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Genre, Ember unwrap Xmas horror 'Silent Night'

Malcolm McDowell to star; Steven C. Miller to helm

By RACHEL ABRAMS

The Genre Company and Inferno's Ember Prods. are unwrapping Christmas-themed horror pic "Silent Night," tapping Malcolm McDowell to star and Steven C. Miller to direct the loose remake of TriStar's 1984 film "Silent Night, Deadly Night."

Anchor Bay has picked up North American distribution rights to the project, which begins principal photography next month and will unspool this holiday season.

Miller ("The Aggression Scale") will direct from a script by exec producer Jayson Rothwell.

Story follows a local police department's search for the killer Santa Claus terrorizing a remote Midwestern town on Christmas Eve. McDowell will play Sheriff Cooper, a small-town hero ready for some big-time action. The original "Silent Night" spawned four sequels.

Genre's Richard Saperstein, Brian Witten and Shara Kay will produce with Phyllis Laing of Buffalo Gal Pictures.

Pic marks the first project for Inferno Intl.'s recently launched Ember banner, which focuses on producing commercial, theatrically driven genre pictures. Ember's Gary Preisler will exec produce along with Steve Ruff and Thomas M. Kastelz. Inferno's D.J. Gugenheim will co-produce with Genre's Armen Aghaeian.

Chris Roe Management reps McDowell, while UTA and Aperture Entertainment rep Miller.

WME and Anonymous Content rep Rothwell, who penned "The Order of the Seven," in pre-production for Gunn Films and Disney.

Kevin Kasha, Josh Thomashow and Marc Barson brokered the deal on behalf of Anchor Bay.

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