

Talking to Deadline, Disney executive Rich Ross told the site at this weekends D23: "I'm hoping to do it. I'm certainly hoping. I think it's a compelling story and no one wants to work with Jerry and Johnny more than me so we'll see how it works." As they point out, the omission of Verbinski may be a telling sign that they'll be moving ahead with the project without him. Here is an excerpt from their report. Verbinski and Bruckheimer have been working hard to tone down or lose some of the budget-busting spectacular scenes in Justin Haythe's script. At the same time, Bruckheimer as well as reps for Depp and Verbinski have been discussing ways to defer big chunks of their upfront paydays. Salary between all three likely accounts for \$30 million or more. And if the trio's back end deals weren't at cash break before, they likely will be now

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