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Rob Zombie to direct "The Lords of Salem"

By Pamela McClintock
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Director Rob Zombie will begin shooting the thriller "The Lords of Salem" this spring.

The film is the third title from the Haunted Movies banner, a partnership between the U.K.'s Alliance Films and "Paranormal Activity" producers Jason Blum, Oren Peli and Steven Schneider.

Zombie will direct "Lords of Salem" from his script. The thriller is set in contemporary Salem, where the inhabitants receive a demonic visit from a 300-year old coven of witches.

The announcement comes as IM Global's genre arm Octane prepare Haunted Films' lineup for the European Film Market in Berlin. Octane will show foreign buyers the first footage from Barry Levinson's "The Bay".

"We are elated to work with masters of the genre such as James and Rob and are equally delighted to have an Oscar-winning director of the caliber of Barry Levinson bring his fresh take on this genre.

" 'The Bay' will thrill fans and we look forward to unveiling the first images of the film at IM Global's office in Berlin," Alliance president of worldwide distribution Xavier Marchand said.

(Editing by Jill Serjeant)