

# CINERIPLEX

MAGAZINE



*Inside*  
**STEVEN SPIELBERG**

**PETER JACKSON**

**VIGGO MORTENSEN**

**DAVID CRONENBERG**

**MICHAEL FASSBENDER**

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**GIFT IDEAS,**  
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L I A M N E E S O N

# THE GREY

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# SHERLOCK HOLMES

## RETURNS FROM THE DEAD

**T**he “franchise” may seem like a new concept to us. When it’s a good franchise we can’t wait for the next installment, when it’s a bad franchise we bemoan the fact that Hollywood can’t come up with any new ideas. Some creative types love getting locked into a franchise (Johnny Depp and a certain pirate) others see it as stifling and a career trap (Tobey Maguire v. Spider-Man).

Regardless, the idea of franchises — and whether to kill them off or keep them going — is nothing new. Case in point, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s short story *The Final Problem*. Not only is *The Final Problem* the basis for this month’s *Sherlock Holmes* sequel *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* (itself part of a budding franchise), it is also the short story in which Conan Doyle kills off his Victorian supersleuth.

Now, before you throw this magazine down with screams of, “Spoiler! Spoiler!” know that we don’t expect Holmes to die at the end of *A Game of Shadows*. In fact, in “Holmes for the Holidays,” page 38, **Robert Downey Jr.** tells us, “We’re all ready to hit you with *Sherlock 3*... We’re ready and raring to go.”

So relax.

Killing off Holmes isn’t as easy as it seems, anyway. Conan Doyle couldn’t do it, despite his best efforts. By 1893, he’d already written two dozen stories about his famous forensic detective and felt like the character was detracting from his more serious literary endeavours. So, he introduced a criminal who would finally be capable of besting Holmes, Professor Moriarty, and ended *The Final Problem* by ending Holmes.

But it’s hard to kill off a character that the public does not want to see die, and eventually Conan Doyle bowed to public pressure and resurrected Holmes with a bit of tricky storytelling. No one had actually seen Holmes expire (there were merely footprints at the edge of a cliff and broken branches on the way down), so it was easy to say he’d simply gone into hiding. Ultimately, Conan Doyle penned 56 short stories and four novels about the ingenious detective before his own death in 1930.

As for Holmes on screen, we already know that Downey’s “raring to go” on the next one. Whether it actually happens depends largely on you and your demand for a third film — just like it did more than a century ago for Conan Doyle’s resilient investigator.

Elsewhere in this issue, director **Steven Spielberg** and producer **Peter Jackson** discuss the making of *The Adventures of Tintin* (page 32); another dynamic duo, **David Cronenberg** and **Viggo Mortensen** talk *A Dangerous Method* (page 24); and **Michael Fassbender** opens up about *Shame*, his controversial flick about sex addiction (page 28).

Plus, on page 45 you’ll find our **Holiday Gift Guide**, packed with unique and must-have items for the most-discerning people on your list.

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■ MARNI WEISZ, EDITOR

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# SNAPS



## LIVELY LIFT

What a girl won't do for a pair of shoes. **Blake Lively** lets designer **Christian Louboutin** pick her up at his New York book launch.

PHOTO BY HENRY LAMB/KEYSTONE PRESS



## BLOOM AND BABE

**Orlando Bloom** soothes baby Flynn as the pair leaves a Tribeca café.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



## SCARLETT'S HORROR HAIR

**Scarlett Johansson** sports a shaggy new look for *Under the Skin*, her horror movie shooting in Scotland.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



# LAUGHING MAN MARKETPLACE

## HUGH LIKES TEA

**Hugh Jackman** enjoys a cuppa at the tea shop he recently opened in New York City.

PHOTO BY JACKSON LEE/SPLASH NEWS



## TOBEY'S TIME WARP

**Tobey Maguire** (left) uses his smartphone (between takes, we hope) on the Sydney, Australia, set of *The Great Gatsby*, which takes place in the 1920s.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

# Our feature presentation



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# IN BRIEF



## VANCOUVER'S MISSION: LOOK LIKE INDIA

**T**here was some disappointment in India last spring when *Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol* came to Mumbai, but without Tom Cruise. Instead, it was the second unit that rolled into town alone to get some pickup shots for a chase scene. The scene itself — teeming with bright colours, tuk-tuks,

saris and palm trees — was actually shot in Vancouver a couple of months before, where the streets outside of the Vancouver Convention Centre were dressed to look like Bangalore. Not only was Cruise on set, but bystanders got to watch him leap over a car (yes, it's true, he does his own stunts, we saw the tape) several times as

they did take after take of the chase scene. It's not all bad news for Cruise fans in India, however. It seems that this fourth installment in the popular *Mission: Impossible* franchise will premiere in India five days before its North American debut on December 16th. And Cruise has promised to be there. —MW

## On Home Turf: THE CHRONICLES OF RIDDICK: DEAD MAN STALKING

Vin Diesel

If you see **Vin Diesel** in Montreal this month, the producers of *The Chronicles of Riddick: Dead Man Stalking* found some cash!

The third sci-fi pic about Diesel's escaped criminal, Richard B. Riddick (the first was 2000's *Pitch Black*) was slated to shoot in Montreal this month, but late in October [TMZ.com](http://TMZ.com) reported that the owner of the studio where it was shooting locked the filmmakers out because of unpaid bills. Assuming the cash is flowing again (and that studio owner presumed it would) you'll want to keep your eyes peeled for Diesel's co-star **Karl Urban** (*Bones* from 2009's *Star Trek*) as well, who returns as the ruthless Vaako, now Lord of the Necromongers. —MW ▶

## The Art Of Film

Is it just a coincidence that Kelly Grace's favourite movie is *Rear Window*, which stars Grace Kelly? "Yes, it is the biggest coincidence in my life," says the Toronto artist whose portrait of Grace Kelly in *Rear Window* (right) is just one of her film-inspired pieces. Truthfully, though, Kelly and Grace are her given names, her surname is Gerard. "Everyone has called me Kelly Grace for years so I just dropped the whole last name thing. It's more Hollywood that way," she jokes. Her other movie-inspired pieces include the *Wizard of Oz* painting "The Twister" (inset) and a retro 3D movie series. See more at [www.kellective.com](http://www.kellective.com). —MW





Scarlett Johansson and Matt Damon in *We Bought a Zoo*



Jeremy Irvine with one of the Joeys



**YOU CAN'T TELL. REALLY. WE SWEAR.**

This horse is wearing a piece.

Director Steven Spielberg had a unique challenge when casting *War Horse*, specifically in casting the horse. He needed to find an equine with a distinctive star-shaped white blaze to play Joey, the beloved pony who goes off to war. Or, rather he had to find 13 horses with identical star-shaped white blazes, since Joey's played by 13 different horses.

The solution? Thirteen horses had stars shaved into their foreheads, and then white hairpieces attached with toupee adhesive. —*MW*

## ▶ COMING TO AMERICA

**Y**es, *We Bought a Zoo*, about a guy (Matt Damon) with no experience as a zookeeper who buys and runs a zoo in Southern California, is based on a true story. But don't go looking for that zoo in Cali, or anywhere in the States, for that matter.

The Cameron Crowe-directed film is based on Benjamin Mee's experience of buying the dilapidated Dartmoor Zoological Park in Plymouth, England. When screenwriter Aline Brosh McKenna (*The Devil Wears Prada*) wrote the script, she moved the story from England to Boston, and then director Cameron Crowe pushed it another 5,000 km to the west.

So why not set the film in England? Crowe explains on his website, "I wanted to work with Matt Damon, and I think he gets things done pretty well with his natural accent."

