

CINEPLEX

MAGAZINE

X-MEN'S FASSBENDER, MCAVOY

PREPARE FOR
APOCALYPSE

Inside
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ROBERTS**
**RYAN
GOSLING**

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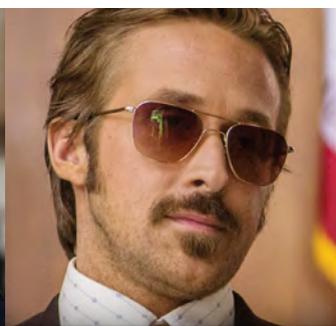
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BY MARNI WEISZ





THE FIRST APOCALYPSE

As Oscar Isaac's menacing *Apocalypse* — the titular blue baddie of this month's *X-Men: Apocalypse* — descends on theatres, you have to wonder...whatever happened to Brendan Peddar?

No? Never heard of him? He's the Quebec teen who originated Isaac's role in *X-Men: Days of Future Past's* post-credits teaser.

A camera pans over the Egyptian desert and lands on a young figure clad in robes. With blue arms raised, the boy constructs a pyramid simply by moving his hands around like a conductor. Thousands of followers below chant *Apocalypse's* given name, En Sabah Nur, En Sabah Nur, En Sabah Nur.

Peddar was on screen for just a few seconds, but his appearance revealed the direction of the next *X-Men* film and sparked debate about the actor's identity. Many guessed Logan Lerman.

Truth is, Peddar was simply in the right place at the right time — Montreal, while *Days of Future Past* was shooting there. He lives just across the river in Saint-Hubert.

Seventeen at the time, Peddar had one credit to his name, a Coke commercial, but he also had an agent who told him about an audition for something called "HK Project". Peddar assumed it was a French indie film. The whole meeting lasted 45 minutes, most of which was spent taking his measurements and having him try on the robe.

He didn't know the audition was for an *X-Men* film until after he got the part. That's when he took to Google to find out exactly what "HK Project" was, and realized it was the code name for *X-Men: Days of Future Past*.

So why did they choose Peddar? He thinks it's because the robe fit. A true Cinderella story.

Peddar has still never had a speaking role, and his interest in acting has waned. Now 19 and about to graduate high school and start university he's already a part-time sales rep for a Brossard car dealership.

And when *Apocalypse* was shot in Montreal last year, he didn't even get an invitation to visit the set.

So when you see Oscar Isaac wreaking havoc as the grown-up *Apocalypse* (who's actually thousands of years old) take a moment to remember Peddar's slim blue hands rising above the desert, simultaneously building the pyramids and bringing the *X-Men's* greatest foe into existence.

Turn to page 36 to read "Apocalypse Now," in which we travel to the film's Montreal set to talk to three actors who *are* actually in *X-Men: Apocalypse* — **Michael Fassbender**, **James McAvoy** and **Sophie Turner** — and their director, **Bryan Singer**.

Elsewhere in this issue, **Julia Roberts** talks about making *Money Monster* with co-star George Clooney and director Jodie Foster (page 32), we chat with **Ryan Gosling** about his stylish, 1970s-set crime pic *The Nice Guys* (page 28), and we take a look at some of the fresh new fashions that strolled down this year's Spring-Summer runways (page 40).

■ MARNI WEISZ, EDITOR

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SNAPS



MERRY MIRREN

Someone likes their wardrobe. **Helen Mirren** prances down the street on the Manhattan set of *Collateral Beauty*.

PHOTO BY JOSE PEREZ/SPLASH NEWS



WHERE'S WONDER WOMAN?

Can you spot **Gal Gadot** shooting a scene for *Wonder Woman* in Trafalgar Square? There she is, in the blue coat.

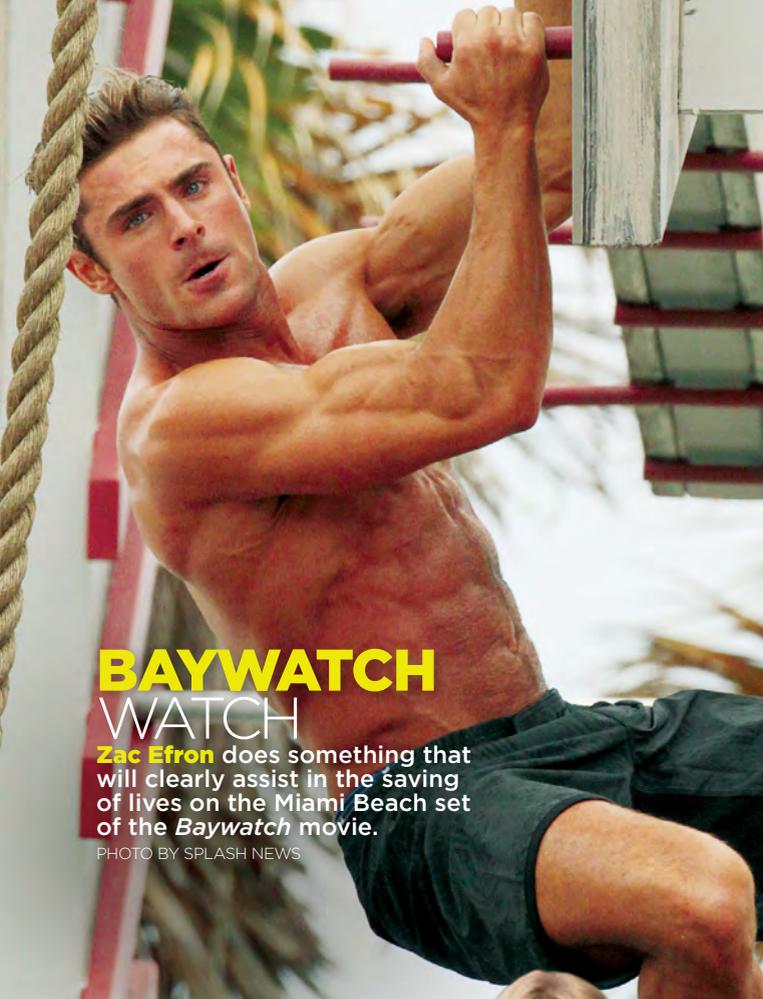
PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



WHO'S CUTER?

It's the baby. Clearly the baby. **Brad Pitt** takes his wee co-star for a ride while in London shooting a scene for the World War II drama *Five Seconds of Silence*.

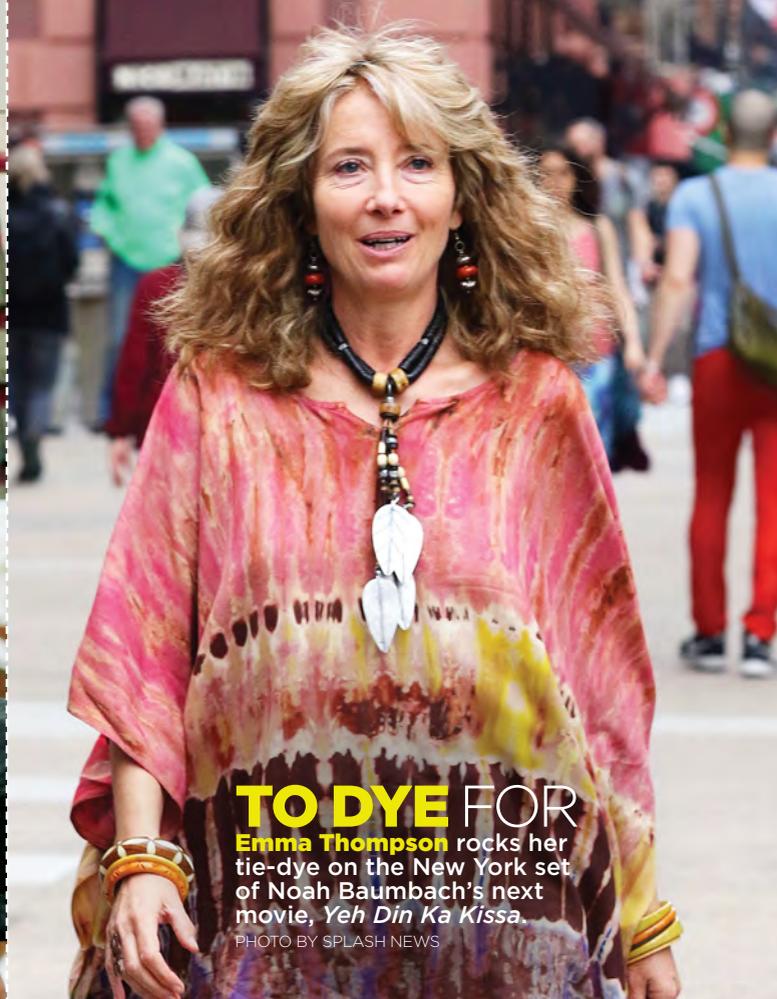
PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



