

First Independent picks up first film for US distribution

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Gary Rubin's start-up US distributor First Independent Pictures has picked up its first film — *Pursued*, a psychological thriller starring Christian Slater and Estella Warren — which is backed by Andrew Stevens Entertainment and sold here by Syndicate Films.

Directed by Kristoffer Tabori and co-starring Michael Clarke Duncan and Gil Bellows, the film stars Slater as a ruthless business executive who engages in a technological cat-and-mouse game with Bellows.

First Independent was formed during AFM by Rubin, who was previously executive vice president, sales and acquisitions, at Artisan Television Distribution. The company intends to focus on theatrical and ancillary distribution of high-concept pictures.

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