



BOSTON CHEER

The 25th annual Boston Film Festival, which runs Sept. 18-24, will present its

Film Excellence Award to Uma Thurman, whose new movie, "Motherhood," will screen as the fest's opening-night attraction.

A GOOD 'CITIZEN'

Overture's upcoming thriller "Law Abiding Citizen," starring Jamie Foxx and Gerard Butler, will be the opening-night

selection at the 13th annual Urbanworld Film Festival, presented by BET Networks. The screening is Sept. 23 in Manhattan; the multicultural festival runs through Sept. 27.

NANTUCKET DEADLINE

The Nantucket Film Festival is accepting feature, short-film and documentary entries for

its 15th annual event, which runs June 17-20. The deadline for submissions is March 12.

GRILLO'S DAY

Frank Grillo has joined the cast of "Mother's Day," a remake of the Troma film. Grillo, repped by Innovative Artists and Luber Roklin Management, will play the owner of a house

where party guests are taken hostage.

GHEENT GENT

Kevin Costner will receive the Joseph Plateau Honorary Award for Career Achievement on Oct. 11 during the 36th Ghent International Film Festival in Belgium.



FILM

Weinsteins anoint 'King'

By Gregg Kilday

King George VI is the latest British royal to get the big-screen treatment.

Colin Firth has signed to play the monarch in "The King's Speech," and the Weinstein Co. has snapped up rights for North



Firth

America and a host of other territories.

Tom Hooper, whose résumé includes HBO's "Elizabeth I" and "John Adams," will direct the feature, which shoots this year and aims for a 2010 release, from a script by David Seidler.

Firth will play George VI, known as Bertie (father of Queen Elizabeth II), who assumed the throne when his brother Edward VIII abdicated in 1936 to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson. The film will focus on his efforts to overcome a nervous stammer with the help of speech therapist Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush). The actors starred together in the Oscar winner "Shakespeare in Love," which sported Harvey and Bob Weinstein as producers.

"King" is being produced by Iain Canning and Emile Sherman of See-Saw Films and Gareth Unwin of Bedlam Prods. Bedlam's Simon Egan is a co-producer.

The Weinstein Co. also has acquired rights for Germany, France, Benelux, Scandinavia, China, Hong Kong and Latin America. **THR**

Takin' it from the streets

Melee, Hasan plan feature centered on hip-hop dance craze jerkin'

By Steven Zeitchik

NEW YORK — The producers behind "Next Day Air" will groove to a new dance move. Melee Entertainment and indie film producer Shariff Hasan are developing a movie that will center on jerkin', the hip-hop dance trend that has attracted a host of mainstream coverage.

Melee's Bryan Turner, Scott Aronson and Mike Regen are producing the project with Hasan, Todd Moscovitz and Mike Mavrolas. Moscovitz runs Asylum Records, which has released a number of jerkin'-themed songs, and Mavrolas manages jerkin' act New Boyz, who are enjoying a hit with the jerkin'-themed "You're a Jerk."

Jerkin', which has landed cover-age in L.A. Weekly and the Los Angeles Times, is a form of danc-

ing that, like breakdancing and other performance art, originated on the streets. But unlike other forms of street art, it's underlied by a political ideology of providing a positive, anti-gang message in the inner city. The movement is marked by dancers wearing brightly colored, nonbaggy jeans and shirts, in marked contrast to hip-hop wear.

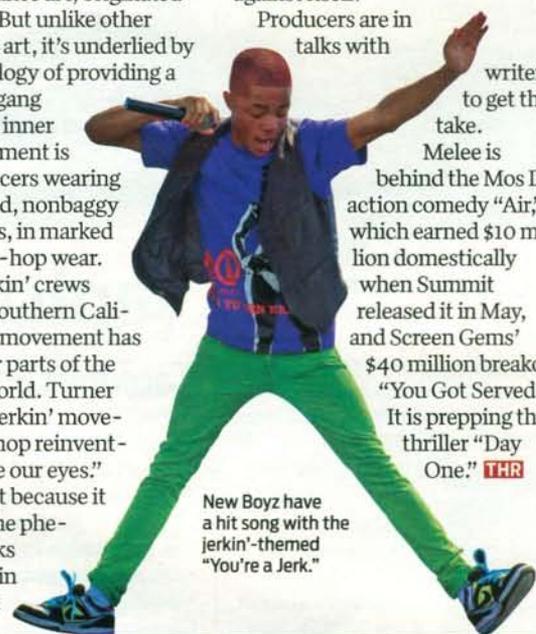
The first jerkin' crews originated in Southern California, but the movement has spread to other parts of the country and world. Turner described the jerkin' movement as "hip-hop reinventing itself before our eyes." Hasan said that because it is anti-gang, the phenomenon marks "the first time in human history

where youth culture is rebelling against itself."

Producers are in talks with

writers to get their take.

Melee is behind the Mos Def action comedy "Air," which earned \$10 million domestically when Summit released it in May, and Screen Gems' \$40 million breakout "You Got Served." It is prepping the thriller "Day One." **THR**



New Boyz have a hit song with the jerkin'-themed "You're a Jerk."

TV writer-producer left legacy in Hollywood

By Gregg Kilday

Dick Berg, a prominent television writer and producer whose career ranged from live TV to movies of the week and longform programming, died Tuesday at his home in Los Angeles after a brief illness. He was 87.

His producing credits range from "Bob Hope Presents the Chrysler Theater" to the detective series "Checkmate" to the miniseries "Space" and "The Martian Chronicles."

With his wife of 63 years, Bar-



DICK BERG

1922-2009

ager Rick Berg.

"More than anybody I can think of in television, my father proved to be extremely successful on a commercial level without ever

compromising quality," Scott Berg said. "It wasn't just that he had a great eye for talent, especially writers, but he really knew how to get the best out of everybody. "On a personal level, my mother, brothers and I always knew that no matter how important his career was — and it was — it was always secondary to his family," he added.

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