VARIETY

DAY 4 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2013

FIENNES' TIME

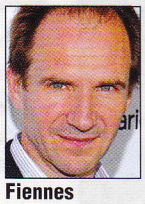
Star circles Foley's 'Sands'

By Elsa Keslassy

Ralph Fiennes is in advanced discussions to topline James Foley's fantasy drama-romance "Sands."

Budgeted in the $15 million range, the project will be pitched at Berlin's Capital Regions co-production meetings on Tuesday in Berlin.

Penned by novelist Renata Bovara, project centers on a New York couple — a surgeon and his wife — involved in an accident that leaves the woman in a coma. Caught between life and death, the woman's spirit travels to India where she is drawn to an imaginary man. She must choose between her love for that man and her husband, who is desperate to bring her back to life.



Fiennes

Pic is produced by Paris-based Ava Films and co-produced by Phantom Colombia and HanWay Pictures in the U.K. and Germany-India joint venture Bombay Berlin Films. It will receive coin from Prime Focus.

A prominent Hollywood thesp will star opposite Fiennes, said producer Richard Paraiso, who runs Ava Films and Phantom Colombia. Paraiso added he was

See **FIENNES** *page 31*

'Tad' team captures Spain's 'Flag'

By John Hopewell

Spaniard Enrique Gato will direct 3D "Capture the Flag," the biggest animated feature coming out of Spain this year, reuniting producers and talent from toon hit "Tad, the Lost Explorer," Gato's debut feature.

Telecinco Cinema ("The Impossible," "Tad, the Lost Explorer"), El Toro Pictures, Lightbox and Ikiru produce.

"Flag" is budgeted at about €12 million ($16 million), higher than "Tad's" budget given "Flag's" larger number of characters and backgrounds, said Telecinco Cinema CEO Ghislain Barrois. Budget is huge for Spain these days, though small compared with high-end international animation standards.

A family adventure movie, "Flag" turns on a Texas millionaire's ambitions to claim the moon as his private property but stopping him are a plucky 12-year-old, his g.f. and a robot chameleon.

Mixing European and U.S. talent — an increasingly common tactic on more commercially ambitious European animation — "Flag" was written by El Toro founder and NASA fanboy Jordi Gasull ("Lope"), Javier Barreira and Neil Landau ("Melrose

See **GATO** *page 31*

Brody s for trip 'Cannes

By Elsa Keslassy

Adrien Brody is in talks "Cannes," an ensemble dr against the backdrop of the Cannes Film Festival.

Brod

French scribe-turned-helmer Christopher Thompson, who made his directing debut with "Bus Palladium" in 2010, will helm the €10 million ($13.4 million) pic. He co-wrote the script with his mother Daniele Thompson. The pair co-wrote most of Daniele's films, includ nue Montaigne," "Change

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See **CANN**

'Epic' sc for co-pr

By Nick Holdsworth

British producer Mike has secured $400,000 i Russian money for hel Hopkins' new $3.8 million black comedy "Epic."

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The film, penned by Pawel Pawlikowski ("The Last Resort"), is the U.K.'s first co-production with Georgia and is currently shoot

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ike Gold Rush of the s infected dreamers over the world with ourring them to de- nchartted wilderness anada. Inspired by and photographs, ner-scribe Thomas ely cast, beautifully tells the story of a of Germans who set with great hopes. g, naturalistic pe- of tension and im- fyingly exploits the the late-era West- s ruggedly majestic d could spell healthy B.O. gold, for select outors.

blowhard Wilhelm Kurth) leads seven