

CINEPLEX

MAGAZINE

STAR WARS NEW HERO

Felicity Jones TALKS ROGUE ONE

Inside

MICHAEL FASSBENDER

RYAN GOSLING

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LIAM NEESON

DEV PATEL

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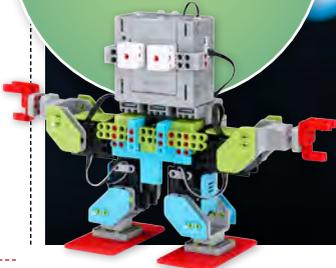
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If you were surprised that British thespian **Felicity Jones** was cast as the lead in *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* you are not alone. In this exclusive interview Jones tells us about landing the role of rebel hero Jyn Erso, a character she says was inspired, in part, by James Dean
BY INGRID RANDOJA

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HEARD OF STAR WARS?

Do you think there's anyone left in the civilized world that hasn't heard of *Star Wars*? After seven movies, a handful of animated series, a shelf full of books (both comic and narrative), and landfills full of shampoo bottles, sheet sets, dolls — sorry, action figures — and Yoda-shaped cookies, you may be surprised to hear the answer is a definitive “yes.”

Not only are there people in the civilized world that have no idea what *Star Wars* is, some of them actually play stormtroopers in *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, and are featured in one of the film's most iconic shots.

Turn to page 52 and take a look at the top image.

Since only 37% of you bothered to flip the page, I will describe that still (which happens to be quite stunning, all you people who didn't flip). Eleven stormtroopers waded in a straight line, blasters at the ready, through mint-green waters, their iconic white armour glowing against a steel-grey sky.

That scene was shot in the beautiful Maldives, an island nation in the Indian Ocean, and the actors inside those costumes are soldiers in the Maldivian army. At Disney's “Star Wars Celebration Europe” earlier this year *Rogue One* director Gareth Edwards revealed that those actors didn't have a clue what they were doing, or who they were playing.

“As we're filming we're thinking, ‘God, it's so cool! Imagine being these guys, they must be so excited,” recalled Edwards. “At the end you go up to them and say, ‘That was cool, right? You got to be stormtroopers!’ And they're like, ‘What?’ ‘You got to be stormtroopers!’ And they're like ‘Huh?’ ‘You know, *Star Wars*?’ ‘No.”

It's refreshing, isn't it?

Since *The Force Awakens*, last year's triumphant return of the *Star Wars* franchise, started shooting in May 2014 we've been showered with stories about “that moment” when an actor or filmmaker involved was hit with the awesome reality that they were making a *Star Wars* film. Perhaps it was an encounter with Carrie Fisher, or coming upon the Millennium Falcon on set. I've enjoyed them all.

But here are these guys, who grew up in a watery nation as exotic and, to be honest, plagued by political strife and natural catastrophes as dramatic as anything in the *Star Wars* movies, and they've never even heard of *Star Wars*. That white, hard-shell armour on their backs is as meaningful to them as a new snowsuit from Land's End.

The good thing for them — aside from playing stormtroopers in the most famous film franchise of all time — is that watching the *Star Wars* movies is an experience still ahead of them, if they ever choose to partake.

Turn to page 48 for “Rebel With a Cause,” our interview with **Felicity Jones** about landing the lead role in the eighth *Star Wars* movie. Spoiler alert: Her *Star Wars* moment involved meeting Mark Hamill.

Elsewhere in this issue you'll find interviews with **Ryan Gosling** and **Emma Stone** for *La La Land* (page 34), **Dev Patel** and **Nicole Kidman** for *Lion* (page 42), **Michael Fassbender** for *Assassin's Creed* (page 38) and **Liam Neeson** for *A Monster Calls* (page 46). Plus, on page 22 we present our extensive **Holiday Gift Guide**, which is packed with unique and inspiring ideas. Don't go shopping without it.

■ **MARNI WEISZ**, EDITOR

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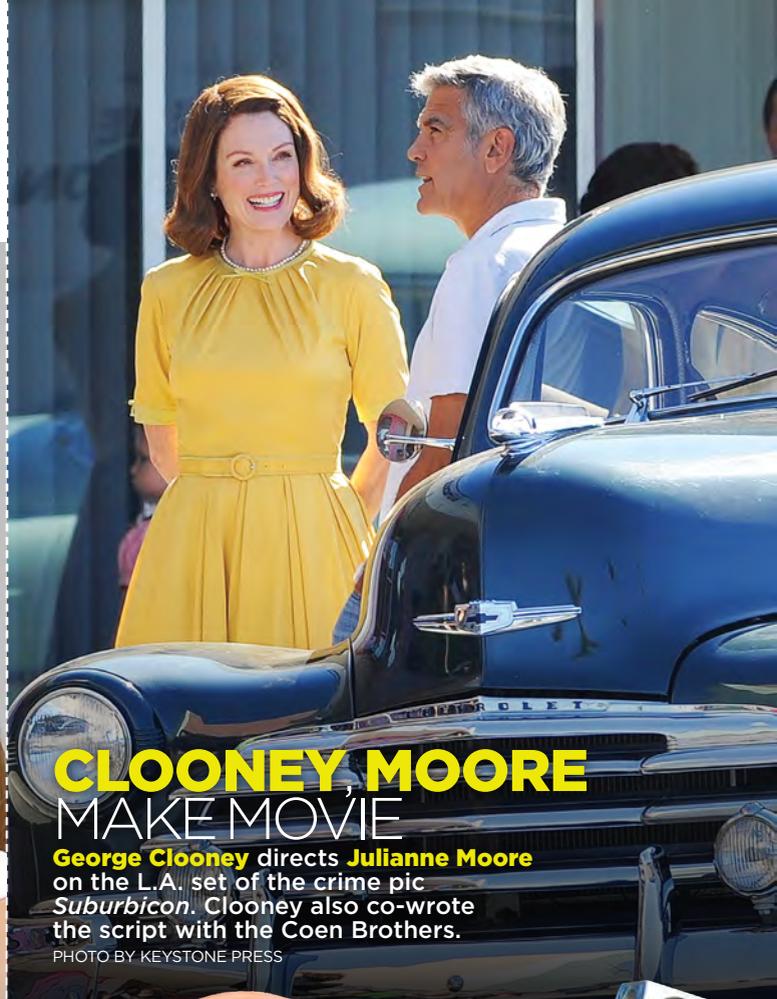
SNAPS



RENNER AND ADAMS MESS AROUND

Arrival stars **Jeremy Renner** and **Amy Adams** mug for the camera at the Royal Bank of Canada Gala during the BFI London Film Festival.

PHOTO BY DAVID M. BENETT/GETTY



CLOONEY, MOORE MAKE MOVIE

George Clooney directs **Julianne Moore** on the L.A. set of the crime pic *Suburbicon*. Clooney also co-wrote the script with the Coen Brothers.

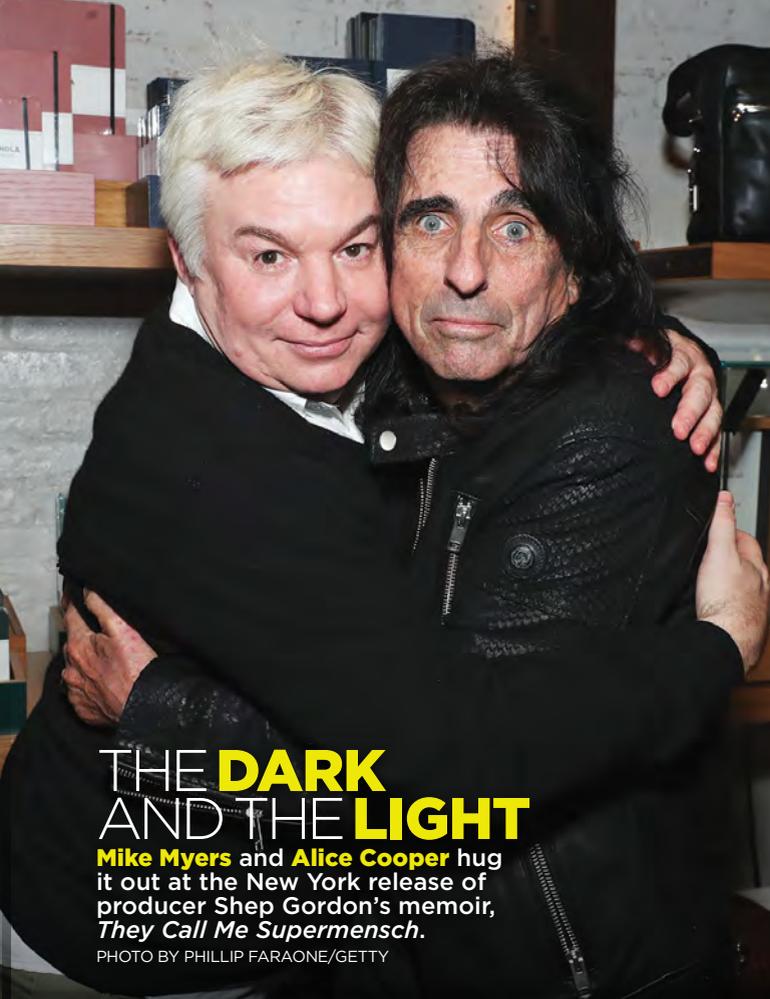
PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



ZELLWEGER GETS SOME AIR

Renée Zellweger holds onto a bunch of balloons at an ALS fundraising walk in Los Angeles.

PHOTO BY ARAYA DIAZ/GETTY



THE DARK AND THE LIGHT

Mike Myers and **Alice Cooper** hug it out at the New York release of producer Shep Gordon's memoir, *They Call Me Supermensch*.

PHOTO BY PHILLIP FARAONE/GETTY



WORKING ON WINSLET

Kate Winslet gets a touch-up on the New York set of Woody Allen's latest, as-yet-untitled film.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



GIBSON'S BIG GUN

On a break from shooting *The Professor and the Madman* at Dublin's McKee Barracks, **Mel Gibson** jumps onto a 25-pounder field gun during the regiment's 21-gun salute rehearsal, just for fun.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

IN BRIEF



SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

Passengers' Chris Pratt and Jennifer Lawrence

If there's one thing we've learned from the four big-budget space movies released over the past four years — *Gravity* (2013), *Interstellar* (2014), *The Martian* (2015) and this month's *Passengers* — it's that space is a lonely place.

That's no epiphany. After all, the universe is a vast expanse and not densely populated (as far as we know). Still, if there's one theme that unites all four films it's isolation.

