

Reel pulls in deals Helmer gets 'Nice'

By **ELSA KESLASSY**

Paris-based sales and production company Reel Suspects is powering up sales to major European territories across its slate.

Launched in January by Matteo Lovadina, Reel Suspects has inked deals on Laurent Bouhnik's "Q," which went to Italy (Ripley's Film), Germany and Austria (Donau Film), Israel (Shapira Films), Russia & CIS (Big Movies) and Japan (Mdedallion).

The French pic chronicles the sex lives of a handful of young French folks.

Lovadina said he was in final negotiations with a French buyer.

"Anarchy in Zirmunaid," helmed by Lithuanian rookie Saulius Drunga, was snatched up by Peccadillo for the U.K. and Optimale for France.

Pic will bow at the Moscow Film Festival in the Perspective section.

Meanwhile, "Meat," and Dutch erotic drama

helmed by Maartje Seyferth and Victor Nieuwenhuijs, was acquired for Italy (Ripley's Film), Germany and Austria (Donau Film), South Korea (JNCG) and Japan (Twin).

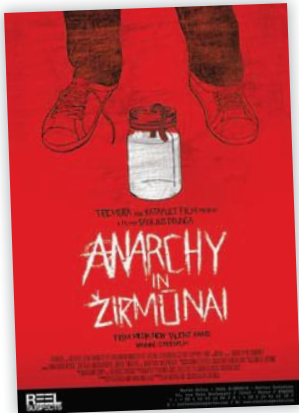
Also, Koen Mortier's Flemish-language thriller "22nd of May," which bowed at Toronto and played at Rotterdam, Istanbul and Hong Kong, was also picked up by Donau Film for Germany and Austria. Pic has already been acquired by Benelux, Netherlands and Italy.

At Cannes, Lovadina picked up two U.S. titles for international sales: Lee Madsen's "Happy in the Valley" and Lee Madsen's "Hated."

"Happy in the Valley" toplines William Forsythe ("Entourage") and Shaun Sipos.

The film is a dark comedy about a formerly famed music photographer who moved into erotic photography, and his entourage.

Starring Ellen Woglom and Matthew Hutchinson, "Hated" chronicles the rise and fall of a young punk rock band.



By **JOHN HOPEWELL**

Mulihyphenate Rodrigo Bellott is set to direct sexual thriller "Nice People," starring Carlos Bardem and Vicenta N'Dongo.

Also written by Bellott, "People" is the first production for Barcelona's Castro, created last year by producer and film financing specialist Sagrario Santorum. Spain's Jose Masegosa also produces.

Bardem, Javier Bardem's elder brother, plays a man who finds his beautiful wife in bed with a male model (newcomer Doug Porter). He tortures the couple at gunpoint — but everything is not quite what it appears.

"Carlos Bardem will now be able to show what a great lead actor he can be," Bellott said.

"People" is a follow-up to Bellott's 2003 breakout hit "Sexual Dependency," which won him Locarno Fipresci

Award at age 21. It explores similar themes in more depth.

Described by Bellott as "a very European film in English and Spanish," "People" is being work-shopped at the Binger Directors' Lab, an Amsterdam-based international film development center.

Its finance will mix location grants, TV coin and subsidies, per Santorum.

Its Spanish tech team includes "Buried" d.p. Eduard Grau, sound designer Aitor Berenger, who won

Cannes' 2009 Technical Grand Prix for "Map of the Sounds of Tokyo," and composer Julio de la Rosa ("7 Virgins").

Beyond directing, Bolivian Bellott has been involved in a range of interesting films from or set in Latin America and Spain.

Examples include Martin Boulocq's "The Most Beautiful of My Very Best Years," which he produced.



BELLOTT

Noel Coward bio in works EU media fund culls U.K., Scandi coinw

By **DIANA LODDERHOSEW**

Blighty-based B Good Picture Co. is developing a feature on mulihyphenate Noel Coward, penned by Martin Sherman.