You can, however, make a virtual trip to Dartmoor here: [www.dartmoorzoo.org](http://www.dartmoorzoo.org). —*MW*

## Quote Unquote

**Reading the first scene gave me a panic attack and I thought if something can make me feel that much, I have to be part of it.**

—**EMILY BROWNING**  
ON *SLEEPING BEAUTY*





WELCOME  
BACK,  
**SANDY!**

This month, *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* marks Sandra Bullock's return to the big screen after a two-year, one-month hiatus. Her last movie, *The Blind Side*, came out in November 2009. She won the Oscar for that film, then had to endure the nasty, very public breakdown of her marriage to car-dude-turned-reality-TV-addict Jesse James.

But if you think this was an unusually long layoff for Bullock — who spent much of those two years raising new son Louis — think again. Two years and three months passed between her March 2007 thriller *Premonition* and her June 2009 rom-com *The Proposal*, and a full two-and-a-half years elapsed between the time *Two Weeks Notice* hit theatres in December 2002 and *Crash* was released in May 2005. —MW



## ACTIVIST ACTOR... OF THE MONTH

Mark Ruffalo joins the Occupy Wall Street protestors to speak out against the proposed Keystone XL pipeline which would run from, ahem, Canada to the U.S.

PHOTO BY GARY DWIGHT MILLER/KEYSTONE PRESS



## TATTOO YOU

What would Lisbeth Salander — the antisocial (some would say sociopathic) hacker at the heart of *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* — think of the new H&M fashion line that apes her punk-rock style?

Well, she doesn't really have a say.

Trish Summerville (inset, centre), the costume designer who crafted Salander's Goth-inspired, fresh-from-the-laundry-basket

look for this month's movie has teamed with the clothing retailer to create a 30-piece collection with a "dark, urban feel."

"Salander's look is very real and very lived in, with pieces that her character has worn for a long time, like her jackets that act as her armour to shield her from the world," says Summerville.

The collection arrives December 14th. —MW

# SPOTLIGHT



## LUISA D'OLIVEIRA'S ANIMAL APPEAL

**W**ill a nice girl from Vancouver break Alvin the chipmunk's heart? "Possibly," says Luisa D'Oliveira, who plays Tessa, a cruise ship passenger who catches Alvin's eye in this month's *Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked*.

"Tessa's just awesome," says D'Oliveira on the line from Toronto where she's shooting a pilot for CBC TV. "She's one of those girls who has a great time and everyone in the room feels her vibe, and Alvin is not immune either."

D'Oliveira isn't about to divulge any spoilers regarding a possible human-chipmunk fling, especially for a movie that could be one of the season's biggest hits. The Chipmunks are the holidays' go-to critters; the last two *Alvin* pics opened in December and raked in nearly \$437-million combined.

So what's the little fellows' appeal?

"I think it's adventurism," says the 25-year-old D'Oliveira. "It doesn't matter, they could be anything — it just happens to be that they're chipmunks who have been on this adventure since day one. And, add in the fact they're in a world that's not tailor-made to them. They have to find their own way, which is like most people, we all have to find our own way."

The movie caps off what's been the best year yet in D'Oliveira's ascending career — she landed *Alvin* and appeared in five TV movies and shows. And she figures *Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked* will move to the top of the D'Oliveira family's list of movies to see this holiday season. But what film will it bump?

"*Home Alone* and *Home Alone 2*, without a doubt," she says. "We'd watch those every single year when we were kids." —INGRID RANDOJA



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# ALL DRESSED UP

## SOFIA VERGARA

At the Rodeo Drive Walk of Style Awards in Beverly Hills.

PHOTO BY JEN LOWERY/SPLASH NEWS

## EVAN RACHEL WOOD

Old school glam for the New York premiere of *The Ides of March*.

PHOTO BY GREGORY PACE/KEYSTONE PRESS

## AMBER HEARD

At the L.A. premiere of *The Rum Diary*.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

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# IN THEATRES

DECEMBER 2



Shame's Michael Fassbender and Carey Mulligan

## SHAME

**Michael Fassbender** bares both body and soul in director **Steve McQueen's** drama about a sex-addicted New York executive (Fassbender) whose sister (**Carey Mulligan**) comes to stay with him and exposes the dark corners of his carnal activities. Fassbender won the best acting prize at this year's Venice Film Festival for his brave — he does full-frontal nudity — and candid portrayal of a man emotionally disconnected from the world.

See **Michael Fassbender** interview, [page 28](#).

DECEMBER 9



Jonah Hill, and his charges, in *The Sitter*

## THE SITTER

This reworking of 1987's *The Adventures in Babysitting* stars a still rotund **Jonah Hill** as a suspended college student who, after being persuaded to babysit the kids next door, takes them along with him on a booty call that turns into a series of misadventures.

## TYRANNOSAUR

British actor **Paddy Considine** (*The Bourne Ultimatum*) directs this story of Joseph (**Peter Mullan**), a violent and self-hating man who meets Hannah (**Olivia Colman**), a Christian woman who works in a second-hand store. Hannah turns to Joseph for help after being abused by her boyfriend.



## NEW YEAR'S EVE

When last year's low-cost, star-studded pic *Valentine's Day* earned a tidy \$216-million worldwide, director **Garry Marshall** was marshalled back into action to helm this similarly constructed tale of various people dealing with the stress of making the most out of the last night of the year. The A-list cast includes **Halle Berry**, **Robert De Niro**, **Hilary Swank**, **Ashton Kutcher**, **Sarah Jessica Parker**, **Jessica Biel**, **Zac Efron**, **Josh Duhamel**, **Sofia Vergara** and **Michelle Pfeiffer**.

## THE ARTIST

More than a novelty exercise, this silent, black and white feature from French director **Michel Hazanavicius** is earning acclaim for its heartfelt depiction of the rise and fall of silent film star George Valentin (**Jean Dujardin**). George falls for his protégé Peppy (**Bérénice Bejo**), but while Peppy sees the future in talking pics, George banks his career on the continued popularity of silent films, putting their relationship, and livelihoods, on the line.

## SLEEPING BEAUTY

Australian novelist **Julia Leigh** makes her screenwriting and directing debut with this strange drama about university student Lucy (**Emily Browning**), who takes a job as a Sleeping Beauty — a woman who's put to sleep to allow wealthy men to do almost anything to her while she's out. Eventually, the seemingly submissive Lucy wants to know what happens to her while she's down for the count. [CONTINUED ▶](#)

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▶ **YOUNG ADULT**

*Juno* teammates director **Jason Reitman** and screenwriter **Diablo Cody** have kept their dark new dramedy under the radar this holiday season opting to build buzz slowly. **Charlize Theron** stars as Mavis, a divorced, immature and self-involved writer who returns to her hometown to rekindle a romance with her ex-boyfriend (**Patrick Wilson**) despite the fact he's happily married with kids. Reitman says the film is "an ugly mirror, there's a little bit of Mavis in all of us."



Gary Oldman in *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*

**TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY**

**John le Carré's** Cold War spy tale was first made into a BBC miniseries in 1979 with Alec Guinness playing retired agent George Smiley, who's instructed to find the Russian spy who has infiltrated the top ranks of the British secret service. Set in the early 1970s, this film version stars **Gary Oldman** as Smiley, who pokes around the lives of peers played by **Colin Firth, Toby Jones, Ciarán Hinds** and **Tom Hardy**, in search of the mole.

**SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS**

Detective Sherlock Holmes (**Robert Downey Jr.**) and Dr. Watson (**Jude Law**) return in this undoubtedly action-packed sequel that has Holmes matching wits with his arch-enemy, the unscrupulous Professor Moriarty (**Jared Harris**). See interview with **Robert Downey Jr.** and **Jude Law**, [page 38](#).

**ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED**

This third *Alvin* pic finds Alvin, Theodore, Simon and the Chipettes enjoying life on a cruise ship. But when a strong wind gets hold of the parasail they're flying, the gang is whisked away to a remote tropical island where they have to fend for themselves.



