As a director, France's **Luc Besson** is the man behind ***The Professional, La Femme Nikita,*** and ***The Fifth Element***, amongst others. As a producer and frequent-screenwriter, he's an action-impresario responsible for ***Taken, Colombiana,*** and ***The Transporter*** franchise. In order to bring some unique projects from Besson to American theaters, Relativity Media is joining forces with Besson's EuropaCorp, co-financing and domestically distributing two new films.

Those two films, which will released in North America by the studio who brought you ***Limitless, Immortals,*** and ***Haywire***, are ***Malavita*** and ***Three Days to Kill***.

The former is directed by Besson and stars **Robert De Niro** as the head of a mafia family transplanted to France for their own protection, while the latter, co-written by Besson, follows a dying Secret Service agent as he attempts to reconnect with his family while executing one last assignment.

Here's the official announcement from Relativity Media:

(Beverly Hills, Calif.) May 24, 2012 – Relativity Media announced today it has struck a co-production and co-financing deal with Luc Besson's (Taken, Transporter) EuropaCorp on the upcoming films Malavita and Three Days to Kill. The companies will work in tandem on both projects throughout the creative and production process. Out of the gate, Besson will helm Malavita, a darkly comedic actioner starring Oscar®-Winner Robert De Niro (Limitless, Meet The Parents). The script is adapted by Besson from the book Badfellas by author Tonino Benacquista. Pre-production will begin in July with filming set for August at La Cité du Cinéma, where the brand new Studios de Paris are located. Additional shooting will take place in Normandy, France and New York. The film will bow in 2013 with Relativity handling US distribution as well as working with its foreign output partners on the film's release in the UK, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Spain, Greece, Thailand and CIS. EuropaCorp will take on distribution in France and handle international sales.

Malavita is the story of the Manzonis, a notorious mafia family who gets relocated to Normandy, France under the witness protection program. While they do their best to fit in, old habits die hard and they soon find themselves handling things the "family" way.

The second film under the deal is Three Days to Kill, a tense, gripping action tale with a sense of humor from a script by Besson and Adi Hasak (From Paris With Love). Secret Service Agent Ethan Runner discovers he's dying and decides to retire in order to reconnect with his estranged family. But when the Secret Service offers him access to an experimental drug that could save his life in exchange for one last assignment, he soon finds himself trying to juggle his family, his mission, and the drug's hallucinatory side-effects.

"With the pairing of Besson and De Niro, Malavita is a great addition to our growing slate. We're thrilled to be getting into business with EuropaCorp on both films and the prospect of more in the future ," said Relativity's President Tucker Tooley.

Looking ahead, Relativity will release the edge-of-your seat thriller House at the End of the Street (in theatres September 21, 2012) and the hilarious comedy 21 and Over (in theatres November 2, 2012). Relativity is currently in production on Scott Cooper's gritty dramatic thriller Out of the Furnace and is in pre-production on the film adaptation of Nicholas Sparks' best-selling Safe Haven (in theatres February 14, 2013).

EuropaCorp is currently in production on Taken 2 which it will distribute in France and with its partners in Germany, Scandinavia and Russia. Fox will handle the distribution of the film in the US and throughout its international distribution organization. The company is also in production on Mobius directed by Éric Rochant and starring Oscar®-Winner Jean DuJardin, Cécile De France and Tim Roth.

*Full Disclosure: **Malavita** and **Three Days to Kill** are produced by Relativity Media, iamROGUE's parent company.*

Source: IamRogue

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