

# CINEPLEX

MAGAZINE



Ben  
**Affleck**  
GOES  
**GANGSTER**  
FOR LIVE BY NIGHT

**Inside**  
**ANNETTE**  
**BENING**  
**JANELLE**  
**MONÁE**  
**ANDREW**  
**GARFIELD**

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Now that's just showing off. The talented **Ben Affleck** co-wrote, stars in and directed *Live by Night*, a nod to the 1930s gangster movies he loves. Here, the triple-threat star talks about updating the gangster genre, what we can expect from this summer's *Justice League* and being given the keys to the Batman franchise  
BY BOB STRAUSS

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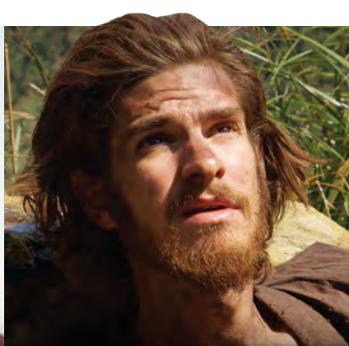
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THIS PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS.  
COVER PHOTO BY TODD PLITTI/CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES





# THE RIGHT DIRECTION

I admit it. When I first heard **Ben Affleck** had been tapped to write and direct *The Batman*, an upcoming entry in DC Comics' *Justice League* film series, I assumed it was the studio's way of keeping their star (he also plays Batman) happy and on board.

I was wrong.

After taking a closer look at Affleck's filmography — and the corresponding ratings at [RottenTomatoes.com](http://RottenTomatoes.com) — I realize handing Affleck the reins is a move they should have made much earlier in the franchise.

It's not news that Affleck is an excellent director; directing is probably his finest skill as a filmmaker. In fact, it's still a mystery why he didn't get a Best Director nomination for 2012's *Argo*, which went on to win Oscar's Best Picture that year.

He's a pretty good writer too, having first entered the public consciousness as the Oscar-winning co-writer of 1997's *Good Will Hunting* alongside his boyhood pal Matt Damon.

But a deep dive into the numbers at Rotten Tomatoes is quite startling.

The three Affleck-directed films released to date have an average Rotten Tomatoes score of 95% — *The Town* and *Gone Baby Gone* both at 94% and *Argo* at 96%. Wow. That is impressive.

Affleck also co-wrote *The Town* and *Gone Baby Gone*, and when you add *Good Will Hunting's* 97% approval rating, you see that the films he helped pen also have a 95% rating.

By comparison, films in which Affleck merely stars have an average rating of just 49%. Yes, *Gigli* is bringing up the rear at just 6%.

Which brings us to this month's *Live by Night*.

Before we see even a glimpse of *The Batman* (shooting has yet to begin) we've got Affleck's fourth film behind the camera to chew on, the Prohibition-era gangster movie *Live by Night*. Affleck also stars as Joe Coughlin, the bootlegging son of a Boston cop, and co-wrote the script based on a Dennis Lehane novel — just as he did with 2007's mesmerizing *Gone Baby Gone*.

There's already a fair bit of Oscar buzz circling *Live by Night*. In fact, the film's perceived Oscar-worthiness is why its producers pushed for a limited release before the end of 2016, so the film would qualify for this year's awards.

So what's next after Affleck finishes writing, directing and starring in *The Batman*? An update of the Agatha Christie story *Witness for the Prosecution* which, you guessed it, Affleck will star in and direct.

It may still be a stretch to use the word *auteur* in reference to the square-jawed star but, like his actor-turned-director predecessor Clint Eastwood, it may only be a matter of time.

In "Boss Man," page 36, Affleck talks about how being a student of film history helped him make *Live by Night*, and even gives us a tiny glimpse into *The Batman*.

Elsewhere in this issue, *20th Century Women's* **Annette Bening** recalls her own past (page 22), we've got singer **Janelle Monáe** on playing a real-life math genius in *Hidden Figures* (page 32), and **Andrew Garfield** tells us about the spiritual journey of making *Silence* (page 28). Plus, starting on page 41 we present our **2017 Movie Preview**, highlighting some of the year's most interesting films.

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*Cineplex Magazine*™ is published 12 times a year by Cineplex Entertainment. Subscriptions are \$34.50 (\$30 + HST) a year in Canada, \$45 a year in the U.S. and \$55 a year overseas. Single copies are \$3. Back issues are \$6. All subscription inquiries, back issue requests and letters to the editor should be directed to *Cineplex Magazine* at 102 Atlantic Ave., Toronto, ON, M6K 1X9, or 416.539.8800; or [cineplexmagazine@cineplex.com](mailto:cineplexmagazine@cineplex.com)

Publications Mail Agreement No. 41619533. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: *Cineplex Magazine*, 102 Atlantic Ave., Toronto, ON, M6K 1X9

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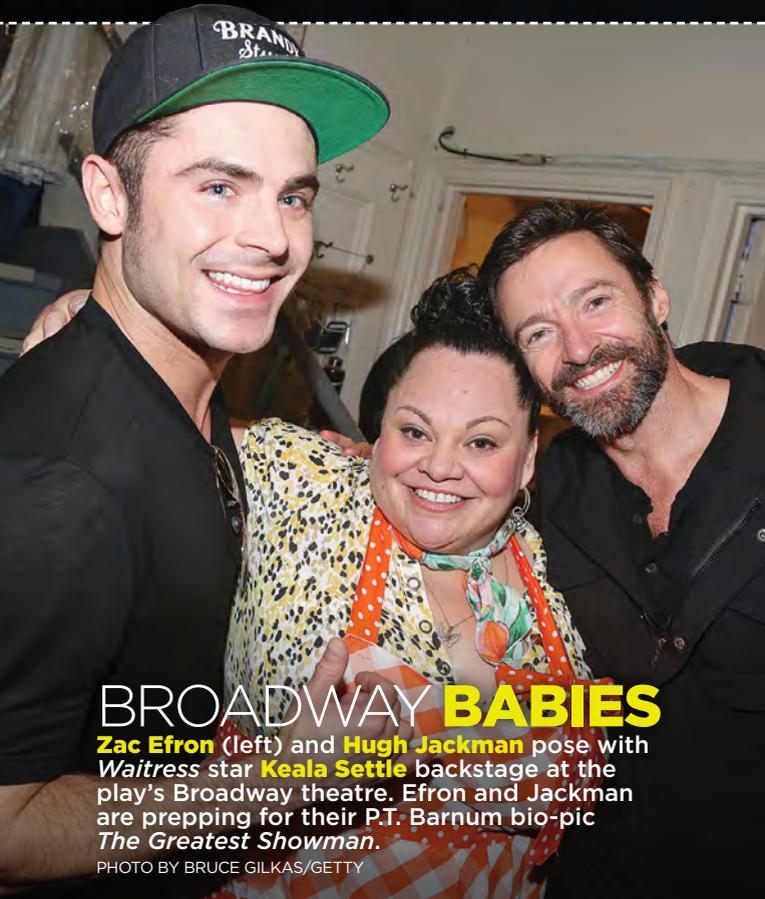
# SNAPS



## STONE-COLD GORGEOUS

**Emma Stone** looks like she just stepped out of a Fellini film as she arrives in Times Square to promote *La La Land* on *Good Morning America*.

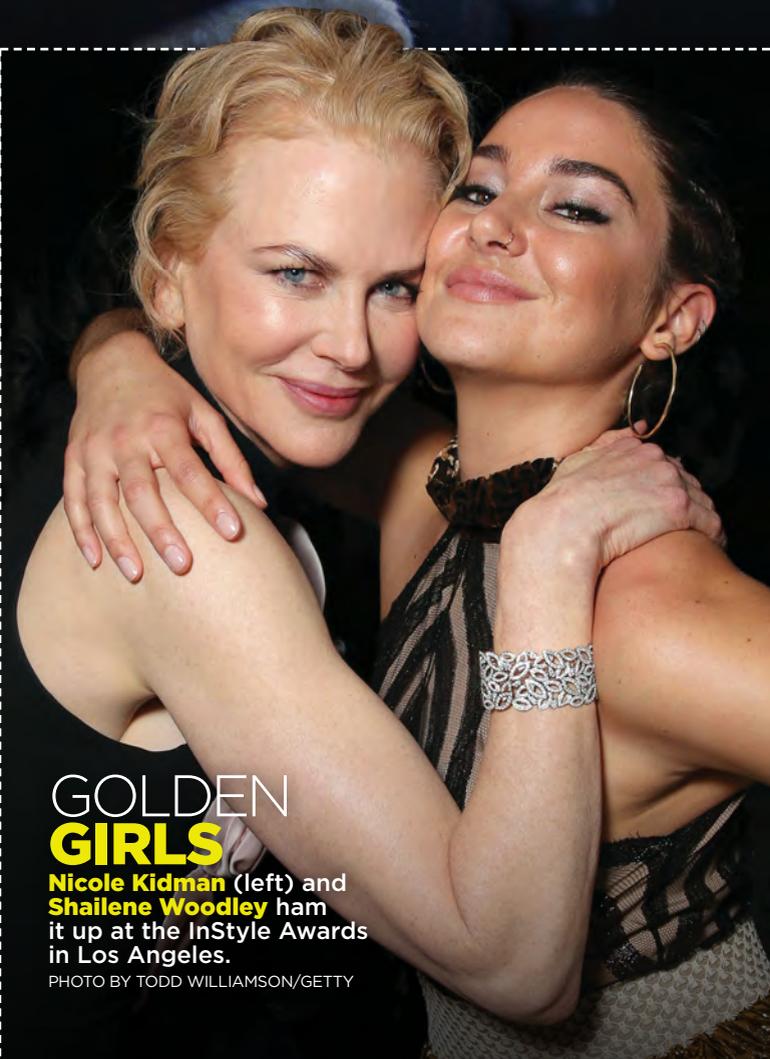
PHOTO BY VANESSA CARVALHO/GETTY



## BROADWAY BABIES

**Zac Efron** (left) and **Hugh Jackman** pose with *Waitress* star **Keala Settle** backstage at the play's Broadway theatre. Efron and Jackman are prepping for their P.T. Barnum bio-pic *The Greatest Showman*.

PHOTO BY BRUCE GILKAS/GETTY



## GOLDEN GIRLS

**Nicole Kidman** (left) and **Shailene Woodley** ham it up at the InStyle Awards in Los Angeles.

PHOTO BY TODD WILLIAMSON/GETTY

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# IN BRIEF



SEE MORE PICS FROM *SPLIT*



## THE HORRORS. THE HORRORS.

*Split* star James McAvoy

**T**he movie world has two horror seasons — October, to take advantage of Halloween’s dark pall, and January, when lower budget movies seep into the schedule and congeal like puddles of blood around the December Oscar hopefuls still hanging around, waiting to be killed off by some axe-wielding villain in a scary mask.

And for horror fans, this January is one of the best we’ve seen in years.

There are horrors for people who aren’t really into horrors — *Resident Evil: The Final Chapter* and *Underworld: Blood Wars*.

There’s a new entry in one of the most enduring horror franchises of all time — *Amityville: The Awakening*.