Paula Patton and Tom Cruise in *Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol*

**MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL**

If you were thinking a 49-year-old **Tom Cruise** is too creaky to handle the action required for an *M.I.* film, think again. Cruise outdid himself for this fourth film of the blockbuster spy series by jumping off the world's tallest tower in Dubai for a heart-stopping stunt. The IMF team — composed of **Jeremy Renner, Paula Patton, Simon Pegg** and original IMFer **Ving Rhames** — are framed for the bombing of the Kremlin and set out to clear their names.



DECEMBER 21

*The Adventures of Tintin*

**THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN**

Having already opened in Europe to rave reviews, director **Steven Spielberg** and producer **Peter Jackson's** motion-capture extravaganza featuring comic book hero Tintin looks to charm North American audiences as well. **Jamie Bell** plays young reporter Tintin who, along with his pal Captain Haddock (**Andy Serkis**), goes in search of a long-lost ship. See interview with **Steven Spielberg** and **Peter Jackson**, [page 32](#).

**THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO**

The year's most anticipated big screen literary adaptation stars **Daniel Craig** as Swedish journalist Mikael Blomkvist, who joins forces with bisexual, antisocial computer hacker Lisbeth Salander (**Rooney Mara**) to solve the disappearance of a teenage girl 40 years before. Prepare yourselves, director **David Fincher** isn't shying away from the book's graphic sexual content. [CONTINUED ▶](#)

..... DEAR .....

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DECEMBER 23



Matt Damon meets one of his animals in *We Bought a Zoo*

### WE BOUGHT A ZOO

Single father Ben Mee (Matt Damon) buys a Southern California ranch that also happens to house a rundown zoo that needs to be refurbished or it'll be shut down. He'll need the help of his kids (Colin Ford, Maggie Elizabeth Jones), his smart-alecky brother (Thomas Haden Church) and a very pretty staff member (Scarlett Johansson), to get the job done. Directed by Cameron Crowe.

### CARNAGE

Despite the controversy surrounding his past, director Roman Polanski continues to snag major talent for his films. This time it's Jodie Foster, Kate Winslet, Christoph Waltz and John C. Reilly who help Polanski tell the story of two sets of parents brought together by their sons' schoolyard fight.



Carnage's prickly parents

DECEMBER 25



### WAR HORSE

Director Steven Spielberg's second film of the month is an adaptation of a hit British stage play (based on a novel by Michael Morpurgo). In England, circa World War I, we meet Albert (Jeremy Irvine), a teen who watches as his horse Joey is sold to the British cavalry and sent to the battlefields of France. Fraught with worry for Joey's safety, Albert makes his way across the channel to search the trenches for his beloved horse.

### EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE

Jonathan Safran Foer's novel comes to the screen with kids' Jeopardy! champ Thomas Horn as nine-year-old Oskar, whose father (Tom Hanks) was killed on 9/11. Living with his mother (Sandra Bullock), Oskar discovers a key hidden by his dad, and sets out on a quest across New York to find the mysterious lock it fits.

### THE DARKEST HOUR

The season's lone 3D sci-fi/action pic is set in Moscow, where five Americans (Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby, Rachael Taylor, Joel Kinnaman and Max Minghella) survive a worldwide alien invasion.

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by CINEPLEX

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**A DANGEROUS METHOD**  
HITS THEATRES JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>

# The Id FACTOR

Director **David Cronenberg**, famous for his dreamscape psychodramas, talks about probing the very origins of psychoanalysis in ***A Dangerous Method***, while his old buddy **Viggo Mortensen** reveals his fears about playing Sigmund Freud ■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

**I**f they awarded Oscars for talking, **Viggo Mortensen** would walk away with the prize.

The actor, painter and photographer is also a champion wordsmith, someone who can turn an answer to a single question into a keynote address.

It's a fitting talent when it comes to his latest film, *A Dangerous Method*, which recounts the relationship between psychiatrists Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung, pioneers of the "talking cure."

Directed by David Cronenberg and set at the turn of the 20th century, the film stars Michael Fassbender as Jung, a Swiss doctor and devoted follower of Freud (Mortensen). The movie opens as Jung receives a new patient, Sabina Spielrein (Keira Knightley), a woman whose mental torment manifests itself in writhing physical tics and self-abuse.

Jung calls on Freud in Vienna to discuss Spielrein's case and to debate their views on the emerging field of psychoanalysis. Years go by, and as Jung's relationship with Spielrein evolves into something beyond professional, and his notion of psychoanalysis takes on a spiritual bent, his relationship with Freud becomes increasingly fractured.

"It's really a clash of personalities," Mortensen says of the film's Freud vs. Jung dynamic. "You see it unfolding, it's humorous that they don't quite fit — it's a clash of egos."

Mortensen is sitting on a windy hotel balcony during the Toronto International Film Festival where *A Dangerous Method* screened to critical acclaim. We're sitting outside because Mortensen wants to smoke, which he does while preparing a cup of Argentinean maté, his favourite infused tea that he carries with him wherever he goes.

Sporting longish hair and dressed in a grey sports coat, jeans and running shoes, the 53-year-old actor could pass for a hip college professor. He definitely doesn't resemble most people's image of the bearded, grey-haired Sigmund Freud.

"With Viggo, you can be distracted by his handsomeness and his ruggedness," says Cronenberg, also in Toronto to talk up the film, but thankfully inside a hotel room. "But in fact when you read descriptions of Freud of that era, they say he was handsome, masculine, forceful, charismatic, seductive, all of those things, and once you start to think of him that way, instead of the 80-year-old, cancer-ridden Freud, you think, 'Well, maybe Viggo could be him.'"

However, Mortensen, who starred in Cronenberg's *A History of Violence* and *Eastern Promises*, initially turned down his friend's offer to play Freud.

"In reality it was just a practical consideration, someone in my family was having health CONTINUED ►

Viggo Mortensen as  
Sigmund Freud



**LEFT:** Michael Fassbender (left) and Viggo Mortensen  
**BELOW:** David Cronenberg directs Keira Knightley



► problems and I needed to be with them. I was kinda out of the loop in terms of movies, I hadn't read anything for a good year-and-a-half, and I couldn't go away for more than a week, two weeks at a time."

He doesn't say it, but it was his mother who was ill (Mortensen's parents divorced when he was 11, and he settled with his mom and two younger brothers in upper New York state).

He forgot about the role until Cronenberg contacted him again to tell him that Christoph Waltz, who petitioned to get the part (his grandfather had been one of Freud's pupils), was leaving the movie. The director needed his go-to star.

"And I said, 'Okay, let's do it,'" remembers Mortensen, "and like any part, you accept and *then* you get nervous, thinking, 'Now, what am I going to do? This is Sigmund Freud.'"

As usual, Mortensen threw himself into researching his character.

"I learned what kind of cigars he smoked, what kind of books he read. I went to Vienna, walked around where he walked around, went to antiquarian bookshops and found some of the books that were in his personal library. Once I started getting familiar with the objects, his walk, what his voice was like, I felt fine."

Cronenberg, also a stickler for details, did his part to meticulously recreate Freud's world.

"You have to be accurate," says the director. "Freud smoked 22 cigars a day, exactly that number, he did that his whole life even when he started to suffer from cancer of the jaw. So that means in every scene

except one in the movie, Freud is smoking a cigar, as he would be.

"And Freud's office is famous for its collection of statues and tchotchkes of all kinds from every culture. We tried to be very accurate, and it changes subtly over the course of the movie, as it did in his life, it got new cabinets, he shifted some things around. So those are wonderful details and they tell you a lot about the person."

The Cronenberg-Mortensen pairing has evolved into one of cinema's most interesting director-actor tandems. In many ways they are the thinking man's Scorsese and De Niro — their films *A History of Violence* and *Eastern Promises* bring a cerebral and measured approach to concepts of male violence and crime.

While *A Dangerous Method* is a departure from those works — it's a film about ideological battles rather than physical ones — it's bursting with the duo's brainy approach to moviemaking. And Mortensen feels it's about time people took notice of his partner's immense talent.

