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Daldry fits Brit banner

Helmer steering new course at indie firm

By CATHY DUNKLEY

"The Hours" helmer Stephen Daldry has upped his involvement in Film and Music Entertainment, the U.K.-based indie production company headed by managing director Mike Downey and head of production Sam Taylor. Daldry will act as exec producer on new F&ME projects and remains chairman of F&ME's advisory board.



Daldry

Company, which staged a successful management buyout from its German partners two months ago, also unveiled its upcoming development slate with a combined production budget of \$40 million.

Company recently acquired the rights to "No One Thinks of Greenland," adapted by John Paul Chapple from the novel by John Greisemer. The \$5 million pic, described as a cross between "MASH" and "Catch-22" for the Cold War era, is the story of a U.S. Army corporal who is wrongly assigned to a top-secret base and on arrival discovers a world of eccentrics and a scandalous buried secret. Pic, scheduled to shoot in Canada this winter, is a collaboration with Nova Scotia-based Chris Zimmer's IMX ("Love and Death in Long Island").

Ellroy adaptation

Also in development is Stephen Johnston's adaptation of James Ellroy novel "Killer on the Road," a collaboration with Hamish McAlpine's Metro/Tartan.

"'No One Thinks of Greenland' and 'Killer on the Road' mark our first forays into the North American production market," Downey said. "We have two quality films from first-rate writers that are ideal for the current international market."

Production shingle has also hired screenwriter Michael Kalesniko to write and direct "Fake!," a story that covers three decades in the life of the great art forger Elmyr de Hory. Script will be based on the biography by Clifford Irving. Matthew Justice and Scott Kaplan of L.A.-based Clear Pictures will co-produce pic with the company.

Three Iceland co-prods

In terms of European projects, company is developing three co-productions with Iceland. "Niceland," directed by Fridrik Thor Fridriksson, is being co-produced with Zik Zak Film Works and Nimbus Film. "Every Colour of the Sea Is

Cold" and "The Silent Magician" are being co-

Also on the slate is "Nazareth," a collaboration with Austria's Allegro Film and Peter Rommel Tradewinds Pictures; and "Love in Limbo," which



Company is also still developing three pics from Mass Prods., "Cassandra at the Wedding," "The Enemy" and teen thriller "Sam," which will be directed by recent AFI grad Stephanie Smith.

"The restructuring of Film and Music Entertainment has created a much stronger and more creative production entity," Daldry said. "It is hard to think of any other British company with such a wide and varied footprint on the production scene in Europe."

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