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Toronto: Anchor Bay Acquires Thriller Remake '13'

By [MIKE FLEMING](#) | Friday September 9, 2011 @ 7:39am EDT Tags: [Alexander Skarsgard](#), [Anchor Bay Films](#), [Ben Gazzara](#), [Bill Clark](#), [Curtis Jackson](#), [Emmanuelle Chriqui](#), [Gela Babluani](#), [Jason Statham](#), [Kevin Kasha](#), [Michael Shannon](#), [Mickey Rourke](#), [Ray Winstone](#), [Sam Riley](#)



EXCLUSIVE: Anchor Bay Films just acquired U.S. distribution rights to *13*, Gela Babluani's remake of his 2005 thriller *13 Tzameti*. The film isn't playing here at Toronto, but it will be one of a flurry of titles being shopped during the festival, something that proved very effective in Cannes, where some of the biggest acquisition deals were made on the basis of sellers showing promo reels to hungry distributors.



The remake stars Sam Riley, Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson, Ray Winstone, Alexander Skarsgård, Michael Shannon, Ben Gazzara, Emmanuelle Chriqui, Mickey Rourke and Jason Statham. Anchor Bay president Bill Clark and EVP Worldwide Acquisitions and Co-Productions Kevin Kasha made the deal with WME Global’s Alexis Garcia.

“*13* was a great pick-up for Anchor Bay Films,” Kasha said. “The film has an amazing cast and it truly keeps you guessing. We’re excited to be working with Babluani in releasing it.”

The original won the 2006 Sundance Grand Jury Prize, and Babluani won best director at the Venice Film Festival later that year. A desperate man steals an envelope promising a mysterious job that can make him a fortune. Assuming a false identity, he discovers he’s enlisted to be a numbered participant in an underworld Russian roulette competition where gamblers place bets on the contestants. The potential payoff is so high he goes through with it despite the long odds of survival.

