

Happy 80th Famous Players!

Inside, a look at the company's past, present and future

Famous

february | march 2000 volume 1 number 3

canada's entertainment lifestyle magazine

Harland Williams

dishes about *The Whole Nine Yards*

Tim Robbins

tells us what rocks his *Cradle*

Emily Watson

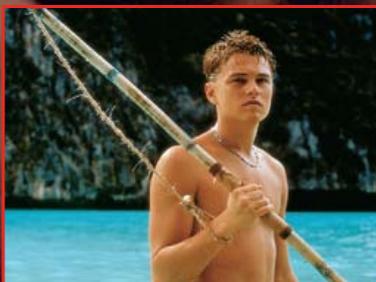
on fire in *Angela's Ashes*

Kirk Douglas

talks about his *Diamond* role

Bonus Charlize Theron,
Brad Pitt and other celebs
discuss baring it all on screen

Special Guide OscarsOscarsOscars



The Beach

Is it Leo? Or his double?
see page 17

\$3

Will Neve Campbell
survive this time?

SCREAM 3

Director Wes Craven on
why we must Scream again

plus HOROSCOPE, VIDEOGAMES GO HOLLYWOOD and DIANE KEATON ON VIDEO

DANNY
DEVITO

BETTE
MIDLER

NEVE
CAMPBELL

JAMIE LEE
CURTIS

DROWNING MONA



The death of Mona Dearly
wasn't so much a whodunnit, as a who didn't.

ALLIANCE ATLANTIS in association with DESTINATION FILMS, NEVERLAND FILMS and JERSEY SHORE
with NICK GOMEZ, DANNY DEVITO, BETTE MIDLER, NEVE CAMPBELL, JAMIE LEE CURTIS, "DROWNING MONA" CASEY AFFLECK, WILLIAM FICHTNER, MARIUS THOMAS, PETER DOBSON, MONIKA MIKKELESEN, GIVEN BETHEL, MICHAEL TAVERA, TERRY DRESBACH
Produced by RICHARD PEARSON, Richard Toyon, Bruce Douglas Johnson, Jonathan Dana, Danny DeVito, Michael Shamberg, Stacey Sher, Jonathan Veitch, Al Corley, Bart Rosenblatt, Eugene Musso
Directed by PETER STEINFELD, Screenplay by NICK GOMEZ



IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE MARCH 3RD!



SCREAM 3



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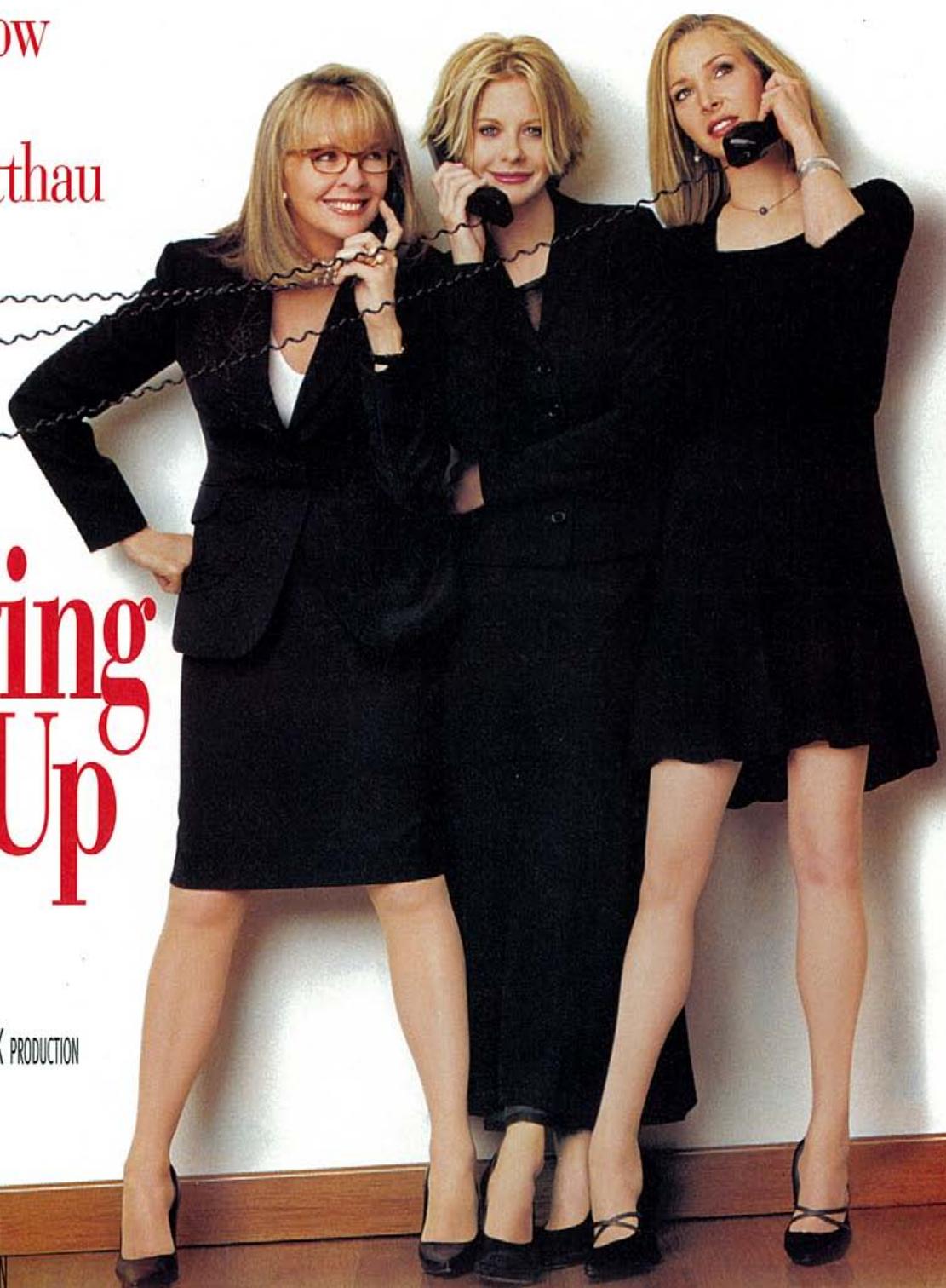
Meg Ryan

Diane Keaton

Lisa Kudrow

and

Walter Matthau



Hanging Up

Every family
has a few hang-ups.

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A helicopter crash and a stroke couldn't knock Kirk Douglas out — here he talks about his role as an ex-fighter in *Diamonds*
By Bonnie Laufer-Krebs

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By Bob Thompson

28 Seriously Harland

Harland Williams is used to dumb and dumber roles, but in *The Whole Nine Yards* he gets serious — and naked
By Mami Weisz

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Tim Robbins talks about what inspired him to make the ambitious *Cradle Will Rock*
By Jennie Punter

COVER STORY

32 Here we Scream Again

Scream made the horror genre cool again, so then came *Scream 2* and now *Scream 3*. But does the world really need another? Wes Craven says yes.

By Christopher Heard

♦ plus a look at Neve Campbell, star of the *Scream* franchise

SPECIAL GUIDES

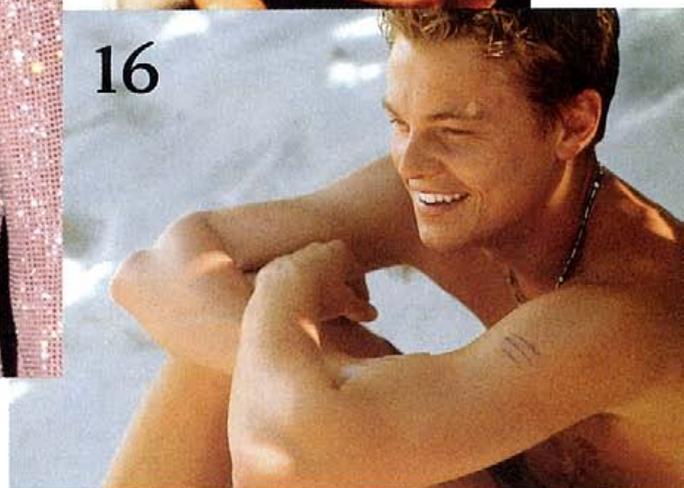
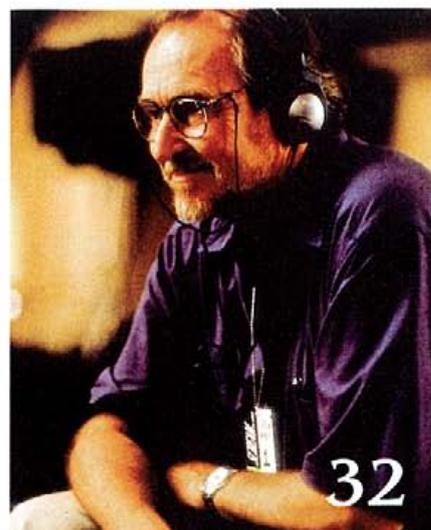
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We take a look back at the past eight decades of Famous Players

♦ plus John Bailey on digital projection: Will Famous, at 80, go fully digital?

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♦ plus a list of new releases

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Final lines from the last 10 movies to win Best Picture at the Oscars

WHAT A SCREAM

Every once in a while, a film comes along that resurrects a dying genre. *Platoon* did it for war movies, *Terminator* for action pictures. And there's no doubt that *Scream* did it for horror flicks. The movie's wit and self-satire (combined with some truly s-c-a-r-y moments) inspired people to give the genre a second chance. The sequel, *Scream 2*, soon followed, and now, with the release of *Scream 3*, the trilogy is complete. For our cover story, writer Christopher Heard spoke with director Wes Craven about the *Scream* franchise, the young stars he has cast and why we're so attracted to horror movies. See "Here We Scream Again" on page 32.

Toronto-born actor Harland Williams moved to Lotus Land six years ago, and it was certainly the right decision. Between stand-up, painting, writing and illustrating children's books and acting in major motion pictures, Williams barely has time to breathe that fresh Los Angeles air. I spoke with him about growing up in Canada, working with big-name stars and his latest movie, *The Whole Nine Yards*. See "Harland Williams Bares All" on page 28.

We sent writer Jennie Punter to New York City to interview actor/director Tim Robbins about *Cradle Will Rock*, his film about the American government's attempt to censor a play with socialist themes during the "Red Scare" of the thirties. But, surprisingly, Robbins doesn't see *Cradle* as a political film. Read "Not a Political Film?" on page 30 to find out why.

Emily Watson is one of her generation's best actors. This 33-year-old has already garnered two Academy Award nominations for Best Actress, and now has a plum role as the impoverished Irish mother in the new drama *Angela's Ashes*. Writer Bob Thompson spoke with her about getting into character. See "Famous Focus" on page 26.

When news broke in 1996 that actor Kirk Douglas had suffered a stroke there were probably few in Hollywood who thought he would work again. But four years later, 83-year-old Douglas returns to the screen to play a stroke victim in the new comedy/drama *Diamonds*. Writer Bonnie Laufer-Krebs traveled to Beverly Hills to interview the Hollywood legend. See interview on page 24.

Speaking of octogenarians, Famous Players celebrates its 80th birthday this year. We take a look at the company's past and present, and also its future by way of an interview with president John Bailey, in which he talks about digital projection and whether it will send traditional projection the way of the dinosaurs. See page 14.

And, finally, the film world's biggest, boldest and glossiest event is just around the corner. That's right, it's almost Oscar time. Our Oscar preview on page 20 will whet your appetite with Oscar trivia. And make sure to pick up the next issue of *Famous* for more about the Academy Awards.

— Marni Weisz

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DRAMAS ROMANCES COMEDIES AND THRILLERS

TO GET YOU THROUGH THE WINTER BLAHS

Play it to the Bone (Jan. 14)

Who's In It? Antonio Banderas, Woody Harrelson, Lolita Davidovich
Who Directed? Ron Shelton (*Bull Durham*)

What's It About? Harrelson reunites with Shelton — they did *White Men Can't Jump* together — for this offbeat adventure about two buddies (Harrelson and Banderas) who go to Vegas to try and salvage their failing boxing careers. The catch: They have to fight each other for the Welterweight Championship.

Cradle Will Rock (Jan. 14)

Who's In It? Susan Sarandon, Emily Watson, John Cusack, Hank Azaria
Who Directed? Tim Robbins (*Dead Man Walking*)

What's It About? The year is 1937, the location is New York, and the person is Orson Welles. He is trying to direct a musical, but the government doesn't like the play's alleged left-wing content and slaps an injunction on the project. See Tim Robbins interview, page 30.

Supernova (Jan. 14)

Who's In It? Angela Bassett, Robert Forster, Lou Diamond Phillips
Who Directed? Walter Hill (*Last Man Standing*)

What's It About? The crew of a deep space medical ship answers the distress call of a mining operation in a distant galaxy and gets more than it bargained for when the man who hailed them smuggles an alien artifact on board. Throw in the gravitational pull of a giant star about to go supernova and they're in deep trouble.

Angela's Ashes (Jan. 21)

Who's In It? Emily Watson, Robert Carlyle
Who Directed? Alan Parker (*Evita, The Commitments*)

What's It About? Based on the best-selling Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir by Frank McCourt, this adaption tells the story of a boy raised in Limerick, Ireland. It has been described as "lyrical" despite dealing with such grave themes as alcoholism, poverty and the Depression. See Emily Watson interview, page 26.

Liberty Heights (Jan. 21)

Who's In It? Joe Mantegna, Richard Kline, Bebe Neuwirth
Who Directed? Barry Levinson (*Wag the Dog*)

What's It About? Director Levinson returns to his roots with this story about a Baltimore school, circa 1954. The civil rights movement and the threat of nuclear war provide the backdrop. This is Levinson's fourth installment in his Baltimore series, and his first since 1990's *Avalon*.

Down to You (Jan. 21)

Who's In It? Freddie Prinze, Jr., Julia Stiles, Selma Blair
Who Directed? Kris Isaacson (debut)

What's It About? Prinze falls for an MIT grad student who moonlights as a porn star (Blair) in this romantic comedy about a college-aged New York couple (Prinze and Stiles) dealing with life's trials and tribulations.

Eye of the Beholder (Jan. 28)

Who's In It? Ewan McGregor, Ashley Judd, Jason Priestley, k.d. lang
Who Directed? Stephan Elliott (*The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*)

What's It About? This psychological thriller/surreal love story is about "The Eye" (McGregor), a high-tech operative who is tracking a babe named Joanna (Judd). But McGregor becomes more of a guardian angel to Joanna than a cop after following her to the scene of a murder, where an image of his lost daughter appears on one of her surveillance photos.

Isn't She Great (Jan. 28)

Who's In It? Bette Midler, Nathan Lane, John Cleese, David Hyde Pierce
Who Directed? Andrew Bergman (*Soapdish*)

What's It About? A semi-biographical comedy about Jacqueline Susann (Midler), the author of the controversial and steamy (for its time) 1966 novel *Valley of the Dolls*, which landed at the top of the *New York Times* bestseller list.

