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'Bad Girls' adaptation lands at Inferno

Alex McAulay to pen script from his own book

By Steven Zeitchik

July 16, 2009, 11:00 PM ET

Inferno Entertainment will do good with "Bad Girls."

The financier-producer, whose credits include "The Women" and "Just Friends," has acquired the project from MTV Films, which had put it in turnaround. Alex McAulay has been attached to adapt the script from his own book.

"Girls" centers on a wild teenager shipped off to a reform school on a remote Caribbean island. Upon her arrival, she and the other girls find themselves facing a series of violent threats from drug dealers and killers as they battle their own worst impulses.

The material has been described as a cross between "Lord of the Flies" and "Heathers."

MTV/Pocket Books published McAulay's novel in 2005.

MTV Films began developing the project two years ago under the name "Lost Girls," at the time attaching Holly Brix, who penned a draft of Warner Bros.' action comedy "Smooth Operators," to write the script.

Teen-horror author McAulay, repped by Adam Goldworm and Bloom Hergott, also is adapting his novel "Oblivion Road" for Goldworm's Aperture Entertainment to produce. "Oblivion" centers on a group of high schoolers stranded in a remote Colorado ski town during a blizzard as escaped convicts lurk.

Inferno has a number of projects in development, including Jason Statham actioner "The Killer Elite" and psychological thriller "The Experiment."

Teen horror has proved a profitable genre the past few years, with the past three "Final Destination" pics earning more than \$200 million worldwide and a fourth on its way this summer from New Line.

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