Plaintiffs Worldview Entertainment Holdings, Inc. ("Worldview Holdings"), Worldview Entertainment Capital LLC ("WEC"), Worldview Entertainment Capital II LLC ("WEC II"), Worldview Entertainment Partners VIII LLC ("WEP VIII"), and WIWH Funding LLC ("WIWH Funding") (collectively, "Worldview") hereby allege against Defendant Wild Bunch, S.A. ("Defendant" or "Wild Bunch") and Does 1-10 (the "Doe Defendants") as follows:

INTRODUCTION

- 1. This case arises out of Wild Bunch's extralegal attempts to deprive Worldview of the benefits of the parties' contract with respect to one film and to extract from Worldview benefits to which it is not entitled with respect to two other films. In connection with the film entitled "Wish I Was Here," Wild Bunch has breached its contractual obligation to WIWH Funding by refusing to remit monies that are owed to WIWH Funding under a Collection Account Manager Agreement ("CAMA"), dated August 13, 2014. Rather than paying WIWH Funding as contractually and legally required, Wild Bunch is keeping hundreds of thousands of WIWH Funding's dollars for itself. At the same time, in connection with two other films entitled "The Search" and "Jimmy P", Wild Bunch is attempting to deprive Worldview of its constitutional right to a trial by seeking to force Worldview into two out-of-state arbitrations despite the absence of a binding arbitration agreement, or, indeed, any binding agreement at all.
- 2. On April 21, 2015, Wild Bunch purported to provide "notice" to WIWH Funding that Wild Bunch had wired some funds, while withholding others, that are due and owing to WIWH Funding and others under the CAMA. Wild Bunch admitted that it owed \$1,075,000 to the WIWH collection account under the CAMA as local distributor of "Wish I Was Here" in the territories of France, Germany and Spain. But rather than complying with its obligations and remitting the funds as required, Wild Bunch made a partial payment of \$781,919 while "retaining" the balance of the funds (\$293,081) for itself. Under the terms of the CAMA, the Court should compel Wild Bunch to submit its dispute concerning "Wish I Was Here" proceeds to "binding, final and exclusive arbitration in Los Angeles, California" under the rules in force for the Independent Film and Television Alliance ("IFTA").

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- 3. In addition to withholding funds that are due in connection with the film "Wish I Was Here," Wild Bunch is asserting baseless contract claims against Worldview in connection with the films "The Search" and "Jimmy P." On or around March 4, 2015, Wild Bunch filed two arbitrations against Worldview in New York, one alleging a breach of a purported contract in connection with the financing of the film "The Search," and the other alleging a breach of a purported contract concerning the financing of the film "Jimmy P". The breach of contract claims that Wild Bunch is pursuing in the New York arbitrations are groundless because neither of the purported contracts that Wild Bunch is attempting to enforce are either valid or enforceable against any Worldview entity. Furthermore, neither of the purported contracts at issue contains an enforceable agreement to submit the parties' disputes to arbitration.
- 4. Specifically, the New York arbitration concerning "The Search," initiated before the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services ("JAMS"), is premised on a draft agreement that was never finalized, never agreed upon by the parties, and most importantly, never executed by the parties, a condition precedent for the agreement to have force or effect. Accordingly, the agreement is invalid and unenforceable in its entirety. Furthermore, the draft arbitration provision contained in this proposed agreement is unenforceable because it was not agreed to by Worldview and it does not constitute a written agreement to arbitrate, as required under California Code of Civil Procedure section 1281. Moreover, the draft agreement purports to be between Wild Bunch and plaintiff WEC II. There is no other Worldview entity that is even alleged to have entered into the purported "The Search" contract. Nevertheless, Wild Bunch is seeking to compel not only WEC II to submit to the New York JAMS arbitration, but it also has dragged several other Worldview entities into the proceeding even though they have no connection to the purported contract.
- 5. Similarly, the New York arbitration concerning "Jimmy P," initiated before the American Arbitration Association ("AAA"), is premised on a term sheet that expressly conditions all of the parties' obligations, including the obligation to submit disputes to arbitration, on various conditions precedent that indisputably have not been met. Accordingly, the arbitration provision in this "Jimmy P" term sheet cannot be enforced against any Worldview entity. Moreover, the only Worldview entity that is even alleged to be a party to the invalid "Jimmy P" term sheet is plaintiff

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Worldview Holdings. Nevertheless, Wild Bunch is seeking to compel not only Worldview Holdings but also several other Worldview entities to submit to the New York AAA Arbitration.

