

# MARCHÉ

As international buyers arrive on the Croisette clutching their shopping lists, Screen picks through some of the hottest titles, at various stages of production, available at the Marché

# BUZZ

## NORTH AMERICAN SELLERS

By Jeremy Kay

**FilmNation Entertainment** arrives with *Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far On Foot* from Gus Van Sant, which stars Joaquin Phoenix as a man who turns to drawing when he is paralysed in a car crash. Rooney Mara, Jonah Hill and Jack Black round out the cast.

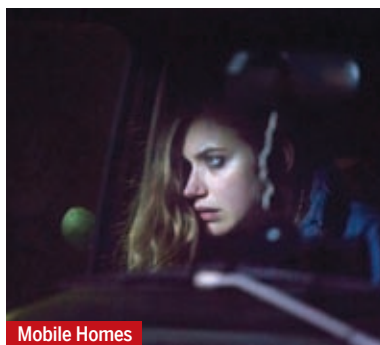
**Voltage Pictures** has *I Feel Pretty* with comedy star Amy Schumer as a career woman who learns that beauty is only skin-deep after she suffers a life-changing accident. Abby Kohn directs, and Nicolas Chartier and McG are among the producers. Voltage and UTA represent US rights.

**Lionsgate International** will talk up sci-fi *Chaos Walking*. Doug Liman directs Daisy Ridley from *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* and Tom Holland, star of July tentpole *Spider-Man: Homecoming*. The story takes place in a world without women where all living things can hear each other's thoughts.

**IM Global** is selling and fully financing the thriller *Unabomb*. Viggo Mortensen will play the FBI agent who tracked down the notorious Unabomber who terrorised the US for more than two decades. Robert Lorenz will direct.

**Sierra/Affinity** hits Cannes with *The Widow*, an upcoming thriller from Neil Jordan to star Isabelle Huppert and Chloe Grace Moretz. The film is about a young arriviste in New York, grieving the loss of her mother, who befriends a widow with sinister intentions. SK Global produces.

**Bloom Media** arrives with Marie Colvin drama *A Private War* from Oscar-nominated documentarian Matthew Heineman. Rosamund Pike stars as the US war reporter who lost an eye during an assignment and years later died in a rocket attack in Syria. Basil Iwanyk, Marissa McMahon and Charlize Theron produce, with WME Global representing US rights.



Mobile Homes

**Mongrel International** will tempt buyers with Directors' Fortnight selection *Mobile Homes*. Imogen Poots plays a young mother drifting across the US who finds a new lease of life in a mobile-home community. Vladimir de Fontenay directs and CAA holds US rights.

**Visit Films** title *M.F.A.* stars Francesca Eastwood and Clifton Collins Jr in the story of an art student who seeks revenge when a classmate sexually assaults her. Visit Films is also screening *The Maze* for the first time.

**Seville International** will introduce *Skin* starring Jamie Bell and Danielle Macdonald, the breakout star of Sundance entry and Directors' Fortnight closing film *Patti Cake\$*. ICM Partners handles US sales on the story of a neo-Nazi who turns his back on his past when he falls in love. Oren Moverman produces.

**Fortitude International** arrives with *The Medusa* starring Jesse Eisenberg as painter Theodore Gericault, alongside Pierce Brosnan and Vanessa Redgrave. Peter Webber will direct.

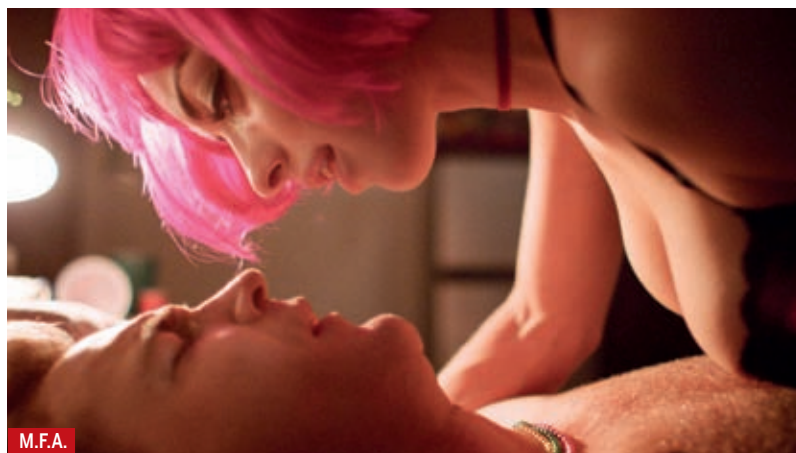
**Saboteur Media's** new sales venture, led by Mark Lindsay, will introduce the upcoming New York-based noir thriller *Cleaning House* from director Nick Quested, while Brian Sweet's APL screens the family drama *On Wheels* and holds worldwide rights.

**The Weinstein Company** will show footage from *Untouchable*, the *Intouchables* remake with Kevin Hart, Bryan Cranston and Nicole Kidman. Neil Burger directs.

**Lotus Entertainment** will talk up Rob



The White Orchid



M.F.A.

Cohen's graphic novel adaptation *Razor* as part of its new deal with Number 11.

**KMI** will talk up Ambience Entertainment's Australian family drama *Storm Boy* starring Geoffrey Rush and Jai Courtney, while **Film Sales Company** has Bob Shaye's psychological thriller *Ambition*.

**FilmSharks** arrives with *Lino 3D*, an animated feature from Fox International Productions and Start Anima about a disillusioned children's party entertainer who is turned into his own costume. Rafael Ribas directs.

**Radiant Films International** will be selling *The Guinea Pig Club*, in which Richard E Grant will play a pioneering Second World War plastic surgeon from New Zealand who helped burn victims

among Battle of Britain fighter pilots. Jeremy Irvine and Sam Neill also star, and Roger Donaldson is in final talks to direct.

**XYZ Films** will show footage on the Croisette from thriller *Arctic* by Armory Films and Union Editorial. Mads Mikkelsen, who is expected to attend, plays a man fighting for his life in the icy wastes. Joe Penna directs.

Chekhov classic *The Seagull* is on the **Hyde Park International** slate. It stars Annette Bening and Saoirse Ronan in the tale of people in love with the wrong partner. CAA and WME Global handle North American rights.

**Shoreline Entertainment** has worldwide rights to *The White Orchid*, a crime drama starring Olivia Thirlby as a social »



services investigator who becomes involved in the hunt for a murderer. John Carroll Lynch and Jennifer Beals star, and Bogart Estate managers Robbert de Klerk and Stephen Bogart served as executive producers for Santana Films.

The **Highland Film Group** slate includes Miscellaneous Entertainment's war film *Ghosts Of War* starring Brenton Thwaites. Eric Bress wrote and directs the film about US soldiers who battle a supernatural force when they capture a French chateau formerly occupied by Nazis.

**Foresight Unlimited** will talk up political thriller *The Last Full Measure*, which features an all-star cast of Samuel L Jackson, Sebastian Stan, Christopher Plummer, William Hurt, Ed Harris and Peter Fonda. ICM Partners holds US rights.

**Good Universe** arrives with Oscar winner Viola Davis in drama *The Personal History Of Rachel Dupree*. CAA represents North American rights with Davis's JuVee Productions.

**Epic Pictures** is selling *The Man Who Killed Hitler And Then The Bigfoot*, about a war hero summoned to hunt down a plague-carrying beast in the Canadian wilderness. Sam Elliott will star for writer-director Robert D Krzykowski, who will produce with Lucky McKee, Patrick Ewald and Shaked Berenson. John Sayles serves as executive producer and principal photography is set for August on the east coast.

Robert Patrick stars in thriller *Last Rampage* from **The Little Film Company**. Patrick plays real-life Gary Tison, who embarks on a killing spree when his three sons break him out of an Arizona prison. Heather Graham also stars. Epic Releasing holds US rights.

**Cinema Management Group** and Richard Guardian are teaming up to sell the world on *The BBQ*, an Australian comedy about a suburban man who enlists the help of a tyrannical Scottish chef when he is invited to compete in an international contest. Revolution Partners recently wrapped production in Australia.

**Content Media** will talk up sci-fi *2067*, which takes place on an Earth ravaged by climate change as mankind looks to the future to solve the problems of the present. Production is set for later this year in Australia. Seth Larney will direct the project for Arcadia, Buffalo Gal Pictures and Kojo Entertainment.

**Concourse Media** holds world sales rights to *The Parting Glass*, Stephen Moyer's feature directorial debut starring his *True Blood* co-star (and wife) Anna Paquin. The story of a family who try to piece together their lives after a tragedy also stars Melissa Leo, Ed Asner, Cynthia Nixon, Denis O'Hare and Rhys Ifans.

**Magnolia International** arrives with the comedy drama *Lucky* starring Harry



Lucky



Rendel



Access All Areas

Dean Stanton as a 90-year-old atheist on a spiritual journey. John Carroll Lynch makes his feature directorial debut on the SWSW selection. Magnolia Pictures will open theatrically in the US this year.

**The Exchange** will launch worldwide pre-sales on graphic-novel adaptation *Brodie's Law*, in which a man framed for the theft of a top-secret experiment uses his new abilities to rescue his kidnapped son and find the criminals who double-crossed him. John Pogue will direct.

**Red Sea Media** has *Trafficked*, about three enslaved women who attempt to escape a Texas brothel. Ashley Judd, Anne Archer and Patrick Duffy star.

**Raven Banner** is in the market with *Rendel*, a Scandinavian superhero feature in the style of *The Punisher* and

*Spawn*. It follows a vigilante who targets a criminal organisation.

**Cohen Media Group** has out-of-competition documentary *Visages, Villages* from Agnes Varda and the muralist and photographer JR, which chronicles their blossoming friendship on a road trip.

**Arelight** brings the Killer Films drama *First Reformed*, which stars Ethan Hawke as a grieving father who uncovers secrets in his local church. Amanda Seyfried and Cedric The Entertainer also star, and Paul Schrader directs from his screenplay.

**Bleiberg Entertainment** produces and handles international sales on *Burning Shadow*, a sci-fi noir with echoes of David Lynch that has just wrapped. It centres on a loner who meets his double in the form of a blind homeless man. Roxane

Mesquida, Roger Guenveur Smith, Richard Edson, Julie Delpy and newcomer Matthew Dennis Lewis star.

**Premiere Entertainment Group** will talk up sci-fi *Incoming* from Benattar/Thomas Productions. XLRator Media holds US rights to the story of terrorists who take over a prison orbiting Earth and threaten to attack Russia. Scott Adkins stars.

**Electric Entertainment** has *Bad Samaritan*, directed by company founder Dean Devlin, about burglars who find a woman held captive in a home they intend to rob. David Tennant and Robert Sheehan star.

**Film Mode** will be talking up *Knights Of The Damned*, in which the king's knights must overcome supernatural challenges including a dragon and an army of the undead.

**Octane Entertainment** offers *Mayhem*, the SXSW selection starring Steven Yeun from *The Walking Dead* as an attorney trapped in a building where a virus has broken out. Paradigm handles North American rights.

**Conquistador Entertainment** will talk up *Wonders Of The Sea 3D*, a documentary directed by Jean-Michel Cousteau and Jean-Jacques Mantello, and narrated by Arnold Schwarzenegger.