Scream 3 (Feb. 4)

Who's In It? David Arquette, Neve Campbell, Courteney Cox-Arquette
Who Directed? Wes Craven (*Scream* and *Scream 2*)

What's It About? Do you like scary movies? Did you find *Scream* scary? *Scream 2*? Well if so, here is *Scream* — and laugh — your head off 3, the latest in this insanely successful series that spoofs horror flicks. This one follows Sidney Prescott (Campbell) out of college and into La La Land, where she wants to become an actress. See Wes Craven interview, page 32.

The gang from Liberty Heights



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Simpatico (Feb. 4)

Who's In It? Nick Nolte, Jeff Bridges, Sharon Stone

Who Directed? Matthew Warchus (debut)

What's It About? Based on a Sam Shepard play, this psychological thriller revolves around buddies Lyle (Bridges) and Vinnie (Nolte), who devise a scam to get a lot of dough at the racetrack. But then Lyle runs off with Vinnie's girlfriend, Rosie (Stone), and their money. Twenty years later, Vinnie seeks revenge.



Sharon Stone as Rosie in Matthew Warchus's *Simpatico*

Gun Shy (Feb. 4)

Who's In It? Liam Neeson, Sandra Bullock, Oliver Platt

Who Directed? Eric Blakeney (debut)

What's It About? In this black comedy, Neeson stars as a tuckered-out New York City undercover detective who wants to solve one last case before turning in his badge. The requisite love interest role goes to Bullock.

Pitch Black (Feb. 11)

Who's In It? Vin Diesel, Cole Hauser

Who Directed? David Twohy (*G.I. Jane*)

What's It About? A ship transporting passengers to a distant planet crash lands on a seemingly lifeless planet in this action adventure. A cop, a guilt-stricken pilot and an escaped killer are the only survivors. But it's not enough that this odd trio is stuck on a planet alone: After an eclipse puts the planet into darkness for the first time in 22 years (rats!), out come the nocturnal creatures from hibernation, and they're on the prowl.

Snow Day (Feb. 11)

Who's In It? Chevy Chase, Chris Elliott, Iggy Pop, Pam Grier

Who Directed? Chris Koch (debut)

What's It About? In this family-oriented comedy, a group of ingenious kids hijack a snowplow in upstate New York in order to keep the schools closed.

The Beach (Feb. 11)

Who's In It? Leonardo DiCaprio, Virginie Ledoyen, Guillaume Canet, Tilda Swinton

Who Directed? Danny Boyle (*Trainspotting*)

What's It About? Richard (DiCaprio) feels alienated, so off this American goes into backpack country: Southeast Asia. There, he meets a French couple and finds a map to a secret island: The Beach. But when they get to this legendary tropical paradise, it's not Utopia they find there — it's armed natives who guard the island highlands, a commune of no-good international drifters, and drugs, sex and wild and dangerous times.

Tigger Movie (animated) (Feb. 11)

What's It About? In this action/adventure, Tigger can't find anyone suitable to play with. Feeling kind of blue, he goes looking for his family of tiggers but, in the end, discovers that Winnie, et al, may not be blood but they're not so bad after all.

Hanging Up (Feb. 11)

Who's In It? Lisa Kudrow, Meg Ryan, Diane Keaton, Walter Matthau

Who Directed? Diane Keaton (*Unstrung Heroes*)

What's It About? Matthau isn't the greatest father in the world — he has trouble with affection and whines a lot — but when his three daughters find out this grumpy old man is dying, they have to unite and try and take the 'dys' out of dysfunctional for a while.

Diamonds (Feb. 18)

Who's In It? Dan Aykroyd, Kirk Douglas, Lauren Bacall, Corbin Allred

Who Directed? John Asher (*Chick Flick*)

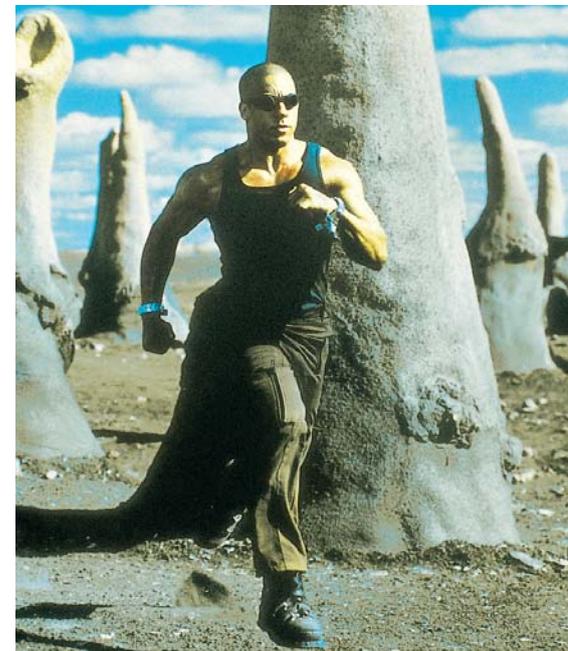
What's It About? Former welterweight champion Harry Agensky (Douglas) is trying to track down 13 stolen diamonds a mobster gave him years before for throwing a fight. When his wife wouldn't let him keep the diamonds, he hid them in the mobster's house. But now he's forgotten the address, so he asks his estranged son (Aykroyd) and grandson (Allred) for help. See Kirk Douglas interview, page 24.

The Skulls (Feb. 18)

Who's In It? Joshua Jackson, Paul Walker

Who Directed? Rob Cohen (*Dragonheart*)

What's It About? Luke (Jackson), an Ivy-League overachiever, joins an elite secret society known as The Skulls in the hopes that it will help secure his admittance to a prestigious law school. But when his roommate commits suicide under cloudy circumstances, Luke must outwit The Skulls at their own game.



Vin Diesel on the run as Riddick in the sci-fi thriller *Pitch Black*

Wonder Boys (Feb. 18)

Who's In It? Michael Douglas, Robert Downey, Jr., Tobey Maguire

Who Directed? Curtis Hanson (*L.A. Confidential*)

What's It About? In this comedy, Douglas plays a prof/writer who is trying to complete a follow-up to his successful first novel but is suffering from writer's block. Downey, Jr., stars as the editor trying desperately to get Douglas to meet his deadline, and Maguire plays a promising young novelist.

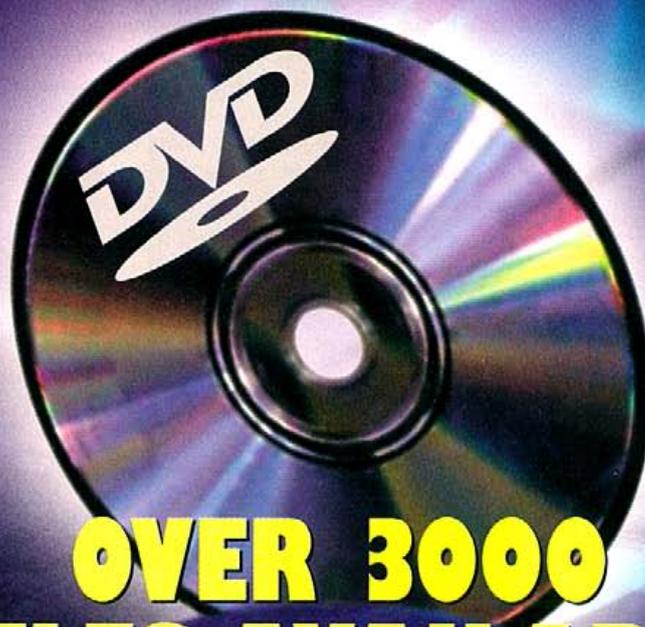
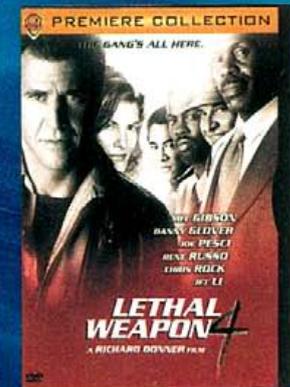
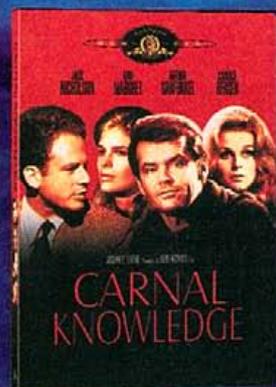
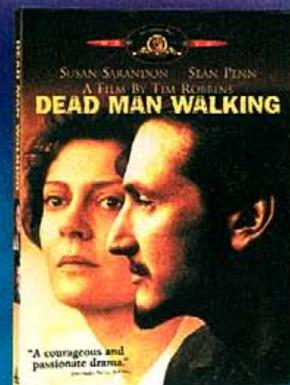
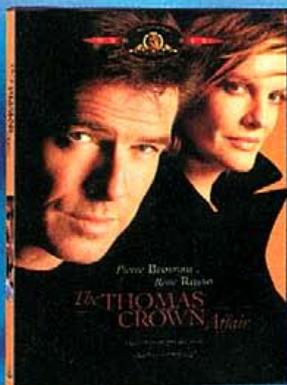
The Whole Nine Yards (Feb. 18)

Who's In It? Bruce Willis, Matthew Perry, Rosanna Arquette, Harland Williams

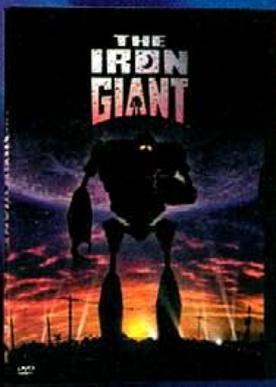
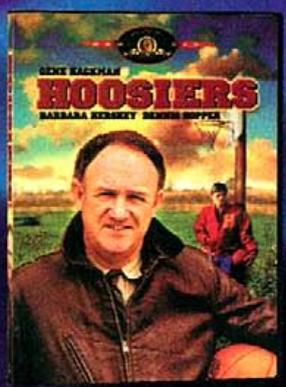
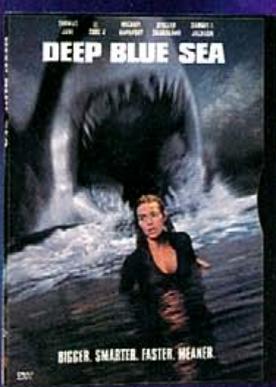
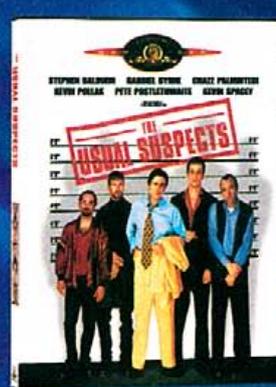
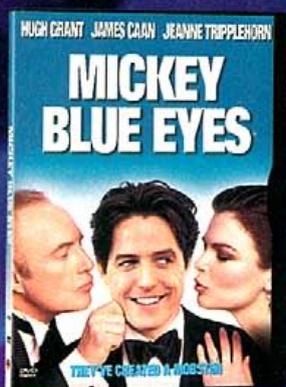
Who Directed? Jonathan Lynn (*My Cousin Vinny*)

What's It About? Bruce Willis stars as Jimmy "The Tulip", a hitman who's on the run from the mob. When the witness protection program

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Meg Ryan, Diane Keaton and Lisa Kudrow surround their dying father, Walter Matthau.

moves him next door to a suburban couple (Perry and Arquette) who find out his true identity, all heck breaks loose. Canadian Harland Williams plays another hitman, but one with a secret. See Williams interview, page 28.

Reindeer Games (Feb. 25)

Who's In It? Ben Affleck, Gary Sinise, Charlize Theron

Who Directed? John Frankenheimer (*Ronin*)

What's It About? In this crime thriller, an ex-con (Affleck) wants to stay on the right side of the tracks, but Theron and Sinise take him to the wrong side by getting him involved in an elaborate heist to be carried out at a casino.

The Next Best Thing (Mar. 3)

Who's In It? Madonna, Rupert Everett

Who Directed? John Schlesinger (*Cold Comfort Farm*)

What's It About? A gay man (Everett) and a heterosexual woman (Madonna) — they are, incidentally, good pals in real life — decide to have a baby together. But things get complicated when, after the little one is born, another man enters the picture.

Drowning Mona (Mar. 3)

Who's In It? Danny DeVito, Bette Midler, Neve Campbell, Casey Affleck, Jamie Lee Curtis

Who Directed? Nick Gomez (*Illtown*)

What's It About? The sleepy town of Verplanck, New York, is awoken by the death of Mona (Midler). The police chief (DeVito) suspects it may have been murder, and upon further research, discovers there are a whole

slew of suspects — it seems that most of the town detested Mona.

What Planet Are You From (Mar. 3)

Who's In It? Garry Shandling, Annette Bening, John Goodman

Who Directed? Mike Nichols (*Primary Colors*)

What's It About? Shandling is an alien named Harold who has been sent to Earth to do one thing: impregnate a woman. But he runs into problems with his, well, thing, so he has to use gizmos to get the job done. Eventually he marries and has a child, but now that he's done his chore, it's time to go home. Only problem is, Harold actually has feelings for his new family. Oh-oh.

Chain of Fools (Mar. 3)

Who's In It? Steve Zahn, Salma Hayek, Jeff Goldblum

Who Directed? Pontus Lowenheilm, Patrik Von Krusentjerna

What's It About? In this comedy that revolves around an attempted heist of priceless coins, Zahn plays a barber who starts his day intending to kill himself, only to see that day get worse. Hayek is the centerfold-turned-detective assigned to the case.

Mission to Mars (Mar. 10)

Who's In It? Gary Sinise, Tim Robbins, Don Cheadle

Who Directed? Brian De Palma (*Mission: Impossible*)

What's It About? When an expedition to Mars ends in disaster, leaving only one survivor (Cheadle), a second team of (un)lucky astronauts led by Sinise is sent to rescue the survivor and find out what the heck went wrong. One of the screenwriters was Canadian Graham Yost (*Speed*).

O (Mar. 10)

Who's In It? Mekhi Phifer, Julia Stiles, Rain Phoenix, Martin Sheen, Josh Hartnett

Who Directed? Tim Blake Nelson (*Eye of God*)

What's It About? Believe it or not, a high school b-ball court is the backdrop for this modern version of Shakespeare's *Othello*. Phifer plays Odin (Othello), Hartnett plays Hugo (Iago) and Stiles is Desi (Desdemona). Hugo convinces his good friend, Odin, that his babe, Des, is playing around on him, but what Odin doesn't know is that Hugo is motivated

by quite the jealously hate-on for his friend. Also starring Sheen as Coach Duke.

