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# City Lights on at WMG

By JOHN CLARKE JR.

City Lights Media Group, the New York-based one-stop shop for producing, distributing television programming and acquiring and distributing feature films, inked a deal Monday with Warner Music Group and the WEA Corp., a division of Warner.

The distribution deal will focus on films, television programming and documentaries and presumably some music projects.

The big question now is whether the indie outfit, with its wide-ranging diverse interests, will lose any creative independence or credibility.

"It doesn't hinder us at all," City Lights prexy Danny Fisher said. "It gives us more freedom. We have much more access to production and acquisitions and financing deals."

For years, Fisher said, City

Lights has been a work-for-hire sort of company. "We dabbled," he said. "But I decided to get into original production. This is a commitment. Call it a midlife crisis. Call it a Jerry Maguire moment. Call it what you want. I just knew this company could do a lot more."

Fisher said his company approached WEA and the two hit it off right away.

"We were doing well, but we weren't doing as much production or things on the creative side," he said. "We wanted to develop more and be seen as a major independent. And I think we're heading there now. This partnership allows me to do that."

City Lights has the distribution rights to Rosario Dawson's upcoming pic "Descent" and produces AMC's "Movies 101." It also produced the upcoming docu "Suicide Killers."