

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

a VNU publication ■ www.hollywoodreporter.com ■ \$2.95



Gordon



Emmerich

Emmerich, Gordon strut to Col's 'Tut'

By Chris Gardner

Director Roland Emmerich and producer Mark Gordon, whose collaboration on the actioner "The Day After Tomorrow" is due in theaters May 28 from 20th Century Fox, are teaming again on "Tut" for Columbia Pictures. Although the project has been around for some time, it's starting to generate heat again now that Emmerich has brought Gordon on board and the duo have hired scribes Sean O'Keefe and Will Staples to pen the screenplay.

"Tut" is an action-adventure/love story about the young pharaoh Tutankhamen and his attempt to reclaim his throne and save his country after the death of his father.

Emmerich had been developing "TUT" on page 22

Haynes/Gaedelmann orbits with Cage's Saturn

By Chris Gardner

Nicolas Cage and his Saturn Film have teamed with the recently launched production outfit Haynes/Gaedelmann Pictures to collaborate on a series of projects, including a deal to partner on a feature film based on the life of boxer-turned-prison coach Billy Roth, with Cage starring as the former prizefighter.

The AAA-packaged project will be produced by Saturn and



Heard around town

Fox circling Wells drama

John Wells is in talks to set up a drama project at Fox Broadcasting Co. Sources say John Wells Prods. and Warner Bros. TV are in the midst of hammer-



See **VINE** on page 26

Pic charms Perelman

Eyes Uni/D'Works' 'Talisman'

By Chris Gardner

Vadim Perelman, who made his directorial debut on DreamWorks Pictures' upcoming Oscar hopeful "House of Sand and Fog," is near a deal to direct "The Talisman," a long-time pet project of Steven Spielberg and Kathleen Kennedy. Based on the 1984 fantasy novel by Stephen King and Peter Straub, the project is a co-production of Universal Pictures

Biz ratchets up screener outcry

Hundreds sign IFP protest ad

By Ian Mohr and Gregg Kilday

When MPAA head Jack Valenti returns to his Washington office today from a trip abroad, he faces what is probably the most widespread industry protest of his 37-year tenure: growing opposition to the MPAA ban on awards-season screeners.

Valenti is scheduled to meet via

conference call Thursday with the heads of the MPAA companies to review the situation, which is being ratcheted up yet another notch today with the publication of a trade ad — organized by the IFP, the organization that serves the independent film community — calling for an end to the ban.

More than 350 filmmakers and actors, including a sampling of Oscar nominees and winners, have lent their names to the latest protest.

The ad calls for the MPAA and its member companies to "stop the ban," "explore alternative solutions to curtailing piracy" and "restore integrity to our business

See **SCREENERS** on page 26

Jordan sees double duty on Col 'Monster'

By Josh Spector

Columbia Pictures is in talks with "The Good Thief" helmer Neil Jordan to re-write and direct its feature "Me and My Monster."

The project, Jordan which is being produced by Laura Ziskin and Oscar-winning effects

See **"MONSTER"** on page 27



Cage

two companies grew out of a project called "The Dance — The Billy Roth Story," a documentary

and DreamWorks.

It centers on 12-year-old Jack Sawyer, who goes on a quest in the living world and a parallel world known as the Territories to acquire a talisman that will save the life of his dying mother and the queen of the Territories. The book, which marked the first collaboration between King and Straub, spawned the sequel "Black House."

Spielberg and Kennedy have See **PERELMAN** on page 27

on the festival circuit that Haynes directed and produced along with Gaedelmann. Cage and Saturn president Norm Golightly were executive producers.

The docu chronicles the life of Louisiana native Billy "The Kid" Roth, a former champion fighter who has volunteered for more than 44 years in Louisiana prisons, serving as a surrogate father to hundreds of inmates whom he taught to box.

See **SATURN** on page 27



Jordan