BAYWATCH WATCH

Zac Efron does something that will clearly assist in the saving of lives on the Miami Beach set of the *Baywatch* movie.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



TO DYE FOR

Emma Thompson rocks her tie-dye on the New York set of Noah Baumbach's next movie, *Yeh Din Ka Kissa*.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



MILEY MEETS WOODY

Proof that **Miley Cyrus** really is appearing in Woody Allen's next film. The pop star pops up on the New York set of the director's as-yet-untitled movie.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



THEY LOVE WILL

Will Smith is swarmed by fans on the Manhattan set of *Collateral Beauty*.

PHOTO BY JOSE PEREZ/SPLASH NEWS



SHE'S THE BOSS

Hi Melissa! You look gorgeous. Melissa McCarthy arrives at the L.A. premiere of *The Boss*.

PHOTO BY TODD WILLIAMSON/GETTY



GOOD BOYS!

Dustin Hoffman shoots a scene with a standard poodle named Einstein on the New York set of *Yeh Din Ka Kissa*.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER PETERSON/SPLASH NEWS

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IN BRIEF



THE VOICE

RICKMAN PHOTO BY MATEJ DIVIZNA/GETTY

Alice Through the Looking Glass gives audiences the chance to hear Alan Rickman's magnificent voice one last time.

In his final film role, Rickman, who died of pancreatic cancer in January at the age of 69, voices the Blue Caterpillar, who pleads with Alice to return to

the magical realm of Underland. Why was Rickman's voice — which could be mournful or menacing, creepy or comforting — so pleasing?

A 2008 study that was commissioned by Britain's Post Office Telecoms revealed that Rickman possessed an almost ideal male voice.

According to a formula

created by University of Sheffield linguist Andrew Line that took into account tone, speed, frequency, words per minute and intonation, Rickman and fellow English actor Jeremy Irons came out on top, possessing "deep gravelly tones" that inspired trust and confidence in listeners. —*IR*

Matt Damon

On Home Turf: **DOWNSIZING**

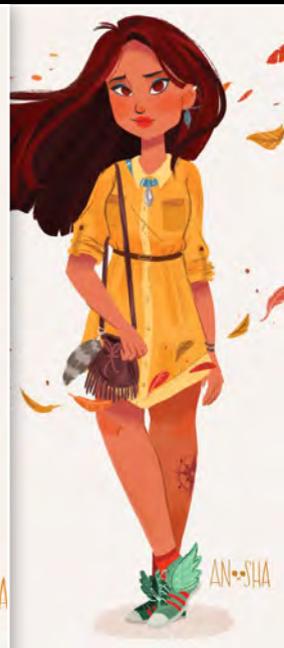
There's nothing small about the caliber of talent in Toronto this month to shoot *Downsizing*, writer/director **Alexander Payne's** comedy about an Omaha man (**Matt Damon**) who decides his life would be better if he shrank himself down and joined a community of tiny people.

Aside from Damon, **Reese Witherspoon, Alec Baldwin, Jason Sudeikis** and **Neil Patrick Harris** are expected to be in Hometown through May and June and maybe even into July to shoot the film.

While Payne's known for quirky films like *Nebraska*, *The Descendants* and *Sideways*, *Downsizing* is his first foray into the downright bizarre. —*MW* ▶

THE ART OF FILM

At 22, it wasn't long ago that Mississauga illustrator Anoosha Syed was the target audience for Disney princess movies. And she loved them. "I feel like Disney has been getting a lot of heat for their princesses, but I do feel like they have improved greatly in recent years, though I would love more diversity in the girls," she says. Which is, in part, why she created a series of reimagined, more realistic Disney princesses. Here you see (from left) military-school cadet Mulan, travel blogger/animal-rights activist Jasmine and translator/linguistics student Pocahontas. "I didn't want to criticize the princesses, but to show how empowering they are, especially placed in a modern setting," she says. Go to @foxville_art on Instagram to see more. —*MW*



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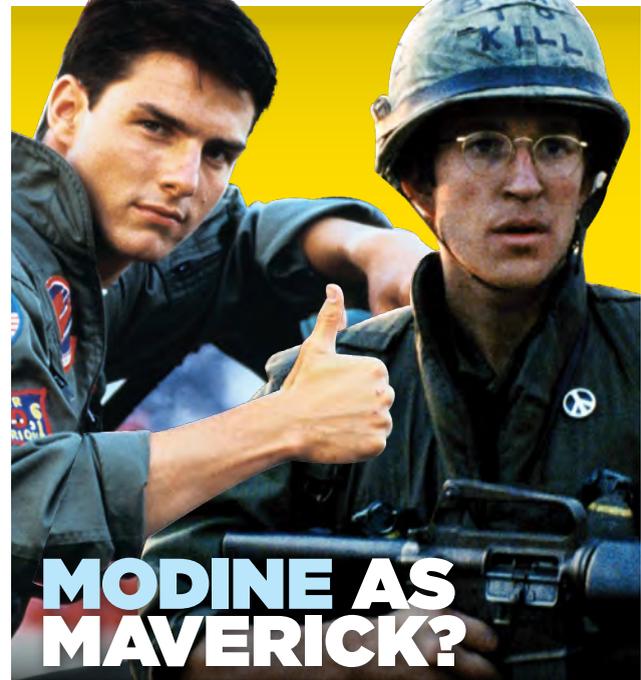


▶ See that baby bump Rose Byrne is sporting in *Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising*? It's the real thing.

There were rumours Byrne (*Spy*, *Bridesmaids*) was really pregnant last October, while she was shooting the film, but the 36-year-old actor declined to say yay or nay.

It wasn't until November that her long-time boyfriend, actor Bobby Cannavale (*Blue Jasmine*, TV's *Boardwalk Empire*), confirmed in an interview with *TV Week* that, yes, there was a small human growing in Byrne's belly and he was the father.

Three months later Byrne gave birth to her first baby, a boy named Rocco. —MW



Top Gun celebrates its 30th anniversary this month. The thriller about fighter pilots Maverick (Tom Cruise, top left), Goose (Anthony Edwards) and Iceman (Val Kilmer) came out on May 16th, 1986, and turned Cruise into a bankable action star.

But Cruise wasn't the producers' first choice to play Maverick. They'd already offered the role to Matthew Modine (*Hotel New Hampshire*, *Birdy*).

Modine passed because he wasn't comfortable with the film's glib, pro-military politics. The following year he appeared in Stanley Kubrick's *Full Metal Jacket* (top right), a film with a much less entertaining take on military life that gave audiences a peek at the brainwashing techniques used to convert young men into fighting machines. —MW

Quote Unquote

“ He's a contrarian. He's a little frustrated. He's definitely the black sheep. You know who he reminds me of a little bit is **McMurphy from *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest***. ”

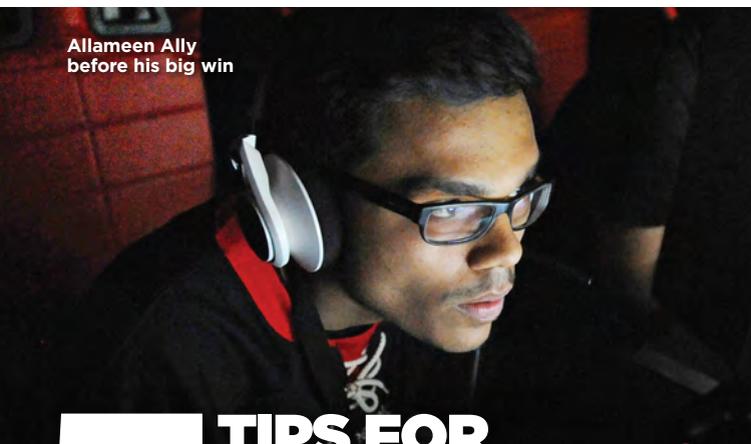
—JASON SUDEIKIS ON RED, THE CHARACTER HE VOICES IN *ANGRY BIRDS*





DID YOU KNOW?

