

CINEPLEX

MAGAZINE

Inside

WILL
SMITH

JESSE
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SUMMER of SUPERMAN

MOVE OVER IRON MAN,
TAKE A SEAT KIRK.
THIS GUY'S FASTER THAN
A SPEEDING BULLET,
AND HE'S MAKING A BEELINE
FOR THEATRES

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ON THE COVER: HENRY CAVILL IN MAN OF STEEL



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TRUTH, JUSTICE AND, UMMM...
THE AMERICAN WAY

Did you know that Superman is not American? Neither is Batman, nor Spider-Man. Engage any one of the comic world's big-three superheroes in conversation at a cocktail party and it'll be a British accent that emerges from his lips. Or, at least from the lips of the actor who plays him on screen.

When **Henry Cavill**, who hails from Britain's Channel Islands, was cast as the new Superman in January 2011 it completed Britain's takeover of the comic world's holy trinity, following Welshman Christian Bale's Batman and the current Spider-Man, Andrew Garfield, who — while born in L.A. — was raised in Surrey, England, from the age of three.

There was a certain amount of hand-wringing south of the border (and a bit of gloating across the pond) about why Americans were losing these iconic American parts to Brits, and the consensus seemed to be that American actors just aren't manly enough to play superheroes anymore; they are too boyish and have become soft compared to their British counterparts.

Hmm. That doesn't pass the smell test for me. It's not like we're talking about Daniel Craig and Clive Owen here. I could be wrong, but I don't imagine the rather boyish Andrew Garfield driving a truck to The Home Depot to pick up a stack of lumber on his day off. Sure, I'd want Christian Bale on my side if I ever got into a bar fight, but I'd say Americans Channing Tatum and Mark Wahlberg are both more manly than Bale in the classic sense of the term.

Yet I don't think those theories about masculinity and superhero roles are *too* far off. What's going on here probably does have to do with a certain kind of masculinity — the confident manliness that allows one to look comfortable in tights and a cape.

If you've ever seen paparazzi shots from the set of a superhero movie, you know how awkward the actors look standing out on the street in their spandex and masks. Scenes that appear powerful, even macho, once they've been filtered through the cinematographer's lens and backed by a stirring soundtrack look ridiculous as they're being filmed. Perhaps growing up with a stronger background in theatre, which is rich in fantasy and spectacle, the Brits aren't so self-conscious about how they look in those outlandish superhero duds, making it easier to pull off a manly performance while, quite honestly, looking pretty silly.

Or maybe we're thinking too much. When asked about the phenomenon for an article in *Details*, Cavill said, "I suppose it's a fluke."

More than two years after he was tapped to play Superman, Cavill's origin tale *Man of Steel* finally hits theatres this month...and we're going to be listening very carefully to his American accent. Prepare for the big flick with "Forging Steel," page 38, our look at the film's history, plot, stars and Canadian connection.

It's a big month for sci-fi, with *World War Z* and *After Earth* both in theatres. We talk to the former's director **Marc Forster** (page 32) and the latter's star and co-writer **Will Smith** (page 28) about bringing those big-budget pics to life. Plus, on page 36 we have an interview with **Isla Fisher** and **Jesse Eisenberg**, two of the stars of the magic/heist film *Now You See Me*.

■ **MARNI WEISZ**, EDITOR

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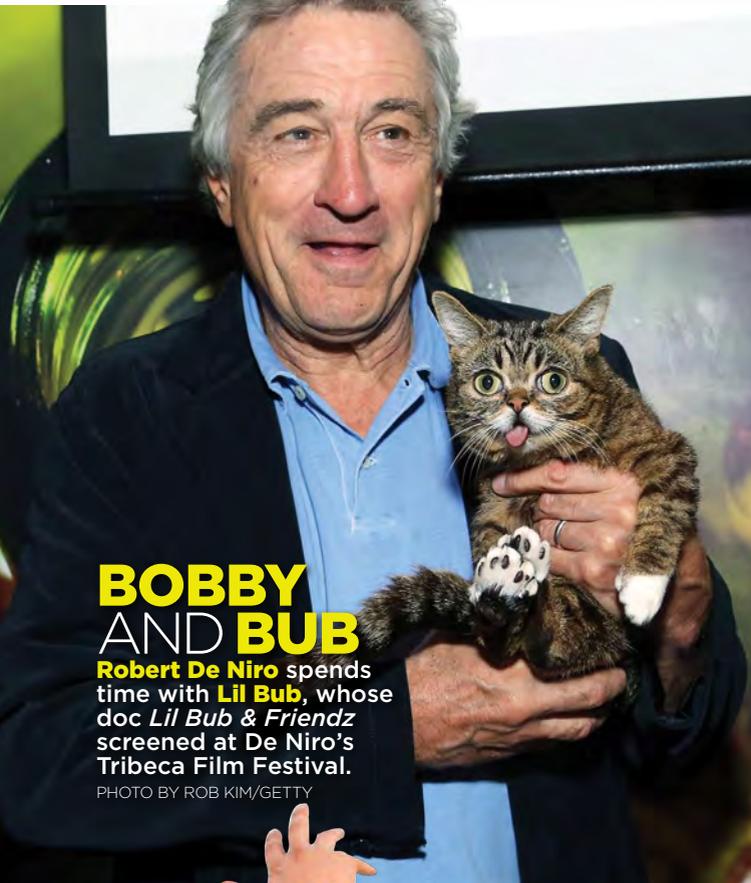
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BOBBY AND BUB

Robert De Niro spends time with **Lil Bub**, whose doc *Lil Bub & Friendz* screened at De Niro's Tribeca Film Festival.

PHOTO BY ROB KIM/GETTY



NICE RIDE

On a break from shooting *Words and Pictures* in Vancouver, **Clive Owen** goes for a ride around Stanley Park.

PHOTO BY PUNKD IMAGES



FALLING FOR SETH

Seth Rogen and his *This is the End* co-writer/director **Evan Goldberg** promote the pic in Cancun.

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IN BRIEF



PUTTING WORDS IN THEIR MOUTHS

In a summer that's light on female-centric movies, we're happy to at least have this month's *The Heat*, a potty-mouthed but extremely funny-looking comedy with Sandra Bullock and Melissa McCarthy as battling, mismatched law-enforcement officers.

But there's a third funny lady behind this title, and you've probably never heard of her. Meet writer Katie Dippold, who started out as an intern for *Late Night With Conan O'Brien*, worked her way up

to writer on *MADtv* and then scored a full-time writing gig on NBC's *Parks and Recreation*, putting words in the mouth of another of Hollywood's hottest female comedians, Amy Poehler.

The New Jersey native also performs — appearing in sketches on *Conan*, as a stand-up comic, and with the renowned improv group Upright Citizens Brigade, which was co-founded by Poehler in the late 1990s.

Dippold recently told *Interview* magazine that the combative relationship

between Bullock and McCarthy in *The Heat* is based on her own friendship with a fellow comedian who, unlike most of her female friends, always tells her if she's being an ass. "I wasn't used to that straight talk, and it was an interesting friendship," she said.

Dippold has already sold a second script to *The Heat*'s production company, Chernin Entertainment, for \$1-million (U.S.). —*MW*



Katie Dippold

KATIE DIPPOLD PHOTO BY PHILLIP CHIN/GETTY

Kiefer Sutherland

On Home Turf:

POMPEII

Toronto has stood in for a lot of places — New York, Boston, Chicago.

But Pompeii, the ancient Roman town destroyed when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, well, that wouldn't have been on our list. Of course, most (if not all) of *Pompeii*, a 3D historical action film from director Paul W.S. Anderson, will be shot indoors at Cinespace Film Studios in the city's west end.

