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Bratt sniffs out role in 'Catwoman'

By Borys Kit



Bratt

Benjamin Bratt will star opposite Halle Berry in Warner Bros. Pictures/Village Roadshow Pictures' "Catwoman" for French helmer Pitof. Di Novi Pictures is producing.

The film, based on the DC Comics antiheroine of "Batman" fame, begins shooting Sept. 29, with French actor Lambert Wilson ("The Matrix Reloaded") also starring.

Bratt will play Detective Tom Lone, Catwoman's love interest, while Lambert will play Georges, the evil husband to Sharon Stone's villainous character, Laurel, a cosmetics magnate.

Bratt, repped by WMA and attorney Bob Myman, most recently starred in last year's "Abandon." His other credits include "Piñero," "Traffic" and "Miss Congeniality." He also had a four-year stint on the TV series "Law & Order."

Wilson, repped by Paradigm and manager Estelle Lasher at LMRK, next stars in Warners' "The Matrix Revolutions" and Paramount Pictures' "Timeline." ■

Biz defends P2P tactics

MPAA, RIAA tell panel broad powers needed

By Brooks Boliek

WASHINGTON — Entertainment industry executives defended their attempts to curb copyright piracy on the Internet before the Senate Commerce Committee on Wednesday.

The hearing, chaired by Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., comes just a day after he introduced legislation that would make it more difficult for copyright holders to obtain the names of suspected pirates and prevent the FCC from

mandating a digital TV copy protection regime known as the "broadcast flag."

Brownback contends that his legislation isn't anti-Hollywood but an attempt to bring balance back to the copy protection battles that have seen the RIAA launch 261 lawsuits in an attempt to curb piracy on peer-to-peer networks.

"I support strong protections of intellectual property, and I will stand on my record in support of property rights against any challenge," Brownback said. "But I

cannot in good conscience support any tool such as the DMCA information subpoena that can be used by pornographers and potentially even more distasteful actors to collect the identifying information of Americans, especially our children."

But EMI executive vp John Rose told Brownback that the move was necessary given the devastating impact P2P piracy has had on the recording industry.

"Last year, digital piracy contributed to our decision to cut our work force by about 20%," he said.

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Brownback

Gilligan admits mistake

BBC reporter says story misleading

By Ray Bennett

LONDON — Reporter Andrew Gilligan said Wednesday that his first report on BBC's "Today" program about the United Kingdom's dossier on the Iraq war was not as accurate as it should have been.

Gilligan was giving evidence on the third day of Phase 2 of judge Lord Hutton's inquiry into the death of government weapons scientist David Kelly. Kelly apparently committed suicide after being named as the source of Gilligan's report that Alastair Campbell, then the government's



Gilligan

director of communications, had "sexed up" the intelligence dossier used to make the case for war with Iraq.

Gilligan insisted that his reporting was broadly accurate but said he had made a series of mistakes, including when he made the accusation that the government had inserted a claim into the dossier that Saddam Hussein

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Dinner fills bill for 20th TV's series projects

By Nellie Andreeva

Emmy-winning director-producer Michael Dinner has inked a rich overall deal with 20th Century Fox Television to direct and help develop series projects for the studio targeted for fall 2004.

Dinner said he has wanted to

See DINNER on page 22



Dinner

Law firms ally to cross TV, film, music borders

By Tamara Conniff

In response to the growing demand for music stars in film and television projects, music law powerhouse Davis, Shapiro, Lewit, Montone & Hayes Llp. has joined forces with entertainment firm Bloom, Hergott and Diemer Llp.

"We just played in the music space, and we found that the needs of our clients are becoming greater and greater in other

areas, including TV and film," said Fred Davis, whose firm represents such crossover music stars as Britney Spears and Bow Wow. "This was a way that we can offer to our clients the best TV/film attorneys in the business."

Davis, Shapiro, Lewit, Montone & Hayes also handles such acts as Linkin Park, Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott, LL Cool J, Busta Rhymes, the Neptunes, Timbaland,

