

# FOX DOES MORE LAPS

## Levy banner pacts for 3 more years

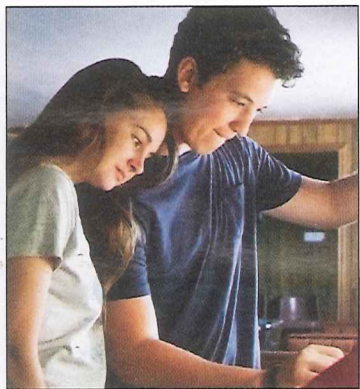
By Jeff Sneider

Shawn Levy's 21 Laps banner has closed a three-year overall first-look deal with 20th Century Fox, where Levy has been based since 2005.

In addition, 21 Laps has announced a slew of promotions, with Dan Levine named president; Billy Rosenberg upped to senior VP, Dan Cohen to VP, Will Rach to director of development and Katie Baron to creative executive.

"Shawn's boundless energy, ambition and effortless creativity make him the perfect partner. We are lucky he continues to call Fox his home," said Fox prexy of production Emma Watts.

Upcoming releases for 21 Laps



"The Spectacular Now" will screen at Sundance in January.

include Levy's Vince Vaughn-Owen Wilson comedy "The Internship," which Fox will release June 7. Company is also bringing James

Ponsoldt's "The Spectacular Now" to Sundance, where it will premiere in competition next month. The Levy banner has several projects in development at Fox including "Night at the Museum 3," the final installment in the billion-dollar franchise; "Sesame Street" and "Fancy Nancy," the latter of which will be co-produced by Levy's "Date Night" star Tina Fey; John Hamburg's "Brother From Another Mother"; Anne Fletcher's "Alone for the Holidays"; and Jonathan Tropper's script "Kodachrome." Levy is attached to direct "Fantastic Voyage," which he's producing with James Cameron and his Lightstorm Entertainment.

Levy is repped by WME and Ziffren Brittenham.

## PGA picks digital VIPs

By Dave McNary

The Producers Guild of America is launching a Digital VIP initiative and awards gala aimed at honoring 15 producers who have made "significant" contributions to the advancement of digital entertainment and storytelling.

The guild will present kudos in a trio of categories on April 11. The PGA will also launch a speaker series featuring honorees at the Soho House in Los Angeles beginning in June.

Visionary awards go to three execs from the Global Alliance for Transformational Entertainment — founder and chairman John Raatz along with honorary founders Eckhart Tolle and Jim Carrey — along with sci-fi author Bruce Sterling.

Innovator awards go to Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger, co-founders of Instagram; Bill Westenhofer, vfx supervisor for Rhythm & Hues Studios on "Life of Pi"; and Philip Atwell and Dylan Brown of Digital Domain for Virtual 2Pac.

Producers award will be given to the Disney Imagineering team and developers for Disney's Cars Land at California Adventure; Louis C.K., writer, director, actor and producer of FX's "Louie," for "re-engineering the role of artist in entertainment distribution"; Maker Studios co-founders Ben Donovan (president), Danny Zapin (CEO) and Lisa Donovan (general manager) for pioneering the online multichannel network; and Conan O'Brien for the "Team Coco" digital experience.

"These visionaries, innovators and producers are leading change and creativity at the intersection of entertainment and technology," said PGA president Mark Gordon. "We at the Producers Guild are pleased to acknowledge their contributions to our rapidly evolving digital industry, and we look forward to celebrating with them in the spring."

## Epix flows on Redbox stream

By Jill Goldsmith

Streaming venture Redbox Instant by Verizon will cost subscribers \$8 a month, include titles from Epix, and offer four one-night credits for new movies rented through Redbox kiosks, the service said as it unveiled some eagerly awaited details on Wednesday.

For \$1 more, \$9 per month, customers can redeem their four credits for Blu-ray disc rentals

at kiosks. They can also use the service without a subscription for purchase or rental or to reserve DVDs for pickup at local kiosks.

The Epix deal will offer subscribers pics such as "Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol" and "The Hunger Games" 90 days after they premiere in the traditional premium window.

At launch the service will be offered via the Web and through various home entertainment, tablet and mobile devices.

## Berger to DGA in Gotham gig

By Dave McNary

The Directors Guild of America has hired attorney Michael Berger as an assistant exec director in its New York offices.

Berger will be involved in the negotiation and administration of the DGA's network and live and taped television agreements. He will also oversee issues related to associate directors, stage managers and production associates on the East Coast. Berger reports to Russell Hollander, associate national exec director/Eastern exec director.