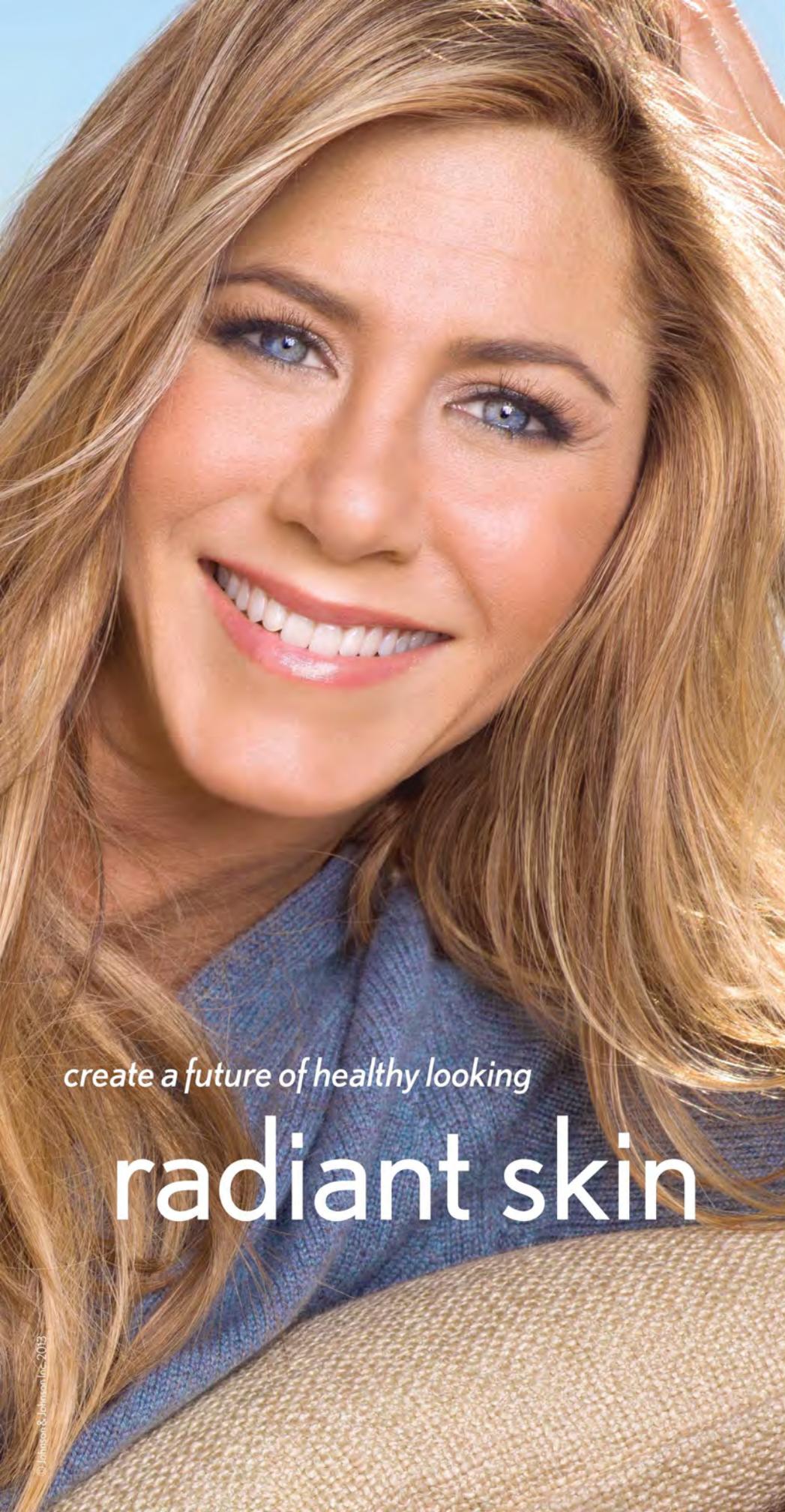
Actors Kiefer Sutherland, Jared Harris, Kit Harington, Emily Browning, Paz Vega and Carrie-Anne Moss are all joining Anderson in T.O. for the film. Sutherland will play the film's villain, a Roman senator, while Harington is a slave, and Harris his slave master. —*MW*

PHOTO BY SPLASHNEWS

THE ART OF FILM

Every year, the seaside resort community of Weston-super-Mare in Somerset, England, hosts a sand sculpture contest, and every year there's a theme — Fairy Tales, Under the Ocean, The Jungle, Great Britain. This year the theme was Hollywood, and more than 20 sculptors turned 4,000 tonnes of sand into a series of gritty masterpieces including these three, clockwise from top left, Marlon Brando in *The Godfather*, *Star Wars*' Yoda, and *The Birds* director Alfred Hitchcock. —*MW*





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▶ EGOYAN OPERA



Atom Egoyan fans can catch *Feng Yi Tang*, a 45-minute, Egoyan-directed opera at Toronto's Luminato Festival (www.luminato.com) June 20th, 21st and 22nd. Better known for his film work (*Exotica*, *The Sweet Hereafter*, *Where the Truth Lies*), Egoyan (left) actually started his career in the theatre before being lured away by the movie world. Soprano Shen Tiemei plays the lead role, Diao Chan, one of the Four Beauties of ancient China who sparks a battle between a warlord and a general. —*MW*

EAU DE THEATRE

Our favourite perfume these days is "Popcorn" from Demeter Fragrance. Even when you can't get to a theatre, you can smell like you just emerged from a *Twilight* marathon. Also available in massage oil — for those who are literally passionate about their buttery treats. Get it online at www.demeterfragrance.com.

Quote Unquote

You just think you'd show up and talk into a microphone, but because the camera doesn't see you suggest the character, you have to throw everything in your body into what your voice is doing. And after quite a few times, it's exhausting. **I mean, I walk out of the studio sometime feeling like I've just been to the gym 12 times.**

—**JOHN GOODMAN** ON VOICING SULLEY FOR *MONSTERS UNIVERSITY*



BACK 2 WORK



JULY 3

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FINDING HIS WAY

We're just waiting for Liam James to get home from school.

The 16-year-old Canadian star of next month's *The Way, Way Back* is running a bit late for our scheduled chat. When he does call from his Vancouver home he apologizes — it isn't easy juggling school and the commitments that come with a burgeoning film career.

"It can be tough sometimes but it all works out in the end I hear," he says hopefully.

Thoughtful and a little shy, James sounds a bit like Duncan, the character he plays in *The Way, Way Back*. Fourteen-year-old Duncan is bullied by his mother's (Toni Collette) boyfriend (Steve Carell) and spends his summer hanging out at a water park where he's befriended by an oddball park employee (Sam Rockwell).

"I'd describe Duncan as a regular teen, but with less confidence," says James. "He's always being beaten down by Steve's character, he's being repressed in a way. Sam's character has this huge personality, and it takes that to bring Duncan out of his shell."

The film, written and directed by Nat Faxon and Jim Rash, received a standing ovation after its premiere at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year. It's all heady stuff for James, who not only got to work alongside such a great cast, he also had Sam Rockwell serving as his very own film school professor.

"Sam Rockwell likes to watch a lot of films, as do I, and he gave me a list of amazing movies he wants me to see. He even gave me a couple he had when we were filming, like he gave me *Meatballs* to watch, and *Talladega Nights*, which is really funny.

"There is a big list somewhere, I can't remember where it is right now but I'll find it."

—INGRID RANDOJA

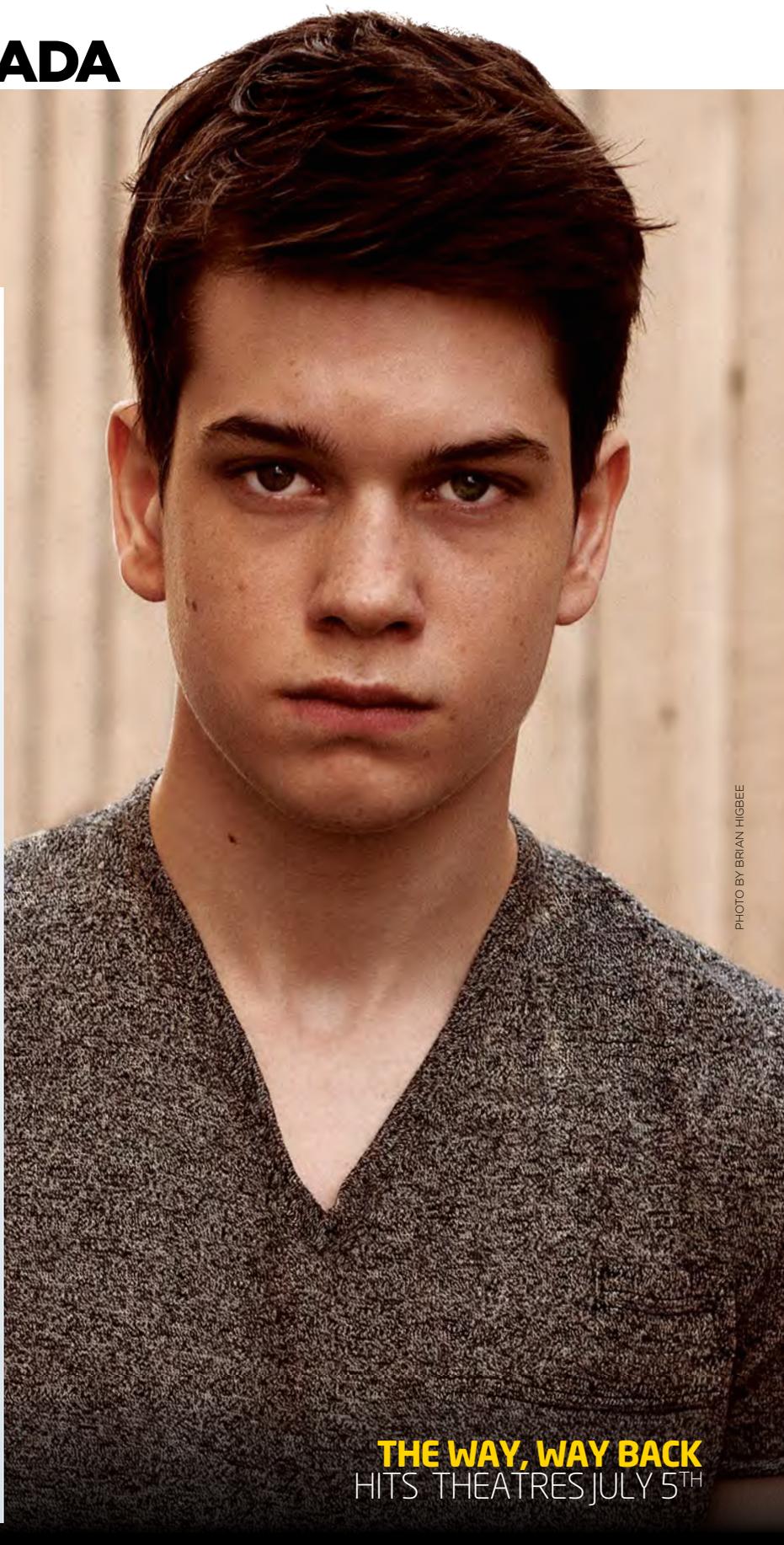


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THE WAY, WAY BACK
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ALL DRESSED UP

KERRY WASHINGTON

In L.A. for the MTV Movie Awards.
PHOTO BY DOUG PETERS/KEYSTONE PRESS

MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY

In New York for a screening of *Mud*.
PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

GWYNETH PALTROW

At the L.A. premiere of *Iron Man 3*.
PHOTO BY PAUL SMITH/KEYSTONE PRESS



**ZACHARY
QUINTO**

In Los Angeles for the
MTV Movie Awards.

