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FLINTY CLINT

Eastwood plays it crotchety and comedic in Warner Bros.' "Gran Torino." ▶ 31

New blood is here

Showtime gets 'Twilight,' other Summit pics

By Steven Zeitchik and Nellie Andreeva

Showtime has secured the first bona fide smash movie since chief film suppliers Paramount, MGM and Lionsgate opted to start their own network.

The CBS Corp.-owned net has inked an exclusive four-year output deal with Summit Entertainment for as many as 42 movies, including fall breakout "Twilight," which has earned \$124 million domestically in two weeks of release. The movie will be on the network beginning in 2010.

The deal encompasses upcoming movies such as Nicholas Cage thriller "Knowing" and Lisa

Kudrow comedy "Bandslam" and also two potential "Twilight" sequels, which are in development. It further gives Showtime first dibs on any subsequent movies in the franchise.

Financial terms were not disclosed, but the license fees will be a percentage of the movies' domestic boxoffice, with those familiar with the deal saying those percentages will be in the mid-single digits. Summit topper Rob Friedman acknowledged that deals had to change as pay-cable networks revised how they valued feature-film acquisitions. "There were deals in the old world and deals in the new world, and we live in the new world," he said.

The Summit pact will not include a prepayment from the studio, as Show-



OPEN SEASON

by Steven Zeitchik

Best actor race rated X-factor

X-factors are funny things. Like Monty Python's Spanish Inquisition, no one expects them — until they're inevitable.

So it goes with this awards-season's ultimate X-factor: Will Smith's "Seven Pounds," which has begun rolling out to tastemakers in the past few days.

Smith's role in the Sony film, as an IRS functionary

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Fiennes is going 'Forward' at ABC

By Nellie Andreeva

Joseph Fiennes is in negotiations for the lead in ABC's hot drama pilot "Flash Forward," eyed as a potential companion to "Lost."

John Cho is in negotiations to co-star in the project, from David S. Goyer, Brannon Braga and ABC Studios.

Based on Robert J. Sawyer's sci-fi novel, "Flash" chronicles the chaos that ensues after everyone in the world passes out for 2 minutes and 17 seconds and has a mysterious vision of the future that changes lives forever.

The project centers on Mark Banford (Fiennes), an FBI agent who is patching up his life and his

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Fiennes

For comedy, Faris hops to it

By Borys Kit

Capitalizing on her "House Bunny" hit, Anna Faris has set up two projects, including one that reunites her with the "Bunny" crowd.

Paramount has picked up an untitled pitch from Faris, Karen McCullah Lutz and Kirsten Smith that will be produced by Happy Madison.

At the same time, Columbia has

acquired the romantic comedy "20 Times a Lady" to act as a starring vehicle for Faris. Jennifer Crittenden and Gabrielle Allan wrote the script, which is based on the book by Karyn Bosnak. Contrafilm's Beau Flynn and Tripp Vinson are producing.

The untitled Paramount project is a female buddy comedy following two estranged sisters who team up to land a husband. McCullah Lutz and Smith are writing the script and will executive produce with Faris.

Adam Goodman brought in



Faris

ALL EYES ON 3-D
It's not just for theaters anymore ▶ 32



THR honors top 100 influential women

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Entertainment Motion Picture Group and co-chairman of Sony Pictures Entertainment (No. 3); Nancy Tellem, president of CBS Paramount Network Television Entertainment Group (No. 4); Stacey Snider, co-chairman and CEO of DreamWorks (No. 5); Bonnie Hammer, president of USA Network and Sci Fi Channel (No.

6); Judy McGrath, chairman and CEO of MTV Networks (No. 7); Parent, chairwoman of the World-wide Motion Picture Group at MGM (No. 8); Dana Walden, chairman of 20th Century Fox Television (No. 9); and Nina Tassler, president of CBS Entertainment (No. 10). The complete list can be found at THR.com.

For the 17th year, the annual Women in Entertainment Breakfast is presented and sponsored by Lifetime Networks, which includes Lifetime Television and Lifetime Movie Network. In addition to Lifetime, the breakfast was held in association with Mikimoto, which

commissioned this year's design of the Leadership Award. Teleflora also is a participating sponsor. Spanx is the gifting-room sponsor.