**Oceanside Media** and **Route One Entertainment** represent *The Claim*, the thriller based on a screenplay by recent best director Oscar winner Damien Chazelle. Motion Picture Capital is financing the project about a single father who must find his kidnapped daughter while fighting the claims of another couple who insist the child is their own.

**Film Bridge International** will be in town with *Spinning Man*, starring Pierce Brosnan, Guy Pearce and Minnie Driver. Simon Kaijser directs the thriller about a married professor whose seemingly idyllic life is shattered when he becomes the suspect in a missing-person case.

**MPI Media Group** has *Bitch*, which screened in the Midnight strand at Sundance. The film centres on a down-trodden wife and mother who transforms herself into a vicious dog. Jason Ritter and writer-director Marianna Palka star. Dark Sky Films will distribute in the US. It screens in the market.

**AMBI Distribution** arrives with *Bent*, a revenge thriller from Bobby Moresco that stars Karl Urban as a narcotics detective who gets out of prison and goes after the people who framed him. Sofia Vergara and Andy Garcia also star.

**Spotlight Pictures** will tout rom-com *Access All Areas*, set to receive its festival premiere at Edinburgh next month. Ella Purnell and Georgie Henley star as teenagers on a pilgrimage to see a legendary artist perform at an outdoor festival. »



UNITED KINGDOM SELLERS

By Andreas Wiseman

**Bankside Films** will begin sales on the untitled Reed Morano project, formerly called *First Chair*. Jeff Bridges and Diane Lane will star in the drama, written by Stuart Blumberg (*The Kids Are All Right*), about a virtuoso violinist (Bridges) who is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness.

**Embankment Films** will launch sales on Second World War drama *Summerland*, the directorial debut of Olivier Award-winning playwright Jessica Swale. Gemma Arterton will star as a woman who connects with a refugee boy in her care. Guy Heeley of *Locke* producer Shoebox Films is producing. Embankment co-reps the US with The Gersh Agency.

David Garrett's **Mister Smith Entertainment** will be on the Croisette with Jim Sheridan prison-break drama *H Block*, set to star Cillian Murphy, Jamie Dornan and Pierce Brosnan. Currently in pre-production, the feature, which Dylan Sellers (*Southpaw*) and Brad Feinstein (*Fences*) are producing, recounts one of the UK's biggest ever prison breakouts.

**HanWay Films** will be tempting buyers with Nigerian-British writer Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje's feature directorial debut, based on his upbringing in a white working-class foster family in 1980s Britain. *Farming* will star Damson Idris, Kate Beckinsale and Gugu Mbatha-Raw with production set to get underway in August.

**Protagonist Pictures** will launch Directors' Fortnight title *The Rider*, written and directed by Chloé Zhao. After suffering a near-fatal head injury, a young cowboy undertakes a search for identity and what it means to be a man in the heartland of the US. Protagonist is co-representing domestic rights with WME.

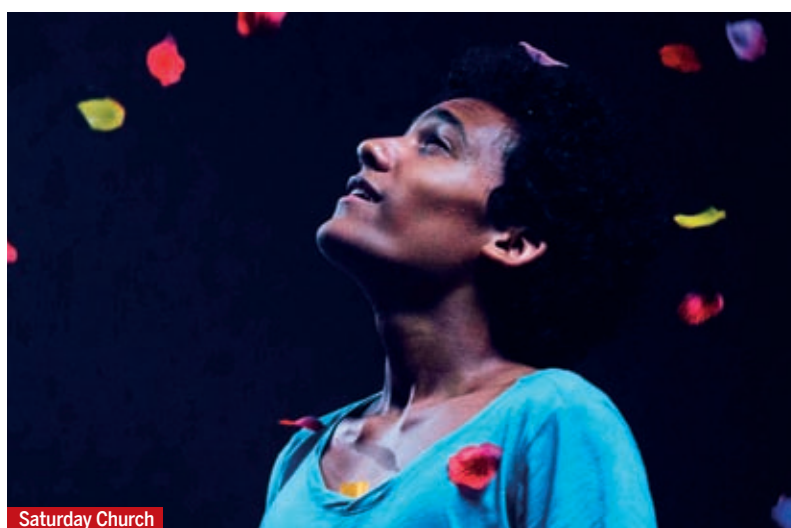
**Rocket Science** will continue sales on *Bubbles*, the story of Michael Jackson's celebrity pet chimpanzee. The stop-motion film from *Hunt For The Wilderpeople* director Taika Waititi and *Fantastic Mr Fox* animation director Mark Gustafson is handled by CAA in the US.

**Cornerstone Films** is handling Henry-Alex Rubin's crime thriller *Semper Fi*, set to star Sam Claflin as a straight-laced cop who must break his brother out of jail. Producers are David Lancaster (*Whiplash*) and Karina Miller (*To The Bone*). Production is due to begin this summer; Cornerstone co-reps US with CAA.

**Altitude Film Sales** will begin sales on Tribeca title *The Boy Downstairs*, starring *Girls* actress Zosia Mamet as a woman who moves into a seemingly perfect apartment only to discover her ex-boy-



Rememory



Saturday Church



Take Every Wave

friend, played by Matthew Shear, lives in the apartment below.

**Independent Film Company** will launch the new film from *Dreams Of A Life* director Carol Morley. *Out Of Blue* will star Patricia Clarkson as homicide detective Mike Hoolihan. Toby Jones,

Mamie Gummer and Teyonah Parris are also attached. Production is due to begin in the US this autumn.

**WestEnd Films** will be touting Tribeca musical *Saturday Church*, about a teenager from the Bronx struggling with gender identity and religion. Producers

are Damon Cardasis and Rebecca Miller from Round Films (*Maggie's Plan*), and Mandy Tagger-Brockey and Adi Ezroni from Spring Pictures (*A Late Quartet*).

For **Metro International**, Emile Hirsch is due to take the lead role in frontier western *Never Grow Old*. Hirsch will star as an undertaker who finds his business booming when outlaws take over his frontier town. Irish filmmaker Ivan Kavanagh (*The Canal*) directs from a script he co-wrote with regular collaborator Colin Downey.

**Goldcrest Films** has revealed that Hugh Bonneville of *Downton Abbey* fame is to star as beloved children's author Roald Dahl in an untitled biopic about Dahl and his wife, Oscar-winning actress Patricia Neal. The story moves between New York, England and Los Angeles in the early 1960s.

**Film Constellation** has boarded sales on doc-biopic *Take Every Wave*, about surfing icon Laird Hamilton. Directed by Rory Kennedy (*Last Days In Vietnam*), the film examines the life of the big-wave pioneer, and the passion and fear that drives his exploits.

**Great Point Media's** Cannes slate includes *Rememory*, in which Peter Dinklage plays a model-maker turned investigator, while the late Anton Yelchin plays the emotionally unstable prime suspect in a crime. The film is written and directed by Mark Palansky, and produced by Daniel Bekerman and Lee Clay.

**SC Films International** will be talking to buyers about *Around The World In 80 Days*, an animated feature loosely based on Jules Verne's classic novel. The production will be a 3D underwater adventure based on the characters from SC Films' previous productions *The Reef: Shark Bait* and *The Reef2: High Tide*. »





Damien Hirst: Treasures From The Wreck Of The Unbelievable

AMP International will be shopping world rights to *Ana*, which will star Dafne Keen (*Logan*) alongside Luis Guzman in the story of an unlikely duo who set off on a fraught journey across Puerto Rico. The film is due to shoot on the Caribbean island this summer.

Kaleidoscope Film Distribution (KFD) has nabbed international rights to Tribeca premiere *Psychopaths*. The horror feature from writer-director Mickey Keating (*Carnage Park*) is set over a single blood-soaked night when the paths of multiple serial killers cross. CAA will handle rights in North America.

Goalpost Film will be introducing feature-length documentary *Michael X*, about the life of the UK civil-rights activist who was executed in Trinidad & Tobago in 1975. Dog & Duck Films, which worked on *Amy* and *Senna*, is the archive producer.

GFM Films will have early footage of action thriller *All The Devil's Men*, starring Milo Gibson, William Fichtner, Sylvia Hoeks and Gbenga Akinnagbe. Shooting on the film, about a battle-scarred 'War on Terror' bounty hunter, took place in locations throughout London before moving to Marrakech.

Celsius Entertainment will be in Cannes with action drama *Forgotten War*, about a man who led a covert mission under US president Harry S Truman at the height of the Korean War. The mission was so secretive that the only evidence is from a small band of men who do not even know each other's names.

Moviehouse is handling *Harry Brown* writer Gary Young's directorial debut *Two Graves*, starring I, Daniel Blake's Dave Johns, Cathy Tyson (*Mona Lisa*), David Hayman (*Taboo*) and Katie Jarvis (*Fish Tank*). The plot is about a doctor of pathology (Tyson) who captures and tor-



Psychopaths

tures the young man she believes murdered her son.

The Works International will be at the market with Trudie Styler's Berlin title *Freak Show*, starring Alex Lawther, Abigail Breslin, AnnaSophia Robb, Laverne Cox and Bette Midler. The film follows the story of teenager Billy Bloom who, despite attending an ultra-conservative high school, makes the decision to run for homecoming queen.

Carnaby International will launch *Pugwash*, a live-action family adventure film about the flawed pirate who teams up with an ultra-smart cabin boy and a clumsy crew. The film is from writer-director John Hay (*Stig Of The Dump*) and producers Atticus Pictures and Elliot Jenkins.



(Left) All The Devil's Men

Timeless Films will come to market with a promo and first footage of *Jim Button And Luke The Engine Driver*, based on the novel of the same name by Michael Ende (*The NeverEnding Story*). The live-action fantasy film will be released through Warner Bros Germany in 2018.

Truffle Pictures will be talking to buyers about UK feature documentary *Ten Count*. The Redeeming Features film, currently in post-production and showing on promo, charts the story of a former athlete's painful breakdown and his comeback as a boxer.

Jinga Films will be shopping international rights to Brandon Christensen's supernatural horror *Still/Born*, with ICM Partners representing North America.

Winner of Overlook Film Festival's scariest film

award, Christensen's debut follows a mother who spirals into madness after losing one of her twins during childbirth.

Dogwoof will be hitting the Croisette with doc-biopic *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story*, an exploration of the iconic Hollywood actress and secret inventor who was also infamous for her marriages and affairs with figures such as Spencer Tracy and John F Kennedy.

Parkland Pictures will be selling Steven Berkoff's film adaptation of his theatre production *Tell Tale Heart*. Based on a short story by Edgar Allan Poe, the gothic tale is about a lonely servant who plots to kill an old man because of his evil 'vulture' eye.

Devilworks will be touting Australian comedy horror *Red Christmas*, about a mother (Dee Wallace) who tries to protect her family from a vengeful intruder in the Australian outback.

Evolutionary Films' slate includes completed feature *Let Me Go*, a female-driven drama about the generational impact of a terrible family secret. The cast includes Juliet Stevenson, Lucy Boynton and Jodhi May, and the film features the first original film score from Radiohead's Philip Selway.

7&7 Producers Sales Service will be in Cannes with Irish romantic drama *Twice Shy*, about a young couple who travel to England for an abortion (the procedure is illegal in Ireland). The film, which played at last year's Galway festival, features a soundtrack including The Corrs, Gavin James and Ash.

Reason8 will be in Cannes with the international market premiere of *Another Mother's Son*, based on the true story of a woman who took in an escaped Russian PoW and hid him during the Second World War. Bill Kenwright produces. The company also has rights outside the UK and North America for thriller *The Ghoul*.