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**OLGA
KURYLENKO**

In Moscow for the *Oblivion* premiere.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



**ROBERT
DOWNEY JR.**

At an *Iron Man 3* photo call in Munich.

PHOTO BY DOMINIK BINDL/GETTY

IN THEATRES

JUNE 7



THE INTERNSHIP

Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson team up for the first time since 2005's *Wedding Crashers* to play former watch salesmen who miraculously land a coveted internship with Google. Reports indicate Google is fully behind the comedy, even allowing director **Shawn Levy** and company to film at the tech giant's Mountain View, California, headquarters.



BEFORE MIDNIGHT

In 1995's *Before Sunrise* American Jesse (**Ethan Hawke**) met French Celine (**Julie Delpy**) on a train. In 2004's *Before Sunset*, the two reconnected in Paris, and now another nine years later the two are a couple, with kids, who travel to Greece on holiday. The enduring appeal of director **Richard Linklater's** *Before* series lies in the engaging dialogue between the stars, and the stunning locales.

THE PURGE

In an idyllic future America, the government mandates a 12-hour period each year when all crimes — even murder — are legal. Which is fine for James (**Ethan Hawke**) and his family, since they live in a secure home...until one of his kids opens their locked doors to a man in serious trouble.

THE KINGS OF SUMMER

Three teenage boys — played by **Nick Robinson**, **Gabriel Basso** and **Moises Arias** — tired of living with their parents and their rules, take to the woods where they build a ramshackle home and spend the summer fending for themselves. [CONTINUED ▶](#)



From left: Gabriel Basso, Moises Arias and Nick Robinson in *The Kings of Summer*



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SAT., JUNE 15
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SAT., JUNE 22
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SAT., JUNE 29

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JUNE 14



This is the End's cast of clowns

▶ THIS IS THE END

In 2007, pals **Seth Rogen**, **Evan Goldberg** and **Jay Baruchel** made an eight-minute comedy short called *Jay and Seth Versus the Apocalypse*. It attracted so much interest they landed a feature-film deal. The story has evolved to star Baruchel, Rogen, **James Franco**, **Craig Robinson**, **Jonah Hill** and **Danny McBride** as trash-talking versions of themselves who cope very badly during the apocalypse.

MAN OF STEEL

They are the three wise men — producer **Christopher Nolan**, director **Zack Snyder** and star **Henry Cavill** — tasked with heralding the world's most famous superhero back to the big screen. Cavill plays Superman, the alien from the planet Krypton who's raised on Earth but struggles to understand how best to use his superpowers. See *Man of Steel* feature, page 38.

JUNE 21



WORLD WAR Z

With a long and troubled production behind them, director **Marc Forster** and star **Brad Pitt** hope the lure of rampaging zombies will attract viewers to their big-screen adaptation of **Max Brooks'** novel about a global zombie epidemic. UN worker Gerry Lane (Pitt) is thrown into the fray, leaving his wife (**Mireille Enos**) and kids behind so he can criss-cross the globe searching for a way to the neutralize the zombie threat. See **Marc Forster** interview, page 32.



MONSTERS UNIVERSITY

Pixar's first prequel focuses on the initial meeting between *Monsters, Inc.*'s lovable pals, back when nervous student Mike (**Billy Crystal**) couldn't stand his partying roommate Sulley (**John Goodman**).

THE BLING RING

Sofia Coppola directs this fact-based pic about a group of entitled teens — including **Emma Watson** and **Taissa Farmiga** — who follow social media to find out when celebs like Paris Hilton and Lindsay Lohan are away from their homes so they can rob them.

JUNE 28

WHITE HOUSE DOWN

Just as the White House finished all those repairs (courtesy of *Olympus Has Fallen*), the building gets torn up again when a crazed mercenary (**Jason Clarke**) attacks the U.S. President's crib. This time, it's cop **Channing Tatum** who must protect the Prez (**Jamie Foxx**) and save the day.



THE HEAT

Did you know that when it comes to “buddy cop” movies there are more movies about a male cop and his dog than movies featuring two women cops? The genre finally gets a lesson in female empowerment with this comedy that casts **Sandra Bullock** as an uptight FBI agent who pairs with **Melissa McCarthy**'s street-wise Boston cop to hunt down a Russian mobster.



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Friends TO THE END

This is the End has some of comedy's biggest stars playing themselves in a story about staring down the apocalypse. The film's six principal stars — **Seth Rogen, Jay Baruchel, James Franco, Craig Robinson, Danny McBride** and **Jonah Hill** — know each other very well, which just makes the on-screen needling that much more personal, and that much more fun. Here are 15 movies and TV shows that have featured some combination of the satirical sextet



Your Highness



Danny McBride



Pineapple Express



James Franco



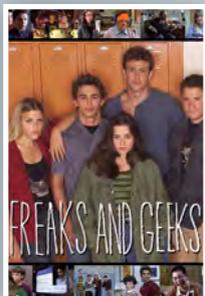
Eastbound & Down



Superbad



Seth Rogen

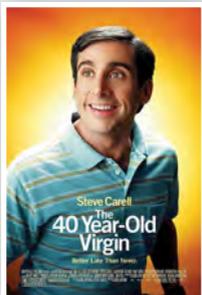


Freaks and Geeks

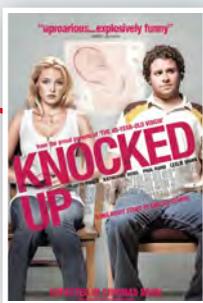


The Green Hornet

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The 40 Year-Old Virgin



Knocked Up



Zack and Miri Make a Porno



Jonah Hill



Funny People



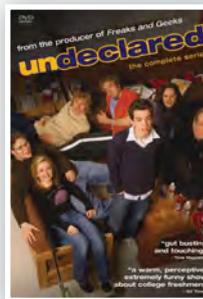
Tropic Thunder



Craig Robinson



How to Train Your Dragon



Undeclared



Jay Baruchel



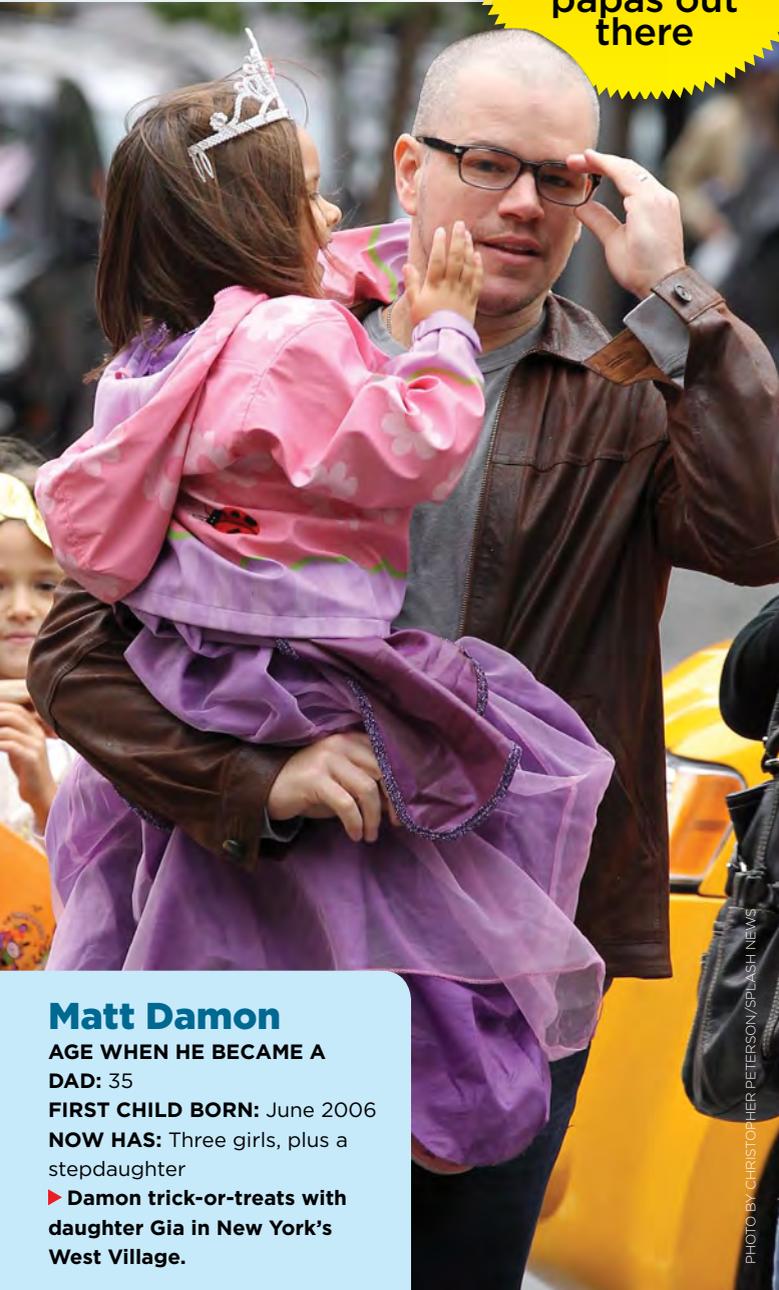
Fanboys



Kung Fu Panda 2

Happy Father's Day!