In comic book writer Mark Millar's *Civil War* story arc Captain America dies at the end. No SPOILER ALERT needed here, though, because those behind this month's big-screen version have been very clear that their movie differs *considerably* from that narrative, so Cap's fate is entirely in their hands.



Allameen Ally
before his big win

5 TIPS FOR STREET FIGHTER V FINALISTS

On May 29th, the second installment of Cineplex's WorldGaming Canadian Championships brings the country's best *Street Fighter V* players to Toronto's Scotiabank Theatre to crown a winner. Got to Cineplex.com/GameOn for more information and to buy tickets.

We asked 18-year-old Brampton high school student **Allameen Ally** (a.k.a. TheAnonAlly), who won the first installment and \$20,000 for his *Call of Duty: Black Ops III* skills, to give the *Street Fighter V* challengers five tips for gaming in the big theatre.

1 MENTAL STATE "You're probably not used to playing in front of an audience. For me, personally, I had butterflies just thinking about the idea, and I would be shaky at times. But then I realized, I'm here for me, not anyone else. This is my

stage, and I need to show what I've got. So try to block out any nervousness you may feel, wash your face before the match, and keep your head in the game."

2 KEEP YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME "Never let your opponent get the best of you. If he outplays you, outthink him. Reflect on your mistakes in game to ensure you won't repeat them. If you do something wrong, get it right. Also, change up your strategies here and there, don't make your play style a pattern, usually people will catch on."

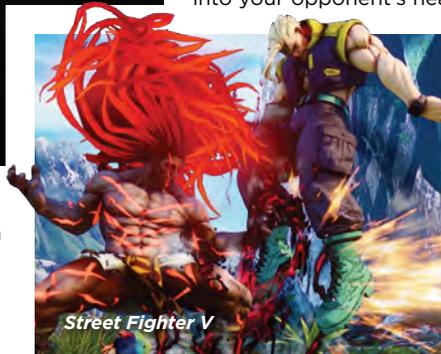
3 TRASH TALK "When it comes to trash talk, you're either the trash-talker, or being trash-talked. Maybe trash-talking is your way to get into your opponent's head, but this tip is for people being trash-talked to. Don't let your opponent get into your head, the whole point of trash-talking in game is to get into your opponent's head. Block them out and you'll win."

4 KNOWING YOUR OPPONENT "This is self-explanatory.

You always want to understand your opponent's play style, and adjust yours to better suit the win. When people are playing, watch them. Observe their strategies and patterns. This is crucial in any game. Also, if you know someone who is going to be competing in your tournament, it's likely they have social media. Look for a YouTube channel, Twitch account

or anything else along those lines."

5 DON'T STOP THE GRIND "This is the biggest tip I can give you. Every single hour that you miss, there's another person somewhere in the world getting better than you. People will pass you on leaderboards, and overall skill. You can always find time to grind, there are no excuses. It doesn't matter if you're the best in the world, if you don't put in time, you won't be the best for much longer."



Street Fighter V

Alex Ozerov and
his *Natasha* co-star
Sasha K. Gordon

FROM RUSSIA...

NATASHA
HITS THEATRES
MAY 6TH

Alex Ozerov understands upheaval.

The 23-year-old actor was born in Russia, moved to Ukraine when he was young, and when his parents divorced he settled in England with his mother. She eventually came to Canada and Ozerov had to wait three years before he was allowed to join her.

It was while living with his mom in Toronto that he saw something that changed his life.

"I was watching TV, the Disney Channel I think, and I saw these kids having so much fun and being so confident and secure with themselves on camera," says Ozerov on the line from his apartment in Los Angeles. "I was like, 'Wow!' I was never a secure kid, never confident, my self-esteem was quite low with moving around a lot, so I saw those kids and I go, 'Mom, I want to try this, I want to do this.'"

That spark ignited an acting career.

Ozerov's credits include the films *Blackbird* and *Coconut Hero* and TV shows such as *Orphan Black* and *Bitten*. And, in a case of art imitating life, he plays a character very much like himself — a Russian-Canadian teen living in the suburbs of Toronto — in this month's *Natasha*. Ozerov plays Mark, whose life is turned upside down when he falls for Natasha (Sasha K. Gordon), his sexually promiscuous 14-year-old cousin by marriage.

"I see quite a bit of myself in Mark," he admits. "He's sort of passive in a way, contemplative. He's got a high interest in philosophy, which is close to myself."

Natasha also gave Ozerov the opportunity to act in his native Russian. "It took me a while to get back to speaking proper Russian," he says. "At home it's all a mumbo jumbo; it's English, it's Russian, you find whatever words in whatever language to express yourself better." —INGRID RANDOJA

WE HAD
TWENTY YEARS
TO PREPARE
SO DID THEY

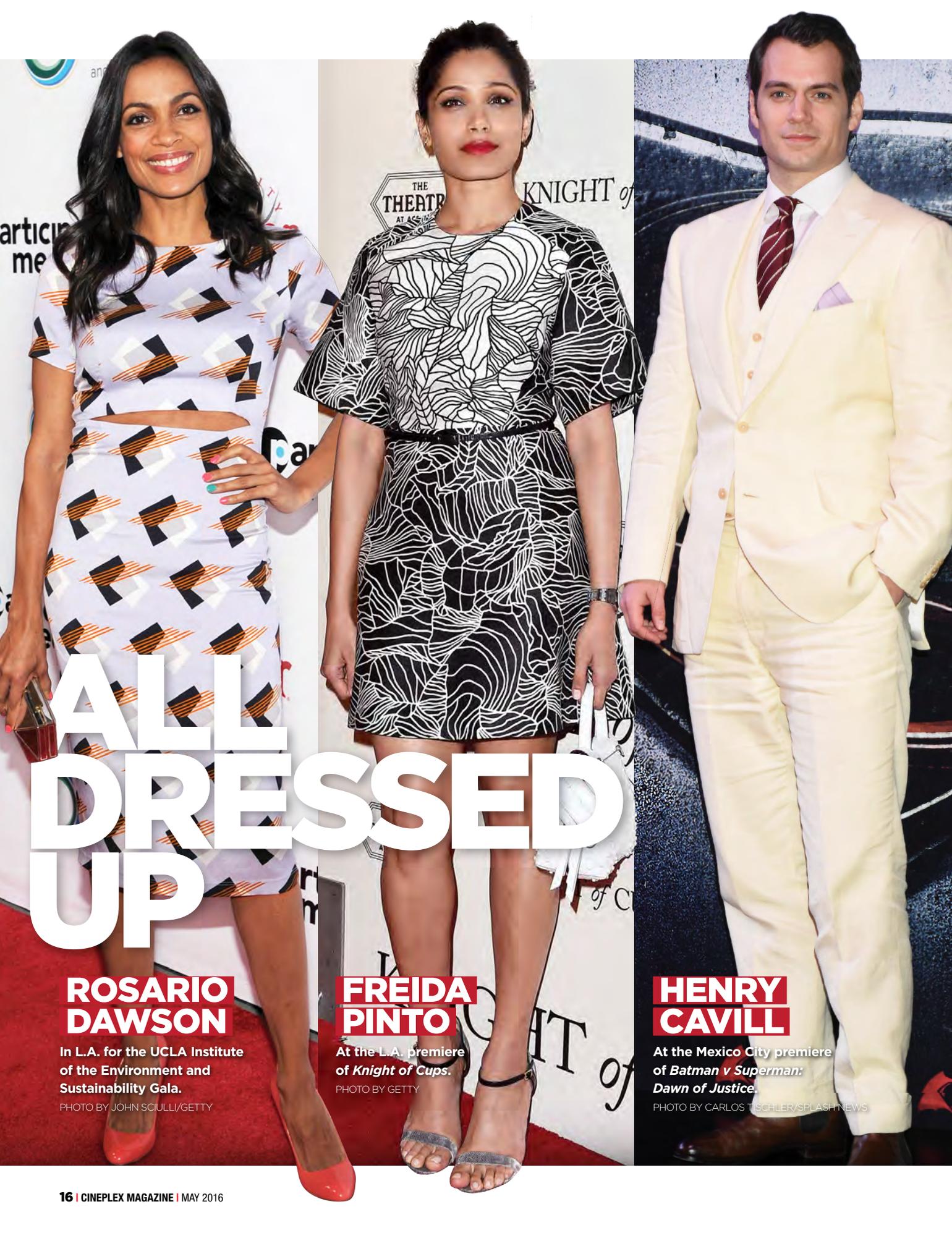
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ALL DRESSED UP

ROSARIO DAWSON

In L.A. for the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability Gala.

