

# VARIETY



FILM FESTIVAL

DAY 8

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011

## MART FAVORS ART

Specialty biz steady, big titles scarce

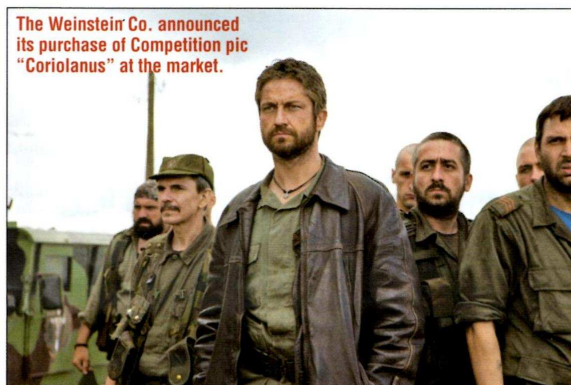
### hot titles

By DIANA LODDERHOSE and JOHN HOPEWELL

**T**here's no doubt that buyers were hungry at this year's Berlin European Film Market, but as sales agents packed up their stands on Wednesday one thing was clear — less standout product coupled with more discerning buyers made for a more cautious and steady Berlinale.

While Stuart Ford's IM Global made waves with Madonna's second directorial effort "W.E." and Glen Basner's FilmNation secured solid international deals on Colin Firth and Cameron Diaz starrer "Gambit," there was a widespread consensus that the market was slow and lacking

The Weinstein Co. announced its purchase of Competition pic "Coriolanus" at the market.



new, big-name product, though Berlin isn't typically known for a slew of commercial titles.

Even so, foreign distributors ap-

petites weren't satiated, and many who were looking for bigger pics were left wanting more.

See **DEALS** page 11

Selected hot pickups in Berlin included:

"Blackbird" (StudioCanal)  
 "Coriolanus" (Icon)  
 "The Dinosaur Project" (StudioCanal)  
 "Gambit" (FilmNation)  
 "Goethe!" (Beta)  
 "Headshot" (IM Global)  
 "In Darkness" (Beta)  
 "Innocent Saturday" (Bavaria Film)  
 "Marley" (Fortissimo)  
 "Midnight's Children" (FilmNation)  
 "My Best Enemy" (Beta)  
 "The Third Act" (Voltage)  
 "W.E." (IM Global)

## Teuton global warming

By ED MEZA

**G**ermany has become the country the global film biz can't live without: More than 100 of the 385 worldwide films at the Berlinale were made with Teutonic participation.

Of the 22 films in the main Competition section, 10 are German co-productions. The pics stretch from "Unknown," Jaume Collet-Serra's action thriller starring Liam Neeson, to Miranda July's quirky dramedy "The Future" and Alexander Mindadze's Russian Chernobyl disaster drama "Innocent Saturday."

"Unlike in the past, we currently have many films that may not be labeled German, but have Germany inside

See **TEUTON** page 10

## Music Box plays 'Lisbon'

By JOHN HOPEWELL and ELSA KESLASSY

**I**n its second pickup at Berlin, Music Box Films has taken all U.S. rights to Chilean Raul Ruiz's period drama "Mysteries of Lisbon," co-produced and sold by Paulo Branco's Alfama Films.

Music Box bought Liz Garbus' Sundance documentary "Bobby Fisher Against the World" earlier in the festival.

The "Lisbon" deal closed at

Berlin about an hour after a market screening, said Music Box prexy William Schopf. The U.S. pickup also includes "Lisbon's" six-hour miniseries spinoff.

An opulent 19th century epic melodrama tracing suffering through various generations, "Lisbon" runs 4½ hours with an intermission. It adapts Camilo Castelo Branco's novel of the same title.

"How many films do you

See **'LISBON'** page 10

## reviews

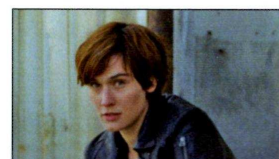


## PYRAMIDE MAKES MOST OF MART

By ELSA KESLASSY and JOHN HOPEWELL

**P**aris-based art film force Pyramide Intl. has pow-

French Resistance drama toplining Tahar Rahim ("A Prophet") and Michael Lonsdale ("Of Gods and Men"), was





# Sales percolating for 'Q,' 'May'

By ELSA KESLASSY

**A**s the European market unwinds, Matteo Lovadina's Paris-based Reel Suspects is racking up additional sales across its slate.

French director Laurent Bouhnik's erotic drama "Q" has presold to South Korea's Green Narae Media and Lovadina said he was in talks with a Japanese buyer.

Meanwhile, Koen Mortier's thriller "22nd of May" was picked up by Italy's Movies Inspired.



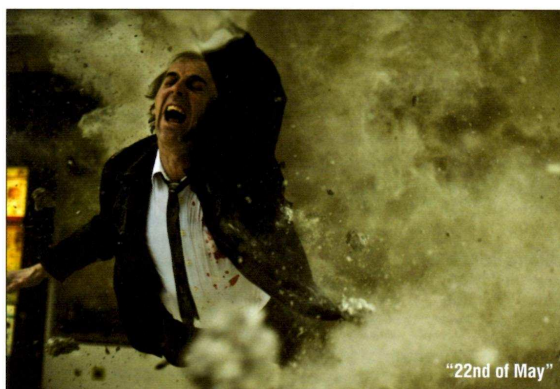
BOUHNIK

Lovadina said "May" has received interest from German and Swiss buyers.

