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## Universal, Wild Bunch board *Southland Tales*

**Jeremy Kay in Los Angeles**

**21 April 2005 04:00**

Financing and distribution for *Southland Tales*, Richard Kelly's sci-fi follow-up to *Donnie Darko*, is beginning to take shape in advance of the scheduled start date of Aug 1 in Los Angeles.

Universal Pictures International, [Inferno Distribution](#) and Wild Bunch will co-finance the film, with Universal distributing in most international markets through UIP and Wild Bunch taking rights for France, Benelux, Spain and Switzerland. Richard Klubeck of UTA is representing the film in domestic negotiations.

Produced by Cherry Road Films and Darko Entertainment, *Southland Tales* is styled as a sci-fi thriller that takes place in Los Angeles on Jul 4 2008 as the city stands on the brink of social, economic and environmental collapse.

Dwayne Johnson (aka The Rock) has joined the cast of *Southland Tales* as an amnesiac action star whose life intertwines with that of a porn star and a police officer who holds the key to a vast conspiracy. As previously announced, Sarah Michelle Gellar and Seann William Scott also star.

Darko Entertainment's Sean McKittrick and Kelly will produce with Cherry Road principals Bo Hyde and Kendall Morgan. Matthew Rhodes and Judd Payne of Persistent Entertainment serve as executive producers with Bill Johnson and Jim Seibel of Inferno Distribution, and Oliver Hengst of Academy Film.

Moby will compose the score for the picture, which Kelly described in a statement yesterday [May 20] as a cross between the sensibilities of Andy Warhol and Philip K Dick.

Kelly is preparing an expanded version of *Southland Tales* as a nine-part interactive experience featuring six separate graphic novels that he will write, with the picture comprising the final three chapters.

UTA helped package the project. Kelly is represented by CAA, The Firm and David Weber of Sloan, Offer, Weber and Dern. Cherry Road and Persistent are represented by Lichter, Grossman, Nichols & Adler, and Inferno is handled by Rosen & Anderson.