Final Destination (Mar. 17)

Who's In It? Devon Sawa, Kristen Cloke, Amanda Detmer

Who Directed? James Wong (*The Boys Next Door*)

What's It About? A passenger (Sawa) booked on a flight to Paris has a vision that the plane will explode so he convinces his six friends to skip the trip. When the plane does explode, he thinks they avoided catastrophe, but then his buddies start to die anyway.



Ben Affleck in John Frankenheimer's *Reindeer Games*

Erin Brockovitch (Mar. 17)

Who's In It? Julia Roberts, Albert Finney

Who Directed? Steve Soderbergh (*Out of Sight*)

What's It About? Based on a true story, this legal drama stars Julia Roberts as a twice-divorced mother of three kids who gets a job as a file clerk in a small law firm. When she discovers a cover-up involving contaminated water in a nearby town, her boring life is no more. She gets the intimidated townfolk to stand up for themselves and their town. Net result: One of the largest settlements ever paid in a direct-action suit. Net result for Roberts: A salary in the \$20 million range.

Also playing in limited release: *Holy Smoke* (Jan. 21), *Titus* (Jan. 21), *Next Friday* (Feb. 4), *The Big Tease* (Feb. 11) and *Boiler Room* (Feb. 18).

All release dates subject to change. Some movies play only in limited markets.

check www.famousplayers.com for showtimes

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HANK YOU FOR MAKING

US CANADA'S

FAVOURITE THEATRES



FAMOUS PLAYERS
Big Screen Big Sound Big Difference
A VIACOM COMPANY

Hello,

Welcome to the new millennium and to an exciting year here at Famous Players.

We began 2000 — our 80th anniversary year — by bringing you another great selection of holiday films, from the fantastic fun of *Toy Story 2*, to the talents of *Mr. Ripley*, to the miracles of *The Green Mile*. Our entertainment destinations across the country were filled throughout the holiday season as our guests continued to make the movie-going experience part of their celebrations. We plan to keep the excitement alive throughout this year.

Famous Players has been around for eight decades and is stronger than ever. In fact, in 2000, we will be bringing you another fifteen new entertainment destinations in cities across the country, all of which deliver the Famous Players Big Screen, Big Sound and Big Difference. Exciting developments such as monthly in-theatre pay-per-view WWF events, continued development of our great concessions and the showcasing of prototype digital cinema technologies will ensure that we remain Canada's favourite theatres.

To help celebrate our anniversary, our network of Famous Players IMAX theatres across the country are currently presenting *Fantasia 2000*, Disney's bold experiment in sight and sound. From the cockpits of jet fighters to the heights of the highwire, our IMAX screens will take you places few have been.

Keep an eye out for a number of other special events and promotions related to our 80th anniversary celebrations and thank you for choosing Famous Players.

See you at the movies!

John Bailey
President
Famous Players



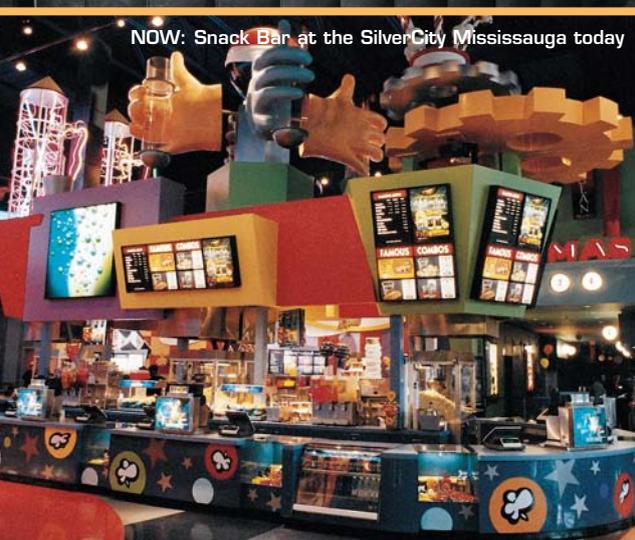
Paramount Festival Hall, Toronto

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY

FAMOUS PLAYERS!



THEN: Snack Bar at Montreal's Princess Theatre in the fifties



NOW: Snack Bar at the Silver City Mississauga today

Put the giant cake in the oven, because Famous Players is celebrating its 80th birthday. But there are no wrinkles on this octogenarian, and any signs of gray were obliterated by a recent makeover that bathed the company's new theatres in eye-popping hues of green, blue, silver and purple.

Oh how things have changed since that fateful day — January 23, 1920 — when Famous Players was officially founded under the name Famous Players-Lasky Corporation.

By the end of year one, Famous Players had 20 theatres with 19,840 seats. Not bad, but that's peanuts compared to the 115 theatres, 840 screens and 215,000 seats it has today.

Although it's nice, for some, to take a step back in time and visit one of Famous Players' classic theatres like the Paramount in Saint John, New Brunswick, or The Eglinton in Toronto, the bulk of regular moviegoers fall between the ages of 18 and 35 and they want action. They're the MTV generation, the PlayStation generation — and they need to be entertained in a big way.

The last two years have seen Famous Players expand at an incredible rate, and those new theatres have been outfitted with TechTown Interactive Game Centres, licensed lounges and branded food outlets that serve everything from Taco Bell to Starbucks coffee, and, in some locations, even Il Fornello's gourmet pizza. Now, dinner and a movie can take place all at once and your meal doesn't have to consist of merely popcorn and pop.

But the food and games are only there to make the movie-going experience more enjoyable. The real draw is still what happens when the lights go down and the screen lights up, an experience that has been heightened by wall-to-wall, ceiling-to-floor rounded screens and digital sound in those new theatres. And then there are the giant IMAX screens, seven so far.

Despite some hefty competition from Canada's other two major theatre chains — Cineplex Odeon and AMC — Famous Players is now officially Canada's favourite theatre chain. A study conducted last year showed that more people are visiting Famous Players theatres than any other chain, and more people prefer the Famous Players experience to that of any other chain.

So happy birthday Famous Players. It'll be interesting to see what you look like at 100.

— Marni Weisz

Famous Players: A Few Milestones

1916

Businessman
N.L. Nathanson buys
The Majestic Theatre on
Adelaide St. in Toronto.

1920

Nathanson founds Famous
Players-Lasky Corp. By the
end of the first year they
have 20 theatres.

1929

Famous installs the first
sound equipment in a
Canadian theatre at
The Palace in Montreal.

1952

With the advent of television, the company (now with
224 theatres) moves from expanding to downsizing,
dropping unprofitable theatres and shifting their
interests to broadcasting and cable TV networks.

What else happened the year Famous Players was founded...

- ◆ KDKA, a Pittsburgh Westinghouse station, transmits the first commercial radio broadcast
- ◆ The 19th amendment gives women the vote
- ◆ Britain establishes separate parliaments for Northern and Southern Ireland
- ◆ Hitler founds the Nazi Party in Munich, Germany
- ◆ Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi becomes India's leader in the struggle for independence from Britain
- ◆ Eugene O'Neill's first full-length play, *Beyond the Horizon*, wins the Pulitzer Prize
- ◆ Prohibition goes into effect in the U.S., banning the sale and consumption of alcohol
- ◆ "Speakeasies" replace saloons as the hub of social activity

MOVIES RELEASED IN 1920 AND THEIR STARS

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari
(Werner Krauss);
The Mark of Zorro
(Douglas Fairbanks);
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
(John Barrymore);
The Last of the Mohicans
(Wallace Beery);
Pollyanna (Mary Pickford);
Way Down East (Lillian Gish);
The Saphead (Buster Keaton)

THE FUTURE: EVERYONE IN DIGITAL?

The president of Famous Players talks about "digital projection" versus "film projection"

You've heard this once or twice before: Technology is progress. And while John Bailey, president of Famous Players, would certainly echo that sentiment, he may qualify it with one cautionary word: Technology *can* be progress. Indeed, while Bailey has never been one to shy away from new technologies, he's not in any rush to depart from old ones for no reason either. Which is why he's not over-hyping "digital projection" — currently being tested at the Paramount Theatre in Toronto and the SilverCity Riverport in Richmond, B.C. Reason: He wants to be 100 percent sure the quality is significantly better than traditional film projection.

While we're accustomed to watching a 35 mm film that runs through a projector, with digital projection the movie can be stored on a disk. "There's no movie, no reel, so there's no degradation when you play it many times like there can be with film format — no wear and tear," says Bailey. Plus, the theatres don't have to rewind the reels.

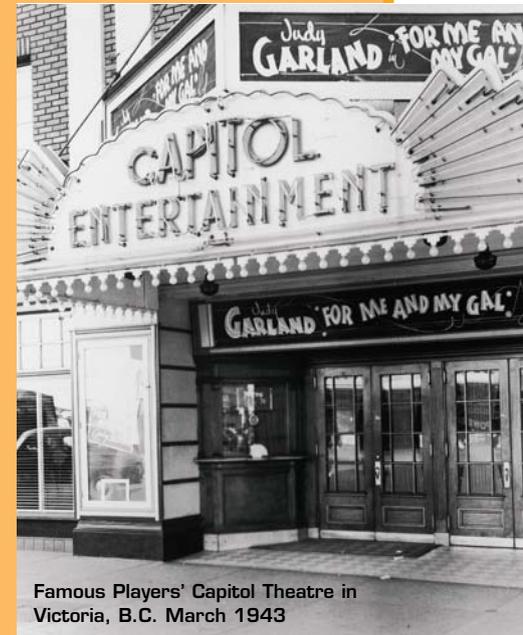
But Bailey has seen early test runs using this new tech and says he hasn't made up his mind about it. "I don't want to prejudice anything — it has its pluses and minuses," he says, adding, "If the experience isn't as good as the traditional film format, what's the point of changing? If the visual experience isn't as good — say, the light is not diffused evenly on screen or there's a flatness in presentation — it doesn't make sense. We have Big Screen Big Sound, and we don't want to have to reduce the size of the screen to fit the digital format. We don't want to reduce quality."

Quality isn't the only issue. There's also quantity — as in dollars. As Bailey points out, there are "huge costs associated with this," and he doesn't want to pay for it. Famous Players, which is already in the throes of the largest expansion in its 80-year history (to the tune of \$500 million), has more than 100 theatres — and in those theatres, more than 800 screens. Each traditional projector costs about \$30,000 to \$35,000. The new digital projectors, on the other hand, will cost much more (initial estimates are pegged at \$50,000 to \$100,000, depending on the manufacturer). "The industry has to come to grips with who's going to pay," says Bailey. "The savings come for the film distributor — they don't have to make prints."

Ultimately, as Bailey aptly notes, the best way to gauge whether audiences like, or even notice, this new technology is simple: ask them. "People will be polled at theatres [where the digital projection is being used] to determine whether they detect a difference in quality," he says.

For now, the verdict is still out on going digital.

— Neil Morton



Famous Players' Capitol Theatre in Victoria, B.C. March 1943

1962 Permission is finally given to show movies on Sundays.
◆ The first 70 mm motion picture is shown at the Glendale in Toronto.
◆ The Place Ville Marie Cinemas open in a Montreal shopping mall, ushering in the age of mall multiplexes. ◆ Dual cinemas also open at Toronto's Yorkdale Shopping Plaza.

1986
An ambitious program to upgrade theatre operations begins.

1994
Automated Ticketing Machines are introduced.

1996
Plans for expansion are announced, including 300 new screens in the span of three years.

THE FIRST ROLES OF SOME OF TODAY'S BIGGEST STARS

Bruce Willis goes on a Blind Date,
Meg Ryan gets Rich & Famous
and Leonardo DiCaprio plays with Critters

By Jami Bernard



Maxapp/UPI

It's hard to keep **Bruce Willis** a secret. Even the Witness Protection Program can't keep his identity hidden in *The Whole Nine Yards*, a new comedy in which Willis plays a former mobster whose presence in suburbia unsettles his neighbors (Matthew Perry and Rosanna Arquette).

But Willis is hard to find in his very first big-screen appearance. While working as a bartender in some of Manhattan's trendiest nightspots, he also worked as an extra on several movie sets. In *The First Deadly Sin* (1980), you can just about make him out entering a restaurant as Frank Sinatra is leaving.

Willis was born in West Germany on March 19, 1955, then raised from the age of 2 in Penns Grove, New Jersey. The TV series *Moonlighting* (1985) made him a star and earned him his first real movie role — Walter Davis in the Blake Edwards

directed romantic comedy *Blind Date* (1987). The story takes off when Davis, a workaholic, is set up on a blind date with a woman named Nadia (Kim Basinger) who loses control when she drinks.

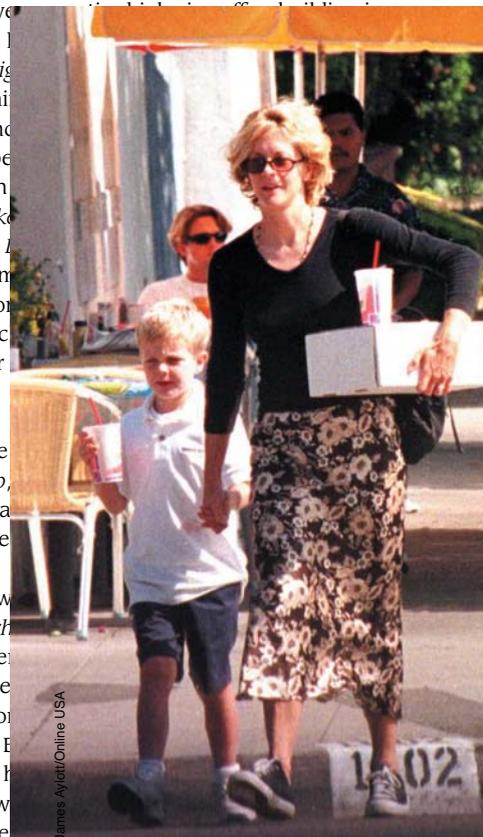
Willis found true success with his smirking hero, John McClane, in the glass-shattering *Die Hard* series. But with success comes the inevitable

pressure, and his 11-year marriage to actress Demi Moore — which created three adorable daughters — did not survive.

Willis is popular not only for being semi-tough, but also for being semi-clad. It's not just that he saved the first *Die Hard* (1988), but that he saved his bare feet. In *The Color of Night* (1994), he revealed so much of himself that only European audiences were allowed to see certain snippets, and he also shows a lot of skin in *Pulp Fiction* (1994) and *12 Monkeys* (1995). When Willis shot the third *Die Hard* film in New York in the summer of 1994, he asked that his personal gym be flown in because his muscles are as integral to that character as his smart mouth.