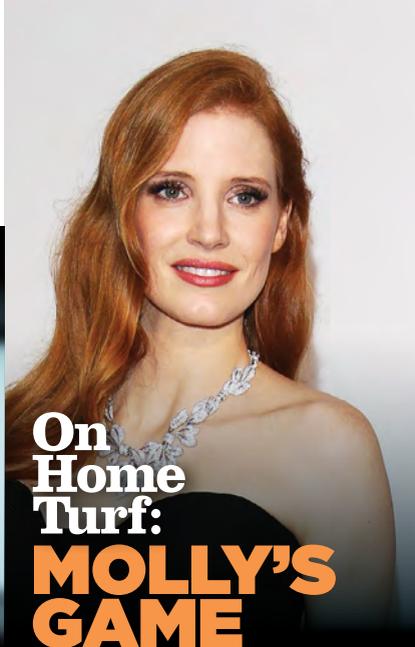
Gravity's Sandra Bullock

tumbles solo through space for much of her celebrated film. *The Martian's* Matt Damon is stranded alone on Mars when his crewmates mistake him for dead. Only *Interstellar* features a crew of four on its spacecraft, but here it's Damon again in a surprise cameo as an astronaut stranded alone on a distant planet who's so desperate to end his isolation he'll kill to return to civilization.

Now we have *Passengers*, in which a spacecraft packed with more than 5,000 humans

heads out on a century-long, one-way journey to a distant world. They're all down for a long, long nap...until two of them, played by Chris Pratt and Jennifer Lawrence, wake early by mistake and face spending the next 90 years with no one to talk to but each other.

So if you want the full experience, go see this movie by yourself, don't talk to anyone on the way in, or the way out. And maybe not for the rest of the year. —*MW*



On Home Turf: MOLLY'S GAME

Writer **Aaron Sorkin** has chosen Toronto as the place to shoot his directorial debut, *Molly's Game*, and is expected to be in town from now until the end of January.

The brain behind TV's *The West Wing* and films like *The Social Network* and *Moneyball* cast **Jessica Chastain** as Molly Bloom, the real-life competitive skier who organized a high-stakes poker game that attracted some of Hollywood's biggest stars, including Matt Damon, Ben Affleck, Leonardo DiCaprio and Tobey Maguire.

Bloom was eventually arrested for running the illegal game, and **Idris Elba** will play her lawyer. No word whether we'll get big-screen versions of those celebrity card sharks. —*MW*

THE ART OF FILM

Matt Pecson is a Sarasota painter who has synesthesia, a neurological condition in which the stimulation of one sense, like smell, evokes a response in another sense, like sight, and he uses that experience in his art. Pecson starts with images that are familiar to everyone, which often means painting celebrities. "Those popular images trigger colours, sounds, feelings and tastes and I then try to transcribe it into the language of paint," he says. The results are brilliant and alive, like these portraits (from left) of Judy Garland, Robin Williams and Darth Vader. To see more go to www.mattpecson.com. —*MW*



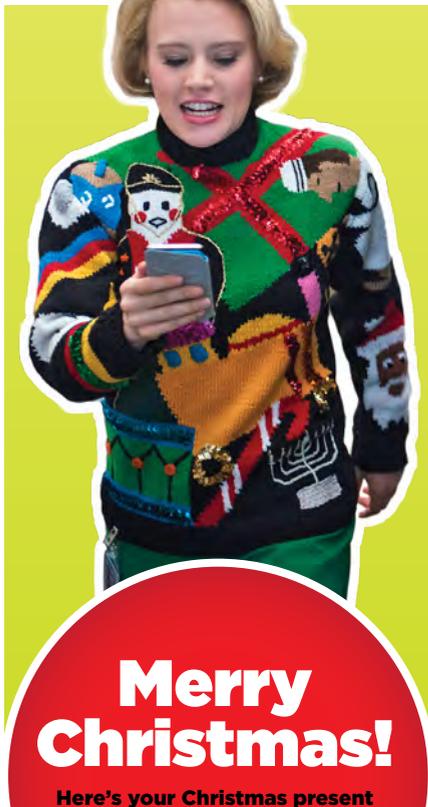


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Merry Christmas!

Here's your Christmas present from us. It's Kate McKinnon in an Ugly Holiday Sweater from *Office Christmas Party*. You're welcome.



PHOTO BY GETTY

HAPPY 100th You Crazy Kids!

We'd like to wish a very happy 100th birthday to Kirk Douglas! The star of *Champion*, *Lust for Life* and *Spartacus* hits the century mark on December 9th. Here you see him dancing with an older woman, *Gone With the Wind* star Olivia de Havilland, at the 1953 Cannes Film Festival. De Havilland turned 100 five months ago, on July 1st.



Quote Unquote

I think she was very aware of the splitting of selves, between the public, who the public wanted her to be, how the public perceived her, **who she really was, who she wanted to be.**

— JACKIE STAR
NATALIE PORTMAN
ON PLAYING
JACQUELINE KENNEDY

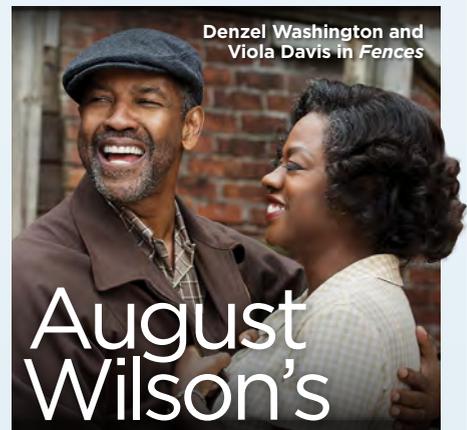
GARTH JENNINGS
TALKS *SING* AT TIFF



WHO'S THAT VOICE?

Universal's animated feature *Sing*, about a bunch of animals who put on a show, is packed with star power. Matthew McConaughey voices a koala, Reese Witherspoon is a pig, Scarlett Johansson a porcupine.

But one of the most endearing characters, Miss Crawley — an elderly, female lizard with a glass eye — is actually voiced by the film's English director, Garth Jennings, whose previous turns behind the camera include *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (2005) and *Son of Rambow* (2007). —MW



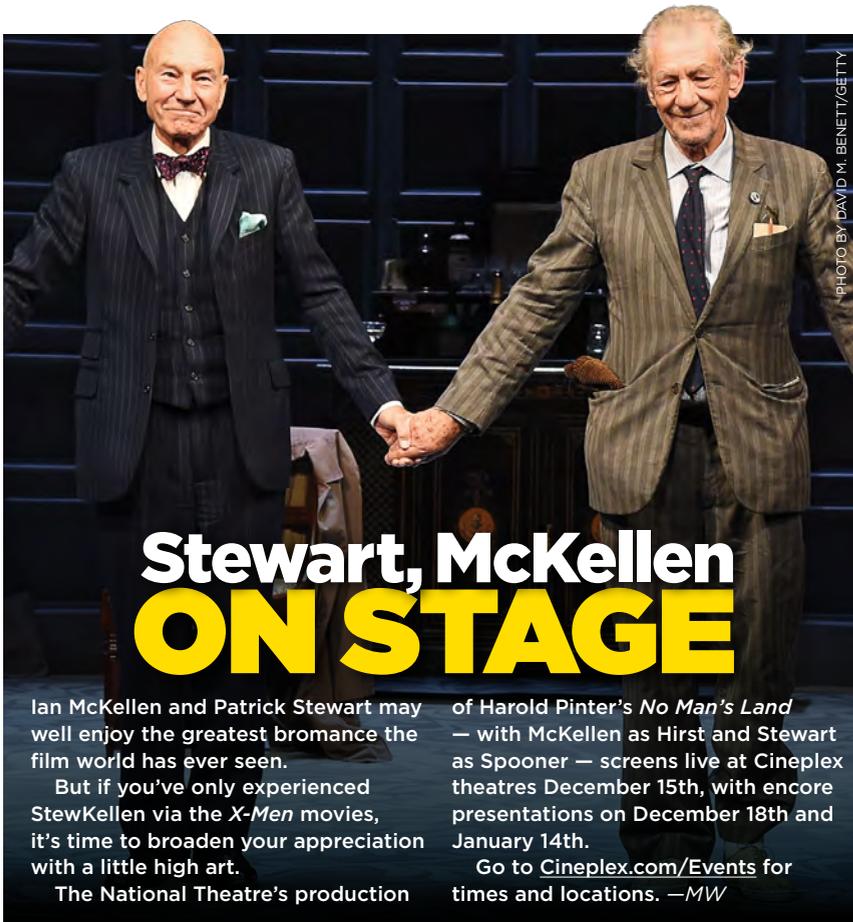
WISH

When Denzel Washington's *Fences*, about an African-American garbage collector's troubled relationship with his wife and son, hits screens this month it will finally fulfill the wishes of late playwright August Wilson.

By the time Wilson, a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner, passed away in 2005 a film version of *Fences* had been languishing in production limbo for 18 years, the rights having been sold to Paramount in 1987. Part of the issue was that Wilson wanted the film to be helmed by an African-American director; he felt white directors had become "custodians" of the black experience by helming so many black films. But the producers wanted Barry Levinson (*Diner*) and the film was put on hold.

Enter Washington — director of 2002's *Antwone Fisher* and 2007's *The Great Debaters* — a few years back. He was asked to direct, and agreed, but only after having the opportunity to star in the play on Broadway to get a deeper feel for the material. He did that in 2010, winning a Tony for his efforts, and started shooting the movie in April of this year.

Fences hits theatres December 25th, a posthumous Christmas present for August Wilson. —MW



Stewart, McKellen ON STAGE

Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart may well enjoy the greatest bromance the film world has ever seen.

But if you've only experienced StewKellen via the *X-Men* movies, it's time to broaden your appreciation with a little high art.

The National Theatre's production

of Harold Pinter's *No Man's Land* — with McKellen as Hirst and Stewart as Spooner — screens live at Cineplex theatres December 15th, with encore presentations on December 18th and January 14th.

Go to Cineplex.com/Events for times and locations. —MW

MISS SLOANE
HITS THEATRES
DECEMBER 9TH

Mr. Smith GOES TO HOLLYWOOD

Douglas Smith owes Brendan Fraser a thank-you card.

The Toronto-born actor inadvertently landed his first film role, as the young Fraser, in 1999's *Blast From the Past*.

"I was 12 years old and I was visiting my older brother Greg, who was shooting *Small Soldiers* on the Universal backlot, and the casting director thought I looked like Brendan Fraser and had me come in and audition for *Blast From the Past*," says Smith on the line from New Mexico, where he's in the middle of a cross-country road trip. "And a couple of weeks later I was on the set with Christopher Walken and Sissy Spacek — and I had no idea who they were — but I was very excited about Brendan Fraser because I liked *George of the Jungle*."

