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[✉](#) **Jamie Bell heads supernatural WWII action drama**

[Patrick Frater in](#) **25 October 2001 02:42**

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Jamie Bell, the child star of international hit *Billy Elliot*, is to head the cast of *The Great War Project* (working title), a supernatural action drama which tops the slate of Film and Music Entertainment (F.&.M.E.).

The picture is the story of eight young soldiers trapped in the WWI trenches who are systematically picked off by a killer who may not be human. Direction and screenplay is by first timer Michael J Bassett, whose short film credits include *The Last Waltz* (ITV/Carlton) and *The Lightning Seed* and Channel 4 documentary *The Burning*. His writing credits include *Urban Gothic II* for Channel 5, the BBC's *Bugs* and The Spice Factory's *The Unblinking Eye*.

Production began earlier this week on location near Prague, making it the first film to go into production by F.&.M.E., the UK production arm of German multi-media group F.A.M.E. AG. It is set up as a co-production with Potsdam-based Apollo ProMedia.

"We really wanted a commercial genre and a young team of actors, but who would also have broad teen appeal," said F.&.M.E. co-chief [Mike Downey](#). Other cast include Andy Serkis who plays Gollum in the forthcoming *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, Hugh O'Connor, Laurence, Matthew, Hans Matheson, Ruadhri Conro, Hugo Speer, Kris Marshall and Dean Lennox Kelly.

Rights are currently handled by parent company F.A.M.E. AG, although the producers are keeping their options open on putting the film out through the world sales route or an all territories deal.



REVIEW



**CASINO ROYALE**  
Bond is back in a wildly successful mix of heart-thumping action, strong characterisation and gritty realism, says Allan

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REVIEW



**THE ESCAPE CLAUSE:  
THE SANTA CLAUSE 3**

Third outing for seasonal franchise benefits from Martin Short's engagingly villainous performance, says Brent Simon

REVIEW



**A DIRTY CARNIVAL**

Ha Yu's gangster drama wins through thanks to some strongly defined characterisation, says Dan Fainaru

REVIEW



**TENACIOUS D IN THE  
PICK OF DESTINY**

Jack Black rock feature proves a sweetly raunchy slacker comedy, says John Hazelton

REVIEW



**TAZZA: THE HIGH  
ROLLERS**

Enjoyable card shark caper moves with enough vibrancy to paper over its cracks, says Dan Fainaru

REVIEW





**SCOTT WALKER: 30 CENTURY MAN**

Documentary goes a long way to demystifying iconic singer, says Jonathan Romney



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