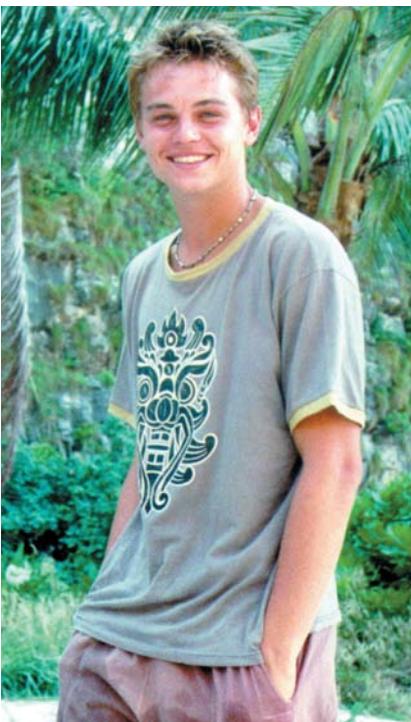
As always, **Meg Ryan** is cute as a button in *Hanging Up*, a new movie directed by Diane Keaton, who also co-stars as one of Ryan's sisters.

A 20-year-old Ryan first showed off her chipmunk cuteness in *Rich & Famous* (1981) as Candice Berger, a daughter, Debby, who has been advised all her life to go ride a horse whenever she felt a sexual urge. But at age 18, Debby dumps her Trinidadian poet boyfriend who steals cars for a living, and then steals



James Ayrault/Online USA

above: Bruce Willis at a Planet Hollywood press conference in Paris, France; right: Meg Ryan out on the town in Santa Monica with son, Jack Henry



Ho, Reuters

her mom's best friend's boyfriend.

Ryan's chirpy, good-natured humour was obvious even in that first role. It's a sense of humour that is also abundantly evident in such films as *Sleepless in Seattle* (1993), *French Kiss* (1995) and *You've Got Mail* (1998).

As for her personal life, journalists who were at a press junket for *Innerspace* in 1987 thought they had some good gossip when they saw Ryan smooching with her co-star Dennis Quaid in the hallway. They did: Quaid and Ryan married shortly after, and now have a son named Jack Henry to show for it.

We regret to report that the kid with the "Titanic" career got his movie start in *Critters 3*, a film which will only be remembered for being bad. At least **Leonardo DiCaprio** doesn't get eaten by the alien furballs in this 1991 sci-fi sequel to a sequel.

The Los Angeles-raised actor can afford to look back on *Critters 3* and laugh now that he commands \$20 million per picture. That's what he got to star in *The Beach*, a new movie about a young backpacker who finds a map leading to a legendary tropical paradise. During the shoot in Thailand, Leo and other cast members were swept off a camera boat in bad weather, but that's nothing compared to the storm of screaming girls that greets the Oscar-nominated pin-up boy every time he goes out in public. But he only has room for one girl in his life right now, model Kristen Zang.

Leonardo Wilhelm DiCaprio began his career at age 5 by appearing on the children's show *Romper Room*, but he threw an early star tantrum and was asked to leave the set.

In his teens, he showed more staying power on two TV series — *Parenthood* and *Growing Pains* — and got his first real movie break as the abused son in *This Boy's Life* (1993). He was nominated for an Oscar for playing the sweet, off-balance kid in *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?* (1993) and then went on to play a junkie in *The Basketball Diaries* (1995), a troubled, gay French poet in *Total Eclipse* (1995), and a fame-seeking missile in *Celebrity* (1998).

So far, only one person on the planet has gone on record to reveal an immunity to Leo's charms. Sharon Stone, whose sex scene with Leo in *The Quick and the Dead* (1995) was mostly cut, later described smooching with the lad like "kissing my arm."

You can't please everyone.

Jami Bernard is a film critic for the New York Daily News and author of First Films: Illustrious, Obscure and Embarrassing Movie Debuts (Citadel).

above: Leonardo DiCaprio in Thailand on the set of his upcoming film, *The Beach*
right: Leo's double, Ole Roska, on set

DOUBLING FOR DICAPRIO ON THE BEACH

Imagine you're a Norwegian student backpacking through Southeast Asia. In Laos, you contract dengue fever and are admitted to the hospital. When released, you run into a casting crew looking for extras for *The Beach*, a Leonardo DiCaprio film shooting in nearby Thailand. You pass — you're still pretty wiped from the fever. But everywhere you go, you see posters with info about being an extra. You decide the heck with it, I'll send an application. You certainly don't think you'll be asked to be the double for DiCaprio himself. But that's exactly what happened to Ole Roska, a 23-year-old TV production student from Norway. We tracked Ole down via the internet to talk with him about his experience.

ON WHY THEY PICKED HIM: Well, I got work as an extra and then, suddenly, they asked if I would like to work as a stand-in and double for Leo and I said, Yes, of course. It was a great opportunity to get behind the scenes, to work in a Hollywood picture and meet a lot of famous people. I was just lucky to be there at the right time.

ON HIS RESPONSIBILITIES: As a stand-in, you have to stand in front of the camera when they are putting up the light and fixing the cameras so they can start shooting right away when Leo gets on set. It's not very glamorous; it's hard work and long days. I also doubled for him in 12 scenes, so it's really me that you're seeing, not him. Cool!

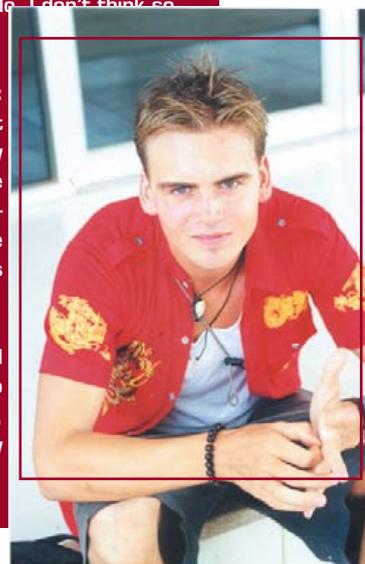
ON DICAPRIO: I met him every day on the set and he was a nice guy. It was strange to suddenly be on a big movie production and to meet all the stars.

ON WHETHER THEY LOOK ALIKE: Well, in Thailand people said I looked like him, but I've never identified myself with him. They had to cut my hair shorter, but that was all. I didn't need to wear any makeup. People often took pictures of me, thinking that I was Leo. It was good fun.

ON WHETHER GIRLS TREAT HIM DIFFERENTLY: No, I don't think so. I hope they like me for who I am.

ON WHETHER THE EXPERIENCE CHANGED HIM: No, I will say I am the same person as before. But it was proof for me that an ordinary person can really do something cool. I mean, you've got to have some luck, but everybody can make something of themselves with some hard work. Everybody can be something. Still, I don't want to be remembered as Leo's double for the rest of my life.

ON THE FACT THAT "OLE" AND "LEO" CONTAIN THE SAME THREE LETTERS: Yeah, people said to me, "You have the same three letters in your name, like an anagram." It was just a coincidence, but they thought it was really funny.



TO STRIP OR NOT TO STRIP

Not every actress is as comfortable with nude scenes as, say, Kim Basinger appeared to be in *9 1/2 Weeks*, nor is every actor as liberated as Harvey Keitel was in *The Piano*

Here's what some big-name actors and actresses have to say about baring it all on screen

By Susan Granger



He says...

Brad Pitt: "Ridley Scott got me to take off my clothes on-screen for the first time [*Thelma and Louise*, 1991]. I was embarrassed because I kept thinking, 'My mom's going to see this!' I remember the night before when it hit me: 'Oh my God, what have I got to do?' You're checking yourself out in the mirror, and it gets kind of, like, twisted!"

Christian Slater: "Doing a love scene and getting naked is a hundred times more

difficult than anything else. Showing my 'thing' to the crew, knowing you have to work with them another six weeks is embarrassing. They're the most uncomfortable things in the world to do. They're just horrendous. When we did *The Name of the Rose* (1986), Sean Connery taught me that the thing to do is just breathe. I practiced — basically, I just breathed and didn't pay attention to anything else. And I got it out of the way."

Jason Priestley: "When I did *Calendar Girl* [1993], I had no problem with the nude beach scene. There was no graphic nudity,

and it was all done for the sake of comedy. I have no problem with nudity on-screen — none at all."

Richard Gere: "Why have I appeared nude in so many of my films? I could give you the cliché answer that an actor does what is right for the character, but I think — at various times — I was discovering different territories of my own makeup. I went through a stage of exploring sensuality. But you must realize that how the media, the public, perceive me has no relationship whatsoever to my own personal reality."

Brad Pitt struts his stuff for Geena Davis in *Thelma and Louise*



Matt Dillon: "I'm not completely opposed to nudity, but I just don't think it's necessary all the time. Sometimes you end up discrediting the integrity of the film. Sometimes they think it's hotter to have a love scene with nudity, but a lot of the time you end up compromising the scene because everyone is so concerned about it that it loses its spontaneity and passion."

Tim Robbins: "I don't ever feel completely comfortable being nude in front of 200 strangers on a movie set. It's not my favourite thing to do, but I do see it as necessary in some cases. Still, when I walk on a set, I don't say to the director, 'Hey, I'd like to play this nude. Can I take my clothes off, please?'"

Jeremy Irons: "For me, it's just fulfilling the obligations of the part. What one always does as an actor is provide the raw materials for the director. My job is to make it real, as real as possible — whatever that involves."

Luke Perry: "I'm not real fond of the idea of getting naked on film, so I don't think you'll ever see me doing that."

Danny DeVito: "I've been friends with Michael Douglas too long to be modest. When Michael was living in a commune in Santa Barbara, he invited me up. At the time he was 'into' nudity. Everyone was bare. Any place you went with Michael, you took your clothes off and swam. It was the big thing in the sixties."



She says...

Charlize Theron: "I'm quite comfortable with stripping if all the elements are in place. It has a great deal to do with the filmmaker — with having talked to the director and learning how he visualizes the scene. It depends on why we are doing this exercise and justifying the nudity within the context of the story. Having said that, it is uncomfortable in the sense that although it's a closed set, you are stark naked and there are five guys whom you've never met in your entire life

Sexy Charlize Theron in a scene from *The Astronaut's Wife*



seeing boobies and the full showcase. What you have to do whenever you're doing something like this is 'the fourth wall.' You create that and you work around that when you do nudity."

Nicole Kidman: "Yeah, I was uncomfortable the first time — in *Dead Calm* [1989]. Nudity requires a very good director and a lot of understanding among the actors. The director must protect your privacy. I wouldn't want to be nude in every movie, but I have nothing against it as long as it's not gratuitous."

Alicia Silverstone: "I'm very uncomfortable with my body, and I'm not interested in people seeing it on screen."

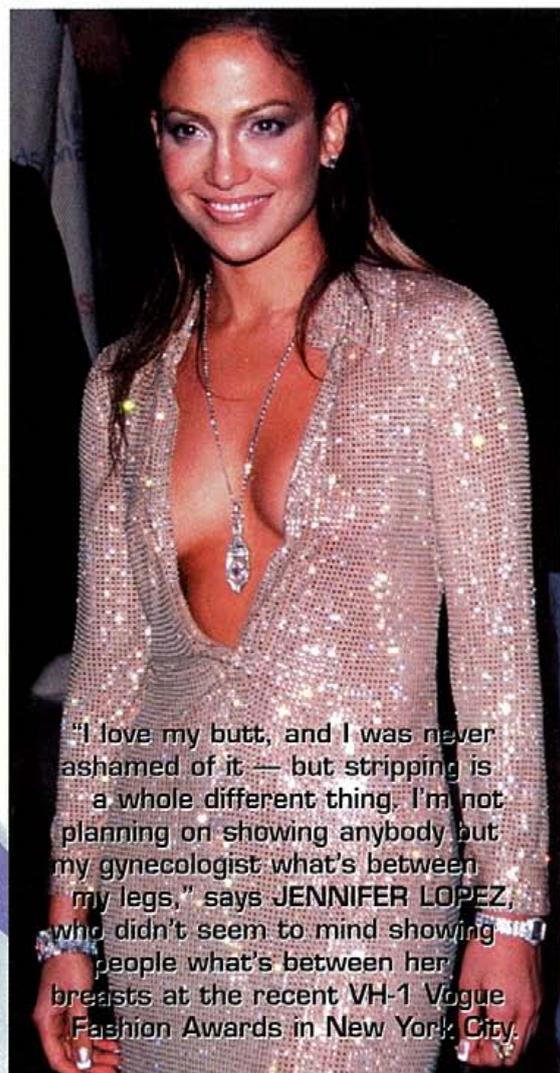
Sharon Stone: "Sometimes nudity is integral to the character. For her, it may be a power thing — which makes a nude scene more of a power situation than a sexual situation."

Anette Bening: "For me, it all comes down to this: Am I interested in playing the role? In *The Grifters* [1990], it never occurred to me that I would do the part but not the nudity. It was part of the wildness of the story — the outrageousness that I thought truthful — so I decided to do it."

Heather Locklear: "It's not for me. I'm far too modest, and would be very uncomfortable. Frankly, I don't see how it could be so important to a film. One time, I almost accepted a part with nudity, and it made me a wreck. My parents wouldn't like it."

Jessica Lange: "When I have appeared nude on the screen, it has been extremely difficult. I have agreed because it seemed to be important, even integral to the part. If you're going to shy away from the essence of the character, you might as well not play the part."

Tracey Ullman: "The only time I was asked was by [director] Robert Altman for *Ready to Wear* [1994], and at that point there was no turning back — no body-double. I mean, with that big cellulite ass rolling across the screen, it had to be me. I don't know where you'd find buttocks like mine — and someone as willing to show them."



"I love my butt, and I was never ashamed of it — but stripping is a whole different thing. I'm not planning on showing anybody but my gynecologist what's between my legs," says JENNIFER LOPEZ, who didn't seem to mind showing people what's between her breasts at the recent VH-1 Vogue Fashion Awards in New York City.

Julianne Moore: "What's the big deal? When Robert Altman called me to do *Short Cuts* [1993], he said, 'I have a part for you in my film. But before we go on, I have to tell you that, in the movie, you have to be naked from the waist down for about five minutes.' I paused — maybe eight seconds — and said, 'I can do it.' Then I added, 'Bob, by the way, I've got a bonus for you. I'm a real redhead.'"

Madonna: "Obviously I have no problem with it. But the criticism of my *Sex* book [1992] was a very hurtful experience. If you read the text, it was completely tongue-in-cheek. Unfortunately, my sense of humour about sex, about stripping, is not something that a mainstream audience picks up."