Now 31, Smith — who was born in Toronto, grew up in Vancouver and moved to Los Angeles when he was a teenager — is an established actor who's starred in films such as *Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters* and on TV's *Big Love* and *Vinyl*.

In this month's *Miss Sloane* he plays Alex, a member of the team working for ruthless Washington, D.C., lobbyist Elizabeth Sloane (Jessica Chastain), who takes on the American gun lobby.

Smith says working opposite a powerhouse actor like Chastain is a formidable task.

"I was a huge fan of hers going into it and it was a bit intimidating," he says, "but that was okay because she is supposed to be an intimidating figure, so I used my feeling of being intimidated when playing our scenes together. Jessica's really sweet and warm, but it's really helpful as an actor when you can call upon something that you are really feeling."

And next month he'll be seen battling an evil entity in the horror *The Bye Bye Man*.

"It was hard work," he says. "Man, it's tough just going to work and having to freak out for 12 hours, being constantly terrified and frowning and screaming, it's exhausting."

—INGRID RANDOJA

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**CATE
BLANCHETT**

In London for the
IWC Schaffhausen Dinner.

PHOTO BY DAVID M. BENETT/GETTY



**JOEL
EDGERTON**

In Beverly Hills for the
premiere of *Loving*.

PHOTO BY JASON LAVERIS/GETTY



**NICOLE
KIDMAN**

Promoting *Lion* at the
BFI London Film Festival.

PHOTO BY BARRY KING/GETTY

**ALL
DRESSED
UP**



**RACHEL
MCADAMS**

In L.A. for the premiere
of *Doctor Strange*.

PHOTO BY ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY



**LIAM
HEMSWORTH**

At the unveiling of the Tiffany & Co.
store in Beverly Hills.

PHOTO BY FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY



**GABRIELLE
UNION**

In London for a screening
of *The Birth of a Nation*.

PHOTO BY GARETH CATTERMOLLE/GETTY

IN THEATRES

DECEMBER 9

T.J. Miller (left) and Jason Bateman party hard in *Office Christmas Party*



OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Cutting loose at an office party can be a really bad idea, which just happens to be the theme of this raucous comedy starring **T.J. Miller** as the fun-loving boss of a failing company that's about to be closed down by his CEO sister (**Jennifer Aniston**). Hoping to land a big client he authorizes a massive Christmas shindig that gets waaay out of control. Co-starring **Kate McKinnon**, **Jason Bateman**, **Olivia Munn** and **Rob Corddry**.



Lion's Rooney Mara and Dev Patel

LION

Get out the tissues for this moving drama based on the real-life tale of Saroo, a young Indian boy (**Sunny Pawar**) who accidentally boards a train and finds himself alone thousands of kilometres from home. Adopted by an Australian couple (**Nicole Kidman**, **David Wenham**), the adult Saroo (**Dev Patel**) retraces his journey using Google Earth to see if he can find his lost family. **See Dev Patel and Nicole Kidman interview, page 42.**

MISS SLOANE

Jessica Chastain taps into her belligerent side to play a ruthless Washington, D.C., lobbyist who goes toe-to-toe with the all-powerful American gun lobby in an attempt to get gun-control legislation passed. **CONTINUED ▶**

JACKIE

Natalie Portman is earning rave reviews for her turn as Jacqueline Kennedy in Spanish director **Pablo Larrain's** study of the First Lady as she bravely deals with the assassination of her husband, John F. Kennedy (**Caspar Phillipson**). The film co-stars **Peter Sarsgaard** as Robert Kennedy and **Greta Gerwig** as Jackie's lifelong confidante Nancy Tuckerman.



Natalie Portman in *Jackie*



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ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY

The first film released in the new *Star Wars* Anthology film series is directed by **Gareth Edwards** (*Godzilla*) and stars **Felicity Jones** as the daring Jyn Erso, who leads a band of Rebel Alliance fighters in stealing the plans to the Empire's Death Star. **Forest Whitaker**, **Diego Luna**, **Donnie Yen**, **Riz Ahmed** and **Jiang Wen** portray her rebel team, while **Mads Mikkelsen** pops up as Jyn's father and **Ben Mendelsohn** plays Empire baddie Orson Krennic. See **Felicity Jones** interview, [page 48](#).

▶ COLLATERAL BEAUTY

Howard (**Will Smith**) is an advertising executive who suffered a tragedy and writes letters to Death, Time and Love as a way to cope. He's shocked when the universal concepts take human form — Death (**Helen Mirren**), Time (**Jacob Latimore**) and Love (**Keira Knightley**) — and join with Howard's friends (**Edward Norton**, **Naomie Harris**, **Kate Winslet**) in encouraging him to move on with his life.

THE SPACE BETWEEN US

Teenager Gardner Elliot (**Asa Butterfield**) was born and raised on the Mars space station. He's been communicating with a girl on Earth (**Britt Robertson**), and when he's brought back to our planet he runs off to meet her and experience what our world has to offer. Problem is, never having been on Earth his heart may not be strong enough to function with our planet's gravity.



Britt Robertson and Asa Butterfield in *The Space Between Us*



Collateral Beauty's Will Smith and Helen Mirren

ASSASSIN'S CREED

This cinematic adaptation of the popular videogame boasts a stellar dramatic cast, beginning with **Michael Fassbender** as Callum Lynch, a modern-day criminal who is forced by the mysterious Alan Rikkin (**Jeremy Irons**) and his scientist daughter (**Marion Cotillard**) to relive the experiences of his 15th-century ancestor Aguilar de Nerha, who worked as an assassin during the Spanish Inquisition. See **Michael Fassbender** interview, **page 38**.

SING

Moviegoers loved their animated animals in 2016 — *Zootopia*, *Finding Dory*, *The Secret Life of Pets* — and here's a final creature feature to round out the year. **Matthew McConaughey** voices a koala-bear theatre owner who organizes a singing contest that attracts local residents, including a pig (**Reese Witherspoon**), a porcupine punk rocker (**Scarlett Johansson**) and a gorilla (**Taron Edgerton**) who wants to break free of his criminal dad. CONTINUED ►



Ariane Labed and Michael Fassbender in *Assassin's Creed*



PASSENGERS

The always appealing **Chris Pratt** and **Jennifer Lawrence** anchor this sci-fi from screenwriter **Jon Spaihts** (*Prometheus*) that finds two hibernating passengers aboard a spaceship destined for a distant colony waking up 90 years before their arrival and facing a lifetime together.



Sing

DECEMBER 23



Bryan Cranston (left) disapproves of James Franco in *Why Him?*

▶ WHY HIM?

Devoted parents Ned (Bryan Cranston) and Barb (Megan Mullally) Fleming discover their daughter Stephanie (Zoey Deutch) is engaged to the oddball billionaire Laird Mayhew (James Franco) who drives Ned nuts. It's time for an intervention.

A MONSTER CALLS

Spanish director J.A. Bayona (*The Impossible*) adapts Patrick Ness's award-winning children's book about young Conor O'Malley (Lewis MacDougall), who conjures up a tree-like monster (voiced by Liam Neeson) to help him cope with his cancer-stricken mother's (Felicity Jones) imminent death. See Liam Neeson interview, page 46.

DECEMBER 25



Denzel Washington (centre) and Stephen Henderson (right) in *Fences*

FENCES

It's taken nearly 30 years for a film version of the late August Wilson's play to hit screens because Wilson wanted a black director to helm the pic. He got his wish as Denzel Washington directs and stars in the 1950s-set drama that finds Troy (Washington) railing at a racist world, and clashing with his wife (Viola Davis) and teenage son (Jovan Adepo).

LA LA LAND

Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling singing, dancing and looking deeply into each other's eyes — what more can you ask for? Set in a Technicolor-infused Los Angeles, this bittersweet musical casts Stone as a struggling actor and Gosling as an idealistic jazz pianist who fall in love while pursuing their artistic dreams. See Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling interview, page 34.

GOLD

Loosely based on the 1990s Bre-X Minerals mining scandal, this drama stars Matthew McConaughey as businessman Kenny Wells, who after losing everything heads to the Indonesian jungle where he claims to have discovered a massive gold reserve. His company stock skyrockets, but there's trouble brewing when authorities question the validity of his claim.

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MON., DEC. 5

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IN THEATRES CHRISTMAS

Holiday Gift Guide!

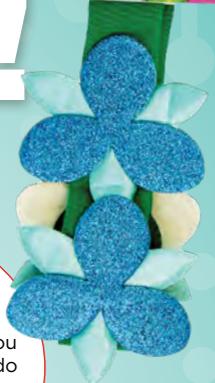
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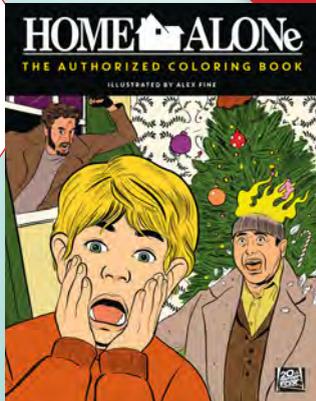
The season's cinematic fashion plate is a pink troll named Poppy, and you can emulate her hairdo from the *Trolls* movie with Goody's replica **Poppy Headwrap** (\$6, Walmart).



