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## **First Independent takes US rights to Sundance drama *Big Fan***

**Jeremy Kay in Los Angeles**

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**Gary Rubin's First Independent Pictures has acquired US rights to Sundance drama *Big Fan*, the directing debut of *The Wrestler* screenwriter Robert Siegel.**

First Independent plans a late summer to early autumn release for the tale of an obsessive New York Giants baseball fan whose encounter with his hero ends in violence.

Patton Oswalt stars with Kevin Corrigan, Michael Rapaport and Michael Simmonds. Jean Kouremetis and Elan Bogarin produced alongside executive producer Jen Cohn.

"This was a surprise," Rubin said. "We loved the film at Sundance but it didn't seem at the time that a deal would happen. By chance, we stumbled onto the opportunity late in the game, and Rob and I just saw eye-to-eye."

"I'm so psyched – and relieved – to have *Big Fan* in First Independent's hands." Siegel said. "Gary just gets it. He believes in this movie. And he knows exactly what to do with it to bring it audiences."

Rubin and attorney Shelley Surpin handled negotiations for First Independent with sales agent Andrew Hurwitz.

Los Angeles-based First Independent's current slate includes the comedy *Gigantic*, which is currently in release and stars Paul Dano, Zooey Deschanel and John Goodman.

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