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Doing The Cannes Cannes

Adrienne Mancia, curator in New York's Museum of Modern Art's Dept. of Film, was victimized May 10, a day before the fest got underway, as a mugger grabbed her purse at an open-air market. Thief made off with all her money, traveler's checks and passport. Mancia luckily retained her pass to enter the Palais and obtain her fest credentials. Policeman taking her statement noted wryly that with this theft "La festival est commence" ... !mage Organization used the fest to publicize casting of several upcoming films: Irene Miracle and Behrouz Vossoughi will costar opposite Paul Le Mat in "Threat;" Shelley Hack will topline in Tom Berry's "A Long Dark Night," to roll in June; Kay Lenz, Steve Kanaly and Wayne Crawford set for Franky Schaeffer's "Headhunter;" Wings Hauser will star in Mitch Brian's "Bloodsight," filming in August, and Amanda Wyss. Steven Bond and Scott Jacoby inked to costar with previously set Brendan Hughes in Deran Sarafian's "To Die For" (a.k.a. "Dracula: The Love Story"). Image also signed special makeup effects experts John Love Story"). Image also signed special makeup effects experts John Bucchler for last-named pic and Craig Reardon for "Nightlife," starring Scott Grimes, Alan Blumenfeld, Cheryi Pollak and John Astin.

Another casting coup was copped by New Line Cinema for the fil-mization of Harvey Fierstein's hit play "Torch Song Trilogy," being directed by Paul Bogart. In addition to topliner Fierstein, film features Anne Bancroft, Matthew Broderick and Brian Kerwin. Unlike the lengthy play, Fierstein has fashioned the film script to result in normal feature length.

A deft diplomatic flag switch seems to have avoided an embarrassing international incident between the festival and the Chinese deleing international incident between the festival and the Chinese delegation, miffed over the flying of the Taiwanese standard. The flag, representing the Taiwanese entry "The Daughter Of The Nile" in Directors Fortnight, was flying among 14 others atop the old Palais. Fest topper Pierre Viot explained to the Chinese that the flag only epresented the film. "As a friendly gesture, we replaced the Taiwanese flag with the festival's. It's a symbol of international cinema" ... Nastassija Kinski replaced Isabella Rossellini as a jury member. Rossellini had accepted, but couldn't get out of a filming commitment. Kinski was in France and available.

Exhibition in the Palais des Festivals of stills from Michelangelo Antonioni pictures was opened by fest president Viot and Ivo Grippo. head of Ente Gestione Cinema, which promotes Italian cine abroad. Grippo said Antonioni, inactive for several years, will return to work in 1989 on "La Ciurma," to be produced by Istituto Luce with eventual participation by an American major. Martin Scorsese will be exec producer, Roy Scheider will play a lead.

Vanity, in Cannes to promote "Action Jackson," planning album and tv series in which she plays a reporter, is putting finishing touches on a script she wrote. Producer Shimon Arama going from Cannes to Israel with director Irvin Kershner to start preproduction on project starting Glenn Close and Robert Duvall, based on the Adolph Eichman trial... Former Cartago Films publicist Joan Borstein and exile Russian film star Oleg Vidov, partners in newly founded I. A.based Jove Films, in Cannes to presell first two projects, a comedy, "Russian Dressing," written by Borstein and Vidov and "A Loving Gentleman," love story of William Faulkner and Hollywood scriptgirl Meta Carpenter, to be directed by Jeremy Paul Kagan.

Violinist Ivry Gillis, who has played in several pictures, including François Truffaut's "Story Of Adele H.," visited festival for the opening ceremony ... Cine-Intl. topper Lilli Tye-Holm celebrated her birthday at the export company stand in the Bunker May 12. Among well-wishers at the champagne pour were Berlin fest supremo Moritz de Hadeln and spouse Eriks, and Carl F. de Vogt, who observed his own birthday two days later ... Satel prexy Michael von Wolkenstein drove to Cannes from Vienna in a breathtaking 10½ hours after confusion about his airline reservation. Producer, who chairs the Austrian Film Commission, is no stranger to speed, having a pilot's license and fusion about his airline reservation. Producer, who charts the Austrian Film Commission, is no stranger to speed, having a pilot's license and being a member of a yacht racing team ... Beki Probst, head of the Berlin fest market, signed up for another year. Probst, who operates a string of theaters in Berne and Basel, also is scouting films for her

Scandi VCM topper Hans Christensen went home to Oslo just prior to the arrival of former VCM topper Anne Bakken, who has been company's L.A. acquisition scout over the past two years. Bakken is considering setting up her own company, leaving California ... Norwegian Royal Film's Kaare Grötta in to snare Scandi customers for his subtitling plan, which already handles 75% of all Norwegian business. Grotta will release Werner Herzog's "Cobra Verde" next week. He's also chairman of Kardemomme, limited partnership with majority coin in Bente Frichsen's Marcus Film production (in association with Sweden's Sandrews and the Swedish Film Institute) of the \$2,200,000 "The People Of Cardemon Town," which opens the Norwegian Intl. Film Fest at Haugesund in mid-August.