Movie Lovers

Gifts that are made with the film fan in mind

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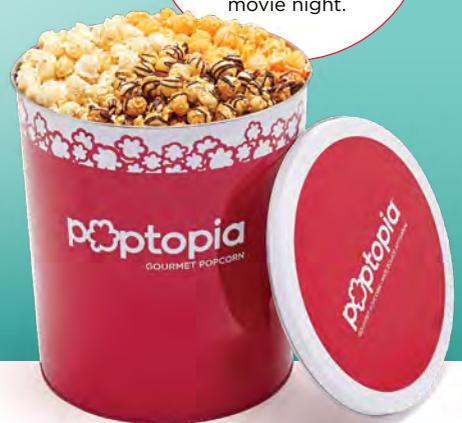
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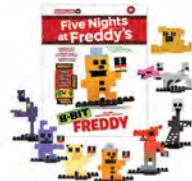
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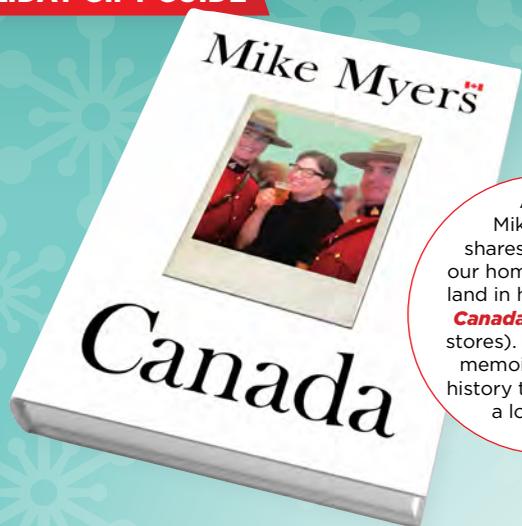
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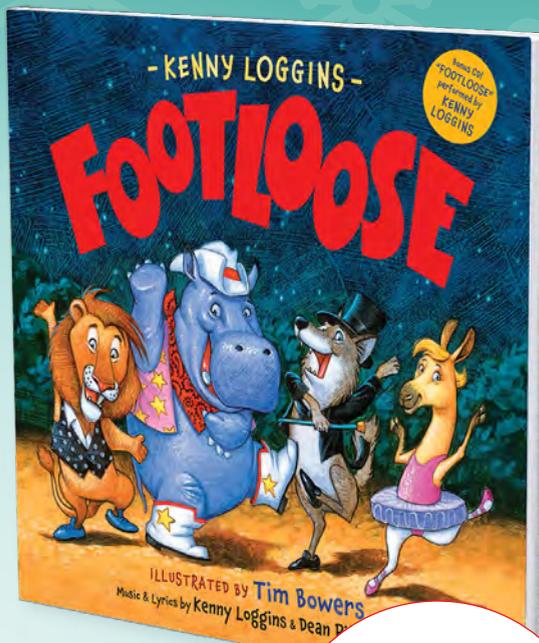
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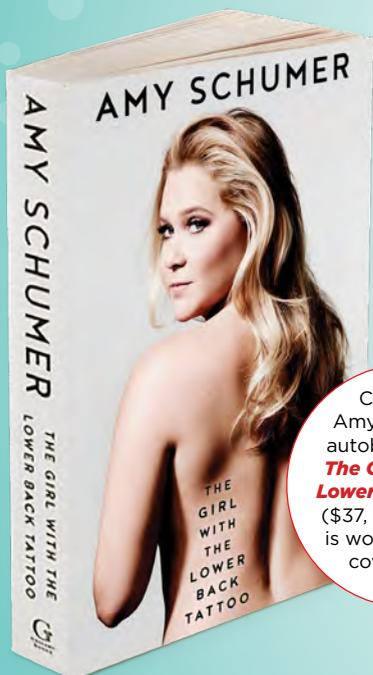


Actor Mike Myers shares his love of our home and native land in his first book, **Canada** (\$40, book stores). It's a little bit memoir, a little bit history textbook and a lot of fun.



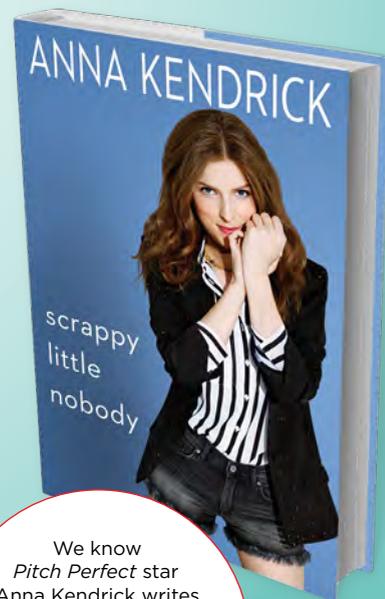
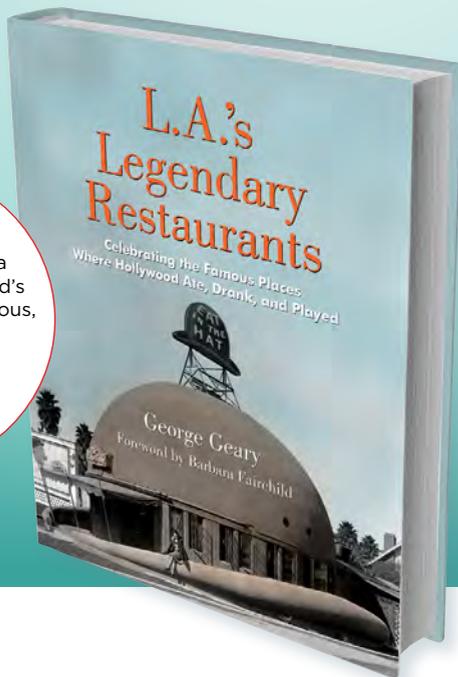
Yes, that *Footloose*! Kenny Loggins, the man who wrote the theme song for the 1984 Kevin Bacon movie, turns that song into **Footloose** (\$24, book stores), a kids story about dancing zoo animals that comes with a bonus CD.

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**DIRECTOR DAMIEN CHAZELLE
TALKS *LA LA LAND* AT TIFF**





Note PERFECT

Casting **Ryan Gosling** and **Emma Stone** in a big-screen musical could have gone either way. But writer-director Damien Chazelle had faith, and it paid off. ***La La Land*** won the prestigious People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival and may be on its way to Oscars glory. Here Gosling and Stone talk about their melodious love story ■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

Charming, captivating and lovely. That describes both the musical *La La Land* and its two stars, Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone. Written and directed by Damien Chazelle (*Whiplash*), *La La Land* is an ode to Hollywood's glorious bygone musicals, the city of Los Angeles and those who arrive in Tinseltown looking to make their dreams come true. Gosling plays Sebastian, a jazz pianist who yearns to open his own jazz club, and Stone is Mia, a struggling actor who spends more time serving coffee than performing. Their bittersweet relationship is played out through song, dance and a display of wonderfully poignant acting.

We spoke to the stars over the phone from Los Angeles. This is their third film together after *Crazy, Stupid, Love.* and *Gangster Squad*, and the pals bantered back and forth while sharing their thoughts on the making of their modern classic.

What is *La La Land* about?

GOSLING: "The film is about two dreamers, who, through finding one another, help each other make their dreams come true. Unfortunately, they're faced with the reality that potentially, their dreams once realized, might not involve one another. So it's complicated but it's still handled in a really sort of beautiful, old-fashioned style, sort of in the style of a Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers film."

So you see yourself as more of a Fred Astaire than a Gene Kelly?

GOSLING: "Maybe I'm a little more like Jerry Lewis [laughs]."

Emma, how do you describe your dancing?

STONE: "You know who I'd be most like? I'd probably be like a wonky version of Britney Spears in the 'I'm a Slave 4 U' video, like a kind of off-kilter Britney circa 'Toxic.'"

How was it working on Damien's dream project?

GOSLING: "Damien is such a CONTINUED ▶"



Go to CINEPLEX.COM/ONSETSECRETS for a behind-the-scenes look at the making of *La La Land*

“There are so many things going on technically behind the camera in order to make it feel smooth and effortless,” says Gosling

▶ talented filmmaker, he’s so ambitious and he had this movie shot in his head before we ever got to the first day or principal photography, and we sort of watched it through his eyes, from explaining it to us so it was like a well-oiled machine by the time we started.”

Describe shooting those dance numbers.

STONE: “The tone of the dance numbers was just completely unique. We would have takes that went on for five or six minutes. We would watch the playback, and I don’t usually watch it, but there we could see what we were doing wrong. We were used to being in rehearsal in the dance room and looking at ourselves in the mirror for months. How many months, Ryan?”

GOSLING: “It was like...”

STONE: “32.”

GOSLING: “Yes, 32 months. Every time I tell this story it gets longer [laughs].”

STONE: “We prepared for 10 years. But it... what was your original question? No, there was a lot of training. Ryan trained so extensively on the piano and was also dancing at the same time, and we were singing and working with a vocal coach. It felt like a lot of skill sets were utilized from our childhoods.”

GOSLING: “The goal was to be able to do the musical numbers in just one take. So there was a lot of adrenaline when you finally, after prepping for a few months, you’re finally there and there’s so many things depending on you getting it right. There are so many things going on technically behind the camera in order to make it feel smooth and effortless.”

It sounds like *The Revenant* of musicals.

STONE: “Yeah it’s like the musical *Revenant*. Ryan’s the bear.”

GOSLING: “Ohhh.”

Do you go home in a better mood after a day of shooting a musical as opposed to other types of movies?

STONE: “Yes.”

GOSLING: “Yes. I mean all the preparation, just watching all those old musicals, being in such a more innocent time, and the music is so sweeping and romantic, so getting to be around that all day, definitely, it’s definitely a different experience than making any other kind of film.”

This is your third film together. Do you have shortcuts with one another at this point? Can you read each other’s cues more easily?

GOSLING: “I think so. I think the first time you work with someone you waste so much time being polite and trying to figure what their process is and not wanting to interfere with that. I think the benefit of working with somebody multiple times is that you’re able to kind of cut through all that and kind of shorten that and you can just really get to work.”

STONE: “Yeah, the first time I was like, ‘Ryan you don’t have to say so many polite things in a row...’”

GOSLING: “You’re thinking, ‘Oh, you’re Canadian, I guess you do have to be polite.’”

STONE: “And then the second time I was like, ‘Oh, there’s less polite things,’ and this time it was just like, ‘You’re a complete a--hole’ [laughs]. I think we both had a great time on *Crazy, Stupid, Love*. and *Gangster Squad* but I think this was the movie that I always wished I could make with Ryan, it kind of had everything, and it happened the third time, which was pretty great.”

Are you a little tired of each other or would you be ready to work together again?

STONE: “Would you work with me again, Ryan?”

GOSLING: “Yes Emma.”

STONE: “I would work with you again too. I don’t know if the viewing public will have us. If after this they think that’s an interesting idea then we’ll talk about it in maybe five or six years.”

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

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GAME FOR ANYTHING

Michael Fassbender might not be the first actor who comes to mind when casting a big-screen videogame adaptation. But don't tell him that. The Irish Oscar nominee is pumped to be starring in the centuries-spanning action pic *Assassin's Creed*

■ BY BOB STRAUSS

Consider the dilemma of the great actors from the British Isles. Stage-trained, versatile and geared toward the classics and the experimental, these days they must commit to some big Hollywood fantasy franchise — *Harry Potter*, Super-something-or-other — or find their careers forever relegated to a *Downton Abbey* TV knockoff.

