

**Briefs**

**'Doors' break-out**

Oliver Stone's time-tripping "The Doors" opened to strong boxoffice of about \$9.6 million on only 840 screens, according to industry estimates for the weekend. The per-screen average for the film about Jim Morrison and his fellow riders on the storm was near \$11,500, the estimates said. Meanwhile, in Dallas, officials said they will decide Tuesday if museum exhibits should be moved to allow Stone to film portions of the drama "JFK" in the former book depository used by presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. The film will star Kevin Costner.

**Kuwait calling**

Angelika Films signed a 12-picture TV deal with Kuwait Business on Friday, one day after Kuwait City was liberated. "The negotiations started last summer, then the war erupted," said Angelika vp Rafael Guadalupe. "But we kept in touch. On Friday, we received the signed contracts." Guadalupe said the Kuwaitis were eager to do business right away: "With the city open again, they're going to need entertainment as well as building blocks."

**BMG denies talks**

Bertelsmann Music Group chairman Michael Dornemann has issued a statement to his employees reaffirming his company's commitment to its music business, in the wake of an article about the possible merger of some BMG and MCA operations (HR 2/28). Dornemann denied that a merger was in the works, but numerous sources insist that the two companies have been mulling a deal.

**Plato 'a wreck'**

Actress Dana Plato of TV's "Diff'rent Strokes" remained in a Las Vegas jail Sunday after refusing a couple's offer to bail her out, authorities said. Plato was arrested Thursday for investigation of armed robbery of a video store. Plato's lawyer said she did not know the couple or their motive for the offer. "She was all upset," he said. "She's a wreck."

**Oscar update**

Oscar-winner Michael Caine ("Hannah and Her Sisters") has been added to the cast of the 63rd annual Academy Awards presentation March 25 at Los Angeles' Shrine Auditorium.



**King agrees to sell TV, cable stations**

King Broadcasting Co. has signed an agreement-in-principle to sell its television joint venture **Revisiting Dallas**

Oliver Stone wants to use historic Dallas locations—including the famed book depository building—in "JFK," his upcoming film examining conspiracy theories about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963. And he's getting lots of local cooperation in restaging the city's darkest moment.

Nancy Cunningham, production coordinator for the North Texas Film Commission, acknowledges that the city's participation in recreating the event may seem strange.

"But we haven't had any negative reaction," she says. "The only concerns have involved historic preservation."

Negotiations are underway for Stone to use the sixth story of what was formerly the Texas School Book Depository Building. The room from which Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly fired his fatal shots is now a county-run museum-exhibit.

Stone also wants to close off certain streets leading into Dealey Plaza, where Kennedy was hit. The filmmaker may also shoot in the Oak Cliff suburb—the actual houses—where Oswald lived, and the movie theater where he was arrested.

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earlier speculated King Broadcasting could sell for \$425 million to \$500 million. In announcing King Broadcasting will be for sale last August, Collins said the asking price would be more than \$500 million, but the market cooled since then.

King Broadcasting owns six TV stations including NBC affiliate KING-TV in Seattle, KGW in Portland, Ore., KSNZ in Spokane, Wash., KTVB in Boise, Idaho, K38AS in Twin Falls, Idaho, and KHNL in Honolulu. Its television division consists of 13 systems with more than 200,000 subscribers in Idaho, Minnesota and Wisconsin. TV and cable comprise

"We're pleased to have Oliver Stone back," says Cunningham. "And we would like to assume that his good experiences here influenced him in his choice of subject matter."

*—From Pat H. Broeske, LA TIMES 3/3/91*

King Broadcasting, a division of Westinghouse Broadcasting, for \$90 million. The sale would be subject to bankruptcy codes, the court partnership — or other company — can submit a bid for FNN directly to the bankruptcy court. If this takes place, the partners have said they will get FNN, it would be up to King to determine which company would acquire the financially ad-supported cable channel. King currently boasts 16 million households, while FNN claims 10 million, with between 9 million and 10 million getting both services.

**NEW JFK DEBATE:** Dallas County commissioners are debating whether to allow Oliver Stone to film parts of his movie about John F. Kennedy's assassination in the building from which JFK was shot. Commissioners are reluctant to move exhibits on the sixth floor museum of what was the Texas School Book Depository building. "I don't want the exhibit closed for any period of time for them (the movie company) or anyone else," Commissioner Chris Semos told the *Dallas Times Herald*. Stone's movie, *JFK*, stars Kevin Costner as New Orleans prosecutor and conspiracy theorist Jim Garrison.

*—continued on page 58*

King Broadcasting's radio stations or its mobile TV production company, Northwest Mobile Television.

These properties will be sold separately, according to King Broadcasting CEO Steven Clifford.

Its radio stations are KING-AM — *continued on page 61*

**Comedy net set for April 1 launch**

By BARRY LAYNE  
NEW YORK — CTV: The Comedy Network, the 24-hour cable comedy channel that emerged as the result of the merger between Viacom's Comedy Network and Comedy Channel, will launch with a schedule laden with programming commitments and seeking to establish its own identity, the channel's executives said Friday.

The channel, as unveiled at a press briefing here, includes 11½ weekly hours of off-network sitcom fare (12 if the PBS import of "Monty Python's Flying Circus" is included) — *continued on page 58*

**SAG board OKs new health plan**

The national board of directors of the Screen Actors Guild's voted unanimously to affiliate with the Health Access Foundation.

The pact comes after a year of what a SAG statement released Friday described as "growing concern about health care for members."

SAG health plan, member contributions, skyrocketing costs, and a new plan, resulting in a *continued on page 58*

**to vp at Films Int'l**

Spelling Films International has been tapped to produce the new SFI president, working his first market in SFI's employment, came from the Palm Springs International Film Festival, where he was the event's founding and first director. — *continued on page 58*

**Par video push for Full Moon product**

By ANITA M. BUSCH  
Full Moon Entertainment is getting the brand treatment from Paramount Home Video, which is launching a major national multimedia marketing campaign for each of the indie's 11 new video titles. The exclusive agreement, announced Friday, extends a previous Paramount distribution deal with Full Moon, dating back to 1988. In an effort to build Full Moon into a

brand name, Paramount will support all titles with a full-fledged trade and consumer advertising and promotional campaign, beginning with the summer release of "The Pit and the Pendulum." The effort, which PHV executive vp Eric Doctorow calls "unprecedented," will be broadly targeted and include national print and broadcast buys, on-tape video promos through a newly formed video magazine — *continued on page 62*

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