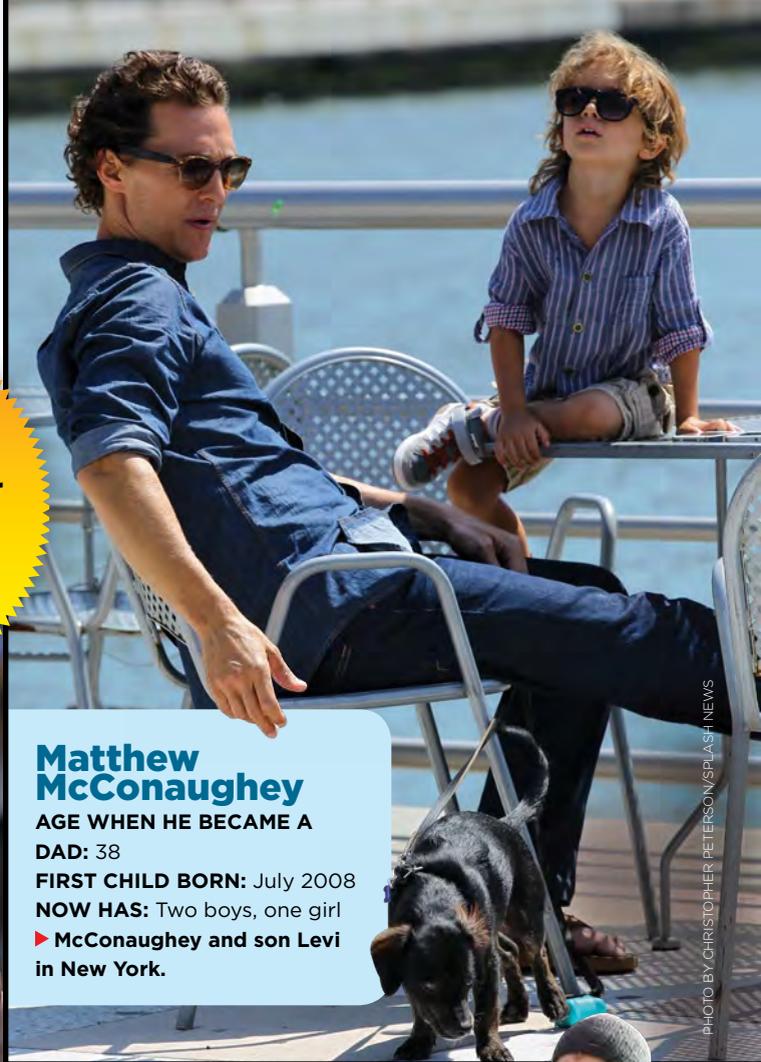
Best wishes to our favourite actor dads and all the proud papas out there



Matt Damon

AGE WHEN HE BECAME A DAD: 35
FIRST CHILD BORN: June 2006
NOW HAS: Three girls, plus a stepdaughter
▶ Damon trick-or-treats with daughter Gia in New York's West Village.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER PETERSON/SPLASH NEWS



Matthew McConaughey

AGE WHEN HE BECAME A DAD: 38
FIRST CHILD BORN: July 2008
NOW HAS: Two boys, one girl
▶ McConaughey and son Levi in New York.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER PETERSON/SPLASH NEWS



Chris Hemsworth

AGE WHEN HE BECAME A DAD: 28
FIRST CHILD BORN: May 2012
NOW HAS: One girl
▶ Hemsworth, wife Elsa Pataky (centre) and a friend take baby India Rose for a walk in Sydney.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



Ben Affleck

AGE WHEN HE BECAME

A DAD: 33

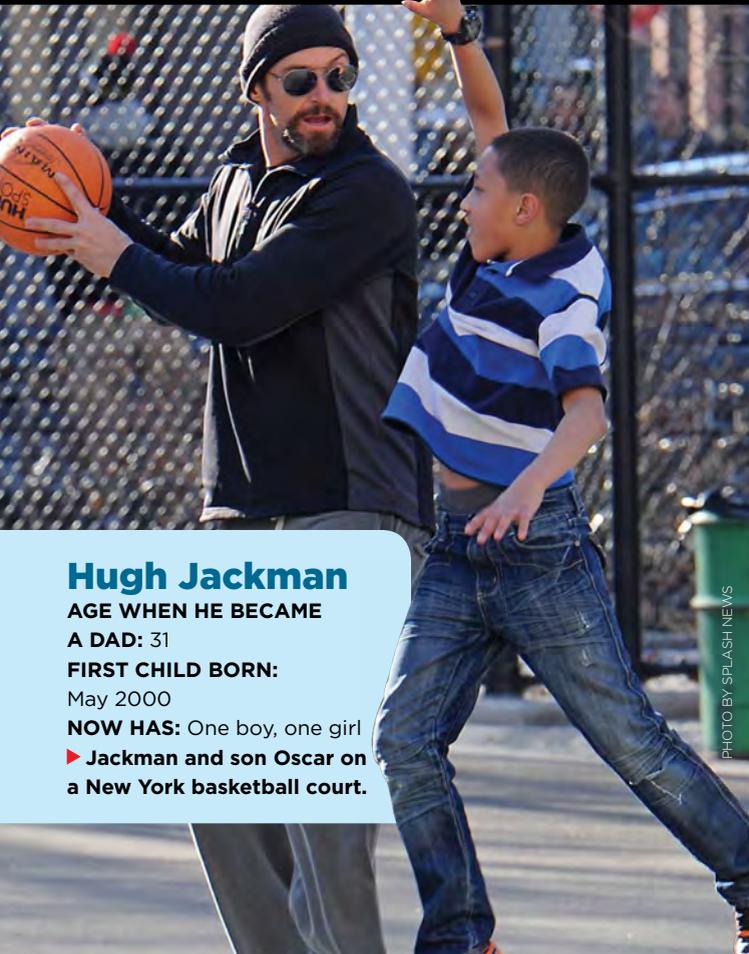
FIRST CHILD BORN:

December 2005

NOW HAS: Two girls,
one boy

► **Affleck takes Samuel
and Seraphina to the park.**

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



Hugh Jackman

AGE WHEN HE BECAME

A DAD: 31

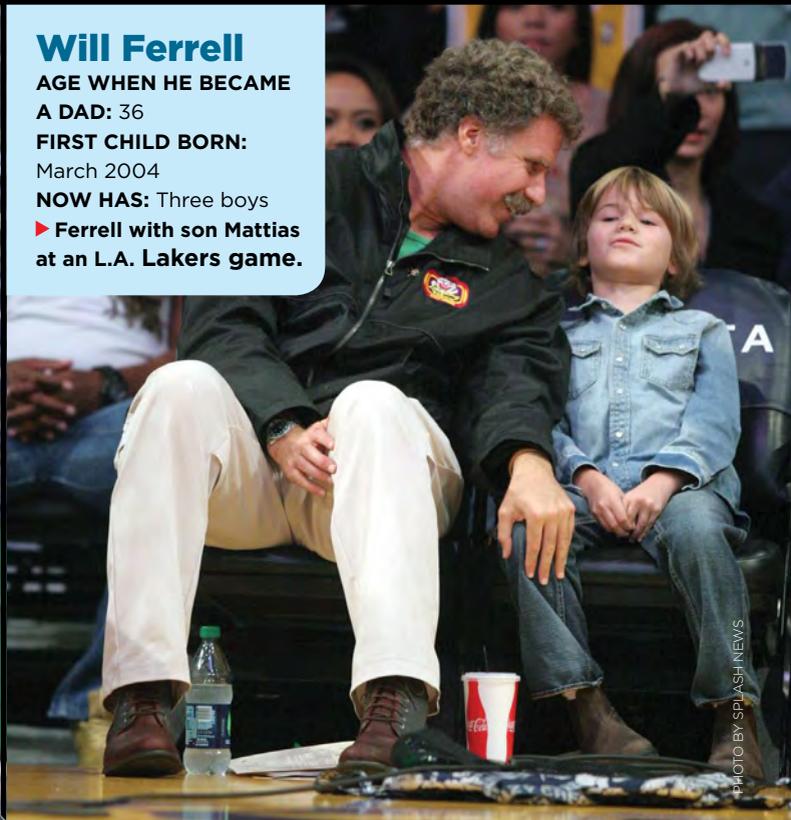
FIRST CHILD BORN:

May 2000

NOW HAS: One boy, one girl

► **Jackman and son Oscar on
a New York basketball court.**

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



Will Ferrell

AGE WHEN HE BECAME

A DAD: 36

FIRST CHILD BORN:

March 2004

NOW HAS: Three boys

► **Ferrell with son Mattias
at an L.A. Lakers game.**

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

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A photograph of Will Smith and his son Jaden in Cancun. Will Smith is on the left, wearing a dark blue blazer over a patterned shirt, smiling and looking towards the right. Jaden is on the right, wearing a white and black patterned shirt, looking towards the right. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and warm lighting.

Will Smith (left) with son Jaden in Cancun to promote *After Earth*

Son RISE

Will Smith talks about guiding son Jaden through his budding Hollywood career, which includes a starring role opposite pops in this month's *After Earth*

BY JIM SLOTEK

Will Smith didn't just father a son when he and wife Jada had Jaden. He created his own competition. "Jaden really wants to make movies badly," Smith says during a recent L.A. interview. "Just at the dinner table, he'll get a little bit of a predatory look in his eye.

He is so coming for me. I tell him all the time, 'Son, I'm going to tell you everything I know. And if you work hard, you can be the second biggest movie star in the world.'"

The elder Smith gets the laugh he's looking for. But he's clearly proud of having shepherded Jaden's nascent career — from their work together in the uplifting *The Pursuit of Happyness* (for which dad got an Oscar nomination), to Jaden's supporting performance opposite

Keanu Reeves in *The Day the Earth Stood Still* and his starring turn in the hit reboot *The Karate Kid*.

Have we mentioned Jaden is 14?