- 6. Worldview has notified Wild Bunch, as well as JAMS and AAA, that it objects to both New York arbitrations in their entirety. Wild Bunch has continued its efforts to proceed with the New York arbitrations, notwithstanding such objections. In addition, both JAMS and AAA have declined to dismiss the arbitrations and recently have set dates for conducting "preliminary conferences" that presumably are intended to establish schedules for completing the arbitrations, notwithstanding the fact that neither JAMS nor AAA has the authority to decide the disputes because neither dispute is subject to a binding agreement to arbitrate.
- 7. To preserve its constitutional right to trial with respect to Wild Bunch's claims concerning "The Search and "Jimmy P," Worldview now seeks a judicial declaration by the Court that the purported contracts upon which Wild Bunch bases its claims in the New York arbitrations are invalid and, furthermore, that Wild Bunch may not compel Worldview to litigate such claims in arbitration. To the extent that such claims are allowed to proceed at all, then they should proceed in this Court.
- 8. In addition, Worldview seeks a preliminary and/or permanent injunction preventing Wild Bunch from proceeding with the New York arbitrations and staying proceedings before JAMS and AAA during the pendency of this California action.
- 9. Finally, Worldview requests that the Court compel arbitration of Wild Bunch's and WIWH Funding's dispute concerning "Wish I Was Here" proceeds that are owed to WIWH Funding under the CAMA, with the arbitration to take place in Los Angeles, California, under the rules in force for IFTA as required by the CAMA.

PARTIES

10. Plaintiff Worldview Holdings is a holding company. It is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 1706 Riverside Drive, Trenton, New Jersey, 08618, doing business in Los Angeles, California.

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11.	Plaintiff WEC is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of
business at	1706 Riverside Drive, Trenton, New Jersey, 08618, doing business in Los Angeles,
California	

- 12. Plaintiff WEC II is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business at 1706 Riverside Drive, Trenton, New Jersey, 08618, doing business in Los Angeles, California.
- Plaintiff WEP VIII is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business at 1706 Riverside Drive, Trenton, New Jersey, 08618, doing business in Los Angeles, California.
- 14. Plaintiff WIWH Funding is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business at 1706 Riverside Drive, Trenton, New Jersey, 08618, doing business in Los Angeles, California.
- 15. Worldview is informed and believe and thereon alleges that defendant Wild Bunch is a French corporation engaged in the business of international motion picture sales, production, and distribution. Worldview is further informed and believe and thereon alleges that Defendant regularly conducts business in California.
- The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, association, or otherwise, of the defendants sued herein as Does 1 through 10, inclusive, are unknown to Worldview. Worldview will amend this complaint to allege their true names and capacities when ascertained. Worldview is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each of such fictitiously named defendants is responsible in some manner for the occurrences herein.

ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

On or around March 4, 2015, Defendant filed two arbitration demands against Worldview, one with JAMS relating to the film "Jimmy P" and one with AAA relating to the film "The Search." Neither demand is supported by an enforceable written contract or by a written agreement to arbitrate.

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A. The Search Arbitration

- New York City against Worldview Holdings, WEC, WEC II, and WEP VIII, asserting a claim for breach of a purported financing agreement between Wild Bunch and WEC II concerning the film "The Search" ("Draft Agreement"). This demand for arbitration ("JAMS Demand") alleges that the dispute is subject to arbitration because an oral agreement between the parties was memorialized in a Draft Agreement that includes an arbitration provision. The Draft Agreement attached to the JAMS Demand, however, is an unsigned draft, containing numerous highlights, redline changes and comments, demonstrating that the material terms of the agreement were still being negotiated at the time this document was created. A true and correct copy of the Draft Agreement attached to the JAMS Demand as "Exhibit 1" is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."
- 19. As demonstrated by Exhibit A, the obligations purported to be contained within the Draft Agreement could not be completed within one year.
- 20. The Draft Agreement was never finalized and the parties never reached a final agreement concerning "The Search." For example, the parties did not agree on numerous material terms, including, without limitation, terms relating to WEC II's fee, the percentage of net profits to which WEC II would be entitled, the recoupability of WEC II's expenses, the holdback provision regarding distribution in France (which would impact the distribution schedule in North America), and Wild Bunch's reporting procedures and obligations to WEC II.
- Moreover, the Draft Agreement purports to bind only WEC II. None of the other Worldview entities named as respondents in the JAMS Demand are even identified as parties to the Draft Agreement and, thus, could not be forced into arbitration even if the Draft Agreement were a valid and enforceable contract, which it is not.
- 22. Furthermore, the Draft Agreement expressly conditions the parties' obligations, including the obligation to submit disputes to arbitration, on numerous material conditions precedent that were never met. By way of example only, the Draft Agreement unequivocally conditions WEC II's obligations, including an obligation to submit to arbitration, on, among other things, the "Agreement being fully executed by the parties hereto." The Draft Agreement submitted to JAMS

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by Wild Bunch was not executed by either party, and no such fully executed agreement exists.