PHOTO BY JOHN SCIULLI/GETTY

FREIDA PINTO

At the L.A. premiere of *Knight of Cups*.

PHOTO BY GETTY

HENRY CAVILL

At the Mexico City premiere of *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*.

PHOTO BY CARLOS TISCHLER/SPLASH NEWS



**DAKOTA
FANNING**

Outside the Valentino show
at Paris Fashion Week.

PHOTO BY MELODIE JENG/GETTY



**JESSICA
ALBA**

At the Christian Dior show
during Paris Fashion Week.

PHOTO BY ANTONIO DE MORAES
BARROS-FILHO/GETTY



**CHRIS
HEMSWORTH**

In Hamburg, Germany, to
promote *The Huntsman:
Winter's War*.

PHOTO BY GETTY

IN THEATRES

MAY 6



CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

The cracks in the team that started to show during *Avengers: Age of Ultron* become canyons that forever alter Marvel's Cinematic Universe. After causing worldwide havoc, the superheroes are put under government control, but Captain America (**Chris Evans**) doesn't trust the feds while Iron Man (**Robert Downey Jr.**) does, forcing the Avengers to pick sides. **See feature on Spider-Man's arrival in the franchise, page 26.**

THE MEDDLER

Lonely New York widow Marnie (**Susan Sarandon**) moves to L.A. to be close to her daughter Lori (**Rose Byrne**) and manages to insert herself into the lives of strangers she meets.

CONTINUED ►



Susan Sarandon (left) and Rose Byrne in *The Meddler*

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MAY 13



▶ **A BIGGER SPLASH**

Rock star Marianne (**Tilda Swinton**) is recovering from throat surgery and can barely speak so she and her boyfriend (**Matthias Schoenaerts**) go on vacation. But their idyllic trip is interrupted by the arrival of Marianne's obnoxious ex-lover (**Ralph Fiennes**) and his adult daughter (**Dakota Johnson**).



Money Monster's
Julia Roberts

MONEY MONSTER

Jodie Foster directs this high-stakes drama starring **Jack O'Connell** as Kyle Budwell, a desperate man who takes TV financial whiz Lee Gates (**George Clooney**) hostage on air because he blames Gates for the loss of his life's savings. The show's producer (**Julia Roberts**) and Gates convince Budwell to let them investigate what happened to his money in front of a live TV audience.

See **Julia Roberts** interview, **page 32**.

KIDNAP

Halle Berry plays an anguished mother searching for her kidnapped son.

MAY 20

HIGH-RISE

Tom Hiddleston headlines this adaptation of **J.G Ballard's** disturbing 1975 sci-fi novel that takes place inside a self-sufficient, luxury high-rise. Hiddleston plays Dr. Laing, whose desire to move to higher, more prestigious floors is derailed when the building starts to malfunction and anarchy erupts among the tower's residents.

CONTINUED ▶





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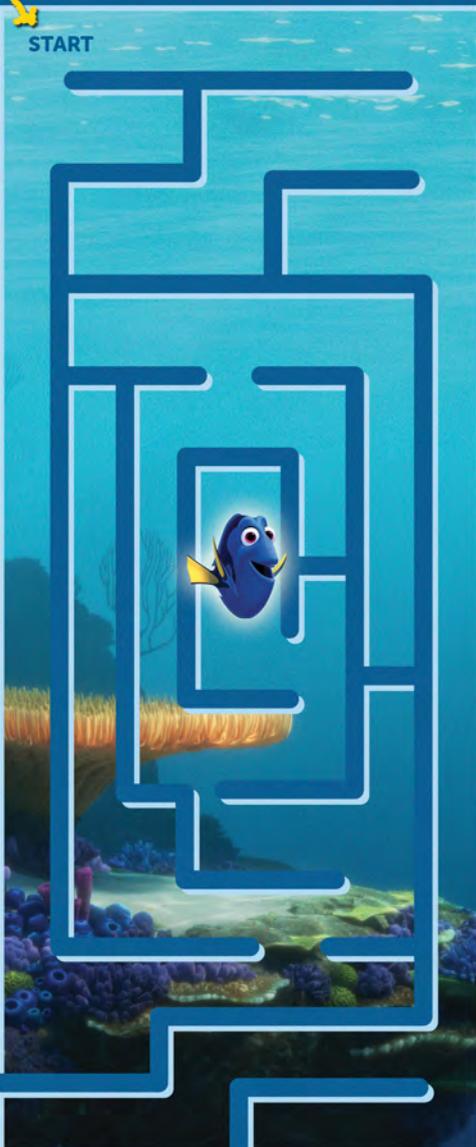
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MAY 20



ANGRY BIRDS

You just knew one of the world's most popular videogames would find its way onto the big screen despite the fact it lacks a definable story. Problem solved as we're introduced to a colony of flightless birds who have their eggs stolen by a band of green-skinned pigs. The birds call on Red (**Jason Sudeikis**), Chuck (**Josh Gad**) and Bomb (**Danny McBride**) to storm the pigs' stronghold and retrieve their eggs.

NEIGHBORS 2: SORORITY RISING

Neighbors saw Mac (**Seth Rogen**) and Kelly (**Rose Byrne**) battle it out with Teddy (**Zac Efron**) and his fraternity brothers who lived next door. This time around it's a sorority that moves in and the couple enlists Teddy's help to shut down the partying ladies.

THE NICE GUYS

This throwback buddy/crime pic is set in 1970s L.A. and stars **Ryan Gosling** as a private detective who teams with a burly enforcer (**Russell Crowe**) to find a government official's (**Kim Basinger**) missing daughter (**Margaret Qualley**). See **Ryan Gosling interview**, **page 28**.



Seth Rogen (centre) leads *Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising's* funny cast

CONTINUED ▶

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▶ **ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS**

Time is an adversary in this sequel to 2010's massive hit *Alice in Wonderland*. Alice (**Mia Wasikowska**) is lured back to Underland to find a way to convince Time (**Sacha Baron Cohen**) to reverse itself in order to save the Mad Hatter (**Johnny Depp**). **Anne Hathaway** (White Queen) and **Helena Bonham Carter** (Red Queen) return and **Rhys Ifans** joins the cast as the Mad Hatter's eccentric father.



Alexandra Shipp and Oscar Isaac in *X-Men: Apocalypse*

X-MEN: APOCALYPSE

The finale to director **Bryan Singer's** X-Men origins trilogy casts **Oscar Isaac** as Apocalypse, a cosmically powerful mutant who enlists Magneto (**Michael Fassbender**) to help him cleanse Earth of its inferior beings. It's up to Professor X (**James McAvoy**), Raven (**Jennifer Lawrence**) and a team of young mutants to stop them. See **Michael Fassbender** and **James McAvoy** interview, **page 36**.

