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Ritchie, WB on case of the edgier Holmes

By Borys Kit and Steven Zeitchik

Guy Ritchie has signed on to write and direct a reimagining of super sleuth Sherlock Holmes for Warner Bros.

Lionel Wigram and Dan Lin are producing the movie, which will take its cue from a forthcoming comic book that Wigram wrote as a selling tool for a new take on the classic Sir Arthur Conan Doyle character. The concept sees the character as more adventuresome and less stuffy than previous screen incarnations and mines more obscure character traits.

The studio has been developing a new Holmes for a while, at one point having Neil Marshall ("Descent") on board to direct and Michael Johnson to write.

Ritchie will rewrite and polish Johnson's script.

The deal reteams the filmmaker with the studio, for whom he made the crime caper "RocknRolla."

Warners is said to be high on that movie, which is being released in October. Ritchie is repped by CAA and Anonymous Content.

Jon Berg and Elishia Holmes are overseeing.

Borys Kit reported from Los Angeles; Steven Zeitchik reported from New York.