Lovadina is also in talks with a French distributor on Saulius Drunga's feature debut "Anarchy in Zirnuni."

The deals follow a raft of early market sales, notably for "Anarchy," which was snatched up by Atlantide Entertainment for Italy and Pro Fun for Germany, Austria and German-speaking Switzerland.

Lovadina, who launched Reel Suspects at the beginning of year, kicked off Berlin with two new acquisitions: David Verbeek's "Club Zeus," winner of Rotterdam's Return of the Tiger; and Peter Marcias' "Children of his Life," which was picked up by Atlantide.



"22nd of May"

## Transylvania fest gets more of a bite

By NICK HOLDSWORTH

Romania's Transylvania Film Festival has gained accreditation from the Paris-based Intl. Federation of Film Producers Assn., which regulates fests.

FIAPF's general assembly, meeting during the Berlinale, added Transylvania, which marks its 10th anniversary in June, to its list of approved fests.

Fest prexy Tudor Giurgiu said, "Our festival is one of the youngest to have ever received this recognition. We promise even greater editions in years to come."

Based in Cluj, Romania, the fest is the fourth Eastern European film showcase to receive the FIAPF seal of approval in the past five years.

The others are Estonia's Black Night Film Festival, Poland's Era New Horizons Film Festival and Bulgaria's Sofia Film Festival.



GIURGIU



Zootrope Films will release Spain's "Flesh." Produced by Marta Estebe's Oristrell's saucy pic has sold widely.

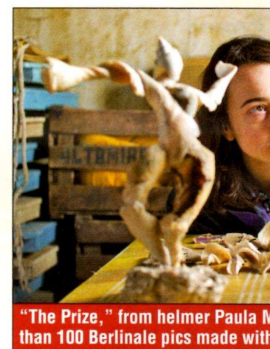
## 'FLESH'

Continued from page 2

Academy Goya on Sunday for foreign Spanish-language film.

Guzzoni said "Flesh" portrays "someone in conflict, vulnerable and violent."

Ceneca will also co-produce thriller "Romance policial," the next film from Chilean-born, Rio-based writer-turned-director Jorge Duran ("Forbidden



"The Prize," from helmer Paula Markovitch, has more than 100 Berlinale pics made with

## TEUTON

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them," said Berlinale topper Dieter Kottbush.

Among the co-producers of the screener, "The Turin House," is Film, which helped secure more funder Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg.

Medienboard also backed Se Bear contender "Our Grand De produced by Unafilm Berlin, the novel revolves around two pals when a young woman moves in."

"The participation of eight M competition shows that there is collected here," said Medienboard.

The participation of Pandora made Argentinian Gustavo Tar "Medianeras" possible; the picture is produced by Filmstiftung North Rhine-Westphalia.

Paula Markovitch's "The Prize" during Argentina's military dictatorship plenty of borders in getting mannered on the Mexican-French-F

An increase in joint projects and Switzerland is sure to result in agreement unveiled by Ne

Germany's regional and federal funding in annual funding reductions, while the Berlinale's V an extra \$680,000 a year in production projects from Africa, Latin America and Central and South

## 'LISBON'

Continued from page 1

see that are so appealing but have no nudity or violence but whose storytelling carries you through 4½ hours?" Schopf asked.

Bowing at the Toronto festival and winning the director the Silver Shell at San Sebastian, "Mysteries" won the Louis Delluc French critics' award for film of the year. It has already turned a profit, Branco told Variety.

Modestly budgeted at €2.5 million (\$3.4 million) for the feature and TV series, Branco said, "Lisbon" has sold to Gallic paybox Canal Plus. Distributed by Alfama, "Lisbon" has enjoyed a spirited sustained run in France, grossing about \$740,000 in 17 weeks.



"Mysteries of Lisbon," a period drama from Chilean Raul Ruiz, became the second film picked up by Music Box Films at the Berlin festival.

Music Box will release "Lisbon" in the top-10 U.S. markets in September or October, Schopf said.

"Lisbon" has sold to the U.K.

(New Wave), Spain (Wanda Vision) and Taiwan (Swallow Wings). Japan is close to closing. Alfama distributes in Belgium and Switzerland.

DAY 8

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# SCREEN

AT THE BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL

## Buyers delve into Ruiz's Lisbon mystery

BY GEOFFREY MACNAB

Veteran producer and Alfama boss Paulo Branco has confirmed a handful of sales on Raul Ruiz's *Mysteries Of Lisbon*.

The film, made both as a TV series and as a feature, has gone to Music Box for the US, Wanda for Spain and Swallow Wings for Taiwan.

As already announced, New Wave is aboard for the UK while Mostra De Sao Paulo will release



the film in Brazil. Alfama has been handling world sales, alongside Doc & Films International.

Branco reports that several other countries are in negotiation to take the film.

Branco is now planning two further films with Ruiz. One, a small untitled film, will shoot at the end of the year. The other, *The Black Book Of Father Dennis*, is based on a book by Camilo Castelo Branco (author of *Mysteries Of Lisbon*), and will be on a far grander scale. The feature film will be shot in France and Italy in 2012.