"Maybe this one will finally get him a much-earned nomination," the actor says about Cronenberg. "I don't know, for some reason he is by far the greatest director never to be nominated for an Oscar — I'm sure he doesn't lose much sleep over it. But it's really ridiculous.

"And here, you couldn't really do a much better job than he did with this movie." ■

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



## IN DEFENSE OF KNIGHTLEY

**W**hile *A Dangerous Method's* Viggo Mortensen and Michael Fassbender chew up the screen with their verbal clashes, Keira Knightley (left) takes on the physically demanding role of Sabina Spielrein, a woman suffering from hysteria. It's a brave performance, but one which some reviewers aren't buying. Her director vehemently disagrees.

"I've read some things that said, 'Well, she's over-the-top at first, but then she settles down and then is good.' Well, no, wrong. She's good all the way through," says Cronenberg.

"[Spielrein] suffered from hysteria. How do we deliver to the audience how debilitating this disease was, and be accurate? Because we have great notes from Jung himself saying what she did — crazed laughter, distorted body tics, all kinds of things. In fact, when we did our research, Keira and me, we actually toned it down. There's film footage of patients like that taken at the turn of the century and it's unwatchable, it's so painful to watch, and we had to deliver that.

"Now, why somebody can't understand that in the movie, I don't get," he says. "What a beautiful performance, heartbreaking and gorgeous." —/R

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A full-page photograph of Michael Fassbender. He is wearing a black leather motorcycle jacket over a grey t-shirt with a red and white graphic. He has a short beard and is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. His arms are crossed. The background is a plain, light blue wall.

**SHAME**  
HITS THEATRES  
DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

THE  
NAKED  
TRUTH  
ABOUT  
**MICHAEL**  
**FASSBENDER**

---

Michael Fassbender's *Shame*, a drama about sex addiction, is so explicit he had to watch most of it with his hands over his eyes. But the rising star says he's glad he made the film, because "this story had to be told" ■ BY MATHIEU CHANTELOIS



Michael Fassbender as Brandon **ABOVE:** Fassbender picks up

**It's** late in the afternoon and Michael Fassbender is at the Toronto International Film Festival where he's spent all day talking to the press about the controversial drama *Shame*, one of the big buzz films here. To change direction for a bit, I suggest he take a ride down memory lane and tell me about his first acting gig, a naughty TV commercial he made while attending Drama Centre London in 2003.

He laughs. Looking sharp in an Iron Maiden T-shirt and a black leather jacket, the 34-year-old is now one of the most lauded actors of his generation. He knows that TV commercial is not among the most significant moments of his glorious career.

"It was for an airline. The idea is that I'm lying in bed and I wake up. I'm like, 'Wait a sec, where am I?' I look around and there is this beautiful girl lying beside me and I am like, 'Okay, that's fine.' Then I'm thirsty and hungry. So, I get out of bed naked, go into the kitchen, open up the fridge, drink some milk and eat some eggs. I remember I ate lots of eggs. Next thing, I am like, 'Hang on a sec,' and I turn around, the light switch goes on and her mother is sitting there. I'm standing there naked with the milk in my hand and it says, 'SAS Airlines, when you'd rather be somewhere else.'"

All these years later, he still remembers the shoot vividly. "I thought there were some sort of pants that you wear. When I was in the rehearsal, I was wearing my boxer shorts and they were like, 'Okay Michael, let's do this one for real, drop the pants.' I was like, 'Okay, here we go.' So I just had to pretend I was in the shower or in the bathroom at home. Yeah, this was kind of a baptism by fire."

The commercial is still available on YouTube, but even with its long shot of Fassbender's bare behind, the ad has nothing on the dark skin flick in which he appears this month. *Shame* stars Fassbender as Brandon, a Manhattan executive and sex addict. His X-rated routine is disturbed when his sister (Carey Mulligan) knocks at his door and begs to stay with him. Now it's not so easy for Brandon to spend his days and nights in anonymous sexual encounters with prostitutes, engaging in online sex chats, and visiting sex clubs — all activities

which are shown explicitly, with full frontal nudity, in the film.

"The shooting was pretty uncomfortable," says Fassbender. "It's kind of embarrassing to be naked or whatnot in front of a crew of people. But you've got to get over it, and just get on with it. I knew what I was getting into beforehand [laughs]."

Fassbender saw the film for the first time late this summer at the Venice Film Festival. "I spent pretty much the last act, the last part of the film, like that [he puts his hands over his eyes]. I don't feel like I'm a great exhibitionist when it comes to things like that. It is kind of strange to see. Of course I remember doing all these things, but it was put together in such a way that it kind of did catch me off guard. The whole experience was just so intense.... It was quite something."

Quite something because the actor took a giant leap toward stardom after that screening, winning the festival's prestigious Best Actor award. Accepting the prize, Fassbender hailed his director, Steve McQueen, as "his hero." It's not the first time the two have collaborated, that was *Hunger*, in which Fassbender played Bobby Sands, the real-life IRA member who led a hunger strike in prison. *Hunger* won the Camera d'Or (the prize for best first film from a director) at Cannes in 2008, and since then Fassbender has starred in Quentin Tarantino's *Inglourious Basterds*, the blockbuster *X-Men: First Class* and David Cronenberg's *A Dangerous Method*, which comes out next month.

So was he concerned about playing such a raunchy **CONTINUED** ▶



“I met people that have this condition and talked **to them and had them sort of tell me stories,**” says Fassbender



Brandon raises a glass  
**ABOVE:** Carey Mulligan  
with Fassbender in *Shame*

The film began shooting just after the Tiger Woods scandal broke, and gave a new face to sexual addiction. “It was huge news, but I didn’t really focus in on that. I just thought, ‘I hope it doesn’t affect his golf game and I hope he can continue playing at the level that he does.’ Those things are very private. I try not to invest too much of my time into that.”

What he’s focusing on these days is a reunion with McQueen. Early next year, they will cement their actor-director partnership by shooting *Twelve Years a Slave*, based on the true story of Solomon Northup, a New York citizen who was kidnapped in Washington in 1841 and rescued from a cotton plantation in Louisiana in 1853. Chiwetel Ejiofor (*Inside Man*) will co-star.

“Steve just has to tell me when and where, and I’m in. Our working relationship is very honest and exciting. It’s scary and rewarding, so I just jump at the opportunity.” Is there any particular project he would like the filmmaker to propose? “I don’t know. Maybe a musical, it might be fun.”

Mathieu Chantelois is the editor of Le magazine Cineplex.

▶ role now that he’s established himself as a mainstream actor? “No, because this story had to be told. This is happening. People laugh at it or dismiss sexual addiction because, perhaps, they don’t want to deal with it,” he says. “Sex is everywhere and people are selling it and obviously there is a lot of money to be made in sex and in the sex industry. It doesn’t have to be in the form of porn; it is everywhere, in terms of products they are selling. People that are suffering from it in a very serious way need to be taken seriously and I think we all need to take responsibility that it is happening.”

Fassbender says he gets into his characters by methodically reading and re-reading the script “until it just sort of settles into me. It’s almost like putting on a new skin every day.”

For this role, he also tried something else. “I met people that have this condition and talked to them and had them sort of tell me stories. Through those stories, I started to find key inspiration, like sparks, things I could lock in the character with, like the problem with intimacy. The idea of being hugged and having to deal with somebody’s emotional investment is like the worst place you want to be. You don’t feel safe there. It’s definitely out of your comfort zone. You can’t deal with this emotional responsibility. That was very much a character trait within Brandon. Speaking to people and getting their point of view really helped.”

## FRIENDS WITH (LOTS OF) BENEFITS

Looking for a lighter look at sex addiction?

*Thanks for Sharing*, a black comedy about a group of sex addicts who become friends while trying to overcome their shared issue, is currently in production and should hit theatres sometime next year.