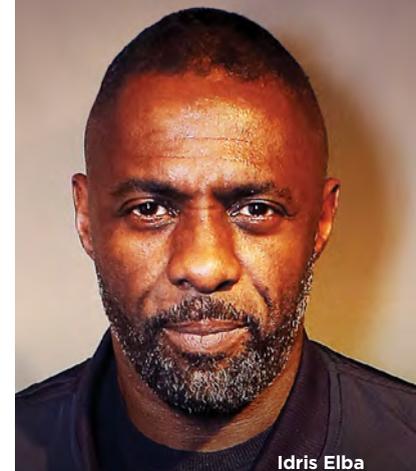
There’s a supernatural horror called *The Bye Bye Man* about three college students who move into a house possessed by an evil entity. That one’s based on a chapter in Robert Damon Schneck’s non-fiction book, *The President’s Vampire*, so you know it’s true.

And then there’s the horror that could be the best of the lot — M. Night Shyamalan’s *Split*, which stars James McAvoy as Kevin, a man who suffers from split-personality disorder and has at least 23 “people” living inside his noggin,

several of which are not very nice. Case in point, Kevin kidnaps three teen girls (Anya Taylor-Joy, Haley Lu Richardson and Jessica Sula) and locks them up in a homemade dungeon.

*Split* premiered at Austin’s Fantastic Fest in September to strong reviews, several citing the film as the next step in Shyamalan’s return to form that began with *The Visit* (the highest-grossing horror of 2015, unless you count the family film *Goosebumps*) after years of disappointing films like *The Last Airbender* and *After Earth*.

Just see if you can figure out the twist. —MW



Idris Elba

## On Home Turf: **THE MOUNTAIN BETWEEN US**

When you’re making a movie that’s called *The Mountain Between Us*, you have to pick a shooting location with a mountain, so it’s not a huge surprise that British Columbia, home of the beautiful Rockies, snagged this thriller.

**Kate Winslet and Idris Elba** are in the province shooting the survival story based on **Charles Martin’s** book from now until mid-February.

Winslet plays a writer and Elba a doctor. Together they charter a plane when their scheduled flight is cancelled. But when that plane crashes on a remote mountaintop the two have to rely on each other to get back to civilization. —MW

## THE ART OF FILM

Inspired by a “before and after” image of his cousin at two different stages of life, Colombian artist Fulvio Obregon, a.k.a. Fulaleo, created a series of drawings showing celebrities at two different points in their careers. “It is curious to see the same person, but with really radical physical changes, sometimes beyond recognition,” he says. Among his subjects were Robert De Niro, Al Pacino and Steve Jobs; he didn’t even notice they were all men. The marketing company Adapt Worldwide did, however, and commissioned him to repeat the series using only women. Here you see three of the resulting works, clockwise from left, of Liz Taylor, Carrie Fisher and Drew Barrymore. See more at [behance.net/fulaleo](http://behance.net/fulaleo). —MW

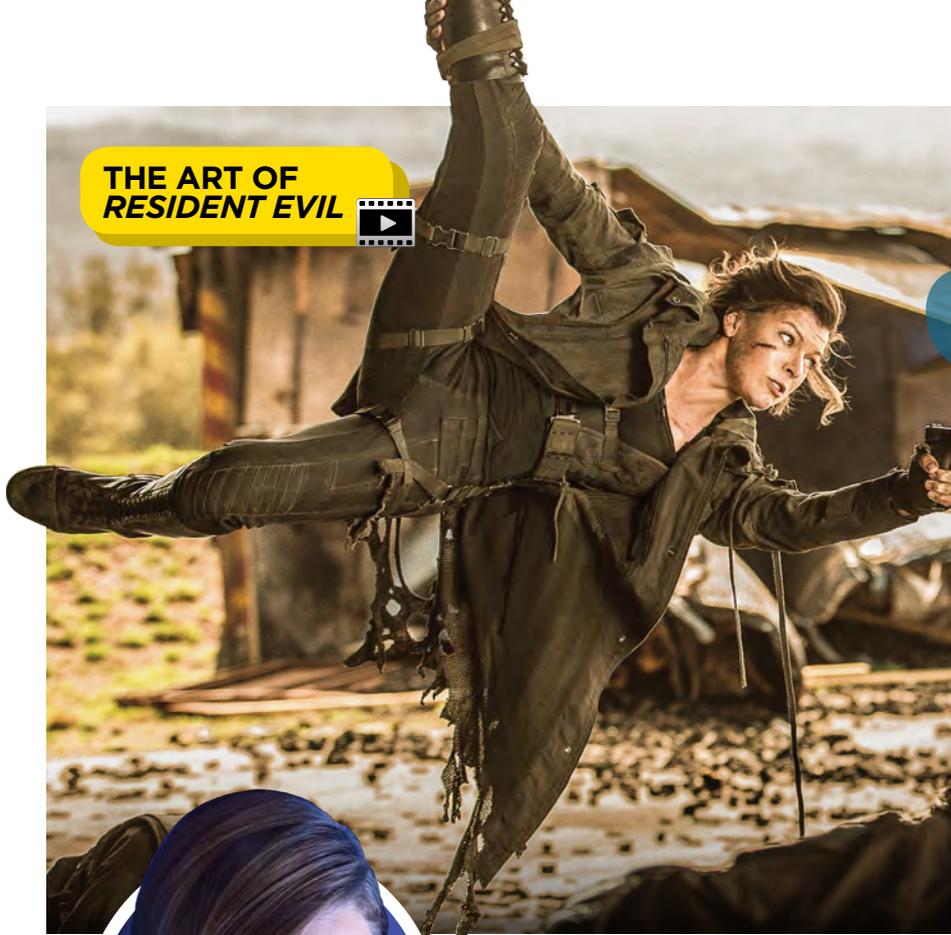


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## THE ART OF RESIDENT EVIL



## Quote Unquote

Don't get me wrong, I'll do my little bits of Shakespeare outside of this movie [franchise], but it's always nice to get back into my Alice shoes and **kick some ass.**

—RESIDENT EVIL:  
THE FINAL CHAPTER STAR  
MILLA JOVOVICH



## Bunch of ROSES

North American audiences got their first taste of Ruby Rose just over a year ago as enigmatic inmate Stella Carlin on the third season of *Orange Is the New Black*.

Now Rose — an Australian deejay/model/TV host/actor — is appearing in her first North American feature film, followed by her second, and third, and all within a three-week span.

First she plays a sniper in *xXx: Return of Xander Cage* (January 20th), then she's part of Milla Jovovich's zombie-fighting crew in *Resident Evil: The Final Chapter* (January 27th), and finally she plays an assassin (pictured above) out to get Keanu Reeves in *John Wick: Chapter 2* (February 10th). —MW

# THE REAL AMITYVILLE HOUSE

Behold the actual house at 112 Ocean Ave. in Amityville, New York, that inspired the long-lived *Amityville* film franchise that releases its, gulp, 17th film this month, *Amityville: The Awakening*.

The root of the story is that in 1975 the real-life Lutz family moved into this house just a year after a man named Donald DeFeo Jr. murdered his parents,

two brothers and two sisters there, and an evil presence still called the place home.

But over the years the franchise has left the Lutz family behind in favour of purely fictitious accounts of a creepy house with clapboard siding and lots of scary windows.





## DID YOU KNOW?

For the McDonald's origin story *The Founder*, which stars Michael Keaton as the restaurant chain's controversial leader Ray Kroc, two early McDonald's restaurants were built from the ground up, with working kitchens and plumbing. But the burgers that are eaten on screen weren't made there. Instead they were made by a gourmet food truck that was parked on set.



## ROSSY'S GAME

"I don't know why people are scared of me," says voluptuous, eccentric Rosy de Palma as she sits for an interview at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Described by many as a Picasso or Modigliani come to life, the Spanish actor challenged the rules of beauty in Pedro Almodóvar's 1988 movie *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*, and then became his muse.

*Julieta* — which opened in Toronto December 23rd and widens across the country this month — is their seventh collaboration. Based on a series of short stories by Canadian author Alice Munro, the movie explores the life of its title character Julieta (Adriana Ugarte as a young woman and Emma Suárez in middle age) after a chance encounter with a woman on the street inspires a search for her estranged daughter.

De Palma plays the small but vital role of a housekeeper with a dark secret. But she also played a part behind the camera.

"Every time a new actor was introduced on set, Pedro and I played a little game. One of us became a huge diva! We were screaming, arguing and closing doors violently. And then, of course, we burst out laughing. Nothing is more fun than playing the diva... especially if you're not a real one." —Mathieu Chantelois



## Anton's ART

The late Anton Yelchin's co-workers from the *Star Trek* film franchise — from left, actors John Cho and Chris Pine, and director/producer J.J. Abrams — attend an exhibition of Yelchin's photographs at the Other Gallery in Los Angeles. Yelchin, who played Chekov in three *Star Trek* films, died in June after a freak car accident. Proceeds from the show go to the Anton Yelchin Foundation, which supports film students.



## BAD TO THE BONE

**B**orn 45 years ago in Zaporozhye, Ukraine, when it was still a part of the Soviet Union, Andrey Ivchenko fell in love with the America he saw in movies and wanted to move to the U.S. and become an actor.

“Nice cars, palm trees, beaches, American Dream,” he recalls in his still thick accent.

But it was too hard to get into the U.S., so in 2005 — after a mandatory stint in the Soviet military and earning a degree in kinesiology — Ivchenko moved to Toronto instead.

He honed his craft, got small roles in TV series like *Nikita* (Tupelov Guard #1), *The Firm* (Russian Soldier #2) and *Falling Skies* (Armed Fighter), and happily became a Canadian citizen.

In 2012 he finally moved to L.A. to increase his job prospects.

But — surprise, surprise — this past February work brought him back to Ontario to play a villain in this month’s Vin Diesel movie *XXX: Return of Xander Cage*, which was shot largely in Toronto and Hamilton.

“I actually stayed with an old friend, it was a chance to catch up as well,” he says.

Ivchenko plays Russian villain Red Erik, who’s trying to get his hands on a powerful device that controls all of the world’s military satellites. Of course, Diesel’s extreme sports enthusiast turned American operative is after the device too.

It’s not the first time Ivchenko has played a Russian baddie, but he doesn’t mind being typecast.

“Somebody has to be villain,” he says, laughing. “There are good guys, and good guys are there to fight the bad guys, so somebody has to be a bad guy. So that’s me.”

In fact, with Diesel’s approval, Ivchenko made his character even more evil than he was on the page.

“I add some lines, kind of expand my dialogue with Vin, because I thought my dialogue was a little bit dry and if I bring some more flavour into it and show my character even more evil, more cruel, it will show my character more, but also will put Vin in great light. It will be great contrast between evil and good guy.”

How did his co-star react?

