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REVIEW



SWAY

Family conflict drama is too flat and overlong to succeed, says Dan Fainaru

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Bisset joins McDowell in cast of *Vivaldi*

 Jeremy Kay in Los Angeles

18 July 2006

Jacqueline Bisset has joined the cast of *Vivaldi*, Boris Damast's biography of the celebrated composer of *The Four Seasons*.

Bisset will play the Countess, a principled aristocrat whose patronage of Venice's poorest citizens harbours a secret.

Mechaniks is producing the project and was launched in 2002 by Damast and partner Andrea Kikot. Both are serving as producers.

The story takes place during Vivaldi's days as a priest when he is assigned to be the music teacher at school for abandoned illegitimate daughters of Venice's courtesans.

Battling debilitating bouts of asthma as well as Catholic Church dogma, Vivaldi wins the trust of the orphan girls and goes on to put on a historic concert for the Pope.

Bisset is joined in the cast by Zuleikha Robinson, whose recent credits include *Hidalgo* and *The Merchant Of Venice*, and is currently in Italy shooting the second season of HBO's *Rome*.

She will play an orphan who finds herself drawn to the physical and musical charms of the composer.

Malcolm McDowell is attached to star as Carlo Merlino, a sexually repressed, frustrated musician and priest who is Vivaldi's most ardent detractor.



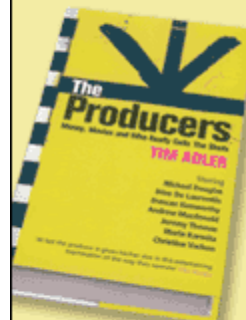
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