

Hall off to 'Mall' for horror remake

By DAVE McNARY

Robert Hall's Dry County Entertainment is hanging out at the "Chopping Mall," acquiring remake rights to the '80s horror title.

Hall and producing partner Kevin Bocarde will produce and write. Hall is also coming on to direct, with lensing to begin in spring.



Hall

The original "Chopping Mall" was produced by Roger Corman and his wife Julie. It was centered around a group of teenagers who become trapped in a shopping mall with killer robots.

Bocarde said the new movie won't be a straight remake.

"It will retain the basic concept of young people trapped in a mall; however, the story will have a darker, supernatural spin," he said.

Recent remakes of Corman films include the Jason Statham starrer "Death Race" and last year's "Piranha 3D."

Hall noted that he got his start in show business at Corman's studio.

"This is an exciting way to pay homage and honor Roger while also expanding the original film's premise," Hall said.

Hall and Bocarde are repped by UTA.



Some 40 horses will be showcased alongside their human castmates in the Stateside tour of "Apassionata."

AND THEY'RE OFF ... Horseshow 'Apassionata' to tour U.S.

By GORDON COX

Touring Euro legit/horseshow hybrid "Apassionata" is set to hit the road in the U.S. next spring, launching an 18-month tour with a Louisville stop timed to the Kentucky Derby.

"Apassionata," which has played throughout Europe in various versions since 2003, mixes equestrian-show elements such as dressage and stunt riding with a loose narrative thread.

New American incarnation,

subtitled "The Beginning," is helmed by Scott Faris, whose credits include Vegas spectacles such as "EFX" and the large-scale arena tour of "Walking With Dinosaurs." He'll collaborate with Holger Ehlers, the author, artistic director and musical director of the Euro version.

Produced Stateside by creator Peter Massine and American partner Tanya Grubich, show will star some 40 horses alongside a human cast. Breeds range from Shetland ponies to Friesians.

Production logistics include the creation of housing centers in eight locations around the country where the horses will be kept when they're not performing their three-day-per-week show sked.

After the Louisville stint that begins April 27, "Apassionata" will make stops at some 65 U.S. cities.

Fishing pic lures scribe

By JUSTIN KROLL

Jen Robinson has been brought onboard to pen the untitled fishing movie for Gil Netter and FLW Outdoors, the sanctioning org for many sports-fishing tournament tours.

Netter will produce and help develop the project with FLW principals Irwin Jacobs and Trisha Blake. Plot details were not revealed.

Besides the movie, Irwin Jacobs and his daughter Trisha are also behind the Walmart FLW Tour and are hoping to help build the popularity of professional angling.

"This movie will have all of the elements that represent great family entertainment. We see a real demand in today's society for clean family fun, and the sport of fishing represents exactly that," Irwin Jacobs said.

Robinson penned the scripts for "Flicka 2" and "Flicka 3" for Netter at Fox. She is repped by ICM and Magnet Management.



Robinson

DGA ratifies AICP pact

By DAVE McNARY

Members of the Directors Guild of America have ratified a three-year successor collective bargaining agreement with the Assn. of Independent Commercial Producers.

The DGA announced the ratification Tuesday. Contract goes into effect Dec. 1 and runs through Nov. 30, 2014.

"We entered into negotiations with the goal of protecting the excellent health benefits enjoyed by our members, retirees and their families and obtaining the best possible deal for our members in light of the continued difficult economic environment confronting the advertising production industry," said DGA president Taylor Hackford.

Negotiations were led by associate national executive director-Eastern exec director Russ Hollander.

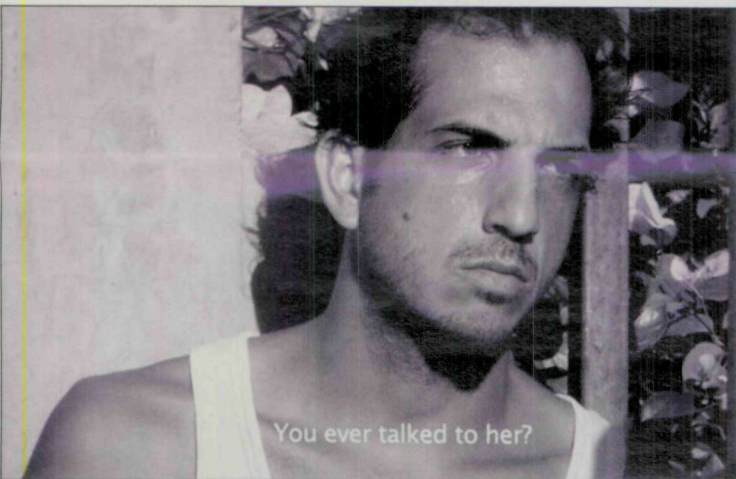
"We negotiated with the AICP to find solutions that would ensure the health of this business and keep our members working," said Hollander. "The new agreement achieves those goals while establishing important additional provisions addressing safety guidelines, low budget agreements and producer flexibility."

Pact includes a 15.8% increase for second second assistant directors in the first year of the contract along with increased contributions to the DGA Health Plan, including a 17.65% increase in the employer contribution rate for all members plus additional contributions for directors.

Agreement also includes a provision to address producers concerns on low-budget and foreign commercials by hiking low-budget thresholds from \$250,000 to \$300,000.



Hackford



You ever talked to her?

Nina Menkes' latest film, "Dissolution," will play throughout this spring's retrospective, in addition to some of her older pics.

Bicoastal retrospective set

By GORDON COX

Gotham's Anthology Film Archives and the UCLA Film Archives will partner to present a retrospective of films by Nina Menkes this spring.

Her latest pic, 2010's "Dissolution," will play throughout the retrospective week in New York, in addition to older works.

Experimental filmmaking stalwart Menkes, who has made six features, has established a rep for controlling all elements of production,



Menkes

serving as producer, writer, director and editor. She has collaborated on several projects with sister Tinka Menkes as lead actress.

Menkes' first feature was 1986's "Magdalena Viraga," about an L.A. prostitute incarcerated for murdering her pimp. Other pics include Sundance alum "Queen of Diamonds" (1991), "The Bloody Child" (1996) and "Phantom Love" (2007).

"Dissolution," filmed in black and white in Tel Aviv, is loosely based on Dostoyevsky's "Crime and Punishment." Israeli musician and philosopher David Fire stars.

Menkes' next movie, "Heatstroke," will be filmed in Cairo and L.A., with Gus Van Sant onboard as exec producer.

Bicoastal retrospective is set for March, with exact dates and lineups to set.

No paper Thurs., Fri.

Daily Variety will not publish on Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25, in observance of Thanksgiving. Next issue will be Monday, Nov. 28.