“Vin loved it. He was laughing and said, ‘Yeah, let’s do this.’” —MARNI WEISZ

**XXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE**  
HITS THEATRES JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>



# Have yourself a Merry January.



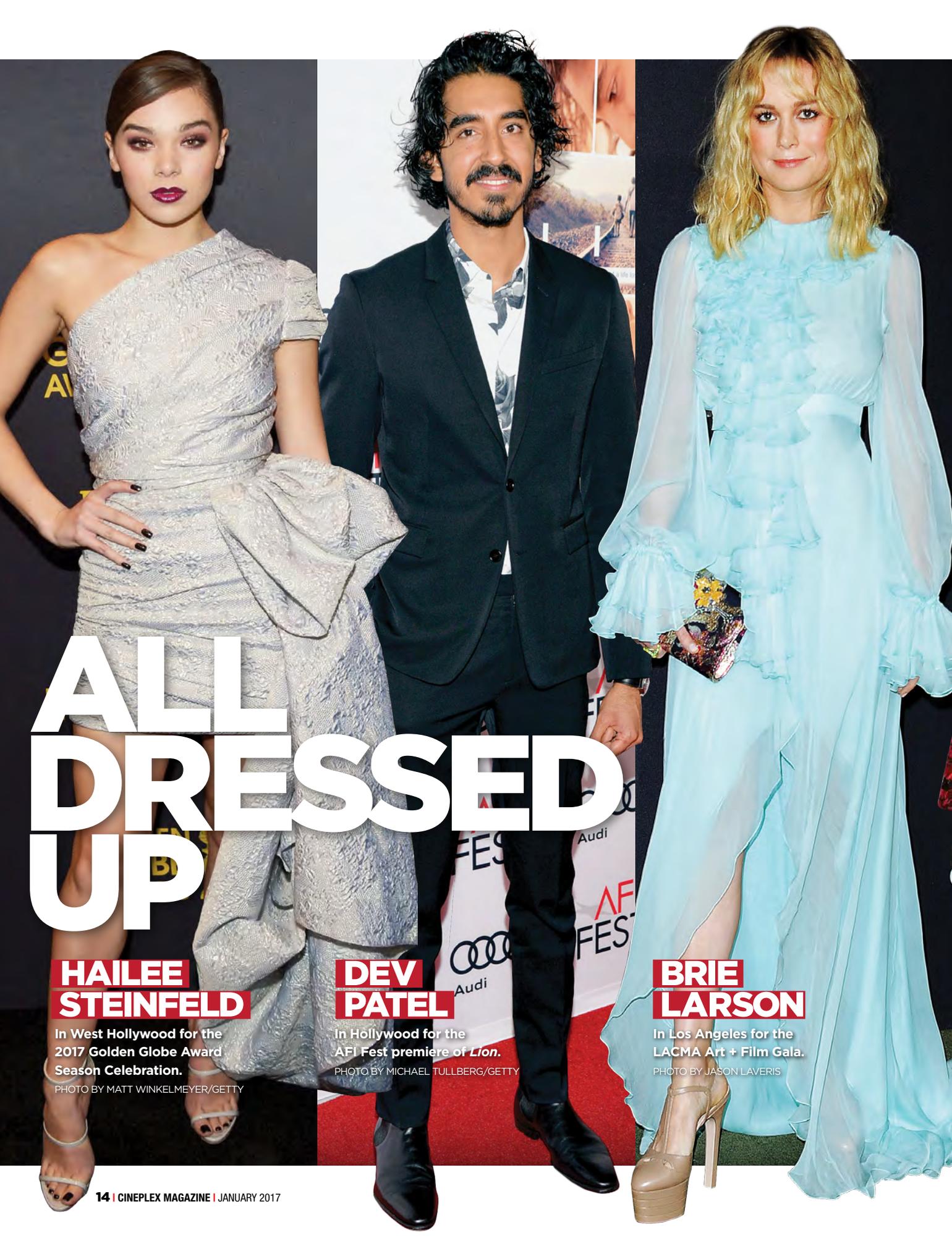
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# ALL DRESSED UP

**HAILEE STEINFELD**

In West Hollywood for the 2017 Golden Globe Award Season Celebration.

PHOTO BY MATT WINKELMEYER/GETTY

**DEV PATEL**

In Hollywood for the AFI Fest premiere of *Lion*.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL TULLBERG/GETTY

**BRIE LARSON**

In Los Angeles for the LACMA Art + Film Gala.

PHOTO BY JASON LAVERIS



**KATIE HOLMES**

In New York for the Gotham Independent Film Awards.

PHOTO BY NEILSON BARNARD/GETTY



**EDDIE REDMAYNE**

At the London premiere of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.

PHOTO BY KARWAI TANG/GETTY



**NAOMIE HARRIS**

In Beverly Hills for the Hollywood Film Awards.

PHOTO BY FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY

JANUARY 6



## SILENCE

Director **Martin Scorsese** first thought of bringing Japanese author **Shūsaku Endō**'s book to the big screen in 1990 but the timing was never quite right. Now, 26 years later, his dream project is finally complete. Set in 17th-century Japan where Christians are often physically abused, the tale follows two Portuguese Jesuit priests (**Andrew Garfield**, **Adam Driver**) who arrive to investigate a fellow priest (**Liam Neeson**) who has renounced his faith. **See Andrew Garfield interview, page 28.**

## HIDDEN FIGURES

Movies about NASA are populated with white men sporting crew cuts and horn-rimmed glasses, but this drama brings to life the little-known accomplishments of three real-life black female math geniuses — Katherine Johnson (**Taraji P. Henson**), Dorothy Vaughan (**Octavia Spencer**) and Mary Jackson (**Janelle Monáe**) — whose calculations were vital in ensuring the safe launch of astronauts, including John Glenn (**Glen Powell**), into space in the 1960s. **See Janelle Monáe interview, page 32.**

## AMITYVILLE: THE AWAKENING

This 18th installment of the *Amityville* film series finds a single mother (**Jennifer Jason Leigh**) moving her incapacitated son (**Cameron Monaghan**) and daughters (**Bella Thorne**, **McKenna Grace**) into the haunted Amityville house.

## UNDERWORLD: BLOOD WARS

Vampires Selene (**Kate Beckinsale**) and David (**Theo James**) battle powerful Lycan leader Marius (**Tobias Menzies**), who wants Selene's blood in order to create a new line of hybrid Lycan-Vampire creatures.

CONTINUED ▶



Kate Beckinsale in *Underworld: Blood Wars*

## 20TH CENTURY WOMEN

**Annette Bening** shines in director **Mike Mills**' (*Beginners*) atmospheric drama set in 1979 California. Single mom Dorothea (Bening) is raising her teenage son Jamie (**Lucas Jade Zumann**) and looks to handyman William (**Billy Crudup**), photographer Abbie (**Greta Gerwig**) and provocative neighbour Julie (**Elle Fanning**) for help. **See Annette Bening interview, page 22.**



Every dog happens for a reason.

A  
**DOG'S  
PURPOSE**

January 27



## ▶ THE BYE BYE MAN

Three college students (**Douglas Smith**, **Lucien Laviscount** and **Cressida Bonas**) unwittingly utter the name of an evil entity that has the power to make them do terrible things.

## MONSTER TRUCKS

High school senior Tripp (**Lucas Till**) discovers a strange octopus-like creature that he hides inside his truck. The upside is the monster also acts as an engine, making Tripp's truck one dope ride.

## LIVE BY NIGHT

**Ben Affleck** wrote, stars in and directs this crime thriller based on the book by **Dennis Lehane**. Set during prohibition, the film follows Joe Coughlin (Affleck), who moves up the criminal ranks from rum-runner to feared gangster. Co-starring **Elle Fanning**, **Zoe Saldana**, **Chris Cooper**, **Brendan Gleeson** and **Sienna Miller**. See **Ben Affleck** interview, [page 36](#).



Monster Trucks' Lucas Till

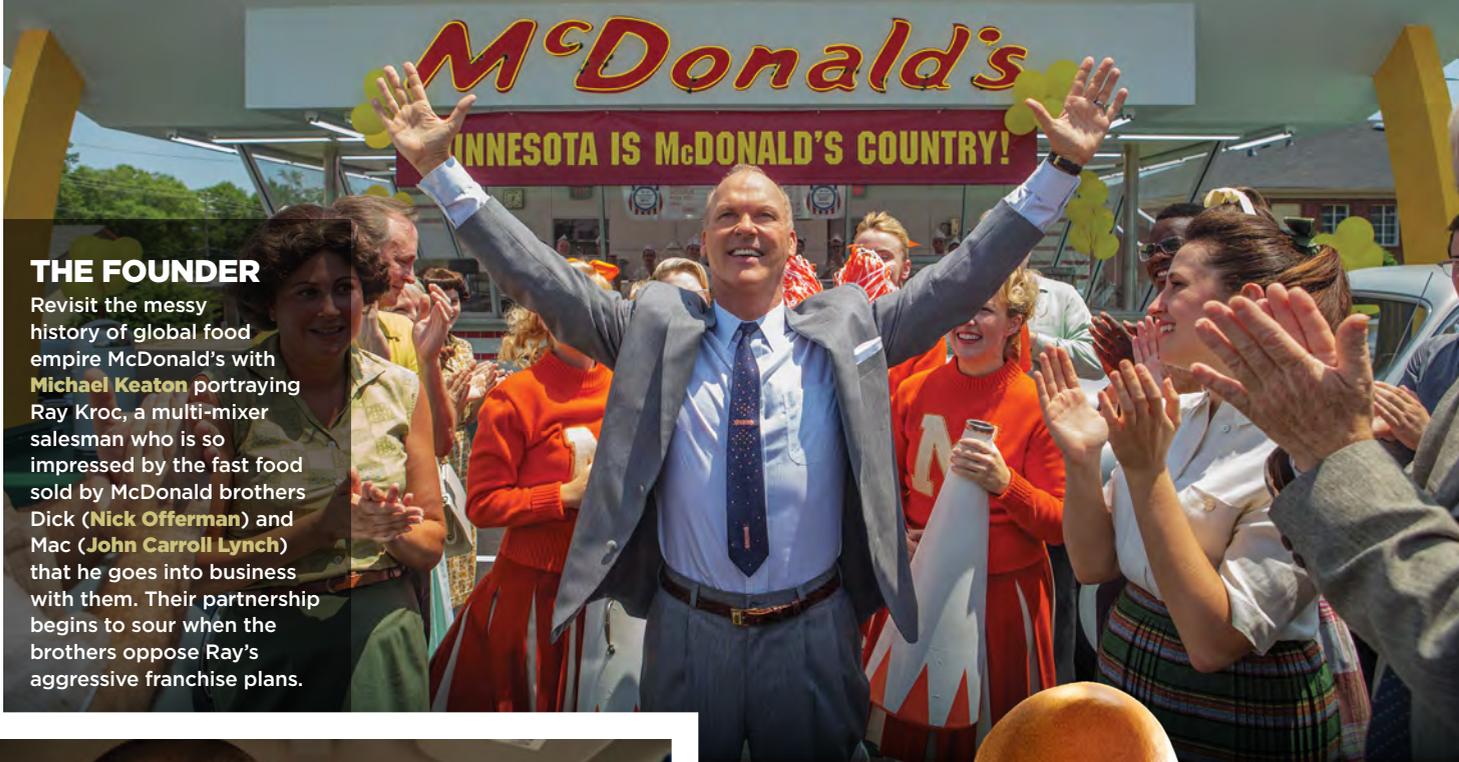


Ben Affleck (left) and Chris Messina in *Live by Night*



## PATRIOTS DAY

**Mark Wahlberg** headlines this drama that recounts the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing and the subsequent search for the culprits, brothers Dzhokhar (**Alex Wolff**) and Tamerlan Tsarnaev (**Themo Melikidze**). Wahlberg plays a police sergeant working under the guidance of Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis (**John Goodman**).



