

clips

Bonded

Filmgoers who admired Sean Connery's James Bond dinner jacket, Roger Moore's navy commander jacket from "The Spy Who Loved Me" and Pierce Brosnan's Brioni suit from "Goldeneye" will be able to try them on before one of the biggest costume sales in film history, the Sunday Times of London reported. More than 350 outfits tailored by Angels, the preeminent costumer for films shot in Britain, will be auctioned March 6 for up to £60,000 apiece.

Brotherhood

Indian actress Shilpa Shetty won the British reality TV show "Celebrity Big Brother" on Sunday after enduring racial bullying that triggered protests in India and sparked a race relations debate in Britain. She received 63% of viewers' telephone votes Sunday. A fellow contestant hurled racially tinged insults at her in an episode that led to a record 40,000 complaints.

Back to blues

B.B. King was "back to his old self" Sunday after being discharged from a Galveston, Texas, hospital where he was treated for a fever, his management agency said. The 81-year-old blues legend, who had been in the hospital since Thursday, plans to perform Tuesday in Fort Worth. King, a diabetic, had a 100.4-degree fever, which required monitoring.

Marcia's message

Marcia Wallace was honored Saturday with the Gilda Radner Courage Award by the Roswell Park Cancer Institute for helping educate Americans about the importance of early cancer detection and inspiring others through her 20 years as a breast cancer survivor.

Mother's boy

An escaped prisoner who evaded a manhunt across the Southeast by stealing three vehicles, including singer Crystal Gayle's tour bus, has been arrested, authorities said. Christopher Daniel Gay, 32, was arrested late Friday in Daytona Beach, Fla. Gay escaped from a prisoner transport van Jan. 21 near Hardeeville, S.C. Authorities have said his motive for fleeing was to see his terminally ill mother.

Premieres drive Berlin Panorama

Mix of art house faves, actor-directors, first-timers

By Scott Roxborough

COLOGNE, Germany — The Berlin International Film Festival's Panorama section will feature 26 world premieres in a lineup that represents a typically eclectic mix of established art house names, including Hal Hartley, Wim Wenders, Steve Buscemi and Sarah Polley, along with a raft of first-time helmers.

Buscemi and Polley represent one trend in this year's Panorama



Buscemi



Polley

lineup: actors behind the camera. Buscemi will screen his latest directorial effort, "Interview," while

Polley's helming debut, "Away From Her," will premiere as part of the Panorama Special section.

Other actor-directors whose films will screen in this year's Panorama include Julie Delpy ("Two Days in Paris") and Antonio Banderas ("Summer Rain").

Polley is one of three Canadian entries this year, joining Panorama opener "The Tracey Fragments," from Bruce McDonald, and Clement Virgo's drama "Poor Boy's Game."

U.S. independents also have a strong presence, with titles ranging from Hartley's tale of international espionage "Fay Grim" to

See **BERLIN** on page 22

Nets keep playing pickup

Dramas at CBS, comedies at Fox

By Nellie Andreeva

CBS has picked up two more drama pilots, "Twilight" and "B a b y l o n Fields," while Fox has ordered the single-camera comedy pilots "Hackett" and "Two Families."

"Twilight," from Warner Bros. TV and Silver Pictures, centers on a private investigator/vampire who struggles with the repercussions of immortality, his adversaries in the vampire



Silver

PILOTS 2007-08

world and the love he feels for a mortal. Trevor Munson and "Beauty and the Beast" creator Ron Koslow penned the script and are executive producing with Joel Silver.

"Babylon Fields," from 20th Century Fox TV, is described as a comedic drama in which the dead are resurrected and try to resume their former lives. Gerald Cuesta and Michael Atkinson wrote the script and will executive produce with Michael Cuesta. Michael Cuesta also is on board to direct.

"Hackett," from Sony Pictures TV and studio-based 25C

See **PILOTS** on page 22

'Knights' dodging 'Idol' threat

By Andrew Wallenstein

ABC is shuffling its Wednesday comedy lineup, shifting the new series "The Knights of Prosperity" away from Fox's "American Idol."

