

Krane, Rogers put plans in Motion

By Stuart Kemp

Veteran producers Jonathan D. Krane and Beau Rogers are teaming to form startup financing and production banner the Jonathan Krane Motion Picture Organization.

Krane said Sunday that the fledgling banner is planning an initial slate of five films and has raised upward of \$150 million from a mix of institutional and individual private equity to bankroll them.

The business model includes guaranteed "appropriate" domestic theatrical releases, foreign pre-sales, tax incentives and equity, as well as strategically implemented brand integration.

Krane told THR he has sealed a deal with Samuel Goldwyn and Freestyle to handle domestic theatrical distribution, with international sales handled by Echo Bridge Entertainment. Echo Bridge also is charged with home video, DVD and television distribution, Krane said.

Samuel Goldwyn Films president Meyer Gottlieb said he is "delighted to be in business" with the company.

The first three projects on the startup's slate are the comedy "Daddy's Home," a psychological thriller "Psycho/Analysis" and legal thriller "Billy Strobe."

Krane said that he and Bridges have yet to decide on the other two projects to put into production.

Scheduled for a January start in Detroit, "Daddy's Home" will be the first out of the gate and will be directed by Trent Cooper ("Larry The Cable Guy: Health Inspector") from a script by Krane. Producers are Krane and Ken Barbet with Rogers exec producing. Casting is underway, with newcomer Anya Anisimova signed to star.

Joseph Stefano, who wrote the original "Psycho," penned "Psycho/Analysis" and instructed his son to deliver the script in a sealed package upon his death. Set to be produced by Krane and Barbet, Rogers and Dominic Stefano will exec produce. Negotiations are ongoing for the director.

"Billy Strobe," the third film on JKMP's production roster is a legal thriller based on the novel by John Martel to be directed by Barbet. Krane and Barbet will produce the film with Rogers exec producing.

Krane also plans a division of the company to manage "unknown and accomplished talent," in a return to his roots as a manager.