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The Farrelly Brothers, Richard Dreyfuss, George Wassouf

The Associated Press

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Since at least 2004 those latter-day knuckleheads **Bobby and Peter Farrelly**, the gross-out auteurs of "There's Something About Mary" and "Kingpin" fame, have been contemplating a movie in which they would upgrade the Three Stooges for 21st-century audiences. Now they're finally getting their wish: Variety reports that the Farrellys will be making their Three Stooges movie for MGM, where the slapstick trio (consisting most famously of Curly Howard, Larry Fine and Moe Howard) made a handful of shorts and features before signing with Columbia, where the Stooges did their best-known work. Over the years such A-list Stoogethiles as **Russell Crowe** and **Mel Gibson** have been mentioned for the movie, but no casting has been announced. The film is expected to be released on Nov. 20, 2009.

The Oscar-winning actor **Richard Dreyfuss** is to return to the London stage four years after he was fired from the hit musical "The Producers." The 61-year-old, who plays **Dick Cheney** in **Oliver Stone's** film "W," is to star in **Joe Sutton's** play "Complicit" at the Old Vic. The play is directed by his fellow Hollywood actor **Kevin Spacey**, who is also the theater's artistic director. Dreyfuss said: "I'm very excited to have a chance of not being fired before the opening." The actor had been due to take on the role of Max Bialystock in the hit **Mel Brooks** musical "The Producers" at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane in 2004. At the time, a statement said he had withdrawn from the production because he was unable "to fulfill the rigors of the role" because of a shoulder injury.

(BBC)

As the major auction houses continue to see disappointing results at their art sales, it is comforting to know that **Winnie-the-Pooh** can still attract buyers (and wallets): the sale of an original pencil sketch of Winnie-the-Pooh, Tigger and Piglet, drawn by E.H. Shepard, who illustrated A.A. Milne's children's books, fetched £31,200, or about \$50,100, at a Bonhams auction in London this week, Reuters reported. A telephone bidder from Germany bought the sketch for his wife, Reuters said; the picture had been expected to sell for around £20,000. Collectors still searching for Pooh artifacts can take heart: Sotheby's announced its own sale of original drawings by Shepard and rare books by Milne, scheduled for Dec. 17 in London.

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission has announced its short list of seven prospective designers, one of whom will be chosen to design the memorial in Washington for Eisenhower, the 34th U.S. president. The seven are **Frank Gehry** of Gehry Partners, **Ralph Johnson** of Perkins & Will, **Ron Krueck** of Krueck & Sexton, **Rob Rogers** and **Jonathan Marvel** of Rogers Marvel Architects, **Moshe Safdie** of Moshe Safdie & Associates, **Stanley Saitowitz** of Natoma Architects and **Peter Walker** of PWP Landscape Architecture. The final selection is scheduled for late March.

Merle Haggard is recovering after having a malignant tumor removed from his lung. Friends said the surgery this week at Bakersfield Memorial Hospital in California was a success and that the 71-year-old country singer was in stable condition. Doctors informed Haggard, who's from a Bakersfield suburb, about a spot on his lung in May. He told The Bakersfield Californian in August that he wasn't going to seek treatment, but friends and family members convinced him otherwise. Haggard became a household name after the anthem "Okie From Muskogee" hit No.1 in 1969. He has had 38 No.1 hits since 1966.

(AP)

A Swedish court released the Syrian singer **George Wassouf** from police custody pending the outcome of a drug investigation. The 47-year-old singer cried and raised his arms into the air in relief as the judge read out his decision. Wassouf and another man, **Joseph Karabet**, were arrested after the

police said they found cocaine Saturday at Wassouf's hotel room in central Stockholm. He has denied the charges, while Karabet has pleaded guilty. Prosecutors will continue the investigation before deciding whether to file charges. "I was framed and now I have been released," Wassouf said through a translator. "I'm going to wait for my trial to prove my innocence." Wassouf has released more than 30 albums and is a major star in the Arab world.

(AP)

Correction:

Notes:

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