The network said Friday that "Knights" will move back a half-hour to 8:30 p.m. beginning Wednesday, displacing "According to Jim" to 9 p.m. "George Lopez" will continue at 8 p.m.

While that's good news for "Knights" — which saw its audience plummet nearly 50% from its Jan. 3 premiere when it aired opposite "Idol" on Jan. 17 — fellow freshman comedy "In Case of Emergency" isn't so lucky,

remaining in its 9:30 p.m. slot.

The ABC hit drama "Lost" returns to the Wednesday lineup at 10 p.m. Feb. 7.

Rowlands and Chabert in 'Sun'

By Kimberly Nordyke

Gena Rowlands and Lacey Chabert have been tapped to star in the Lifetime original movie "What If God Were the Sun?" inspired by the novel by medium/talk show host John Edward.

Chabert will play Jamie, a busy

See **"SUN"** on page 22

Weiland is best man for Col's 'Honor'

By Tatiana Siegel and Borys Kit

Columbia Pictures has tapped Paul Weiland to helm the romantic comedy "Made of Honor,"



Weiland

starring Patrick Dempsey.

Penned by Deborah

See **WEILAND** on page 22

'Crossing' over to Screen Gems

By Tatiana Siegel

Screen Gems has acquired the drug-trafficking thriller "The Crossing," penned by writing team Byron Willinger and Phillip De Blasi.

The film revolves around a couple on a weekend vacation in Mexico. When the husband is kidnapped by drug traffickers, his wife agrees to drive their SUV filled with heroin across the border into Texas. Once there, however, she

See **"CROSSING"** on page 22

'Sun'*Continued from page 5—*

nurse whose world unravels when her father dies. Her grief starts to affect her work and her relationship with her fiancé (Sam Trammell), so her supervisor transfers her to a new assignment in long-term care. There, she meets Melissa (Rowlands), a terminally ill woman whose quick wit and strong faith has an impact on Jamie.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to bring this spirited novel to the small screen and to

**Rowlands**

have Lacey Chabert and Gena Rowlands star in this poignant film," Lifetime vp original movies Libby Beers said. "This is a moving story of a young woman who, with the help of a total stranger, learns how to cope with emotions she has never felt before."

"Sun," set to premiere in May, is produced by Fox Television Studios, JECO Prods. and Old Beantown Films. Brenda Friend (TNT's "The Ron Clark Story"), Gina Rugolo Judd (NBC's "Just Shoot Me") and Edward (Sci Fi Channel's "Crossing Over With John Edward," WE's "John Edward Cross Country") are execu-

**Chabert**

utive producers. Stephen Tolkin (Lifetime's "Nora Roberts' Carolina Moon") is directing from a script by Janet Dulin Jones ("A Map of the World") and Jamie Pachino (Lifetime's "Not Like Everyone Else").

Rowlands, an Oscar nominee for "Gloria" and "A Woman Under the Influence," won a Golden Globe and Emmy for the title role in the telefilm "The Betty Ford Story." She also won Emmys for "In the Face of a Stranger" and "Hysterical Blindness" and a Golden Globe for "A Woman Under the Influence." Other film credits include "The Notebook," "The Skeleton Key" and "Hope Floats." She is repped by ICM and manager Lou Pitt.

Chabert, who is known for her role as Claudia on Fox's "Party of Five" and starred in A&E's "The Brooke Ellison Story," is on the big screen in a remake of the horror movie "Black Christmas." Her feature film credits also include "Mean Girls," "Daddy Day Care," "Lost in Space" and "Not Another Teen Movie." She is repped by Paradigm, the Collective and attorney Fred Toczek. ■

Pilots*Continued from page 5—*

Prods., centers on Thomas Hackett, a bad-boy literary luminary who escapes his troubles with women and a disgraced career teaching at Yale to become a public high school teacher in Ohio. Denise Moss (NBC's "Frasier") wrote the

script and is executive producing with 25C's Sarah Timberman and Carl Beverly.

"Two Families," from HBO Independent Prods., is about two sets of adult siblings who learn they have the same bigamist father. Barbara Wallace and Thomas R. Wolfe (CBS' "Welcome to New York") are the writers/executive producers. ■

'Crossing'*Continued from page 5—*

turns the tables on the kidnapers to get her husband back.

