

DAY
4

SCREEN

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AFM DAILY

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Scott Eastwood takes on the gang in IFT's *Dangerous*

BY JEREMY KAY

Scott Eastwood has signed on to star alongside Tyrese Gibson, Famke Janssen and Kevin Durand in the action thriller *Dangerous*, which International Film Trust (IFT) has introduced to buyers. Mel Gibson has taken a key supporting role.

Production is scheduled to start this month in Canada, with David Hackl (*Saw V*) directing the story



Scott Eastwood

about a reformed sociopath (Eastwood) who heads to a remote

island that comes under siege from a group of mercenaries.

Kevin DeWalt and Ben DeWalt serve as producers for Minds Eye Entertainment with Doug Falconer for Falconer Pictures. Michael Benaroya is executive producer for his Benaroya Pictures alongside Todd Shepherd for Miscellaneous Entertainment. IFT handles worldwide rights excluding Canada.

AFM panel: 'Get set for the Roaring 21s'

BY JEREMY KAY

A post-Covid world will be like "the Roaring 21s" for content creators, a veteran producer told an AFM finance conference panel on Wednesday (November 11).

Brad Krevoy, CEO of the Motion Picture Corporation of America whose personal producer credits include the *Dumb And Dumber* franchise, said content will come back strongly and noted that ad-supported VoD will be key. "That is going to give life to us for many years," said Krevoy. "AVoD will be the ship we all ride on for a while."

Cinetic Media founder John Sloss, who was also speaking on the session about producing without a completion bond, said documentaries were currently faring well. "They've not been as impacted,"



Brad Krevoy



John Sloss



Brian O'Shea

he said. "We're all moving towards episodics. They're doing that for docs, and I think that is a very fertile area to focus on in this moment."

Sloss, Krevoy and The Exchange CEO Brian O'Shea all agreed there was a need to work harder than ever to find protection on productions where very few carriers are offering pandemic coverage since the lockdown.

"It has been a standstill ever since Covid happened," said O'Shea.

"We were in the midst of one production we had to stop. We moved it from Eastern Europe to the UK, and found there was more of a likelihood of finding a bond given that there were more insurance-backed opportunities there."

"It's the films in the middle that are really challenged," said Sloss. "The ones above \$2m but below studio have largely ground to a halt... In England, they've got \$500m from the government to subsidise

Continued on page 4

INSIDE TODAY

EXECUTIVE FOCUS

» PAGE 4

Anton's John Zois on the finance and sales company's production slate and weighing up theatrical vs PVoD

FEATURES

» PAGE 6

Why the resilient Russian industry anticipates a bumper crop of titles in 2021

» PAGE 8

Kenneth Branagh and other UK industry figures on the realities of filmmaking during a pandemic

Vertical takes a ride with *Stalker*

Vertical Entertainment has acquired worldwide rights to Tyler Savage's *Stalker* and is talking to international buyers at the virtual AFM. Vertical plans an early 2021 release for the film (previously *Blinders*).

Stalker stars Vincent Van Horn, Christine Ko and Michael Lee Joplin in the story of a man who is tormented by an unhinged ride-share driver. Savage and Dash Hawkins wrote the script and the film was produced by JP Castel, Chadd Harbold, Daniel Pisano, Hawkins and Savage for Fryman Films and Other Brother Pictures.

John Hazelton