Sherman, whose credits include "Mrs. Henderson Presents," recently adapted author Rose Treman's "Music and Silence" for film, which Danish helmer Lone Scherfig ("An Education") is directing.

The untitled feature follows Coward's early years, up to the preem of "The Vortex," which cemented his reputation in Lon-

don's West End theater scene.

Pic is the latest in a diverse slate for Joe Stephenson's B Good Picture Co., which includes Robert Sheehan and Ed Hogg starrer "Acts of God" and "In Love With Shakespeare," toplining Simon Callow, Jonathan Pryce and Catherine Tate, which is in post.

Outfit is also developing "Suddenly," a new version of the 1954 Frank Sinatra pic, penned by James Moran, whose credits include "Severance" and upcoming "Cockneys vs. Zombies."



Echo Bridge coming to Ponti's 'Going'

By **DAVE McNARY**

Echo Bridge has acquired North American rights to romantic comedy "Coming and Going," starring Rhys Darby, Sasha Alexander and Fionnula Flanagan.

The Little Film Co. made the announcement Sunday at Cannes.

The company also said pic had sold to Front Row for the

Middle East, HBO for Poland, Grandview Castle for the Czech Republic and Slovakia and Mysteria for Russia.

Directed by Edoardo Ponti, "Coming and Going" centers on a successful doctor who lacks confidence with women.

A freak injury temporarily lands him in a wheelchair where he stays to win the affections of his dream girl well after his injury has healed.

Alexander is the lead in TNT's "Rizzoli and Isles," currently shooting its second season.

Michael Rosenblatt brokered the deal for Echo Bridge. Robert Little, Bobby Rock and Lenny Shapiro made the deal on behalf of the Little Film Co.

EU media fund culls U.K., Scandi coinw

By **NICK HOLDSWORTH**

British and Scandinavian production companies, banks and private investment funds are being targeted in a marketing push as a European Union media production guaranteed fund rolls out.

The €6 million (\$8.5 million) four-year program guarantees up to 50% of a production loan up to \$1.7 million (for a \$3.4 million loan), which, when leveraged, means it could help support upward of \$130 million in fresh loans.

The scheme is operated through France's IFC and Spain's Audiovisual SGR, two of the few institutions in Europe, along with German regional guarantee banks, which underwrite bank loans to their national film and TV industries.

Thierry Baujard, head of Berlin-based film finance consultancy Peacefulfish, which is marketing the scheme, said the U.K. and Scandinavia are ripe for it, although it is open to film and TV production companies across the 32 member countries of the EU's Media Program.

"We know there are some interesting and sophisticated companies that could be interested in this scheme, and because of the subsidies and tax credit systems in different countries, we know there is a need for cash flow," Baujard said.

Baujard, who has been talking with Scandinavian companies and banks including Nordea Bank, Zentropa and Nimbus Film, is in Cannes to push the scheme.

His company carries out due diligence on submissions before applications are made.

TEMPLE ERECTS DOCUS IN FIVE CITIES

By **DIANA LODDERHOSEW**

Ealing Metro Intl. has snapped up sales rights for Julien Temple's five "cities and music" documentaries.

"Children of the Revolution" and "This Is London" are scheduled to lense this year.

"Children" will look at the musical, social, political, cultural and technical revolutions that have taken place in Rio de Janeiro since the 1970s.

It spans the first Rock in Rio Festival in 1985 and examines a country that has gone from being an oppressive military dictatorship to an open democracy.

Mike Downey and Sam Tay-

lor's Film & Music Entertainment is set to produce the docu, which will lense in September and October.

"This Is London" is commissioned by BBC Arts to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic Games. It is produced by Temple and Rosa Bosch ("Buena Vista Social Club") and follows the story of a city that no longer exists and of the new London that has taken its place.

Details of "Tijuana-landia," a Tijuana docu, and the Havana-set and Berlin-set projects will be announced

shortly.

"Since visiting Rio with the Sex Pistols for 'The Great Rock 'n 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 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."



TEMPLE