

CANNES BRIEFS

US DEALS FOR GOOD HAIR, SUN, SUNSHINE

Roadside Attractions and Liddell Entertainment have acquired worldwide rights to Chris Rock's Sundance documentary *Good Hair*, produced by HBO Films. Roadside plans to release the film in North America in the autumn. Lionsgate will handle home video and other ancillary rights and HBO will retain pay cable rights.

Separately, Richard Lorber's Lorber HT Digital has acquired all US rights from The Works International to *The Sun*, the third feature in Aleksandr Sokurov's dictator trilogy focusing on Japanese emperor Hirohito.

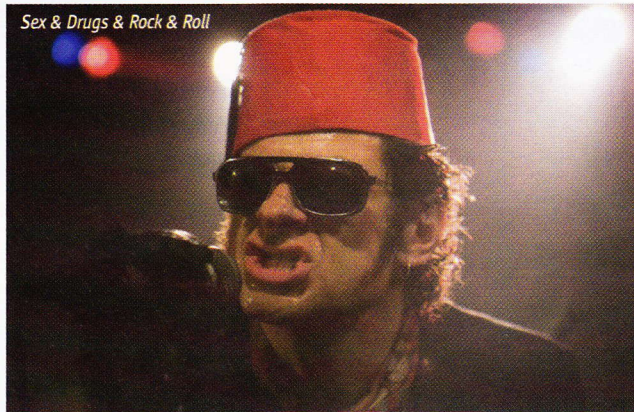
Finally, Anchor Bay Films has acquired all UK rights to HanWay Films' comedy *Sunshine Cleaning* starring Emily Blunt and Amy Adams. The film is currently in US release through Anchor Bay's sister company Overture Films.

DISCO WORMS KEEP DANCING FOR SOLA

Sunshine Barry & The Disco Worms is continuing to burrow into buyers' affections. Early in the market, Sola Media reported sales on the animated feature to CIS, excluding Baltics and Ukraine (Artfilm), Portugal (Mares), India (Gem) and Spain (S2 International). Since its 2008 premiere, the film has been sold to 50-plus territories.

BUY BORROW REACHES ACROSS EUROPE

Atrix Films has closed further deals on *Buy Borrow Steal*, starring Heather Graham. Paris Swift Productions has taken French rights, Tandem has Bulgarian, and DVD and VoD for German-speaking territories have been taken by Ascot Elite.



Principal photography has started in London on Mat Whitecross' *Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll*. Andy Serkis (pictured) stars as Ian Dury in the biopic of the punk legend. He is joined by Naomie Harris, Ray Winstone, Olivia Williams and Toby Jones. Damian Jones is producing and Paul Viragh wrote the script. Prescience, Aegis and the UK Film Council are funding the film, while Odyssey Entertainment is handling worldwide sales. Entertainment is distributing the film in the UK.

Europa looks to Latin America

BY GEOFFREY MACNAB

Europa Distribution is looking to expand. The pan-European network of independent distributors, launched in 2006 and now including 70 members from 19 European countries, is seeking extra EU funds so it can support distributors directly and forge closer ties with Latin America.

The outfit is supported by member subscriptions — distributors pay \$1,365 (€1,000) a year in fees — and has received \$355,000 (€260,000) for 2009 from the EU's MEDIA programme. It is looking to access an extra \$545,800 (€400,000) from MEDIA to back Latin American distributors handling European movies and Europeans distributing Latin American fare.

Europa Distribution is becoming increasingly powerful as a lobbying body. It successfully persuaded the MEDIA programme to revise its guidelines for distribution support to boost the amounts distributors receive for handling what company man-

ager Adeline Monzier describes as "risky arthouse movies".

One of its current battles is to convince MEDIA the virtual print fee (VPF) should be included in distributor costs eligible for MEDIA support.

The VPF is a charge that distributors releasing films digitally must pay exhibitors to get their films on screen. Europa aims for distributors to receive half of the VPF paid through MEDIA support.

Meanwhile, Europa will soon launch Cidinet, an online database for distributors to share promotional and technical material and distribution data. The database is scheduled to go live in July.

Europa is also organising a number of distribution workshops in France, including one in Annecy in June, on the distribution of animated films in Europe, and one at Paris Cinema in July.

The outfit's distributor members include Pyramide, Wild Bunch, Diaphana, Soda Pictures, Artificial Eye and Dogwoof.

Sarajevo selects 19 for CineLink

BY GEOFFREY MACNAB

The Sarajevo Film Festival has selected 19 projects for its 2009 CineLink and CineLink+ co-production market.

Next month, the 12 film-makers and producers chosen for the selection will take part in a project-development workshop.

The CineLink selection projects are eligible for several cash and in-kind awards.

That line-up includes Laszlo Nemes' *Else* (Hungary), Karoly Ujj Meszaros' *Liza*, *The Fox-Fairy* (Hungary), Radu Jude's *Everybody In Our Family* (Romania), Huseyin Karabey's *Come To My Voice* (Turkey), Barbara Albert's *Rootless* (Serbia/Austria), Marian Crisan's *Mor-*

gen (Romania), *Roundabout* (Croatia), *Schwechtje's* (Slovenia), Asli Ozge's *Asli* (Turkey), Timur Makarov's *Timur* (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Iris Elezi's *Unbroken* (Albania), *Becanovic's* (Bosnia and Herzegovina), *Meanwhile*, *Selection* (Bosnia and Herzegovina), *jan Vuletic* (Bosnia and Herzegovina), *Dalila* (Croatia), *Mother Of All* (Croatia), *Seyfi Teoman* (Turkey), *Despair* (Turkey), *Zincograph* (Bosnia and Herzegovina), *Zaim's Shadow* (Bosnia and Herzegovina), *key*, *Radu Muntean* (Romania), *After Christmas* (Romania), *Eran Kolirin's* (Israel)



Bollywood stars Aishwarya Rai Bachchan (left) and Abhishek Bachchan (right) in Cannes yesterday to promote the third edition of the International Cinema Verite. This year's Cinema Verite festival will take place on October 6-8 and in Paris on October 9-10. The theme will be the UN's eight Millennium development goals, such as poverty and gender equality. In addition to debates and forums, screenings will include Sabine El Gemayel's *Niloofar*, a story of arranged marriage. Abhishek Bachchan said: "This is not just a festival to celebrate cinema, it is a platform to discuss issues concerning women and children and to raise funds for charities that could do with the financial support."

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