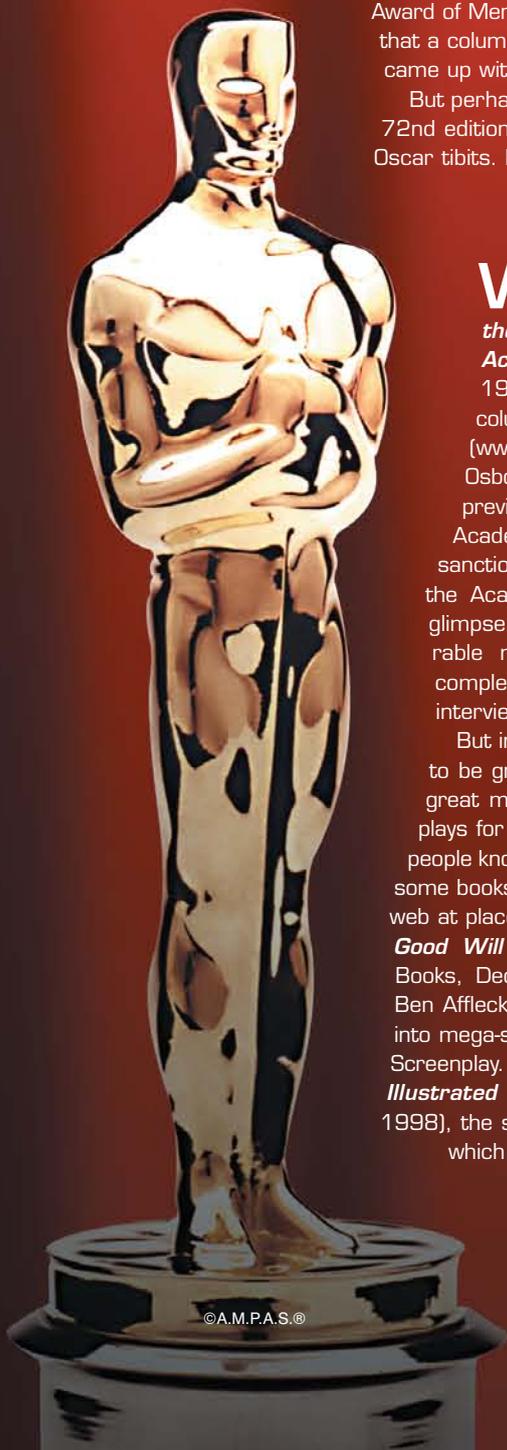
WHO THE HECK IS OSCAR, ANYWAY?

By Neil Morton

It's Oscar time — time for people to roll up their sleeves, pull out their hair and chew on their nails as they ponder which picks will win them the office pool. But Best This, Best That aside, have you ever wondered where the nickname "Oscars" came from? Why not just plain old "Academy Awards"? The Golden Globes aren't called the "Normans". Well, the origin is, in fact, unknown, although we do know the word began to be widely-used in the late thirties.

One theory for its origin goes like this: An Academy librarian walks into the office on her first day on the job, sees a statuette on a desk, and goes, "Gee, that looks like my Uncle Oscar." So all the staff begin referring to it as "Oscar" and then word got out. Another more plausible theory is this: Columnist Sidney Skolsky is on deadline and has grown weary of typing in "the Academy Award of Merit" (there was no "copy" and "paste" in those days), so he comes up with a synonym, "Oscar". And it's true that a column of his written in 1934 appears to contain the earliest reference to "Oscar." Others, still, say Bette Davis came up with the nickname because the statuette reminded her of someone she knew named Oscar.

But perhaps it's best left as an X-file anyway. Not knowing only adds to the mystique of the Academy Awards, whose 72nd edition will be held March 26. Herein, we give you an Oscar-tinged Pulp and Paper, as well as 46 noteworthy Oscar tibits. Enjoy.



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When it comes to everything Oscars, the definitive book is *70 Years of the Oscar: The Official History of the Academy Awards* (Abbeville Press, January 1999), by Robert Osborne — long-time columnist/critic for *The Hollywood Reporter* (www.hollywoodreporter.com). The latest in Osborne's ongoing series on the Oscars (the previous was *65 Years of the Oscar*), this Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences sanctioned book takes you through the history of the Academy's creation, provides a year-by-year glimpse of the award festivities (including memorable moments from the ceremonies and a complete list of the nominees and winners) and interviews with more than 100 Oscar recipients.

But in order for the Oscars to exist, there have to be great movies, and in order for there to be great movies, there have to be amazing screenplays for actors and directors to bring to life. Few people know that original screenplays are available in some bookstores or that you can buy them all on the web at places like Amazon.com. For starters, there's *Good Will Hunting: A Screenplay* (Talk Miramax Books, December 1997), which Matt Damon and Ben Affleck wrote and then starred in, turning them into mega-stars and winning them an Oscar for Best Screenplay. There is *Titanic: James Cameron's Illustrated Screenplay* (Harpercollins, December 1998), the script for the top grossing film of all time, which won Best Picture at the 1997 Oscars, and also gave Cameron his first Best Director award. Then there's *Shakespeare in Love: A Screenplay*

(Talk Miramax Books, March 1999), by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard. The movie won a whopping seven Oscars last year, including Best Picture. Other screenplays that led to Oscar wins include *The English Patient: A Screenplay* (Talk Miramax Books, November 1996), in which Anthony Minghella did a masterful job of turning a multi-layered book into a terrific script, bringing out an amazing love story in the process; and *The Truman Show: The Shooting Script* (Newmarket Press, June 1998), by Andrew Niccol and Peter Weir. *The Shawshank Redemption: The Shooting Script* (Newmarket Press, March 1996) is also well worth the read. The script was written by director Frank Darabont and based on a Stephen King story — the same combination behind this year's *The Green Mile*. *Shawshank Redemption* was nominated for seven Oscars in 1995.

As for this year's Oscars, look for *Eyes Wide Shut* and *American Beauty* to do some damage. *Eyes Wide Shut: A Screenplay* (Warner Books, August 9, 1999), gives us a sneak peek inside director Stanley Kubrick's brilliant mind, while *American Beauty: The Shooting Script* (Newmarket Press, October, 1999), by Alan Ball with an introduction by director Sam Mendes, shows what a gem of a script TV comedy writer Ball delivered to first-time feature film director Mendes. It's no wonder Kevin Spacey and Annette Bening turned in such amazing performances.



FAMOUS FACTS: THE OSCARS

Number of people at the first Academy Awards, held May 16, 1929, at a private banquet in the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel: **250**

Number of seats at the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium, host of Oscars 2000: **6,000**

Cost of a ticket to the first awards show in 1929: **\$10**

Number of tickets available for sale to the public for this year's show: **0**

Most popular night for Oscars to be held: **Monday**

Number of Saturday nights on which it's been held: **1**

Year of the longest awards show — running four hours, two minutes: **1999**

Last time the awards show met the scheduled three-hour running time: **1968**

Only year the Oscar ceremony wasn't held: **1933**

Number of times Frank Capra won for Best Director in the thirties: **3**

Year the sealed-envelope system was adopted for secrecy so people wouldn't know the results beforehand: **1941**

Year the awards were covered by network radio for the first time and broadcast overseas to American GIs fighting in World War II: **1943**

Material the statuettes were made of in World War II years: **plaster**

LAST YEAR'S BIG WINNERS from left: Gwyneth Paltrow, Judi Dench, James Coburn and Roberto Benigni



Jim Flynn, UPI

Materials the statuettes have been made of since then: **britannium dipped in gold**

Year the Oscars were first televised: **1953**

Host that year: **Bob Hope**

Year they were first broadcast in color: **1966**

Year they were first telecast throughout the world: **1969**

Number of consecutive years ABC has been televising the show, including this year: **24**

Year ABC's contract expires: **2008**

Year silent-film star Charlie Chaplin received a special award for producing, directing, writing and starring in *The Circus*: **1927/28**

Year Warner Bros. received a special award for producing *The Jazz Singer*, the first talking picture: **1927/28**

Year the Academy officially began using the "Oscar" nickname: **1939**

Year Special Effects award was added: **1939**

Year Special Effects award was split into Sound Effects and Visual Effects, in recognition that best sound and visual effects don't have to come from one film: **1963**

Year that several Oscars were badly damaged in a Los Angeles earthquake: **1991**

Year the awards were postponed for 24 hours due to an assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan by John Hinckley, Jr., who was trying to impress Jodie Foster: **1981**

Number of times Jodie Foster has won for Best Actress: **2**

Year Katharine Hepburn won her most recent Best Actress award (for *On Golden Pond*): **1981**

Year she won her first Best Actress award (for *Morning Glory*): **1932/33**

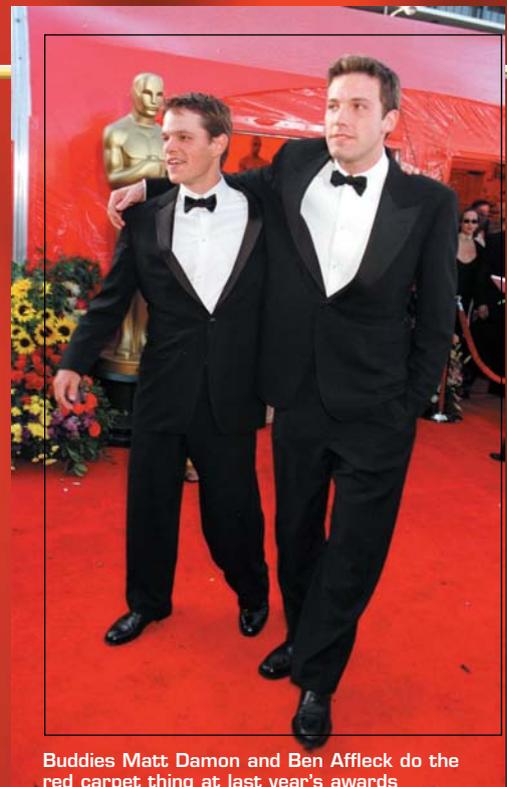
Number of career nominations for Hepburn, the most of any actress: **12**

Number of Oscars handed out since 1929: **about 2,300**

Height and weight of each Oscar statuette: **13.5 inches, 8.5 pounds**

Height and weight of solid bronze Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award: **9 inches, 10.75 pounds**

Year Canadian director Norman Jewison won that award: **1999**



Jim Flynn, UPI

Buddies Matt Damon and Ben Affleck do the red carpet thing at last year's awards

Number of times Michael Douglas has won Best Actor: **1**

Number of times his father, Kirk, has won: **0**

Year that Roberto Benigni became the first actor in a foreign language film to win Best Actor: **1999**

Year Jack Nicholson, then 37, won his first Best Actor award for *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*: **1975**

Age of actress Lara Flynn Boyle, Nicholson's current girlfriend, in 1975: **5**

Number of career nominations for Nicholson, the most of any actor: **11**

Number of combined Best Director awards for Robert Altman, Stanley Kubrick, Orson Welles and Martin Scorsese: **0**

Number of combined Best Director awards for Mel Gibson and Kevin Costner: **2**

Number of years since Woody Allen last won for Best Director (*Annie Hall*): **22**

Number of combined Best Actor awards for John Travolta, Warren Beatty, Kevin Spacey, John Malkovich, Sean Connery, Tom Cruise and Robin Williams: **0**

Year Maggie Smith won an Oscar for her portrayal of an Oscar loser in *California Suite*: **1978**

Bruce Willis

Matthew Perry

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In his 83 years on this planet, Kirk Douglas has made a whopping 82 films, the latest being *Diamonds*, a mystery about a former boxer in search of “magic” gems. But the real magic is that Douglas made this movie at all.

In 1991 he survived a helicopter crash that killed two of his fellow passengers, and in 1996 he suffered a life-threatening stroke. His doctors and family thought he would never speak again, let alone act. But like his character in *Diamonds*, Douglas is a fighter. With hard work, determination and the support of family and friends, he not only regained his speech but can now walk without assistance.

In *Diamonds*, Douglas plays Harry Agensky, a feisty ex-boxer who has suddenly been left defenseless by the death of his wife and the after-effects of a stroke. Despite these hardships, Harry has only one thing on his mind — to find 13 diamonds a Reno mobster once promised him for throwing a fight.

“The main reason I took the role in *Diamonds* was that the character was me, and how often does an actor get to play himself in a movie?” Douglas asks, sitting in a posh Beverly Hills hotel. His speech is still slightly slurred from the stroke, but he seems fit and happy.

In the film, Harry convinces his estranged son Lance (played by Dan Aykroyd) and teenage grandson (played by Corbin Allred) to take him to Reno — and together the dysfunctional trio embark on a journey that will change their lives.

“You know, when I had the stroke my first thought was, ‘What is an actor without his speech?’” Douglas says. “I was really scared until I started to make the movie and



left to right: Allred, Aykroyd and Douglas bond in *Diamonds*

then I saw that I could really do it. It gave me my confidence back and encouraged me to do other projects.”

He was also able to provide personal insight into the development of his character. “I was the only one who’d had a stroke, so many of the things that I say in the movie are what I actually felt and went through.”

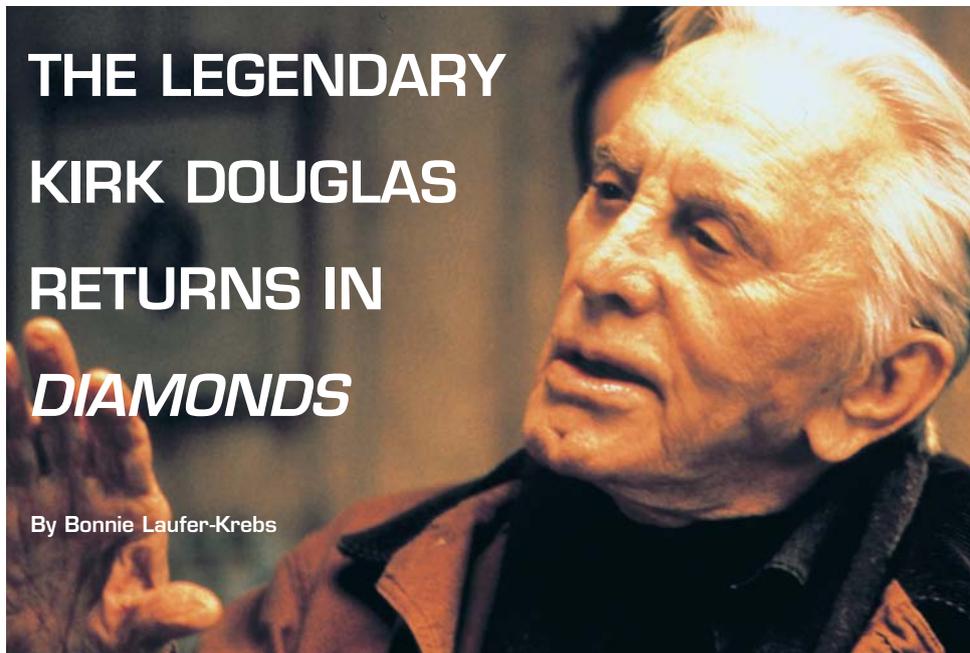
Director John Mallory Asher decided to use old footage from another Kirk Douglas fight film, 1949’s *Champion*, for flashbacks of Harry’s boxing days. “That

was a real thrill. It brought back some great memories,” Douglas says.