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MADAMA BUTTERFLY (PUCCINI)
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NEIGHBORS
SORORITY RISING

MAY 20

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Tobey Maguire

(SPIDER-MAN FROM 2002 TO 2007)

SPIDER-MAN MOVIES: *Spider-Man* (2002), *Spider-Man 2* (2004), *Spider-Man 3* (2007)

AGE WHEN CAST: 25

NATIONALITY: American

BREAKOUT FILM: *The Ice Storm* (1997)

ATHLETIC PROWESS: Has long practiced yoga and used it to get in shape to play Spider-Man

SPIDEY CRED: Had never read a *Spider-Man* comic book before getting the role, and showed little interest in reading one after

ARACHNID NAMESAKE: In 2015 a new species of spider crab was named *Maguimithrax* in Maguire's honour

OFF-SCREEN RELATIONSHIP WITH A SPIDER-MAN CO-STAR: Started dating Emma Stone — who played his Gwen Stacy — while filming *The Amazing Spider-Man*. They dated from 2011 to 2015

OFF-SCREEN RELATIONSHIP WITH A SPIDER-MAN CO-STAR:

In a *Premiere* magazine interview, director Sam Raimi revealed that Maguire and Kirsten Dunst — who played Mary Jane Watson — had “a thing” while shooting 2002's *Spider-Man*

Thought they couldn't possibly cram one more big-name superhero into the Avengers franchise? Wrong! Here comes the Spider-Man. The teen web-slinger makes his franchise debut in this month's *Captain America: Civil War* before getting his own movie in 2017. So how does the new Spider-Man, **Tom Holland**, stack up against his two predecessors?



Andrew Garfield

(SPIDER-MAN FROM 2012 TO 2014)

SPIDER-MAN MOVIES:

The Amazing Spider-Man (2012),
The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014)

AGE WHEN CAST:

25
NATIONALITY: American and British
(he was born in L.A. and didn't move
to England until he was three)

BREAKOUT FILM:

The Social Network (2010)

ATHLETIC PROWESS: His father was
a swim coach and young Andrew
excelled in the pool and as a gymnast

SPIDEY CRED: Was a huge fan as a
kid and went as Spidey for Halloween

ARACHNID NAMESAKE: In 2015 a
new species of spider was named
Pritha garfieldi in Garfield's honour

Tom Holland

(SPIDER-MAN FROM 2016 TO ?)

SPIDER-MAN MOVIES:

Captain America: Winter Soldier
(2016), *Untitled Spider-Man*
Reboot (2017)

AGE WHEN CAST: 19 (the only
Spider-Man actor to still be a
teen when cast as the teen)

NATIONALITY:

British

BREAKOUT FILM:

The Impossible (2012)

ATHLETIC PROWESS: He studied
dance and made his professional
acting debut in the musical stage
version of *Billy Elliot*

SPIDEY CRED: Went to a
costume party dressed a
Spider-Man just a couple of
years before landing the role

ARACHNID NAMESAKE:

None yet

NS, -MANS...

From left: Tobey Maguire and
Kirsten Dunst a decade ago;
Andrew Garfield and Emma Stone
just a few years ago, and
Tom Holland's brand new
Spider-Man along with a
shot of Holland from last year's
In The Heart of the Sea

**OFF-SCREEN
RELATIONSHIP
WITH A SPIDER-MAN
CO-STAR:** We shall
see. His Gwen Stacy
and/or Mary Jane
have yet to be cast

THE NICE GUYS
HITS THEATRES MAY 20TH



LA STORIES



Ryan Gosling (left) and Russell Crowe stir up trouble in *The Nice Guys*

What's a nice guy from Ontario doing in three Los Angeles-set movies in a row? Canadian heartthrob **Ryan Gosling** talks about his L.A. period, which starts with this month's *The Nice Guys*, moves on to *La La Land* in December and concludes with the *Blade Runner* sequel in 2018. ■ BY BOB STRAUSS

Ryan Gosling is having fun. Wait. What? Alert the media! Yes, the brooding actor born in London, Ontario, is all smiles these days. Known for his difficult youth (which included a stint as part of TV's *The All New Mickey Mouse Club*) and for specializing in disturbed or unhappy characters, Gosling has been lightening up of late.

Light in Gosling terms, anyway.

Following his hilarious turn as a Wall Street scumbag in *The Big Short*, the actor comes roaring back this month in the period detective comedy *The Nice Guys*. His inept private eye Holland March spends most of the movie with his arm in a cast, courtesy of the rough enforcer Jackson Healy (Russell Crowe), who forces March to take part in an investigation involving a missing girl, a dead porn star and the mob in 1970s Los Angeles.

There's lots of shooting, bumbling and put-downs, including some zingers from March's young daughter (Angourie Rice).

In spite, or maybe because, of all of the nasty stuff, Gosling had a blast working with Crowe and writer-director Shane Black, the man who created the *Lethal Weapon* series, directed *Iron Man 3* and helped rehabilitate Robert Downey Jr.'s career with another comic mystery, *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*.

"It's very much a Shane Black movie," Gosling says during an interview in Beverly Hills. He's looking smart in black jeans, a white T-shirt and cobalt blue sport jacket. "If you've seen *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*, you know what I'm saying. It's hard to pinpoint what exactly makes his movies so unique, but it's very dark, it's very funny and it's certainly very new territory for Russell and I. We had a great time.

"It's set in the 1970s," the 35-year-old actor elaborates. "So there's a lot of cultural humour, there's a porn business element in there, corruption all around. There are a lot of twists and turns to the plot."

Gosling's next film sounds like a more traditionally happy type of thing, albeit in a setting that's usually a backdrop for disappointment and heartbreak. *La La Land* reunites Gosling with his *Gangster Squad* and *Crazy, Stupid, Love* co-star Emma Stone. He's a jazz pianist and she's an aspiring actor and together they dance their way through a romantic, fantasy L.A.

"*La La Land* is a musical written and directed by Damien Chazelle, who of course did *Whiplash*," Gosling explains. "It stars myself and Emma Stone, and it's sort of in the tradition of a Fred and Ginger movie. It was just such a fun experience all the way around. We had three months of prep when we were tap dancing and I

CONTINUED ►



Gosling and Crowe in *The Nice Guys*
INSET: Gosling with Emma Stone in *La La Land*

► was learning to play jazz piano and singing. Damien is a real student of films of this genre, and it's a real love letter to those movies and to Los Angeles."

We're guessing Gosling was able to call on the musical comedy skills he developed when, at the age of 12, he began his career with a two-year stint on *The All New Mickey Mouse Club*.

"No!" he says with a laugh. "I thought it would all come back to me, but it didn't! Just wasn't there. As a kid I trained as a dancer because you didn't have to be smart to do it — I had a lot of trouble in school — and it was a way I could express myself. I thought coming back to it would be like riding a bike, but there was nothing underneath me."

Gosling realizes that fans of his generally tortured body of work may not adjust easily to his latest movies. But he's not in a worrying mood right now.

"You know what?" he asks rhetorically. "Both of these films, I don't care what people think of them. I had so much fun making them both, it doesn't matter. But I'm really excited for people to see them. I really do like them."



There is a good reason for Gosling's sunnier outlook at this time. Following a high-profile, sometimes rocky love life that included relationships with Sandra Bullock and fellow Southwestern Ontario native Rachel McAdams, Gosling has settled down with actor Eva Mendes, his co-star from *The Place Beyond the Pines*. Their daughter, Esmeralda, turns two in September.

"It's the best thing that's ever happened to me, and that's an understatement," he says of fatherhood.

Those who miss the old, tormented Ryan — his breakout role as *The Believer's* conflicted, Jewish neo-Nazi, *The Notebook's* sad lover, *Blue Valentine's* sadder husband, the noble but drug-addicted *Half Nelson* teacher, *Drive's* existentially lost, well, driver, and many more — aren't totally out of luck.

Gosling's bizarre, 2014 directing debut *Lost River* was as unsettling as they come.

And he's scheduled to start work in July on the sequel to the classic 1982 science-fiction noir *Blade Runner*. It will be set in the same dystopian L.A. as the original — no singing or dancing or falling giddily in love here — with Harrison Ford reprising his role as rogue android hunter Rick Deckard. Directed by Quebec's Denis Villeneuve (*Sicario*, *Prisoners*) and produced by the first

film's auteur, Ridley Scott, the movie should come out in early 2018.

There's no word yet on whether Gosling will play a man or a replicant in the project, but it's a pretty safe bet that whatever he plays, it'll be pretty dark.

The actor is well aware of his tendencies.

"I'm prone to take myself, and a lot of things, too seriously," he admits.

For now though, Gosling remains upbeat.

"I've often played brooding, troubled, quiet guys," he acknowledges.

