

VARIETY

Stuart Ford Re-Ups At IM Global (EXCLUSIVE)



Sales banner will soon open Beijing office

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IM Global Founder and CEO Stuart Ford has signed a multiple year extension to his contract.

The extension comes six years after the exec launched the sales-financing-production banner at Cannes — and two days after the conclusion of this year's market.

IM Global presented eight new films at Cannes, notably Martin Scorsese's passion project "Silence." On the opening day, Ford and Scorsese gave a presentation to 300 foreign distributors.

IM Global usually brings 15 to 18 new projects a year into the market via its separate sales labels handling mainstream commercial, arthouse, genre and foreign language films. It's been backed by Reliance Entertainment since 2010, when Ford sold a majority stake in the business to the Indian conglomerate

Ford remains the second-biggest shareholder and oversees day-to-day production, financing, sales, distribution, marketing, acquisitions, legal and strategic activities.

IM Global's upcoming releases include "Walking With Dinosaurs"; tech thriller "Paranoia" starring Liam Hemsworth and Harrison Ford; Brit thriller "Hummingbird" with Jason Statham; horror thriller "Angry Little God"; and Catherine Hardwicke's "Plush." A trio of its genre films go into production in June — "Revenge of the Green Dragons," directed by Andrew Lau; Joe Carnahan's "Stretch," starring Patrick Wilson and Chris Pine and the sequel to spoof "A Haunted House."

IM Global has multi-year output deals for the U.K., Germany, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Canada and Latin America along with owning pan-Asian rights buyer Apsara Distribution. It launched Latin American sales joint venture Mundial last year with Mexico's Canana and is a partner with Canada's Entertainment One in production joint venture Automatik.

It also announced a foreign sales partnership at Cannes with Jason Blum to launch Blumhouse International and plans to open a Beijing office soon in addition to its offices in Los Angeles and London.

"It's been a thrilling ride so far and I'm looking forward immensely to the next chapter of the IM Global story," Ford said.