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Warners to put 'Star' in new light

By Carolyn Giardina

Warner Bros. Motion Picture Imaging is restoring George Cukor's 1954 "A Star Is Born" in 6K resolution.

The film, starring Judy Garland and James Mason, is believed to be the first restoration project where the scanning, restoration work and mastering will be completed at that resolution.

Digital film restoration is most commonly accomplished at 2K, though an increasing number have been using 4K. A 4K file contains four times as much picture information — measured in pixels — as a 2K file, and 6K contains 2¼



Judy Garland is the centerpiece of the 1954 version of the Warner Bros. classic.

times as much as a 4K file.

Ned Price, vp mastering, Warner Bros. Technical Operations, said that the facility's reason to go to higher resolution was because "The original camera negative contains more information than 2K, though 2K is today's

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Redstone rebuffs CBS-Viacom redo

Two are apart for good, he tells shareholders

By Georg Szalai and Paul J. Gough

NEW YORK — CBS Corp. chairman and controlling shareholder Sumner Redstone said Thursday that the company never will be reunited with sibling Viacom, which he also controls.

Redstone said at CBS' annual shareholder meeting in Midtown Manhattan that a renewed combination would "absolutely not happen" despite a recent New York Post report suggesting that Viacom CEO Philippe Dauman was push-



Moonves



Redstone

ing for it sometime in the future.

CBS and Viacom split in 2006. "There has never been any such plan in existence and never will be," Redstone said.

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COVER STORY

Disneyland

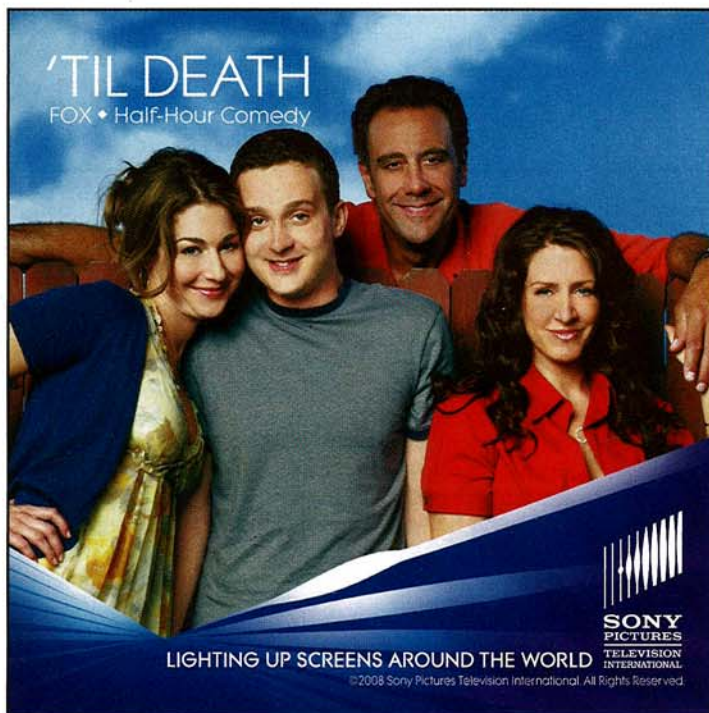


PARK PLACE
The weak dollar is boosting U.S. studios, especially their theme parks

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NO PAPER

The Hollywood Reporter will not publish Monday because of Memorial Day. The next paper will be Tuesday.



LIGHTING UP SCREENS AROUND THE WORLD

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Perlman runs with 'Anarchy' gang at FX

By Nellie Andreeva

Ron Perlman is set to star in FX's upcoming series "Sons of Anarchy."

Elsewhere, Beau Bridges and Meagen Fay have joined ABC's untitled Kristin Newman comedy pilot, while Eric Lively, Tony Todd and Gil Bellows have been cast in the "24" prequel.

Additionally, Jay Harrington has

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Perlman

A 'Star' is born in 6K

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typical display resolution. But we anticipate higher display resolution in the future. So we are attempting to preserve the asset, rather than just create an element for exhibition."

The key goal of the project is preservation, but the restored version of the film will also be released on Blu-ray Disc and standard DVD.

"There has been photochemical work done on this particular title, but with new digital tools we are able to retrieve the original color balance of the faded negative in a way that we could not reproduce photochemically," Price said. "We made film preservation elements since the film had differential fading, meaning ... the edges of the film had more oxygen and deteriorated quicker. By scanning it, we're able to get a completely flat field of color."

Many industry leaders believe

that the community needs to step up to a resolution higher than 2K for restoration and preservation. Still, opinions vary, as more storage and bandwidth is needed to handle these larger files, which, along with cost, is a challenge.

"6K is typically a costly proposition, so that's why we are testing the waters on 'A Star is Born,'" Price said. "As the size of data is more easily managed and the tools become more accessible, we will increase our resolution."

Restoration of "A Star Is Born" is expected to take four to six months. "Our expectation is that the restoration would live for easily 100 years," Price said.

Warner Bros. Motion Picture Imaging, the studio's digital post and restoration facility, has recently restored such titles as "Bonnie and Clyde," "Dirty Harry," "Cool Hand Luke" and "How the West Was Won." **THR**