Because the conditions precedent to WEC II's obligation to be bound by the Draft Agreement have not been met, there is no binding agreement with respect to "The Search," and the purported agreement to arbitrate contained in the Draft Agreement cannot be enforced against WEC II or any other Worldview entity.

B. The Jimmy P Arbitration

- On or around March 4, 2015, Defendant filed a demand for arbitration with AAA in New York City against Worldview Holdings, WEC, WEC II, and WEP VIII, asserting a claim for breach of a term sheet between Wild Bunch and Worldview Holdings concerning the film "Jimmy P" ("Term Sheet"). This demand for arbitration ("AAA Demand") alleges that the dispute is subject to arbitration because the Term Sheet includes an arbitration provision.
- The Term Sheet, however, expressly conditions Worldview Holdings' obligations, including the obligation to submit disputes to arbitration, on various conditions precedent that were never met. By way of example only, the Term Sheet unequivocally conditions Worldview Holdings' obligations, including an obligation to submit to arbitration, on, among other things, Worldview Holdings' "receipt of . . . fully executed long form financing agreement" in connection with the film "Jimmy P." No such long form financing agreement has been identified by Wild Bunch and, in fact, no such long form financing agreement exists. Because this condition precedent to Worldview Holdings' obligation to be bound by the Term Sheet was not met, the purported agreement relating to "Jimmy P," including the agreement to arbitrate contained in the Term Sheet, cannot be enforced against Worldview Holdings.
- 25. Moreover, the Term Sheet purports to bind only Worldview Holdings. None of the other Worldview entities named as respondents in the AAA Demand are signatories to the Term Sheet and, thus, cannot be forced into arbitration based on the Term Sheet. A true and correct copy of the Term Sheet attached to the AAA Demand as "Exhibit 1" is attached hereto as **Exhibit "B."**
- 26. For several months, after Wild Bunch initiated the New York arbitrations and after Worldview asserted its object thereto, Wild Bunch took little or no action to prosecute its claims.
 Recently, however, Wild Bunch has renewed its efforts to proceed with two arbitrations, thereby

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necessitating this action. If the New York arbitrations are allowed to proceed, then Worldview will be deprived of its right to trial and of the protections of California law against Wild Bunch's baseless claims of breach, and will suffer irreparable harm. Moreover, judicial intervention is necessary to prevent a multiplicity of judicial proceedings with potentially inconsistent results.

C. The "Wish I Was Here" Dispute

- 27. Both WIWH Funding and Wild Bunch are parties to the CAMA, dated August 13, 2014. The CAMA governs the collection and delivery of monies in connection with the distribution of the film "Wish I Was Here." A true and correct copy of the CAMA is attached hereto as Exhibit "C."
- 28. On or about January 27, 2015, Wild Bunch purported to provide "notice" to WIWH Funding that Wild Bunch would not pay certain Minimum Guarantees ("MG") relating to its sale of the film in the territories of France, German-speaking Europe and Spain, that were owed in connection with the film "Wish I Was Here." The reason given by Wild Bunch for this unlawful non-payment was that Wild Bunch was "exercising its offset rights" and offsetting the MG owed under the CAMA against amounts that Wild Bunch claims are owed by Worldview in connection with "The Search" and "Jimmy P".
- 29. Upon receipt of such notice, WIWH Funding notified Wild Bunch that its actions were unlawful and improper. In particular, Wild Bunch's decision to withhold monies that are due under the CAMA is the equivalent of outright theft. Wild Bunch has no "offset rights" that would allow it to withhold funds owed under the CAMA. For one thing, the parties to the various "agreements" are not the same. The money owed by Wild Bunch to WIWH Funding (and various third-parties) under the CAMA obviously cannot be "offset" against amounts that Wild Bunch claims are owed by Worldview under other agreements to which WIWH Funding is not a party. This is particularly true because some of the funds ultimately are owed to the WIWH filmmakers, who have no connection whatsoever to "Jimmy P" or "The Search." Furthermore, as alleged above, there are no amounts owed to Wild Bunch under the "Jimmy P" Term Sheet or under the purported Draft Agreement relating to "The Search" because neither of those alleged contracts are valid or enforceable.

