

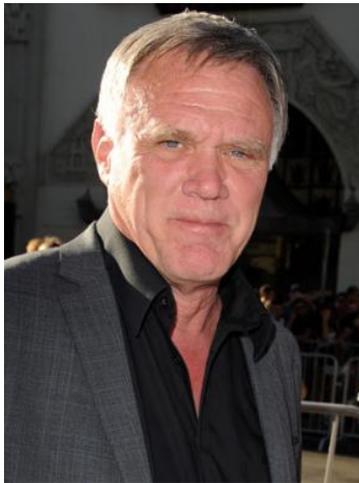
THE *Hollywood* REPORTER

Joe Johnston to Direct Revived 'Gotti' Biopic (Exclusive)

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Starring John Travolta, the film also has landed a U.S. home at Relativity and will be shopped to foreign buyers at the upcoming Cannes Film Market by IM Global.

Mobster biopic *Gotti* is getting a second life.



Veteran filmmaker **Joe Johnston** (*Captain America: The First Avenger*) has come aboard to direct the film for Fiore Films' **Marc Fiore** and Radar Pictures' **Ted Field**, while Relativity Media has snapped up U.S. distribution rights. *Gotti* also will be heading to Cannes, where IM Global will shop the project to foreign buyers.

Gotti stars **John Travolta** as the famed Gambino crime family head **John Gotti Sr.**, nicknamed the "Dapper Don." The movie has been a longtime passion project for Travolta.

"I'm looking forward to portraying John Gotti -- it's been a long time coming. And I think that Johnson is an exciting and fresh addition to the vision of the film. We are all looking forward to starting production," Travolta said in a statement.

Added Johnston: "I think we've always been fascinated with the idea of the romantic outlaw. John Gotti could be in one instance a charismatic, kind and loving family man, and in another, deadly to his enemies. The opportunity to tell the true story of Gotti with John Travolta is a director's dream."

Johnston is set to begin filming in New York on Sept. 9. The movie is based on a story by **John A. Gotti** -- Gotti's son -- with an original screenplay by **Leo Rossi** and revisions by **Lem Dobbs**.

Gotti has been in the works for several years, going through several incarnations. At one point, the project made headlines when **Lindsay Lohan** joined the cast, only to drop out.

Fiore and Field are producing with **Thomas Devlin** and **Michael Froch**. **Mike Weber** and **Thomas E. van Dell** of Radar Pictures are executive producing alongside IM Global's **Stuart Ford** and **Jonathan Deckter**, and **Russ Faber** and **Randi Michel**.

"We are very excited that Joe Johnston is onboard, along with Relativity Media and IM Global. With this dynamite team, we feel we have put together a production that understands the magnitude and history of this great story, not just in front of but also from behind the camera," Fiore said.

Johnston is repped by Revolution.