vinson are producing. Gitty Daneshvari brought the book into the shingle.

New Line's Toby Emmerich, Mark Kaufman, Kathy Busby and Daryl Freimark are overseeing for the studio.

Bosnak is repped by Original Artists and RLR & Associates. ■

Starbucks

Continued from page 4—

said. "The opening of this office would bring a portion of the Starbucks Entertainment content team closer to the music labels and movie studios with whom they are in constant communication," he said.

No specific location was disclosed.

The move follows Starbucks' venture into music retailing with plans for the franchise to offer selected books in stores.

Last week in Miami, the company opened its third Starbucks Hear Music location, where coffee drinkers can have CDs custom-burned with their lattes.

Last month, Starbucks Entertainment and Lionsgate announced a marketing and distribution partnership for the film "Akeelah and the Bee" (HR 1/13). The deal marked the company's entree into the movie business and broke new ground by giving a brand affiliate a part of a film's profits in exchange for marketing and promotional activities. ■

McCarthy

Continued from page 4—

ject for the shingle. Paramount's Pam Abdy will shepherd for the studio.

"Tom's unique voice has the perfect pitch to capture both the humor and the humanity this movie should possess," Misher said. "We are incredibly lucky to work on this with him."

Misher Films has several films in development at Paramount, including an adaptation of Dan

Zevin's comedic memoir "The Day I Turned Uncool: Confessions of a Reluctant Grown-Up" and the family comedy "Parents on Strike," which Misher is producing with Gavin O'Connor's Solaris Entertainment.

McCarthy, who made his feature debut with "Station Agent," won multiple screenplay awards for that film, including BAFTA, Independent Spirit and Sundance's Waldo Salt Screenwriting awards. He is repped by the Gersh Agency. ■

Clips

Continued from page 4—

develop practices and procedures."

A spokeswoman for YouTube.com confirmed that the site is complying with NBC Uni's request. The Web site last week posted its intention to remove "Sunday" on a blog directed at its users.

The content of the clips ranged from "SNL" skits to entire episodes of series including "Surface" and "Will & Grace," NBC

Uni said. Footage of NBC's coverage of the Olympics also was removed from YouTube.com.

NBC Uni declined to disclose which other sites were contacted. ■

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