Ireland-raised Michael Fassbender is a case study of such a situation. Highly praised for his challenging work in director Steve McQueen's *Hunger*, *Shame* and *12 Years a Slave*, Quentin Tarantino's *Inglourious Basterds*, David Cronenberg's *A Dangerous Method* and the Aaron Sorkin talkathon *Steve Jobs*, the actor stays in demand by bringing the same passionate, cerebral commitment to the *X-Men* film franchise and Ridley Scott's revived *Alien* encounters.

But a videogame movie? So far, that genre has produced the lowest quality pop culture to film adaptations. Fassbender, however, does not feel he lowered his standards in any way to headline *Assassin's Creed*.

"It feels good," the 39-year-old actor says over the phone about appearing in the adaptation of Ubisoft Montreal's hit game. "It's something that we've been working on for, jeez... I met the guys at Ubisoft in 2011 or even before then, and this is

something that we've been working on since. So it's been a real labour of love, especially due to the concept, which is really, excellently thought through and legitimate."

Fassbender's character Callum Lynch, not found in any of the games' previous storylines, is a lifelong criminal who wakes up after what he thought was his execution to find himself in the clutches of Spanish mega-corporation Abstergo Industries, which is actually the latest incarnation of the Templars, a millennia-old monastic military order.

The Templars, led by Jeremy Irons' Alan Rikkin and his scientist daughter Sophia (Marion Cotillard), send Lynch back in time to relive the adventures of one of his 500-year-old ancestors, Aguilar de Nerha, a member of the Assassin warrior sect that has always opposed the tyrannical Templars. Fighting skills Callum learns from this come in handy when he, too, has to confront contemporary Templar forces.

"The film looks into the idea of DNA memory, that all of us have knowledge in life through the DNA of our ancestors," Fassbender explains. "That's why we know not to eat this berry — of course, some of us go ahead and try the poison anyway! But the concept that you know when you go into a certain room and it feels like danger, the temperature drops and the hair on the back of your neck stands up... This is knowledge that is passed down to you from previous generations. I thought that was a very feasible concept, scientifically. I thought this ranks *Assassin's Creed* above most sci-fi worlds. It has a sound scientific theory behind it."

CONTINUED ►



ASSASSIN'S CREED
HITS THEATRES
DECEMBER 21ST



Marion Cotillard and Michael Fassbender in *Assassin's Creed*

Go to CINEPLEX.COM/VIDEOGAMESONFILM for more big game-to-movie adaptations

▶ Also adding a touch of class to the movie is Australian director Justin Kurzel, who helmed last year's critically acclaimed *Macbeth*, which also starred Fassbender and Cotillard. That film brought a *Game of Thrones* sense of mythic production values to Shakespeare's Scottish play, and Fassbender thinks that kind of modern approach to a historic story was the right sensibility for *Assassin's Creed*, too.

"The battle between Templars and Assassins, that to me seemed, again, something that was relevant," Fassbender says. "And something that would be an age-old story that could be told. Those two things combined, I thought, would make a good conflict and make for good drama, so I was on board immediately from that first meeting.

"I wasn't — and this might seem going against the grain — a gamer, so I wasn't fully aware of what it was," the actor admits, a bit sheepishly. "But from what Ubisoft showed and explained to me, I was fascinated."

Fassbender clearly wants there to be creative quality to his more commercial work. It's a quest not always easy for a serious actor, but an admirable one, and one that's vital in the current movie business, when one's artier efforts are having more trouble than ever finding success.

Along with that little-seen *Macbeth* and box-office disappointment *Steve Jobs* (for which Fassbender earned an Oscar nomination anyway), the actor has recently appeared in the offbeat frontier yarn *Slow West*, wore

a cartoon head in the music-scene satire *Frank*, and fell into love and trouble with real-life girlfriend Alicia Vikander in *The Light Between Oceans*. All thoughtful works of cinema, all underseen. His upcoming crime-family saga *Trespass Against Us* may not even get a North American theatrical release and *Weightless* won't sell many tickets (it's directed by the increasingly indecipherable Terrence Malick).

The actor's creative relationship with director Ridley Scott, however, kind of transcends easy definitions of success or failure. *Prometheus*, Scott's long-in-the-works prequel to his career-making 1979 film *Alien*, was critically dismissed when it came out in 2012, except for Fassbender's superb portrayal of the smiling, sinister android David. And the pair's collaboration on the Cormac McCarthy adaptation *The Counselor* was the kind of love-it-or-hate-it, go-for-broke rule breaker on which good actors thrive.

Alien: Covenant, set for release next summer, reunites Fassbender and 79-year-old Scott for what the actor promises will be a more pleasing film for fans of big-budget science-fiction, as well as a chance for him to display twice as much of his world class talent.

"*Alien: Covenant* is wrapped, finished up," Fassbender says of the Australia-based production. "It was a blast. I love working with Ridley, he's a lot of fun and an absolute master. Just a joy to work with, and I just try to soak up as much knowledge as I can out of him. We



FASSBENDER'S GAME

Though Michael Fassbender seems like a surprising choice to helm a videogame adaptation, and admits he's never been a gamer, this is not his first foray into the videogame world.

He was the voice of Logan (pictured above), the tyrannical ruler of Albion, in the 2010 open world role-playing game *Fable III*. And Fassbender wasn't the only formidable British actor to lend his pipes to the third game in the *Fable* series; his co-stars included Ben Kingsley, Stephen Fry, Simon Pegg, Nicholas Hoult and John Cleese. —MW

had so much fun, and this one is going to be scarier and more intense. It's going to have the same scale as *Prometheus*, but be more like the original *Alien*. There's a fear factor to it, for sure.

"And David's got a twin out there," he teases. "Walter. It'll be a double bill!" ☐

Bob Strauss lives in L.A. where he writes about movies and filmmakers.



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Dev Patel as Saroo Brierley in *Lion*

Lost AND FOUND

Dev Patel and **Nicole Kidman** talk about turning the incredible, true story of Saroo Brierley — who used Google Earth to find his long lost home — into the tearjerker *Lion* ■ BY MARNI WEISZ

In Dev Patel's career there will be pre-*Lion* movies, and post-*Lion* movies. Pre-*Lion*, the British-born actor of Indian heritage seemed to play clean-cut, skinny, cute, but slightly nerdy guys. Think of him as well-meaning romantic Sonny Kapoor in *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, Chappie's bespectacled robot designer Deon Wilson, and even as unlikely trivia champ Jamal in 2008's Best Picture-winning *Slumdog Millionaire*, Patel's breakthrough film.

But *Lion*, which finished second only to *La La Land* in the battle for the Toronto International Film Festival's prestigious People's Choice Award, proves he can be something much different. Burly, masculine, quiet, sexy...and Australian.

"A script like this demands that you go there," says Patel during an interview at the Toronto fest, still sporting the long hair he grew for the role but having already lost some of the muscle.

He recalls telling director Garth Davis, "I want to completely change for this movie. I want to feel Aussie and look Aussie and I want to go back to India looking like an alien, because that's what really happened."

The script is based on the autobiography titled *A Long Way Home* by Saroo Brierley, the man Patel plays in the movie. Brierley was born in the tiny Indian village of Ganesh Tilai, but when he was five (first-time actor Sunny Pawar plays him as a boy) he was separated from

his older brother Guddu (Abhishek Bharate) at a train station. Thinking Guddu might be on one of the trains he climbed aboard only to fall asleep and wake hours later on an empty car heading...who knows where?

What felt like days later little Saroo finally got off the train in the massive, overcrowded metropolis of Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) with no way to explain to authorities where he'd come from. He didn't even speak the same language; Hindi was spoken in his village, and Bengali in the big city.

After a harrowing time spent living on the streets and then in an orphanage Saroo was adopted by Australian couple Sue and John Brierley (played by Nicole Kidman and David Wenham) and began a new life in Hobart, on the Australian island of Tasmania. For decades he suppressed the guilt he felt over leaving his family, until an Indian-themed party at a classmate's home brought it all back.

At the urging of a friend he used newly launched Google Earth's satellite imagery to retrace the steps he barely remembered taking and pinpoint the tiny village from where he'd once come.

"He was a really happy, charismatic man who found this girl he fell in love with [played by Rooney Mara]. They were dating, and slowly, there's that moment in the film where he sees the jalebi [an Indian dessert] for the first time and he is hit like lightning by that moment, that sense, the smell, the taste. As a child that was his dream to have one of those."

CONTINUED ►

LION
HITS THEATRES
DECEMBER 9TH



Nicole Kidman as Sue Brierley
INSET: Sunny Pawar as the young Saroo

Kidman is familiar with the joys and challenges of adoption, having adopted two children with her ex-husband, Tom Cruise.

“Yeah, I think that’s probably what I bonded with Sue over,” Kidman says, also in Toronto for the film festival. “That was one of the reasons she wanted me to play the role. She very much believes in destiny.”

Aside from that, Kidman notes, they both have red hair and fair skin. “And she’s Australian,” Kidman adds with a laugh for having pointed out the obvious. “We have a few things in common, but she’s lovely too, and as you can see from the film she’s very unconditional, which I love.”

Unlike Patel, Kidman gets to explore her character in both the 1980s when Saroo and her second adopted son, Mantosh, are boys, and in 2011 and 2012 after both have grown into men.

“With the children, we had a week with them prior to shooting and they didn’t speak any English, and we sort of bonded with them over playing cricket and soccer,” she recalls.

Patel doesn’t appear in any of the 1980s scenes — the film’s structure is similar to *Slumdog Millionaire*, with Patel jumping in halfway through the story to take over the role played by a newbie child actor —

but he purposely arrived on set a couple of weeks early to bond with the little boy who plays his younger self.

Director Davis even constructed acting exercises for the two Saroos in order to create a relationship.

“You know, we just wanted to feel like one,” says Patel, “so he took us out into the field and we would lie there listening to music and we’d play hide and seek in the leaves. It was important because we wanted to create our own memories so that when I’m there in cold Hobart, alone in front of the camera, I have something honest and true that I can recall.”



When asked whether playing this role has changed him as an actor, Patel says it has, completely.

“Every young actor dreams to play a role like this and especially for me, a young dude from London, you know, this stuff doesn’t come around every day,” he says. “I just was allowed to explore a space and embody a character that is far, far away from the usual cliché that we get thrown. In every way it broke the mold for me, with the accent, with the physicality.

“For me it was completely exciting in every way.”

Marni Weisz is the editor of Cineplex Magazine.

► Patel had just finished filming *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, for which he’d lost a ton of weight to play a poor Indian mathematician who would rather starve to death than stray from his strict vegetarian diet after moving to Cambridge, England.

