

Sam Mendes In Early Talks To Direct Disney's Live-Action 'Pinocchio'



by Anita Busch

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FILM
BREAKING NEWS
DIRECTING
CHRIS WEITZ
DISNEY
PINOCCHIO
SAM MENDES

EXCLUSIVE: Sam Mendes is in early talks to direct Disney's live-action *Pinocchio*; Chris Weitz wrote the current version of the script and will also be producing through his production company, Depth of Field. The move would push forward yet another live-action reboot of the old tried and true animated classic for the studio. Disney's feature film strategy has been working well as its live-action *Beauty And The Beast* has made \$1.2 billion worldwide and the photorealistic *The Jungle Book* grossed \$966.5M worldwide.

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Jungle Book director Jon Favreau is tuning his *Jungle Book* VFX for *The Lion King* and Tim Burton is ready to roll on *Dumbo*. Others in the mix are *The Little Mermaid*, a *Cruella De Vil* movie, *Aladdin*, and *Mulan*.

The studio is also rebooting *Mary Poppins* and got a nice shout-out the other night from Dick Van Dyke at the premiere of HBO and George Shapiro's *If You're Not In The Obbit, Eat Breakfast*. Van Dyke said he plays the son of the old banker in the film and also does a dance number in it. Despite being 91, he is still very agile.

Mendes just opened a play in London, directing playwright Jez Butterworth's *The Ferryman* which starred Paddy Considine — and by the way, sold out within a day at the Royal Court. It has since closed at the Royal Court and will open at the West End on June 20.

Mendes, who won an Oscar for directing *American Beauty* and whose credits include the James Bond films *Spectre* and *Skyfall*, is repped by CAA, The Agency and law firm Ziffren Brittenham.




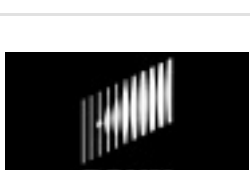


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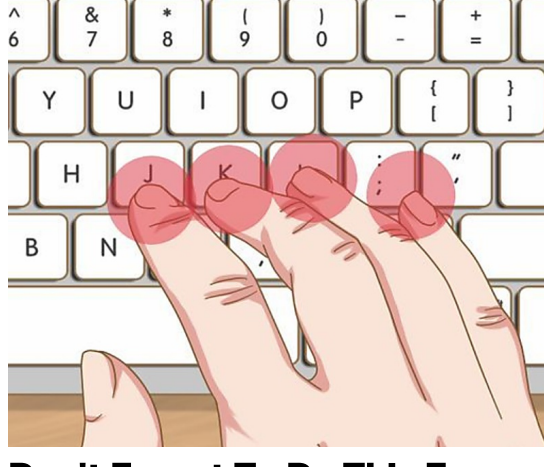
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Anonymous • on May 22, 2017 5:11 pm

A list talents signing up for these Disney live action remakes along with the Universal monster retreats truly mark the end of cinema.

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mfearing • on May 22, 2017 6:12 pm

That's the game at this time I suppose. The live action retreats are disappointing. But until the well is dry...

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• on May 22, 2017 7:06 pm

Whatever. Snob!!

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Isb • on May 22, 2017 7:25 pm

They're producing what people want to watch, each one of these comes very close to a billion or more, Disney can just redo their animation in the vault.

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Rough Rider • on May 22, 2017 5:55 pm

I thought Downey Jr. was gonna make a Pinocchio? Wonder what happened there? So many RDJ projects get announced and then just seem to disappear.

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Rob Clemens • on May 22, 2017 8:41 pm

I'm waiting for the travesty that Disney will make in their reboot of 20,000 Leagues (which has been in development hell for several years, but just wait until the company uses up all of the animated classics).

Reply

Baby Napoleon • on May 23, 2017 4:34 am

Sam, don't do it! Seriously, why would a director as talented as him go anywhere near yet another Pinocchio movie, let alone one made by Disney? Even directing a third Bond movie would be a much better choice than this.

Reply

Squeaky Wheel • on May 23, 2017 9:11 am

Sam Mendes. Mr. Original. This project is perfect for someone of his talents. Trying to animate a wooden puppet into a real live boy. Something Mendes's agent has been trying to do with her client since he lucked out having American Beauty handed to him on a platter by Spielberg and Connie Hall. Ever since then the only success he's achieved have been with auto-pilot sequels.

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