

Toronto: Elmore Leonard's 'Life Of Crime' Near U.S. Deal With Lionsgate/Roadside

By MIKE FLEMING JR | Wednesday September 11, 2013 @ 8:57am PDT Tags: [Big Deals Film](#), [Elmore Leonard](#), [Jennifer Aniston](#), [Life Of Crime](#), [Lionsgate](#), [Roadside Attractions](#), [TIFF Wrap-Up](#), [Toronto Film Festival](#)

EXCLUSIVE: [Lionsgate](#) and [Roadside Attractions](#) are nearing a deal for a tag-team release of *Life Of Crime*, Daniel Schechter's black comic adaptation of [Elmore Leonard](#)'s book *The Switch*. The deal will be for U.S. rights and it will be worth several million dollars. I will try to get more specific when it closes. The film stars [Jennifer Aniston](#), Yasiin Bey (Mos Def), Isla Fisher, Will Forte, Mark Boone Junior, Tim Robbins and John Hawkes. The picture's World Premiere at [Toronto](#) doesn't happen until Saturday night, when it plays as the closing-night film of the Toronto Film Festival. It has screened for buyers and press and industry.



The film features some of the characters from the Quentin Tarantino-directed *Jackie Brown*, which was based on the Leonard novel *Rum Punch*. This one takes place 15 years earlier when career criminals Ordell (Bey) and Louis (Hawkes) team up to kidnap the wife (Aniston) of a corrupt Detroit real estate developer (Robbins). The husband refuses to pay the ransom for his wife's return and the ex-cons are forced to figure out a Plan B to get paid.



Lionsgate and Roadside have done several successful collaborations that include *Margin Call* and *Arbitrage*, and Joss Whedon's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Those are among the most successful multi-platform releases, but I'm hearing this will likely be a theatrical release. There is certainly a strong cast here. **Schechter told me recently that he wrote the script on spec and then was invited by the author (his idol) to hunt down the rights to *The Switch*** because he and

Michael Siegel couldn't remember where they were. Two years later, Schechter collared those rights and got Leonard's blessing to move forward. Schechter was eager to show the film to Leonard **but the author died at 87** a week before Schechter got the film finished. Leonard would have been in attendance at Saturday's premiere as well.

The film is co-production between Hyde Park Entertainment, Starstream Entertainment, Image Entertainment, Abbolita Entertainment, Ladove Family Trust and the Gotham Group. Pic is produced by Ellen Goldsmith-

Vein, Lee Stollman, Liz Destro, Jordan Kessler, Ashok Amritraj, and Michael Siegel. The deal is being negotiated by WME Global and CAA, with Starstream Entertainment's Kim Leadford.