

Grindstone draws bead on *Hunters*

By Rebecca Leffler

GRINDSTONE Entertainment and Lionsgate will take a shot at *The Hunters* in North America, the companies announced on Saturday.

Grindstone has snagged North American rights to the film from Humal Prods., directed by Chris Briant. Lionsgate will distribute stateside.

The thriller, written by Michael Lehmann, stars Steven Waddington [*Tudors*] alongside Dianna Agron and was produced by Antoine Huet and Thomas Malmonte.

The Hunters follows six characters running into a tragic destiny at Christmastime. International rights for the film are being handled by Raven Banner Entertainment who have organized several screenings at the Marche du Film. **THR**

Temple tunes up int'l music docs

By Stuart Kemp

DIRECTOR JULIEN Temple is readying a series of documentaries based around looking at cities and their music and will kick off in Rio de Janeiro, with London and Tijuana to follow.

Both the Rio and the London docs, named *Children of the Revolution* and *This Is London* respectively, will shoot this year.

U.K. independent production banner Film & Music Entertainment [F&ME] will produce *Children of the Revolution*, with it set to shoot in September and October this year.

The Temple projects are being sold by Ealing Metro International.

The movie will look at the musical, social, political, cultural and technical revolutions that have taken place in Rio since the 1970s, the first legendary

Rock in Rio Festival in 1985, and today, a period in which the country has gone from being an oppressive military dictatorship to one of the most progressive democracies on the planet.

This is London is commissioned by BBC Arts to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic Games and will be produced by Temple and Rosa Bosch [*Buena Vista Social Club*].

The film tells the story of a metropolis that no longer exists and of the new London that has taken its place.

The Ealing Metro/Temple/F&ME/B&W Films deals come as Film London and Rio Filme — the Rio Film Commission — get ready to announce a City to City Film Agreement on Monday here at the Festival de Cannes.

“Since visiting Rio with the Sex Pistols for

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Sutherland, Bosworth land *Fairytale* roles

By Jay A. Fernandez

KIEFER SUTHERLAND and Kate Bosworth will meet cute in *Fairytale of New York*, to be directed by Lee Cleary.

In the love story, Sutherland will play an Irish standup comic who meets an American woman played by Bosworth in a New York art gallery while on tour. Jeff Murphy wrote the screenplay, which then follows the characters over the course of their growing romantic relationship.

Lisa Katselas and Dan

Reardon are producing the project, which will film in Northern Ireland and New York.

“*Fairytale of New York* lets us observe what most of us hope for in a relationship and then it takes us further, much further,” Katselas said. “To achieve this we needed to find amazing actors with a magical connection and we have in Kiefer and Kate. They will light up the screen.”

The Little Film Co. is handling sales for *Fairytale*

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U.K. outfit G2 snags *Super*

By Stuart Kemp

WRITER/DIRECTOR James Gunn’s crime comedy caper *Super*, starring Rainn Wilson, Ellen Page, Liv Tyler and Kevin Bacon has been grabbed by G2 Pictures for the U.K.

G2 sealed the deal with HanWay Films and will release the title this summer.

The film is about a man who becomes a crime fighter after his wife leaves him for a drug dealer. **THR**

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Jordan

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Breakfast on Pluto in 2005.

"I love the horror genre and we've been working on this for three or four years. I sent it to Neil and he liked the script," Woolley said. "We'd both recently revisited Angela Carter's book and it was just chance that when I called [Jordan], we were thinking along the same lines."

The original script is based on a youth theater play by Buffini but has been taken to a slightly more adult, darker level, Woolley said.

Woolley and Elizabeth Karlsen's Number 9 Films production banner is gearing up to shoot its \$17 million budgeted Mike Newell directed adaptation of Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, penned by David Nicholls.

Cast includes Helena Bonham Carter, Ralph Fiennes and Jeremy Irvine.