“I called up my managers and I said, ‘Look, don’t send me anything for the next eight months. I’m going incoc, and we’re gonna train, and I ate until my liver got like foie gras.... Dialect coaching, you know, that was the most difficult probably because of the Aussie accent, it’s very hard to keep it subtle and make it feel in your skin.

“And a lot of introspection was done,” he continues. “I’m quite a hyper fellow and this whole experience was about going inside and trying to find a real honesty.”

Whereas this film was about transformation for Patel, for Kidman it was about tapping into something she already knew. Like Sue Brierley,



Dev Patel and Freida Pinto
in *Slumdog Millionaire*

FROM SLUMDOG TO LION

It’s hard not to make comparisons between *Slumdog Millionaire* and *Lion*. Both star Dev Patel as the older version of a boy who spent his early life on the streets of India, motherless, trying to survive.

But Patel doesn’t mind. In fact, he says *Lion* owes its existence to that Oscar-winning 2008 film.

“A movie like this wouldn’t have been able to be made 10 years ago,”

he says. “*Slumdog* opened doors, not just for me but in the industry. There were no [big] names, half of it was in Hindi; it changed a lot of things. It nearly went straight to DVD, that’s how much people thought it wasn’t going to work. And I’m riding that wave, I’m seeing it, I’m there at the forefront of, at least the Indian, South Asian, struggle. It’s changing, it really is changing.” —MW

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Neeson Branches OUT

A *Monster Calls* star Liam Neeson dons a motion-capture suit to play a gargantuan tree monster who might not be so monstrous after all ■ BY JIM SLOTEK

If you could be a tree, what kind of tree would you be?" is the question famously attributed to reporter Barbara Walters. Truth is, she was actually responding to Katharine Hepburn's assertion that the actor was like a tree, and asked, "What kind of a tree are you?"

Most of us would need a moment to identify our spirit wood. For Liam Neeson, the automatic response is a yew. "They're very ancient trees," says the actor, who plays the anthropomorphic tree who's the "monster" in *A Monster Calls*.

"The oldest one they reckon is in Wales," he says of the Llangernyw Yew. "It's 5,000 years old. Can you believe that? That's older than the Pyramids. And they have a mythic quality, I think. Shamans used them for healing purposes."

Neeson has become quite the amateur arborist since signing on to the adaptation of the Patrick Ness novel about a young boy (Lewis MacDougall) dealing with his mother's (Felicity Jones) terminal cancer and a grandmother (Sigourney Weaver) who is more concerned with the pristine state of her furnishings than her grandson's state of mind.

The boy's trauma manifests itself in an encounter with a self-aware yew that is monstrous at first, but soon becomes something entirely different.

"I come to visit this kid every night. He's trying to let go and doesn't know how. It's a beautiful story. The best word I could use is 'fantastical.' It's this young Spanish director J.A. Bayona who did a picture called *The Impossible*." That real-life disaster film starred Ewan McGregor as the father of a family trying to survive after being caught in

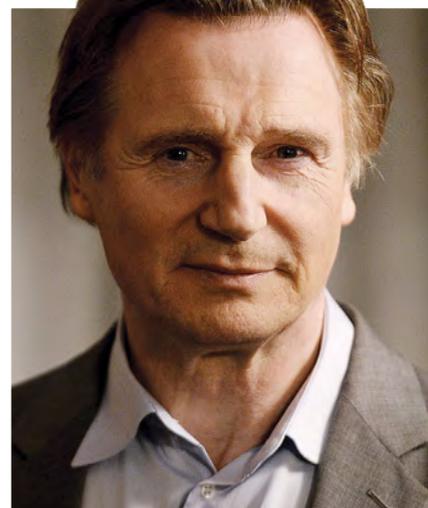
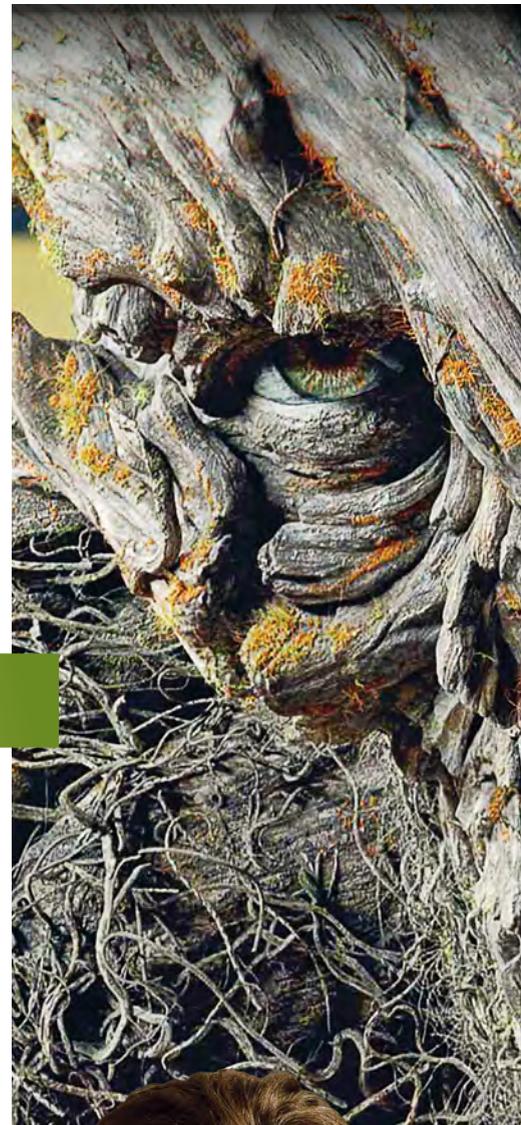


PHOTO BY DAVE J. HOGAN/GETTY

the 2005 Indian Ocean tsunami.

"I don't want to say it's a children's story. It kind of has the feel of *Pan's Labyrinth*. It's quite scary and ominous."

A MONSTER CALLS
HITS THEATRES
DECEMBER 23RD

A Monster Calls' Lewis MacDougall
alongside the CGI-created tree
INSET: Liam Neeson

Neeson's performance was created via motion-capture, a first for him. And in a neat twist, current Spider-Man Tom Holland was Neeson's physical stand-in opposite MacDougall during filming. Holland doesn't appear on screen, and isn't listed in the cast, but he does receive a "Thanks to..." in the credits.

Neeson — who has an improbably busy career these days as a sixtysomething killing-machine (*A Walk Among the Tombstones*, *Run All Night*, the *Taken* franchise) — was looking forward to getting to know his behind-the-scenes co-workers.

"I do tend to gravitate to crews rather than other actors, I love the company of crews, and I always have," he says.

He's particularly entranced by those who work with technology, "which remains amazing to me, although not necessarily my strong suit.

"Blue screen's come such a long way since I did *Star Wars*," says the man who was Jedi Qui-Gon Jinn in *The Phantom Menace*. "When I did that part — 17 years ago we shot it — there were cameras with wires connected to computers. We were like, 'Wow! State of the art!' Nowadays, it just looks primitive."

At the same time, acting in headier material like *A Monster Calls* has Neeson's thoughts returning to the low-tech world of the stage. He was entertaining an offer to star in a London production of *Sleuth*, but ultimately declined. "I have to get back to it. If you started in theatre, you have to pay allegiance to it.

"Mostly I get offers for revivals and stuff. The offer for *Sleuth* came a few weeks ago. I don't know. The right material, and I'd be there."

Even if it meant playing a tree. ☐

Jim Slotek is a Toronto-based entertainment writer.

 The rest of the cast talks
A Monster Calls at [CINEPLEX.COM/
MONSTERCALLSINTERVIEW](http://CINEPLEX.COM/MONSTERCALLSINTERVIEW)

RE

SEE MORE PICS!



BEL WITH A CAUSE

It seems appropriate that **Felicity Jones** cites the most famous rebel of them all, James Dean, as an inspiration for her rebel fighter Jyn Erso in ***Rogue One: A Star Wars Story***. Here the latest actor to be rocketed into the *Star Wars* universe talks about getting the role, her childhood exposure to the franchise and how surreal it is to meet Mark Hamill

■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

Can you feel it — an imbalance in the force?

It's been there since 1977 when *Star Wars: Episode IV — A New Hope* arrived in theatres with young Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) appearing as the film's single female lead opposite a galaxy full of male heroes and villains.

Although a princess, Leia was also a leader in the rebel force fighting the evil Empire. Unfortunately, her place in the *Star Wars* universe took a turn for the worse in the next two films, *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*, as her role devolved into that of Han Solo's maybe girlfriend and, worst of all, Jabba the Hutt's scantily clad slave girl.

The gender disparity didn't improve in the Prequel Trilogy, which saw single white female Natalie Portman play Padmé Amidala, who over a three-film span went from portraying a queen and senator to being abused by evil hubby Anakin Skywalker and ultimately dying after giving birth to twins Luke and Leia.

But, thank goodness, the tide has turned.

Guided by director J.J. Abrams, 2015's *The Force Awakens* finally gave us a female *Star Wars* lead in Rey, British actor Daisy Ridley's self-sufficient hero and the new face of the re-energized franchise.

And now it's Felicity Jones's turn to step into the

spotlight in this month's *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, a spin-off film directed by Gareth Edwards (*Godzilla*) that takes place before the events of *A New Hope*.

The finer points of the story are being kept under wraps but the main plot revolves around Jones's Jyn Erso, the leader of a band of rebels who are determined to steal the plans to the Empire's terrifying new weapon the Death Star, a weapon reportedly designed by Jyn's father.

"Yes, I play Jyn Erso," says Jones on the line from London. "She's an incredibly vivacious, driven, resourceful young woman. We know a little about Jyn when we meet her. She's lived a life, she's had experiences, and we find her before she goes on a journey in true *Star Wars* style to find her place in the galaxy."

When it comes to casting a flinty sci-fi hero, Jones wouldn't be the first actor that comes to mind. Although she did star in October's action-packed *Inferno*, the 33-year-old English performer is best known for her dramatic touch in films such as *The Tempest*, *Like Crazy*, *The Invisible Woman* and *The Theory of Everything*, in which her complicated turn as Jane Hawking, Stephen Hawking's wife, earned her a Best Actress Oscar nomination. So getting the call to audition for *Rogue One's* lead role must have been gratifying.