The cast includes Gwyneth Paltrow, Mark Ruffalo, Tim Robbins, Patrick Fugit, Joely Richardson, Carol Kane and pop star Pink in her first major movie role. —*MW*

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IT'S BETTER TO BE A MEMBER

# TINTIN

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Talk about a dream team! Director **Steven Spielberg** and producer **Peter Jackson** join forces to bring Tintin, the cub reporter created in the 1920s, to life using cutting-edge, motion-capture technology

■ BY MARK PILKINGTON

**C**reated by Belgian writer and artist Hergé in 1929, Tintin has appeared in many guises over the years, from a comic book, to an animated cartoon and even a stage play. However, there is one medium in which the roving boy reporter has yet to make his mark — the world of 3D animation. That's about to change thanks to the combined talents of director Steven Spielberg and producer Peter Jackson.

Based on three Tintin stories; *Red Rackham's Treasure*, *The Crab with the Golden Claws* and *The Secret of the Unicorn*, the film sees Tintin and his best friend Captain Haddock hunting for a long-forgotten treasure ship that once belonged to Haddock's ancestor. Trouble is, they're not the only ones interested in the ship's riches.

*The Adventures of Tintin* has been in development for years, and for Spielberg it's the realization of a long-term dream to bring Belgium's most famous cowlick to the big screen.

While many people have fond memories of *Tintin* from childhood, Spielberg discovered the comic books later in life, but was enthralled by the sense of adventure and fun they contained. "I first read *Tintin* in 1981, around the time of the first Indiana Jones, and was gripped by just how fascinating a character he was and I knew what a great film it would make. We've been careful to not change anything about him from the original template that was created by Hergé all those years ago," says Spielberg, wearing his trademark baseball cap. He's sitting with Jackson in a Paris hotel, minutes after a press conference in which the pair introduced the film to the world's media.

Jackson, a long-time *Tintin* fan, was interested in the project as soon as he heard Spielberg was involved. "I grew up reading *Tintin*, and I considered him to be a role model for me. He has all the adventures you dream of having," Jackson recalls, running his hand through his messy hair. "As I grew older I started to appreciate the satire and humour in his stories, and the influences he had. There's a whole new level that comes to you as you get older. I still pick up the books today as we're planning on working on more *Tintin* films, and I still enjoy them. I think they're just fantastic, entertaining, funny, adventurous books. Genuinely timeless."

Eventually Spielberg and Jackson decided their *Tintin* should be a 3D animated feature using real actors and motion-capture software to bring the characters to life. Two performers who'd worked with Jackson before got the film's key roles. Jamie Bell **CONTINUED ▶**

**THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN**  
HITS THEATRES DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>



Steven Spielberg (left) confers with Peter Jackson on the set of *The Adventures of Tintin*

“There was more freedom than in a normal film because I could place the **virtual camera anywhere I liked,**” says Spielberg

action experience as you possibly could. Jamie and the other actors were on the stage, which was an empty stage of course, and Steven had the virtual camera which he could see on the screen. The actors were moving around in real time and Steven could move the camera accordingly. It is incredible what can be achieved, and Steven took to the medium straight away.”

Spielberg and Jackson enjoyed the experience so much they’re already thinking about the sequel, although they plan to swap positions next time. “I’m looking forward to producing the next *Tintin* movie that Peter will direct, the same way he helped me produce this movie,” says Spielberg. Then, with a boyish glint in his eye, he adds, “There will be plenty more adventures to come from Tintin yet.”

Mark Pilkington is a freelance writer based in London, England.

► — who played Jimmy, an abandoned boy, in Jackson’s *King Kong* — was cast as Hergé’s eternally young adventurer Tintin while Andy Serkis — the mo-cap genius behind the creature Gollum in Jackson’s *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and the great ape himself in *King Kong* — would play Captain Haddock.

Having Serkis on set — a man Bell describes as “the Gandalf of motion-capture” — was a comfort to everyone, especially Spielberg.

“Steven knew he could trust me,” says Serkis, also in Paris to talk about the film, as is Bell. “I think he felt comfortable with me as I have had a lot of experience in this realm.”

“As a dancer it is kind of inherent that you are going to bring everything that is physical about a character to life,” says Bell, whose breakthrough came in the 2000 drama *Billy Elliot*, about an 11-year-old wannabe dancer growing up in a tough coal-mining town. “I think for most people who have this iconographic image of Tintin, there is something about the way he moves or the way he is drawn in various poses that is heroic. I think that was a very important component for any actor who plays Tintin, just as much as Haddock, because Haddock is a very physical role as well. Obviously, Andy Serkis is a very physical actor, so they had two very capable guys, really.”

This method of filming was all new to Spielberg, and he was eager to learn more about the new technology’s potential. “There was more freedom than in a normal film because I could place the virtual camera anywhere I liked,” the director says, explaining how he manipulated a hand-held controller to move the various shots around. “With the press of a button I could control the up and down and side to side of the camera. It was just like flying an aircraft. I could capture the angles while the actors were performing their parts in the real world. It’s another medium in between pure computer animation and a live-action movie. It’s an interesting hybrid.”

Jackson, a motion-capture veteran, was impressed by how quickly Spielberg took to the new format. “We spent a lot of the pre-production time talking about ways to make motion-capture and performance-capture virtual cameras become as organic as possible,” says Jackson. “What we ended up with on *Tintin*, which is something that hasn’t been done in a film before, was to make it literally as close to a live-



## INTERPRETING TINTIN

Many illustrators have taken a crack at Belgian artist Hergé’s lovable reporter Tintin since he was created in the 1920s. Last month, Toronto’s Steam Whistle Art Gallery hosted “Toronto Draws Tintin,” for which dozens of artists contributed their interpretations of the character, including these three. Clockwise from top left, the artists are Miguel Sternberg, Michael Deforge and Faith Erin Hicks.



Check out the **Cineplex Pre-Show** for more on the movie from director **Steven Spielberg.**

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# 5 Best... Meryl Streep Transformations

Before her Margaret Thatcher bio-pic *The Iron Lady* hits theatres next month, we present our five favourite incarnations of the chameleon known as La Streep

**1 THE IRON LADY (2012)** Is it a bouffant, a beehive, or a hairstyle unique to former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher...and now Meryl Streep, who plays Maggie in next month's *The Iron Lady*?

## 2 JULIE & JULIA (2009)

Not only did the five-foot-six actor convince us she was the six-foot-two gentle giant of cookery, she nailed Julia Child's most recognizable trait — one you can't even see here. Her voice.

## 3 MAMMA MIA! (2008)

Streep lets her hair (or is it a wig) down to play a free-spirited American running an inn on a Greek island in this adaptation of the Broadway musical. And she sings! ABBA!

## 4 DOUBT (2008)

Just five months after *Mamma Mia!* hits theatres with Streep playing a relaxed, youthful earth mother, she reappears as *Doubt's* harsh, steely nun in dire need of some moisturizer.

## 5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA (2006)

Intimidating, perfectly pulled together and as tight as a Herve Leger bandage dress. But while Streep's cruel fashion magazine editor was as harsh as her nun in *Doubt* the two performances were polar opposites in every other way.



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# HOLM *for the* HOLI

Jude Law (left) as Dr. Watson  
and Robert Downey Jr. as  
Sherlock Holmes

**SHERLOCK HOLMES**  
HITS THEATRES DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

Turkey? Check. Presents? Check. Rip-roaring family film set in Jolly Ol' England (and other equally quaint 19th-century European locales)? Check. We join **Robert Downey Jr.** and **Jude Law** on the set of ***Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows***, the season's most charming thriller

■ BY MARK PILKINGTON

## It's nighttime in the English

countryside and Waddesdon Manor — a French-style chateau built for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild in the latter part of the 1800s — is once again surrounded by horse-drawn carriages and velvet waistcoats.

