

behind the camera as well as onscreen in its bid to get made: Just as filming began, Biblical floods in Europe destroyed \$7 million worth of sets, including, ironically, the sinking of Nemo's submarine, and star Connery reportedly butted heads with stickler Norrington. On the other hand, "Titanic's" troubled production was storied as well. Industry reports have it that Connery took the job because he had turned down "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Matrix" on the grounds he didn't understand them. He didn't understand this project either, but he wasn't going to let another opportunity like those pass him by. Like this weekend's "Pirates of the Caribbean," "LXG," as it's been dubbed, might be a fun opportunity to have staffers dress in costumes as the pic's famous literary characters. Promotional materials currently available for "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" include trailers—at press time targeted for "X-Men 2" (attached), "Phone Booth" (enclosed), "Basic" (enclosed) and "Daredevil" (enclosed)—one sheets and banners, with standees, bus shelters, ad slicks and press kits coming soon. See **Exhibitor Relations** for contact information.

September 11

For this project, filmmakers from all over the world were invited to create short films commemorating or commenting on the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2001. The only stipulation: It must be 11 minutes, nine seconds and one frame in length—its original title, "11'09"01." The controversial film includes sharp criticism of the United States. Segment directors include Egypt's Youssef Chahine ("Destiny"), Israel's Amos Gitai ("Kedma"), Mexico's Alejandro González Iñárritu ("Amores Perros"), Japan's Shohei Imamura ("Warm Water Under a Red Bridge"), France's Claude Lelouch ("And Now...Ladies and Gentlemen"), the United Kingdom's Ken Loach ("Sweet Sixteen"), Iran's Samira Makhmalbaf ("Blackboards"), India's Mira Nair ("Monsoon Wedding"), Burkina Faso's Idrissa Ouedraogo ("Kini and Adams"), the U.S.' Sean Penn ("The Pledge") and Bosnia-Herzegovina's Danis Tanovic ("No Man's Land"). The concept's creator Alain Brigand produces. (Empire, 7/11)

Exploittips: **BOXOFFICE** gave "September 11" two stars in the January 2003 issue, saying, "The overall weak quality of this omnibus film suggests that the event is still too fresh to be dealt with artistically." Its running time is 135 minutes.

The Embalmer

In this Italian-language film, a middle-age gay dwarf and skilled taxidermist becomes obsessed with a tall, hunky young man with a friendly disposition and passion for animals. Their relationship is threatened, however, when a young woman enters the fray. Ernesto Mahieux, Valerio Foglia Manzillo and Elisabetta Rocchetti star. Matteo Garrone directs and scripts; Ugo Chiti and Massimo Gaudioso

co-write; Domenico Procacci produces. (First Run, 7/7 NY)

Exploittips: "The Embalmer," based on a 1990s news story that ran in the Roman tabloids, world premiered in the Director's Fortnight at Cannes last year. Its running time is 101 minutes.

Northfork

In this drama by the Polish brothers ("Twin Falls Idaho"), set in the American heartland in the 1950s, the once-proud town of Northfork is scheduled to disappear under water due to the construction of a new dam, and a crew of pitchmen travel the countryside convincing the remaining holdouts that they should pull up stakes. Meanwhile, a frail young orphan dreams of escaping the doomed community, and, through his power of imagination and love, he is able to break away from the only home he has ever known. James Woods ("John Q"), Nick Nolte ("The Hulk"), newcomer Duel Farnes, Mark Polish and Daryl Hannah ("A Walk to Remember") star. Michael Polish directs as well as scripts with his brother Mark; they also both produce. (Paramount Classics, 7/11)

Exploittips: **BOXOFFICE** gave "Northfork" five stars out of Sundance in the April 2003 issue, calling it "one of the most hauntingly beautiful films ever made." Promotional materials coming soon for "Northfork" include flat and scope trailers, one sheets, press kits and postcards. See **Exhibitor Relations** for contact information. Its running time is 94 minutes.

JULY 18

Bad Boys II

Will Smith and Martin Lawrence reprise their roles in this sequel to the 1995 action/comedy blockbuster as narcotics detectives Mike Lowrey and Marcus Burnett, respectively, who have been assigned to a high-tech task force investigating the flow of designer ecstasy into Miami. Their inquiries inadvertently lead them to a major conspiracy involving a

vicious kingpin whose ambitions to take over the city's drug trade have ignited a bloody turf war. But Mike and Marcus' friendship and working relationship are threatened when Mike begins to develop feelings for Marcus' sister Syd, and, unless they can separate the personal from the professional, these bad boys are in danger of blowing the case and endangering Syd's life in the process. Jordi Mollà ("Blow"), Gabrielle Union ("Deliver Us From Eva") and Joe Pantoliano ("Daredevil") co-star. Michael Bay, who helmed the original film, directs; Ron Shelton ("Hollywood Homicide") scripts with "Charlie's Angels'" Cormac Wibberley and Marianne Wibberley; "Bad Boys'" Jerry Bruckheimer produces. (Columbia, 7/18)

Exploittips: The 1995 actioner to which this is a sequel grossed \$141 million and launched the big-screen careers of at-that-time television stars Smith and Lawrence. Miami residents were irked when the production closed down a main thoroughfare between the city and its namesake beach for several days, but the filmmakers posted a traffic sign—"Bad Boys II' thanks you for your patience"—and blew up a multimillion-dollar mansion slated for demolition as a show of gratitude. Promotional materials currently available for "Bad Boys II" include flat and scope trailers—at press time targeted for "A Man Apart" (enclosed) and "Basic" (enclosed)—and one sheets. See **Exhibitor Relations** for contact information.

The Magdalene Sisters

This drama charts several years in the young lives of four "fallen women" who are rejected by their families and abandoned to the mercy of the Catholic Church in 1960s Ireland. While women's liberation is sweeping the globe, these women are stripped of their liberty and dignity and condemned to indefinite sentences of servitude in the Magdalene Laundries in order to atone for their supposed sins. Geraldine McEwan ("The Love Letter"), Dorothy Duffy, Annie-



Bad Boys II