

CLIPS

**'GODDESS' GETS A HELMER**  
D.R. Whitney's upcoming fantasy book series "The Goddess Prophecies" has caught the eye of director Armand Mastroianni ("The Celestine Prophecy"), who is attached to helm a film adaptation. "Book One: The Cup of Immortality," the first book in the series, will be published

by Crescent Moon Press in December.

**OPEN RANGE**

Filmmaker Todd Sklar is launching the touring distribution outfit Range Life Entertainment. This fall, four indie films will be presented on a 25-city tour supported by online and local market-



ing events, including J.J. Lask's 2007 Sundance entry "On the Road With Judas," starring Kevin Corrigan; Bob

Byington's 2008 SXSW fest premiere "Registered Sex Offender," starring Andrew Bujalski; Christopher Jaymes' "In Memory of My Father," starring Jeremy Sisto; and Sklar's own "Box Elder."

**SONY UPS DUO**

Sony Pictures has upped

Sarajane Smith and Erica Wiertz in its corporate communications department. Smith is vp corporate communications and employee meetings and events; Wiertz is vp employee communications. Both report to Jim Kennedy, executive vp global communications for the studio.

INSIDE TRACK

FILM

# Economic woes may sink Asia Pacific fest

By Pip Bulbeck

SYDNEY — The Asia Pacific Film Festival in Indonesia — scheduled to kick off Nov. 18 in Jakarta — has been postponed because of the global economic crisis, organizers said Wednesday.

Festival committee chairman Raam Punjabi said that the event will be postponed "as the global economic conditions have taken away some of the enthusiasm of the member countries."

The announcement comes as the Jakarta International Film Festival also appears to be struggling, with organizers saying that December's 10th edition might be scaled back from 10 days to five.

Hong Kong media mogul Run Run Shaw founded the Asia Pacific Film Festival in 1953. It is hosted

by a different Asian city each year in one of the 21 member countries of the Federation of Motion Pictures Producers in Asia. The event might go ahead in Jakarta in six or nine months or be tabled until the 2009 edition, which is set to be held in Taipei, Punjabi said.

This year's fest, meant to build cultural bridges between member countries, has faced stiff competition from other Asian festivals.

Sponsors were concerned about a drop in the number of overseas visitors as the festival falls on the calendar just after the ongoing Tokyo International Film Festival and October's Pusan International Film Festival and competes for time almost directly with the Asia Pacific Screen Awards in Australia, the second edition of which is set for mid-November. **THR**



Al Pacino hinted he might bring his directorial effort "Salomaybe?" to next year's festival.

## Pacino in Rome spotlight

### 'Man Who Loves,' 'Eight' bow at third event

By Eric J. Lyman

ROME — The third edition of the Rome International Film Festival kicked off Wednesday with a massive Brazil-themed party and hints from Al Pacino — the festival's most high-profile guest —

that he might be up for making a repeat visit next year.

Pacino, in town to receive the festival's lifetime achievement award, is the subject of a major retrospective at a Rome festival that features less star power than previous editions.

During a meandering set of encounters with the press and the public, Pacino said it was "a shame" his just-completed directorial effort "Salomaybe?" — based on a once-banned Oscar Wilde play — could not be part of his Rome retrospective.

"I would have liked the film to come here," Pacino said, to the visible delight of Rome co-director Mario Sesti, seated next to him. "Maybe we can bring the film here next year."

Also on tap Wednesday were a pair of world premieres. A screening of Maria Sole Tognazzi's "The Man Who Loves" was followed by "Eight," an eight-part project from directors including Jane Campion, Gus Van Sant and Wim Wenders. **THR**

# Foreign infusion buoys Tokyo film market

By Gavin J. Blair

TOKYO — Worries of a global slowdown were nowhere in sight Wednesday at a bustling first day of TIFFCOM, the movie marketplace attached to the Tokyo International Film Festival.

"It's much busier than last year, and people who are asking for meetings want to do serious negotiations," said Makito "Mac" Sugiyama, head of foreign program sales at Tokyo Broadcasting System.

After this month's slow Pusan International Film Festival —

where sales offices were spread throughout several hotels in the South Korean resort town — the Asian film industry looks to be shifting its focus to the more compact TIFFCOM market, which features a record 172 exhibitors under one roof.

With foreign exhibitors taking half of the booths for the first time — including companies from TIFFCOM newcomers Australia, Italy, Spain, Vietnam and Norway — the market has a more international feel than previous years.

"Pusan was quiet, and people came back from Cannes saying it

was the fewest number of Asian industry people they'd ever seen there," Sugiyama said. "Maybe people feel now they don't need to go to Europe to do business."

Sugiyama said the festival should think about moving to a larger venue if Asian film buyers decide to stay closer to home as international travel becomes prohibitively expensive.

"With the world economy as it is, what we're seeing is very positive," he said. "They'll have to think about moving venues in the future as there's no room for any more booths here." **THR**