No one will be surprised if Douglas garners a Best Actor nomination for this latest role. (The film was given a very limited release in the U.S. last December, so that it would be eligible for this year’s Oscars.) The Academy is known for recognizing the industry’s legends with Oscars, and Douglas is due: He’s had three nominations for the Best Actor prize, but has never won. Academy members also like to reward those who have overcome adversity and Douglas has certainly had his share.

He maintains he has persevered through it all simply by having a sense of humour about life. “Without it, you might as well not exist. Take it from me, the deeper the tragedy, the more humour you need.”

Bonnie Laufer-Krebs is a Toronto-based freelance writer and producer who has spent the past 13 years interviewing celebrities.



THE LEGENDARY KIRK DOUGLAS RETURNS IN *DIAMONDS*

By Bonnie Laufer-Krebs

FAMOUS FACTS: KIRK DOUGLAS

- ◆ Born Issur Danielovitch in Amsterdam, New York on Dec. 9, 1916
- ◆ Also went by the name Isidore Demsky
- ◆ First wife: Diana Dill (1943 to 1951)
- ◆ Second wife: Anne Buydens (1954 to present)
- ◆ Actor Michael Douglas is one of four sons; others are Joel, Peter and Eric
- ◆ Joined U.S. Navy in 1942 and served as communications officer
- ◆ First film role was as Walter O’Neil in *The Strange Love of Martha Ivers* (1946)
- ◆ Has been nominated three times for Best Actor at the Oscars: *Champion* (1949), *The Bad and the Beautiful* (1952), *Lust for Life* (1956)
- ◆ Was given an honorary Academy Award in 1995
- ◆ In 1963 bought the rights to Ken Kesey book *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, and starred in the theatrical adaptation on Broadway
- ◆ In 1975, son Michael produced the cinematic version of *Cuckoo’s Nest*, which starred Jack Nicholson
- ◆ Provided voice for Chester J. Lampwick on episode of *The Simpsons* titled “The Day the Violence Died”
- ◆ Next film is called *A Song for David*, and will co-star son Michael

famous roles

Claire Danes



1.

Nick Nolte



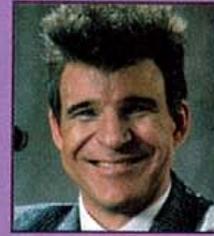
2.

Robert De Niro



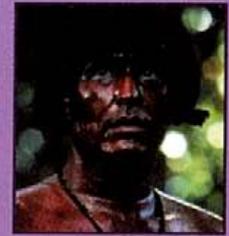
3.

Steve Martin



4.

Tom Berenger



5.

Demi Moore



6.

Dennis Quaid



7.

Kevin Spacey



8.

Natalie Portman



9.

Winona Ryder



10.

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winner of our last contest: "I Spy Those Famous Eyes"
For all of you who asked for the answers to that contest, here they are:**

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4. Anthony Hopkins
7. Kate Winslet
10. Christian Slater
13. Tommy Lee Jones
16. Bette Midler
19. George Clooney
22. Richard Harris

2. Tom Hanks
5. Tom Cruise
8. Tom Selleck/Val Kilmer
11. Jean-Claude Van Damme
14. Melanie Griffith
17. Halle Berry
20. Barbra Streisand
23. Catherine Deneuve

3. Kevin Spacey
6. Brad Pitt
9. Whoopi Goldberg
12. Billy Crystal
15. Alec Baldwin
18. Loni Anderson
21. Gene Hackman
24. Cher

EMILY WATSON

The acclaimed actress talks about another rich role — the matriarch in *Angela's Ashes*

Born in London, and trained by the Royal Shakespeare Company, Emily Watson earned an Oscar nomination for her very first major movie role — a tormented Scottish wife in 1997's *Breaking The Waves*. Last year, she picked up her second Academy Award nod for playing a terminally ill cellist in *Hilary and Jackie*.

The quick-witted 33-year-old will likely be celebrated again for her depiction of Angela in director Alan Parker's *Angela's Ashes*, based on author Frank McCourt's Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir. The movie deals with the impoverished 1930s Irish existence of McCourt's family during his formative years,



A moment of tranquility in *Angela's Ashes*

and was filmed mostly in Dublin and McCourt's hometown of Limerick. It co-stars Robert Carlyle as Angela's husband.

Movie writer **Bob Thompson** recently sat down with Watson in New York to ask her about this difficult role.

Was it tough to play the author's mother?

Well, I met Frank McCourt on the set the first day — we went to the park — and I said, "Dear man, is there anything you want to say?" He just said, "You're much better looking than my mother." He's a real charming man, and very warm. Obviously his relationship with his mother was very complicated. But I'd read the book, and that was his way of pouring his heart out and laying it on the table.

Did you feel odd playing a definitive Irish matriarch, considering you're English?

Not really, no. I've played more non-English people than I've played English, and I'd done an Irish film already — *The Boxer*. I suppose, in a way, it's odd. But that's a whole casting thing, isn't it?

You grew up middle class. How did you relate to this story of poverty?

The way into the role for me was just being faced with a room full of seven children every day. It was very straightforward.

So no method acting?

No need. We'd get there in the morning, arriving feeling fairly healthy, and then go into makeup where they'd slap on the white pasty stuff. And then some days I'd have veins and aging, and gray in my hair. Then I'd put on a wardrobe full of holes. I'd get this kind of sinking feeling, "Oh, I think I'm burying a child today."

Was it ever too depressing?

It was never really bleak on the set because we were with the kids, and they would have such a good time. A lot of them had never acted before, and they were just in seventh heaven.

Were you haunted by the role afterward?

No, I think I'm good at leaving it all behind at the end of a day. But other people tell me that I'm not. On this film it was quite easy to sort of let it go at the end of the day because it was exhausting. But I did find myself just getting a bit low.

Why do you think the book was so popular?

It is the ultimate American kind of dream, a fantasy rescue, isn't it? People growing up in terrible, depressing poverty in a very undeveloped part of the world pray to the Statue of Liberty. It's also a story of incredible triumph. You want to punch your hand through your



Emily Watson as Angela in *Angela's Ashes*

hat when the son eventually gets away. And this is actually somebody's true story — it has great authority because of that.

So are you the poster girl for deep, dark and depressing?

They don't always choose me for depressing stories. [She chuckles.] I think it's just because I'm such a cheerful, sensible girl — they know I can take it. Once you've done it, they think, "Well, who can do this? Oh yeah, Emily Watson, she can do this." And also, they are generally fantastic stories. As an actor, you're a storyteller, and you get drawn to the really strong roles. But this was a very different role for me. It wasn't fireworks and flashing around. It was different for me, because it was a real slow burn.

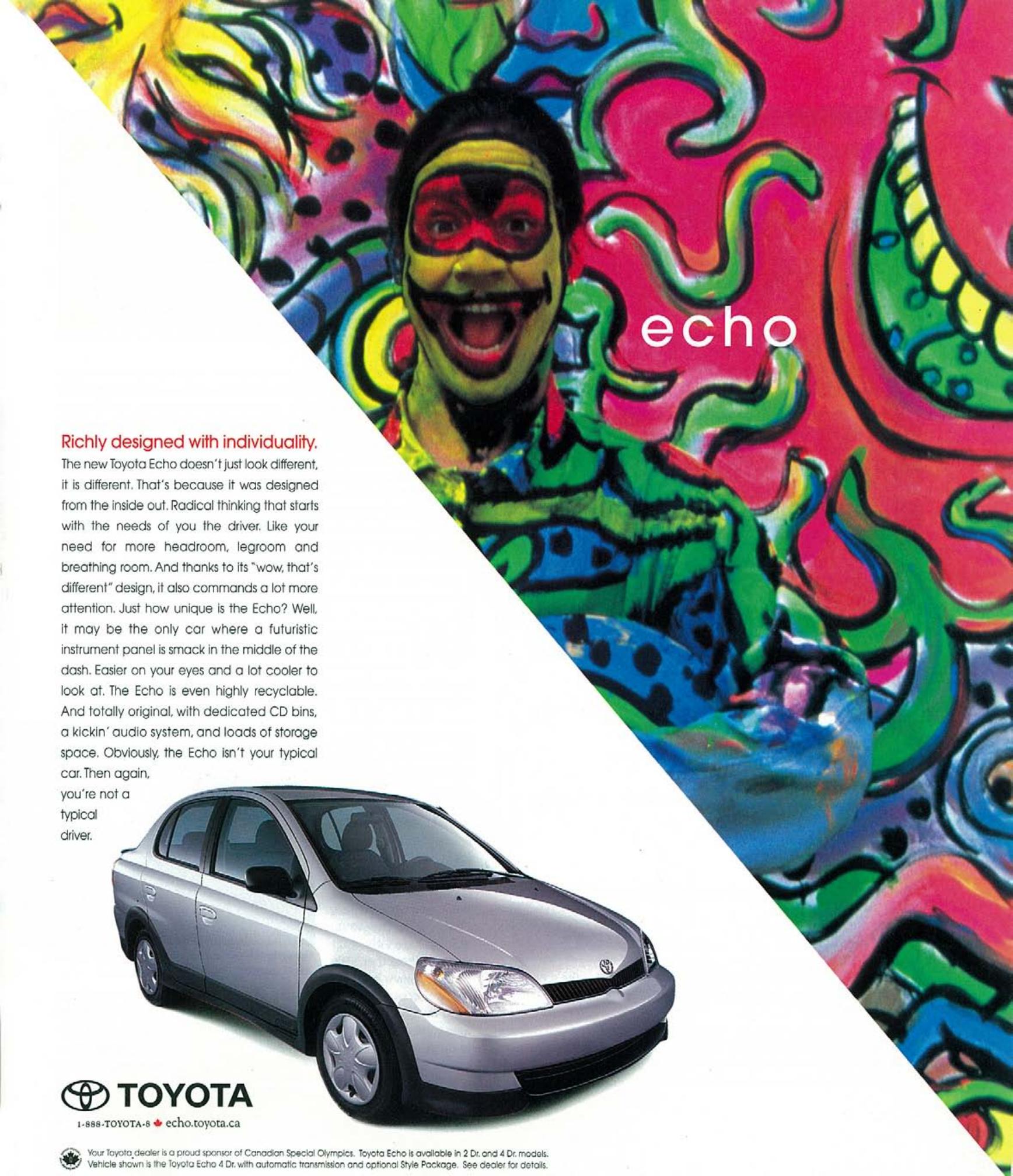
Would you consider doing an *Armageddon* type of picture?

Occasionally I get sniffs for other things. Yeah, people are interested in me for those big expensive movies. Somehow it's never worked out.

You could be the next "Bond Girl".

I don't think so. [She laughs.] But if something was really fantastic, and I thought, "Hell, I need to build an extension to my house," I just might give it a try.

Bob Thompson writes about movies for The Toronto Sun.



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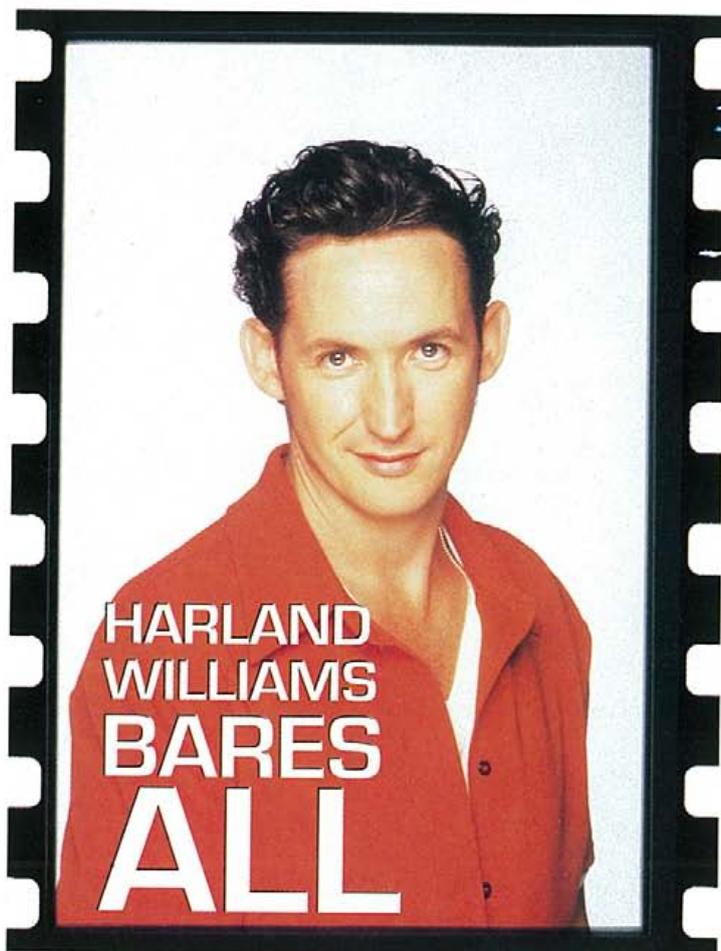


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The Toronto native talks about getting naked and serious for the new Bruce Willis film, *The Whole Nine Yards*

By Marni Weisz

Harland Williams always thought of Niagara Falls as a fun place to go for a day-trip, a strange but wonderful tourist trap that was only a two-hour drive from his Toronto home. There was no way he could know that one day he'd be in a Niagara Falls hotel room making love to Rosanna Arquette, star of *Desperately Seeking Susan*, *New York Stories* and *Crash*.

But, of course, this is the Niagara Falls of "Movieland" — the scene was actually filmed on the Montreal set where Williams' latest film, *The Whole Nine Yards*, was shot last spring.

"They green-screened the window and in the background you can see The Falls going over. It's kinda corny," the 37-year-old actor/comedian says over the phone from a real hotel room — this one in San Francisco where he's headlining a comedy club called Punchlines.

Audiences might not be paying much attention to the window anyway, what with Harland and Rosanna tussling around on the bed in various states of undress. "In the script we were both naked, but she didn't want to do nudity," Williams says. "She opted for the lingerie, but I was like, 'Hey, what the hell?' It was okay because the scene has her on top of me so you can see my chest and my legs but you can't see the groceries."

The Whole Nine Yards stars Bruce Willis as a retired hitman named Jimmy the Tulip. "The movie is basically about a group of hitmen that are chasing each other around, and there's kind of a love triangle involving these hit men and a girl (Arquette) who gets her husband to hire a guy to kill Willis — I'm the guy she hires," Williams explains. "Basically you don't know who's coming after who and who's going to get who."

Of his own part, he says: "It's a supporting role, but it's going to be a memorable one. There's some neat stuff that happens that I don't want to give away."

Williams, who moved to Los Angeles six years ago, has had larger roles — in 1997 he starred in *Rocket Man*, about a geeky spacecraft designer who travels to Mars — and some minor roles in some major movies. You may remember him as the State Trooper who stops Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels in *Dumb and Dumber* (1994), or the homicidal hitchhiker in *Something About Mary* (1998). Most recently, he played Mary Katherine Gallagher's love interest in the *SNL* spin-off, *Superstar* (1999). He has also appeared in *Down Periscope* (1996), *Wag the Dog* (1997), *Half Baked* (1998) and *Dog Park* (1998).