"It was a pretty dream phone call from my agent who just said, 'I know they are putting together a new *Star Wars* film and there is a fantastic female lead and I think you are really gonna want to play her.' It started with that sentence, which you don't hear very often," she says. CONTINUED ►



Go to [CINEPLEX.COM/ HOWTOWATCHSTARWARS](http://CINEPLEX.COM/HOWTOWATCHSTARWARS) to see where *Rogue One* fits into the *Star Wars* universe

From left: Director Gareth Edwards instructs Diego Luna and Felicity Jones on set
INSET: Jones and Luna in a scene from *Rogue One*



► “And then I met Gareth and we really clicked. I felt really safe in his hands and felt that we could make something very special together.”

Jones was born and raised in Bournville, a suburb of Birmingham, England, where she began her professional acting career at age 11. She has one brother and it was with him, and her extended family, that she was first introduced to the *Star Wars* universe.

“I was definitely a tomboy,” she remembers. “I was running around playing cricket in the garden with my brother and my cousins, and then we’d rush in and be obsessively watching *Star Wars* in my cousins’ sitting room. So I discovered *Star Wars* through the shared love with my family. Obviously, it appeals to you when you are seven and it appeals to you when you are seventy, and that’s very unique.”

After landing *Rogue One* Jones started the arduous task of learning Wushu, the Chinese martial art that forms the basis of Jyn’s fighting style.

“There was an enormous amount of physicality,” she says. “I started training about six months before we started shooting. I was actually working on another film and in the evenings met with a wonderful teacher and he was an amazing inspiration. He would often say to me, ‘Think like a tiger girl,’ which I then took in my head when I was on set and about to do a fight sequence, I’d say, ‘Think like a tiger girl!’”

As for on-screen inspirations for Jyn, Jones says she referenced Sigourney Weaver’s portrayal of Ripley in the *Alien* films and, surprisingly, the work of another Hollywood star.

“An actor I’ve always loved is James Dean and the way he brings such humanity and a sense of danger to his work,” she reveals. “You never quite know what is going to happen. You get that incredible beating heart in his performances. There’s a rawness to him which I absolutely love, so I’ve spent many hours watching his performances, and my aim was to bring that freshness to Jyn, and to bring a quality of surprise to her as well.”

CONTINUED ►

BLACK IS THE NEW CHROME

One of the most exciting things about a new *Star Wars* film is meeting the new droids.

In *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* we meet C2-B5 (bottom left), an Imperial astromech droid that’s been dubbed R2-D2’s “goth twin.” The little black droid is used primarily for maintaining machinery and has its memory regularly wiped to ensure it doesn’t start to think for itself. While we don’t know how C2-B5 makes its way to *Rogue One*’s band of rebels we’re thinking its memory chip may hold some valuable info.

The second new droid is K-2SO (top right, voiced by Alan Tudyk), an Imperial droid that’s been reprogrammed by the rebel Cassian (Diego Luna). Director Gareth Edwards told *Entertainment Weekly* that K-2SO “is a little bit like Chewbacca’s personality in a droid’s body. He doesn’t give a s-h-t about what you think. He doesn’t fully check himself before he says things and does things. He just speaks the truth.” —IR



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Listening Fail #15
"RCA Jungle"



Listening Fail #09
"Extreme Pairing Fail"



Listening Fail #30
"Cord Nightmare"



Listening Fail #14
"Mug o' Bass"



Listening Fail #02
"MacGyver"

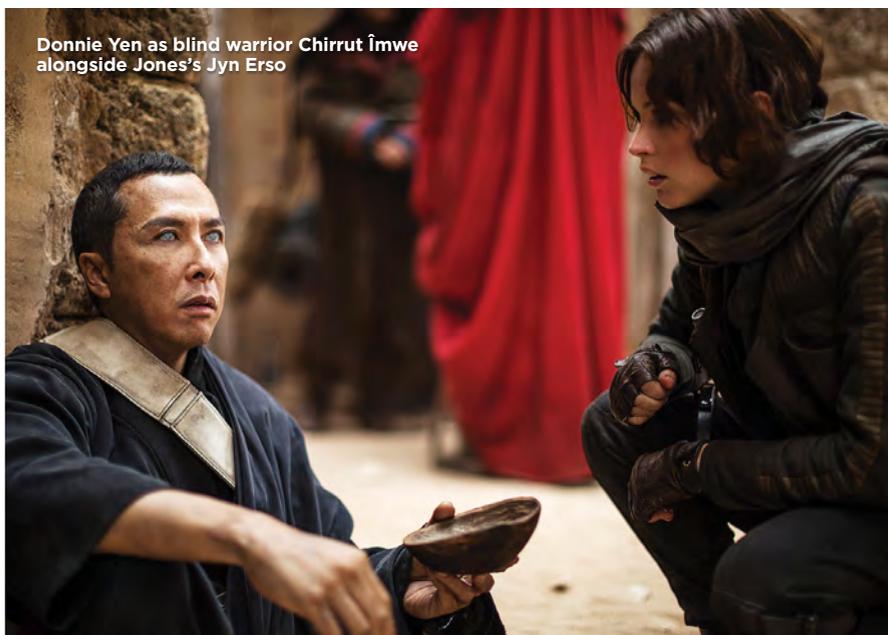


Listening Fail #23
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Stormtroopers at the ready



Donnie Yen as blind warrior Chirrut Îmwe alongside Jones's Jyn Erso

▶ There is someone else she can look to for inspiration and who knows what it's like to fire a blaster rifle or engage a ship's hyperdrive, and that's Daisy Ridley.

"Daisy and I met on set when I was shooting *Rogue One*, with Mark Hamill as well, which was incredible. He must get so bored of people gaping; you literally take a breath because you can't believe he is a three-dimensional person," she says with a laugh.

"But Daisy's fantastic, and yeah, we've really bonded throughout the process, absolutely. It's actually lovely to have someone to go through this with. We can go and have coffee in Soho in London and chat about the shared experience, which definitely makes it less nerve-wracking." ☑

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

LOOK WHO'S BACK

It's true. Darth Vader makes an appearance in this month's *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*.

And that makes sense since the tale takes place after the *Star Wars* Prequel Trilogy, during which Hayden Christensen transitioned from Anakin Skywalker to Darth Vader, and before 1977's *Star Wars: A New Hope*, by which time Vader was already a menacing heavy-breather played by David Prowse and voiced by James Earl Jones.

But who will be inside that black robe and mask? We know it won't be Prowse; the 81-year-old has publicly stated he wasn't asked back, and even that he was a bit disappointed at the perceived snub.

In June, Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy told *Entertainment Weekly* that the role would be played by "a variety of large-framed performers," but the internet wasn't satisfied with that answer and, although there's been no



official confirmation, several outlets have reported that six-foot-seven Welshman Spencer Wilding is the main man behind the mask. Wilding has played oversized creatures in *Doctor Who*, *Game of Thrones* and *Guardians of the Galaxy*.

At 85, James Earl Jones will still provide Vader's voice. —MW

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CASTING CALL

BY INGRID RANDOJA

HOULT PLUGS INTO CURRENT

Nicholas Hoult is in talks to join **Benedict Cumberbatch** and **Michael Shannon** in *The Current War*, which recounts the feud between Thomas Edison (Cumberbatch) and George Westinghouse (Shannon). Edison believed direct current (DC) was the best distribution system for electricity while Westinghouse and European interests favoured alternating current (AC). Hoult would portray Serbian engineer Nikola Tesla, who worked with both men. *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* director **Alfonso Gomez-Rejon** helms the project.



RACHEL & RACHEL

While **Rachel McAdams** waits for *Sherlock Holmes 3* to start shooting next year, the Canadian actor will star opposite **Rachel Weisz** in the love story *Disobedience*, based on the novel by **Naomi Alderman**. The story finds Ronit (Weisz) returning to her Orthodox Jewish community after the death of her rabbi father and falling in love with childhood friend Esti (McAdams).



GORDON- LEVITT BLASTS OFF

Sovereign casts **Joseph Gordon-Levitt** as an investigator sent to find out what happened to the missing crew aboard a space station, one of whom happens to be his estranged wife. The screenplay comes courtesy of in-demand writer **Jake Thorne**, who penned the play *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*.



What's Going On With... BLACK PANTHER

Filming gets underway early next year on Marvel's *Black Panther*, the superhero introduced to viewers in *Captain America: Civil War*. **Chadwick Boseman** plays Black Panther, who is actually prince T'Challa of the fictional African nation of Wakanda. **Ryan Coogler** (*Creed*) directs and has lined up a stellar supporting cast, including **Forest Whitaker**, **Michael B. Jordan**, **Lupita Nyong'o** and **Danai Gurira**. *Black Panther* hit theatres February 16th, 2018.



HARDY IN THE ANTARCTIC

Tom Hardy spent months enduring the desert heat while making *Mad Max: Fury Road*, and now he'll deal with frigid conditions for *Shackleton*, the bio-pic of polar explorer Ernest Shackleton, who is most famous for his failed 1914 trek to the Antarctic aboard the ship *Endurance*. After the ship became trapped in ice Shackleton and his crew spent the next two years searching for a rescue route. No word on who will direct.



FRESH FACE JOVAN ADEPO

It takes a self-assured actor to go toe-to-toe with **Denzel Washington**, and that's just what young Brit **Jovan Adepo** accomplishes in this month's *Fences* playing Washington's son in the adaptation of **August Wilson's** acclaimed play. It's Adepo's first film role, but he's familiar to fans the HBO series *The Leftovers* in which he plays the pious Michael.



KALING IS ALL TALK

Mindy Kaling both wrote and will co-star in an untitled comedy that casts **Emma Thompson** as a late-night talk show host who faces off with the show's new female writer (Kaling). Described as *The Devil Wears Prada* meets *Broadcast News*, Kaling's script is the subject of a bidding war with various studios vying for the project.

ALSO IN THE WORKS ▶ **Elle Fanning** and **Peter Dinklage** will star in the post-apocalyptic drama *I Think We're Alone Now*. ▶ **Tom Hiddleston** will voice a pompous lord opposite **Eddie Redmayne's** Stone Age hero in Aardman's animated pic *Early Man*. ▶ **Daniel Radcliffe** plays a drug smuggler looking for one final score in *Beasts of Burden*. ▶ **Android** casts **Aaron Paul** as an astronaut who builds an android replica (**Olga Kurylenko**) of his deceased wife.



SEE MORE PICS!



ALL ABOARD!

Christmas was gift-wrapped in high-tech when *The Polar Express 3D* — the first fully animated motion-capture film — rolled into theatres in 2004.

Tom Hanks bought the rights to author Chris Van Allsburg's award-winning children's book and asked his *Forrest Gump* director Robert Zemeckis if he'd direct the film about a boy who boards a train that takes him and other children to the North Pole on Christmas Eve.

