



WEA vid deal for City Lights

By Gregg Goldstein
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NEW YORK -- Warner Music Group's WEA Corp. has signed a deal to domestically distribute feature film, television and other programming for City Lights Media Group on home video and via digital download.

Beginning in the spring, City Lights Home Entertainment plans to release 20-25 programs per year through WEA's distribution network, including the Rosario Dawson-produced drama "Descent."

City Lights will continue distributing projects theatrically itself, aiming for about a dozen acquisitions and a dozen self-produced projects annually, but it will not likely sell individual video or digital rights to other companies. The company will, however, still sell all worldwide distribution rights to select projects it produces, including the recent Sundance entrant "The Ten."

"We see ourselves two or three years down the line as a major independent," City Lights CEO Danny Fisher said. "We wanted to partner with a strong company that has leverage in the marketplace as opposed to starting from scratch."

Fisher anticipates that WEA will partner with another company to offer digital downloads of City Lights content next year and said he's open to the idea of day-and-date video and Internet releasing.

Upcoming projects Fisher expects to be released through the WEA deal include the AMC series "Movies 101" and special-interest content, which may include fitness and extreme-fighting videos.