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TV trends: More high concepts and fake accents, fewer half-hour comedies. Analysis on page 50 and at www.hollywoodreporter.com



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Anne-Christine Poulsen/AP/GETTY IMAGES

Heir 'Balloon'

Director Hou Hsiao Hsien, Juliette Binoche hit the Cannes red carpet Thursday before a screening of "The Flight of the Red Balloon."

Uni int'l unit taps Grass

By Tatiana Siegel



Grass

CANNES — Universal Pictures has named 20th Century Fox International executive Christian Grass president of the studio's new production arm at Universal Pictures International. The move, which takes effect in October, punctu-

ates Universal's efforts to beef up its overseas presence.

The studio also has inked a deal with Russian filmmaker Timur Bekmambetov and his Moscow-based production and visual effects company, Bazelevs Prods., to produce and direct Russian and English-language films for the local and global marketplace. Bekmambetov most recently

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New world for Overture, Par

By Borys Kit and Tatiana Siegel

Overture Films, Paramount Vantage and Paramount Pictures International have teamed for a global distribution deal.

The agreement gives Overture,

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Laughs harder to find Comedy 'in a challenged stage'

By Nellie Andreeva

During the past week, the broadcast networks made their series bets for next season, gambling on high-concept large-ensemble big-budget dramas, while retreating from comedy.

The studios are taking their lumps on the comedy side after spending a fortune to satisfy the networks' insatiable appetite for single-camera pilots this development season.

All networks except Fox ordered comedy slates dominat-

ed by single-camera projects, each on average said to cost more than \$3 million. Only ABC stuck with the form in its series pickups — ordering three comedies, all single-camera. Meanwhile, NBC and CBS ended up ordering one multicamera comedy series each, and Fox opted for two multicamera and one single-camera series.

"Comedy is clearly in a challenged stage," Warner Bros. TV president Peter Roth said. "Half-hours seem to be more

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UPFRONT
WRAP

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Calemzuk does the FTVS shuffle

New chief axes 3 division heads

By Nellie Andreeva

Three weeks after taking the reins of Fox Television Studios, new president Emiliano Calemzuk has made his first major restructuring move, letting go of three department heads.

The trio who have left the company are Holly Jacobs, executive vp alternative development; Regina DiMartino, executive vp global marketing; and Chris Ottinger, executive vp FTVS International and Fox World.

Meanwhile, executive vp scripted programming David Madden is said to be in preliminary talks for a new contract to continue as head of his department.

"The company is grateful for all the time and efforts (Jacobs, DiMartino and Ottinger) invested in helping make this group the

great and diverse pool of people we are today," Calemzuk wrote in an internal memo Thursday. "I do not intend to replace these executives with people coming from outside FTVS immediately, nor will that be the case across all the departments. I



Calemzuk

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Miller sees Jackson as evil 'Spirit'

By Tatiana Siegel and Borys Kit

Samuel L. Jackson is in negotiations to star as a mysterious supervillain in the Frank Miller-helmed comic book adaptation "The Spirit" for Lionsgate and Odd Lot Entertainment.

The story centers on Denny Colt, an ambitious young cop

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Festival de Cannes

News from the Riviera begins on page 11.

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\$75 MILLION

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS Full-time staff keep luxury manses running smoothly and looking fine

THE PRICE OF LIVING IN A HOME THE SIZE OF A FOUR SEASONS hotel is that keeping it staffed and running is no less involved or costly than managing a luxurious resort.

"Clearly, there's a ton of cleaning that needs to be done, as well as management of the property and grounds," explains Lori Zuker Briller, a partner in the Grapevine, a Los Angeles company that staffs estates. "There's the pool, the tennis court, the koi pond and the guest house. There's the screening room. And someone needs to make sure the light bulbs are changed, the freezers are cleaned up, the sound and audiovisual units are working, as well as tracking and managing the china, place settings and wine cellars."

That "someone" would be an estate manager, and for all the demands placed upon him or her, there's handsome compensation. "They're the modern-day butlers, and the exceptional ones can cost \$100,000-\$150,000," Briller says. "But they will know everything from how to drive to how to set a formal table, pack for trips, mix a perfect drink and be able to survey the grounds and home constantly to make sure it's all in working order."

A gardener also is necessary (one who can handle special requests like a Provencal herb and flower garden will run around \$60,000 a year and up, according to Briller), as are a security man/handyman/driver for another \$80,000, a full-time chef for \$75,000-\$100,000, a laundress for \$20-\$25 an hour and, of course, says Briller, "at least three housekeepers," who will each earn between \$45,000-\$55,000, often with benefits.

Finally, there's the task of tending to the younger, manor-born residents: a job on which few of Briller's clients are willing to skimp. "Clearly, the ones that drive, speak English and can travel will be more costly," she says. "We have had clients that pay as much as \$120,000 a year for a nanny."

That brings the minimum annual cost for employing such a staff to a cool \$550,000. It's the purchase price of a house for many people, but for those who have ponied up as much as \$100 million for theirs, it's simply the cost of good living.

— Rebecca Ascher-Walsh

\$75 MILLION

PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY, MALIBU

The price might seem a bit steep for a property that's due for a remodel, if not a tear-down, but the value here is in the remarkable land: almost seven acres located high on a bluff in Malibu, with a private road leading to a secluded beach. "You can drive your golf cart from the house to the beach," says Westside Estate Agency co-owner Stephen Shapiro, whose company is representing the property. "There are three guest houses, stables, a corral and whatever else you could possibly think of."

So, why not ask, say, \$100 million? "Because no one has paid \$75 million for it yet," Shapiro says with a laugh. "The house is impeccable, but it was built in the 1970s, so someone would want to remodel or build something new. It doesn't really satisfy instant gratification, and many people who come to L.A. from other places are looking for that."

\$60 MILLION

THE ROBERT TAYLOR RANCH, LOS ANGELES

This Brentwood property consists of 112 acres and a Robert Byrd-designed, 17-bedroom house. The grounds include equestrian facilities, a tennis court and a pool. "I love the fact that it's so private — you don't feel like you're in the city at all, yet you're 10-15 minutes from the beach and seven minutes from Brentwood," listing agent Joyce Rey of Coldwell Banker Previews International says. "You're in the thick of things, but you have a wonderful