"So it's attractive, these opportunities to come out and talk a lot and make people laugh." ☐

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



IS THAT YOU, BUD?

In 1997, Russell Crowe wowed audiences as *L.A. Confidential's* violent cop Bud White, who falls for Lynn Bracken (Kim Basinger), a call girl cut to look like Veronica Lake in corrupt 1950s Los Angeles. Basinger won an Oscar, and Crowe became one of Hollywood's most sought-after talents.

Fast-forward nearly two decades — both in real life and movie time — and Crowe is playing violent enforcer Jackson Healy, who's trying to help a Department of Justice employee, played again by Basinger, save her daughter from the mob following the death of a porn star in 1970s Los Angeles.

So, not a sequel, but pretty cool to see Bud and Lynn's doppelgangers in still-seedy L.A. 20 years on. —MW

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**HELLO
GAMES**

A photograph of Julia Roberts in a call center setting. She is wearing a headset and a white, textured, long-sleeved shirt. She is looking off to the side with a concerned expression. In the background, another person is visible, and there are colorful lights and a sign that says "Financial News Network".

CRISIS MODE

The financial crisis spawns another high-stakes drama, this one starring **Julia Roberts** and George Clooney as the producer and host of a financial TV show that pays a high price for giving bad advice. Here Roberts talks **Money Monster**, motherhood and nearing 50 ■ BY BOB STRAUSS



MONEY MONSTER
HITS THEATRES MAY 13TH

Julia Roberts may not be the superstar she once was, and that's perfectly all right with her.

"I think I try to do varied things just for my own creative impulses," the 48-year-old actor says during an interview in Santa Monica, California. "I want things to be different and challenging. And I'm happy at home. It's like, I'm creative in my household."

It isn't as if she never gets out of the house anymore. Roberts has two movies landing in theatres within two weeks this spring.

She's part of *Mother's Day's* ensemble cast. That's the second multi-story holiday confection, after 2010's *Valentine's Day*, she's appeared in for director Garry Marshall, who helmed her star-making rom-com *Pretty Woman* in 1990.

That film, which came out at the end of April, casts Roberts as Miranda, an author and television personality confronted by the now-grown daughter she gave up for adoption. The film co-stars Jennifer Aniston, Kate Hudson and Jason Sudeikis.

Roberts' other spring release, *Money Monster*, also has her character working in TV, but this time behind the scenes. She plays Patty Fenn, who produces and directs a financial advice show starring the cocky Lee Gates (George Clooney), who is also Patty's lover. Apparently more self-confident than actually right, Gates has ruined as many investors as he's helped, and when one of the disgruntled losers, Kyle Budwell (*Unbroken's* Jack O'Connell), takes Gates hostage on air, Patty decides to keep the cameras rolling as the situation plays out.

This is Roberts' fourth time sharing the screen with Clooney, after *Ocean's Eleven* and *Twelve* and *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* — the latter also being Clooney's directorial debut.

There was another actor behind the camera for *Money Monster*; Jodie Foster took the helm for the fourth time, after *Little Man Tate*, *Home For the Holidays* and *The Beaver*.

"Listen, what sounds more amusing than me and George and Jodie together?" Roberts asks, not expecting an answer. "It's just hilarious to me. It was great, really great."

Not that Foster, winner of two Best Actress Oscars, doesn't take directing seriously.

"I worship Jodie Foster 10 times as much now as before I worked for her," Roberts says. "She's really remarkable. Of course, you go, 'Oh, she's brilliant, she's Jodie Foster.' But to see it working, to see it going all the time, to be responsible for so much stuff — God, I would just never want to be that person. And she just does it and makes it look effortless. 'Oh yes, can this go there, can this be over here?' What?"

Does Roberts share her *Money Monster* colleagues' desire to direct? "No!" she says emphatically. "Listen, I get everybody out the door to school on time, clean, fed, happy. Like, that's directing for all that I care."

CONTINUED ►

BOXED IN

Julia Roberts says it “was great” working with George Clooney on *Money Monster*, and we have no reason to doubt her. But the truth is, much of her performance was shot when Clooney wasn’t even around.

Director Jodie Foster told Yahoo! Movies, “the hardest part of the movie is the part that was shot in a room that’s about four feet by 10 feet: the control room with Julia Roberts.”

Foster explained that about three-quarters of the movie was shot this way, with Roberts acting opposite absolutely no one. “She was staring at monitors that either had green on them or that had prerecorded material that she had to match her dialogue to.” —*MW*

Director Jodie Foster (left) on set with Roberts



▶ Roberts’ has three kids: twins Hazel and Phinnaeus, 11, and eight-year-old Henry. Her husband, cinematographer Danny Moder, sometimes works on Roberts’ films, such as last year’s *Secret in Their Eyes*.

“It’s not a break in the home routine when I make a movie,” Roberts explains. “Danny is very much a part of it, so there’s only one little element gone, though I like to think that I’m an important element! The movie that I did with George and Jodie, I worked days and [had] off-days, so I was back and forth a lot. But my daughter does refer to *August: Osage County* as *The Dark Time*, because it was the first time that I ever left.”

In fact, Roberts has averaged about a movie a year for a decade. Even though some have been smaller films, or smaller roles in larger casts, the perception that she’s been out of the game isn’t an entirely accurate one.

Then again, few actors — and fewer actresses — have dominated the industry like Roberts did in the 1990s. Any pullback from that could be mistaken for a disappearance.

Starting with the happy hooker hit *Pretty Woman*, Roberts enjoyed a string of box-office successes that included thrillers (*Flatliners*, *Sleeping With the Enemy*, *The Pelican Brief*, *Conspiracy Theory*), tearjerkers (*Dying Young*, *Stepmom*), romantic comedies (*Something to Talk About*, *My Best Friend’s Wedding*, *Notting Hill*, *Runaway Bride*) and even played Tinker Bell in Steven Spielberg’s *Hook*. It all culminated with her Oscar-winning portrayal of the titular, real-life environmental activist in 2000’s *Erin Brockovich*.

Though not as spectacular, Roberts’ career this century boasts a number of impressive choices, especially in such prestige stage-to-screen adaptations as *Osage County*, *Closer* and TV’s *The Normal Heart*, about the early days of the AIDS crisis.

“It’s just an instinct. I read a script and I’m connected to that thing and I think I want to accomplish this,” Roberts says with a shrug. “So it’s nice when things come up that are dreams, and then you think, ‘Did I dream the right dream?’”

As for that one hurdle many actresses rightly complain about —



George Clooney (centre) as *Money Monster*’s financial guru

“I worship Jodie Foster 10 times as much now as before I worked for her,” says Roberts.

“She’s really remarkable”

growing too old to fit into Hollywood’s best roles — Julia Roberts is having none of it. She’s doing what she wants, and that includes not feeling “aged-out” of the best opportunities.

“My last birthday, I don’t think I had felt so happy on a birthday in quite a long while,” she reports.

“I think part of that is just the happy space that I’m lucky enough to occupy in the world with my family and my friends. And I played mahjong all day. But also, you start to realize: What is the point in not being happy, about anything? There’s no value to it. There’s no value to think, ‘Oh my God, I’m 48!’” □

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



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APOCALY

NOV

We're on the Montreal set of *X-Men: Apocalypse* to chat with **James McAvoy**, **Michael Fassbender**, **Sophie Turner** and director **Bryan Singer** about the high-stakes ending to their venerable franchise's prequel trilogy

■ BY JULIDE TANRIVERDI

X-Men: Apocalypse director Bryan Singer (centre) on set with stars James McAvoy (left) and Michael Fassbender



PSCE



James McAvoy, Nicholas Hoult, Tye Sheridan and Sophie Turner are shooting a scene for *X-Men: Apocalypse* on a soundstage in Montreal that's been decked out to look like an Egyptian tomb. There's a loud rumble. Someone yells, "Action. Go!" The actors fall to the ground and all look, terrified, in the same direction.

But the truth is, they're looking at nothing. This scene is part of the film's climactic finale, and it is heavy on the CGI.

"That makes it challenging," says McAvoy during a break, "but I don't think I'm going to lose any sleep over it because that's kind of everyday in an actor's life. Pretending to do something when nobody really knows what they want you to pretend."

