

IDOL MOLDS 'METAL'

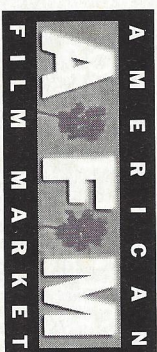
Singer will voice lead in Canuck-German toon

BY ANDREW HINDES

Eighties rock icon Billy Idol will provide the lead voice in Sceneries Entertainment's animated feature "Heavy Metal: F.A.K.K. 2."

The \$15 million Canadian-German co-production will be distributed domestically next fall by Columbia TriStar. Sceneries is handling sales in other territories.

Pic is based on the graphic novel "The Melting Pot," created by Kevin Eastman ("Teenage Mutant Ninja Tur-



bles"), Simon Bisley and Eric Talbot.

Scripted by Robert P. Cabeen, pic tells the story of an immortal female warrior who seeks revenge on the genocidal Tyler (Idol). (F.A.K.K., her nom de guerre, stands for Federation Assigned Ketogenic Killzone.)

The pic is directed by Mitch

Lemire and Michael Coldewey. Sceneries exec Philippe Diaz is the exec producer.

"F.A.K.K.2" is produced by Jacques Pettigrew of Lions Gate subsid Cine-Group, a 20-year-old Montreal-based animation studio, and Werner Koenig of Munich-based Helkon Media.

Idol played himself in the Adam Sandler comedy "The Wedding Singer." In addition to Idol, the pic's soundtrack will feature tunes by Axl Rose, Sammy Hagar and the Stone Temple Pilots.

Reveal reveals hiring Ramet, Childers

BY ANDREW HINDES

Reveal Entertainment, the DreamWorks-based production company recently formed by Brad Silberling and Barry Isaacson, has tapped former Industry Entertainment book scout Valeska Ramet as head of development, and Minor Childers as creative exec.

At Industry Entertainment, Ramet scouted and packaged literary material for talent, writer and director clients. She started her career in New York at Sony Pictures Classics as an acquisitions intern and went on to work at Miramax as an assistant to Harvey Weinstein and Jack Lechner. After that, she joined Universal's New York offices as a development exec.

"Valeska's book background is tremendously helpful to us," Isaacson said, "but she's equally skilled at working with screenplays."

Childers was most recently an executive assistant to Margaret French Isaacs at DreamWorks in feature development. Before that, he was an assistant to Rob Levine at TriStar and an exec story editor for Alan Ladd Jr.

'Star Wars' f/x artists to speak at confab

BY MARC GRASER

The visual effects artists behind this summer's "Star Wars — Episode 1: The Phantom Menace" will discuss their work on the pic at the Visual Effects Society's "VES '99: A Festival of Visual Effects" June 4-6.

The three-day confab will be held at the Leonard H. Goldenson Theatre of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, VES exec director Tom Atkin announced.

Event will feature seminars presented by such f/x companies as Industrial Light & Magic, Jim Henson's Creature Shop and Sony Picture Imageworks to focus on the artistic processes involved in bringing visual effects to the screen.

Just two weeks after the May 21 release of "Phantom Menace," ILM senior visual f/x supervisor Dennis Muren, animation supervisor Rob Coleman and visual f/x supervisors John Knoll and Scott Squires will present four separate one-hour seminars illustrating how the film's illusions were created.

Classic pics that influenced the four to enter visual f/x production — including "The War of the Worlds" — will be screened after the presentations.

Additionally, veteran stop-motion photography artist Ray Harryhausen will give a presentation of his works ranging from "Mighty Joe Young" to "Clash of the Titans." A one-on-one interview with f/x supervisor Phil Tippet will follow.

Reps from Threshold Entertainment will discuss work involved with its "Mortal Kombat" franchise, while Jim Henson's Creature Shop will present animatronics and puppeteering demonstrations.

Tickets are available to members of the production community, and will become available to the general public in April and May. Details are available through VES by calling (818) 789-7083 or online at www.vesmem.org.