

Docudrama on Mexico's missing students causes stir

Mexico City, Oct. 17, (AFP): Even before hitting movie screens, a docudrama about the disappearance of 43 college students raised hackles in Mexico for echoing the government's disputed conclusions in the case.

Survivors say "La Noche de Iguala" (The Night of Iguala) exploits the tragedy and paints the students as criminals.

Columns have been written against the film and a petition was created on Change.org in a bid to block the movie, which debuts in 30 Mexico City cinemas on Friday.

Its director, journalist Jorge Fernandez Menendez, has

defended his movie as the "uncomfortable truth."

The film's trailer shows reenactments of the horrific night of Sept. 26, 2014, when scores of students from a teacher college were attacked by police in league with the Guerreros Unidos drug cartel in the city of Iguala.

One scene shows a hitman accusing his victims of belonging to a rival gang in the southern state of Guerrero. Another shows bodies piled up and torched at a garbage dump.

Independent investigators and parents of the students have rejected the government's conclusion that the cartel killed and

incinerated the students at the landfill after confusing them with Los Rojos gang members.

Survived

Omar Garcia, one of the students who survived the attack, called for a boycott of the movie.

"This is part of a campaign to smear us and back the government's version (of the events)," Garcia told AFP.

"The investigation must continue to get to the truth," he said, charging that the film is a "new attempt to by the government to mislead."

"It's a total lack of respect because the filmmakers never approached us or the parents" to

find out if they agreed to be represented in the movie, Garcia said.

Juan Jesus Montes, who was among 200 actors to take part in a casting call, said he only learned what the movie was about on the first day of shooting.

The 34-year-old actor portrayed a fictional character nicknamed "El Flaco," who accuses another student of being a drug gang member.

"I'm an actor. I went to act, nothing more. Given that it's a delicate issue, I did it with respect and started checking all available information (about the

case)," Montes said.

Montes, who has appeared in soap operas, said he felt "between a rock and a hard place" due to the students' criticism of the film.

Menendez said he decided to use actors for half of the movie because there are no images of "key moments" in the drama.

Recreate

"That's why we decided to recreate and dramatize it," he told Radio Formula, adding that the other half of the movie is in the classic documentary style.

Menendez acknowledged that his film is closer to the conclu-

sions of the attorney general's office, which months ago declared that its investigation was the "historic truth."

His movie, he said, "is neither a historic truth nor an alternative truth."

The Iguala case has inspired others to write books about the horrific night. Even a comic book, "Vivos se los Llevaron" (They Took Them Alive) has been made.

Next Tuesday, another documentary about the tragedy will make its debut, "Mirar Morir" (Staring at Death), focusing on the army's role in the case.

Film

Variety



A model displays a creation by Japanese designer Hiromichi Nakano at the 2016 Spring/Summer collection during the Tokyo Fashion Week show in Tokyo on Oct. 17. (AFP) — See Page 21

Film

New De Niro film in the works: Scorsese

Fukunaga beats obstacles in 'Beasts'

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 17, (Agencies): With actors not turning up on set, crew sicknesses, equipment going missing and unpredictable weather, the filming of war drama "Beasts of No Nation" is fast becoming a captivating tale in itself.

"There were distinct, daily moments where I sat there completely demoralized, thinking this is going to be a complete failure," filmmaker Cary Fukunaga told Reuters ahead of the film's simultaneous release on Friday in US theaters and online streaming platform Netflix Inc.

"Beasts," written, directed and produced by Emmy-winning Fukunaga, follows a pre-teen boy named Agu, whose happy, simple life with his family is suddenly and violently torn apart as a civil war breaks out in the unnamed West African country.

Agu, played by newcomer Ghanaian actor Abraham Attah, escapes death but is captured and recruited by the mercenary Commandant (Idris Elba) and his rag-tag army of child soldiers.

Sitting at an upscale hotel in Los Angeles earlier this week, Fukunaga laughed a little as he reflected on the strenuous film shoot in Ghana.

He credited British actor Elba, the only professional actor in the cast and of half-Ghanaian descent, from helping to get approval for the shoot, to portraying a conflicted villain on screen.

"He brought humanity in a way that was

unexpected for that role," the director said.

While the story is fictional, Fukunaga said he channeled the real brutality of war in scenes of jarring violence — in one moment, Agu swings a machete into a man's skull.

Brutality

"Maybe it's too much for some people, but I think it's necessary to not sugarcoat the brutality, to not sugarcoat the actions of these children," he said.

"Even then, I think I could have been more severe sometimes."

"Beasts" was independently financed with a budget around \$6 million, before being acquired by Netflix as the platform's first original film.

Fukunaga said he wasn't worried about the film finding its audience given Netflix's 65 million subscribers, and while "it was always going to be a struggle to get people to go to the cinema," he hoped that audiences would opt to see it on big screens.

Netflix CEO Ted Sarandos told Reuters this week that he was not concerned about the violence in "Beasts" limiting its audience — the film was "already a success in terms of the amount of coverage and excitement around it."

