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'Retirement' lures Gervais

Warner Bros. is 'Early' to rise

By [DIANE GARRETT](#)

Ricky Gervais is getting ready for "Early Retirement" at Warner Bros.

British comic is attached to star in the feature based on Mark Perez's comedy pitch about an work-obsessed man who quits his demanding job to spend more time with his family. Mosaic Media's Charles Roven and Richard Suckle are producing, with Perez exec producing.

Suckle heard the writer's pitch, then approached Gervais, creator of the U.K. versions of "The Office" and "Extras," who became attached to the project, which they sold to Warner.

Perez said he wanted to do a movie that picks up where other family comedies leave off -- with the husband quitting his job to spend more time with his family -- and then watch what happens.

"It was fun to get to do the opposite of most family comedies," Perez said, "because I've written my share of those."

Gervais last appeared on the bigscreen in "Night at the Museum" and is about to start filming "Ghost Town" for DreamWorks.

Perez recently sold the pitch "What About Barb" to Universal as a starring vehicle for Elizabeth Banks and is currently rewriting "Cool School" for Fox. He will direct "Cellmates" for New Regency based on his screenplay.

Previously, he penned "Accepted" for U.

Mosaic has many projects in the works, including "The International" at Columbia.

Gervais is repped by Endeavor. Perez is repped by CAA and managed by Brian Lutz.

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