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'Moose' woos Darabont deal

By Borys Kit

Frank Darabont's Darkwoods Prods. has optioned the comedic memoir "Rescue Me, He's Wearing a Moose Hat: And 40 Other Dates Over 50" by Sherry Halperin.

Halperin wrote the book when she entered the dating world at age 51 after the death of her husband. She wondered if she could ever date again, much less find love, but a year later, armed with her "personal perfect man list," she plunged into the treacherous world of dating and new love.

Darkwoods partner Anna Garduno brought in the project and will produce with Darabont and vp production Denise Huth. Halperin will co-produce.

Darkwoods, which has a first-look deal at Paramount, is in development on "Foreign Babes in Beijing," a romantic-comedy memoir by Rachel DeWoskin, as well as an untitled Tokyo Rose project, which revolves around Iva Toguri, the woman falsely accused but convicted of treason during World War II. Christopher Hampton ("The Quiet American") is writing the screenplay, which Darabont plans to direct.

The company this year branched into television, signing a deal with NBC. Darabont directed and executive produced the Graham Yost-created pilot "Raines," starring Jeff Goldblum, which was picked up by NBC for midseason. Darabont also directed an episode of FX's "The Shield," which will air this season.

Darabont is repped by CAA. Halperin is repped by Gersh.