If there's any rivalry at all, friendly or otherwise, it can only add dramatic heft to the Smiths' chemistry in their latest effort, director M. Night Shyamalan's post-apocalyptic sci-fi *After Earth*.

In the film — which Will co-wrote with Shyamalan — the Smiths are a futuristic father and son team with issues. After various cataclysms a thousand years before, humans left Earth en masse to resettle in another star system on a planet called Nova Prime. Now the star-faring humans are sending trained Rangers to explore their old home Earth, which has become a "Class One quarantined planet" where "everything has evolved to kill humans."

Will's character, Cypher Raige, is an accomplished, emotionally rigid, by-the-book Ranger. His son Kitai (Jaden) is a cadet who can't abide by the rules and who, in the words of a commander who denies him a promotion, "confuses courage with recklessness."

In an uncharacteristic act of fatherly concern (and going against regulations), Cypher gives his problem child Kitai an assignment on his own mission to Earth. A mishap in the asteroid belt **CONTINUED ▶**



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AFTER EARTH
HITS THEATRES
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After Earth's Cypher Raige (Will Smith, left) and his son Kitai (Jaden Smith)

► leaves their ship damaged, forcing it to crash-land, and there are only two survivors — the Ranger and his son.

Moreover, Cypher is critically injured, leaving Kitai to face the exotic and now very dangerous Earth alone in an effort to activate a beacon and save his father.

From there on, *After Earth* is Jaden's movie. Will Smith — the action star of films from *Bad Boys* to *Independence Day* to *Men in Black* — has to lie back and let his son shoulder the action, battling super-intelligent apes and various carnivores, and attempting daredevil stunts like paragliding (while dad communicates such Yoda-like advice as, "If we are to survive, we must realize fear is not real. It is a product of thoughts we create. Danger is very real but fear is a choice.")

You can hear Will Smith, the father, in those lines. They echo his feelings about parenthood as he talks about the tricky path undertaken by both Jaden and his kid sister Willow, an actor/singer who, at age 12, has already been signed to Jay-Z's record label.

"They have to understand the power that they have to create their own lives," says Smith, a self-made superstar originally from middle-class West Philadelphia. "To me, it's about lumping the responsibility on them; put as much weight on them as they can hold without breaking. Jada and I try to keep giving them that, until they're fully capable of holding the full weight of their lives."

Jaden certainly carries the weight in *After Earth*, which was shot in the sweaty environs of Costa Rica where, "they have some very big bugs they don't have in other places," Smith says, adding that, after it was over, "[Jaden] was, like, 'Dad, I want to make a comedy now.'"

Weirdly, shooting on the "alien planet" of Costa Rica put Will in mind of his early career. He's often still addressed on the streets of Latin America as "El Principe!" from the Spanish-language version of his old sitcom *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*.

The Fresh Prince's humour translated into Spanish? Smith explains that the show's distributors hired a troupe of Latin American actors to not only dub the show but to rewrite the jokes. "They translated and adjusted the jokes that didn't work, and *Fresh Prince* became huge in Latin America and Spain. So the first time I went to Mexico City, it was 'El Principe!' everywhere. I had no idea it was so huge, and I was so honoured that I started taking Spanish lessons."

It's also no coincidence that sci-fi has played such a big part in Will Smith's career (add *I, Robot* and *I Am Legend* to the above-mentioned sci-fi flicks). The catalyst for his entire career, he says, was



"The greatest experience I ever had at a movie theatre was *Star Wars*," says Smith. **"It shaped how I look at the world"**



a childhood screening of *Star Wars* at age 10.

"The greatest experience I ever had at a movie theatre was *Star Wars*. It shaped how I look at the world. My imagination was so small before I went in that movie theatre, and there was an explosion that I had inside. I just couldn't figure out how someone came up with that. And then, how they could make me feel like that watching it.

"So, for me, there's nothing more valuable than how people feel in a movie theatre about a movie."

More and more, however, Smith gets fulfillment from planning projects for Jada and his kids. "Jaden is very specific about what he wants to do in the next *Karate Kid*, and we're looking at that."

No, raising showbiz kids is not like raising yours or mine. "The most difficult part of the whole thing is emotional management," Smith says. "You want to be able to have them connect to the artistry of what they create, rather than connecting to the success or the adoration." ☑

Jim Slotek writes about movies for the Toronto Sun.

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After a long, complicated shoot, rewrites, reshoots and much media scrutiny, director **Marc Forster** says all that matters about his much-anticipated zombie pic *World War Z* is how audiences react to what they see on the screen ■ BY LIANNE MACDOUGALL



Director Marc Forster (centre) with Brad Pitt (right) on the set of *World War Z*

Earlier this year, *The Hollywood Reporter* quoted an inside source as saying *World War Z* was “a nightmare from top to bottom” — and they weren’t talking about the zombie film’s plot, they were talking about the production as a whole.

Fault was placed on director Marc Forster (*Monster’s Ball*, *Finding Neverland*, *The Kite Runner*), whose experience with epic, effects-heavy films is limited to one movie, the 22nd Bond installment, *Quantum of Solace*.

With an estimated budget of \$170-million, *World War Z* needed extensive reshoots, rewrites (Damon Lindelof was hired to rescript, but he couldn’t find the time so Paramount hired his partner from the TV show *Lost*, Drew Goddard, to finish the job), and there have been rumours that Brad Pitt, who stars and produces, took over the director’s chair for a few crucial scenes.

Genre fans and bloggers have already been critical of the film’s PG-13 rating, worried that it won’t deliver on the blood and gore. Whether those concerns are founded or not, 15 minutes of footage recently screened for the media demonstrated kick-ass action, strong character moments and ambitious cinematography — no surprise there, three-time Oscar winner Robert Richardson (honoured for *Hugo*, *The Aviator* and *JFK*) was behind the camera.

We recently spoke with Forster about the rumours, production complications, and what audiences can expect from his zombie apocalypse.

Q:

There has been a lot of press about the difficulties of shooting this film; is that stressful?

“Not really. We came to a place where we thought we could make the movie better, so we went out and shot more. We brought a new writer in to help us with that vision and

we went out and shot it. That happens with a lot of productions, and because we shot footage that I’m happy with, I think we did the right thing. There has been a lot of scrutiny regarding the film because of how big the production is and Brad’s involvement in it, but at the end of the day it doesn’t matter. Everyone can judge what he or she sees on the screen when it’s out. No matter how difficult it was to get there.”

The film is based on Max Brooks’ novel, which plays with some really intense social issues like religion, geo-politics and government ineptitude. How do these issues manifest in your movie?

“When I first read the book, I was very inspired by those issues.... Honestly, at the time I didn’t think that the book lent itself to a film narrative and I knew I would have to do a lot of adapting, but also keeping those political and social themes incorporated so that the film could be as powerful as the book. We have definitely kept some of that feel in the film.”

CONTINUED ▶



Brad Pitt tries to protect his on-screen kids and wife (Mireille Enos) in *World War Z*

“I based the zombies on natural biology; I studied insects and how they move,” says Forster. “From the moment **the humans are bitten it’s a seizure transformation**”

So far, the trailer and posters haven’t featured zombies. Tell us more about how they look, sound, etc.

“I based the zombies on natural biology; I studied insects and how they move, how they swarm. From the moment the humans are bitten, it’s a seizure transformation into becoming a zombie. I did some research on epileptic seizures prior to making the film, and I incorporated this into when humans get bitten by the zombies, so when someone turns into a zombie their movements are natural, but violent and seizure-like.”

What about their physical look?

“I paid close attention to the veins inside the body and the longer that the infection has been in the veins, the worse the zombies begin to look; they look more gaunt and skinny. Older zombies are faint and they have lost a lot of flesh.”



Zombie swarm!

► **Is creating a zombie film intimidating? People love the George Romero films so much that even Danny Boyle, when he did *28 Days Later*, came under criticism.**

“Yeah, absolutely. I’ve been conscious of that from the beginning, and *World War Z* is so large in scale. It’s actually much more than just a zombie movie, it’s an action film and that is different from the intimate zombie movies we usually see. Boyle’s film was very character-driven. Here, we have a war going on and we have such a huge cast — we don’t focus on why the zombie pandemic happened, it’s more about taking care of it after the fact.”

How else does this film differ from past zombie films?

“There are a lot of original aspects in the film that I think people haven’t seen before. For example, when coming up with the zombies and how they move, I based them on a swarm theory, and what I mean by that is originally, when you look at Romero films from the ’70s, his zombies move very slowly — I think because he was making a commentary on the consumerism of human beings at the time. For me, today, it was more about zombies swarming, a metaphor for overpopulation. We have fewer and fewer resources in our world today, and more people. The world’s population is 7-billion people, so if those people turned into zombies, we are talking about large numbers and huge swarms of zombies.”

Has the most popular show on cable television, AMC’s *The Walking Dead*, been an influence?

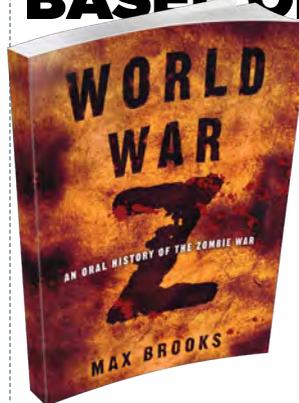
“Well, *The Walking Dead* is an R-rated show and we wanted to make sure *World War Z* was more accessible and very different from that show. *The Walking Dead* has a lot of violence and a lot of gore, and we had to approach our film very differently. Visually, I think the film is very real and very present, but it’s not filled with blood and guts.”

And you have intentions for a sequel; perhaps three movies?