It's also surrounded by movie stars, namely Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law, who are here with their director Guy Ritchie to shoot *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*. It's the follow-up to the 2009 hit that starred Downey as a hardscrabble version of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Holmes and Law as his more refined sidekick Dr. John Watson.

The sequel introduces Holmes' most famous adversary from Conan Doyle's books, the cunning Professor Moriarty (British actor Jared Harris, who plays Lane Pryce on TV's *Mad Men*). Holmes suspects that Moriarty is behind the Crown Prince of Austria's untimely death and — along with Watson and a gypsy fortune teller played by Noomi Rapace — pursues Moriarty through England, France, Germany and Switzerland.

Between takes, Downey and Law discussed their return to the scene of the crime.

CONTINUED ►



# ES DAYS



Q

**You've talked about how much you enjoyed playing Holmes and Watson in the first movie. How does it feel to be back?**

**DOWNEY:** "Ever since Mr. Law and I met, the chuckles, the fun and happiness come naturally;

but we are serious about getting on with our business as Holmes and Watson. You could say we definitely like getting sweaty together!"

**LAW:** "We like the work, and we find working together fun. Just sometimes the right character comes along at the right time. I think we both felt that happened with our roles in *Sherlock Holmes*. It wasn't just happening individually, it was also watching someone else have that experience."

**DOWNEY:** "To me, *Sherlock* being successful as it was and being received as well as it did was one of the single greatest feelings I've ever had."

**Why is that? You weren't expecting it to be well-received?**

**DOWNEY:** "No, I knew we had a real winning combination. Something just clicked with us. It was what made the movie work, not to mention the great synergy we had with Guy. It is a tough thing to do again; I mean how do you recreate the magic having caught lightning in a bottle the first time? I'm not used to studios being ecstatic about what we did, asking us if we could please do that again."

**LAW:** "It was a relief. I remember on the first one we were coming up with so many ideas, digging out little details from the books and just coming up with stuff that we just couldn't fit into the first one. So when we knew it was a success and we knew it was pretty likely a second one was going to happen, we had an opportunity to use all of that stuff we thought of. It was going to be a hive for all this creative outpouring that had already occurred."

**DOWNEY:** "The first *Sherlock Holmes* introduced many members of the audience to the character for the first time, their initial context of the characters was through that first movie. The nice thing this time around, we are able to honour Conan Doyle even more by making this a very thrilling story not unlike the original books he wrote."

**What do you think Conan Doyle would have thought about your version of his creation?**

**DOWNEY:** "I'm sure he might have had a complaint or two, but we've

definitely tried to put as many of his words in our mouths as possible. If anything, he might be happy how we brought Watson back to how he was originally described. If I've learned anything it's that comparisons are a dangerous place to go."

**LAW:** "I think when you look at the source material of anything there are always different interpretations of it. This is our interpretation of *Sherlock Holmes*, I don't think we drifted as far away from the original source material as people expected. We were original enough to keep it fresh and our own. I think he would have been very appreciative."

**The trend nowadays is for sequels to go darker. Is the second *Sherlock Holmes* heading in that direction?**

**LAW:** "I don't know why there is that trend, but you're right, it does seem to be so. We went in with that in mind, and I think there is certainly the threat of Moriarty, and the presence of such an evil mind certainly leads it that way."

**DOWNEY:** "I think, to be honest, it's a tiny bit broader and it's a little bit darker, just because of the situation we're up against. Moriarty reaches out and touches us with his evil quite a bit, and as a result we're in pretty bad shape almost all the time."

**LAW:** "A lot of the film this time around isn't set in London, so there's a real sense, in a way, of the characters living out of a bag. I think as a result it's a lot more gritty and perilous than the first film was. Anything can happen!"

**So are you going to play the characters any differently this time around?**

**LAW:** "You're aware that you don't want to repeat stuff too much, but you want to use what's worked. Having said that, you don't want to be accused of just going over the old stuff again, so you want them to start growing a little bit more."

**Did you feel apprehensive about making the sequel?**

**DOWNEY:** "Well, before we didn't know what we were walking into. This time around it was a little more daunting, but we can only really do it one way, and that's by doing it full steam ahead."

**LAW:** "I was nervous about recreating the same formula again for the sequel. How do you step in and start that up again? Once we got underway though, it just happened and everything clicked together like it did before."

**DOWNEY:** "Exactly. We're all ready to hit you with *Sherlock 3*, by the way. We're ready and raring to go." 📺

Mark Pilkington is a freelance writer based in London, England.



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# Oh Come All Ye Shoppers...

Our **Holiday Gift Guide** has plenty of ideas to inspire and delight ▶

**Cranky Christmas Gift Tags**

(\$4 for 10, [www.creepychristine.com](http://www.creepychristine.com))

from Toronto artist Christine Stait-Gardner.





You'll feel just super in this **Captain America Hoodie** (\$60 U.S., [www.thinkgeek.com](http://www.thinkgeek.com)).



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# That's Entertainment!



Play as Tintin, Captain Haddock or Snowy as you search out hidden treasure in **The Adventures of Tintin: The Game** (\$40, major retailers), the videogame tie-in to this month's big-screen release.



We love Zooey Deschanel's warm, smooth voice even more than we love her acting, so we'll be blasting **A Very She & Him Christmas** (\$17, HMV) all season long.



Just 12 short months until *The Hobbit* hits theatres! Drink a toast with **The Hobbit Smaug the Magnificent Epic Collection Stein** (\$120 U.S., [www.entertainmentearth.com](http://www.entertainmentearth.com)).



Now that it's all over, every Harry Potter fan will want **Harry Potter: The Complete 8-Film Collection** (\$140 for Blu-ray, \$99 for DVD, major retailers).

# michael bubl   christmas



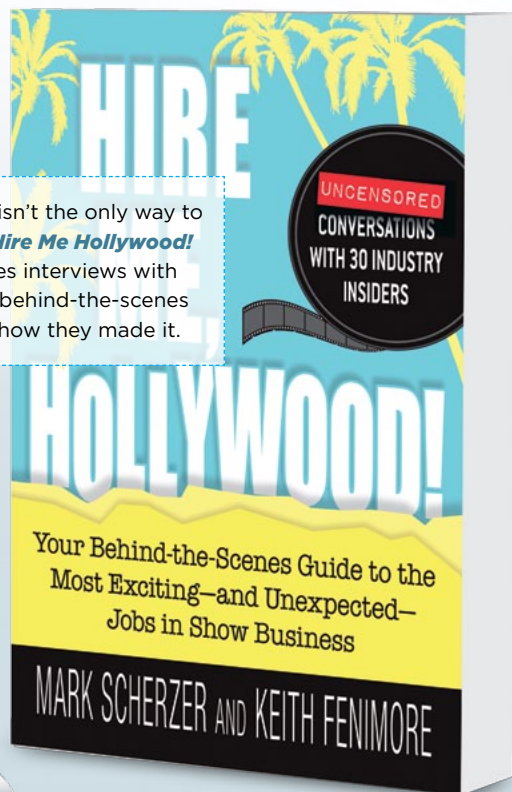
The first full-length holiday album from Canadian crooner Michael Bubl   is **Christmas** (\$15, HMV), full of old faves like "Silent Night," "Jingle Bells" and "White Christmas."



One of the best things about Disney World is getting around. Celebrate those memories with the **Disney Parks Transportation Vehicles Ornament Set** (\$37 for four, [www.disneystore.com](http://www.disneystore.com)).

The biggest Blu-ray release of the year may have been **Star Wars: The Complete Saga** (\$112, [www.cineplex.com/store](http://www.cineplex.com/store)), the first time the *Star Wars* movies have been available for the format.

Being a movie star isn't the only way to get to Hollywood. **Hire Me Hollywood!** (\$16, Indigo) features interviews with the cinema world's behind-the-scenes stars talking about how they made it.