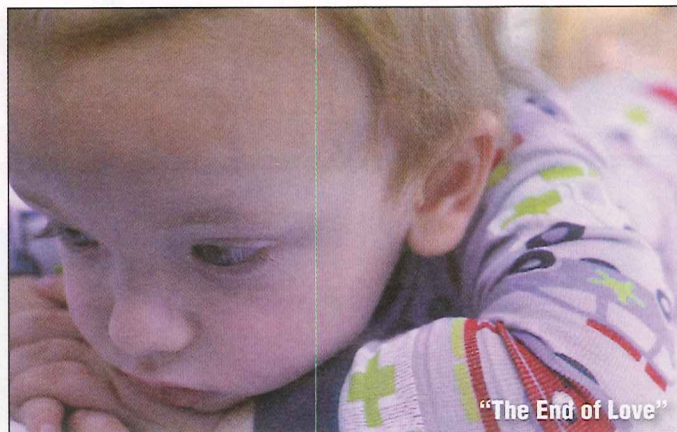
Prior to joining the DGA, Berger worked as a field attorney at the National Labor Relations Board in New York, where he investigated and litigated unfair labor practice charges and conducted representation hearings and elections.

## Oscar Watch

Friday is the deadline to apply to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences for a paper ballot for the Oscars. This year, the Acad is offering the option of paper or electronic voting — but the first step for members is to make sure their dues are paid. Registration for voting online remains open until Jan. 2. Voting will take place from Monday through Jan. 3.



## EXCLU Film Pickups



## Duo fall for 'Love'

Gravitas Ventures and Variance Films have partnered to acquire all North American rights to Mark Webber's father-son drama "The End of Love."

"Love," which debuted at Sundance in January, is a Here Now production in association with Poor Rich Kids. Producers are Webber, Liz Destro and Matt Sprague.

The film stars Webber, Shannyn Sossamon and Webber's real-life son Isaac Love.

Gravitas will release "Love" on VOD on Jan. 21, with a theatrical release from Variance Films beginning March 1 in select markets.

Webber, who also penned the script, portrays a struggling actor forced to grapple with his inability to grow up when the mother of his 2-year-old son dies.

The deal was negotiated by Nolan Gallagher from Gravitas Ventures and Dylan Marchetti of Variance Films with Kevin Iwashina of Preferred Content on behalf of the filmmakers.

— Dave McNary

## Distribs plan U.S. release for 'Girl'

Brainstorm Media and the Film Collective have acquired U.S. distribution rights to David Riker's "The Girl," starring Abbie Cornish, Will Patton and Maritza Santiago Hernandez.

The movie, which premiered in April at the Tribeca Film Festival, will be released Friday in New York and Los Angeles for a one-week awards qualifying engagement at Landmark Theaters, followed by a full theatrical release in March.

"The Girl" was produced by Paul Mezey via his Journeymen Pictures banner. Exec producers are Philipp Engelhorn of Cinereach Films and Nick Quested of Goldcrest Films.

Riker's script centers on a single mother struggling with the loss of her child to social services.

— Dave McNary

## COHEN MEDIA TAPS PREXY

By Dave McNary EXCLU

Cohen Media Group has named former National Geographic Films and Miramax prexy Daniel Battsek as its president.

Battsek will work alongside topper Charles Cohen to oversee acquisition, production and distribution of CMG titles and the Cohen Film Collection previously known as the Rohauer Library.

CMG's production slate includes "Double Cross," "Operation Mincemeat" and a remake of French film "You Will Be My Son." Four-year-old CMG has released "The Other Son," "Farewell, My Queen" and Luis Bunuel's "Tristana" and is handling the upcoming release of the Spanish Oscar entry "Blancanieves."

During Battsek's tenure at Na-

tional Geographic, he acquired projects for development and production, operated a domestic distribution arm for arthouse titles and documentaries including "Restrepo" and oversaw large-screen projects. Prior to joining Nat Geo, Battsek headed Miramax during the time the distrib released "The Queen" and "No Country for Old Men."

"Daniel Battsek is a proven force in film production and distribution, and we are fortunate to have him as we prepare for great things in the coming year and beyond," Cohen said.

Upcoming pics include Fernando Trueba's "The Artist and the Model," Francois Ozon's "In the House," the restored 1924 "Thief of Bagdad" and Rachid Bouchareb's first American film, "Just Like a Woman."



Battsek