But *The Whole Nine Yards* marks a bit of a turning point. "I'm not playing the wacky, crazy comedy guy," he says. "There's some subtle comedy in what I have to do, but it's really more of a dramatic role."

Like fellow Canucks Jim Carrey, Dan Aykroyd and Mike Myers, Williams has come a long way since his days playing the comedy circuit in Canada.

Williams grew up in a middle-class area of North York, a suburb of Toronto. After high school he enrolled in the renowned animation program at nearby Sheridan College because he liked the idea of earning a diploma by drawing cartoons. This was the early eighties, however, a few years before *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* (1988) launched the age of the animated feature, and jobs were scarce. Williams says he couldn't see himself going that route anyway. "I love to draw but animation was such a long, tedious process, and you're always doing someone else's material and someone else's characters," he says. Still, he hasn't given up on art altogether: His website (www.harland-williams.com) includes several canvases full of odd images that are at once inviting and a bit frightening, plus he has illustrated and written four children's books. But drawing and painting just didn't give him the immediate response he got from stand-up. "I do a joke, I hear a reaction. I make a face, I see a reaction."

Williams' first public performance took place at a Yuk Yuk's in



Rosanna Arquette and Harland Williams share a tense moment in *The Whole Nine Yards*

Famous tidbit

Talk about clout. While shooting *The Whole Nine Yards* in Montreal last Spring, actor Matthew Perry arranged a private pool party for some chums from his hometown of Ottawa. Perry got the owners of a waterpark just outside of Montreal to shut down for a day so that he and his friends could play around in peace. Harland Williams and his wife were invited to tag along. "And there was the eight of us just splashing around all over this waterpark by ourselves. It was just a riot," Williams recalls.

Toronto's Yorkville neighbourhood in the early 1980s. "At the time it was the only club in Canada, and then about seven months later the comedy boom of the eighties hit and they were everywhere," he recalls.

Williams rode that wave all the way to L.A., where he still performs stand-up, makes regular appearances on *Letterman* and *Leno* and gets to act in films alongside some of Hollywood's biggest names.

Speaking of big stars, while Williams starred opposite Michael Duncan (*The Green Mile*) and Ottawa-bred Matthew Perry (*Friends*) in *The Whole Nine Yards*, it was Bruce Willis who really left him star-struck. "I didn't even think he would know who I was, but the first day, in the makeup trailer, he came running up to me with his shirt off and bare feet and said, 'Hey Harland, how ya doin' man?' And I was like, Oh my God, he knows my name... and he's shirtless."

Then there was the time that Willis rented out a Montreal bar and invited everyone out for drinks. "And here I am having beer with Bruce Willis. It blows my mind. It's just so weird. You kinda don't get over it when you meet these people that you grew up with on the movie screen."

Williams' next role is one that will, in a way, take him full-circle back to his days at Sheridan. The former cartoonist will become a cartoon

character himself when he provides the voice of Todd on NBC's new prime-time animated series, *Sammy*, which also features the voices of David Spade, Janeane Garofalo, Andy Dick and Bob Odenkirk. "I'm the big dopey brother. I'm almost like the Homer Simpson character — the big dufus," he says.

Yet another experience Harland Williams can add to his résumé.

But what if he could only do one thing? What if he had to choose between being an actor, a comedian, a writer or an artist?

"I can't do one thing, man, I'd probably implode. I'd probably rather end everything than just do one thing. I'd just vanish cause I couldn't sit and look out a window either. I've been doing many things for such a long time and I love that. That's what makes me tick." **F**



Matthew Perry, Bruce Willis and Amanda Peet in *The Whole Nine Yards*

famous trivia

1

Madonna undoubtedly made a pretty penny for playing Abbie in the new movie, *The Next Best Thing*. But in 1985, she was paid a measly \$100 for her first role. What was the movie?

2

On which soap opera did Meg Ryan, star of the new movie *Hanging Up*, play "Betsy" from 1982 to 1984?

3

On which soap opera did Brad Pitt appear as Chris in 1987?

4

Giovanni Ribisi stars as Seth Davis, a college dropout who finds success at a small brokerage firm in the new film, *Boiler Room*. On which TV show does he play the recurring character, Frank, Jr.?

5

Which actor did Danny DeVito, star of *Drowning Mona*, room with when he was starting out in the biz?

6

Matthew Perry, one of the stars of *The Whole Nine Yards*, used to be a ranked junior athlete. What was the sport?

7

Gary Sinise plays an astronaut yet again in the new movie, *Mission to Mars*. In what movie did he play real-life astronaut Ken Mattingly?

8

Which sibling of Joaquin Phoenix and the late River Phoenix stars in *O*, a modernized version of Shakespeare's *Othello*?

9

Which star of the new comedy, *Snow Day*, was born Cornelius Crane Chase?

1] A Certain Sacrifice 2] As the World Turns 3] Another World 4] Friends 5] Michael Douglas 6] Tennis 7] Apollo 13 8] Rain Phoenix 9] Chevy Chase

NOT A POLITICAL FILM?

On a gloriously sunny day in New York, Tim Robbins is stuck inside a hotel suite with a magnificent view of Central Park. But if the lanky, six-foot-six star of *Bull Durham* (1988) and *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994) is itching to get out it doesn't show as he strides over to shake my hand.

After a brief exchange about hockey (he plays often), we sit down to talk about *Cradle Will Rock*, a sprawling cavalcade of a film written and directed by the 41-year-old Robbins, whose previous double-duty efforts include *Bob Roberts* (1992) and *Dead Man Walking* (1995). The latter earned him an Oscar nomination for Best Director, and his common-law wife, Susan Sarandon, the Oscar for Best Actress.

Sarandon, 53, also has a role in *Cradle Will Rock* and has joined Robbins in New York to promote the film. This time, she adopted an Italian accent to play the alluring fascist propagandist Margherita Sarfatti, one of several characters based on real people.

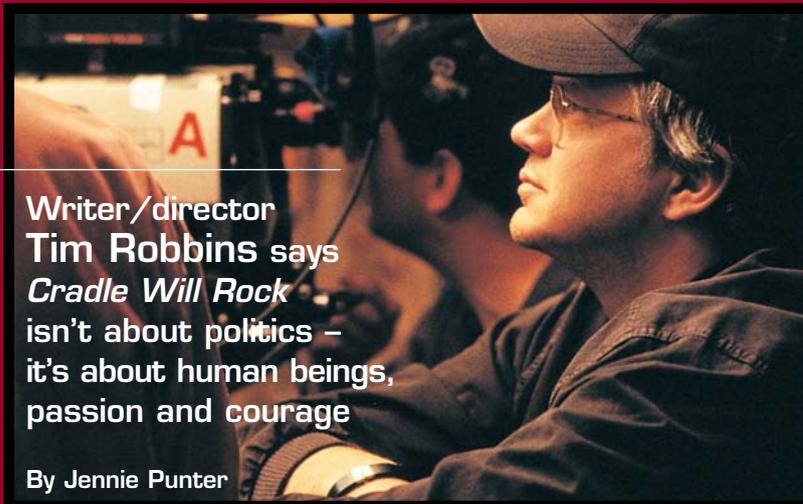
A Thirties-style screwball comedy (but in rich, dazzling colour) and stage musical rolled into one, *Cradle Will Rock* is set in Depression-era New York and weaves together several storylines to explore the clash between art and politics.

But Robbins is swift to disagree when I call his latest work a political film. "*Bob Roberts* was about politics," he says. "This is about human beings and passion and courage — all the words you don't mention in the same sentence with politics."

The film's main plot builds toward what was indeed a courageous moment in American theatre — a defiant performance of *The Cradle Will Rock*, a musical with socialist themes written by Marc Blitzstein (played by Hank Azaria). When government authorities padlocked the theatre's doors on opening night — June 16, 1937 — the company members marched through the streets to a new venue with audience in tow. There, the actors risked losing their union cards by performing the musical for the cheering crowd.

Robbins began working on the project six years ago. "In essence, with that performance I found the end of the film," he says. "So I started researching the period, working backward to find other historical stories and create fictional ones that would run parallel."

Cradle Will Rock also takes the viewer through the creative, often chaotic, process of mounting a theatrical production. Written by Blitzstein in a white heat of inspiration, the musical was accepted by the



Writer/director
Tim Robbins says
Cradle Will Rock
isn't about politics —
it's about human beings,
passion and courage

By Jennie Punter

Federal Theatre Project and handed over to producer John Houseman (Cary Elwes) and a bombastic 22-year-old director named Orson Welles (Angus MacFadyen), before a congressional committee shut it down.

In the course of his research, Robbins tracked down several people who were at the musical's infamous opening night — including the assistant stage manager. "He said it was completely insane that day, and he always resented Welles and Houseman for taking credit for what happened," Robbins says, getting fired up. "The female lead, Olive Stanton [played by Emily Watson], my God, she was so courageous. She could have lost everything."

Another courageous female character is Hallie Flanagan (Cherry Jones), the feisty head of the FTP who goes to Washington to defend the project against charges of staging plays with "un-American" themes. The role was originally offered to Sarandon, but she turned it down. "Everyone would expect me to play someone like that but I wanted to try something different and anyway, nobody could have done that role better than Cherry," says the luminous Sarandon, who doesn't wear a trace of makeup. "Margherita was a complex woman, a challenging role for me."

Although *Cradle Will Rock* bustles with famous characters from the thirties, Robbins did not want to cast lookalikes — "because then you have *Legends In Concert*" — or give audiences a what-happened-to-whom roll-credit at the end: "I mean, what do you say about Orson Welles? Do you say he went on to produce the quintessential movie of the 20th century or that he became the pitchman for Gallo wine or both? If people are curious, let them find out."

Jennie Punter is a freelance writer and film critic in Toronto.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Vanessa Redgrave | Cary Elwes, Hank Azaria and Angus Macfadyen | Philip Baker Hall, Susan Sarandon and John Cusack | Macfadyen and Elwes



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CENTRE: Horror master Wes Craven; CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: Courtney Cox in *Scream*; Omar Epps and Jada Pinkett in *Scream 2*; Drew Barrymore in *Scream*; David Arquette in *Scream*; Cox with new hubby Arquette in *Scream 3*; and Sarah Michelle Gellar in *Scream 2*

Wes Craven talks about the *Scream* franchise, the appeal of horror movies and how he has young stars — including been able to attract so many of Hollywood's Canadian Neve Campbell

By Christopher Heard

What audacity. Before the first *Scream* movie had even come out, director Wes Craven and screenwriter Kevin Williamson went to the people at Miramax and told them about their plans for a trilogy. Williamson's original 1995 *Scream* screenplay even came with two five-page treatments tacked on to the end, one for *Scream 2*, the other for *Scream 3*. The big-wigs snickered at their ambitious proposal.

But Craven knew he had something special when he read Williamson's screenplay. "Most of the scripts I get are junk, but Kevin's stayed with me because it was filled with a cynicism and an irony that I had not read in a while," says the 60-year-old, who has been making horror films for three decades. "The story and the characters had a level of sophistication that was compelling to me." The reactions of *Scream*'s test-audiences made the Miramax execs realize Craven and Williamson were on to something.

Now that he has made a *Scream*, a *Scream 2*, and a *Scream 3* — with Neve Campbell back as Sidney Prescott, David Arquette as the lovable deputy Dwight "Dewey" Riley, and Courtney Cox (now married to Arquette) as the bitchy reporter Gale Weathers — Craven can look back fondly on those early days of convincing.

The *Scream* franchise has done quite nicely: *Scream* (1996) and *Scream 2* (1997) both raked in more than \$100 million at the box office, and there's no reason to believe *Scream 3* won't follow suit (Miramax's \$40 million marketing budget for *Scream 3* is more than the film cost to make). The series has also revitalized the staid horror genre (1997's *I Know What You Did Last Summer* and 1998's *The Faculty* being just two horror flicks that followed close on *Scream*'s heels) and brought us some of Tinseltown's hottest young actors thanks to Craven's shrewd casting (remember his *Nightmare on Elm Street* from 1984, which starred a young Johnny Depp). We've seen Skeet Ulrich, Rose McGowan and Drew "Do you like s-c-a-r-y movies?" Barrymore in the first; Sarah Michelle Gellar, Jada Pinkett, Rebecca Gayheart, Portia DeRossi and Jerry

O'Connell in the second; and now Emily Mortimer, John Prith, Scott Foley, Matt Keeslar and Parker Posey in the third — to go along with returnees Campbell (*Scream* officially launched her movie career), Liev "Cotton Weary" Schreiber and Mr. and Mrs. Arquette.

Once upon a time, such big-name actors would have laughed off such projects. "When I was making *Nightmare*, agents and managers weren't interested in having their actors appear in low budget horror movies because there was a stigma attached to them," says Craven, whose first horror film was the dirt-cheap cult-hit *Last House on the Left* (1972). "With *Scream*, all that changed. It is now cool to be in them, and with Miramax backing the films, the actors know that appearing in *Scream 3* might get them noticed when Miramax makes a *Shakespeare in Love*."

The plot of *Scream 3* is, once again, tongue-in-cheek. College-grad Sidney Prescott heads to L.A. in search of work as an actress and gets tangled up in the production of a cheesy horror flick called *Stab 3: The Return to Woodsboro*. Soon enough, the cast are being killed off one-by-one, and Gale and Dewey are brought in from Woodsboro to help Sidney and the LAPD figure out who the killer is this time.

As for more specific details, all Craven will say is that *Scream 3* has all the elements that made the first two successful, but also some new ingredients that will properly round out the series. "There will be a plot twist or two that no one is going to crack — that I promise."

And he's had to work hard to keep that promise. "*Scream 3* was a tough shoot for reasons other than the normal things that go on during the shooting of a movie," says Craven. "I was trying to keep as tight a lid on this new story as I could, but that was amazingly difficult. The internet has really created a challenge for filmmakers — it is virtually impossible to keep anything quiet for very long. Usually your screenplay is on the internet before you have even finished the final version."

That screenplay would have been a lot different if Canadian Neve Campbell had decided not to return. For a variety of reasons (for one thing, she's always had lingering concerns about being "pigeon-holed"), the actress was reluctant to do another *Scream*, so screenwhiz Williamson had to pen three separate outlines. "There was a version that had Sidney Prescott, a version that didn't have her and a third version that was more about the making of a horror movie," says Craven.