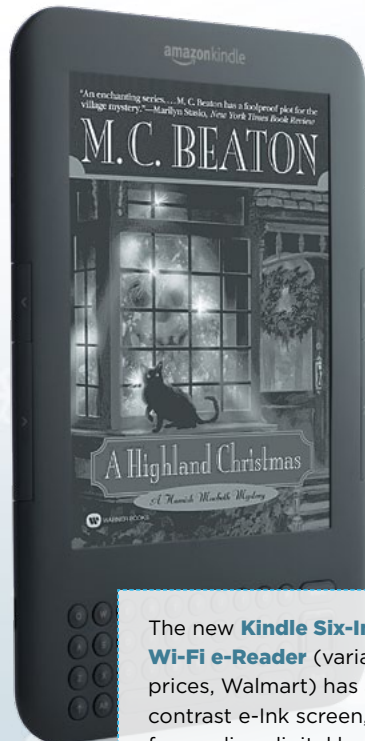


The stylish **PowerShot ELPH 300HS** (\$260, major retailers) is Canon's thinnest digital camera, with a 24 mm ultra wide-angle lens. It also features 5x optical zoom and 12.1 MP.

You know they want it. The **16GB iPad 2** (variable prices, Walmart) is just 8.8 mm thick but lets you surf the web, check email or watch movies with the greatest of ease.



# Tech the Halls



The new **Kindle Six-Inch Wi-Fi e-Reader** (variable prices, Walmart) has a high-contrast e-Ink screen, ideal for reading digital books at the beach, in the gym, or tucked into bed on a dark winter night.



**Sony's 8GB E Series Walkman Video MP3 Player With Speaker** (\$129, major retailers) has a karaoke mode, FM tuner, integrated mic, and an app that allows easy transfer of music, video and photos.



The **LG Optimus Black Skype Edition** (\$0 with a three-year term from TELUS) is the only Skype-branded phone in Canada, great for making long-distance connections. It also features the world's brightest mobile display and a 2 MP front-facing camera.

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This year's addition to the Canada Goose collection is the **Hybrid Lite Jacket** (\$450 for women's or men's, [www.canada-goose.com](http://www.canada-goose.com) for stores), a lighter, more fitted version of their popular Hutterite goose down jacket.



The greatest rivalry in the universe plays out on Toronto artisan Avril Loreti's **Cotton Tote** (\$25, [www.avrilloreti.com](http://www.avrilloreti.com) for stores).

# Presents With Style



We love the quirky, organic feel of Toronto artist Cathy Gee's **Ceramic Rings** (\$35 to \$40, [www.cathygee.com](http://www.cathygee.com) for locations).



The **Stormy Kromer Hat** (\$40, Drake General Stores in Toronto or [www.drakegeneralstore.ca](http://www.drakegeneralstore.ca)) is the perfect head-topper for urban hipsters.



We can imagine Grace Kelly herself in these **Twist Chic Leather Gloves** (\$58, French Connection).

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Vancouver's Kate and Brad Julicher make beautiful vintage shaving kits like this **London Plane Stand Set** (\$125, Vancouver's One of a Kind Show, December 8th to 11th, or [www.thecopperhat.ca](http://www.thecopperhat.ca))



**Philosophy's Holiday Hugs Gift Set** (\$29, The Bay) includes shower gel, body lotion and lip shine — all with the aroma of a berry pinwheel cookie.

# Beauty of a Gift



You'll be golden, when you give Lise Watier's **Shimmering Gold Powder** (\$29, Sears), which releases a fine shimmering dust with the push of the pump.



**Stila's Limited Edition Daydream Eye Shadow Palette** (\$24, Shoppers Drug Mart) is as pretty in the package as it will be on her face.



Adorable and tragic at the same time. **The Melting Snowman Bath Melt** (\$6, LUSH stores) features cocoa butter, vanilla and almond oil.



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# CASTING CALL

BY INGRID RANDOJA



Aaron Eckhart



Dennis Wilson

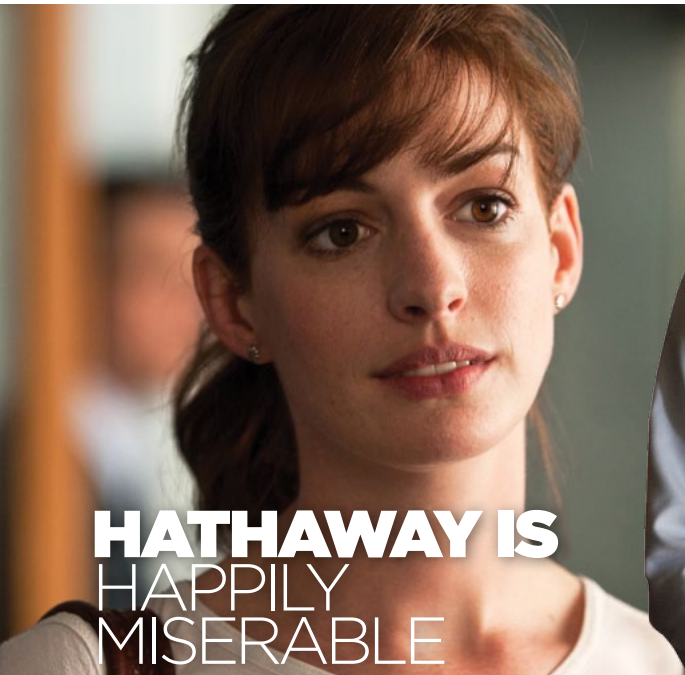
## ECKHART IS ONE OF THE BOYS

*The Drummer* casts **Aaron Eckhart** as bad boy Beach Boy Dennis Wilson. Wilson battled a severe alcohol addiction — he drowned at age 39 when he went for a swim after a day of drinking — and along with being remembered as a Beach Boy, he's known for allowing Charles Manson and his followers to live at his home before they went on their killing spree. Filming begins next summer and it's reported Eckhart will do his own singing.



## WHAT'S GOING ON WITH... **SIN CITY 2**

Back in 2005, *Sin City* wowed filmgoers with its comic bookish, entirely digital look, and upon its release directors **Robert Rodriguez and Frank Miller** started working on the sequel. But the project stalled, until just recently, when the pair announced they're polishing *Sin City 2's* script, and could start shooting in spring 2012. Although he's keeping the details to himself, Miller does reveal that **Jessica Alba's** exotic dancer, Nancy, will be included in one of the four stories that will make up the movie.



## HATHAWAY IS HAPPILY MISERABLE

She landed the coveted role of Catwoman in *The Dark Knight Rises*, and now **Anne Hathaway** snags the prized part of Fantine in director **Tom Hooper's** (*The King's Speech*) adaptation of the musical *Les Misérables*. Hathaway joins heavy hitters **Hugh Jackman** as Jean Valjean, and **Russell Crowe** as Inspector Javert. *Les Misérables* opens December 7, 2012.



## LEO MAY BE A GENIUS

**Leonardo DiCaprio** has a knack for choosing fascinating roles based on real men — J. Edgar Hoover, Howard Hughes, Frank Abagnale — and now he's considering the part of Alan Turing in *The Imitation Game*. Turing was the British World War II code breaker and mathematical genius who struggled with his homosexuality. **Ron Howard** is said to be interested in the project, which mirrors *A Beautiful Mind*, the movie that earned him a Best Director Oscar.



## MULLIGAN'S FOLK TALE

Carey Mulligan will play the love interest in the **Coen Brothers'** *Inside Llewyn Davis*, their look at Greenwich Village's folk music scene of the 1960s. Up-and-comer **Oscar Isaac** (*Drive*, *W.E.*) plays the titular folkie Davis (based on real-life musician Dave Van Ronk), who inspires young artists such as Joni Mitchell and Bob Dylan. Filming is set to get underway early next year in New York.