Satel Film and TV group topper Michael von Wolkenstein hosted the Austrian Film Commission reception at Majestic beach. Commish chairman also celebrated his birthday at the pour, covered by a ty team from Austrian pubcaster ORF, headed by Gabriela Flossmann. "Notturno" director Fritz Lehner and producer René Letzgus, as well as helmers Niki List ("Sternberg Shooting Star") and Peter Patzak ("Cosima And Wagner") mingled with the dignitaries, among them

(Continuéd on page 18)

Simon & Susan Unveil First Film In The Market

Cannes — Simon MacCotkingan and wife Susan George unveiled - Simon MacCorkindale their first production "Stealing Heaven" in the Cannes Market and evealed their behind-the-camera

revealed their behind-the-camera plans at a press luncheon at Gray d'Albion Beach.

Thesps turned producers, under their Amy Intl. banner, shot "Steal-ing Heaven" on a \$6,200,000 budg-et last year in Yugoslavia with Clive Donner directing and Adros Epami-conder producing.

nondas producing.

Chris Bryant's script on the lives of Abelard and Heloise was based on Marion Meade's novel, as opposed to the play and another book on the 12th century subject which gave rise to a separate unfilmed John Woolf project well over a de-

cade ago.
"Stealing Heaven" is a Film Dallas release for the U.S. and Canada (via a negative pickup deal), set to open this fall, Virgin Vision having dealt with Film Dallas for North American video rights and New World Intl. controlling foreign.

Having committed to put his act ing career secondary to production efforts in order to build a viable company rather than just a 1-film outfit, MacCorkindale is tooking to a July start coproducing in Yugosla-via "The Lifeguard" (tentative title), an English-language film to be directed by Rajko Grlic.

Susan George will be back before the cameras in this one, costarring opposite Yugoslav actor Mickey Milenovic. As with "Heaven," pic is being structured as a coproduction with Jadran Studios.

tion with Jadran Studios.

Team also hopes to get rolling before the end of the year on what was their first project, "Woden's Day," originally cast with John Mills in the lead, and MacCorkindale hopes to sign Mills again to costar opposite

Unsettled Feeling

(Continued from page 3) cessful American Film Market.

'It's a letdown and it's logical,' aid Kodiak Films' Wolf Schmidt Buyers come in demanding new films. How many new pictures can you have after the American Film Market? We're not making sand

wiches, it's upsetting."

The overall concentration at the market appears to be "what have you got that's new and big." Manley Prods. Walter Manley feels there has been a reaction to the mass buying that took place when the

dollar plunged.

Crown Intl.'s Herb Fletcher sees the market as "okay, but not overwhelming." There's action with "the important pictures" and the cheaper action pictures are finding homes with the smaller video distribs, but the middle-level entries are

inding it tough going.

Buyers are asking "what's your new projects" and presales seem to be making progress. "It's easier to sell a piece of paper than a finished film." said Cori Films' Marie Hoy.

With many new companies enter-ing the fray, there is an abundance of sellers around, including many of seiters around, including main that hope to get off the ground via presales guarantees. The competi-tion for acquisitions is cutthroat. In-die producers are asking and some of the newcomers seeking to enter the arena are paying "tremendous advances." "I get nervous about that," said Manley.

Atlantic-Prism Merger Closer; Aim To Go Public & Add Wings

By MICHAEL SILVERMAN

Cannes — Widely anticipated merger agreement between Atlantic Entertainment Group and publicly held Prism Entertainment Co. is expected to close within two weeks following a May 13 announcement here that a preliminary merger agreement has been inked.

agreement has been inked.

Deal is aimed at providing both
companies with a glove-like fit.

Teamup allows AEG to go public
and put it for the first time into
homevid distribution and its syndication, while Prism likely will ben-efit from access to Atlantic's growing list of medium-budget but mainly up-market feature films, along with the clout of domestic theatrical

marketing and distribution.