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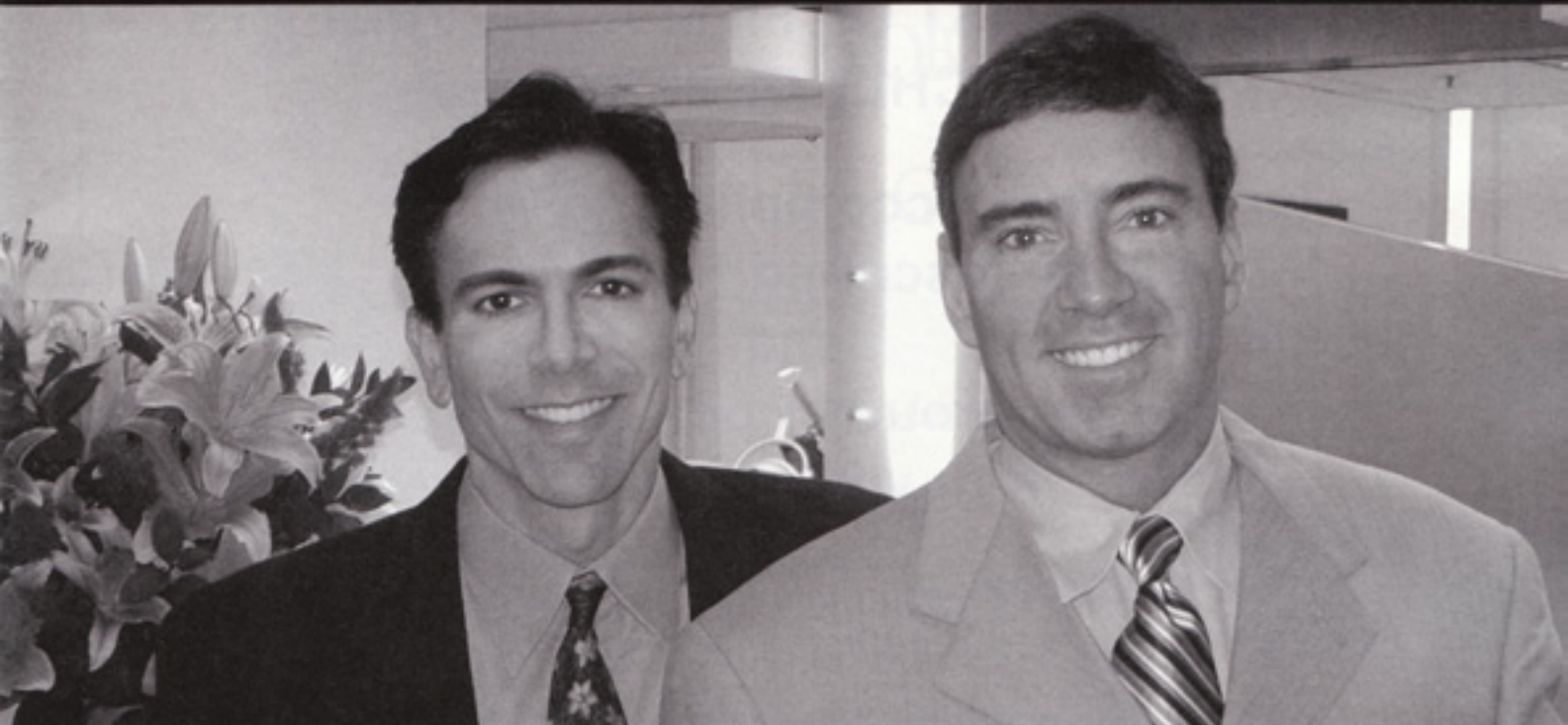
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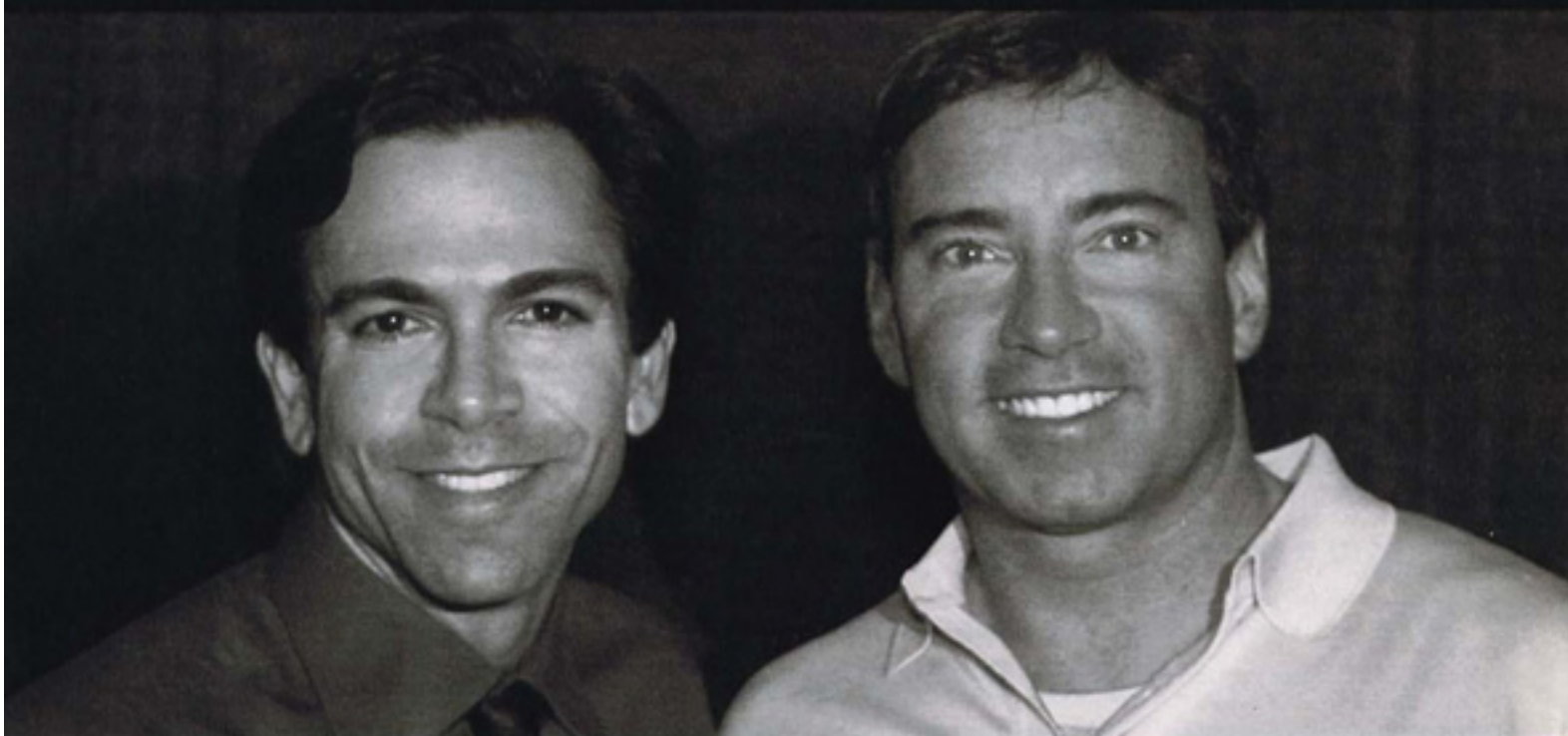
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