

Singapore boards Italian Star

by Sylvia Wong

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Gianni Amelio's new film *The Missing Star* (*La Stella Che Non C'e*) has been set up as a Singapore/Italian co-production, with Sergio Castellito in the lead role of an Italian worker trying to prevent an industrial disaster in a Chinese steel mill.

The film, shooting ext month in Shanghai, is co-produced by Singapore's Oak3 Films and Italy's Cattleya, Rai Cinema and Achab Film. France's Babe Films, Switzerland's Carac Film, the Council of Europe's Eurimages fund, Singapore Film Commission, US distributor Lakeshore International and Italian distributor 01 Distribution are also co-financing.

The Missing Star is Singapore's first film co-production with Italy as part of a series of projects aimed at developing Singapore into a media hub. "Singapore's mix of cultures positions it to be an excellent partner for European filmmakers working in Asia," says Cattleya's Marco Chimenz, who is executive-producing the film with Zaihirat Banu, Oak3 Films CEO, and Fabio Conversi, Babe Films president.

Oak3 Films is a Singapore-based production house that has been aggressively driving international projects. *The Missing Star* is its first international film co-production; last year it collaborated with Germany's FFP Media on a two-part TV series, *House of Harmony*.