“It depends on how this film does. We hope it will do well and then those conversations can be had afterward!” ☑

Lianne MacDougall is a Toronto-born author, web-show host and film critic currently living in Los Angeles.

BASED ON A BOOK, BASED ON A BOOK

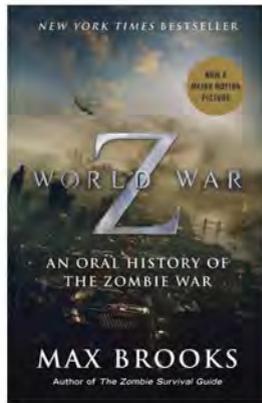


World War Z is based on Max Brooks’ 2006 novel of the same name, which was written as a collection of first-person accounts of the Zombie War as documented by a United Nations employee named Max Brooks. (The film’s star Brad Pitt doesn’t play Brooks, but a character named Gerry Lane.) But Brooks’ novel was inspired by another book — *The Good War*, a non-fiction tome by American author and historian Studs Terkel

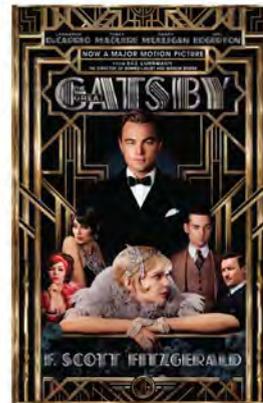
in which Terkel interviewed World War II survivors about their experiences during the war. *The Good War* won the Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction in 1985. —MW

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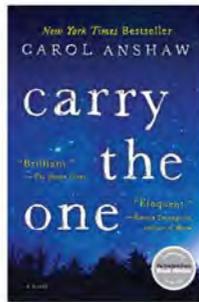
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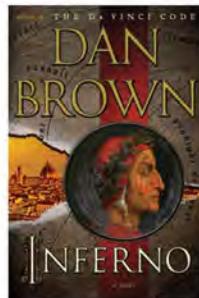
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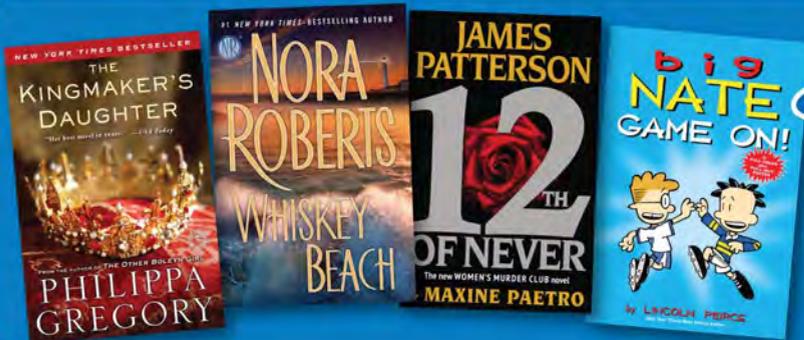


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Isla Fisher and Jesse Eisenberg talk about making magic for their Vegas-set heist movie *Now You See Me*

BY ANDREA MILLER

Let's face it; most people's idea of magic is limited to cape-wearing hobbyists pulling rabbits out of top hats, an annoying neighbourhood boy forever asking you to pick a card, any card, or the media-savvy Davids, Blaine and Copperfield.

But French director Louis Leterrier's heist flick *Now You See Me* gives the pastime an image overhaul with hot young things Isla Fisher, Dave Franco and Jesse Eisenberg as hip, modern-day magicians who fool with a purpose.

The atmosphere is appropriately mysterious during a visit to the film's Louisiana set, where the gymnasium seats at the University of New Orleans are half-filled with dummies (the actual plastic kind that save on human extras) and a polished black stage is flecked by

dramatic lighting to create the illusion we're at Las Vegas's MGM Grand.

It's here that the Four Horsemen, the movie's quartet of tricksters that includes Eisenberg, Fisher, Franco and Woody Harrelson, will put on one of their shows. The group's big trick? Somehow, while on stage in America, they'll pull off an elaborate heist at a bank on the other side of the world and then give the money away, Robin Hood-style, to that evening's audience.

Despite being named the Four Horsemen, the group does have a woman in its midst, the fiery-haired Fisher (*Wedding Crashers*) who plays escapologist Henley. Fisher had no problem being the only lady.

"It feels pretty natural for me," she reveals while curled into a director's chair on the set. She's still wearing her character's signature leather gloves, short shorts and tight-fitting black blazer. "It's fun. You know, they're not the kind of boys, there's not a frat humour to them; they don't leave me out. They're very, you know, chivalrous and kind." Not that Fisher, who's married to the king of crass Sacha Baron Cohen, could possibly be alarmed by a little frat-boy humour.

Her character doesn't need to be handled with care either. Describing Henley as the "sassy firecracker of the group," Fisher says



Now You See Me's magicians, from left: Dave Franco, Jesse Eisenberg, Isla Fisher and Woody Harrelson

“I do the wildest stunts, I push the boundary the furthest,” says Fisher, **“which is ironic, because, personally, I’m pretty scared of a lot of things that my character is not”**

sardonic leader of the rogue pack of illusionists. His naturally corkscrew-curly hair is straightened and parted, his boyish face sports the shadow of a goatee and his casual wardrobe is swapped for those dressy duds.

“I’ve never worn such nice clothing before,” admits Eisenberg during a break. “I didn’t know it could fit on my body, I still am not sure. But you know, it’s nice and my, my mother’s really happy.”

The fast-talking actor says he noticed an interesting parallel between magic and his chosen profession. “I mean, I got to know magicians from working on this and, you know, I started to realize there’s kind of like this need to control. It’s not in any kind of socially bad way or anything... [I] can relate to it as an actor because, as an actor, I feel really comfortable acting and maybe sometimes less comfortable or more unsure not acting in a regular situation. So I think magicians probably have a similar drive.”

The drive for his character, and indeed the whole dapper crew, is not only to take a stand against corporate greed by robbing from the banks, but to pull off an impressive trick that will leave people asking, “How did they do that?”

Yet, now that Eisenberg knows how the tricks are done, he admits he’d make a terrible magician.

“I liked learning the magic tricks and it’s interesting to be able to do stuff and to impress my girlfriend. The only problem is real magicians never say what it is that was behind the trick and

I am not a good holder of secrets, so I immediately divulge it, usually halfway through the trick: ‘Watch this. Watch the two.’”

Fisher, too, reveals that once the tricks were explained to her, the fun of magic and her ability to suspend disbelief quickly evaporated.

“It’s like, wherever a magician directs you to look, just look in the other direction and you can kind of work it out,” she says.

Of course, given the potent combination of grandiose tricks being pulled off by attractive actors in *Now You See Me*, it seems unlikely audiences will be able to look away. ☑

Andrea Miller is a content producer for Cineplex.com.



she enjoyed living vicariously through her character’s daring scenarios. “I do the wildest stunts, I push the boundary the furthest, which is ironic, because, personally, I’m pretty scared of a lot of things that my character is not. But it’s quite fun to play the opposite.”

Shooting required wire-work to simulate levitation and Houdini-esque escape scenes, but not on this day. Instead, Fisher and her fellow magicians film a scene in which they ask the audience for volunteers and, on cue, a bunch of extras throw up their hands.

It takes a few beats to realize the guy who played *The Social Network’s* hoodies-and-sandals-clad Mark Zuckerberg is up there. Fit into a smart, dark suit, Eisenberg is almost unrecognizable as Atlas, the

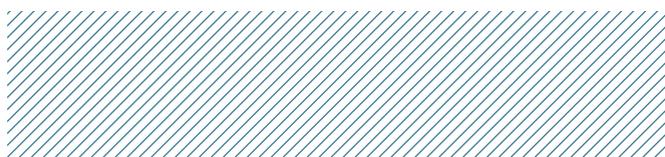
MAN OF STEEL
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Man of Steel's Superman,
Henry Cavill

FORGING STEEL

All the elements were there, but how to put them back together? We take you through the Superman story and trace how *Man of Steel* director Zack Snyder and his cast came together to resurrect the comic world's most iconic hero

■ BY INGRID RANDOJA



Man of Steel Is Born

It all began with 2006's *Superman Returns*, the first film in what Warner Brothers hoped would be a whole series of new Superman movies. Although the film earned \$391-million (U.S.) worldwide, it cost a reported \$270-million to make, and wasn't the box-office grand slam the studio wanted. Warner Brothers cancelled the proposed sequel and began thinking about a reboot of the reboot.

In 2008, the studio asked filmmakers, screenwriters and comic book writers to pitch them their Superman ideas. Screenwriter David S. Goyer, who was working on *The Dark Knight Rises* with director Christopher Nolan, told Nolan how he would approach the daunting task. Nolan was inspired by Goyer's realistic take which made Superman relevant in today's world, and approached WB with the idea. They gave the thumbs up and that's how Nolan came on board as the film's producer and Goyer its writer.

When it came time to hire a director, filmmakers such as Tony Scott, Guillermo del Toro, Ben Affleck, Darren Aronofsky and Duncan Jones were considered. But it was Zack Snyder (*300*, *Watchmen*) who earned the plum assignment. Snyder told the *L.A. Times*, "As a comic book fan, Superman is like the Rosetta Stone of all superheroes. I wanted to be sure the movie treated it respectfully.... He's the king-daddy."

The Story

Most plot details are being kept under wraps, but we do know this is an origin tale. Superman (Henry Cavill) is born Kal-El on the planet Krypton to brilliant parents Jor-El (Russell Crowe) and Lara Lor-Van (Ayelet Zurer). Jor-El warns Krypton's leaders that a coming catastrophe will destroy the planet; but they don't heed his warning, so he sends young Kal-El to Earth inside a space capsule.

