

VARIETY

Cannes: Anthony Hopkins Joins 'Gotti' (EXCLUSIVE)



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From its booth at the Riviera, IM Global is shopping mob biopic "Gotti" with Anthony Hopkins set to join the cast.

John Travolta and Kelly Preston already star in the pic, which focuses on the teflon don's career as a gangster boss and his son, who decides to leave the crime world in order to redeem himself. Project is based on an original idea by Gotti's son, John A. Gotti.

"Captain America: The First Avenger" helmer Joe Johnston signed on to direct the project right before IM Global began shopping it at Cannes. Pic already has U.S. distribution through Relativity Media.

Actor and writer Leo Rossi wrote the screenplay. Fiore Films' Marc Fiore and Radar Pictures' Ted Field will produce along with Thomas Devlin and Michael Froch. Radar's Mike Weber and Thomas E. van Dell are exec producing alongside IM Global's Stuart Ford and Jonathan Deckter, Russ Faber and Randi Michel.

Producers expect to begin filming in New York this September.

Project has had a number of false starts over the years. Nick Cassavetes was at one point attached to direct, while Lindsay Lohan temporarily came on board to star.