Met Film launches its sales arm with a slate of documentaries including *Last Breath*, backed by BBC Scotland, about a commercial diver stranded on the seabed with five minutes of oxygen and no chance of rescue.

Sharp Teeth Films will be selling documentaries and genre features including Portuguese horror *The Forest Of The Lost Souls*, a coming-of-age indie drama and slasher movie set in the 1970s. It has so far sold to the US, Canada, Japan, Germany, Sweden and Portugal.

Park Circus will have a market screening of documentary *Damien Hirst: Treasures From The Wreck Of The Unbelievable*, about the avant-garde UK artist and his latest major work, which depicts an ancient shipwreck and its excavation. The show is currently exhibiting in Venice. »



FRENCH SELLERS

By Melanie Goodfellow

**SBS Distribution** launches Paul Verhoeven's *Blessed Virgin (Sainte Vierge)*, starring Virginie Efira, an adaptation of academic work *Immodest Acts: The Life Of A Lesbian Nun In Renaissance Italy*. Other new titles include Kleber Mendonca Filho's sci-fi western *Bacurau* and Nadav Lapid's long-gestating *Micro Robert*. The company is also selling Philippe Garrel's Directors' Fortnight title *Lover For A Day*.

**Celluloid Dreams** kicks off sales on Sébastien Marnier's high-school set thriller *School's Out* starring Laurent Lafitte. It marks the director's second feature after *Irréprochable*. Cannes titles comprise André Téchiné's out of competition screener *Golden Years*, as well as *Tehran Taboo* and *Familia*, which both debut in Critics' Week, and *The Interpreter* starring Peter Simonischek.

**Memento Films International** begins pre-sales on *The Wild Pear Tree*, the new feature from Palme d'Or winner Nuri Bilge Ceylan. It is also handling Directors' Fortnight title *The Nothing Factory* and Palme d'Or contender *Good Time*.

**Le Pacte** is at the market with Catherine Corsini's *An Impossible Love*, a tale of unrequited love spanning 50 years, starring Virginie Efira and Niels Schneider; Agnes Jaoui's ensemble drama *Place Publique*, which revolves around a television presenter whose career is on the wane; and Cédric Kahn's *The Prayer*, about a drug addict who joins an isolated community in the mountains.

**Wild Bunch** kicks off sales on UK director Brian Welsh's '90s rave movie *Beats*, Chinese director Bi Gan's detective drama *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, starring Tang Wei, and thriller *The Third Murder*, which it is co-selling with Gaga. Festival titles comprise opening film *Ismael's Ghosts* and Competition titles *Rodin*, *Redoubtable*, *A Gentle Creature* and *Loveless*, as well as *Before We Vanish* in Un Certain Regard and Special Screening *12 Days*.

**Gaumont** will market premiere Guillaume Gallienne's *Maryline* (working title *Bright Weakness*) about a fragile but talented woman. It is also selling Un Certain Regard opening film *Barbara*.

**France TV Distribution** launches Xabi Molia's *Kings For A Day*, starring Kad Merad as a failed con-man opposite Kacey Mottet Klein and Sylvie Testud.

**TF1 Studio** will unveil Anne Fontaine's *Reinventing Marvin*, starring Finnegan Oldfield as a young man reconstructing himself through drama. The ensemble



Marvin



The Prayer



Big Bang

cast features Isabelle Huppert, Vincent Macaigne and Grégory Gadebois.

**SND Films** unveils Philippe Le Guay's comedy *Normandie Nue*, starring François Cluzet as the mayor of a village in Normandy chosen by a famous photographer (Toby Jones) for a naked shoot, and Cécilia Rouaud's *Big Bang* starring Vanessa Paradis, Camille Cottin and Pierre Deladonchamps as three disconnected siblings thrown together in the family's holiday home one last time.

**MK2** launches sales on Corneliu Porumboiu's new project *Gomera* and Mikhael Hers' *Amanda*. It is also handling Naomi Kawase's Palme d'Or con-

tender *Radiance* as well as Un Certain Regard titles *Until The Birds Return* and *April's Daughter*, the latter jointly with Protagonist Pictures.

New titles on the **Bac Films** slate include Sebastiano Riso's drama *Una Famiglia*, starring Micaela Ramazzotti and Patrick Bruel. It is Riso's second film, after 2014 Critics' Week hit *Darker Than Midnight*. The company will also be selling Critics' Week title *Ava*.

**Cercamon** is handling sales of Slovak filmmaker Gyorgy Kristof's Un Certain Regard selection *Out*, about a man in his 50s who sets off across Eastern Europe in search of work.

**Alma Cinema** will show a first promo for Guillaume Nicloux's Indochina War-set drama *To The Ends Of The Earth* starring Gérard Depardieu and Gaspard Ulliel, English-language thriller *A Bluebird In My Heart* and cultural identity drama *The Charmer*.

**Doc & Film International** is flying in documentarian Nicolas Philibert to present his next project and will market premiere Gael Morel's topical drama *Catch The Wind*, starring Sandrine Bonnaire as a woman who follows her delocalised factory job to Morocco. It is also handling Amos Gitai's *West Of The Jordan*, which premieres in Directors' Fortnight.

**Studiocanal** will kick off sales on Nima Nourizadeh's *The Tracking Of A Russian Spy* as well as Gilles Lellouche's *Sink Or Swim (Le Grand Bain)*, which is about a group of 40-year-old men who take up synchronised swimming.

Upcoming films on the **Pyramide International** slate include Annemarie Jacir's Nazareth-set father-son reconciliation tale *Wajib* and Marie Garel Weiss's *The Party Is Over*, about two former addicts trying to stay clean. The company's Cannes titles include *Plot 35*, *After The War*, *A Violent Life*, *Bloody Milk* and *The Prince Of Nothingwood*.

Fresh additions to the **WTFilms** slate include Mélanie Laurent's *Diving*, which charts the unravelling of a passionate relationship between a former war photographer and the mother of his child, a free-spirited woman who abandons them, and Jared Moshe's 35mm coming-of-age western *The Ballad Of Lefty Brown*.

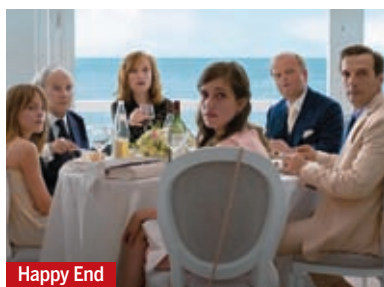
**Elle Driver** launches sales on street-art documentary *The Man Who Stole Banksy* and Eva Husson's female Kurdish fighters tale *Girls Of The Sun* starring Golshifteh Farahani and Julie Delpy. It is also handling Atsuko Hirayanagi's off-beat comedy *Oh Lucy!*, starring Shinobu Terajima opposite Josh Hartnett, which premieres in Critics' Week.

New titles on the **Films Distribution** slate include Sou Abadi's romance-with-a-timely-twist *Some Like It Veiled* and black comedy *68 Kill*. Cannes films comprise Competition titles *L'Amant Double* and Aids-activist drama *BPM (Beats Per Minute)* as well as Laurent Cantet's Un Certain Regard entry *The Workshop* and Claire Denis' Directors' Fortnight opener *Let The Sunshine In*.

**Other Angle** will launch pre-sales on *Budapest*, a comedy revolving around the true story of a company specialising in stag-night mini-breaks. Genre specialist Xavier Gens directs from a screenplay by Manu Payet, who also co-stars.

**Indie Sales** will kick off sales on Sophie Fillières' high-concept comedy *When Margaux Meets Margaux* starring this year's *Caméra d'Or* jury president »





Happy End

Sandrine Kiberlain as a woman who meets her younger self. The company will also market premiere Russian director Klim Shipenko's Soviet space drama *Salyut 7*.

**Alfama Films** kicks off sales on *The Black Book*, about the adventures of a young orphan and his Italian nanny, the latest collaboration between Valeria Sarmiento and Carlos Saboga.

Upcoming films for **Luxbox** include *The Eternal Feminine*, which captures the life of Mexican poetess and intellectual Rosario Castellanos. It is also handling a quartet of festival titles: Bruno Dumont's musical drama *Jeannette: The Childhood Of Joan Of Arc*, *They, A Ciambra* and *Frost*.

**Kinology** kicks off pre-sales on Yann Gonzalez's *Knife + Heart*, which revolves around a 1970s producer of gay porn. It is his second film after orgy comedy *You And The Night*, which played in Critics' Week in 2013. The company is also handling UK director Rungano Nyoni's Directors' Fortnight entry *I Am Not A Witch*, which sparked a mini-bidding war after it was presented at Les Arcs Paris Coproduction Village last December.

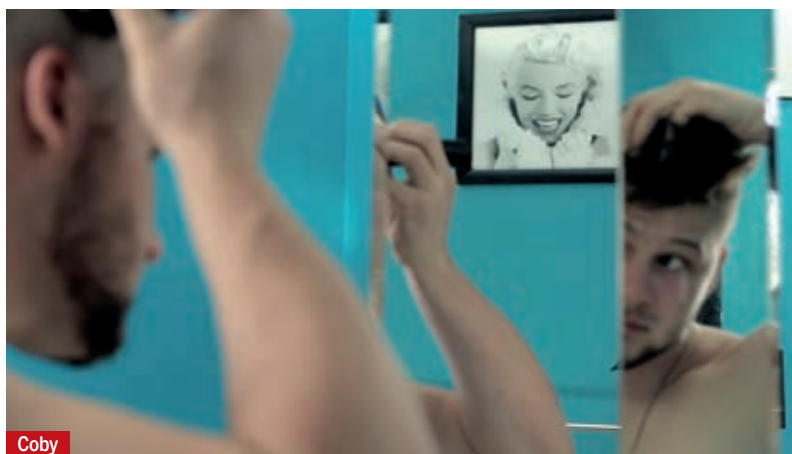
Upcoming titles for **Urban Distribution International** include Indian filmmaker Kanwal Sethi's romance *Once Again*, which took the top prize at Film Bazaar last year, and UK director Louis Lagayette's thriller *Trendy*. It is also handling family animation *Zombillenium*, which premieres as a Special Screening.

The **Alpha Violet** slate includes Christian Sonderegger's Midwest US-set documentary *Coby*, which is about the impact of a young woman's sex change on friends and family. The film is premiering in the Acid sidebar.

**Jour2Fete** will introduce the market to Guilhem Amesland's romantic comedy *Superlovers*, and is also selling Tunisian director Kaouther Ben Hania's rape drama *Beauty And The Dogs*, which premieres in Un Certain Regard.

New titles for **The Bureau Sales** include Fabienne Godet's gritty drama *Our Wonderful Lives*, about a recovering addict who rebuilds her life, and *So Help Me God*, the latest work from fly-on-the-wall documentary makers Jean Libon and Yves Hinant, which tackles the legal system.

**Les Films du Losange** comes to Cannes with a quartet of festival titles: Michael Haneke's Palme d'Or contender *Happy*



Coby



When Margaux Meets Margaux



Jeannette: The Childhood Of Joan Of Arc

*End*, Barbet Schroeder's *The Venerable W*, Emmanuel Gras' Critics' Week screener *Makala* and Tony Gatlif's *Djam*, which will premiere as a beach screening.

