



Burger ready for 'Return'

McAdams, Robbins, Pena set for film

By IAN MOHR



McAdams



Robbins



Pena

Rachel McAdams, Tim Robbins and Michael Pena will star in "The Return," which Neil Burger will direct.

Lionsgate won out as North American distributor this week and is eyeing a December rollout. Production is set to begin in May.

Burger co-penned the screenplay with Dirk Wittenborn. Story follows three soldiers returning from Iraq who become companions on an unexpected road trip across the U.S.

Bill Block, whose QED Intl. is financially backing the project, will exec produce with Paul Hanson and Adam Merims.

"Ocean's Thirteen" scribes Brian Koppelman and David Levien are producing with Rick Schwartz ("The Departed") and Burger.

Following "The Illusionist," on which Koppelman and Levien were also producers, Burger had been in talks to helm the next installment of Disney's "Chronicles of Narnia" franchise.

"Neil had many opportunities," said Block, whose company is also partially backing Miramax's "Smart People." "But it is a credit to his vision and validation in sticking with this project."

McAdams, whose credits include "The Family Stone" and "Wedding Crashers," will be seen in Ira Sachs' upcoming "Married Life."

Robbins recently wrapped helmer Henry Bean's "Noise," and Pena's upcoming credits include the Mark Wahlberg vehicle "Shooter."

As scribes, Koppelman and Levien are teaming on "The Winter of Frankie Machine," starring Robert De Niro.