Colin Hanks' directorial debut, "All Things Must Pass," turned Sunset Boulevard into memory lane Thursday night for its Los

Angeles premiere at Harmony Gold.

For seven years, Hanks worked on the documentary that laments and celebrates the Sacramento-based record chain that grew from his hometown into an American retail powerhouse.

"I remember buying 'Blood Sugar' by the Red Hot Chili Peppers. It was the formative record for me on my musical path, which I bought at Tower Records," he said.

After closing all of its domestic locations in 2006, the record store reopened for one night only for "All Things Must Pass" at LA's iconic Tower Records location on Sunset Boulevard.

James McAvoy is set to join Charlize Theron in the Focus Features' spy thriller "The Coldest City," sources tell Variety.

"John Wick" director David Leitch recently announced he would be helming the pic rather than "John Wick 2," which will be helmed by his partner Chad Stahelski.

Kurt Johnstad penned the pic about an undercover MI6 officer turns up dead on the eve of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and a female super spy by the name of Lorraine Broughton (Theron) must find the list he was smuggling into the West — a log containing the names of every espionage agent working undercover in Berlin. Broughton delves into an underground world of counter-intelli-

gence, defections gone awry and secret assassinations to recover the list, risking her own life to save the lives of the British agents. But, in this world of deceit and double-crossing, one never knows who is working for whom or can really be trusted.

Focus acquired the film at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year. Production is set for a November shoot in Budapest and Berlin.

The pic will be produced by Denver and Delilah Productions, Oni Press and Sierra Pictures

□ □ □

Martin Scorsese is planning a fresh chapter in his four-decade partnership with Robert De Niro with a new movie called "The Irishman", the veteran US director said Friday.

The pair have collaborated since the early 1970s on some of Hollywood's best-loved and most influential movies, including "Goodfellas" and "Raging Bull", which won De Niro his second best actor Oscar.

Speaking at the Lumiere film festival in the eastern French city of Lyon, 72-year-old Scorsese confirmed they were planning to team up again for their first feature-length film since gangster and gambling epic "Casino" in 1995.

"It's a film called 'The Irishman' — we're still working on all the details," Scorsese said. "Bob and I are trying to work on our schedules and the finance."

ARABO TIMES
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2015

LOS ANGELES: Universal's Gothic romance "Crimson Peak" has launched to \$855,000 at 2,178 US locations in Thursday previews, topping Sony's horror-comedy "Goosebumps" with \$600,000 at 2,567 sites.

Meanwhile, DreamWorks' "Bridge of Spies" — released through Disney — brought in \$500,000 last night (near the \$600,000 grossed by Tom Hanks last film, "Captain Phillips").

Guillermo del Toro's "Crimson Peak" began showings at 8 pm and will expand to more than 2,800 locations Friday with weekend forecasts in the \$15 million range. Set in the 19th century, the movie stars Mia Wasikowska and Tom Hiddleston as a recently married couple who move into his family's forbidding ancestral home.

"Crimson Peak" is co-financed and produced by Legendary.

"Goosebumps," with Jack Black as author R.L. Stine, is expected to battle Fox's third weekend of "The Martian" for the top box office spot. Forecasts have pegged both in the low 20s, though Sony is expecting a lower finish for "Martian" in the mid teens. (RTRS)

LOS ANGELES: The American Film Market has announced that its lineup will include 324 market premieres with stars including Michael Fassbender, John Travolta, Tom Hanks and Emma Watson.

The 36th edition of the market launches Nov 4 in Santa Monica at the Loews Hotel.

The AFM, which is not open

to the general public, is launching with several high-profile films that have not been shown previously: "Trespass Against Us," starring Michael Fassbender and Brendan Gleeson, John Travolta's "I Am Wrath"; "Daughter of God" with Keanu Reeves; "The Phenom," starring Ethan Hawke and Paul Giamatti; and "Get Squirrelly," with voice performances by John Leguizamo, Will Forte and John Cleese. (RTRS)

LOS ANGELES: An echo of his prolific career, colorful personality and enduring passion



Hanks



Travolta

for movies, Martin Scorsese was celebrated by an impressive delegation of French and international film figures on Friday night in Lyon, where he received the Lyon Lumiere tribute.

The ceremony was emceed by Thierry Fremaux, the

artistic director and general delegate of both Cannes and Lyon Lumiere film festivals, which is dedicated to heritage films. Previous Lumiere tributes were awarded to Quentin Tarantino, Pedro Almodovar and Clint Eastwood.

Like a rock star, Scorsese walked into the packed congress to the beats of the Rolling Stones' "Jumpin' Jack Flash." He was welcomed by a rowdy standing ovation and a crowd that included Salma Hayek and husband Francois Henry-Pinault, Kering CEO, Cannes Film Festival president Pierre Lescure. (RTRS)

To protect yourself from Breast Cancer

You are our concern and your life is precious to us