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“D'ARTAGNAN” INKS OLDMAN AND SUVARI

By Dana Harris

CANNES – Gary Oldman and Mena Suvari ("American Beauty") are in final negotiations to star in the \$42 million action drama "D'Artagnan" for Behaviour Worldwide and Diamant/Cohen Prods., with Steven Paul's Crystal Sky coming on board as a co-financier of the pic.

Justin Chambers ("Liberty Heights") is in final negotiations to star in the film's title role. The Behaviour-Crystal Sky pact reps the start of a new alliance between the companies. Although exact terms are still being worked out, Damon and Paul are discussing a number of projects in which they could combine their financing and distribution efforts.

While Crystal Sky is based at Paramount Pictures, Behaviour chairman and CEO Mark Damon said no domestic deal is in place on "D'Artagnan." "Steven and I have been speaking for a long time about working together on sales and productions," said Damon. "This will be the first in what's hopefully a long relationship."

"D'Artagnan" will be released through Crystal Sky's output deal with VCL Communications for the U.K. and Benelux. Territories licensed by Behaviour include Germany's Helkon Media, Spain's Tripictures, Scandinavia's Scanbox, Japan's Nippon Herald and South Korea's GMI-Pleasure

Directed by Peter Hyams ("End of Days") and penned by Gene Quintano ("Sudden Death"), "D'Artagnan" takes a fresh approach to the telling of the classic "Three Musketeers" tale, in which the young D'Artagnan is reimagined as an action hero as he travels across Europe to avenge his parents' deaths. Production is slated to begin in August on locations in Belgium, Luxembourg and France. Moshe Diamant and Rudy Cohen will produce "D'Artagnan," with Paul and Damon taking exec producing credits.

Crystal Sky has announced a number of deals since the Cannes Film Festival kicked off, including a \$400 million line of credit from MM Media Capital Partners to co-finance and produce 12 pics through Crystal Sky's first-look deal with Paramount Pictures. Crystal Sky additionally pacted with the Lew Horwitz organization for up to \$100 million in production financing for TV films and series as well as theatrical titles budgeted between \$5 million and \$25 million.