Rescued and raised by Kansas farmers Jonathan and Martha Kent (Kevin Costner, Diane Lane), Kal-El becomes Clark Kent and discovers that his alien DNA bestows him with superpowers on Earth. Clark's humble parents worry people will fear him, and perhaps even hurt him, if they know he's special, so he hides his powers, leading him to feel alienated from humanity.

A search to discover more about his origins leads Clark to take on a dual identity — as a journalist for *The Daily Planet* newspaper, where he's attracted to fellow reporter Lois Lane



Henry Cavill (left) confers with *Man of Steel* director Zack Snyder on set

(Amy Adams), and as superhero Superman. It's when General Zod (Michael Shannon) — a criminal who also survived Krypton's destruction — arrives on Earth that humanity learns exactly what kind of hero they have in Superman.

Who's Who

SUPERMAN (HENRY CAVILL)

It took him two kicks at the can, but Cavill finally landed the role of Superman after losing out to Brandon Routh for *Superman Returns*. Cavill is the first non-American actor to play Superman (he was born on the British Island of Jersey) and at age 30 he's the oldest.

In a February 2011 issue of *Entertainment Weekly*, director Snyder said of Cavill, "Other actors put that suit on, and it's a joke, even if they're great actors. Henry put it on, and he exuded this kind of crazy-calm confidence that just made me go, 'Wow.' Okay: This was Superman."

Both Christopher Reeve and Brandon Routh played Superman as sweet souls, but expect Cavill's hero to be a little bitter, and definitely angst-ridden. Cavill said of his character in a recent *EW* story, "Although he's not susceptible to the frailties of mankind, he is definitely susceptible to the emotional frailties."

LOIS LANE (AMY ADAMS)

For more than 70 years, in the comics, TV series and films, Superman's principal love interest has always been reporter Lois Lane. She's portrayed as stubborn, impulsive and good at her job, but somehow unable

CONTINUED ▶



Amy Adams as Lois Lane

Michael Shannon as General Zod

SUPERMAN STATS

How do the three actors who have played Superman on the big screen measure up?

CHRISTOPHER REEVE

SUPERMAN I-IV

Nationality: American

Height: 6' 4"

Eye Colour: Blue

Age When First Appeared as

Superman: 26

Film Credits Prior to

Superman: 1

BRANDON ROUTH

SUPERMAN RETURNS

Nationality: American

Height: 6' 3"

Eye Colour: Brown

Age When First Appeared as

Superman: 26

Film Credits Prior to

Superman: 1

HENRY CAVILL

MAN OF STEEL

Nationality: British

Height: 6' 1"

Eye Colour: Blue

Age When First Appeared as

Superman: 30

Film Credits Prior to

Superman: 10



Faora (Antje Traue, right) puts the moves on Lois Lane (Amy Adams) while Superman (Henry Cavill) looks on

▶ to figure out the man she works alongside also happens to be the superhero she loves.

Canadian actor Margot Kidder played Lane in the first four *Superman* films with a comedic, feisty edge, and as one would expect a slew of top Hollywood actors, including Olivia Wilde, Mila Kunis and Jessica Biel were rumoured for the role that ultimately went to four-time Oscar nominee Adams in *Man of Steel*.

In an interview with *Deadline Hollywood*, Adams said, "I grew up with Margot Kidder as Lois Lane, so I didn't want to try and be that version. Zack [Snyder] said that he wanted to play for more realism. There's definitely still banter [with Superman]. She's tough, modern, and more contemporary. There's also a lot more action than I've seen in my career."

JOR-EL (RUSSELL CROWE)

Superman's biological father is a scientific genius with a rebellious streak — in *Man of Steel* it's revealed that Krypton's children are engineered, but Jor-El and Lara break the law by conceiving Kal-El "naturally."

In past *Superman* films, Clark learns of his heritage through recorded messages Jor-El has left for him, making Jor-El the ultimate distant father figure.

Marlon Brando famously played Jor-El in the first *Superman* film, and is remembered for refusing to learn his lines (they were written on cue cards placed on set) and earning a total of \$19-million (salary and percentage of the film's profits) for 12 days work.



Russell Crowe as Jor-El



Jonathan (Kevin Costner) and Martha (Diane Lane) Kent

JONATHAN AND MARTHA KENT (KEVIN COSTNER, DIANE LANE)

The farming couple who raise Clark are portrayed as salt-of-the-earth types in all of the *Superman* stories. But, in this new film, they are also portrayed as more fearful, believing society will ostracize, and perhaps even hurt their adopted son if his powers are revealed. This reading reflects the more realistic vibe Snyder and company want to create with the film.

Superman's Canadian Creator

Superman was created by the comic book team of Jerry Siegel (writer) and Toronto-born Joe Shuster (artist). Shuster (cousin of comedian Frank Shuster of Wayne & Shuster fame) was born in 1914 and showed a talent for drawing at an early age. His family moved from Toronto to Cleveland when Joe was 10, and he met Siegel at high school.

They joined forces to create various comic-book characters, but nobody was interested in their alien "superhero" Superman. Finally, after years of shopping Superman around, DC Comics paid \$130 for the rights and featured him in its *Action Comics #1* that hit stands in June 1938.

At first, Clark Kent worked at *The Daily Star* newspaper, based on *The Toronto Daily Star* (renamed *The Toronto Star* in 1971). Shuster had worked as a paperboy for *The Star*. For legal issues, the paper's name was eventually changed to *The Daily Planet*. ☐

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

SUPERMAN ON THE BIG SCREEN

SUPERMAN (1978)

RELEASE: DECEMBER 15, 1978

The hugely successful original film makes us believe a man can fly and introduces us to Superman (Christopher Reeve), Lois Lane (Margot Kidder) and Lex Luthor (Gene Hackman).

SUPERMAN II (1980)

RELEASE: JUNE 19, 1981

Lois Lane discovers Superman's true identity, Superman gives up his powers to be with Lois but then changes his mind to fight the evil General Zod (Terence Stamp).

SUPERMAN III (1983)

RELEASE: JUNE 17, 1983

Richard Pryor plays a bumbling computer genius, and Superman confronts his dark side when unstable Kryptonite turns him into a self-centered bully.

SUPERMAN IV: THE QUEST FOR PEACE (1987)

RELEASE: JULY 24, 1987

Superman rids the world of nuclear weapons but inadvertently helps create villain Nuclear Man.

SUPERMAN RETURNS (2006)

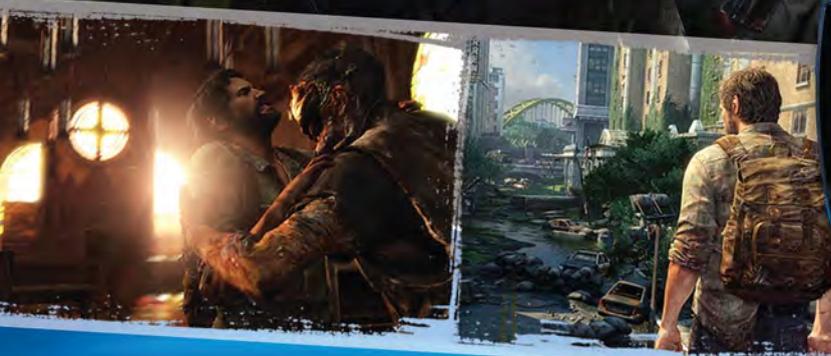
RELEASE: JUNE 28, 2006

Director Bryan Singer fashions a reverent origin tale that stars newcomer Brandon Routh as Superman, and gives the superhero a son with Lois Lane (Kate Bosworth).

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CASTING CALL

BY INGRID RANDOJA



Fans of Pixar's *Finding Nemo* have waited a decade for word of a sequel, and now it's official — *Finding Dory* hits screens on November 25th, 2015. The new film focuses on *Finding Nemo*'s beloved Dory (**Ellen DeGeneres**) and how the forgetful fish found her way into the ocean depths. **Albert Brooks** returns to voice Marlin and original *Finding Nemo* director **Andrew Stanton** is once again at the helm.

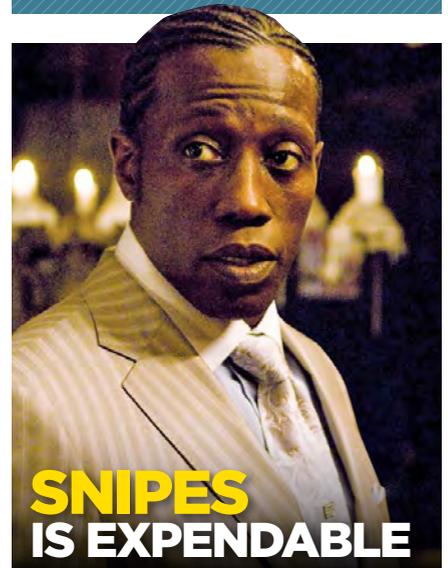
Big Eyes, the movie about real-life artists Margaret and Walter Keane, has been kicking around Hollywood for years, and now it looks as if **Amy Adams** and **Christoph Waltz** will play the leads with **Tim Burton** directing. Margaret Keane painted portraits of women and children with immense black eyes. The works were hugely popular in the 1960s, but husband Walter signed his name to them. It wasn't until Margaret went to court that the truth was revealed. No word on when production will begin.



WHAT'S GOING ON WITH...

KUNG FU PANDA 3

DreamWorks Animation made history when it announced *Kung Fu Panda 3* will be the first major animated film to be produced entirely in China in the newly created, Shanghai-based Oriental DreamWorks Studio. Franchise regulars such as **Jack Black**, **Angelina Jolie** and **Seth Rogen** are back, and new cast members include **Rebel Wilson**, **Bryan Cranston** and TV's Hannibal Lecter, **Mads Mikkelsen**. *Kung Fu Panda 3* hits theatres December 23rd, 2015.



