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## Russell Crowe To Star, James Franco To Direct Cormac McCarthy's 'Blood Meridian' - Cannes



**EXCLUSIVE**— How's this for a powerhouse combination: [Russell Crowe](#) is in talks to star in a [James Franco](#)-directed adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's *Blood Meridian* with Tye Sheridan and Vincent D'Onofrio also boarding the cast. Franco will also act in the film, which is being produced by Scott Rudin, Cassian Elwes and Franco's partner at Rabbit Bandini, Vince Jolivette. IM Global is handling international sales at Cannes. CAA is repping domestic rights.

Crowe and McCarthy seem about as perfect a fit as cheese and chutney. This long-in-the-works adaptation has been around for some time and finally looks like it might be moving forward. McCarthy's critically-praised book is based on historical events that took place on the Texas-Mexico border in the 1850s and traces the journey of the Kid, a 14 year old Tennessean who stumbles into a nightmarish world when he joins a ruthless gang of scalphunters that includes the mysterious and menacing Judge Holden.

It's been a busy few days for Crowe. Yesterday, Deadline broke the news the actor was in to join Tom Cruise in Universal's reboot of *The Mummy*. The Oscar-winning star will also be on the Croisette for the Cannes premiere of *The Nice Guys*, the Shane Black-directed drama which also stars Ryan Gosling.

Crowe is repped by WME. Franco is repped by CAA and Untitled Entertainment.