

LAW AND DISORDER ON SET OF **CROWE'S** NEW COWBOY FLICK

IT'S the wild, wild west both onscreen and off for Russell Crowe and Christian Bale – as the two tangle while remaking the classic shoot-'em-up “3:10 to Yuma.”

Sources say the production has been jolted by a horse's tragic death, injuries and illness – and the two actors openly sparring with each other.

“It's a rough-and-tumble set with problems stemming from the violence of the action shots to sickness from the heat,” a source close to the production told *The ENQUIRER*.

“And to make things worse, Russell and Christian can't seem to agree on anything.”

The movie – which is filming outside Santa Fe, N.M. – suffered a huge setback Oct. 23 when a quarter horse and its rider crashed head-on into a camera vehicle.

The horse broke a leg and was euthanized – setting off

Feuding stars ready for a **SHOWDOWN**

an investigation by American Humane, an organization that tracks the welfare of animals on film sets.

The stuntman riding the horse suffered a punctured lung, broken clavicle, broken ribs and other injuries. He spent four weeks in the hospital and is considering filing a lawsuit.

But the on-set troubles started on the production's first day.

“Russell immediately made demands about where he wanted his trailer and insisted on a satellite hookup so he could be in constant contact with his family in Australia,” said the source.

“He also said he wanted the wardrobe and make-up people

on call just for him.

“When an assistant director announced one day that Russell was sick from heat exhaustion and wouldn't be on the set, a cheer went up from the crew.”

Meanwhile, Bale – who starred in “Batman Begins” – is beloved by the crew.

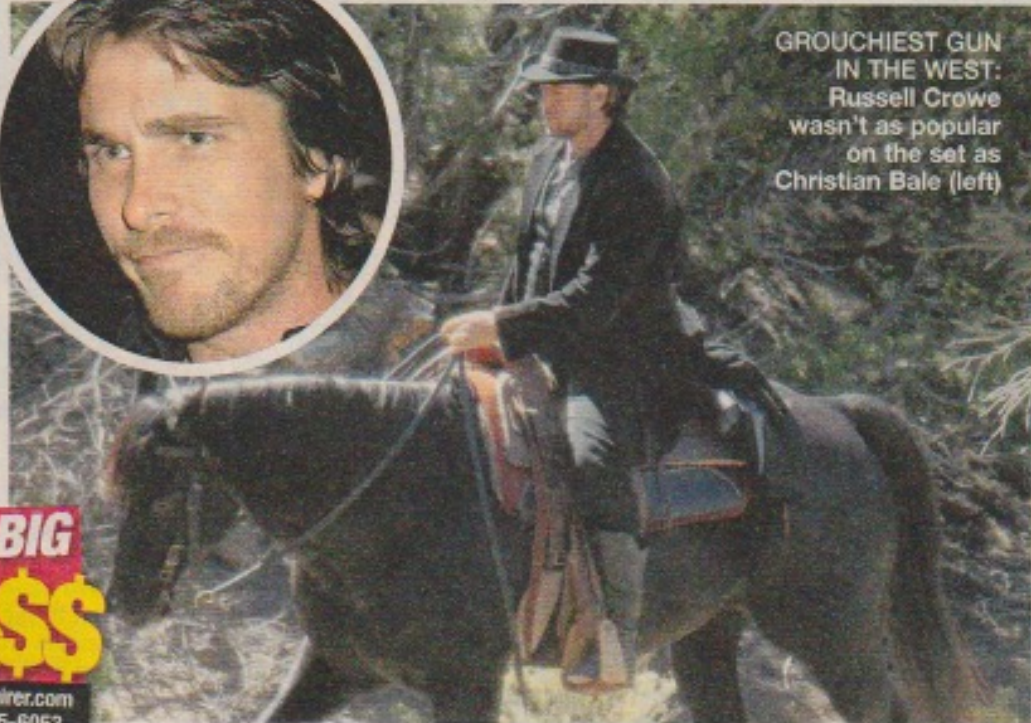
“Christian knows the names of all the crew members and always says ‘good morning’ to them,” said the source.

“He's an excellent rider, and one day he was explaining to the crew how the horse's bit works.

“Russell yelled, ‘Everyone bloody well knows all about that!’ then stomped off. Since that incident, the two don't talk off-camera.

“The only good news is that the investigation into the horse's death recommended against filing legal charges against the production.”

by **ROBIN MIZRAHI**



GROUCHIEST GUN
IN THE WEST:
Russell Crowe
wasn't as popular
on the set as
Christian Bale (left)

PAY BIG

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