Parolee **Wesley Snipes** has landed a job. The 50-year-old actor, who was released from prison in April after serving more than two years for tax evasion, immediately snagged a part in **Sylvester Stallone's** *Expendables 3*. It'll be a reunion for the two action stars — Snipes played the villain opposite Stallone's hero in 1993's *Demolition Man*.



HATHAWAY PONDERS SCI-FI

Anne Hathaway may reunite with her *Dark Knight Rises* director Christopher Nolan for his upcoming sci-fi *Interstellar*. The film stars Matthew McConaughey as the leader of a scientific team that discovers a wormhole that allows them to travel through time and into other dimensions. Nolan's brother Jonathan Nolan pens the super-expensive film that requires the financial backing of two studios (Paramount and Warner Brothers).



FRESH FACE TAISSA FARMIGA

Eighteen-year-old Taissa Farmiga plays Emma Watson's sister in *The Bling Ring*. In real life, Taissa is the younger sister of Vera Farmiga — a whopping 21 years younger. It was the elder Vera who got her younger sibling interested in acting. You may also recognize Farmiga from her turn in the first season of TV's *American Horror Story*; she'll return for the series' third season which begins shooting this summer.



PITT BACK TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY

Inglorious bastard Brad Pitt returns to the battlefields for David Ayers' (*End of Watch*) WWII drama *Fury*. Pitt will play Wardaddy, a Sherman tank commander who leads his soldiers into battle against desperate German forces just as the war is ending. Filming starts this fall, and the movie has already secured a November 14th, 2014, release date.

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Tunnel Vision

Allied forces hatch a plan to escape from a German POW camp during World War II.

Hilts (Steve McQueen), Hendley (James Garner), Danny (Charles Bronson), Bartlett (Richard Attenborough) — each soldier brings a unique skill to the team, whether as scrounger, forger, digger or intelligence.

They'll create three tunnels — Tom, Dick and Harry — and when the first one reaches the woods off they'll go; 250 soldiers if possible.

Based on a book that was based on a true story, by the time the tale made it to screens in 1963 real-life prisoners of war had become amalgamations, nationalities were changed, and entire storylines added to make the already incredible story even more incredible.

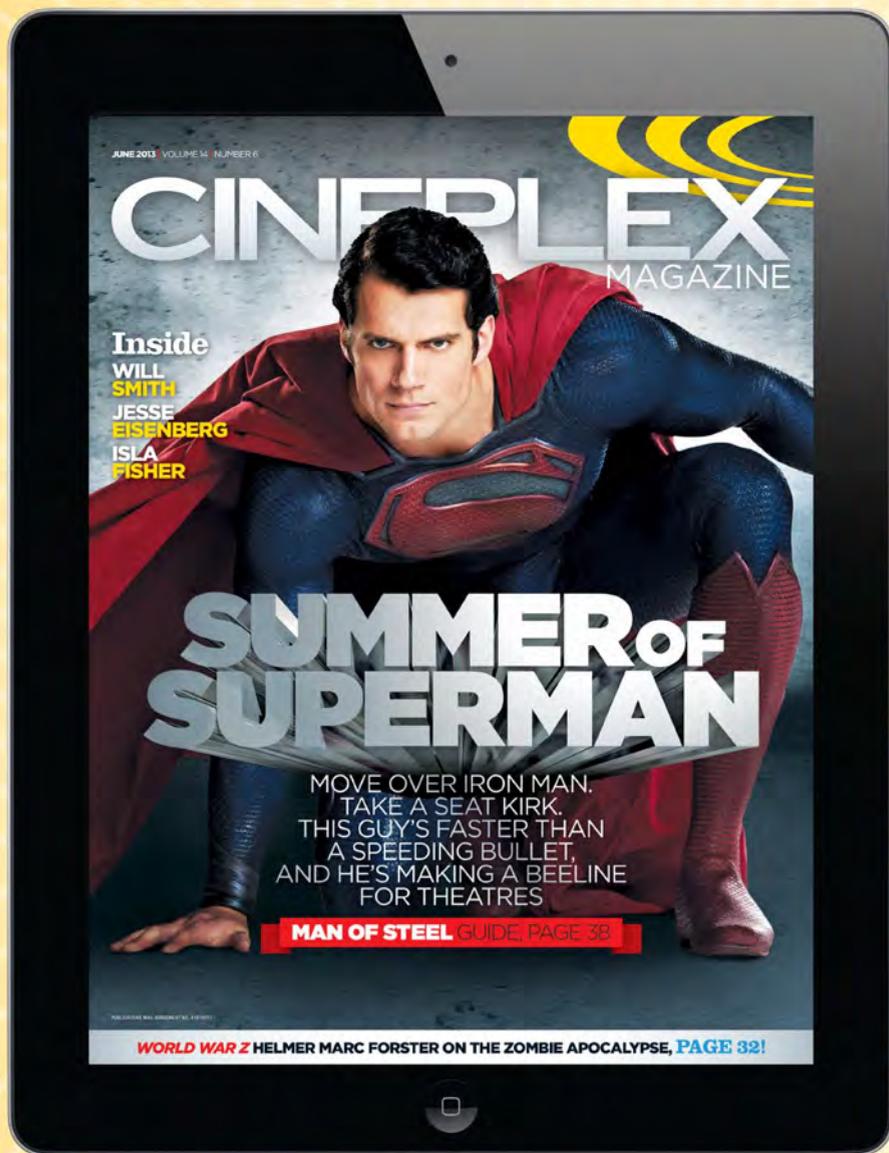
And yet the film retained its credibility, perhaps because many among the cast had served their countries in real life. Donald Pleasence, who plays nearly blind forger Colin, for example, was a member of Britain's Royal Air Force during WWII and spent a year in a German POW camp after being shot down.

Here you see McQueen in one of the film's most famous scenes, as his character attempts to ride to freedom on a stolen motorcycle.

—MARNI WEISZ

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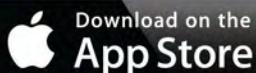
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JUNE'S BEST DVD AND BLU-RAY

OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL **JUNE 11**

Despite the existence so many **L. Frank Baum** stories about Oz, director **Sam Raimi's** ambitious prequel is an entirely new story that follows two-bit Kansas magician Oscar Diggs (**James Franco**) over the rainbow.



IDENTITY THIEF

JUNE 4

When Sandy Patterson's (**Jason Bateman**) identity is stolen by a scam artist (**Melissa McCarthy**) he decides to travel all the way from Denver to Florida to catch her and bring her back home for some Colorado justice. Comical road-trip ensues.



WARM BODIES

JUNE 4

This charming romantic comedy subverts the zombie genre by implying that true love between an undead teen (**Nicholas Hoult**) and a cute blonde (**Teresa Palmer**) might just be enough to bring a zombie's cold, gray body back to life.



THE INCREDIBLE BURT WONDERSTONE

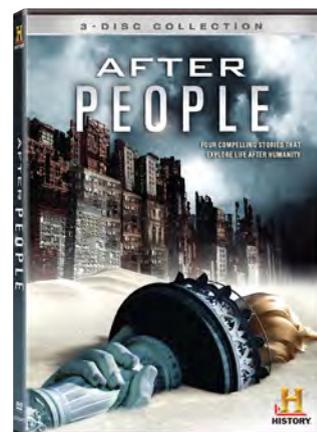
JUNE 28

An old-guard Vegas magician (**Steve Carell**) tries to stay relevant in an age when people would rather see edgy illusions pulled off by daredevils like his obnoxious rival (**Jim Carrey**).

Something Special

AFTER PEOPLE

JUNE 11



Don't be fooled by summer's warm winds; we're all doomed! (Eventually.) Here the History Channel collects four grim but engrossing documentaries about our planet's fate after we're gone — *Life After People*, *After Armageddon*, *Mega Drought* and *Mega Freeze*.

Games

Why We Love...



THE LAST OF US

JUNE 14

PLAYSTATION 3

Developed by Naughty Dog, makers of the *Uncharted* trilogy, this title should have a similarly cinematic feel. Where *Uncharted* was very Indiana Jones, think of this one about a black-marketeer and the 14-year-old girl he befriends as *The Road* meets *Dawn of the Dead*.

MORE MOVIES ▶ A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD (JUNE 4) ▶ ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH

(JUNE 4) ▶ HANSEL & GRETEL: WITCH HUNTERS (JUNE 11) ▶ SNITCH (JUNE 11)

▶ JACK THE GIANT SLAYER (JUNE 18) ▶ 21 AND OVER (JUNE 18) ▶ MOVIE 43 (JUNE 18)

▶ QUARTET (JUNE 18) ▶ DEAD MAN DOWN (JUNE 25) ▶ THE LAST EXORCISM PART II (JUNE 25)

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FINALLY...



JOAN OF ART

We're kicking ourselves for not bidding on this prop painting used in 1998's *Pleasantville*. The 71- by 50-inch multimedia on canvas painting sold for just \$625 (U.S.) at a recent sale by Julien's Auctions.

The film stars Tobey Maguire and Reese Witherspoon as 1990s teens who are transported through their TV set into a 1950s, black-and-white world in the style of *Father Knows Best*.

Slowly, colour starts seeping into that world, in part through the paintings of Bill Johnson the local malt-shop attendant played by Jeff Daniels.

In one scene (pictured below) we see Bill working on his portrait of Betty Parker (Joan Allen), mother to the above-mentioned teenagers and the object of Bill's affection. —MW



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