This year's program includes a Q&A with Winfrey, Pascal and Sweeney, moderated by Guider, and Sigourney Weaver is a featured speaker. The event begins with a champagne reception sponsored by American Women in Radio & Television, a welcome from Lifetime Networks president and CEO Andrea Wong, followed by Lansing's presentation of the Leadership Award to Glenn Close as well as remarks by Weaver followed by the Q&A panel. **THR**

Summit, Showtime pact

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time's recent agreement with the Weinstein Co. did.

The deal had been in the works for more than a year, with Showtime brass waiting for "Twilight" to hit theaters before making the final move.

Friedman said that the company had wanted to sign a deal as it explored all options; asked if Summit had spoken to execs on the Par-MGM-Lionsgate startup, he said, "We talked to everybody."

The pact gives Summit the pay-TV deal that's considered the holy grail for many domestic distributors. But Friedman cautioned that while "Twilight" is a crown jewel, the deal was about a lot more than that franchise.

"A cable network doesn't live off one movie," Friedman said. "They looked at our slate and made a decision based on everything we have coming."

Showtime has rebuilt its feature pipeline since several studios decided to form their own network in April. The net has a deal with fledgling corporate sibling CBS Films as well as a seven-year agreement with the Weinstein Co. that was inked in July.

Showtime also will continue to have access to movies from Paramount (2007 and older) and from MGM and Lionsgate (2008 and older) into 2011.

"We're very comfortable with the volume of movies we have," Showtime Networks chairman and CEO Matthew Blank said. "We will continue to be opportunistic and will move along with another movie deal if it makes sense, but our focus is on original series." **THR**

Faris making it a double

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the project.

"Lady" centers on a woman who goes on a trek through her sexual past in an effort to find Mr. Right, exploring the idea of a person's sexual quota and whether those numbers matter.

Gitty Daneshvari will serve as associate producer.

Sam Dickerman and Adam Milano are overseeing for the studio.

Happy Madison's next production is "Bedtime Stories," which it is producing with Gunn Films and Offspring Entertainment. The movie opens Christmas Day.

Contrafilm is coming off the sleeper-like success of "Journey to the Center of the Earth," which grossed more than \$100 million



Lutz



Flynn

domestically and another \$116 million internationally.

Faris, repped by Gersh and Raw Talent, starred in the popular "Scary Movie" series and stole scenes in films ranging from "Lost in Translation" to "Just Friends." But it was with "Bunny," which grossed almost \$50 million domestically, that worked to establish

Faris as a viable comedy topline, a field that is almost exclusively the domain of men. **THR**

'Flash Forward' starring roles in actors' future

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marriage after winning a long struggle with the bottle. Disturbed by the harrowing premonition during his blackout, he races to unravel the mystery, fearful of the murky future that might spell disaster for himself and his loved ones.

Cho will play Dominic Witten, a dedicated FBI agent who is Mark's partner and friend. His experience while unconscious was an absolute blank, which doesn't



Cho

Goyer. He is executive producing with Braga, Jessica Borsiczky Goyer, Vince Gerardis and Ralph M. Vicinanza.

bode well for his own future as he realizes he might be murdered.

"Forward," which has a pilot order with a series penalty behind it, will be directed by

Euros go it alone for 2016 Games

By Mimi Turner and Scott Roxborough

LONDON — Europe's state broadcasters are mulling the outcome of the European Broadcasting Union's failure to net a group deal to secure rights to the 2016 Summer Olympics, conceding that they face a national "free for all" for the rights.

Thursday's collapse of the EBU's Europe-wide offer to the International Olympic Committee means that broadcasters in each member country will have to bid for the rights. It marks the end of a half-century partnership between the EBU and the Games.

Germany's public broadcasters, ARD and ZDF, together the largest contributors to the EBU, said they were shocked by the IOC's decision.

ARD program director Volker Herres called the IOC's revenue expectations for the Olympic rights "exorbitant," a sentiment echoed by ZDF boss Nikolaus Brender, who said it was "highly doubtful" the IOC would be able to get more money through individual deals across Europe.

Mimi Turner reported from London; Scott Roxborough reported from Cologne, Germany.

Fiennes, who will next be seen in "Against the Current," which will premiere at Sundance, and "The Escapist," is repped by UTA, manager Gene Perseghian and U.K. agent Ken McReddie.

Cho, who recently reprised his title role in "Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay" and recurred on ABC's "Ugly Betty," next plays Hikaru Sulu in "Star Trek." He's repped by Gersh and Principato Young. **THR**