The long-gestating project

originally was set up at New Line Cinema.

Nick Phillips brought the screenplay into Screen Gems and will oversee the film for studio topper Clint Culpepper. Screen Gems is fast-tracking the project, which is out to directors.

Jeff Okin, Max Wong and Karen Firestone are producing the thriller.

Willinger and De Blasi, who penned Legendary Pictures' biblical drama "Paradise Lost," are repped by Paradigm and manager Okin at Anonymous Content. ■

Europe*Continued from page 3—*

market and 33% of video games.

The surge is credited to the spread of broadband, the rollout of advanced mobile networks and the massive adoption of digital devices.

"The long-awaited digital convergence is becoming an economic reality, creating great opportunities for Europe's consumers, content providers and technology industries," EU Information Society and Media Commissioner Viviane Reding said. "To capitalize may require casting a fresh eye at the technical and legal issues where a modernized and internal market-oriented approach would add value

to European content."

Some areas, however, will grow even faster, the report said. The film sector could see online revenue swell from €18.7 million in 2006 to €1 billion in 2010, though it would still only be 7% of the total.

The 400-page study says that while the online content market is growing steadily, issues such as intellectual property rights and interoperability must still be addressed.

The EC identified 36 obstacles to the growth of the online content market, including the slow adoption of 3G broadband in Europe, confusing data tariffs, piracy and the cost of digitizing content. ■

Berlin*Continued from page 5—*

Jamie Babbit's high school-set comedy "Itty Bitty Titty Committee" to such politically tinged documentaries as Lynn Hershmann-Leeson's "Strange Culture" and "Miss Gulag" by Maria Yatskova.

International highlights include Turkish drama "Takva: A Man's Fear of God" by Ozer Kiziltan, which was produced by famed German director Fatih Akin ("Head-On"); and the omnibus documentary "Invisibles," produced by Spanish actor Javier Bardem and featuring sections directed by Isabel Coixet, Fernando

Leon de Aranoa, Mariano Barroso, Javier Corcuera and Wenders.

This year's Panorama jury, which selects the winners for the section's Manfred Salzgeber Prize, are Kanako Hayashi, director of Tokyo's Filmex film festival; visual artist and filmmaker Udi Aloni; and German producer Jost Hering.

The Panorama section is expanding this year, offering 41 extra screenings, including ones at the Cubix theaters on Berlin's Alexanderplatz for the first time. The Berlin fest runs Feb. 8-18.

The full Panorama lineup can be found at www.hollywoodreporter.com. ■

Weiland*Continued from page 5—*

Kaplan and Harry Elfont from an original script by Adam Szykiel, the story centers on a man (Dempsey) who is in love with a woman, but she's engaged to someone else. When the woman asks Dempsey's character to be her maid of honor, he agrees with the intention of winning her heart. The studio, which bought Szykiel's spec script in April 2003, is searching for a female lead.

Neal Moritz is producing through his Sony-based Original

Film shingle. Aaron Kaplan and Sean Perrone are executive producing alongside Original's Tania Landau.

Sony's Amy Baer and Adam Milano are shepherding the project for the studio.

Weiland, whose helming credits include Fine Line Features' "Roseanna's Grave" and "City Slickers II: The Legend of Curly's Gold," most recently directed Working Title's "Sixty Six," starring Helena Bonham Carter. The U.K. native also worked on several incarnations of the "Mr. Bean" TV series.

He is repped by ICM. ■

'Epic'*Continued from page 2—*

the Hall Kevin McDonald.

Among others whose talents go to considerable waste here are "Nacho" scene-stealer Hector Jimenez and Christopher Guest ensemble vets Fred Willard and

Jim Piddock.

Behind the scenes, meanwhile, production designer William Elliott and costume designer Frank Helmer at least manage to find a little inspiration in replicating the look of those blockbusters, which is something that is otherwise sorely lacking in this epic bore. ■

**POWER. DRAMA.
SUSPENSE. GLORY.**

At your doorstep. Every morning.
Get home delivery of
THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
1-866-525-2150