**THE FOUNDER**

Revisit the messy history of global food empire McDonald's with **Michael Keaton** portraying Ray Kroc, a multi-mixer salesman who is so impressed by the fast food sold by McDonald brothers Dick (**Nick Offerman**) and Mac (**John Carroll Lynch**) that he goes into business with them. Their partnership begins to sour when the brothers oppose Ray's aggressive franchise plans.



*Split's James McAvoy*

**SPLIT**

Writer-director **M. Night Shyamalan** looks to be getting his mojo back. His 2015 horror *The Visit* was well received, and early reviews say this psychological thriller starring **James McAvoy** is intense. McAvoy plays a man diagnosed with 23 separate personalities who kidnaps three girls. The girls desperately plot their escape before the most violent of their captor's personalities shows itself.

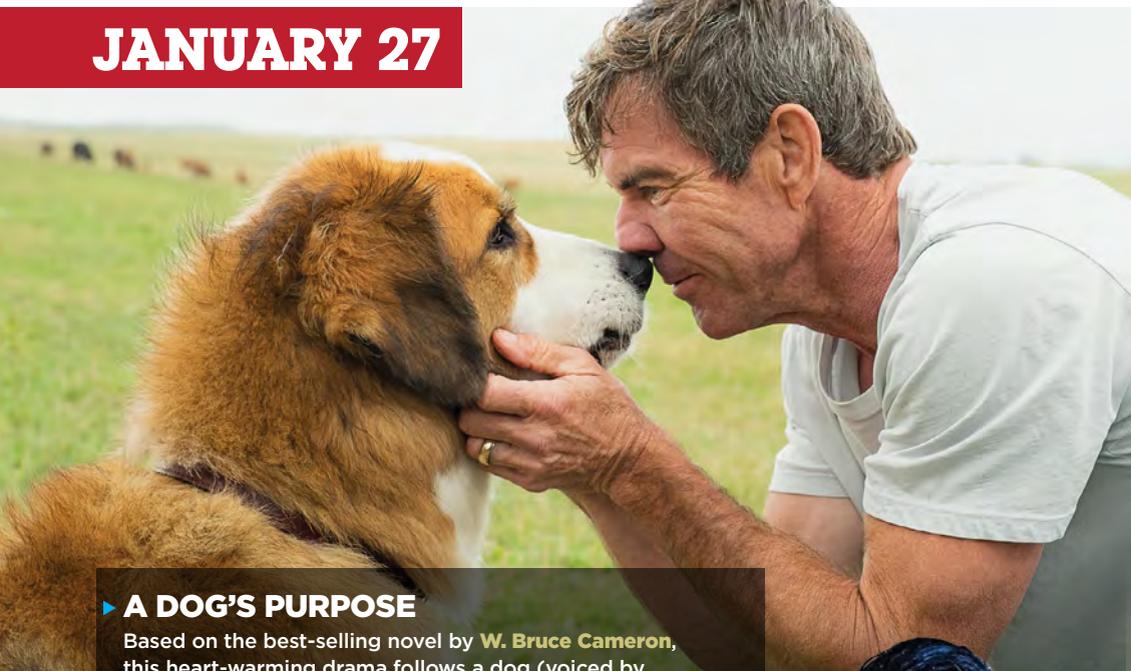
**XXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE**

More than 10 years after he was presumed dead, extreme sports star and spy extraordinaire Xander Cage (**Vin Diesel**) returns to action to stop the evil Xiang (**Donnie Yen**) from getting his hands on the powerful weapon known as Pandora's Box. Series regular **Samuel L. Jackson** returns as government agent Augustus Gibbons and Toronto's **Nina Dobrev** plays a tech expert. CONTINUED ►



*xxx: Return of Xander Cage star Vin Diesel*

JANUARY 27



▶ **A DOG'S PURPOSE**

Based on the best-selling novel by **W. Bruce Cameron**, this heart-warming drama follows a dog (voiced by **Josh Gad**) as he is reincarnated over many lifetimes and inspires his various human masters. Starring **Dennis Quaid**, **Britt Robinson**, **Logan Miller**, **Luke Kirby** and **Peggy Lipton**.

**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. Co-starring **Bryce Dallas Howard** as Wells' girlfriend and **Édgar Ramírez** as his geologist partner.

**BASTARDS**

When their mom (**Glenn Close**) admits she has no idea who their father is, fraternal twins Kyle (**Owen Wilson**) and Peter (**Ed Helms**) head out on the road to search for possible candidates, including former NFL quarterback **Terry Bradshaw**. Directed by **Lawrence Sher**, who was the cinematographer of the *Hangover* movies.

**RESIDENT EVIL: THE FINAL CHAPTER**

We say goodbye to the videogame-based horror series that first hit screens way back in 2002 with this sixth, and final, installment. The story picks up after the events of 2012's *Resident Evil: Retribution* and finds Alice (**Milla Jovovich**) leading the remaining humans through a horde of zombies and into Raccoon City to stop the Umbrella Corporation before it wipes out life on Earth.



Milla Jovovich in *Resident Evil: The Final Chapter*



*Bastards'* Owen Wilson (left) and Ed Helms

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# Parental GUIDANCE

**20th Century Women** star **Annette Bening** has been getting raves for her turn as a single mother seeking guidance from an array of friends as she raises her son. Here she talks about the rich role, the mysteries of acting, and returning to the 1970s ■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

**F**or nearly 30 years Annette Bening has been turning out one superb performance after another. Beginning with her breakout role as a sexy con artist in *The Grifters*, the 58-year-old actor has dazzled in films such as *Bugsy*, *The American President*, *Love Affair*, *American Beauty* and *The Kids Are All Right*. And, she's done much of it while married to Warren Beatty with whom she has four children.

Her latest triumph is as Dorothea Fields in director Mike Mills' *(Beginners)* acclaimed *20th Century Women*. Set in Santa Barbara

in 1979, the drama finds free-thinking single parent Dorothea raising her teenaged son Jamie (Lucas Jade Zumann) in the boarding house she runs. Looking for guidance in how to raise Jamie she turns to two of her boarders — handyman William (Billy Crudup) and photographer Abbie (Greta Gerwig) — and her provocative teenaged neighbour, Julie (Elle Fanning).

We chatted with Bening over the phone from New York where she and Beatty were promoting his new film *Rules Don't Apply* (she has a role in that film as well).

**Director Mike Mills based Dorothea on his late mother. Did you have any qualms about playing a character that your director feels so attached to and has strong opinions about?**

"I didn't. I just thought it was so great and I had such a strong response to it when I read the script. Mike's an incredibly wonderful man, he's a very unusual guy, and he's very intuitive. He clearly wanted to collaborate and clearly had lots of questions about his own mom. She was sort of the catalyst for the character in the movie,

but Dorothea is an amalgamation of a lot of things."

**How would you describe Dorothea?**

"I would back up and think about her when I first encountered her in the writing, which is as an enigma. There are things about her that are very clear and then there are moments when you think, 'Wait. What?' Even though she is a central figure in the story there are things about her that we don't know. She's a woman of contradictions and that became more and more evident as I

CONTINUED ▶



**WHICH ROLES  
HAVE EARNED  
BENING OSCAR  
NOMINATIONS?**



Clockwise from top left: Greta Gerwig, Annette Bening, Elle Fanning, Billy Crudup and Lucas Jade Zumann in *20th Century Women*  
**INSET:** From left: Bening with Fanning and Gerwig



Heart to heart: Annette Bening with her on-screen son, Lucas Jade Zumann

► went on. She's definitely got a mysterious quality and I didn't want to lose that."

**Mike describes you as "a little secretive" and "magical." Is that just part of being an actor, not showing everything, drawing audiences to you?**

"It's funny, there is a part of the acting process that I feel the author of, and there's a part of it which I know I can't perceive, nor do I really want to, and that's the part where the trust comes in that there is something coming across. There is no question that you want to seem in control of your work and in control of this character, but at the same time you want to leave it to the viewer."

**The film is set in 1979, a time in which women are gaining more freedom, yet Dorothea is from an older generation and feels constrained.**

"Exactly. Things have really changed from her generation to the generation we see in the film, and now it's even more so to the next generation of women. I think there are new problems. Now girls are supposed to be everything, but for Dorothea, she wanted to be a pilot and she couldn't be a pilot, there were very few women who got to do that."

**What were you up to in 1979?**

"Let's see, I had just moved to San Francisco, I was from San Diego and I remember stopping

"There is a part of the acting process that I feel the author of, and there's a part of it which I know I can't perceive, nor do I really want to"

in Santa Barbara with a boyfriend. I don't know why we drove up there but I remember stopping at the beach and getting tar on my feet. And there was actually a scene, which now isn't in the movie, of someone at the beach who gets tar stuck in their feet. The ambience of that time period came back immediately when I read the script, and it was like, wow, I had never read something where the setting was somewhere close to where I had grown up."

**Elle Fanning is 18, about the same age you were in 1979. What's it like working with her?**

"Elle is quite extraordinary, she's a great girl and she's not anything like the character, and I just love what she does in the movie. She has done a lot of movies, but she isn't yet overburdened with her own intellect and her own discursive mind. She's still free enough to work basically intuitively and that's the best way to work for any of us. For me it's very inspiring because I look at her and think, 'I want to be as free as that.' It's good to kind of maintain that beginner's mind no matter how much experience you have."

**It must be busy in the Beatty-Bening household with you and your husband both releasing films. What's that like?**

"It's crazy [laughs]. Certainly it's been a while since my husband's made a movie and it's changed a lot since he last released a film that was basically his baby, I guess *Bulworth* would have been the last one, and that was 20 years ago. It's very busy and a little overwhelming, but it's the right problem to have. But it's definitely, 'Oh my god, isn't this funny, we both having movies coming out.'"

**Let's talk Oscars. You've been nominated four times, have never won, and it seems another nomination could come your way for your performance in this film. How do you deal with the Oscar buzz?**

"I try to go with the flow, stay in the moment as much as possible and try not to anticipate anything. What I try to go back to is that I've done my work, that's what I did a year ago when I made this picture, and I try not to worry about the rest of it as it starts to happen." □

*Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.*



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# Spiritual JOURNEY

Introspective actor **Andrew Garfield** talks about his quest for meaning in life and in his roles, and how playing a Jesuit priest in Martin Scorsese's ***Silence*** was just the kind of enlightenment he needed ■ BY BOB STRAUSS

**B**ringing Shūsaku Endō's historical novel ***Silence*** to the big screen has long been a passion project for Martin Scorsese, and it's easy to see why.

