

ACI taps Brit TV exec Harris as M.D.

BY ELIZABETH GUIDER

NEW YORK—ACI, the Hollywood-based TV production and distribution consortium, has tapped Brian Harris, formerly managing director of Yorkshire TV Enterprises in the United Kingdom, to oversee all aspects of its international distribution and production.

Concurrent with the appointment of the veteran British broadcast exec, ACI will move its international headquarters to London.

As managing director of the ACI international operation, Harris will look to expand the company's relationships with Euro broadcasters and explore co-production op-

portunities.

"I'll be coming at things from a Euro perspective," Harris told *Variety*. "This is in a way the beginning of stage two for ACI."

The consortium was set up in 1989 by a clutch of well-known producers of network made-for and minis, including founding partners Len Hill, Steve Tisch, Steve White and Frank von Zerneck.

Their basic aim on the international front was to cut out the distribution middlemen and go straight to potential clients with their shows. The group's annual output of 18 to 20 shows makes it one of the leading sources of network longforms—the best of the genre also sell well abroad.

Harris got to know von Zerneck in the early '80s when both were working to put together the U.S./U.K. network co-production "Romance on the Orient Express."

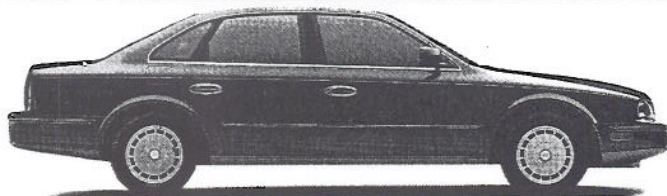
During his 18 years with Yorkshire TV Harris also served as director of business affairs. He set up on his own six months ago, before being approached by ACI exec.

The hiring of Harris follows the recently announced appointments of Michael Weise as executive vice-president of domestic distribution for ACI and Robert Oswak as vice-president for marketing for the company.

A new arrangement with New York-based producer Alfred Haber has also been structured so that he will continue to represent ACI internationally in key territories, including Canada.

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TOP 50 VIDEO TITLES

From <i>Variety's</i> survey of rental transactions		For week ended July 31	
Rank	Last week Title and distrib	Volume Indicator	Weeks on chart
1	1 The Hand That Rocks the Cradle (Buena Vista)	124.59	3
2	— Hook (Col TriStar)	112.77	1
3	2 Star Trek VI (Paramount)	96.62	4
4	9 Stop or My Mom Will Shoot (Buena Vista)	96.57	2
5	6 Grand Canyon (Fox Video)	93.24	5
6	4 Cape Fear (MCA/Universal)	92.97	8
7	3 The Addams Family (Paramount)	92.29	6
8	8 Shining Through (Fox Video)	90.94	4
9	5 Buggy (Col TriStar)	88.78	4
10	15 The Great Mouse Detective (Buena Vista)	88.73	2
11	7 Father of the Bride (Buena Vista)	87.43	9
12	11 My Girl (Col TriStar)	84.86	9
13	10 Kuffs (MCA/Universal)	82.43	6
14	12 The Man in the Moon (MGM/UA)	82.02	5
15	25 Love Crimes (HBO Video)	80.54	2
16	16 For the Boys (Fox Video)	77.29	9
17	13 JFK (Warner)	76.48	10
18	14 The Butcher's Wife (Paramount)	76.35	11
19	17 Frankie & Johnny (Paramount)	73.37	13
20	18 Shattered (MGM/UA)	72.97	18
21	33 The People Under the Stairs (MCA/Universal)	70.94	14
22	20 Deceived (Buena Vista)	70.54	17
23	23 The Fisher King (Col TriStar)	70.27	18
24	22 Highlander 2 (Col TriStar)	70.00	11
24	21 The Last Boy Scout (Warner)	70.00	15
26	19 Freejack (Warner)	69.59	12
27	24 Little Man Tate (Orion)	69.45	14
28	34 True Identity (Buena Vista)	66.89	2
29	28 Curly Sue (Warner)	65.81	17
30	26 The Super (Fox Video)	65.67	18
31	30 Ricochet (HBO Video)	65.00	16
32	32 At Play in the Fields of the Lord (MCA/Universal)	64.05	12
33	29 Dead Again (Paramount)	63.10	20
34	35 Strictly Business (Warner)	62.56	11
35	37 Naked Lunch (Fox Video)	62.43	7
36	— Final Approach (Vidmark)	61.66	1
37	27 Company Business (MGM/UA)	58.91	10
38	48 House Party 2 (New Line)	58.64	12
39	43 Paradise (Buena Vista)	58.37	18
40	44 Other People's Money (Warner)	57.97	19
41	39 Thelma & Louise (MGM/UA)	57.83	29
42	31 The Commitments (Fox Video)	56.75	12
43	41 Keeper of the City (Fox Video)	56.62	5
43	38 Don't Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead (HBO)	56.62	23
45	40 The Doctor (Buena Vista)	56.35	19
46	50 Homicide (Col TriStar)	56.31	11
47	42 Necessary Roughness (Paramount)	56.21	16
48	36 Late for Dinner (New Line)	55.94	13
49	44 Boyz n the Hood (Col TriStar)	54.72	20
50	47 Rambling Rose (Live)	54.45	18

© 1992 Variety Inc. All rights reserved. *Variety's* Top 50 Video Titles chart is a weekly tally of the top-renting videocassettes based on a national survey of stores in the top 25 markets. In addition to ranking the vids, the chart uses a Volume Indicator, an exclusive feature of the *Variety* chart that reflects the strength of each vid relative to the other titles listed. Each participating store uses a point system to rate its top-renting titles. The Volume Indicator conveys the disparity in rental action among the vids listed. While the highest score possible is 130, anything higher than 100 reflects a particularly strong renter. To obtain a perfect score, a vid would have to be identified as the top renter at every store in the poll.