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Dracula ready for close-up

By MICHAEL SPEIER

Steven Paul's Crystal Sky Pictures has bought the rights to long-running Konami videogame franchise "Castlevania" and has set helmer Paul W.S. Anderson ("Alien vs. Predator") to adapt and direct.

Paul and Crystal Sky prexy Benedict Carver will produce with Anderson and Jeremy Bolt, who are partnered in Impact Pictures.

The pic will focus on the origins of Dracula and the uprising of the Belmont Clan, a vampire-slaying family who supposedly become humanity's last hope.

"Castlevania" was first released in 1986. The latest version, "Castlevania: Curse of Darkness," comes out State-side on Tuesday.

Crystal Sky has Columbia's "Ghost Rider," starring Nicolas Cage and Eva Mendes, in post-production.

Impact Pictures pics include "Mortal Kombat" and the "Resident Evil" franchise.

Production is slated to start in mid-2006; no casting has been set.