McAvoy plays the young Professor Charles Xavier for the third time in this ninth *X-Men* movie (including the Wolverine movies and *Deadpool*), while Hoult is back as Beast and Sheridan and Turner are the scene's newcomers as the young Cyclops and Jean Grey respectively.

Although McAvoy is playing "the young" Professor X, as compared to Patrick Stewart's more mature version, by this scene in *Apocalypse*, the two Xaviers are clearly coming together — McAvoy has shaved his head.

"It was something I had anticipated doing from the first *X-Men* movie, really," says McAvoy. "I'm glad that we're finally going there, it feels right and it feels like we're honouring not just the comic books but also the fans of the original movies. Whilst not just becoming Patrick, or giving the same performance as another actor, we are shading him in different tones pretty much always."

Apocalypse picks up 10 years after 2014's *Days of Future Past* (the highest grossing flick of the *X-Men* franchise, having made \$750-million U.S. worldwide).

That film ended in 1973 when Raven/Mystique (Jennifer Lawrence) saved the life of the President of the United States and prevented a war between mutants and humans. She was hailed a hero and mutants are now generally accepted by society.

But, not liking her newfound fame, Raven has vanished, a task that's easier for her than it would be for most, since she can take on the identities of others.

Erik Lensherr/Magneto (Michael Fassbender) has also disappeared, and his current whereabouts may be the most surprising. He's living a relatively normal life in his childhood homeland of Poland, and is married to wife Magda, whom *X-Men* aficionados will remember from the comic books.

"He's sort of fallen in love, and he's got a family, that's where we meet him," explains Fassbender, who's not shooting on this day but has come to the Montreal set to do press. "He works in a steel factory, but he's not using his powers. I thought that was kind of interesting that he's doing honest manual labour. Penance is a bit extreme, but he's sort of left his world domination days behind him."

But Lensherr's idyllic life is interrupted by the arrival of the villainous *Apocalypse*, played by Oscar Isaac (*Inside Llewyn Davis*, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*). After a 4,600-year slumber in an Egyptian tomb, *Apocalypse* — who considers himself to be the original

CONTINUED ►



X-Men Unite: From left, Jennifer Lawrence, Rose Byrne, James McAvoy, Lucas Till and Nicholas Hoult



Michael Fassbender's Erik Lensherr



Sophie Turner as the young Jean Grey

▶ mutant — wakes up and decides that, like the many civilizations that have fallen at his hand before, humans of Earth's Reagan era don't deserve to live.

"He's definitely more extreme [than any other X-Men villain]," says Fassbender. "He sees himself as a god. That's a few levels more than Erik's megalomania."

Director Bryan Singer says Isaac is well cast. "He's a brilliant actor and he has a great philosophical way of looking at things. We see eye to eye on how to explore the history of the character," says Singer, who's helming his fourth X-Men movie. "He has a multi-ethnicity in his features and one could imagine that he could have ruled Samaria, Babylonia or Egypt."

Apocalypse's strength forces Professor X to mobilize his best and most powerful mutants for the fight, including some fresh, younger versions of popular mutants we know well from the franchise's other films. Turner, as mentioned, is the young Jean Grey, a mutant with both telepathic and telekinetic powers who was discovered by Professor X and Magneto at a young age, and was played by Famke Janssen in earlier films.

"I definitely take into account what Famke has done before on the screen," says Turner (best known as Sansa from TV's *Game of Thrones*). "I emailed her to ask if she had any tips. Because, instead of playing Jean very aggressively and very dramatically, she played it balletically and really beautiful — so I kind of wanted to emulate that. She just said, 'Know the character and you'll be fine.' So it's like, pressure!"

"Jean Grey is just discovering her power, which she doesn't understand or have control over," adds Singer.

Exploring the massive Montreal set would be a dream for any X-Men fan. The giant silver door marked with an X that leads to supercomputer Cerebro — the device Professor X uses to amplify his telepathy and detect humans and mutants all over the world — is one of the more impressive pieces.

The machine made its debut in a 1964 edition of the X-Men comic book and has been a part of the X-Men movies since Patrick Stewart used it in the franchise's first film, 2000's *X-Men*.

Even Lawrence, who's back in her third turn as Raven, was excited to see the storied contraption.

"When she first walked into the blue hallway she said, 'Can I see

Cerebro?" recalls Singer with a laugh. "I was like, 'Sure.' She's like, 'Oh my.' You realize she saw it [in *X-Men*] when she was 11 years old. A lot of these actors saw this movie at the same age when I saw the original *Star Wars*. That's the only time I see it like that through their eyes. Through my own I just see my own life history."

Unfortunately, this may be Lawrence's last X-Men movie. Reports are she doesn't want to return.

But at least Magneto fans may have reason to rejoice. Asked if he's interested in continuing his role, even though his three-film contract has come to an end, Fassbender says, "It's been very good to me and I've enjoyed it. I'm always open to see what happens next." □

Julide Tanniverdi is a freelance journalist who lives in New York and writes about movies, TV and everything pop culture.



WHERE'VE I SEEN HER BEFORE?

This is Alexandra Shipp, the 24-year-old Phoenix, Arizona, native who plays young Storm (previously portrayed by Halle Berry) in *X-Men: Apocalypse*. So where have you seen her before? It was probably as Ice Cube's wife, Kim, in last year's bio-pic *Straight Outta Compton*.

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With so many ways to wear white this **Spring/Summer**, the future is indeed bright

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CASTING CALL

BY INGRID RANDOJA



GYLLENHAAL AND REYNOLDS MAKE LIFE TOGETHER

Jake Gyllenhaal and **Ryan Reynolds** will team up for the sci-fi *Life* from Swedish director **Daniel Espinosa** (*Safe House*). The plot revolves around three astronauts aboard the International Space Station — Gyllenhaal, Reynolds and **Rebecca Ferguson** — whose research leads them to believe there is intelligent life on Mars.



KITSCH PUTS PIECES TOGETHER

Canadian actor **Taylor Kitsch** is stretching his wings in a big way. He'll produce, write, direct and star in *Pieces*, a thriller about three pals from Detroit who get into all kinds of trouble after they intercept a package of drugs. The feature is based on a short film *Kitsch* made in 2014.



STYLES GOES TO WAR

One Direction heartthrob **Harry Styles** makes his feature-film debut in **Christopher Nolan's** *Dunkirk*, which recounts the British evacuation of thousands of soldiers stranded in the French city of Dunkirk during WWII. Styles and newbie actor **Fionn Whitehead** will play the leads — Nolan wanted unknown actors for the top spots — but they'll surely garner acting tips from cast mates **Tom Hardy**, **Kenneth Branagh** and Oscar winner **Mark Rylance**. *Dunkirk* lands in theatres July 21st, 2017.



RIDLEY CONSIDERS CROFT

Daisy Ridley's action-packed performance in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* instantly landed her credibility as a female action hero, so it makes sense that she's in talks to play Lara Croft in a reboot of the *Tomb Raider* movie series that catapulted **Angelina Jolie** to stardom. The new film would be an origins story and is being written by **Marti Noxon** (TV's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*).



Brendan Fraser and Rachel Weisz in 1999's *The Mummy*

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH...

THE MUMMY

Universal Studios is taking a page from Marvel and DC's playbook and creating a series of interconnecting films based on their stable of movie monsters. The first up is director **Alex Kurtzman's** reboot of *The Mummy*, which started shooting last month and stars **Tom Cruise** as a Special Forces soldier who opens the Mummy's tomb while on a mission. The twist here is that **Sofia Boutella** (the blade-legged assassin from *Kingsman: The Secret Service*) plays the Mummy. The film hits screens June 9th, 2017.