Endō's fictionalized but fundamentally fact-based tale of two 17th-century Portuguese Jesuits sent to Japan to investigate their mentor, only to discover horrific repression of the island nation's Christian minority, bears a strong thematic relationship to the director's more overtly religious movies, *The Last Temptation of Christ* and *Kundun*. Plus, the story is so infused with violence, torments of the soul and flesh, and Catholic angst that *Silence* should fit comfortably on the shelf next to such Scorsese urban classics as *Mean Streets*, *Taxi Driver*, *Raging Bull*, *Goodfellas* and *The Departed*.

Taking the journey into *Silence*'s peculiar world of spiritual brutality is Andrew Garfield. The 33-year-old British/American actor is the film's Father Sebastião Rodrigues, who with colleague Father Francisco Garrpe (*Star Wars: The Force Awakens*' Adam Driver), makes the perilous journey to Asia to check on reports that their beloved teacher, Liam Neeson's Father Cristóvão Ferreira, has broken the law of the Church by renouncing his faith.

Garfield, who has a propensity for soul-searching as it is, had a profound experience working on this demanding project.

"We shot the movie in Taiwan," Garfield explains during an interview in Los Angeles. "It still feels very close to me, so it's kind of hard to talk about. It's this epic journey of spiritual trial; if you read the book, then you'll know.

"Scorsese has wanted to make it for the last 15, 20 years, so to be a part of it when he finally got to make it was a deep honour, really," the actor continues. "And he was so impassioned throughout. You know, he has found his personal genius and does it. He just gives himself to his work in such a complete way. He has to, he's" **CONTINUED ▶**



Martin Scorsese (left) directs Andrew Garfield on the set of *Silence*

The actor sounds relieved that a younger Surrey Brit, Tom Holland, is wearing the Spidey spandex now, though.

"Yeah, I am," Garfield admits. "I'm happy for that chapter to be closed. I mean, I'm so grateful; it was a moment in time and I'm still reflecting on it, but it was a really rich time in my life. I learned so much about so many things. But yeah, I'm very happy to be freed into [sighs] living without that safety net anymore. Because it was a real safety net, but it took a lot of energy and time out of me. I wouldn't have changed it, though; I'm very, very grateful for it."

Since retiring from superheroing, Garfield has leaned exclusively toward heavy dramas with strong moral (*99 Homes*), spiritual (*Silence*) or both (Mel Gibson's acclaimed war movie *Hacksaw Ridge*) dilemmas to chew through. They seem to reflect the actor's inner anxiety.

"I feel confused by where our culture is," Garfield confesses. "I don't feel at home here. I don't feel like I'm welcome, to be honest. The only time I've felt welcome is if I'm having some kind of public success. If I'm having that I feel embraced by the culture, and as soon as I'm not having public success I feel forgotten, I feel exiled, I feel [sighs] worthless and not needed."

Really?

"Yes, absolutely," he affirms. "Acting is a very insecure profession, and it just goes to show that in our society, there's not much value in the soul of a person, just for being who they are. It's more like, 'What can you give me?' Especially in this town. 'Can you give me status? Can you give me popularity? Can you give me money? Can you give me some kind of step up in my career? What can I take from you?' As opposed to, I believe how we're built, fundamentally, is to be in community, to need each other. Between receiving accolades and feeling like I'm truly giving myself to someone, the latter feels so much better to me." □

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

► called to it; it's like a vocation for him. And he wanted to be a priest before he wanted to become a filmmaker, so for him there was this real reverence that he was bringing to every single frame."

Usual questions about research and physical training for the job seem beside the point here, though Garfield confirms there was a substantial amount of both. For him, *Silence* is mainly about what he took from the experience, not what he put into it.

"I discovered a sh-t ton about myself playing this," he admits with vulgarity but also fierce sincerity. "A lot! It's hard to sum up, but every project I'm drawn to, I'm drawn to it because I need to know more about myself and know more about what this weird situation we're all in that we call life is all about. It's very enlightening for me, and stories are the way for me to do that and the way to get some deep meaning out of a certain moment in time. With that, this spiritual journey, what a gift. To be able to do that for a living, to go on some spiritual quest, that's very, very, very profound for me."

So, if you have to boil it down, Andrew, what's the key lesson you've learned after a decade of doing this stuff professionally?

"There's a nobility in our soul, and that gets destroyed by the system that we have found

ourselves in and created and are participating in," he answers.

And this from a guy who certainly benefited from the system, at least professionally, early on. Born in Los Angeles (where his father is from) and raised for the most part in Surrey, England (mom's territory), Garfield first came to prominence in *Red Riding*, the acclaimed U.K. series of noirish TV movies. In 2010 he successfully jumped the Atlantic, winning praise for his compelling portrayal of Eduardo Saverin in David Fincher's Facebook origin story *The Social Network*.

Next, Garfield was Peter Parker in two interim Spider-Man movies which, if not the most beloved phase of that ever-changing franchise, were plum gigs that he played well.



## HIS NEXT MISSION

Liam Neeson stars opposite Andrew Garfield in *Silence* (left), marking the second time he's played a Jesuit missionary. Thirty years ago a young Neeson portrayed Father John Fielding (right) in the 1986 drama *The Mission*.

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# MONÁE DOES THE MATH

Multitalented pop star **Janelle Monáe** talks about moving from music to movies, and her second big film role of the season, real-life math genius Mary Jackson in ***Hidden Figures*** ■ BY BOB STRAUSS

**W**ith her distinctive hairstyles, androgynous wardrobe and android alter ego, Janelle Monáe has become one of the most memorable music stars of the past decade. Now the 30-year-old Kansas City native is making her mark in the movies with roles in two of Awards Season's most prestigious pictures. She played the protector of a boy picked on for being gay in October's *Moonlight* and in this month's *Hidden Figures* she's real-life math whiz Mary Jackson, an African-American engineer working for NASA during the birth of the U.S. space program in the 1950s and '60s.

We talked to the petite powerhouse — who was coiffed in a perfect cloud of curls and wearing a studded black turtleneck and leather jacket — in Los Angeles.

#### Have you always wanted to act?

"Absolutely. I went to school for acting, studied acting at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City. I don't look at myself as just an actor, however, or a singer, but more so an artist/storyteller. One who wants to tell untold, unique, universal stories in unforgettable ways."

#### What was it like to actually play your first movie role in *Moonlight*?

"It was exciting. I was nervous at times, but that was on the front end. One of the things Barry Jenkins, the director of *Moonlight*, said

to me was, 'Janelle, there is no such thing as making a mistake. As long as you're being honest and truthful, you're making the right decision.' So I just relaxed and I kept that in mind throughout all my scenes, and I hope that truthfulness and honesty resonates with people on screen."

#### *Moonlight* is a big indie hit and major critical success. What do you think draws people to this story of a poor black kid discovering his homosexuality?

"I think it's a story of humanity, a story of humanity coming together and empathizing with one another. It's an example of how we as human

CONTINUED ▶

**HIDDEN  
FIGURES**  
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**OUR FAVOURITE  
SINGERS TURNED  
ACTORS**



Janelle Monáe and Aldis Hodge in *Hidden Figures*



Monáe as Teresa in last year's *Moonlight*

► beings can either nurture each other or ill-nurture one another. I think I just made that word up, but you do understand what I'm saying. I think it's important to remain allies to one another, even if we don't quite approve of certain things. But as people are trying to figure out if they're going to truly accept themselves as they see it in their minds and in their hearts, we have to allow them that space to do it."

**You ought to write a song called Ill-Nurture. I like how it sounds.**

"Yep. I love that too."

**Now you have an even bigger role in the historical drama *Hidden Figures*. Tell us about that film.**

"*Hidden Figures* is also a body of work that I'm proud to be a part of. This is the untold story of the three African-American women who worked at NASA during the late 1950s and early '60s, as we were trying to get John Glenn into orbit. They were directly responsible for doing the math and the calculations that got John Glenn into orbit, but they were never properly given credit. So we had no idea who Katherine Johnson was, or Dorothy Vaughan or Mary Jackson, my character — she is the first African-American female engineer at NASA during that time. We didn't know these women, I had no clue who these women were. So I was upset when I was reading the script, but I was also proud and excited that, finally, we're going to have some true, new American heroes that just so happen to be black women."

**I guess there's little footage of her and it wasn't easy to see what Jackson was like in real life.**

"No. Unfortunately, my character has passed on. But I went in and I prayed for her spirit to be inside of me, and all throughout the set reduce Janelle Monáe and allow Mary Jackson to come out. And I hope that she's proud."

**How was working with your more experienced co-stars?**

"Incredible. I love Taraji P. Henson, I love Octavia Spencer. They were like big sisters and mentors to me. They were there to really support everything I was doing and I learned a lot from just watching them. They're brilliant; their choices, every one they made, just brilliant. Top of their game, and it forced me to be at the top of my game — but to know that I was Mary. She is me, so I didn't have to be her, I just had to remember that."

**Ted Melfi, who's white, directed *Hidden Figures*. How well do you think he got this story that's so important to the African-American community?**

"I am so honoured to work with Ted Melfi. He's an incredible director. You know, we're black women and this is a story about black women. He never tried to tell us what black women would say or how they would respond, he allowed us the space to do that and find it for ourselves. He was there to guide us, and I always say the marginalized need allies. Ted Melfi, by writing that beautiful script for

*Hidden Figures*, is a true ally to black women and the black community."

**So now that you've done some professional acting, what do you get out of it that's different from your music?**

"I don't distinguish between music and acting. I'm a storyteller. I use music and film and art to express whatever story it is that I'm trying to tell."

**What kind of movies do you want to make in the future?**

"I hope that I can tell more untold stories, more stories that are touching, creative stories, too. I think it's important that black women are seen in more creative leadership roles. I think that that's so important, from music to film. And I hope to help spearhead a few of those initiatives."

**Can you reveal anything about upcoming music projects?**

"No! Just that I will never stop making music, and I'm excited about my music as well. I hope and pray that it will continue to live in people's playlists and in their homes to the end of time." ☑

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

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# BOSS MAN

Simply acting in a film just doesn't cut it for **Ben Affleck** anymore. The award-winning director of films like *Argo* and *The Town* thrives when he's in charge. He'll write and direct an upcoming Batman movie and, in addition to starring as a crime boss in this month's period gangster flick *Live by Night*, he adapted the story and directed too

■ BY BOB STRAUSS

**B**ack in the day, Warner Bros. was known for making tough crime movies and the roster of stars — Humphrey Bogart, James Cagney, Edward G. Robinson, George Raft — who headlined them.

Things have changed a lot in Hollywood since the old contract-player days. However, if there's any talent who's identified with a particular studio at the moment, it's Ben Affleck.

The square-jawed, 44-year-old Bostonian produced, directed and starred in Warner Bros.' last Best Picture Oscar winner, *Argo*. He's also made *The Town* and *The Accountant* for the company in the past few years. And Affleck not only plays the most important character, Batman/Bruce Wayne, in Warner's latest round of DC Comics-based movies, the studio's even handing him the writing and directing reins for the next Batman standalone movie, which he's currently working on.

How does Affleck feel about being Warner's golden boy? Good. So good, in fact, that he just directed his fourth movie, *Live by Night*, as a kind of love letter to those crime classics of the 1930s and '40s.