- 30. On or about April 21, 2015, Wild Bunch purported to provide "notice" that it had wired some funds, while withholding others, that were due and owing to the CAMA beneficiaries, in the amount of \$781,919, while "retaining" the balance of the funds (\$293,081) for itself. At the same time, Wild Bunch directed the CAMA's collection agent to distribute the remitted funds in a manner that is prohibited by the express terms of the CAMA. In particular, Wild Bunch sought to have its partial payment distributed to "all beneficiaries under the Collection Account Manager Agreement dated August 19, 2013 except WIWH Funding, LLC," which contravenes the CAMA's agreed-upon payment waterfall.
- On or about August 23, 2015; the CAMA's collection agent notified the parties that, in light of the conflicting claims between Wild Bunch and WIWH Funding with respect to monies due under the CAMA, the collection agent had elected to "suspend the distribution of the disputed amount" until the conflict between Wild Bunch and WIWH Funding has been resolved.
- 32. The conflict between Wild Bunch and WIWH Funding is subject to the CAMA's arbitration provision. Under the terms of the CAMA, should any dispute arise between two or more parties to the contract, the dispute "shall be resolved by binding, final and exclusive arbitration in Los Angeles, California ('FORUM') under the rules then in force for the Independent Film and Television Alliance ('IFTA')." Exh. C, Clause 8.1.
- 33. Wild Bunch's actions with respect to the withholding of funds from WIWH Funding go beyond a mere breach of the CAMA—they constitute a breach of Wild Bunch's fiduciary duties, a blatant interference with Worldview's existing business relationships and prospective business relations, and a wrongful conversion (i.e., theft) of monies due and owing to WIWH Funding.
- 34. In addition, Worldview is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Wild Bunch has breached the CAMA and its obligations to WIWH Funding in other ways by, for example, failing to collect the agreed-upon Minimum Price from distributors of the film "Wish I Was Here" for the territories of India, Taiwan, Latin America, Australia, CIS, Airlines, Ex-Yugoslavia, Iceland, Israel, Middle East, Portugal, Switzerland, and Turkey, as required.

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WIWH Funding seeks an order from this Court compelling the parties to submit their 35. dispute relating to the film "Wish I Was Here," to an arbitration in Los Angeles, California, to be administered under the current IFTA rules as required by the CAMA.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Declaratory and Injunctive Relief as to The Search Arbitration)

(Against all Defendants)

- Worldview repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations in Paragraphs 1 36. through 35 above, as though fully set forth herein.
- An actual controversy has arisen, and now exists, between Worldview, on the one 37. hand, and Defendant, on the other hand, regarding whether a binding written agreement, including an agreement to arbitrate the claim asserted in the JAMS Demand, exists, and the parties are unable to resolve this dispute unless and until the Court declares the parties' rights and obligations.
- Specifically, Worldview contends that the Draft Agreement attached to the JAMS 38. Demand does not constitute a binding written agreement. Thus, the purported agreement to arbitrate is not binding because it is part of an unsigned and incomplete draft, containing redline changes and comments, demonstrating that the terms of the agreement were never finalized, and at the time this document was created, were still being negotiated. Worldview also contends that the Draft Agreement, and in particular the purported arbitration provision therein, is not enforceable against any Worldview entity because the obligations under the Draft Agreement are subject to conditions precedent that have not been met. Additionally, the Draft Agreement, and in particular the purported arbitration provision therein, is not enforceable against Worldview Holdings, WEC and WEP VIII for the additional reason that such entities are not even listed as parties to the Draft Agreement.
 - Worldview is informed and believes that Wild Bunch contends that the Draft 39. Agreement constitutes a binding written agreement which includes an agreement to arbitrate the claim asserted in the JAMS Demand.

	40.	Accordingly, Worldview seeks a declaration of the parties' rights and obligations
ınder	the Dra	ft Agreement, including the arbitrability of claims arising out of that purported
igree	ment.	

- 41. Worldview also seeks preliminary injunctive relief against Defendant, enjoining Defendant and its agents from proceeding with the New York arbitration concerning "The Search". A legal remedy would be wholly inadequate because it would require Worldview to submit to an arbitration to which it never agreed, thus depriving Worldview of its constitutional right to trial and causing irreparable harm.
- 42. Worldview is also entitled to a permanent injunction, permanently enjoining

 Defendant and its agents from proceeding with the New York arbitration concerning "The Search".

