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Portmanâ??s Jackie Kennedy film to get Oscar season release

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

By Jake Coyle

TORONTO (AP) â?? The Jackie Kennedy biopic *Jackie*, starring Natalie Portman, has been acquired by Fox Searchlight, which plans to push the film directly into the Oscar season.

Searchlight announced the acquisition early Tuesday shortly after the Pablo Larrain-directed film played at the Toronto International Film Festival. Though the market has been quiet in Toronto, *Jackie* has been the most hotly pursued film since its Venice Film Festival debut last week. The film cuts between the events surrounding the assassination of John F. Kennedy and other moments in the first ladyâ??s life.

Natalie Portman as First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy in Pablo Larrainâ??s *Jackie.* (Photo courtesy of A

Fox Searchlight will release the movie Dec. 9, and itâ??s widely expected to catapult Portman into the best-actress Oscar race. Foxâ??s specialty division is an awards season regular that has ushered many films into the Academy Awards, including best-picture winners â??12 Years a Slaveâ?• and â??Birdman,â?• as well as Portmanâ??s own â??Black Swan,â?• which won her best actress.

Searchlightâ??s other fall release, Nate Parkerâ??s Nat Turner slave revolt drama â??The Birth of a Nation,â?• had been seen as the studioâ??s horse in this yearâ??s Oscar race. But that filmâ??s awards hopes have been badly damaged by a rape accusation from Parkerâ??s past. In Toronto, Parker deflected questions about the case in a press conference.

â??Pablo Larrainâ??s *Jackie* is a daring, one-of-a-kind cinematic portrayal of a beloved icon,â?• said Fox Searchlight Pictures Presidents Nancy Utley and Stephen Gilula.

Movies arenâ??t often acquired in Toronto and so quickly put into theaters. Usually they open sometime the following year. But Fox Searchlight has managed it before; in 2008, it picked up Darren Aronofskyâ??s â??The Wrestler,â?• and led it to Oscar nods for both Mickey Rourke and Marisa Tomei.

*Featured photo: Actress Natalie Portman arriving for the premiere of the film â??Planetariumâ?? during the 73rd Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016. (Photo credit: Ettore Ferrari/ANSA via AP)

(Source:www.boston.com)

Category

1. #TIFF

Tags

1. #TIFF

2. Academy Awards
3. Actor
4. Awards
5. Black Swan
6. Cinema
7. Director
8. Festival
9. Film
10. Fox Searchlight
11. Jackie
12. Jacqueline Kennedy
13. natalie portman
14. Oscar race
15. Pablo Larrain
16. planetarium
17. The 73rd Venice Film Festival
18. Toronto International Film Festival
19. Venice Film Festival

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