"Oh man, this to me is a dream come true," enthuses Affleck, dressed in dark jeans and a sweater, during an interview in Los Angeles. "I wanted to make something in the spirit and tradition of Warner Bros. gangster movies. It's such an honour to be working at that studio and the history is so rich. I'm really interested in film history and watch a lot of old movies and study how the art form has developed. So I wanted to be part of that legacy at Warners and make a really rich, pulpy gangster movie with the kind of craftsmanship that went into movies like *White Heat* or *Angels With Dirty Faces*."

So that's what he did.

"It's big, it's sprawling, it's a lot of fun and it's got all the gangster tropes, but in a hopefully updated way," says Affleck. "I just love the movie and I'm really proud of it. It's a little bit more like *The Town*, in a way, a movie that fits into a genre but is done a little bit differently, I guess. It plays with genre in that way."

Affleck plays Joe Coughlin, a Prohibition-era Boston bootlegger with scruples. Joe's principles drive him away from the New England mob scene to Tampa, Florida, where he learns that rum running can be just as compromising. Brendan Gleeson and Chris Cooper play tough guys and Zoe Saldana, Elle Fanning and Sienna Miller play women in Joe's life.

"Even though he was carrying a lot of weight and under super-stress, Ben" CONTINUED ►

**OTHER  
MOVIES  
DIRECTED BY  
AFFLECK**



LIVE BY NIGHT  
HITS THEATRES  
JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>



Affleck (left) holds court with his pals, including Sienna Miller (right)

► was very happy and collaborative with everybody,” says Saldana over the phone. She plays Joe’s Cuban love, Graciella. “He’s the kind of director and writer who prefers input and considers it highly, but he also has his own vision. He’s not aggressive about it, he’s super-gentle, but he’s very determined. The environment he created on set was very artistic and professional — and excellent.”

Affleck adapted *Live by Night’s* screenplay from a novel by Dennis Lehane. Another Boston boy, Lehane’s books have been made into four other movies, including Affleck’s 2007 directing debut, *Gone Baby Gone*.

“Dennis is an astute writer,” Affleck says. “He writes great, punchy characters, great dialogue, and has really good story architecture. The characters in his books, I find so inspiring. They make me feel like I can speak their language and add to that and incorporate them. You know, I’m not the only one; *Mystic River* and *Shutter Island* were both his, and James Gandolfini’s last movie, *The Drop*. So he’s had a lot of adaptations. Not that many writers have had five movies made of their books. He’s really just got something special.”

Warner Bros. is hoping Affleck can bring something special to its DC Extended Universe. Despite making a lot of money worldwide, and introducing Affleck’s Bruce Wayne, last year’s *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* and *Suicide Squad* didn’t enjoy the critical acclaim of some of the titles in Disney’s rival Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Affleck says his next DC film, which he executive produced, is designed to be more popular.

“*Justice League*, you probably saw the

teaser that came out of Comic-Con; I thought it is nicely emblematic of the kind of minor tone shift and segue in storytelling,” he says, comparing the November 2017 film to the dark and brooding *Batman v Superman*. “It’s a little bit lighter, the characters are a little bit more comfortable in themselves, so they can express a wider array of emotions. And there are just more people in it, so it’s more fun. It’s all of these different characters bumping up against each other and the team dynamic offers a lot of dramatic possibility.”

As for the Bat-script he’s currently writing, “We’re still working on it, taking a little extra time and a little extra care to really get it right on paper first. But it’s looking very good and I’m excited about it.”

Affleck’s take on the Dark Knight not only differs from previous screen incarnations by Michael Keaton, Christian Bale and the few one-offs in between, but will evolve through the future DC films.

“It’s different in terms of tone and, obviously, just a different actor,” Affleck says of his Caped Crusader. “I think the most profound difference is that I’m playing the part at an older age than those guys were when they played it, and it’s about a guy who’s had a long life of this experience, rather than someone who’s just setting out on the journey to become this guy. He’s older and wiser, I guess. And he was pretty pissed off in *Batman v Superman*, but now it’s not about finding revenge in *Justice League*, it’s about protecting the Earth. So the feel is different.” ☐

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



James Cagney (left) with Humphrey Bogart in *The Roaring Twenties*

## GANGSTER SQUAD

In 1930s Hollywood each movie studio was known for producing a certain kind of film; Universal made monster movies, MGM made musicals and Warner Bros. turned out gangster pics. Gritty and violent, the films showcased charismatic hoodlums who wreaked havoc with Tommy Guns, but who always met with an unsavoury end. The best among them include *Little Caesar* (1931) starring Edward G. Robinson as unrepentant bad guy Rico, *The Public Enemy* (1931) with Jimmy Cagney as drunk-on-power gangster Tom Powers and *The Roaring Twenties* (1939), again with Cagney, who like Affleck in *Live by Night*, plays a World War I vet who returns home and becomes a bootlegger. —IR



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4	ADOLFO	1,206
5	ADRIAN	1,195
6	ABRAHAM	1,194
7	ADRIANA	1,143
8	ADELE	1,132
9	ADA	1,082
10	ADDIE	1,064

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*The Dark Tower*

2017



*Beauty and the Beast*



*Star Wars: Episode VIII*

# MOVIE PREVIEW



*Wonder Woman*

16 of the most exciting films coming out in the next 12 months



*The Lego Batman Movie*



# RETURNING FRIENDS

Four movies that transcend the “sequel” label, offering reunions with characters we honestly miss.

And, hey, did you notice Ridley Scott and/or Harrison Ford have a connection to three of the four?

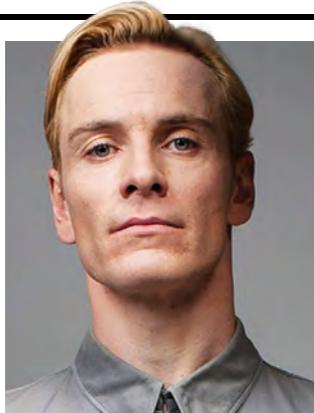
## T2: TRAINSPOTTING

In some ways, *Trainspotting* is not the type of movie that begs a sequel. The frenetic, scatological story of heroine addicts Renton (Ewan McGregor), Sick Boy (Jonny Lee Miller), Spud (Ewen Bremner) and Begbie (Robert Carlyle) was hailed as an indie gem when it was released in 1996, and needed no follow-up. But on the other hand, who better to catch up with than those chemical-addled misfits? Have they cleaned themselves up? Have they built enjoyable lives? Director Danny Boyle and his leading men return for this story that takes place 20 years later and sees Renton return home where he reunites with his old cohorts and — oh, we hope it’s not true, but are pretty sure that it is — gets up to no good.

**OPENS MARCH 3**

## ALIEN: COVENANT

When we spoke with director Ridley Scott for *The Martian* in 2015 he said he had several questions about the *Alien* movies that he needed answered. “How did that ship get there? Why was it there? What was on board? What were those eggs, those hideous things? Why would anyone devise such a horrible weapon?” Expect to get at least some of the answers in this second *Alien* prequel after 2012’s *Prometheus*.



The only character that seems to have survived post-*Prometheus* is Michael Fassbender’s android David, though Nomi Rapace, who played his crewmate Elizabeth, does have a small role. As the new film begins the crew of a spacecraft called Covenant finds a seemingly blissful new world with just one inhabitant — David.

**OPENS MAY 19**



## STAR WARS: EPISODE VIII

*The Force Awakens* was a pretty good reunion with old friends (we still miss you Han), but the one disappointment was not getting to spend enough time with Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill). Finally, two years later, we’ll find out what terrible thing happened to Luke to inspire such melancholy and unkempt facial hair. We may even find out who Rey’s (Daisy Ridley) parents are. (Could the two mysteries be linked?) Aside from Ridley, Oscar Isaac, John Boyega, Adam Driver and Lupita Nyong’o all reprise their roles from *Force*.

**OPENS DECEMBER 15**



## BLADE RUNNER 2049

*Blade Runner* — now 50% more Canadian! The folks behind *Blade Runner 2049* tweeted out this photo on October 6th, 2016, one year before the film was set to hit theatres. What teases. That’s Canadian director Denis Villeneuve on the left, and Canadian hottie Ryan Gosling on the right. In between are the film’s producer and co-writer Ridley Scott centre left (he directed the 1982 original) and good old Rick Deckard (Harrison Ford) centre right. There’s not much else we can tell you, other than that this may well be the film we’re most excited about this year. No Sean Young. No Rutger Hauer. No Darryl Hannah. It’s too bad they didn’t live. But then again, who does?

**OPENS OCTOBER 6**



## JUSTICE LEAGUE

Warner Bros. set the table with last year's *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* and now it's time to sit down and feast with its assembled cast of A-list superheroes. Batman (Ben Affleck) and Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot) recruit a team of metahumans — Flash (Ezra Miller), Aquaman (Jason Momoa), Cyborg (Ray Fisher) — and a back-from-the-dead Superman (Henry Cavill) to take on baddie Steppenwolf (Ciarán Hinds), who is searching for the all-powerful Mother Boxes hidden on Earth. More familiar faces include Lois Lane (Amy Adams), Lex Luthor (Jesse Eisenberg), Alfred Pennyworth (Jeremy Irons) and Martha Kent (Diane Lane).

**OPENS NOVEMBER 17**

# SUPERHERO SMORGASBORD

We say goodbye to familiar faces and hello to

new ones as the superhero Class of 2017 flies into theatres. Here are the year's superhero pics we want to see

## GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2

No more angst, self-reflection or naval-gazing, we want superheroes who know how to boogie. The first *Guardians* pic was fearlessly fun as director James Gunn wove exciting interstellar action, quirky humour and classic pop tunes into a glorious whole. The sequel, again directed by Gunn, finds Peter Quill (Chris Pratt), Gamora (Zoe Saldana), Rocket (Bradley Cooper), Drax (Dave Bautista) and Baby Groot (Vin Diesel) ironing out the kinks of their newly formed team while discovering the truth of Peter's parentage.

**OPENS MAY 5**



## LOGAN

Hugh Jackman has played mutant Logan Howlett — a.k.a. Wolverine — for 17 years beginning with 2000's *X-Men*. According to the Aussie actor that's 17 years of eating egg-white omelettes and working out like a fiend to maintain Wolverine's ripped body. His final go-around as the beloved adamantium-clawed mutant is an elegiac action pic that sees an older Logan living in a future where most mutants have been wiped out, and caring for an aged Professor X (Patrick Stewart). Logan's survival depends on his protecting a young girl (Dafne Keen) who carries his DNA.

**OPENS MARCH 3**



## WONDER WOMAN

Supergirl, Catwoman and Elektra have all headlined their own female superhero movies, but none of them pack the punch of Wonder Woman. Israeli actor Gal Gadot, who portrayed Wonder Woman in 2016's *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, dons the red, gold and blue costume for this origin tale that finds American pilot Steve Trevor (Chris Pine) crash landing on an island inhabited by Amazons, including Princess Diana (Gadot), who is convinced her powers are needed to fight evil in the wider world.