## AFFLECK TAKES THE STAND

Wow, **Ben Affleck's** directing career just took a giant leap forward. He's been chosen to helm Warner Brothers' multi-picture adaptation of **Stephen King's** *The Stand*. The apocalyptic tale of good vs. evil was made into a six-hour TV miniseries back in 1994, but WB is looking to turn the 1,141-page book (uncut version) into a big-screen trilogy. With Affleck busy working on his Iran hostage pic *Argo*, *The Stand* won't start shooting until late 2012.



## FRESH FACE THOMAS HORN

When it came time to cast Oskar, the sensitive, brilliant nine-year-old lead in this month's heart-wrenching *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*, director **Stephen Daldry** called on a 12-year-old *Jeopardy!* champion. **Thomas Horn** won first place and \$31,800 on the TV quiz show back in 2010, and Daldry believed his sweet, brainy charisma would translate on screen even though the kid had never acted before. Of course, getting pointers from co-stars **Sandra Bullock** and **Tom Hanks** is bound to help.

**ALSO IN THE WORKS** ▶ Look for **Joseph Gordon-Levitt** to join the cast of **Quentin Tarantino's** *Django Unchained*. ▶ **Sandra Bullock** plays **Clint Eastwood's** daughter in the sports drama *Trouble With the Curve*. ▶ *Foxcatcher* will have **Steve Carell** playing the mentally ill John du Pont, who murdered his personal wrestling coach (**Channing Tatum**) at his estate in 1996. ▶ **Johnny Depp** is set to star as Dr. Seuss in a bio-pic of the famed children's author.



# I'M DREAMING OF A...

**L**ike a cup of warm cocoa on a chilly afternoon, *White Christmas* warms the soul in the most wholesome way.

The 1954 musical stars Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye as ex-soldiers who've teamed up to become a top-notch song-and-dance duo. The guys fall for two sisters (Rosemary Clooney and Vera-Ellen) who've got an act of their own, and although their paths to true love are fraught with misunderstandings, the foursome comes together to put on a Christmas Eve show and raise money for an ex-army general.

*White Christmas* is traditionally shown on TV during the holiday season, but it really deserves to be seen on the big screen. It was the first film shot in VistaVision, a widescreen format pioneered by Paramount Pictures that renders sharp, finely grained images that sparkle like all that wonderfully artificial on-screen snow. —IR

*White Christmas* screens as part of Cineplex's Classic Film Series on December 7th and 11th. Go to [Cineplex.com/events](http://Cineplex.com/events) for times and locations.

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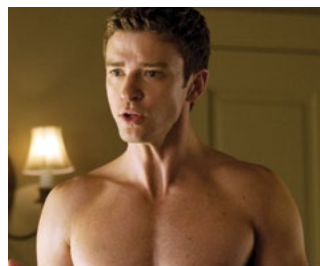
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# AT HOME

## December's BEST DVD AND BLU-RAY

### MIDNIGHT IN PARIS **DECEMBER 20**

A lovely rumination on nostalgia from director Woody Allen. Gil (**Owen Wilson**) and his fiancée Inez (**Rachel McAdams**) are on different pages during their trip to Paris with Inez's parents. She wants to shop and he wants to get lost in the city's rich history. So, he goes off on his own and experiences the Paris of old in unexpected, magical ways. Bonus material includes a feature called "Midnight in Cannes," about the film's world premiere in the south of France.



### FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS

**DECEMBER 2**

A Los Angeles-based blogger (**Justin Timberlake**) moves to New York after getting a gig at GQ. Once in the Big Apple he becomes friends with the headhunter (**Mila Kunis**) who got him the job. But can two people so darn cute, and with such tight abs, be just friends?



### THE HELP

**DECEMBER 6**

The summer's surprise hit was this based-on-a-book drama set against the civil rights movement of the 1960s. **Emma Stone** plays a young Mississippi writer who asks the African-American maids who take care of rich, white families in her community to help her write a book about their experiences.



### RISE OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

**DECEMBER 13**

Ape Caesar (**Andy Serkis** in a motion-capture suit) develops human-like intelligence then rises up against the people who've mistreated him and his kin. The DVD and Blu-ray are packed with deleted scenes, mo-cap info, character concept art and more.

## Something Special

### THE EXPENDABLES EXTENDED DIRECTOR'S CUT

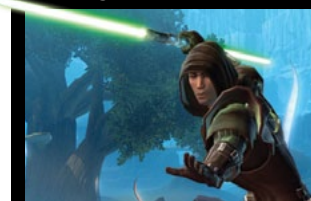
**DECEMBER 13**



Because you just know that the 11 minutes that ended up on the cutting room floor — and that director **Sylvester Stallone** has put back into his 2010 action pic about a band of mercenaries (starring a who's who of '80s action icons including **Bruce Willis**, **Dolph Lundgren** and **Arnold Schwarzenegger**) — *must* be the best 11 minutes he shot.

## Games

### Why We Love...



### STAR WARS: THE OLD REPUBLIC

**DECEMBER 20 (PC)**

It's rumoured to have cost \$135-million to produce, which would make it one of the most expensive games ever. So we expect the force to be strong in this latest *Star Wars* MMORPG that takes place 3,500 years before the films.

**MORE MOVIES** ▶ THE SMURFS (DECEMBER 2) ▶ COWBOYS & ALIENS (DECEMBER 6) ▶ THE DEBT (DECEMBER 6) ▶ THE HANGOVER: PART II (DECEMBER 6) ▶ KUNG FU PANDA 2 (DECEMBER 13) ▶ FRIGHT NIGHT (DECEMBER 13) ▶ COLOMBIANA (DECEMBER 20)

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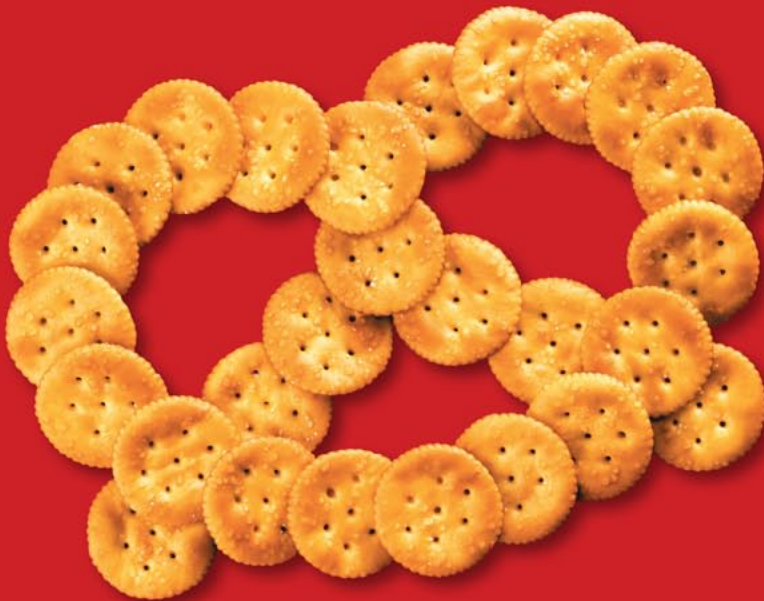
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# FINALLY...



## TURKEY WITH AN AGENT

Ah, the ubiquitous holiday turkey. Like it or not, you'll probably consume a leg, a breast or a wing at some point this season. But, as dry as your mom's turkey may be, it's more edible than this gobbler. Made of rubber, and weighing about a kilogram, this hand-painted bird belongs to Vancouver-based Thomas FX, a special effects company that has been providing rubber turkeys, among other fake food and props, to movie and TV productions for more than 30 years. Films like *Happy Gilmore*, *The Pledge*, *Scooby-Doo*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid 3* and, ironically, *Alive* (about starving rugby players who resort to cannibalism) have rented fake food from Thomas FX over the years. It costs \$19.99 per day to rent the turkey, which may seem a bit steep. But at least it's vegetarian friendly. —MW

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# UNCHARTED 3

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