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# Schneider plans on 'Stan'

By PAMELA McCLINTOCK

Rob Schneider will star in and make his directorial debut with comedy "Big Stan" for Crystal Sky Pictures and Silver Nitrate Pictures. He's also producing.

Crystal Sky is pre-selling the pic internationally at AFM, under way in Santa Monica. Company, which is financing the comedy, hasn't yet shopped for a domestic partner.

"Big Stan," from an original screenplay by Josh Lieb ("The Simpsons"), concerns a weak and nebbishy con man who panics when he learns he's going to prison for fraud. He hires a mysteri-

ous martial arts guru, who transforms him into a kung fu expert who can fight off inmates who want to hurt him — and love him.

Other producers are John Schneider and Mark Dippe. Silver Nitrate's

Ash Shah and Crystal Sky's Steven Paul and Benedict Carver are exec producing.

Schneider, star of the "Deuce Bigalow" films, will appear in Sony Pictures' upcoming "The Benchwarmers," set for release in April.

Crystal Sky is among the producers of Mark Steven Johnson's "Ghost Rider," which Columbia Pictures will release in the U.S. in July.



Schneider