



Cinedigm Acquires North American Rights to Class Rank

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Skyler Gisondo, Olivia Holt, Kristin Chenoweth and Bruce Dern star in this indie comedy directed by Eric Stoltz

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 22, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Cinedigm Corp (NASDAQ:CIDM) has acquired all North American distribution rights to the offbeat high school comedy CLASS RANK, directed by Eric Stoltz. Cinedigm will release the picture theatrically and on Digital and TV VOD on May 11, 2018, with a DVD Release to follow in June 2018, and an SVOD premiere later in 2018.

Rising stars, Olivia Holt (Disney's XD's KICKIN' IT), who will be seen next in the upcoming Freeform series, Marvel's CLOAK AND DAGGER, and Skyler Gisondo (Netflix's SANTA CLARITA DIET, VACATION), topline the picture. Kristin Chenoweth (THE BOY NEXT DOOR, GLEE) and two-time Academy Award nominee Bruce Dern (NEBRASKA, HICKOK) round out the cast.

Shaun Sanghani produced and financed the film via his company SSS Entertainment producing alongside with Sandy Stern of Single Cell Pictures. Written by Benjamin August, the picture is helmed by actor-turned-director, Eric Stoltz (MASK, PULP FICTION), currently an Executive Producer on CBS' MADAME SECRETARY.

In CLASS RANK, two high school outsiders, Veronica (Holt), a type-A personality with Ivy League aspirations and Bernard (Gisondo), a quirky nerd, join forces to overtake the local school board and eliminate the class-ranking system. Guided by their families, the two enter the perilous world of local politics and, in the process, learn a thing or two about love.

CLASS RANK won the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature at the 2017 Maui Film Festival, while Holt won Best Acting awards for her performance at both the 2017 Napa Valley Film Festival and Newport Beach Film Festival.

"CLASS RANK is a smart, funny and warm-hearted picture that carries an empowering message for young people to speak up and not be afraid to challenge the status quo," said Yolanda Macias, Cinedigm's Executive Vice-President of Acquisitions. "Olivia and Skyler both shine as the young leads, and Eric's incisive direction perfectly captures both those awkward, hilarious high school moments as well as those first brave steps we take toward finding ourselves and our voices."

"We were immediately impressed with Cinedigm's energy, enthusiasm and distribution strategy for CLASS RANK," said the film's producers, Shaun Sanghani and Sandy Stern. "They are collaborative partners who truly support independent filmmaking, and we are excited to partner with them on our picture."

The deal was negotiated by Melody Fowler, Vice-President of Acquisitions for Cinedigm, and Andre Relis, President of VMI Worldwide, on behalf of the filmmakers.

About VMI Worldwide

VMI Worldwide is one of the leading, intercontinental sales, film finance and production companies based in the heart of the movie making capital of the world, Hollywood, California. Founded in 2010 by Andre Relis, VMI has an impeccable reputation in the industry by building a strong collaborative and transparent relationship with filmmakers, financiers, and distributors. VMI's mandate is to support high quality independent filmmaking from all sides of the spectrum. By bringing together visionary talented filmmakers and collaborating with financiers and distributors, VMI empowers its filmmakers by providing the support needed to facilitate production. VMI's goal is to establish long-term partnerships by building strong and honest relationships, while acquiring and producing cast driven, commercial and marketable feature films, documentaries and TV content.

About Cinedigm

Cinedigm powers custom content solutions to the world's largest retail, media and technology companies. The company provides premium feature films and series to digital platforms including iTunes, Netflix, and Amazon, cable and satellite providers including Comcast, Dish Network and DirecTV, and major retailers including Walmart and Target. Leveraging Cinedigm's unique capabilities, content and technology, the company has emerged as a leader in the fast-growing over-the-top (OTT) channel business, currently with four channels under management that reach hundreds of millions of devices, while also providing premium content and service expertise to the entire OTT ecosystem. Learn more about Cinedigm at www.cinedigm.com.

In November 2017, Bison Capital became the beneficial owner of the majority of Cinedigm's outstanding Class A Common Stock. Bison Capital is a Hong Kong-based investment company with a focus on the media and entertainment, healthcare and financial service industries. Founded by Mr. Peixin Xu in 2014, Bison Capital has made multiple investments in film and TV production, film distribution and entertainment-related mobile Internet services.

Cinedigm is now working closely with Bison Capital to develop plans and forge partnerships to release entertainment content and develop OTT channels in China while, reciprocally, releasing Chinese content and new OTT channels in North America.

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Source: Cinedigm Digital Cinema Corp.