Atlantic chairman Tom Coleman expected to be chairman/CEO of the new entity, while Prism topper Barry Collier will act as chief oper ating officer. Indication that the merger process is still ongoing oc-curred at the press gathering. When oleman responded that a company name had not been chosen, Collie chimed in that the surviving entity listed on the American Stock Ex-change will be billed Atlantic Entertainment Group.

Both execs agreed no "heavy"

soft execs agreed no "heavy" staff cuts are anticipated, as, per Collier, here's "almost no manage-ment overlap." Coleman noted, however, there "will be some over head savings in marrying the two

companies."

New company is stated to receive a cash infusion of around \$60,000. 000 in new financing arranged via L.F. Rothschild, Ladenburg Thal-man and CL Global (a division of film financing fixture Credit Lyon-nais). Actual merger will be in the form of a stock swap between the

two companies.
Ratio of shares exchanging hands is "close to being determined," per L.F. Rothschild managing director loel Reader, who was on hand for the announcement. He said the company is looking at a number of financing options, including junk bonds, preferred stock or offering equity investment via private place

New Board

Collier, who said there will be no additional public offering, said additional public offering, said Prism cofounder and chairman Paul Levinson "won't be actively involved" post-merger. Plans call for a new 9-member board, he added.

Impacted by the merger (or may be a reason for it) is Paramount Pic tures, which had deals to handle tures, which had deals to handle homevid release on most or all At-lantic pies in the can; they're also tied to broadcast and nontheatrical distribution of Atlantic pies.

Par pact, which was supposed to run three years, "basically ran to term." according to Atlantic film/tv prez Jonathan Dana, who said
contract terms with Par foreclose any disclosure of the end of the agreement.

Last titles Paramount Home Video will handle are Atlantic titles produced "roughly before the end of last year," per Dana. That in-cludes "1969" and "Patty Hearst," an official competition pic at the an official terms of the stream of the stream of the stream out that Paramount's rights to already licensed titles are sewed up at least two years hence.

Outlining new company's home vid strategy, Collier stressed that what we're doing

with the current emphasis on "depth of copy" in "A" titles at the retail end, company will have the luxury of a considerably larger ti-brary with Atlantic's pics in the lar-

He's mulling two separate labels Atlantic will supply "A" titles, while Prism will continue to carry lower-priced "B" titles.

On the international side things

will remain more or less status quo. with Atlantic's v.p. Jules Stein, who'll continue to handle placement of product to foreign distribs.

On the video end, Prism only has offshore viddistribution in Japan, a joint venture with Gaga Communications.

Coleman insisted a big part of the merger strategy is a concerted thrust into ty production and distribution.

into ty production and obstruction, in which both companies already have entree via subsids.

Prism's Fox/Lorber Associates goes with it and, per Fol prez Richard Lorber, his entity will continue to handle international ty and homevid rights that are available, and noted it'll "likely" launch a new domestic ty syndication effort with the Atlantic titles that become ivailable.

Atlantic also owns 50% of ty producer Atlantic Kushner-Locke, Coleman admitted, "We've been discussing selling (A/K-I) to a third party, but it's not decided. If we don't sell, we may continue the status auo.

Brillstein's No Help To Lorimar Crew **Awaiting Word**

Cannes - Bernie Brillstein, chairman of Lorimar Film Entertainment, the theatrical film division of Lorimar Telepictures, ar-rived here May 15, but had no message for Lorimar staffers at the festival/market who were caught by surprise by the announcement of Warner Communications Inc. take

over of the company.

Brillstein, reached at his hotel in Antibes, said he brought no news Antibes, said he brought no news for the Lorimar team here since he was unaware of the details of the agreement. "We'll continue doing what we're doing until we hear what's going on," he said. He indicated nine pictures under the Lorimar label are sure to be made.

"We have foreign deals on all of them," he said, but noted he is uncertain what would happen on the

certain what would happen for our domestic side when and if the deal with WCI is completed. Of the nine committed, Brillstein said one is finished, two are in the editing stage, four are in production, and three in preproduction.

Conference Off

Earlier, Lorimar's international department had Brillstein listed for a press conference, but it was can-celled when news of the WCI deal was reported first in the Intl. Herald Tribune May 11.

After an initial shock after the news broke, the Lorimar staff con news broke, the Loriniar state of the influence with business as usual. "We're working like nothing happened," said Robert Meyers, president of Loriniar's international theatrical division. "We came here to market our pictures and that's