Upcoming productions on the **EuropaCorp** slate include Norwegian director Pal Oie's New York-set thriller *Underground* starring Peter Franzen, Carly Chaikin and Ben Kingsley.

Titles on the **Wide Management** slate include Romanian director Constantin Popescu's drama *Pororoca*, about a contented man whose family life is shattered by the disappearance of his wife, and Finnish filmmaker Teemu Nikki's *Euthanizer*, which explores human nature through the tale of a man whose second job is to put down sick pets.

*Sola (Fausto 5.0)* about an 88-year-old tailor from Buenos Aires who travels to Poland in search of the man who saved him from certain death in Auschwitz. The sales outfit is also selling *Mist & The Maiden*, a crime thriller set against the volcanic landscape of the Canary Islands, starring Veronica Echegui, Quim Gutierrez and Roberto Alamo. The film is the debut feature by Andres Koppel. The Madrid-based company will also be showing footage from *Memories From The Cell* by Uruguayan director Alvaro Brechner, which is based on the true story of a secret military operation in 1970s Uruguay.

**Film Factory Entertainment** is selling Un Certain Regard entry *The Summit* from Santiago Mitre, whose *Paulina* won the Fipresci prize in 2015. The suspense thriller is set in the environs of a Latin American political summit where the Argentinian president, played by Ricardo Darin, ends up facing political and personal turmoil. Film Factory is also showcasing *Sarah's Notebook*, about the adventures of a woman, played by *The Orphanage* star Belen Rueda, who travels to the heart of the Congo to look for her missing sister. Norberto Lopez Amado is directing. Also on Film Factory's slate is Carlos Vermut's *After Magical Girl*, a melodrama about a troubled, once-famous singer (*Sex And Lucia's* Najwa Nimri), which is now in post-production. The company also has the new film from Paco Plaza of *REC* franchise fame: *Veronica* stars Ana Torrent (*Thesis*) and Leticia Dolera (*REC 3*), and is based on a true story of a Ouija game gone wrong.

**Filmmax International** has new footage of Jaime Balaguero's *Muse* to show buyers here. The English-language supernatural thriller, about a troubled literature professor, stars Elliot Cowan, Franka Potente and Joanne Whalley. Filmmax is also showing the first teaser for *Errementari: The Blacksmith And The Devil*, a horror fantasy that marks the directorial debut of Paul Urkijo. Alex de la Iglesia is a co-producer on the project. In post-production is Antonio Cuadri's comedy *Operation Golden Shell*, starring Jordi Molla and Karra Elejalde, and set in and around San Sebastian Film Festival. »

## SPANISH SELLERS

By Elisabet Cabeza

**Latido Films** is in town with Pablo Solarz's *The Last Suit*, a Spain-Argentina co-production starring Angela Molina (*Blancanieves*) and Miguel Angel



(Right) Operation Golden Shell



ITALIAN SELLERS

By Gabriele Niola

**True Colours'** market slate includes Sergio Castellitto's *Fortunata*, which is in Un Certain Regard. Produced by Indigo, the film is an emotional tale of a strong woman (Jasmine Trinca) struggling in the suburbs against the odds — and her ex-husband — to fulfil her dreams. The company, led by Catia Rossi, will also start sales on body-swap fantasy comedy *Wife & Husband* and *It's The Law*, a comedy hit at the Italian box office this year about what happens when a small Sicilian town elects an honest mayor.

**Rai Com** will be selling Matteo Garrone's new project *Dogman*, a thriller set in the 1980s and inspired by one of Italy's most gruesome homicides. The company is kickstarting sales on *Holding Hands (La Tenerezza)*, a drama from Gianni Amelio starring Micaela Ramazzotti (*Like Crazy*) and Elio Germano (*Our Life*), and comedy *It's All About Karma*, also starring Germano, about a small-time crook.

**Intramovies** will handle Israel-Austria co-production *The Testament*, about a Holocaust expert who discovers by accident that his mother may not have been who he thought she was. The Italian outfit is also selling *Funne: Sea Dreaming Girls*, a documentary about a group of elderly women who set up a Kickstarter campaign to finance their first ever trip to the sea, and *Ignorance Is Bliss*, a comedy about modern life and technology featuring Alessandro Gassman (*Quiet Chaos*) and Marco Giallini (*Perfect Strangers*).

**Fandango** is bringing to market *Back Home*, the new film from comedian Antonio Albanese (*Days And Clouds*), as well as kicking off sales on *A Life Beyond Earth*, Elisa Fuksas's documentary about extraterrestrial experiences, and *Made In Italy*, a new film from music artist Luciano Ligabue featuring Stefano Accorsi, which is now in pre-production.

**Minerva Pictures** heads to Cannes with a pair of comedies. *Welcome To Gomorrahland* spoofs the neo-crime genre, while *Life, Heart, Beat* is a slapstick about an ignorant Neopolitan couple who find themselves mixing with the upper classes.

**FlexyMovies** will be selling *The Gospel According To Mattei*, a comedy about a film director attempting a Pasolini remake.



Holding Hands



Funne: Sea Dreaming Girls



Halal For Beginners



The Intruder

GERMAN SELLERS

By Geoffrey Macnab

**The Match Factory** will be a major presence in the market, with seven titles in official selection. The company has Fatih Akin's *In The Fade* and Kornel Mundruczo's *Jupiter's Moon* in Competition; Mohammad Rasoulof's *A Man Of Integrity* in Un Certain Regard; and Abel Ferrara's *Alive In France*, Leonardo Di Costanzo's *The Intruder* and Roberto De Paolis' *Pure Hearts* in Directors' Fortnight. The Match Factory also represents Fabio Grassadonia and Antonio Piazza's *Sicilian Ghost Story*, which opens Critics' Week.

**Beta Cinema** will bring Claus Raffle's drama-documentary *The Invisibles*, based on the true story of four young Jews who survive the Third Reich in the middle of Berlin. It stars Maximilian Mauff (*Bridge Of Spies*), Alice Dwyer and Ruby O Fee. Also on Beta's slate is Felix Randau's Neolithic epic *Iceman*, starring Juergen Vogel and Andre M Hennicke, and *Text For You*, a dramedy from Karoline Herfurth about a woman sending texts to her late fiancé. And there is likely to be strong buyer interest in *Werk Ohne Autor*, the latest feature from Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (*The Lives Of Others*). Shot by Caleb Deschanel, the thriller stars Tom Schilling, Paula Beer and Sebastian Koch.

**Sola Media** has picked up worldwide rights for CGI animated feature *Anchors Up: Boat To The Rescue*. It is directed by Simen Alsvik and William John Ashurst.

**Global Screen** will bring a slate of new titles including *Julian Schnabel: A Private Portrait*, a documentary about the artist and filmmaker. The company is also presenting 3D animated feature *Marnie's World*, and will market premiere *Halal For Beginners* from writer/director Conor McDermottroe, a comedy set in Ireland's first Halal meat factory.

**ARRI Media International** is presenting animated feature *Ploey — You Never Fly Alone*. The company will hold a private screening to show nine minutes of footage of the co-production between animation studios GunHil in Iceland and Cyborn in Belgium. ARRI is planning a market premiere at AFM later this year. The company is also introducing buyers to drama *Directions* by Stephan Komandarev, which screens in Un Certain Regard.

**M-Appeal** is handling Directors' Fortnight title *The Dragon Defense* from young Colombian filmmaker Natalia Santa. It will also kick off sales in earnest on SXSW title *Easy Living* from director Adam Keleman.

(Left) Fortunata





NORDIC SELLERS

By Wendy Mitchell

TrustNordisk has boarded hot Danish debut *The Guilty*, which had a buzzy presentation at Goteborg's Work In Progress sessions. The real-time, contained thriller is about an alarm dispatcher (Jakob Cedergren) racing against time to save a kidnapped woman. The film is the first feature to emerge from Nordisk's new talent arm SPRING. TrustNordisk will host market screenings of Peter Schnau Fog's *You Disappear*, starring Trine Dyrholm, Nikolaj Lie Kaas and Michael Nyqvist; Danish thriller *Darkland* directed by Fenar Ahmad; and Petra Volpe's Swiss comedy drama *The Divine Order*, which won the audience award at Tribeca. TrustNordisk is handling Lars von Triers's now-shooting serial-killer story *The House That Jack Built*, starring Matt Dillon, Bruno Ganz and Uma Thurman, as well as Icelandic horror thriller *I Remember You*; Norwegian war drama *The 12th Man* directed by Harald Zwart; and Norwegian fantasy epic *The Ash Lad: In The Hall Of The Mountain King*. The company is also selling Pernille Fischer Christensen's *Becoming Astrid*, now shooting.

LevelK brings to market Luke Shanahan's Australian thriller *Rabbit*, which is now in post, and is also introducing Mehdi Avaz and Milad Avaz's Danish drama *While We Live*, about four people in northern Denmark whose lives intersect in a tragic accident. The company is also selling Christian Tafdrup's *A Horrible Woman*, currently in post. Anders Juul and Amanda Collin star in the story of a crumbling relationship, told from the man's perspective. Also new is Danish animation *The Incredible Story Of The Giant Pear* directed by Philip Einstein Lipski, Jorgen Lerdam and Amalie Naesby Fick, which is also in post.

SF Studios' slate includes Janus Metz's hotly anticipated *Borg/McEnroe*, which is due for delivery in August and stars Sverrir Gudnason, Shia LaBeouf and Stellan Skarsgard. SF also has two animated projects: Sweden's *Bamse And The Witch's Daughter* and Norway's *In The Forest Of Huckybucky*. SF is also selling Norwegian thriller *King's Bay*, directed by Stig Svendsen and produced by *Trollhunter*'s John M. Jacobsen.

The Yellow Affair will be hosting market screenings of *Becker: Small Town Gangster*, a Swedish black comedy directed by Martin Larsson; and



Becker: Small Town Gangster



Rabbit



Bobbi Jene



Scaffolding

Danish thriller *Robin*, directed by Antonio Tubten. The sales company is also showing a promo of Tony Simpson's New Zealand family film *Kiwi Christmas*, which stars Finland's Kari Vaananen as Santa. It will be delivered this autumn, and Madman will release in Australia and New Zealand in November.

Eyewell's slate includes Elmo Nuganen's Estonian drama *1944*; Swedish horror *American Burger*; Jaak Kilmi's Estonian comedy *The Dissidents*, which will have a market screening; and Fredrik Hiller's Swedish action film *Zone 261: Operation Ragnarok*, now in post with a promo reel available.

REST OF THE WORLD SELLERS

By Geoffrey Macnab

Austrian doc specialist *Autlook Filmsales* is representing an eclectic mix of films, among them Vanessa Redgrave's directorial debut *Sea Sorrow*, which tells the story of refugees fleeing warzones throughout the last century; Kaspar Astrup Schröder's *Big Time*, about design guru Bjarke Ingels; and Marieke Schroeder's *Schumann's Bar Talks*, which profiles bartender Charles Schumann. *Autlook* will also give a market screening to Elvira Lind's *Bobbi Jene*, about the US dancer, which arrives with festival awards from Tribeca and Hot Docs.

The Hungarian National Film Fund has high hopes for adventure *Kincsem*, the country's highest-grossing local film of the past 10 years. It tells the story of the titular thoroughbred race horse who won every race she ran from 1876-79.

