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The advertisement features a central illustration of a person in a hat and shorts, with the words 'art grant' written in a cursive font. To the right, the text 'YOU CAN EARN UP TO' is in red, followed by '\$18,600' in a large, stylized font with a red arrow pointing to it. The background is a light, textured grey.

VARIETY

EOne Goes Toe to Toe With Hollywood Majors in U.K.



JULY 15, 2014 | 11:52AM PT

eOne's releases in the U.K. in the next 12 months include Steve Carell and Channing Tatum starrer 'Foxcatcher'

Leo Barraclough (<http://variety.com/author/leo-barraclough/>)

LONDON — [Entertainment One](http://variety.com/t/entertainment-one/) (<http://variety.com/t/entertainment-one/>) is well-placed to retain its position as the U.K.'s top independent distributor after a strong first half of the year, and a muscular slate for the remaining months. But, as [Alex Hamilton](http://variety.com/t/alex-hamilton/) (<http://variety.com/t/alex-hamilton/>), managing director, [eOne](http://variety.com/t/eone/) (<http://variety.com/t/eone/>) Films U.K., tells *Variety*, the company has aspirations to be considered on a par with the Hollywood majors.

EOne has been the top indie in the U.K. for three of the past four years, and last year finished ahead of two studios, [Sony](http://variety.com/t/sony/) (<http://variety.com/t/sony/>) and [Paramount](http://variety.com/t/paramount/) (<http://variety.com/t/paramount/>), with its box office totaling more than £100 million (\$171 million) for the first time.

The distrib's slate for first six months of 2014 included "12 Years a Slave," which took over \$34.3 million at the U.K. box office, "Dallas Buyers Club" and "Divergent."

Upcoming pics for 2014 include Daniel Radcliffe starrer "What If," David Cronenberg's "Maps to the Stars" and Jake Gyllenhaal starrer "Nightcrawler." 2015 will have a strong start with Steve Carell and Channing Tatum starrer "Foxcatcher" and Russell Crowe's helming debut "The Water Diviner."

“The intention is to be in amongst the studios, year in, year out,” Hamilton said. “That’s the aim: not only to be the leading independent, but in amongst the studios. And to have the strengths of both: the flexibility of an indie, but the market clout and organization of a studio.”

One advantage for the distrib is its relationship with its sales arm, eOne Films Intl., headed by Harold van Lier, as well as the company’s production division, headed by Xavier Marchand.

“With the enhanced sales and production arm here now we are seeing projects earlier, so we were able to come on board from a U.K. perspective on films that we are doing either as a production, like ‘Eye in the Sky,’ or also taking international rights, such as ‘Trumbo,’” Hamilton said.

“We are just seeing some good projects earlier than we might have, because normally we might have seen those later on if they’d landed somewhere else,” he said. “Not to say that we are not still keen buyers from a lot of the larger international sales agents. It’s another way of embellishing what we are doing.”

As well as its own productions and the third-party pick-ups, eOne has output deals with Hollywood studios, including Summit, Relativity and DreamWorks, which will deliver Steven Spielberg’s “The BFG” in 2016. “That seems like a giant one for us,” Hamilton said.

This pipeline of projects allows eOne to plan ahead.

“We were conscious in Cannes that we were starting to populate the 2016 slate with some great stuff — like ‘A Monster Calls’ or ‘Story of Your Life’ — top-tier filmmakers, top-tier projects, coming from top-tier sales agents, allowing us to start putting down the corner-stones of our slate two years down the road.”

The distributor plans to release 30 to 35 films a year, although it was 43 in 2013 and 39 this year, which was partly due to eOne's acquisition of Alliance.

"We want to have a constant market-place presence. We want to be releasing movies regularly. We want to be releasing movies of different shapes and sizes," Hamilton said. "All of our partners, be it exhibitors, be it press, be it people we have ancillary deals with — they all know they are going to get films from us on a regular basis."

He adds: "It is the portfolio approach to an extent. We are staffed appropriately so that we can handle that volume of movies. We are staffed in such a way that we can give them the TLC and the specific care that each and every movie needs. There are over 100 people in the U.K. film company alone.

"So it is not something that you would characteristically describe as an independent model historically in the U.K., because the barriers to entry have been so high; it's an expensive market. But fortunately we have managed to build a business of a certain size now that we can capitalize upon those economies of scale in terms of our media buying and the like."

EONE U.K.'S 2014 SLATE

"Earth to Echo" (July 25)

"The Rover" (Aug. 15)

"What If" (Aug. 20)

"The Hundred Foot Journey" (Sept. 5)

"A Most Wanted Man" (Sept. 12)

"A Walk Amongst the Tombstones" (Sept. 19)

"Maps to the Stars" (Sept. 26)

"The Good Lie" (October)

"The Homesman" (October)

"Mr. Turner" (Oct. 31)

“Nativity 3: Dude Where’s My Donkey?” (November)

“Suite Francaise” (November)

“Nightcrawler” (Nov. 14).

EONE U.K.’S SLATE FOR 2015-16:

“Foxcatcher”

Director: Bennett Miller

Licensors: Annapurna Intl.

“The Water Diviner”

Director: Russell Crowe

Licensors: Mister Smith Entertainment

“A Monster Calls”

Director: J.A Bayona

Cast: Felicity Jones, Liam Neeson

Licensors: Lionsgate/ Summit

“Story of Your Life”

Director: Denis Villeneuve

Cast: Amy Adams

Licensors: FilmNation

“Sea of Trees”

Director: Gus Van Sant

Cast: Matthew McConaughey, Naomi Watts

Licensors: Bloom

“Eye in the Sky”

Director: Gavin Hood

Cast: Colin Firth, Helen Mirren

Licensors: eOne production

“Trumbo”

Director: Jay Roach

Cast: Bryan Cranston, Helen Mirren

Licensors: eOne Intl.

“A Walk in the Woods”

Director: Ken Kwapis

Cast: Robert Redford, Nick Nolte, Emma Thompson

Licensor: IM Global

“Freeheld”

Director: Peter Sollett

Cast: Ellen Page, Julianne Moore

Licensor: Bankside

“Mr Holmes”

Director: Bill Condon

Cast: Ian McKellen, Laura Linney

Licensor: Film Nation

“Midnight Special”

Director: Jeff Nichols

Cast: Kirsten Dunst, Michael Shannon, Joel Edgerton, Adam Driver

Licensor: FilmNation

“Gods of Egypt”

Director: Alex Proyas

Cast: Gerard Butler

Licensor: Lionsgate/Summit

“Triple Nine”

Director: John Hillcoat

Cast: Aaron Paul, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Kate Winslet, Aaron Paul

Licensor: Sierra Affinity

“Child 44”

Director: Daniel Espinosa

Cast: Tom Hardy, Joel Kinnaman, Gary Oldman, Noomi Rapace

Licensor: Lionsgate/Summit

“The BFG”

Director: Steven Spielberg

Cast: TBA

Licensor: DreamWorks/Amblin Entertainment

U.K. Release date: July 22, 2016

“The Whole Truth”

Director: Courtney Hunt

Cast: Keanu Reeves, Renee Zellweger

Licensor: FilmNation

“La Famille Belier”

Director: Eric Lartigau

Cast: Karin Viard, Francois Damians

Licensor: SND-M6

“Insurgent”

Director: Robert Schwentke

Cast: Shailene Woodley, Ansel Elgort, Naomi Watts

Licensor: Lionsgate/Summit

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