

The Works U.K. hordes 'Mongol'

By Stuart Kemp

A movie centering on the early life of Genghis Khan is marauding into U.K. theaters as indie British company the Works U.K. Distribution corralled U.K. rights to the movie "Mongol" from Beta Cinema here.

Sergei Bodrov's \$20 million Mongolian-language epic recently opened in Russia to the tune of a \$2.5 million opening weekend.

The deal was negotiated by Andreas Rothbauer at Beta Cinema and Laurence Gornall from the Works. Gornall said the movie will be skedded for theatrical distribution in the U.K. in 2008.

Beta already has sold the movie to a slew of territories

including BIM Distribution in Italy, X Verleih in Germany, Italia Film International in the Middle East and Hopscotch for Australian and New Zealand rights.

Picturehouse has U.S. rights to the project.

Separately, in London, parent company the Works Media Group, floated on the U.K.'s AIM stock exchange, told the market that production and finance banner Milcoz Films will invest £763,000 (\$1.6 million) in the Works.

Milcoz is producing Brittany Murphy starrer "3.30 am."

The Works will use the funds invested to develop its distribution and sales operations, the company said. •