

## 'Black Panther' Set For Big Award



Director Ryan Coogler at a special screening of "Black Panther" in New York earlier this year. As the Hollywood awards season properly gets under way, 'Black Panther' is poised to be the first comic book film to be nominated for best picture. (Photo by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP, File)

## 'Fantasy Island' To Release In 2020

LOS ANGELES: "Narcos" fame actor Michael Pena's film "Fantasy Island" will release on February 28, 2020.

Sony Pictures and Blumhouse have set a 2020 release date for the film which is based on the television series of the same name. The series dealt with dark themes and the supernatural, re-

ports variety.com.

In the movie, Pena will play the role of 'Mr. Roarke', while actress Lisa Hale will play one of the guests at a mysterious island where people can live out their fantasies for a price.

Actor Jimmy O. Yang, who starred in "Crazy Rich Asians", has also been cast along with ac-

tresses Portia Doubelday, Maggie Q and Ryan Hansen.

The 'Mr. Roarke' role was originated by Ricardo Montalban in the television series. The TV show ran for seven seasons from 1977 to 1984.

"Fantasy Island" movie is being helmed by filmmaker Jeff Wadlow.

## Guillermo Toro To Give Twist To 'Pinocchio'

MARRAKECH: Oscar-winning filmmaker Guillermo del Toro says his upcoming "Pinocchio" project for Netflix will be a political parable and not the kid-friendly fare of the competing Disney remake.

"It's not a Pinocchio for all the family," he said of his story, set in 1930s Italy, according to hollywoodreporter.com.

Is it a political film?  
"Of course. Pinocchio during the rise of Mussolini... A puppet during the rise of fascism, yes, it is," he said at the Marrakech Film Festival here.

This darker turn on the fable is perhaps not surprising from the director, who compared the puppet who longs to be a real boy to Frankenstein's monster.

"He's a creature that is created through unnatural means from a father that he then distances (himself) from, and has to learn about failure and pain and loneliness," he said, noting that he chose stop-motion animation for the project because it's "more expressive" than working with actors.

While del Toro is resistant to



making an overtly political film, he said he finds fantasy films always end up with political messages.

"There's no fable without politics," he said, citing the gender and class struggles of stories such as Cinderella and Snow White, and even the message of his own "The Shape of Water".

His dark approach on the material made "Pinocchio" a hard sell for the director, who took it around for a decade before Netflix took on the project.

## No More 'Game of Thrones' For Harrington

LONDON: Actor Kit Harington found it emotional to finish TV series "Game of Thrones" but he would never go back and do more episodes. The British actor has portrayed Jon Snow in the hit fantasy drama since 2011 and earlier this year wrapped his final scenes for the show's last season, which will air in 2019.

And while it was hard to end that chapter of his life, Harington is not sad about moving on with his career and has vowed to never return to the show. "It was emotional to leave the job definitely," Harington told bbc.com.

He added: "But I wouldn't say I was sad: if like me you go all the way back to the pilot of Game of Thrones that's almost 10 years of your life - that's really unusual in an actor's career. It was a huge emotional upheaval leaving that family. But would I want to go back and do more? Not on your life." Spin-offs from the main series are in the works, with Naomi Watts already confirmed to star in "The Long Night", a prequel series set thousands of years before the events of the show.

## Disney's Animated Mystery Series Inspired By India

LOS ANGELES: "Mira, Royal Detective", an animated mystery-adventure series inspired by the culture and customs of India, is slated to debut on Disney Junior channel and programming blocks around the world in 2020. The production has already begun.

Set in the magical Indian-inspired land of Jalpur, the series follows the brave and resourceful Mira, a commoner who is appointed to the role of royal detective after solving a mystery that involves saving the kingdom's young prince.

The role of Mira will be voiced by 15-year-old newcomer Leela Ladnier.

"We are eager to introduce kids and their families to the rich, diverse cultures and customs of India through Mira, a young girl who looks at things with her own unique lens to gain different perspectives and help others in her community.

"We hope that she will encourage our audience to actively engage with the inspiring world around them and appreciate the little details that make life extraordinary," Joe D'Ambrosia, Senior Vice President, Original Programming, Disney Junior, said in a statement to IANS.

As a royal detective, Mira travels throughout the kingdom helping royals and commoners alike. Along with her friend Prince Neel, a talented inventor, creative cousin Priya, and comical mongoose sidekicks Mikku and Chikku, she will stop at nothing to solve a case, taking young viewers on adventures that highlight critical thinking and encourage deductive reasoning.



Rooted in India's vibrant heritage, each episode will weave authentic music, dance and customs into two 11 minutes stories.

In addition to Ladnier, the "Mira, Royal Detective" voice cast includes Freida Pinto as Queen Shanti; Hannah Simone as a commoner named Pinky; Jameela Jamil as Mira's Auntie Pushpa; Kal Penn and Utkarsh Ambudkar as Mikku and Chikku respectively; Aasif Mandvi as Mira's father, Sahil; Sarita Choudhury as Prince Neel's Great-Aunt Rupa; Aparna Nancherla as Mira's cousin Meena; Kamran Lucas as Prince Neel; Karan Brar as Prince Veer; Karan Soni as twins Ranjeet and Manjeet; Sarayu Blue as the palace tailor; Parvesh Cheena and Sonal Shah as bandits, Manish and Poonam, respectively; and newcomer Roshni Edwards as Mira's cousin Priya.

## Brad, Angelina In Custody Pact

LOS ANGELES: Hollywood stars Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt have reached an agreement over the custody of their children, according to a lawyer in the case.

The couple separated in September 2016 after two years of marriage, with Jolie citing "irreconcilable differences" when she filed for divorce.

The pair have six children -- three biological and three adopted -- aged between 10 and 17.

Jolie's lawyer did not though say how the custody would be divided, the BBC reported.

The couple, known as "Brangelina" by fans, met on the set of the film "Mr & Mrs Smith" in 2004

and were together for 10 years before they wed.

The marriage was Pitt's second, the actor having previously wed romcom TV hit "Friends" star Jennifer Aniston, and Jolie's third after relationships with actors Billy Bob Thornton and Jonny Lee Miller.

After Jolie announced the split the pair became embroiled in a bitter child custody battle, which included Pitt being investigated for possible child abuse after losing his temper in front of some of the children -- he was later cleared of the allegations, the BBC said.

The agreement means they will not have to go to trial.



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