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Fox lands squadron of pilots

Ben Stiller comedy among seven pickups

By Nellie Andreeva

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Ben Stiller, left, and Mike Binder (Getty Images photo)

In one fell swoop, Fox has ordered most of its pilot slate this development cycle.

The network has greenlighted four comedy pilots, "The Station," "Walorsky," "Two Dollar Beer" and "Sons of Tucson"; and three dramas, "Maggie Hill," "Human Target" and an untitled reincarnation-themed project.

The seven pilots -- hailing from 20th TV or Warner Bros. TV -- join drama pilot "Eva Adams," which is finishing casting, and fall comedy pilot "Boldly Going Nowhere," which is being tweaked and will be reshot.

Fox entertainment president Kevin Reilly said last week that he planned to order five comedy pilots and at least five drama pilots and that his comedy picks would be closer in tone to the quirky, offbeat "Malcolm in the Middle" and "The Bernie Mac Show" than uninspired recent additions like "Do Not Disturb."

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offbeat "Malcolm in the Middle" and "The Bernie Mac Show" than uninspired recent additions like "Do Not Disturb."

-- "The Station," a single-camera pilot from 20th and Ben Stiller's Red Hour Films, revolves around a covert CIA operative and his workmates who are embedded in a South American banana republic with a mission to install a new dictator.

Stiller is exec producing with Stuart Cornfeld and Jeremy Kramer and might direct. Kevin Napier penned the script and is co-exec producing.

-- "Walorsky," a single-camera pilot from 20th TV/American Work, is in the tone of the 2003 comedy "Bad Santa" and centers on a lazy ex-cop-turned-security guard patrolling a mall in Buffalo, N.Y., who is forced to grudgingly step it up after he is assigned an idiot partner.

Brian Gatewood and Alessandro Tanaka are the writers/co-exec producers. Ravi Nandan and Scot Armstrong exec produce.

-- "Two Dollar Beer," a multicamera pilot from 20th/3 Arts, is set in Detroit and revolves around a blue-collar couple and their extended family and friends.

Multihyphenate Mike Binder wrote the script and is exec producing with Michael Rotenberg and Jonathan Levin.

-- "Sons of Tucson," a single-camera pilot from 20th and J2TV, is channeling the spirit of "Slums of Beverly Hills." It centers on a charming but misguided hustler hired by three rich young brothers to act as their "father" while their real one serves time for a white-collar crime.

Tommy Dewey and Greg Bratman penned the script and serve as supervising producers. Harvey Myman, Jason Felts and Justin Berfield exec produce.

On the hourlong side, Fox is casting a wide net with a medical drama, a comic-book adaptation and supernatural cop show.

-- "Maggie Hill," from 20th and Imagine, is about a brilliant female surgeon who thrives despite enduring adult-onset schizophrenia. "Shark" creator Ian Biederman penned the script and is exec producing with David Nevins.

-- "Human Target," from WBTV, DC Comics and McG's Wonderland, is based on the DC Comics title. It centers on Christopher Chance, a mysterious security-for-hire who assumes the identities of people in life-threatening danger, becoming the "human target" on behalf of his clients.

Jon Steinberg penned the script and is exec producing with McG.

-- The untitled reincarnation project, from WBTV, revolves around past-life investigators who use the concept of reincarnation to solve mysteries of their clients' previous lives in order to resolve their problems in the present.



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David Hudgins wrote the script and is exec producing with Lou Pitt and MJ Rose.

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