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WB's Lin lands producing deal

By Carly Mayberry

Warner Bros. senior vp production Dan Lin is segueing from the executive world to the production world, signing an exclusive long-term production deal with the studio through his newly formed shingle, Lin Pictures.

Lin plans to develop and produce films of all genres, specializing in event-style tentpole pictures through his company, which will be based on the studio lot. Upcoming projects and new staffing appointments are forthcoming. The production company will be up and running in January.

Lin said he presented a business plan to Warner Bros. president and COO Alan Horn and Jeff Robinov — who is set to become president of the Warner Bros. Pictures Group next month — last summer proposing the venture in response to the new ways movies are produced and delivered.

"There are so many changes in the way that filmmakers bring their films to us that I wanted to do something a little more entrepreneurial for the studio," he said. "This venture is designed to exploit the significant and rapid changes in conception, production and delivery."

Robinov, who said the studio hasn't sorted out the exact producing role Lin would play on the current Warner Bros. films in which he's involved, lauded Lin's sensibility toward film and his producing talent.

"He's a really entrepreneurial guy, which is a big part of being a producer," Robinov said. "Take that with his creative instincts and ability to work with talent, and he's positioned to be really successful."

Said director Martin Scorsese, who worked with Lin on "The Aviator" and "The Departed": "I found him to be an excellent executive with a love of movies and the movie business — qualities that will serve him well as a producer. I congratulate him and wish him well on this new venture."

Lin joined Warners in 1999 as creative executive and was named vp production in 2002 and senior vp production last year. In addition to "The Departed" and "Aviator," Lin also worked on "Invasion" and the upcoming "10,000 B.C." during his tenure as studio executive.