

THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

March 07, 2006

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Palm Pics collars 'Sun Dogs' docu

By Gregg Goldstein

NEW YORK -- Palm Pictures has chased down all worldwide rights to "Sun Dogs," a documentary about the Jamaican Dogsled Team, sponsored by singer Jimmy Buffett and his company Margaritaville.

The feature follows the canine crew from their native country to the 2006 U.K. championships in Scotland. Currently in production, the film paints a portrait of the human support team that champions the dogs, from Buffett to Devon Anderson, known as Jamaica's "Dr. Dolittle." It also chronicles the trials of stray dogs whose only chance at survival is getting off the country's tough streets and onto the team.

"We saw the footage and thought it was an incredible story that has a lot of humor," Palm Pictures CEO Chris Blackwell and head of acquisitions and production David Koh said. "It's the ultimate underdog story with a fierce Jamaican attitude — a mix of 'Cool Runnings,' 'The Bad News Bears' and 'Dr. Dolittle.' "

Palm Pictures, which is financing the project, plans a theatrical release late this year, followed by a DVD and CD soundtrack release on the company's Palm label. The deal was negotiated by Blackwell and Koh with the film's producer-director Andrea Stewart and executive producer Danny Melville.