Belgian outfit *Be For Films*' new titles include surrogate mum drama *Diane Has The Right Shape* and Swiss drama *Blue My Mind* from Lisa Brühlmann.

Dutch Features *Global Entertainment*'s Cannes slate includes the company's first English-language production, *Sunset Contract*, billed as a modern folktale about a CEO who is confronted by the devil. The company also has Dutch comedy *Ron Goossens*, *Low-Budget Stuntman* and contemporary drama *The Swell*, which explores what happens when the national flood defences of the Netherlands and Belgium start to collapse.

New Europe Film Sales' *Scaffolding* by Matan Yair has been chosen for the festival's Acid section. The company will also be introducing Israeli comedy *Holy Air* from Shady Srouf to the market.

Australian outfit *Odin's Eye* is beginning sales on high-concept sci-fi movie *Quanta*. Directed by Nathan Dalton, and produced by Jesse O'Brien and Christian D'Alessio of Raygun with Ben Whimpey of Indimax Productions, it is the story of a middle-aged physicist who reluctantly takes on a younger man with Asperger's syndrome for a research project.

The Russians will be out in force at the market. *Central Partnership* will be presenting 13th-century action epic *Furious*, basketball drama *Three Seconds*, which tells the story of how the Soviet team beat the supposedly invincible US at the Munich Olympics of 1972, ballet drama *The Bolshoi* and fantasy adventure *Frontier*.

Planeta Inform is going to present new materials from *The Coma* by Russian VFX specialist Nikita Argunov; action fantasy *The Scythian*, produced by Sergey Selyanov; and historical blockbuster *Prince Oleg*, co-produced by Vladimir Kilburg and Dmitry Litvinov.

Russian outfit *Indie Vision* (part of World Vision) is bringing some upscale projects to Cannes, among them four stage productions in HD, based on famous Russian literature, from the country's most renowned theatre companies. The titles are *Eugene Onegin*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Black Monk* and *Anna Karenina*. The company also has a project in post-production called *Light Up*, billed as "an unusual satire on contemporary Russian reality".

Art Pictures Studio, the outfit behind *Stalingrad* and *Attraction*, is set to announce a sequel to the latter, which was a big success in Russia and has now sold to 74 countries. **S**



# Rise of India's indies

Despite the absence of Indian feature films in this year's official selection, India's independent production scene is in overdrive, with a slew of films ready for festival directors to consider. Liz Shackleton reports

While India does not have any features in Cannes' official selection, Directors' Fortnight or Critics' Week this year, there are several Indian independent films in production or post-production that are likely to appear at festivals either later this year or in early 2018. The list below includes titles from established filmmakers, such as Nandita Das and Iran's Majid Majidi, as well as feature debuts from promising new talents. In an encouraging sign for the sustainability of India's indie filmmaking sector, the list also includes second and third features from directors whose debuts won acclaim on the festival circuit, such as Devashish Makhija (*Oonga*), Aditya Vikram Sengupta (*Labour Of Love*) and Anup Singh (*Qissa: The Tale Of A Lonely Ghost*).



Beyond The Clouds

## Ajji

Dir Devashish Makhija

One of the first features from Indian music company Saregama, which stepped into the production of independent feature films last year, *Ajji* is the story of a 60-year-old woman seeking justice and revenge for the rape of a child when the local police refuse to intervene. Makhija made his feature debut with *Oonga*, about the plight of Indian tribals, in 2013 and has also directed a string of highly praised shorts. Currently in the final stages of post-production, *Ajji* was produced by Saregama and Yoodlee Films and stars Sushama Deshpande, Sharvani Suryavanshi and Saadiya Siddique. Paris-based Charades has picked up international rights.

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Ajji

## Beyond The Clouds

Dir Majid Majidi

The first Hindi-language feature from Iranian director Majidi (*Children Of Heaven*), *Beyond The Clouds* is a coming-of-age story about the relationship between a brother and a sister. Majidi, who has a loyal following in India, shot the film in Mumbai using a wholly Indian cast and crew. Ishaan Khatter heads the cast, while behind-the-scenes talent includes Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman (*Slumdog Millionaire*) and DoP Anil Mehta (*Lagaan*). Produced by India's Zee Studios and Eyecandy Films, the film is in post-production for delivery in the autumn.

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## Bombay Rose

Dir Gitanjali Rao

Co-produced by India and UK-based Cinestaan Film Company and France's Les Film d'ci, *Bombay Rose* marks the first



Bombay Rose

feature from Rao, whose short animation *Printed Rainbow* won the Kodak short film award and two other prizes in Critics' Week in 2006. Also employing her hand-painted style of 2D animation, *Bombay Rose* revolves around two migrant children and the clash between romance and harsh reality on the streets of Mumbai. Currently in production, it is scheduled for delivery in 2018.

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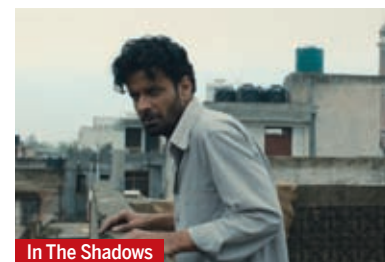
## The Hungry

Dir Bornila Chatterjee

Naseeruddin Shah and Tisca Chopra head the cast of this UK-India co-production, a contemporary adaptation of Shakespeare's

*Titus Andronicus*, which is in post-production for delivery in early summer. Co-produced by Cinestaan Film Company and Film London, the film was developed using Film London's low-budget Microwave scheme as its model, with the film-makers undergoing a training programme funded by the British Council. The cast also includes Arjun Gupta, Neeraj Kabi and Sayani Gupta.

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In The Shadows

## In The Shadows

Dir Dipesh Jain

Manoj Bajpayee (*Gangs Of Wasseypur*) plays the lead role in this psychological drama about a lonely man trapped within the walls of the old city of Delhi, as well as within his own mind. In the »



final stages of post-production, the film also stars acclaimed actors Neeraj Kabi (*Ship Of Theseus*), Shahana Goswami (*Midnight's Children*) and Ranvir Shorey (*A Death In The Gunj*). The feature debut of Jain, who has written and directed a string of award-winning shorts, *In The Clouds* is produced by Shuchi Jain of UK-based Exstant Motion Pictures and Swiss producer Lena Vurma.

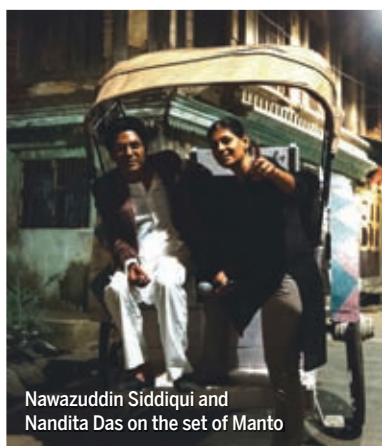
**Contact** Shuchi Jain, Exstant Motion Pictures ✉ shuchijain.film@gmail.com  
Lena Vurma, Dragonfly Films ✉ vurma@dragonflyfilms.de

## Jonaki

**Dir** Aditya Vikram Sengupta

The second feature from *Labour Of Love* writer-director Sengupta is an abstract work delving into the mind and memories of an elderly woman in a coma. Veteran actress Lolita Chatterjee plays the 80-year-old lead in the Bengali-language feature, which is currently in production. Vikram Mohinta is producing with Samir Sarkar of Magic Hour Films and Paris-based Catherine Dussart Productions (CDP). *Labour Of Love*, about a young couple in Kolkata, won the Federa award for best debut film in Venice Days 2014 and a National Film Award in India. Sengupta is also working on *Memories And My Mother*, to be co-produced by CDP.

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Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Nandita Das on the set of *Manto*

## Manto

**Dir** Nandita Das

Nawazuddin Siddiqui plays controversial Indian writer Saadat Hasan Manto in Das's highly anticipated biopic, which is currently in production. Known as South Asia's greatest short-story writer, Manto wrote extensively about the partition of India and was tried for obscenity six times but never convicted. Produced by HP Studios, Viacom18 Motion Pictures and FilmztoC, the biopic also stars Rasika Dugal (*Qissa: The Tale Of A Lonely Ghost*) as Manto's wife and follows his later years



The Monster

in Lahore. Das, who is also producing the film, is an acclaimed actress who made her directing debut with *Firaaq* (2008).

**Contact** Jean-Pierre Le Calvez, HP Studios ✉ jp.lecalvez@hp.com ✉ mantofilm@gmail.com

## The Monster

**Dir** Dnyanesh Zoting

Currently in post-production, fantasy drama *The Monster* (*Raakshas*) tells the story of an eight-year-old girl whose father is making a documentary about the protests of a tribal village against a development project. After reading a fairy tale about a monster in the forest, she begs her father not to visit the village again, but he goes anyway and disappears. While her mother launches a search, the girl uses the plot of her fairy tale to bring him back. Produced by Holy Basil Productions and Navalakha Arts, the Marathi-language production is Zoting's first feature and was developed through the Drishyam Sundance Screenwriters Lab.

**Contact** Sanjay Ram, Basil Content ✉ sanjs.ram@gmail.com

## The Song Of Scorpions

**Dir** Anup Singh

Set in the Thar desert of Rajasthan, Singh's *The Song Of Scorpions* is about a woman who can overcome the poison of scorpions through music.

When the man whose advances she has spurned has her attacked, she sets out on her own mission of healing and revenge. Golshifteh Farahani and Irrfan Khan head the cast of

the film, which also includes Waheeda Rehman, Shashank Arora and Tillotama Shome. Singh's last film, *Qissa: The Tale Of A Lonely Ghost*, premiered at Toronto in 2013 and won a slew of awards. Currently in post-production, *The Song Of Scorpions* is produced by Switzerland's Saskia Vischer, Shahaf Peled and Michel Merkt, along with France's Thierry Lenouvel.

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## The Sweet Requiem

**Dirs** Ritu Sarin, Tenzing Sonam

The second narrative feature from acclaimed documentary filmmakers Sarin and Sonam recently wrapped following a gruelling shoot in Ladakh and Delhi, India. The story follows a young Tibetan woman living in exile in Delhi whose life is unexpectedly shattered when she runs into a man from her past. Produced by White Crane Films and Infinitum Productions, the film stars Tenzin Dolkar and Jampa Kalsang. Sarin and Sonam's first feature, *Dreaming Lhasa* (2005), was executive produced by Jeremy Thomas and Richard Gere, and premiered in Toronto.

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## Unknown Faces

**Dir** Atanu Mukherjee

Produced by Drishyam Films, Mukherjee's debut feature *Unknown Faces* (*Rukh*) stars Adarsh Gourav, Manoj Bajpayee and Smita Tambe in the story of a young man attempting to uncover the truth behind his father's sudden death. Although his mother tries to shield him from the truth, he



Unknown Faces

uncovers a series of disturbing secrets, including his father's bankruptcy. Mukherjee, who previously worked as an editor on films such as *Monsoon Shootout*, developed the project through the Drishyam Sundance Screenwriters Lab. Drishyam Films also produced Neeraj Ghaywan's *Masaan*, which screened at Un Certain Regard in 2015, and Amit Masurkar's *Newton*, which premiered at this year's Berlinale.