FRESH FACE MARGARET QUALLEY

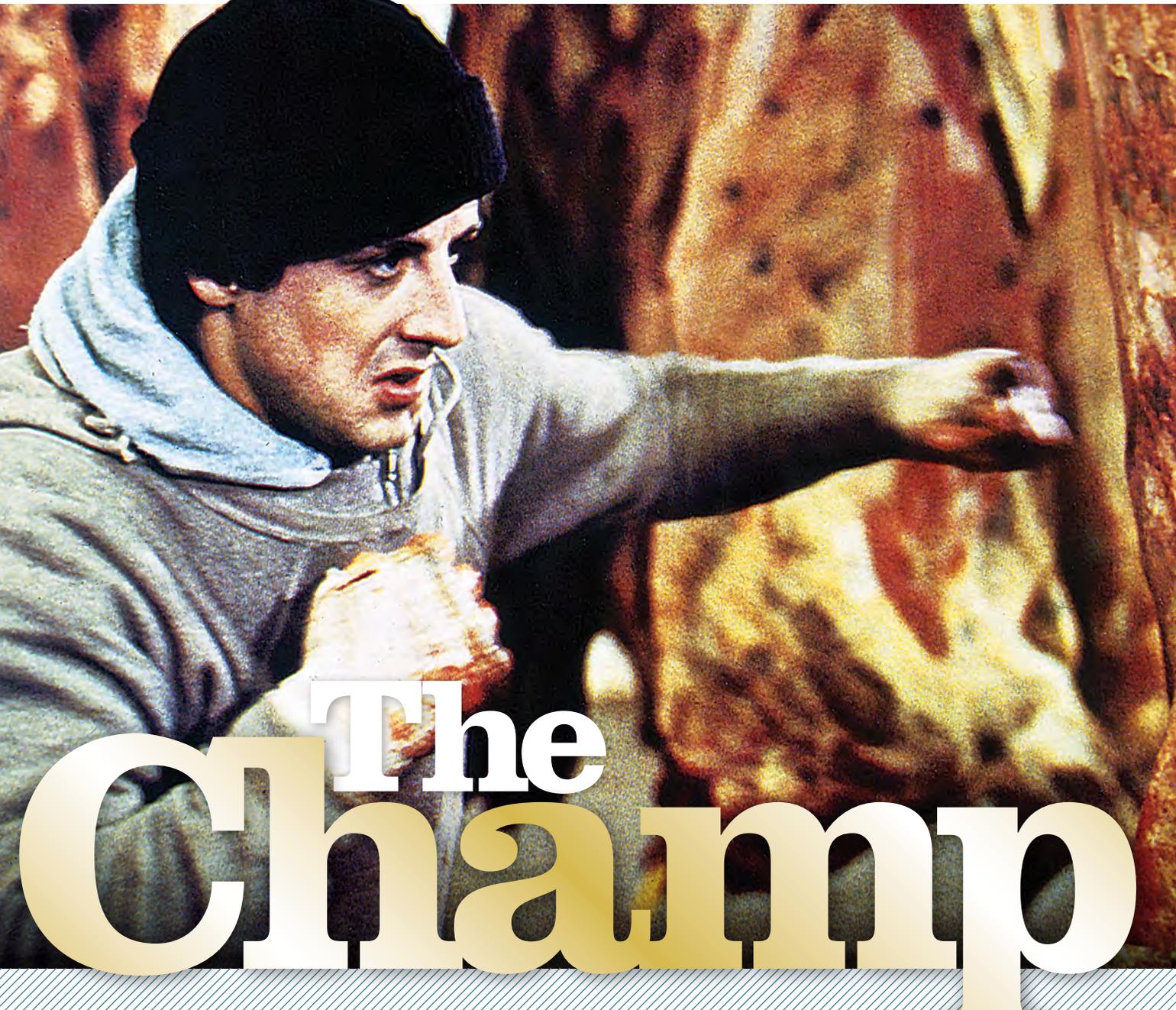
Margaret Qualley plays **Kim Basinger's** missing daughter in this month's *The Nice Guys*, but off-screen she calls **Andie MacDowell** mom (her father is former model **Paul Qualley**). The 21-year-old actor studied dance and planned to become a ballerina but at 17 switched her focus to acting. She's currently starring in HBO's *The Leftovers* and will next be seen playing a nun in the drama *Novitiate*.



HEARD JOINS LEAGUE

After months of speculation **Amber Heard** (*3 Days to Kill*, *Magic Mike XXL*) confirmed she will indeed portray Mera, the Queen of Atlantis, in both *The Justice League Part One* and *Aquaman*. The 30-year-old actor — last seen in *The Danish Girl* — is looking for that breakout role to kick-start a career that's seen her play underwritten femme fatales and pretty girls far too often.

ALSO IN THE WORKS ▶ **Margot Robbie** plays disgraced figure skater Tonya Harding in the upcoming bio-pic *I, Tonya*. ▶ The *Death Wish* remake casts **Bruce Willis** as the respectable husband and father who turns to vigilante justice after his family is destroyed. ▶ **Simon Pegg** will play the co-creator of the virtual world Oasis in director **Steven Spielberg's** sci-fi *Ready Player One*. ▶ *No Exit* casts **Josh Brolin** and **Miles Teller** as Arizona firefighters battling a wildfire that kills all but one of their 20-member squad.



The Champion

While we appreciated the poignant turn 69-year-old Sylvester Stallone gave as aged Rocky Balboa in last year's *Creed*, let's turn back the clock 40 years and marvel at his original performance in 1976's *Rocky*. Here was an unknown, droopy-eyed actor who refused to sell the script he wrote in three days — and with only \$106 to his name, and a pregnant wife at home —

unless he could play the muscle-bound boxer. Producers Irwin Winkler and Robert Chartoff agreed and Stallone didn't disappoint, giving a magnificent performance as the hard-luck pugilist who wants nothing but the chance to go the distance with reigning heavyweight champ Apollo Creed (Carl Weathers) and win the heart of shy pet-store keeper Adrian (Talia Shire). *Rocky* earned 10 Oscar nominations, including one for Stallone as Best Actor, and took home the Best Picture award. Atta boy Rocky! —*INGRID RANDOJA*

ROCKY screens as part of Cineplex's Classic Film Series on May 11th, 15th and 30th. Go to Cineplex.com/Events for times and locations.



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JOY

RENT IT MAY 3

This third collaboration between actor **Jennifer Lawrence** and director **David O. Russell** earned Lawrence a Best Actress Oscar nomination for her portrayal of Joy Mangano, who went from struggling single mom to millionaire after inventing the Miracle Mop.



DEADPOOL

RENT IT MAY 10

It's the movie that reinvented the comic-book movie genre by replacing chivalrous with crass and earnest with irreverent. **Ryan Reynolds** nails his performance as the potty-mouthed mercenary who beats cancer by undergoing a sketchy procedure that leaves him with superpowers.



THE 5TH WAVE

RENT IT MAY 3

Based on the first of **Rick Yancey's** trilogy for the Young Adult crowd, this thriller sees an alien invasion sweeping most of humanity from the face of the Earth. **Chloe Grace Moretz** plays Cassie, a survivor navigating Earth's new normal and trying to stay alive.



HOW TO BE SINGLE

OWN IT MAY 3

RENT IT MAY 24

Bearing little resemblance to the insightful **Liz Tuccillo** book it's named for, the film instead recalls Tuccillo's other major credit, *Sex and the City*. **Dakota Johnson** is a single ingénue in New York who turns to her extrovert pal (**Rebel Wilson**) to show her the ropes.

STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS

RENT IT MAY 4

While superfans jumped at the chance to purchase a digital copy of this seventh *Star Wars* flick last month, now the rest of the world can simply rent director **J.J. Abrams'** story of Rey (**Daisy Ridley**), a lonely scavenger with a mysterious lineage, who teams with an escaped stormtrooper (**John Boyega**) and an old smuggler (**Harrison Ford**) to find the Jedi Luke Skywalker (**Mark Hamill**).



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CANNES SHE BE ANY CUTER?

Exactly 40 years ago this month, 13-year-old Jodie Foster attended the Cannes Film Festival to present *Taxi Driver*. Her performance as a teen prostitute stunned audiences, and the film won the festival's top prize, the Palme d'Or.

Here Foster is seen taking part in *Taxi Driver*'s charmingly intimate press conference flanked by her director Martin Scorsese to the left, and co-star Robert De Niro to the right.

Though it had yet to be officially announced at press time, it's expected that Foster will return to the Cannes Film Festival (May 11 to 22) this year as the director of the Julia Roberts, George Clooney thriller *Money Monster*. —MW

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