

ANNE HATHAWAY CAST IN THE NEW BATMAN MOVIE

Anne Hathaway has clawed her way into the latest Batman movie, nabbing the role of Selina Kyle and her alter ego, Catwoman. Warner Bros announced the casting for Christopher Nolan's latest film in the superhero saga, *The Dark Knight Rises*. Hathaway will appear opposite Christian Bale, who is returning as Bruce Wayne and Batman. The studio also announced that Tom Hardy, whom Nolan directed in last year's *Inception*, will play one of Batman's enemies, Bane. *The Dark Knight Rises* is slated for release on July 20, 2012. Hathaway, an Oscar nominee for 2008's *Rachel Getting Married*, will co-host the Academy Awards with James Franco on February 27.



ROBERT DE NIRO TO CHAIR CANNES FILM FEST JURY

American actor, director and producer, Robert De Niro, will chair the Cannes Film Festival jury. The 64th edition of the Festival will run from May 11 to 22. De Niro, at 67, will be the third American to head the jury at Cannes, the world's most celebrated movie festival. Tim Burton served on that jury in 2010 and Sean Penn in 2008. The 64th annual event is expected to feature new work from Pedro Almodovar (*The Skin That I Inhabit*) and Lars Von Trier (*Melancholia*), as well as Terrence Malick's *Tree of Life*. In 1976, De Niro's film, *Taxi Driver*, won the Palme d'Or. *The Mission*, directed by Roland Joffe, won it in 1986, and also starred De Niro.



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER BACK IN ACTION WITH NEW MOVIE

After a seven year hiatus from movies, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is set to play a soldier in a new movie, with *Wings of Eagles*. *The Terminator* star took a break from the big screen to concentrate on his political career—working as the governor of California from November 2003 to January 2011—but is now looking over scripts for new movies. The 63-year-old actor also revealed he is no longer able to do all the action roles that made him famous, and, in future, will do the roles which suit his age. In this movie, he will play the role of an older soldier, who gets the order at the end of the war, to kill a bunch of kids.



BEN AFFLECK TURNS DIRECTOR

Hollywood actor Ben Affleck, who wowed critics with his directing skills in *The Town*, is in talks to helm a FBI drama based on an Eric Warren Singer script. According to the Black List description, the drama, titled *American Bullshit*, is the true story of Abscam, the FBI's 1980 undercover sting operation of Congress to root out corruption, which was the brainchild of the world's greatest con man. *American*

Bullshit is one of several films Affleck is looking at with the others, including a real-life wife swap drama, *The Trade and Replay*, about a 43-year old radio journalist who dies, wakes up in his 18-year old body, and gets to relive his life over and over.

A.R. RAHMAN MISSES OUT ON GOLDEN GLOBE

Music maestro A.R. Rahman missed out on winning a Golden Globe this year. Rahman, 44, had won the Golden Globe and two Academy Awards for his score in Danny Boyle's 2008 film *Slumdog Millionaire*, and was nominated this time round for his score in Boyle's *127 Hours*. Rahman had bagged a Critics' Choice award for his song *If I Rise*, a collaboration with pop star Dido, in Boyle's film about a trapped mountaineer resorting to desperate measures to free himself.

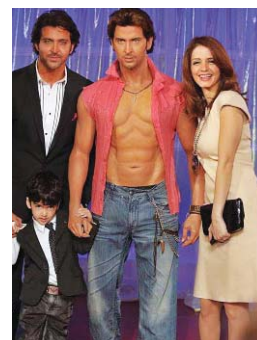
SOCIAL NETWORK PRODUCERS TO REUNITE

Many of the key people behind Sony's awards-season darling *The Social Network*, are reuniting for another movie project. The studio has picked up the movie rights to *Sex on the Moon*, a book proposal from Ben Mezrich, whose non-fiction tome *The Accidental Billionaires* was the basis of *Social Network*, a drama about corporate

backstabbing at Facebook. The fact-based new book centres on a rising NASA scientist, who, in 2004, came up with the brilliant idea of stealing moon rocks and selling them on the Internet. The film will be developed by *Social Network* producers Scott Rudin, Michael De Luca and Dana Brunetti, and executive producer Kevin Spacey.

HRITHIK ROSHAN'S WAX STATUE UNVEILED AT LONDON'S TUSSAUDS

Hrithik Roshan's wax statue was unveiled on 20th January, 2011 at Madame Tussauds. Hrithik became the fifth Bollywood personality to be honoured at Tussauds. The other Bollywood actors who have been honoured are Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai and Salman Khan. The actor, who has hits like *Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai*, *Dhoom 2*, *Krrish* and *Jodhaa Akbar*, among others, is the youngest male actor from India to be honoured by the prestigious Madame Tussauds wax museum. Roshan was completely involved in the creation of the figure. He attended two sittings in Mumbai and London, where sculptors captured a catalogue of reference photographs and hundreds of precise measurements. He also donated the red shirt and dark blue jeans that adorns his wax figure. The figure took four months to make, at a cost of 150,000 pounds.



INDIA BAGS ANOTHER OSCAR NOMINATION

Animation film *Alpha and Omega* has been included in the list of movies eligible for Oscar nominations. The film is India-based Crest Animation Studios' first CGI Animated 3D Stereoscopic film and has been co-produced by Lionsgate Inc, one of Hollywood's leading distributors. The film has already been released in 25 countries so far. *Alpha and Omega* is

the story about two young wolves, Kate and Humphrey. They are both at opposite ends of their pack's social order and are thrown together in a foreign land, where they need each other to return home. But, love complicates everything. The film has voiceovers by Justin Long, Hayden Panettiere, Christina Ricci and the late Dennis Hopper. *Alpha and Omega* will release in India on February 4.

AMITABH BACHCHAN NO LONGER IIFA BRAND AMBASSADOR

After a decade of working together, the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) and its brand ambassador, Amitabh Bachchan, have parted ways, with the Bollywood superstar saying that his services were no longer required. The Bachchan brand name had been associated with the IIFA Awards, often touted as India's version of the Oscars, since their inception in 2000. According to reports, relations were strained after Bachchan's no-show at the 2010 awards in Colombo in the wake of protests by Tamil groups in India, although, at that time, the actor had cited prior commitments for his absence at the IIFA Awards. Sabbas Joseph of Wizcraft International, which organises the IIFA Awards, said that IIFA has aborted the concept of brand ambassador.