**OPENS JUNE 2**



# SOMETHING NEW

Ready to take a break from sequels and franchises? Here are four intriguing films that bring fresh stories and characters to the screen

## THE DARK TOWER

An adaptation of Stephen King's *Dark Tower* book series finally hits screens after more than 10 years in development. A bold mix of fantasy, Western, horror and sci-fi, the genre-defying tale finds a boy named Jake (Tom Taylor) whisked to the dying land of Mid-World where he joins *The Gunslinger* (Idris Elba) in searching for the Dark Tower, which exists at the edge of time and space, and is the key to saving the kingdom from extinction. Trying to stop them is the sorcerer known as The Man in Black (Matthew McConaughey).

**OPENS JULY 28**

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



## DUNKIRK

Writer-director Christopher Nolan refuses to embrace digital filmmaking, shooting all his movies on film, and in this case in 65 mm and IMAX. This epic World War II pic recounts the British navy's massive evacuation of more than 330,000 soldiers stranded in the French coastal city of Dunkirk. Nolan's devotion to authenticity meant shooting key scenes on location and reconditioning WWII ships and airplanes for the shoot. And to avoid using CGI he employed thousands of cardboard cutouts of soldiers and vehicles to simulate a large army. The cast includes fresh-faced actors Fionn Whitehead and Harry Styles, who are joined by veteran stars Kenneth Branagh, Tom Hardy, Mark Rylance and Cillian Murphy.

**OPENS JULY 21**



## PATRIOTS DAY

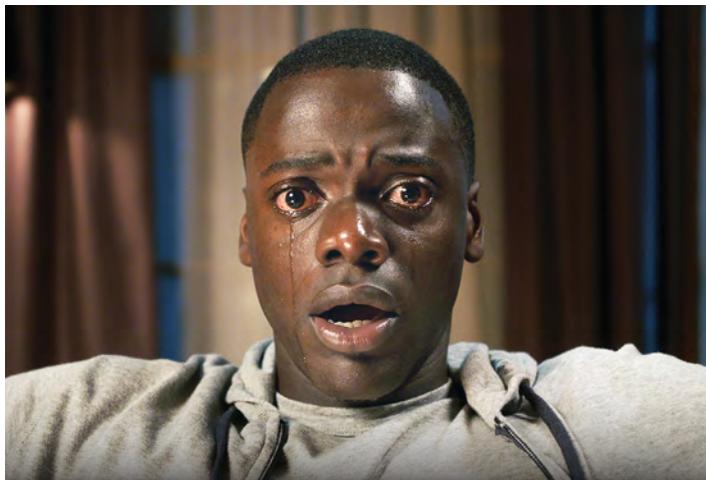
Real-life tragedies regularly unfold across our TV screens, but Hollywood is very careful when it comes to retelling them on the big screen. Accuracy and tone are crucial, and it looks as if director Peter Berg — who's tackled such stories before with *Lone Survivor* and *Deepwater Horizon* — hits all the right notes with this account of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing and the hunt for perpetrators Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. John Goodman leads the way portraying police commissioner Ed Davis, Mark Wahlberg is a cop (a composite of various real officers) and J.K. Simmons plays Watertown Sergeant Jeffrey Pugliese, who helped capture the suspects.

**OPENS JANUARY 13**

## GET OUT

Horror films take place in exceedingly white enclaves featuring mostly white characters, which is why we can't wait to see writer-director Jordan Peele's inspired take on the genre. African-American Chris (Daniel Kaluuya) heads to the suburbs to meet his white girlfriend's (Allison Williams) parents (Catherine Keener, Bradley Whitford) only to discover a *Stepford Wives*-like community where black men and women go missing.

**OPENS FEBRUARY 24**





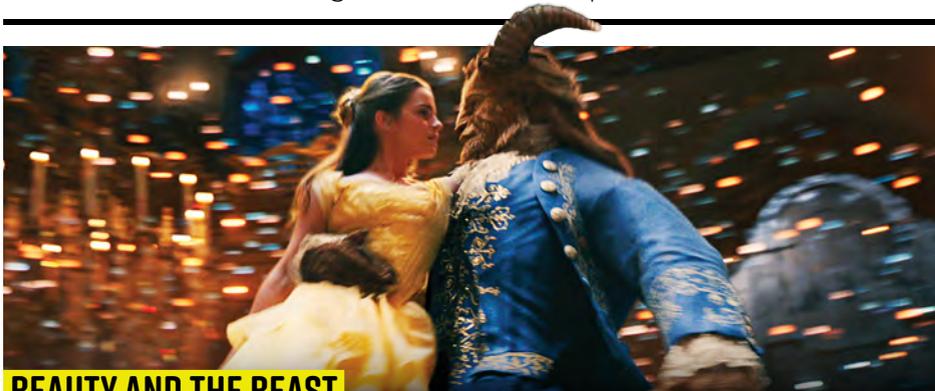
# FAMILY FILMS

Big-budget fantasies compete for kids' attention in 2017, but with enough built-in nostalgia to attract their parents too

## THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

We're still waiting for that *Arrested Development* movie. But at least in *The Lego Batman Movie* we finally get to see (or hear) the reunion of Will Arnett, who played *Arrested Development's* witless magician Gob Bluth, and Michael Cera, who played Gob's kind-hearted nephew George Michael. Here, Arnett reprises his scene-stealing portrayal of an egotistical Batman from 2014's *The Lego Movie*, and Cera is Robin, the lonely Bat's adopted son who becomes his enthusiastic sidekick.

**OPENS FEBRUARY 10**



## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Disney's no fool. Look for the studio's live-action *Beauty and the Beast* to take advantage of the best elements of its 1991 animated version, including many of the songs by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman. At the same time — at star Emma Watson's urging — Belle will be a more intelligent and self-sufficient female protagonist. For example, traditionally it's Belle's father who's the inventor, but here it's Belle; she invents a washing machine so she

can spend less time doing laundry, and more time reading books. While *Downton Abbey's* Dan Stevens is unrecognizable (both in looks and voice) as Beast, you might be able to make out the voice talent behind the enchanted housewares, including Ewan McGregor (Lumière), Josh Gad (Le Fou), Emma Thompson (Mrs. Potts), Ian McKellen (Cogsworth) and Stanley Tucci (Cadenza).

**OPENS MARCH 17**



## POWER RANGERS

This latest big-screen incarnation of the popular 1980s TV show starts off looking like a more melancholy version of *The Breakfast Club* — five high school outcasts (Dacre Montgomery, Naomi Scott, RJ Cyler, Becky G and Ludi Lin) bond over being, well, outcasts while forced to attend Saturday school. But an outing to a quarry puts them in touch with a glowing rock that imbues each with superstrength and various other powers. Good thing too, since an evil alien named Rita Repulsa (Elizabeth Banks) is threatening Earth, starting with the kids' hometown of Angel Grove.

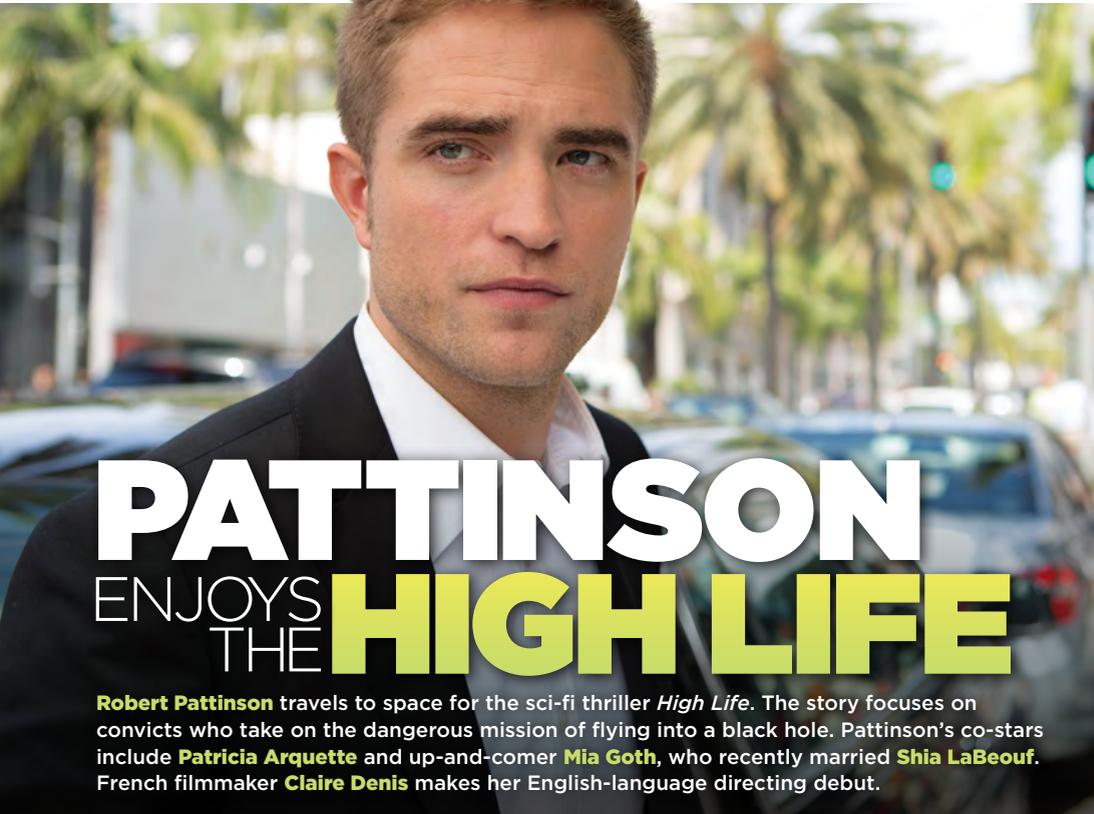
**OPENS MARCH 24**



## PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES

Admittedly, after four movies and 14 years, we're not expecting much new or surprising from Johnny Depp's portrayal of Captain Jack Sparrow in *Dead Men Tell No Tales*. Instead we're thinking the success of the franchise's fifth film rests squarely on the epaulette-festooned shoulders of its villain, Captain Salazar, played by Javier Bardem and a bucket of prosthetic makeup. Salazar is yet another in Sparrow's long-list of sworn enemies. He's just escaped from the "Devil's Triangle" and is hellbent on finding, and killing, the swaggering Sparrow. Bardem makes a mean bad guy (*No Country For Old Men*, *Skyfall*), so we're optimistic.

**OPENS MAY 26**



## PATTINSON ENJOYS THE **HIGH LIFE**

**Robert Pattinson** travels to space for the sci-fi thriller *High Life*. The story focuses on convicts who take on the dangerous mission of flying into a black hole. Pattinson's co-stars include **Patricia Arquette** and up-and-comer **Mia Goth**, who recently married **Shia LaBeouf**. French filmmaker **Claire Denis** makes her English-language directing debut.



## JOHANSSON LIKES **TANGERINE**

**Scarlett Johansson** is set to star in the adaptation of **Christine Mangan's** debut novel *Tangerine*. The story, set in 1950s Morocco, finds Alice Shipley (Johansson) reconnecting with her old friend Lucy, who may have been involved in the death of Alice's former boyfriend. The plot thickens when Lucy's husband is found dead and suspicion falls on Alice. No word on who will direct.



