

World News

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Argentine planning to expose 'Secret'

By Anna Marie de la Fuente

Hollywood-based Argentine helmer-scribe Gabriela Tagliavini is prepping "The Anatomist's Secret," a true story about the 16th century Italian surgeon who discovered the clitoris.

Pic is based on Federico Andahazi's bestseller — which caused an uproar in his native Argentina, where it won the prestigious Fortabat Foundation award, and was published in 30 countries.

The \$10 million adaptation is fully funded by two private equity financiers in Italy with "The Merchant of Venice" co-producer Andrea Iervolino producing. Principal photography is slated for March and April in Italy.



Tagliavini

"I would describe it as a comedy with heart," said Tagliavini who plans a colorful and surreal pic, almost Felliniesque or Almodovarian in tone. "There is a dream sequence where a vagina talks to [the surgeon]," she said.

The novel tells the story of Mateo Colombo, whose yearning for an Italian courtesan leads him to search for the physical source of love.

Plans are for an American or British lead while supporting cast will be European.

Tagliavini's helming credits include Disney's 2004 Mexican hit comedy "Ladies' Night"; "Without Men" starring Eva Longoria and Christian Slater; and "Border Run," starring Sharon Stone.

Tagliavini is repped by Ramses Ishak and Michael Sheresky at UTA, manager Carlos Bobadilla at Haven and attorney Todd Rubenstein at Morris Yorn Barnes Levine Krintzman Rubenstein Kohner and Gellman.

UPI taps Tandy exec VP

By Robert Mitchell

LONDON

Universal Pictures Intl. has appointed Jill Tandy as exec VP of commercial affairs starting in February. David Kosse, prexy of international for Universal Pictures, made the announcement Monday.

Tandy will manage the London-based creative production team, focusing on local-language productions. She will work with Universal's L.A.-based exec VP of worldwide acquisitions, Peter Kujawski, who has been in the role since September 2011. She will re-

port to Kosse.

Tandy was one of the founding management team of Polygram Filmed Entertainment, heading its international public, business and legal affairs. She served at UPI from 1989 until 1999, when she became co-managing director and co-owner of U.K. production company Qwerty Films, founded alongside former Polygram chairman Michael Kuhn and COO Malcolm Ritchie.

In 2007 she set up her own consultancy, working with NBCUniversal, the British Film Institute and Working Title, among others.

Starz picks up toon skeins

PARIS

U.S. premium cabler Starz has acquired three animated skeins from Alphanim, the Gaumont-owned kids' entertainment shingle.

Starz nabbed adventure skein "The Green Squad," a second season of adventure-comedy "Gawayn," and comicbook-based comedy "Toto Trouble." The U.S. network already airs Alphanim skeins including "Santa's Apprentice," "Hairy Scary" and "Zombie Hotel."

Alphanim has also inked sales to Australia, South Korea, Eastern Europe and Finland. Deals were unveiled Monday by Pierre Belaisch, Alphanim's managing topper. Shingle produces and distributes a catalog of more than 30 kids' TV skeins, and boasts a 800 half-hours of animation broadcast in more than 130 countries. — Elsa Keslassy

BBC FILLS 'VACANCY'

Rowling's adult novel set as series

By Steve Clarke

LONDON

J. K. Rowling's first book for adults, "The Casual Vacancy," will be adapted by the BBC.

The TV series based on the global best-seller — Rowling's first novel following the seven "Harry Potter" tales — will be produced by an independent production outfit operated by Neil Blair, who represents the author via the Blair Partnership, and Rick Senat.

Deal was struck following talks between Blair and BBC1 controller Danny Cohen.

The BBC said Rowling will collaborate closely with the project.

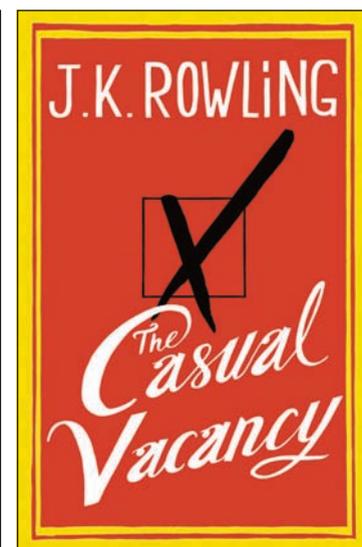
The number and length of the

episodes will be decided "once the creative adaptation process has formally begun," added the pubcaster.

Skein was greenlit by Cohen and Ben Stephenson, controller of BBC Drama, and is expected to air in the U.K. in 2014.

"The Casual Vacancy," which received mixed reviews, is set in the fictional English town of Pagford, a seemingly idyllic community that is, in fact, rife with social and economic inequalities.

Rowling said, "I'm thrilled that the BBC has commissioned 'The Casual Vacancy.' I always felt that, if it were to be adapted, this novel was best suited to television and I think the BBC is the perfect home."



RealD ready for Bulgaria

By Robert Mitchell

LONDON

RealD will extend its footprint in Eastern Europe with an exclusive deal to provide its 3D technology to Bulgaria's largest exhib, Kino Arena, RealD announced Monday.

It will install its 3D tech in 44 Kino Arena screens, including all seven in the new flagship site, which opens at Bulgaria Mall on Dec. 21.

Kino Arena operates 10 sites in six cities in Bulgaria with a total of 77 screens.

RealD has equipped approximately 900 exhibs and 21,500 screens with its 3D technology in 68 countries.

Tinopolis buys distrib

By Steve Clarke

LONDON

Blighty's Tinopolis has added another company to its stable as it continues to grow its global footprint.

Tinopolis, whose U.S. assets include A Smith & Co, maker of "Hell's Kitchen" presented by Gordon Ramsay, is to acquire London-based Passion Distribution for around £15 million (\$24 million). Passion CEO Sally Miles will continue to run the company.

Tinopolis executive chairman Ron Jones said, "Tinopolis' strategy is to develop a strong international reach. With over 40% of our business now outside the U.K., we needed a distribution business that could match this and in Sally and her team we have found our ideal partners."

Tinopolis, based in Cardiff, the capital of Wales, also owns Base Prods., which operates from Los Angeles.

Passion is a sales agent for several North American and U.K. producers including Scripps Networks, the Oprah Winfrey Network, World of Wonder and Sundance Channel.

It has built a catalog of more than 3,000 hours of shows in the past four years, and is also active in pre-selling, finding co-production partners and deficit funding.

KID KERKORIAN A Lion Roars A Billion Dreams



Kid Kerkorian, a biopic on the reclusive Billionaire; the man behind the face of power and family is in development. Based on family knowledge from a family insider who breaks the silence never revealed until now: a know all bombshell of the uncensored real truth. A mastermind that spun a web in the skin of a lion with an obdurate smile that took him the distance. It promises to be a revealing story of a capacious dangerous mind that formed the start to the man known as KID KERKORIAN. A book is in development as well: **THE ROGUE LION**.

ANN, **Screen Legend** and **The Hercules Chronicles** also in development under the JOKO Entertainment umbrella.

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