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Declaratory and Injunctive Relief as to the Jimmy P. Arbitration)

(Against all Defendants)

- 43. Worldview repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations in Paragraphs 1 through 42 above, as though fully set forth herein.
- 44. An actual controversy has arisen, and now exists, between Worldview, on the one hand, and Defendant, on the other hand, regarding whether a binding and enforceable written agreement, including an agreement to arbitrate the claim asserted in the AAA Demand, exists, and the parties are unable to resolve this disputes unless and until the Court declares the parties' rights and obligations.
- 45. Specifically, Worldview contends that the Term Sheet attached to the AAA Demand, and in particular the purported arbitration provision therein, is not enforceable against any Worldview entity because the obligations under the Term Sheet are subject to conditions precedent that have not been met. Additionally, Worldview contends that the Term Sheet, and in particular the purported arbitration provision therein, is not enforceable against WEC, WEC II, and WEP VIII for the additional reason that such entities are not even signatories to the Term Sheet.

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46.	. Worldview is informed and believes that Wild Bunch	contends that the Term Sheet
constitutes	s a binding written agreement which includes an agreemen	t to arbitrate the claim asserted
in the AA	A Demand	-

- 47. Accordingly, Worldview seeks a declaration of the parties' rights and obligations under the Term Sheet, including the arbitrability of claims arising out of the Term Sheet.
- 48. Worldview also seeks preliminary injunctive relief against Defendant, enjoining Defendant and its agents from proceeding with New York arbitration concerning "Jimmy P." A legal remedy would be wholly inadequate because it would require Worldview to submit to an arbitration to which it never agreed, thus depriving Worldview of its constitutional right to trial and causing irreparable harm.
- 49. Worldview is also entitled to a permanent injunction, permanently enjoining Defendant and its agents from proceeding with New York arbitration concerning "Jimmy P".

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Petition to Compel Arbitration in Los Angeles, California Under the IFTA Rules)

(Against Wild Bunch)

- 50. Worldview repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations in Paragraphs 1 through 49 above, as though fully set forth herein.
- 51. On or about August 13, 2014, Wild Bunch and WIWH Funding freely and voluntarily entered into the CAMA which contains an arbitration provision, as Clause 8.1, to provide a neutral forum for the arbitration of any disputes among the contracting parties as follows:

[S]hould any dispute arise between any two or more of the Parties with respect to this Collection Account Management Agreement or between any of the Parties and FCAM with respect to this Collection Account Management Agreement, the dispute shall be resolved by binding, final and exclusive arbitration in Los Angeles, California ("Forum") under the rules then in force for the Independent Film and Television Alliance ("IFTA")[.]

52. Under the terms of the CAMA, Wild Bunch was required to deposit \$1,075,000 into a collection management account, to be distributed to the CAMA beneficiaries, in accordance with the contract terms.

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•	53.	Wild Bunch wrongfully has withheld \$293,081 of these funds - which the CAMA
ocat	es for d	istribution to WIWH Funding – for itself, in direct breach of the CAMA.

- 54. In addition, Wild Bunch has engaged in additional wrongful acts and breaches of the CAMA terms that have caused severe harm to WIWH Funding and the other Worldview entities, in an amount to be proved at the IFTA arbitration.
- 55. Under the terms of the CAMA, Wild Bunch is compelled to submit to arbitration of the parties' dispute in Los Angeles, California.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Worldview prays for judgment against Defendant as follows:

First Cause of Action:

- 1. For a declaration of the parties' rights and obligations under the Draft Agreement, including under the purported draft arbitration provision.
- 2. For a temporary restraining order, preliminary, and/or permanent injunction enjoining Defendant from proceeding with the arbitration initiated by Defendant against Worldview on or around March 4, 2015 before JAMS.

Second Cause of Action:

- 1. For a declaration of the parties' rights and obligations under the Term Sheet, including under the purported arbitration provision.
- 2. For a temporary restraining order, preliminary, and/or permanent injunction enjoining Defendant from proceeding with the arbitration initiated by Defendant against Worldview on or around March 4, 2015 before AAA.

Third Cause of Action:

For an order compelling Defendant to submit to arbitration in Los Angeles,
 California, under the current IFTA rules, in accordance with the CAMA's express terms.

COMPLAINT

As To All Causes of Action:

fees, expert fees, reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses associated with the prosecution of this

For any other and further relief as the Court may deem proper.

Respectfully submitted,

GLASER WEIL FINK HOWARD AVCHEN & SHAPIRO LLP

JULIA B. CHERLOW Attorneys for Plaintiffs Worldview Entertainment Holdings, Inc., Worldview Entertainment Capital LLC, Worldview Entertainment Capital II LLC, Worldview Entertainment Partners VIII LLC

and WIWH Funding LLC

COMPLAINT

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