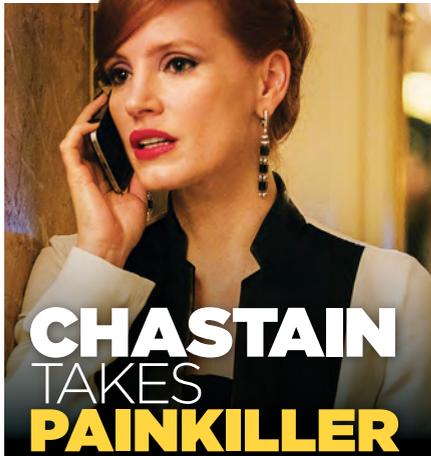
## MALEK WILL **ROCK YOU**

**Rami Malek's** tremendous work on TV's *Mr. Robot* has not gone unnoticed by Hollywood producers. Malek has just finished shooting the *Papillon* remake with **Charlie Hunnam** and has now been cast as Freddie Mercury in director **Bryan Singer's** *Bohemian Rhapsody*, which chronicles the rise of the band Queen. Both **Sacha Baron Cohen** and **Ben Whishaw** were set to play the iconic rocker in bio-pics that didn't pan out.



## What's Going On With... **JUMANJI**

Filming is complete on *Jumanji*, a sequel to the 1995 film of the same name that starred **Robin Williams**. In the first film kids were whisked inside a magical board game, in the sequel it's a videogame played by four teens in detention who are sucked into the action. The kids take on digital avatars, which are played by A-listers **Dwayne Johnson**, **Kevin Hart**, **Jack Black** and **Karen Gillan**. *Jumanji* hits theatres December 22nd, 2017.



## CHASTAIN TAKES PAINKILLER

Back in 2014, **Jessica Chastain** told *The Guardian* that she wanted to appear in a superhero movie, but with the caveat, "I don't want to be the girlfriend, I don't want to be the daughter. I want to wear a f--king cool costume, with a scar on my face, with fight scenes. That's what I'd love." She gets her wish playing Jane Vasko in the adaptation of the graphic novel *Painkiller Jane*. Vasko is an undercover cop who receives superhuman regenerative powers and becomes a vigilante. Chastain is also producing the film, no word on who will direct.



## FRESH FACE ANYA TAYLOR-JOY

**Anya Taylor-Joy's** acting career got off to a creepy start. She made her acclaimed debut in *The Witch*, played an artificial being in *Morgan*, and in this month's *Split* she desperately tries to escape from captor **James McAvoy**. The 20-year-old model, who was born in Miami, Florida, but raised in Argentina and England, has another two films in the can — *Thoroughbred* and *Marrowbone* — dramas that break her string of horror pics.



## STEVENS NABS DICKENS OF A ROLE

Former *Downton Abbey* star **Dan Stevens** has signed on to lead the cast of *The Man Who Invented Christmas*, the story of how Charles Dickens came to write his classic *A Christmas Carol*. Stevens plays Dickens, **Jonathan Pryce** is Dickens' father and **Christopher Plummer** plays Scrooge. Shooting is underway in England with **Bharat Nalluri** (*Miss Pettigrew Lives For a Day*) behind the camera.

**ALSO IN THE WORKS** ▶ **Shailene Woodley** is circling the lead role in *Hummingbird*, about a black ops assassin who questions her identity. ▶ **Pierce Brosnan** and **Marie Valverde** will star in the adaptation of **Ernest Hemingway's** wartime romance *Across the River and Into the Trees*. ▶ **Rosario Dawson** will play women's rights activist Donna Hylton in *A Little Piece of Light*. ▶ **Samantha Bee**, **Martin Short** and **John Cleese** provide the voices for the Canadian-produced animated tale *Elliot: The Littlest Reindeer*.



# Hepburn goes Lightly

**T**roman Capote was very upset. When it came time to make the movie version of his novella *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, he desperately wanted Marilyn Monroe to star as the fun-loving escort Holly Golightly, who refuses to let go of her partying ways until she meets a struggling writer (George Peppard).

Monroe wanted the role but turned it down because her acting coach Paula Strasberg said

it would be a mistake to play a lady of the night. Enter Audrey Hepburn, who Capote felt was utterly wrong for the part.

Yet Hepburn instilled Holly with a blend of elegance, daffy narcissism and comedic flair that director Blake Edwards then corralled into his bubbly comedy that paved over Capote's darker story and transformed Hepburn into a Hollywood icon. —INGRID RANDOJA

## **BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S**

screens as part of Cineplex's Classic Films series on January 15th, 23rd and 25th. Go to [Cineplex.com/Events](http://Cineplex.com/Events) for times and locations.



## BLAIR WITCH

**BUY IT** JANUARY 3

**RENT IT** JANUARY 3

If 1999's *The Blair Witch Project* made you fearful of standing in corners, then you may want to steer clear of this sequel that sends a group of young people into the scary woods in search of the film crew that went missing in the original film.



## THE ACCOUNTANT

**BUY IT** JANUARY 10

**RENT IT** JANUARY 31

**Ben Affleck** dons a pocket protector to play math savant Christian Wolff, who works as a CPA but also keeps the books for international crime organizations. When one of his unsuspecting co-workers (**Anna Kendrick**) is targeted for death, Christian trades his calculator for a gun to take out the bad guys.



## INFERNO

**BUY IT** JANUARY 17

**RENT IT** JANUARY 24

**Tom Hanks** returns for a third time to portray professor Robert Langdon in this adaptation of the **Dan Brown** novel that sees Langdon teaming with a physician (**Felicity Jones**) to stop a madman from unleashing a global pandemic.



## JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK

**BUY IT** JANUARY 17

Although **Tom Cruise** is much shorter than the literary version of vigilante Jack Reacher, the actor is growing into the role that asks him to punch first and ask questions later. Here, he helps his military contact Major Susan Turner (**Cobie Smulders**), who's been framed.

## THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS

**BUY IT** JANUARY 24

**RENT IT** JANUARY 24

A real-life romance sparked between co-stars **Michael Fassbender** and **Alicia Vikander** while shooting this drama about a lighthouse keeper and his wife who rescue an infant aboard a drifting lifeboat and years later must decide whether or not to return the girl to her birth mother (**Rachel Weisz**).



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# FINALLY...



**UNDERWORLD:  
BLOOD WARS**  
HITS THEATRES  
JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>



**RESIDENT EVIL:  
THE FINAL CHAPTER**  
HITS THEATRES  
JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>

## RESIDENT UNDERWORLD: THE FINAL BLOOD WARS

**Cheers to two female action heroes who just won't die.**

This month, Sony Pictures releases two films from long-in-the-tooth action franchises that feature now-fortysomething leading ladies in kickass leading roles.

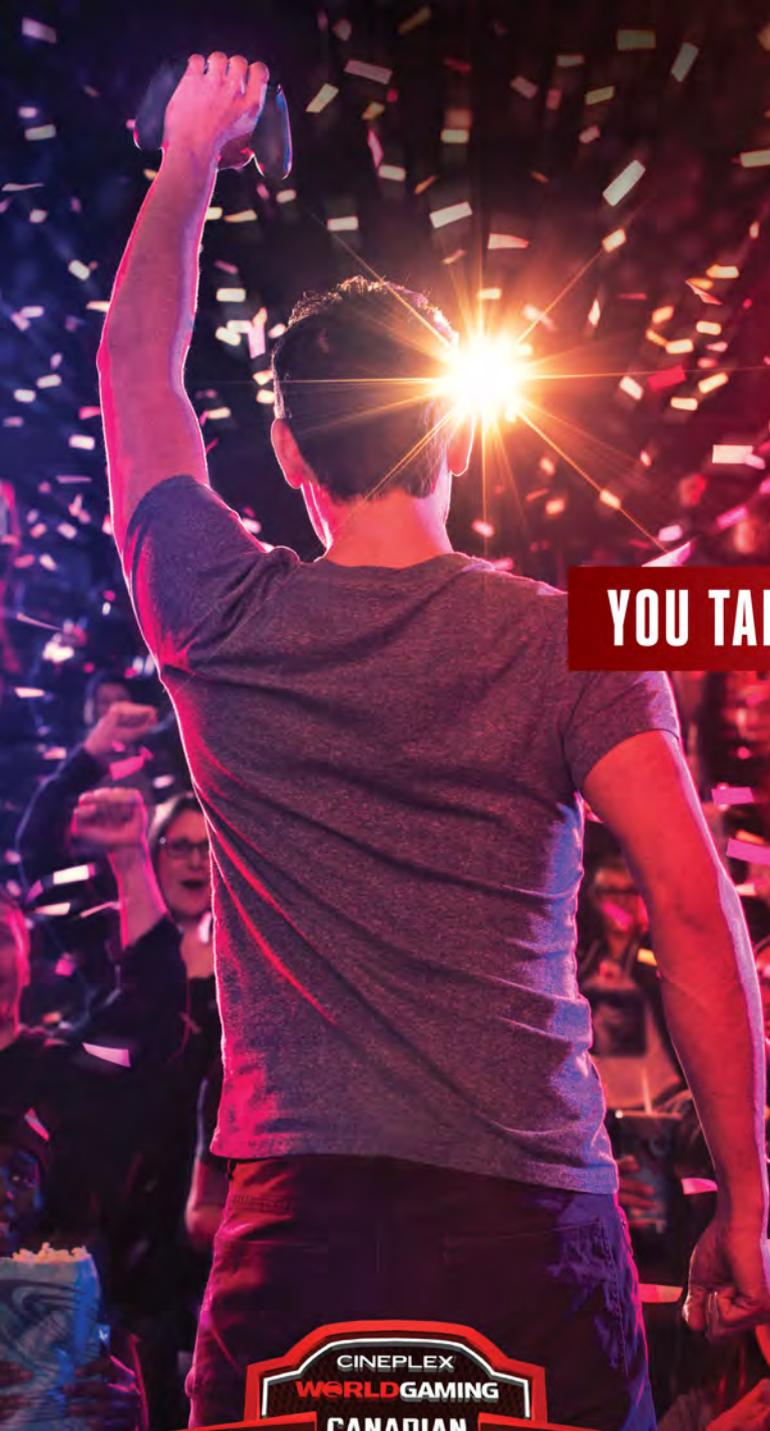
On the left you see Kate Beckinsale (43) as Selene in *Underworld: Blood Wars*, the fifth film in the vampires v. werewolves *Underworld* series, and on the right you see Milla Jovovich (41) as Alice in *Resident Evil: The Final Chapter*, the sixth and (if the title is to be believed) final film in the dystopian *Resident Evil* series.

The two women have been circling each other for more than a decade; the first *Resident Evil* movie came out in 2002 and *Underworld's* initial offering a year later in 2003.

But Kate and Milla have more in common than starring roles in long-standing, lady-centred, Sony Pictures action franchises.

Each married the director of her franchise. Jovovich wed Paul W.S. Anderson in 2009 and Beckinsale married Len Wiseman in 2004, though the latter filed for divorce last year.

So we say a fond adieu to Alice. And as for Selene? Wiseman has already said that a sixth *Underworld* movie is underway. —MARNI WEISZ



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