

# AFM: 'The Conjuring' Producer, Writers Set Sights on 'Crucifixion'



The Conjuring

New Line Cinema

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by Pamela McClintock

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Producer **Peter Safran** is reteaming with *The Conjuring* writers **Chad** and **Carey Hayes** for *Crucifixion*, based on the true story of a priest who was jailed for the murder of a nun after performing an exorcism on her.

**Xavier Gens** (*Hitman*) is directing the supernatural thriller, which picks up as an investigative journalist strives to determine if the priest in fact killed a mentally ill person, or lost a battle with a demonic presence.

Lotus Entertainment will shop the project to foreign buyers at the American Film Market, where it should spark keen interest considering the wild success of [New Line's \*The Conjuring\*](#). That

film earned more than \$318 million globally last year — including \$180.6 million internationally.

Safran's winning streak in the horror space has continued with *The Conjuring* prequel *Annabelle*, also from New Line. Still in theaters, *Anabelle* has already grossed more than \$230 million worldwide, including \$149 million overseas.

He's producing *Crucifixion* with the Hayes brothers. The screenwriters, who are identical twins, wrote the upcoming disaster film *San Andreas* and are also working on the next installments in the *Journey to the Center of the Earth* franchise.

“Peter and the Hayes brothers have an amazing track record in the genre space. We felt that a smart, edgy thriller like *Crucifixion*, combined with this amazing creative team, had all the right ingredients to be a global box office hit,” said Lotus' **Jim Seibel**, who is executive producing the project alongside colleagues **Bill Johnson**, **Jim Seibel**, **D.J. Gugenheim** and **Ara Keshishian**.