

Beat: Entertainment

## **LIONSGATE Signs MULTI-PLATFORM FILM And TELEVISION First-Look Deal**

**With THE ERWIN BROTHERS & KEVIN DOWNES**

PARIS - LOS ANGELES - SANTA MONICA, 19.08.2018, 09:07 Time

**USPA NEWS** - Significantly expanding its Footprint in the growing Faith-Based Market, Global Content Leader Lionsgate has signed a Multi-Platform Film and Television First-Look Deal with Andrew and Jon Erwin and Producing Partner Kevin Downes, the Filmmaking Team behind this yYear's Box Office Hit "I Can Only Imagine", which was released by Lionsgate and Sister Company Roadside Attractions. The Announcement was made on August 9, by Lionsgate Motion Picture Group Chairman, Joe Drake, and Television Group Chairman, Kevin Beggs.

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As part of the Multi-Year Agreement, the Erwin Brothers and Downes will develop, produce and direct Feature Films and Television Programming for the Company under their Newly-Created Kingdom Banner. The Deal follows Lionsgate's Breakout Successes in the Faith-Based Community, which include the Double Oscar Winner Hacksaw Ridge, The Shack, and most recently, I Can Only Imagine, the Highest Grossing Movie in Roadside's History.

The Erwin Brothers are one of only a Handful of Directors to have received a Rare A+ CinemaScore twice, having accomplished the Feat on I Can Only Imagine and Woodlawn. Downes and the Erwins have been building their Brand in the Rapidly Growing Inspirational Faith-Based Family Market, having collaborated on Three Films in the last Five Years that have all opened in the Top 10 Movies in America. The Erwins have also directed numerous acclaimed Documentaries and Music Videos, and Downes, a 20-Year Industry Veteran, has produced 15 Features.

The Erwin Brothers and Downes join Lionsgate's Elite Portfolio of Creative Partnerships which includes Paul Feig, Eugenio Derbez, Kevin Hart, Eric and Kim Tannenbaum, Justin Simien, Courtney Kemp, Yvette Lee Bowser, Ed Zwick & Marshall Herskovitz, and John Goldwyn, among others.

The Deal was negotiated for Lionsgate by Motion Picture Group's Jason Constantine, President of Acquisitions and Co-Productions, Eda Kowan, Executive Vice President, Acquisitions and Co-Productions, Bonnie Stylides, Executive Vice President, Business & Legal Affairs, and Adrian Lopez, Senior Vice President, Business & Legal Affairs.

The Erwin Brothers and Downes are represented by WME's Dave Wirtschafter and Matthew Johnson at Ziffren, Brittenham.

Source : Lionsgate

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**Article online:**

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-13998/lionsgate-signs-multi-platform-film-and-television-first-look-deal.html>

**Editorial office and responsibility:**

V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDSStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Ruby BIRD & Yasmina BEDDOU (Journalists/Directors)

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