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LOS ANGELES

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Joan Allen fetches a 'Dog's' tale

'Bourne' actress to star in Hallstrom remake

By MICHAEL FLEMING

Joan Allen has been set to star and Lasse Hallstrom to direct "Hachiko, A Dog's Story," a remake of the Japanese film about an Akita's relationship with its owner.

Richard Gere had already been set to star in and produce the film.

Pic is being fully financed by Inferno, whose Bill Johnson is producing with Vicki Shigekuni Wong and Gere. Inferno's Jim Seibel and Paul Mason are exec producers, and Dean Schneider is co-producer.

Stephen P. Lindsey script is based on the true tale of a faithful Akita dog that kept vigil for nearly a decade, waiting for his master, who died and didn't return home. The dog is celebrated by the Japanese each year, and a statue was erected in his honor in Tokyo. Gere plays a college professor who takes in the dog.

Production will begin in January in Rhode Island.

Hallstrom and Gere last worked together on "The Hoax."

Allen is coming off "The Bourne Ultimatum" and just completed the Paul W.S. Anderson-directed "Death Race."

Inferno is in post-production on the Diane English-directed remake of "The Women," the comedy "Smother" and "The Heaven Project."



Allen



Hallstrom

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