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## Village Rockstars

**Dir** Rima Das

Selected for Hong Kong Goes To Cannes, due to its participation in the Works-in-Progress Lab of this year's Hong Kong-Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF), Das's Assamese-language drama follows a free-spirited 10-year-old girl who fights gender stereotypes in a remote village in Assam by forming a rock band with a group of local boys. A self-taught filmmaker who has made shorts and documentaries, Das made her feature debut in 2016 with *Man With The Binoculars*, which screened at Tallinn Black Nights and Mumbai film festivals.

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The Song Of Scorpions



# Japan's show of strength

Japan is well represented in official selection by Naomi Kawase, Kiyoshi Kurosawa and Takashi Miike, while market highlights include titles from Hirokazu Koreeda and Yojiro Takita. Liz Shackleton reports

Japan has an exceptionally strong showing at Cannes this year, with Naomi Kawase's *Radiance* in Competition, Takashi Miike's *Blade Of The Immortal* playing out of competition, and titles also selected for Un Certain Regard, Cannes Classics and Critics' Week.

While Cannes' official selection usually focuses on established Japanese filmmakers, such as Kawase and Kiyoshi Kurosawa, whose sci-fi drama *Before We Vanish* will premiere in Un Certain Regard, this year's Critics' Week line-up includes a first-time feature from female Japanese filmmaker Atsuko Hirayanagi. The US-Japan collaboration *Oh Lucy!* is a feature-length version of her short film of the same name, which won a jury prize at Sundance in 2015 and more than 35 other awards.

Meanwhile, another Cannes regular, Hirokazu Koreeda, is now in post-production on his first legal drama, *The Third Murder*, starring Masaharu Fukuyama (*Like Father, Like Son*), which is scheduled for delivery in September. As with Koreeda's previous films, Wild Bunch and Japanese distributor Gaga are sharing worldwide sales duties.

Japan's other studios and major broadcasters also have a strong line-up of releases for the rest of the year in addition to the titles listed below. High-profile local productions scheduled to open over the summer include Yoji Yamada's *What A Wonderful Family 2*, Yu Irie's *Memoirs Of A Murderer*, Kentaro Hagiwara's *Tokyo Ghoul*, Takashi Miike's *JoJo's Bizarre Adventure: Diamond Is Unbreakable* and Toho's highly anticipated animation *Fireworks, Should We See It From The Side Or The Bottom?*.



The Ballad Of Narayama

## OFFICIAL SELECTION

### The Ballad Of Narayama

Dir Shohei Imamura

Winner of the Palme d'Or in 1983, Imamura's *The Ballad Of Narayama* has been digitally restored and selected to screen in this year's Cannes Classics as part of a celebration of the festival's 70th anniversary. In turn inspired by Keisuke Kinoshita's 1958 classic of the same name, the film is set in a village where tradition dictates that when people reach the age of 70, their children should carry them into the mountains and leave them to die. Sumiko Sakamoto and Ken Ogata star as the mother and son who are facing this cruel fate.

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### Before We Vanish

Dir Kiyoshi Kurosawa

Based on a play by Tomohiro Maekawa, Kurosawa's sci-fi drama tells the story of a woman in a loveless marriage who is puzzled by her husband's strange behaviour, until he reveals he is an advance scout for an alien

invasion of Earth. Selected to screen in Un Certain Regard, the film stars Masami Nagasawa (*Our Little Sister*), Ryuhei Matsuda (*The Great Passage*) and Hiroki Hasegawa (*Shin Godzilla*).

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RoW contact Olivier Barbier, Wild Bunch

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Blade Of The Immortal

### Blade Of The Immortal

Dir Takashi Miike

UK producer Jeremy Thomas's Recorded Picture Company is reteaming with Miike on this action drama about a samurai cursed with immortality after a legendary battle. Adapted from Hiroaki Samura's hit manga, the film stars Takuya Kimura (*2046*), Hana Sugisaki, Ebizo Ichikawa and Min Tanaka. Released by Warner Bros Japan on April 29, it is screening in Cannes in an out of competition slot.

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## Radiance

Dir Naomi Kawase

The latest drama from Cannes regular Kawase, which is playing in Competition, sees a woman who writes film voiceovers for the visually impaired team up with a photographer losing his sight to discover a previously invisible world. The cast includes Masatoshi Nagase (*Paterson*), Ayame Misaki (*Attack On Titan*) and veteran Tatsuya Fuji, whose credits include *In The Realm Of The Senses*, which is screening in Cannes Classics.

Contact Fionnuala Jamison, MK2 Films

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Radiance

## CRITICS' WEEK

### Oh Lucy!

Dir Atsuko Hirayanagi

Shinobu Terajima and Josh Hartnett head the cast of this US-Japan collaboration, which marks the feature debut of Japanese director Hirayanagi. The comedy drama tells the story of a lonely office worker who falls for her teacher when she takes up English lessons. When the teacher disappears, she sets out on a journey to find him that takes her to California. The cast also includes Kaho Minami (*Kabukicho Love Hotel*) and Koji Yakusho (*Babel*).

Contact Adeline Fontan Tessaur,

Elle Driver

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SELECTED PROJECTS  
IN THE MARKET**Her Sketchbook****Dir** Masaya Ozaki

Rising actress Mugi Kadowaki stars in this drama, which marks the second feature as director from acclaimed film and TV writer Masaya Ozaki. The story follows a middle-school dropout who avoids human contact by immersing herself in copying her favourite manga and illustrations, until her father finds her a part-time job. Kadowaki won the best new actress prize at the 2015 Kinema Junpo awards for *Love's Whirlpool*, and also starred in Naoko Oigigami's recent Berlin title *Close-Knit*. *Her Sketchbook* is scheduled for local release on July 15.

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Her Sketchbook

**Innocent Curse****Dir** Takashi Shimizu

Mugi Kadowaki also stars in the latest project from horror-meister Shimizu, director of *The Grudge* series, along with singer-actors Hideaki Takizawa and Daiki Arioka. Scheduled for local release in June, the film is set in a suburban town rocked by a series of child disappearances and suspicious adult deaths. A reporter refuses to believe children are killing adults and begins to investigate.

**Contact** Shion Komatsu, Shochiku

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**The Last Recipe****Dir** Yojiro Takita

The director of Oscar-winning drama *Departures*, Takita is teaming with actor Kazunari Ninomiya (*Letters From Iwo Jima*) on this food-themed drama, which is in post-production for release on November 3. Based on a novel by Keiichi Tanaka, director of popular TV food show *Iron Chef*, the film tells the story of a famous chef who is tasked with tracking down a 70-year-old missing recipe. The cast also includes Hidetoshi Nishijima, Go Ayano and Aoi Miyazaki.

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Side Job

**Mumon: The Land Of Stealth****Dir** Yoshihiro Nakamura

The latest work from one of Japan's most versatile filmmakers, *Mumon: The Land Of Stealth* is a period drama based on Ryo Wada's novel *Shinobi No Kuni*, and tells the story of the showdown between a warlord and a rebellious ninja clan. Starring Satoshi Ohno, Satomi Ishihara and Yusuke Iseya, the film is in post-production for Japanese release in July.

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**Narratage****Dir** Isao Yukisada

Based on Rio Shimamoto's award-winning novel of the same name, *Narratage* is a coming-of-age drama directed by a master of the genre, Yukisada (*Crying Out Love, In The Center Of The World*), and produced by Ogawa Shinji (*Norwegian Wood*). Starring Kasumi Arimura, Jun Matsumoto and Kentaro Sakaguchi, the film follows a university student who struggles with her feelings when she is contacted by her former high school teacher, on whom she had a crush, to appear in one of his plays.

**Contact** Akihiro Takeda, Toho Co

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**Side Job****Dir** Ryuichi Hiroki

Based on the director's own novel *Her Life Is Not At Fault*, Hiroki's latest feature tells the story of a young woman who escapes her mundane life as an office clerk in Fukushima, where people are still suffering from the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, by working as a call girl during the weekends in Tokyo. Scheduled for release on July 15, the film stars Kumi Takiuchi (*Twisted Justice*), Ken Mitsuishi (*Midnight Diner*) and Kengo Kora (*Being Good*). Hiroki is known for films that explore sexuality and the inner worlds of female characters, such as *Vibrator* (2003), starring Shinobu Terajima, and *Kabukicho Love Hotel* (2014).

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**Stray Nightingale****Dir** Hidenori Inoue

The filmed version of Japanese theatre company Village Inc's latest sell-out production, *Stray Nightingale*, has been re-edited for international audiences. Filmed by Village's Geki Cine label using multiple HD cameras, surround sound and high-end post-production, the play is directed by acclaimed



The Third Murder



Innocent Curse



Mumon: The Land Of Stealth

theatre director Inoue and has Arata Furuta, Izumi Inamori and Shunsuke Daitoh heading the cast.

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**The Third Murder****Dir** Hirokazu Koreeda

Renowned for insightful family stories, Koreeda has taken on a legal drama for his latest project, which reunites him with Masaharu Fukuyama, the star of his 2013 Cannes Grand Jury Prize winner *Like Father, Like Son*. Currently in post-production for Japanese release on September 9, the film tells the story of a lawyer who reluctantly defends a convicted killer charged with another murder. Koji Yakusho (*Babel*) plays the murderer and Hirose Suzu (*Our Little Sister*) also stars.

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**RoW contact** Olivier Barbier, Wild Bunch

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**Vigilante** (working title)**Dir** Yu Irie

Nao Omori (*Museum*), Kenta Kiritani (*Close-Knit*) and popular TV actor Kosuke Suzuki star in this drama as three brothers who decide to take the law into their own hands and form a vigilante group following the death of their father. Irie, who first garnered attention with 2009 indie sleeper hit *8000 Miles*, recently directed NTV's *Memoirs Of A Murderer*, which is scheduled for Japanese release on June 10. *Vigilante* is in post-production for release in winter 2017.

