Casey Bloys On 'Harry Potter', 'Heated Rivalry', 'Neighbors', John Oliver, Paramount Merger & Lunch With Ted Sarandos As HBO Max Launches In UK

By Dominic Patten
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Casey Bloys
Photo: Getty Image

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Casey Bloys is once again at the forefront of a pivotal moment in entertainment history. But it's not the moment he was preparing for a month ago. With the Warner Bros. Discovery merger with Paramount Skydance Bros. Discovery, Bloys and his team are now facing a new future.

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In an interview with Deadline, Bloys discusses his work carefully on the Kroll merger, but that short affair is something to be said for a moment. Bloys and his Warner Bros. Discovery streaming service, "I don't know what the setup looks like," but there are certainly some great potential combinations.

Tonight, he is in London at HBO Max Big Screen Bloomsbury in the U.K. and Ireland where he is hosting a dinner for the cast of the Harry Potter franchise and the creators. A pitch-heavy panel is slated for London is taking place as the streaming behemoth in the UK kicks shape — one in which HBO begins separating from long-time local partner Sky.

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In this wide-ranging interview with HBO Chairman and CEO of HBO and Max Content, Bloys also talks about the future of John Oliver's Emmy-winning Last Week Tonight, the upcoming merger in the US, a potential, but unexpected lunch at Netflix's place into the content arts and addresses that lunch with Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos, which has set tongues wagging all over Hollywood.

DEADLINE: *Big day for you guys. You built local very calm. You have talked about how this launch completes the core rollout of HBO Max in Europe. Can you contextualize what today means for the HBO Max brand?*

CASEY BLOYS: It does. It's a lot of work, it's a lot of work. It's a lot of work. When you talk about it, it's been, you know, it's been a long, long, long time. HBO has been around for over 50 and, it is, it sounds as stable, as important, given the obviously large organization, and so creatively vibrant as the UK, the idea that this is the first time that we will have our own branded service that houses all the best of Warner Bros. Discovery, HBO, and Max Content, and we can bring it to the UK through all in one place, it's a big moment. Frankly, it's a big moment in the history of this incredible company.

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DEADLINE: *Funny, you know the UK production community very well, but how will you use this launch as a reason to drive the UK community even better?*

CASEY BLOYS: I don't know that it's possible to know the UK before I would say, is odd to say I'd, I'm saying, I'm personally excited, just because we have been, we've been, we've been, we've