Zemeckis was fascinated by the new

motion-capture technology. However, the mechanics were less sophisticated then and the effect is a little disconcerting with the characters appearing stiff and waxen.

That said, the story is stirring, as the young boy (played by Hanks who also portrays the boy's father, the conductor, a hobo and Santa Claus) and his friends enjoy a heart-stopping train ride and learn one is never too old to believe in Christmas. —INGRID RANDOJA

THE POLAR EXPRESS 3D

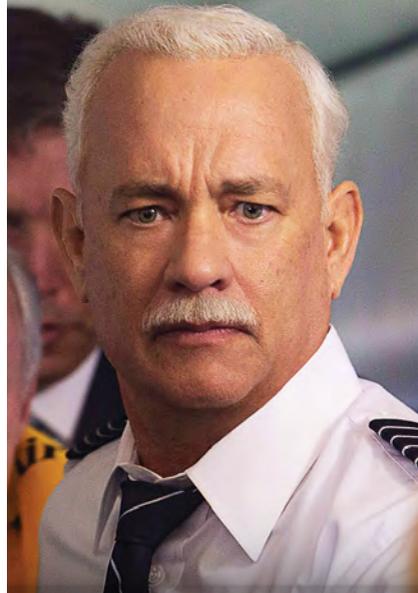
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SULLY

BUY IT DECEMBER 6

RENT IT DECEMBER 20

A hero's journey is rarely straightforward. Director **Clint Eastwood** and star **Tom Hanks** team up to recount pilot Chesley Sullenberger's amazing feat of landing a plane on the Hudson River, which drew accolades, and then accusations of pilot error.

PETE'S DRAGON

RENT IT NOVEMBER 29

Disney hits all the right notes with its reimagining of its 1977 family film that sees the orphaned Pete (**Oakes Fegley**), his fluffy dragon protector Elliot and a kind park ranger (**Bryce Dallas Howard**) fending off those who want to destroy Elliot's forest home.



THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS

RENT IT DECEMBER 6

It's been a great year for animated films and *The Secret Life of Pets* was one of the year's best with its stellar voice cast, including **Louis C.K.**, **Kevin Hart**, **Ellie Kemper** and **Albert Brooks**, bringing to life a band of zany pets who must stop a raging rabbit from wreaking havoc.



SUICIDE SQUAD

RENT IT DECEMBER 13

Goody-goody superheroes are so passé. Bad guys — who are kinda good guys — is where it's at and *Suicide Squad's* got a busload of baddies who assemble to carry out a secret government mission. **Margot Robbie** gets a gold star for her glorious turn as damaged sociopath Harley Quinn, who's strangely devoted to **Jared Leto's** Joker.

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CINEPLEX WORLDGAMING 2016 RECAP

Year One rocked Canadian gaming with big prizes to match the big-screen action!

Didn't get in on Cineplex's WorldGaming Championships in 2016?

You missed out on your share of \$175,000 in cash, as well as prizes ranging from a Limited Edition *Guitar Hero Live* Gold Guitar to official bats, jerseys and hats signed by top Major League Baseball players.

But you also missed out on the fun and excitement of the first year of eSports at Cineplex, where a mix of online qualifiers and live, in-theatre finals brought gaming to a new level in Canada. Sweaty palms, laser-beam concentration, cheering crowds, in-theatre play-by-play — this is great stuff!

The program's inaugural year started out with Brampton, Ontario's Allameen Ally — an 18-year-old high school student — taking home the grand prize of \$20,000 for his supremacy at *Call of Duty: Black Ops III* at Toronto's Scotiabank Theatre in February.

At the time Ally said he was going to give some of the money to his dad to help buy a new car, and put most of it aside for his post-secondary education.

But he also used \$2,500 of his winnings to improve his gaming setup. That paid off a few

months later when Cineplex WorldGaming rolled out its first Multiplayer Championships with *Uncharted 4*, and who was at the top of the leaderboard again? That's right, Allameen Ally, along with his SetToDestroyX teammates based out of Calgary. Ally flew from Ontario to Alberta to take part in the regionals and it was worth it — SetToDestroyX's five players shared a \$50,000 prize a month later in Toronto.

In between, Montreal gamer Henri Oung was crowned champion — and handed \$10,000 — at the *Street Fighter V* Championships that came to a head at Toronto's Scotiabank Theatre in May.

The addition of single-day events partway through the year only widened the options for Canadian gamers and introduced fan-favourite titles like *MLB: The Show*, *Injustice: Gods Among Us* and *Guitar Hero Live*.

So what's in store for Cineplex WorldGaming in 2017? More online qualifiers, more in-theatre regional and championship events, more one-day events, more chances to make new friends (and, let's be honest, frenemies) in the gaming community, and a lot more prizes, prizes, prizes!

Go to Cineplex.com/GameOn for the latest info and details about how you can get in on the fun.



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FINALLY...



Happy New Year!?

Look, no one likes New Year's Eve parties. Not really. You're best to just stay home and order a pizza. But if you do go out and have a bad time, remember, it could always be worse. Just look at these three big-screen New Year's Eve parties.

The Poseidon Adventure

Just moments after the confetti flies the clunky old cruise ship S.S. Poseidon is hit by a tidal wave and capsizes. Aaaaah! Happy New Year, indeed.

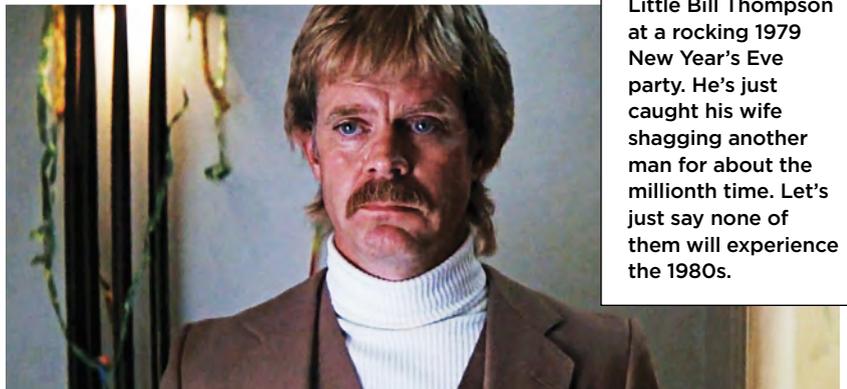


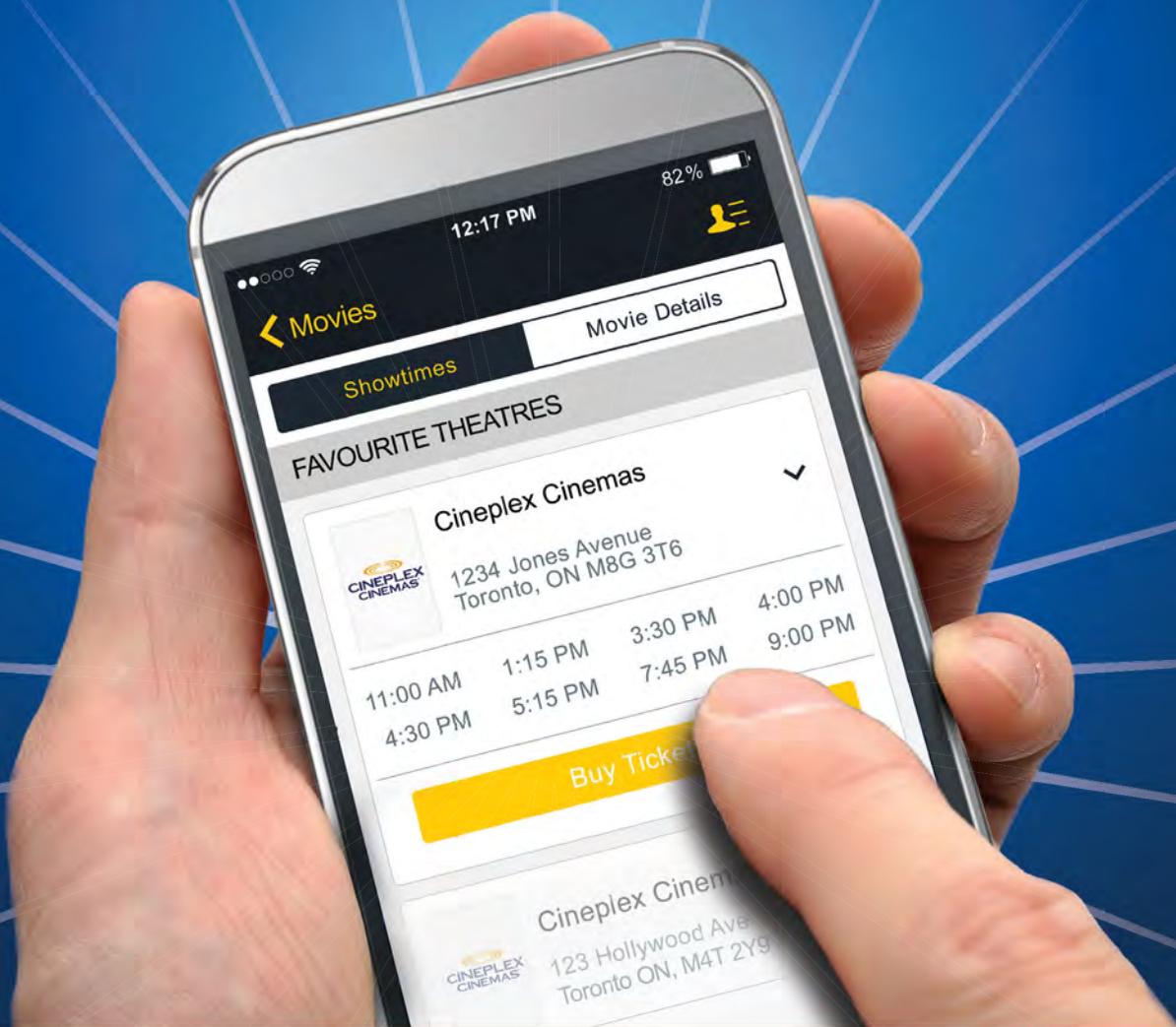
The Godfather Part II

At a New Year's Eve party in Havana Michael Corleone seals his hapless, turncoat brother Fredo's fate with the words, "I know it was you, Fredo. You broke my heart. You broke my heart." Make the most of the next few months, Fredo!

Boogie Nights

Here's a picture of adult film director Little Bill Thompson at a rocking 1979 New Year's Eve party. He's just caught his wife shagging another man for about the millionth time. Let's just say none of them will experience the 1980s.





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