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# Master builders

The latest films by auteurs John Woo, Tsui Hark, Yuen Woo-ping and Chen Kaige are among the Hong Kong and China highlights for international buyers in this year's market. Liz Shackleton reports

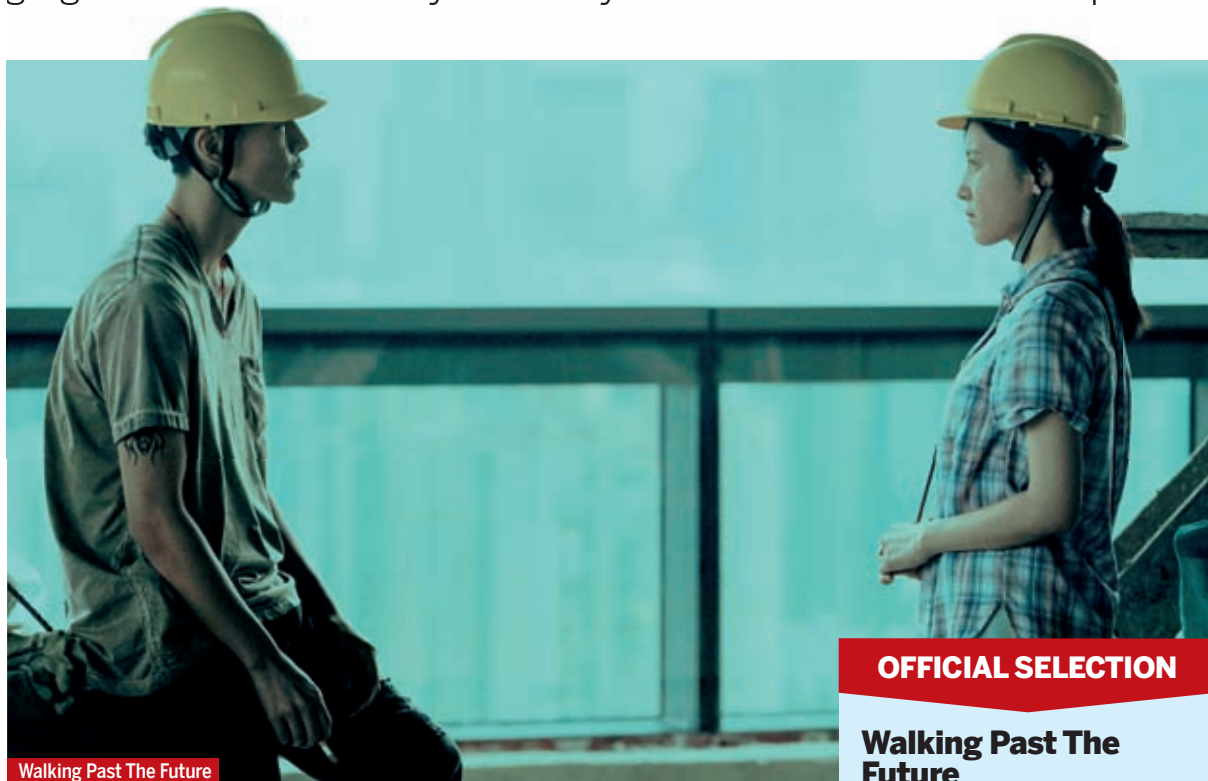
Greater China only has one feature in official selection at Cannes this year, Li Ruijun's *Walking Past The Future* in Un Certain Regard, which partly reflects how Beijing and Hong Kong-based producers continue to focus on their huge and currently very mainstream local market. Timing has also played a part, however: Cannes regular Jia Zhangke's crime romance *Money & Love* will not be ready for delivery until the end of the year.

The quality of Chinese movies was cited as one of the reasons for China's box-office growth flatlining last year, but the downturn also means some of the speculative investment in the industry should be subsiding, leaving more room for projects from established studios that have been properly developed.

Since the Chinese New Year peak box-office period in February, two local productions have scored decent box office and been critically acclaimed: Enlight Pictures' *The Devotion Of Suspect X*, which grossed \$58m, and Hong Kong-China co-production *Shock Wave*, which was still on release at the time of writing and had grossed \$56m after 18 days.

## The lure of Hollywood

Local films have their work cut out, however, to compete with a strong Hollywood line-up. So far this year, *The Fate Of The Furious* has become the highest-grossing US film of all time in China with \$362m, while *Kong: Skull Island* took \$169m. Chinese films that may have some chance of winning back market share include *City Of Rock*, directed by Da Peng, whose 2015 hit *Pancake Man* grossed \$178m; John Woo's action thriller *Manhunt*; Wong Jing and Jason Kwan's *Chasing The Dragon*; and Yuen Woo-ping's *The Thousand Faces Of Dunjia*. Heading into 2018, highly anticipated titles include Tsui Hark's *Detective Dee: The Four Heavenly Kings* and fantasy sequel *Monster Hunt 2*.



Walking Past The Future

## OFFICIAL SELECTION

### Walking Past The Future

Dir Li Ruijun

A late addition to Un Certain Regard, Li Ruijun's drama stars Yang Zishan as the daughter of ageing migrant workers living in the city, who takes part in a series of highly paid but risky medical experiments as a way of providing her parents with their own home. Li has previously directed critically acclaimed dramas such as *River Road* (2014) and *Fly With The Crane* (2012), while Yang has been considered a star since her highly praised turn in Vicki Zhao Wei's college drama *So Young* (2013).

Contact Julian Chiu, Edko Films

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becoming one of Hong Kong's most powerful drug lords.

Contact Angela Wong, Mega-Vision Project Workshop ✉ angelaolwong@mvphk.biz

## City Of Rock

Dir Dong Chengpeng

Following his 2015 megahit *Pancake Man*, actor and filmmaker Dong Chengpeng (aka Da Peng) has directed this comedy drama about a young man from a small town in China, who stages a charity rock concert to save the town's treasured 'Rock Park' from redevelopment by »

## SELECTED PROJECTS IN THE MARKET

### A Better Tomorrow 4

Dir Ding Sheng

Jackie Chan's long-time collaborator Ding Sheng is rebooting John Woo's classic *A Better Tomorrow* series with this 'heroic bloodshed' action title, which is currently in post-production. Starring Wang Kai (*Railroad Tigers*), Ray Ma (*Ice Fantasy*) and Talu Wang (*Railroad Tigers*, *Our Times*), the film follows the conflict between two brothers — one heading a smuggling operation and the other an up-and-coming star in the police department's narcotics division.

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### The Brink

Dir Jonathan Li

Zhang Jin (*Ip Man 3*), Shawn Yue, Wu Yue and Janice Man star in this \$15m action thriller about a cop who is caught in the crossfire between rival factions in a gold-smuggling ring. Currently in post-production, the film

marks the feature debut of Jonathan Li, associate director on *Overheard 2*, *Overheard 3* and *Blind Detective*. Soi Cheang and Paco Wong are producing for Hong Kong-based Sun Entertainment and YL Pictures, China's iQiyi Motion Pictures and Sil-Metropole Organisation.

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Chasing The Dragon

### Chasing The Dragon

Dirs Wong Jing, Jason Kwan

Donnie Yen plays real-life 1970s gangster Ng Sek-ho (aka Crippled Ho) in this action crime drama, backed by Bona Film Group and Wong Jing's Mega-Vision Project Workshop. Andy Lau also stars and Wong is directing along with acclaimed cinematographer Jason Kwan. Currently in post-production, the film follows Ho from his days as an illegal immigrant through his rise to



a corporate real-estate agent. Da Peng also stars along with Gulnazar and Qiao Shan. Produced by Enlight Pictures, the film is scheduled for release around China's National Day holiday in October.

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## Detective Dee: The Four Heavenly Kings

**Dir** Tsui Hark

The third film in Huayi Brothers' blockbuster *Detective Dee* franchise reunites the cast of the second instalment: Mark Zhao, Feng Shaofeng, Lin Gengxin and Carina Lau. The story follows Detective Dee as he battles a surreal crimewave at the same time as defending himself against accusations of wrongdoing from his most formidable opponent, Empress Wu. Currently in production, the film is being lined up for release over Chinese New Year 2018.

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Heavyweight Assassin



The Dude's Manual

## The Dude's Manual

**Dir** Kevin Ko

Produced by Taiwanese filmmaker Leste Chen (*Battle Of Memories*) and directed by Taiwan's Kevin Ko (*Invitation Only*), this coming-of-age campus sex comedy stars a cast of hot newcomers, including Dong Zijian (*De Lan*), Elane Zhong (*Bloom Of Youth*) and Jessie Li (*Port Of Call*). Produced by Beijing Magilm Media, the film is currently in post-production for tentative release at the end of the year.

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## Fraud Squad

**Dir** Oxide Pang

Currently in production, the latest suspense action film from Oxide Pang (*Bangkok Dangerous*) follows Chinese police attempting to hunt down a phone-fraud gang hiding out in Thailand. Shooting in China, Hong Kong, Thailand and Taiwan, the \$12m film stars Cheney Chen (*Tiny*



(Left) Fraud Squad



Invincible Dragon

*Times* series), Joseph Chang (*Wild City*), Gwei Lun Mei (*Black Coal, Thin Ice*) and Jiang Mengjie (*Sword Master*).

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## Guns And Kidneys

**Dir** Zhang Meng

Best known as the director of award-winning 2010 drama *The Piano In A Factory*, Zhang Meng's latest project follows a small-time conman who invites a Hollywood studio to shoot a film in an old industrial town in order to earn some kick-back money. The town appreciates

his efforts, but a jealous partner threatens to reveal the real motivation behind his plan. Currently in production for release over the National Day holiday, the comedy drama stars Wang Qianyuan, Huang Jingyu and Ivy Chen.

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## Heavyweight Assassin

**Dir** Jeffrey Lau

Veteran filmmaker Jeffrey Lau, best known for the iconic *A Chinese Odyssey* series, is directing this martial-arts adventure about a group of assassins attempting to track down a stash of hidden gold. Zhang Jin heads the cast, which also includes Ada Choi and Andy On, while behind-the-scenes talent includes art director Lau Man Hung (*Call Of Heroes*) and visual-effects director Cecil Cheng (*Cold War*). Currently in

production, the film is produced by Entertaining Power Co.

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## The Invincible Dragon

**Dir** Fruit Chan

Zhang Jin (*Ip Man 3*) and mixed martial-arts star Anderson Silva star in Fruit Chan's \$12m action film about a detective on the trail of a serial killer who may have abducted his fiancée. Produced by Pegasus Motion Pictures, the film is in post-production after shooting in Hong Kong and Macau. The crew includes cinematographer Cheng Siu Keung (*Election*) and action director Stephen Tung Wei (*Operation Mekong*).

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## Ip Man Series: Cheung Tin Chi 3D

**Dir** Yuen Woo-ping

Currently in pre-production, this \$28m spin-off of the successful *Ip Man* series follows the character played by Zhang Jin. He is laying low after being defeated by martial-arts master Ip Man, but manages to cross an influential female gangster and the foreign 'big boss' behind the local bar district. In addition to Zhang, the top-flight kung-fu cast includes Dave Bautista, Michelle Yeoh and Tony Jaa.

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## Legend Of The Demon Cat

**Dir** Chen Kaige

Based on a novel by Baku Yumemakura, Chen Kaige's Tang Dynasty-set drama revolves around a Chinese monk and Japanese poet who join forces to investigate a demonic cat that appears to have possessed a general's wife. A co-production between China's New Classics Media and Japan's Kadokawa, *Legend Of The Demon Cat* stars Huang Xuan, Zhang Yuqi and Japanese actor Shota Sometani. Currently in post-production, the film is being lined up for release at the end of the year. Hong Kong-based Emperor Motion Pictures is handling select territories.

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The Thousand Faces Of Dunjia



Manhunt

## Manhunt

**Dir** John Woo

Chinese actor Zhang Hanyu and Japan's Masaharu Fukuyama star in John Woo's \$50m action thriller *Manhunt*, which is in post-production after shooting in Japan. Produced by Chan Hing Kai and Gordon Chan, the film is based on a novel by Juko Nishimura about a lawyer who is framed for murder and sets out on a mission to clear his name. The book was first adapted into a popular 1976 Japanese film starring Ken Takakura.

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## Monster Hunt 2

**Dir** Raman Hui

The sequel to the 2015 blockbuster fantasy adventure, which grossed more than \$400m worldwide, *Monster Hunt 2* reunites the stars of the first instalment, Jing Boran and Bai Baihe, while Tony Leung Chiu-Wai (*The Grandmaster*) has also joined the cast. The story follows the baby monster king Wuba as he faces another threat from the dark lord who plots to overthrow the empire.

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## Our Time Will Come

**Dir** Ann Hui

Following her critically acclaimed biopic *The Golden Era*, Ann Hui is tackling another historical drama, this time following a group of plucky youths fighting for freedom during the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong. Eddie Peng and Zhou Xun head the cast of the film, which Bona Film Group is lining up for release in July.