It is backed by Optimum Releasing, BBC Films and the British Film Institute, which now has lottery funding duties since the end of the

U.K. Film Council. It is being sold here by Hanway Films.

Along with Number 9 Films production banner partner Elizabeth Karlsen, the company is gearing up to give longtime assistant and Number 9 stalwart Joanna Laurie her first taste of filmmaking.

Laurie is producing *Hyena*, an alternate London cops thriller written and directed by Gerard Johnson. Billed as a police noir inspired by Jean-Pierre Melville, one of the fore-runners of the French New Wave, the film is set in contemporary West London amongst the Turkish and Albanian communities of asylum seekers.

It is being developed with Film4, the broadcaster's standalone movie-making unit and marks Johnson's second big screen outing and will star Peter Ferdinando.

Ferdinando appeared in Johnson's debut horror thriller, *Tony*, about a serial killer in a rundown suburb of London. It is being sold at the Marche du Film by Independent. **THR**

Loane

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Competition entry *We Need To Talk About Kevin*.

Written by Ronan Blaney, *Sisters* is set in 1960s West Belfast and tells the tale of a Irish mother, feminist, activist and nun who lands at a school and changes thousands of deprived kids' lives around with her skills as a teacher.

With Vaines and

Lambert on board, Loane is eyeing a fall start for the project.

Loane's credits include acclaimed Northern Ireland-set comedy drama *MickyBoo & Me* and he also co-wrote *Goal 2*, the footballing trilogy of movies, distributed in certain territories by Buena Vista International. The project is being packaged by the Gersh Agency and Untitled Entertainment. **THR**

MEDIA

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support — \$1.1 billion [€775 million] over seven years in its current form — as an essential part of their financing.

MEDIA helped bank-roll 20 films in this year's Cannes festival, including Competition titles *The Skin I Live In* from Pedro Almodovar, Lars von Trierer's *Melancholia* and Aki Kaurismaki's *Le Havre*. It also provided distribution support in Europe for this

year's best picture Oscar winner *The King's Speech*.

Vassiliou said part of the proposal for MEDIA's new mandate after 2013 would include greater support for the production of and distribution of European TV series such as *Borgia* and Olivier Assayas' *Carlos*.

Vassiliou and her team will submit their proposal for the new MEDIA to the European Parliament and E.C. by the end of this year. If accepted, the plan should be adopted by the end of 2012. **THR**

Miss Bala

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and ammo. But someone has betrayed them, and when Laura arrives in Baja, there is trouble waiting for her.

Like the Italian film *Gomorra*, which described the way the organized crime operates in Naples, *Miss Bala* derives much of its interest from its insider's view of drug traffickers who live in conniving symbiosis with the police. None of these killing machines emerges as a character apart from Lino, who's barely there.

The line between good guys and bad guys is so blurred that it's nearly impossible to distinguish friend from foe. When Laura seeks help from a local cop, he whisks her to the gang's

hideout instead of the police station; and in the rapid-fire finale, it is not clear what side the army is on, either.

The only alternative the film offers to the world of crime and murder is the surreal setting of the Miss Baja California contest, a rigged TV event whose tinsely glitter even Laura sees through.

In her first feature film, Sigman emerges as an actress with strong screen presence, if still little range; a courageous victim who earns sympathy even when being forced, as she frequently is, to strip for her captors. Matyas Erdely's cinematography is rigorous and essential, lending a hard edge to the subject. The tension is controlled scene by scene through Emilio Kauderer's disturbing background score. **THR**

Temple

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The Great Rock and Roll Swindle in the late 1970s I've always wanted to make a film about the city and now as it finally prepares to take its rightful place on the world stage that time has finally come," said Temple. "At a time when the world will be focusing on London for the Olympic Games, the chance to make a film about the London I knew and the new city that has taken its place is an exciting and challenging prospect for any filmmaker."

Partnering with F&ME and Ealing Metro International in Brazil is TV Zero, one of Brazil's leading producers of documentaries. **THR**