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## Paradox

**Dir** Wilson Yip

Louis Koo, Wu Yue and Lam Ka Tung star in this action thriller about a Hong Kong cop who teams up with local police in Thailand to search for his missing daughter. Currently in post-production, the film is produced by Soi Cheang and Paco Wong and also features Tony Jaa in a special appearance. Sammo Hung is on board as action director.

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## The Thousand Faces Of Dunjia

**Dir** Yuen Woo-ping

Tsui Hark and Nansun Shi are producing this martial-arts action fantasy directed by Yuen Woo-ping and starring Aarif Lee, Zhou Dongyu, Dong Cheng-peng (aka Da Peng) and Ni Ni. Set during the Northern Song Dynasty, the story follows a band of

martial-arts warriors who secretly protect the human race from evil outer-space creatures. The film is in post-production for release around the end of the year.

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## Triple Threat

**Dir** Chad Stahelski

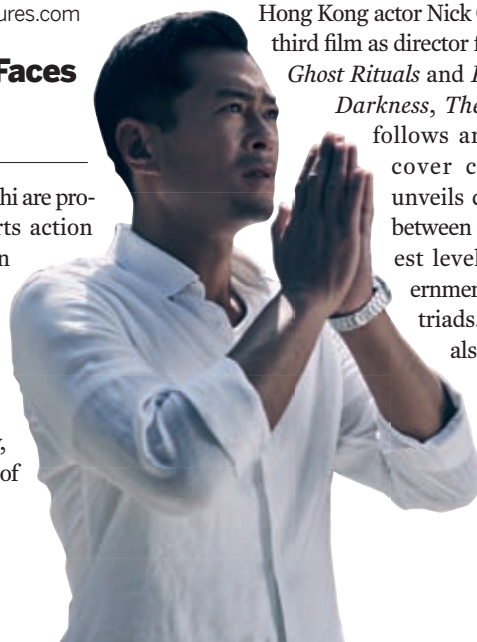
Currently in production, this action thriller unites three of Asia's hottest action stars: Thailand's Tony Jaa, China's Tiger Chen and Indonesia's Iko Uwais (*The Raid*, *The Raid 2*). Chad Stahelski, whose credits include *John Wick* and its sequel, is directing from a script by Dwayne Smith about a Chinese martial artist who goes to Mexico on a mission to rescue his ex-wife. The film is produced by Beijing-based Kungfuman Culture Media and Hamilton Entertainment.

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## The Trough

**Dir** Nick Cheung

Hong Kong actor Nick Cheung's third film as director following *Ghost Rituals* and *Keeper Of Darkness*, *The Trough* follows an undercover cop who unveils collusion between the highest level of government and the triads. Cheung also stars in



(Left) Paradox

the \$22m action title, which is currently in production, along with Chinese actresses Xu Jinglei and Yu Nan.

**Contact** Christy Choi, One Cool Pictures  
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Warriors Of Future

## Warriors Of Future

**Dir** Ng Yuen-fai

Louis Koo and Sean Lau star in this sci-fi action title set in the near future when the Earth's atmosphere has been destroyed and a mysterious vine is running rampant, leaving genetic modification as the only hope for mankind. Currently in production, the \$45m film is directed by visual-effects veteran Ng Yuen-fai (*Bodyguards And Assassins*), who runs One Cool Group's VFX firm FatFace Production.

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## Wine War

**Dir** Leon Lai

The directorial debut of Hong Kong star Leon Lai tells the story of a renowned Chinese sommelier, residing in France, who is drawn into an age-old feud surrounding a bottle of vintage wine said to have a connection to Kublai Khan and Marco Polo. Lai also stars, along with Zhang Hanyu, in the action drama, which screens here in the market.

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# A strong hand

With five titles in official selection, South Korea is back with a bang at this year's festival, and the market titles promise more excitement to come. Jean Noh reports

South Korean films are out in force this year at Cannes, with five features in the official selection. Bong Joon Ho's *Okja* and Hong Sangsoo's *The Day After* are premiering in Competition, while the latter director's *Claire's Camera*, which was shot in Cannes last year, will debut in Special Screenings.

On the heels of the worldwide success of Korean zombie thriller *Train To Busan*, which premiered in Midnight Screenings last year, two highly anticipated thrillers are debuting in the same category this year — Jung Byung-gil's *The Villainess* and Byun Sung-hyun's *The Merciless*. CJ Entertainment has already presold the latter to 85 countries before the festival,

including to France (ARP) and Australia and New Zealand (JBG Pictures).

In the first quarter of 2017, local films took 49% of a total of \$378.5m in box-office returns in South Korea, down slightly from last year's 50% in the same period. Interestingly, US films' market share dropped from 44% to 39%, while Japanese films rose from 1% to 8%. The

jump was fuelled by Makoto Shinkai's animation *Your Name*, which clocked up \$25.5m.

Korean titles *Confidential Assignment* and *The King* led the overall rankings for the first quarter, taking \$56m and \$38.3m respectively, while Disney's *Beauty And The Beast* ranked fourth with \$25.7m.

## OFFICIAL SELECTION

### Claire's Camera

Dir Hong Sangsoo

The first of two official selection titles by Cannes favourite Hong Sangsoo (*Woman Is The Future Of Man, A Tale Of Cinema*), *Claire's Camera* is being presented in Special Screenings. It stars Kim Minhee, who picked up the best actress Silver Bear in Berlin this year for her performance in Hong's *On The Beach At Night Alone*, and Isabelle Huppert, who was in Hong's previous Competition title *In Another Country*. Shot in Cannes last year, *Claire's Camera* brings together a young sales agent who is unfairly fired during the festival and a mysterious teacher with a Polaroid camera. Hong's company, Jeonwonsa Film, co-produced.

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The Day After

### The Day After

Dir Hong Sangsoo

Kim Minhee again stars for Hong, in Competition entry *The Day After*. She plays Areum, a new employee at a small publishing company with a boss (Kwon Haehyo) who had been having an affair with her predecessor (Kim Saebyuk). Shot in Seoul, the black-and-white film



The Merciless

is also produced by Hong's company Jeonwonsa.

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### The Merciless

Dir Byun Sung-hyun

Showing in Midnight Screenings, *The Merciless* stars Seol Gyeong-gu (a.k.a. Sul Kyung-gu) and boy group ZE:A member Yim Si-wan in a thriller about a gangster who takes a newbie under his wing in prison. Directed by Byun Sung-hyun (*Whatcha Wearin'*), the film has been presold to 85 countries including France (ARP) and Taiwan (Movie Cloud). Financed and developed by CJ Entertainment, the film was co-produced by CJ and Pollux-Barunson Co.

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### Okja

Dir Bong Joon Ho

Bong Joon Ho follows up his previous Cannes entries *The Host*, *Mother* and short segment in omnibus film *Tokyo!* with *Okja* in Competition. Netflix's first Korean feature production, the film stars Ahn Seo-hyun as a young girl who sets out to save her best friend, a huge animal named Okja, from a powerful multinational company. Tilda Swinton, Jake Gyllenhaal and Paul Dano also feature. The film is a Plan B Entertainment, Lewis Pictures and Kate Street Picture Company production in association

with Netflix. The online platform will premiere *Okja* in 190 countries on June 28. Next Entertainment World (NEW) will release it

theatrically in South Korea day-and-date on June 29. The film shot in New York City, Vancouver and around Korea.

Contact Netflix  
 Kiki Yu ✉ kyu@netflix.com  
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### The Villainess

Dir Jung Byung-gil

Midnight Screenings selection *The Villainess* stars Kim Ok-vin and Shin Ha-kyun, both of whom were in Park Chan-wook's 2009 Cannes title *Thirst*, with Bang Sung-jun. Directed by Jung Byung-gil (*Confession Of Murder*), *The Villainess* follows a mysterious woman who has been raised as a killer and is recruited to be a secret agent. Backed by Next Entertainment World (NEW), which also had international breakout hit *Train To Busan* in Midnight Screenings last year, the film is produced by Apeitda.

Contact Contents Panda  
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(Left) The Villainess



**SELECTED PROJECTS  
IN THE MARKET**



Gonjiam: Haunted Asylum

**Gonjiam: Haunted Asylum**

**Dir Jung Bum-shik**

Jung Bum-shik's film takes place in a psychiatric hospital selected as one of CNN Travel's '7 Freakiest Places on the Planet'. According to local legend, it was shut down after a series of mysterious patient deaths in the 1990s, but things spin out of control when an internet broadcaster recruits people for a live-streaming 'experience the horror' show at Gonjiam Psychiatric Hospital. Produced by Hive Mediacorp, the \$1.5m horror is set for local release in the third quarter of 2017.

**Contact** Showbox

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**Man Of Will**

**Dir Lee Won-tae**

Based on a true story, Lee Won-tae's feature directorial debut stars Cho Jin-woong (*The Handmaiden*). In 1895, the nation is left in terror and outrage when Japanese assassins infiltrate Joseon's royal palace and murder the queen. In an act of vengeance, Kim Chang-soo beats a ronin to death, landing himself on death row. In prison, he goes from fighting to teaching his fellow prisoners until they all get assigned to a large Japanese construction site, where they are subjected to an ordeal worse than death. The film is in post-production.

**Contact** Finecut

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**The Preparation**  
(working title)

**Dir Cho Young Jun**

Cho Young Jun's feature directorial debut stars Ko Doo-shim (*Good Morning President*) and Kim Sung-kyun (*The Sheriff In Town*). Ko plays a mother with terminal cancer pre-



(Left) The Swindlers



Warriors Of The Dawn



The Preparation

paring to leave her family behind while Kim plays her mentally disabled son who is preparing to stand on his own two feet. Currently in production, the drama is set for local release in the fourth quarter of 2017.

**Contact** Opus Pictures

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**Psychokinesis**

**Dir Yeon Sang-ho**

*Train To Busan* director Yeon Sang-ho started shooting this live-action black comedy last month. Starring Ryu Seung-ryong and Shim Eun-kyung, who voiced the leads

in Yeon's animation *Seoul Station*, *Psychokinesis* is about an ordinary man who suddenly finds he has superpowers. He uses them to help his daughter and the people around him, but runs into trouble in the process. *Train To Busan* production company Redpeter Film and investor/distributor Next Entertainment World (NEW) have reunited for the project.

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**The Swindlers**

**Dir Jang Chang-won**

The feature-directing debut for Jang Chang-won, this crime drama stars Hyun Bin (*Confidential Assignment*) and Yoo Ji-tae (*Old Boy*). When a con man pulls a swindle worth billions and escapes overseas, a prosecutor (Yoo) who colluded with him attempts to track him down, as does a man out for revenge



Man Of Will

(Hyun). They decide to team up, but each with their own hidden motives.

**Contact** Showbox

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**Warriors Of The Dawn**  
(aka The Proxy Soldiers)

**Dir Chung Yoon-chul**

Chung Yoon-chul's period action adventure stars Lee Jung-jae (*Assassination*) and Yeo Jin-gu (*Hwayi: A Monster Boy*) and is set during the 1592 Japanese invasion of Joseon when rich families would hire poor men to take the place of their sons in the draft. Lee plays a veteran proxy soldier who helps 18-year-old crown prince Gwanghae (Yeo) to lead the defence of the nation while his father, the king, flees to China. *Warriors Of The Dawn* is set for local release on May 31.

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