But after script approval (the final script was actually written by Ehren Kruger when William-

NEVE CAMPBELL

Los Angeles, California

Phone number: unlisted

Postal Code: 90210



Goal: to become an amazing actress

Born: October 3, 1973

Place of birth: Guelph, Ontario

Height: 5'5-1/2"

Educated: National Ballet School of Canada (started at age 9; quit at age 14); quit high school at 15 to work in *Phantom of the Opera* (she was the youngest cast member)

AKA: Julia Salinger, Sidney Prescott, Daisy McKenzie

Personal life: Divorced from Jeff Colt, whom she married in 1995 after meeting during her *Phantom* days

Fan sites on web: Too many to mention here

Work Experience:

1994 to present: *Party of Five*

2000: *Scream 3*, *Drowning Mona*

1999: *Three to Tango*, *Move* (producer)

1998: *Wild Things*, *54*, *Hairshirt* (producer)

1997: *Scream 2*

1996: *Scream*, *The Craft*, *The Canterville Ghost* (TV movie)

1992-93: *Catwalk* (TV series)

Strangest role: *Wild Things*, as a drug-addicted ex-convict bisexual psychotic

Work-related Experience: Has appeared on *Letterman*, *Leno*, *Rosie*, *Politically Incorrect*, *SNL*, *Mad TV* and *Kids in the Hall*; first TV work was a commercial for *The Eaton Centre*

Awards: Dubbed "Television's most believable teenager" and one of six reasons to watch TV by *Time* magazine; voted one of *People's* 50 Most Beautiful People

Charity Work: Spokesperson for Tourette Syndrome Association (her half-brother, Damian, has Tourette's); sponsor of her cousin Nicole's hockey team in Ottawa ("Campbell" appears on the backs of their jerseys)

Interests and hobbies: Roller-blading, classical music, dancing, swimming, making jewelry, yoga, meditation

Computer Skills: Uses a laptop on *Party of Five*

Extra tidbits:

- Neve (pronounced "Nev"), comes from mother's maiden name and means snow in many languages
- has a shi-tzu named Buster
- at 17, landed first TV role in *Catwalk* as the sexy Daisy McKenzie
- turned down role in *Armageddon* because of conflict with *Party of Five*
- started dancing at age 6 after her father, Gerry (who teaches drama and media at a Mississauga, Ont. high school), took her to see *The Nutcracker*
- brother Christian is an actor
- a few years ago, stress from overwork caused hair to fall out

References available upon request

son became too busy with other projects), a pow-wow with Craven, a check of the daytimer and, perhaps most importantly, a hefty paycheck, Campbell decided *Scream 3* wasn't such a bad idea.

And Craven (not to mention Miramax) was a happy camper. "I really wanted her for the third *Scream* because she has grown as a person and an actor — and you can see that on her face," he says. "When you look at her in *Scream* and now in *Scream 3*, you are looking at a person who has evolved, just like Sidney Prescott. I think what got Neve back with us was the fact that this *Scream* is a bit more adult. It has the universal horror film themes but there is more intensity and mystery in this one."

But just why do we really need another *Scream*? And why do people go to scary movies in the first place? "Vulnerability is the main thing we all share as humans," says Craven, a long-ago professor of humanities, who holds an MA in philosophy and writing from Johns Hopkins University. "Just look at our bodies — the only thing that keeps all our internal organs and bones and blood in place is about an eighth of an inch of soft skin. When someone comes at you with a knife, it is that physical vulnerability that kicks in and causes that pang of fear.

"And we are all mentally just as vulnerable," he continues. "Who

knows what causes mental illness or mental disorder? Most of the real-life monsters throughout the ages cannot be recognized as such just by looking at them. There is a rich complexity in the human psyche that we cannot begin to fully understand. That can be tapped into in horror films as well."

The problem with horror films is that for every smart one like *Scream*, there are a dozen duds. "These movies are really cheap to make, and they can make enormous profits," says Craven, who

rarely goes to see horror movies, "so they end up attracting a lot of imitators — people who are not interested in horror movies as an expression of our collective fears and vulnerabilities, but simply the loot."

Speaking of loot, Craven firmly dismisses talk of a *Scream 4*. For him, at least, this is it. "I certainly have no interest in doing another. I don't want to corrupt the ideas that are in the *Scream* films by milking the series. I find that very self-limiting." In fact, Craven, who recently directed Miramax's tear-jerker *Music of the Heart* (starring Meryl Streep as a music teacher at an inner city school), isn't even certain he'll continue doing horror films. "I'll help get them made because I think it is still a vital genre [before our conversation began, he was meeting with Dimension Films about executive producing *Dracula 2000*], but the political climate of today makes filmmakers, myself included, inclined toward self-censoring their ideas in case they are too extreme for the radical right wing. When that happens, being a horror filmmaker is no longer fun or interesting."

So, horror fans, enjoy Craven's s-c-a-r-y movies while you can. **F**

Christopher Heard is the host of Reel to Real on Rogers Cable in Ontario. He has written two books, the most recent being Ten Thousand Bullets: The Cinematic Journey of John Woo (Doubleday, 1999).



David Arquette and Neve Campbell fear for their lives — again — in *Scream 3*

Basinger, Crowe, Phoenix and Duchovny tackle new roles

Films that hit the big screen later this Spring

Return to Me

Stars: Minnie Driver, David Duchovny

Director: Bonnie Hunt

Story: In this romantic drama, Duchovny plays a widower whose dead wife donated her organs. He agrees to be interviewed for a story about organ donation and begins to fall for the reporter (Driver). Only later does he discover that she was the recipient of his widow's heart.

Gossip

Stars: James Marsden, Norman Reedus, Joshua Jackson, Kate Hudson

Director: Davis Guggenheim

Story: A group of college students create an unusual class assignment: Plant a rumour and see where it leads. But their rumour — that a male student raped his girlfriend after she passed out — leads to disaster when the confused girlfriend commits suicide.

Bless the Child

Stars: Kim Basinger, Jimmy Smits

Director: Chuck Russell

Story: Basinger plays a psychiatric nurse who doesn't believe in such vague concepts as good and evil. But when her six-year-old niece is kidnapped by Satanists trying to carry out a Biblical prophecy, Basinger realizes that evil does exist. Smits plays a police detective (familiar ground for this former star of *NYPD Blue*) who comes to her rescue. Based on a book by Cathy Cash Spellman.



Russell Crowe battles for survival in *Gladiator*

Gladiator

Stars: Russell Crowe, Joaquin Phoenix, Richard Harris

Director: Ridley Scott

Story: Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius is dead. His son, Commodus (Phoenix), condemns his general, Narcissus Meridas (Crowe), to take part in the gladiator games — but doesn't realize the strength of Meridas' will. Let the games begin.

I Dreamed of Africa

Stars: Kim Basinger, Vincent Perez

Director: Hugh Hudson

Story: Based on the true story of an Italian woman, Kuki Gallman (Basinger), who becomes an environmental activist after emigrating to Africa.

PLAYING THE MOVIE GAME

More and more videogames are hitting the silver screen

By Marc Saltzman

It's certainly not uncommon for popular movies to make their way into the lucrative videogame industry. This past year alone we've seen such cross-platform efforts as Electronic Arts' James Bond thriller *Tomorrow Never Dies*, South Peak's *Wild Wild West: The Steel Assassin*, Berkeley's *Austin Powers Trivia* and Eidos Interactive's *Braveheart*. Even *Blair Witch* is coming soon ... to a PC near you.

What's interesting is that we're now also seeing the reversal of this trend. Videogames are being turned into movies and they're attracting big-name stars to play the lead roles.

What's happening here?

"Gaming has become more of an intricate part of our culture, our society, so some of these properties translate very well into movies," says Ed Roth, vice president of NPD Group, a leading American market research firm. "Just think about how recognizable some of the game characters are, like Lara Croft or *Pokemon's* Pikachu."

But a celebrated game franchise does not always translate into box office sales. In fact, despite a few notable exceptions (namely *Mortal Kombat* and *Pokemon*), there have been more flops than hits, including a messy movie adaptation of *Super Mario Bros.*, starring **Bob Hoskins** and **Dennis Hopper**, and last year's dud, *Wing Commander*, starring **Freddie Prinze, Jr.**

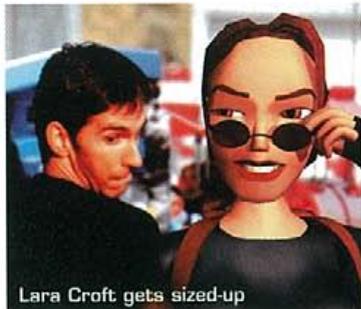
Let's just hope filmmakers take more care in utilizing solid screenplays for the next batch of game-to-movie translations.

Here are a few projects currently underway and under wraps:

◆ **DUKE NUKEM:** Threshold Entertainment, the production company responsible for bringing *Mortal Kombat* from the arcade to the theatres earlier this decade, is working on the official *Duke Nukem* movie for 3D Realms. For the uninitiated, Duke Nukem is an over-the-top one-man army with enough machismo to

fill the SkyDome. Although there have been no casting announcements yet, a handful of suitable candidates have been suggested for the lead role, including **Arnold Schwarzenegger** and **Jean-Claude Van Damme**.

◆ **TOMB RAIDER:** Who will play Lara Croft in the upcoming *Tomb Raider* movie from Paramount Pictures? No one will say, but rumour has it **Demi Moore** is the leading candidate. Regardless, the Hollywood translation of *Tomb Raider* (based on Eidos' cash-cow game series of the same name), will be produced by Lawrence Gordon (*Boogie Nights*, *Predator*). Croft, the game series' sexy heroine and world's first virtual pin-up girl, has already spawned clothing, action figures and a Douglas Coupland book, *Lara's Story: Lara Croft and the Tomb Raider Phenomenon*. The model who poses as Croft for Eidos also appeared on the cover of a *Playboy* issue last summer.



Lara Croft gets sized-up

◆ **FINAL FANTASY:** A computer-animated movie based on *Final Fantasy* is currently in production under the direction of Hironobu Sakaguchi, producer of all eight *Final Fantasy* games, and is scheduled to be released by summer 2001. While details on the story are sketchy, game designers at Squaresoft have said that the voice-over talent for the film should include heavyweights **Alec Baldwin**, **James Woods**, **Donald Sutherland**, **Steve Buscemi** and **Ving Rhames**.

◆ **OTHER MOVIES IN THE WORKS:** Ritual Entertainment's *Sin*, Westwood's *Command & Conquer* series, Interplay's *Redneck Rampage*, id Software's *Quake* and *Doom*, Cyan's *Myst* and Sierra Studios' *Half-Life*.

Marc Saltzman is the author of Game Design: Secrets of the Sages (BradyGAMES: Mac-Millan Publishing).

out this month

Crazy Taxi (Sega Dreamcast)

The console version of this arcade hit allows you to do wild moves in your taxi — scared passengers in tow — as you race around city streets to the beats of bands like Offspring and Bad Religion.

NHL 2K (Sega Dreamcast)

It's as if you're actually at a game — cheering crowds, spraying ice, real NHL teams and arenas (right down to the championship banners) and fireworks. Use the replay function to see your players' physical and emotional reactions after potting a beauty.

TOMBA! 2: The Evil Swine Return (PlayStation)

The pink-haired jungle-boy is back, and this time he's trying to rescue his squeeze, Tabby, from the menacing swine.

Colin McRae Rally (PlayStation)

Endorsed by world-class rally driver Colin "The Flying Scotsman" McRae, this off-road racing game challenges you to power-drive rally cars like the Audi Quattro through ice, mud and other harsh elements.

Road Rash Jailbreak (PlayStation)

This latest installment of the combat motorcycle racing franchise has a soundtrack that includes up-and-coming bands selected from a competition. Try the new be-the-cop mode, where you can feel what it's like to bust a gang member.

2000 Ridge Racer 64 (Nintendo 64)

This version includes all the tracks from *Ridge Racer* and *Ridge Racer Evolution*, as well as spanking new ones. Has superb graphics, right down to the skid marks and smoking tires.

TOM HANKS GETS STRANDED ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER SEEKS REVENGE AND MEL GIBSON MIGHT BE MAD

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HEATHER

Everyone wants a piece of *Austin Powers* babe **Heather Graham**, including the **Farrelly Brothers**, Pete and Bobby (*There's Something About Mary*). They're hoping to sign the *Boogie Nights* girl for the romantic comedy *Say It Isn't So*. Actor/director **Edward Burns** (*Brothers McMullen*, *Saving Private Ryan*) may have an easier time bringing Graham into his next project, a cop film called *On the Job*, which he is currently scripting. After all, Graham is his current squeeze (both, coincidentally, share the same January 29th birthday — how sweet).

AHNULD DOES DAMAGE

Word is that **Arnold Schwarzenegger** is about to sign on to do *Collateral Damage*, about a man who wants revenge against a terrorist who killed his wife and child in a bombing. Shooting is scheduled to start June 1. After that, Ahnuld may head to the set of *True Lies 2* (if it's a go) to reprise his role as agent Harry Tasker (**Jamie Lee Curtis** and **Tom Arnold** would also be on board again); *TL 2* could mark the return of **James Cameron** to the director's chair for the first time since his little ship movie about the Titanic.



Schwarzenegger

MYERS GETS GONGED?



Myers

A movie that gives a faux historical account of *Gong Show* host **Chuck Barris's** life may just have Scarborough, Ontario's **Mike Myers** in the lead role. *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* is based on Barris's strange "autobiographical" book of the same name, where he claims to have been a CIA hitman.

MAD MEL 4?

Mad Max 4, the next in a series about warring gangs in a post-apocalyptic future, is in development and may once again star **Mel Gibson** (who's done all three *MMs*). **George Miller**, who directed the first three, told the BBC that Gibson is keen on doing the role one last time. Miller (*Babe: Pig in the City*) would direct again, and says the script has already been written. Gibson or no Gibson, the movie will probably happen, and will be shot in the Outback. But it won't be out until 2001 or 2002.



Gibson

SEQUEL/PREQUEL WATCH

The *Mummy II* is in development, which makes sense given the surprising success of *Mama I* (to the tune of \$300 million worldwide). A tentative Summer 2001 release date has been set. ♦ *X-Files II* will happen, but not till 2001 or 2002 because **David Duchovny** and **Gillian Anderson** are busy bees. ♦ Surprise, surprise, another *Blair Witch Project* is in the works. Actually, two: A sequel to be released in fall 2000 and a prequel to come out in fall 2001. *BW* took in \$140 million (U.S.) in North America.

HANKS A CASTAWAY

The new drama *Castaway*, directed by **Robert Zemeckis** (*Forrest Gump*, *Contact*), has had an unusual filming schedule. The film is about a shipping inspector (**Tom Hanks**) who gets stranded on a desert island for four years. Zemeckis shot half the movie last year, and the other half was to be shot in early 2000 so that Hanks could grow a beard and lose about 40 pounds to look emaciated. **Meg Ryan** — check that, **Helen Hunt** plays a small role as the girlfriend who wants a commitment from Hanks, but can't get it as long as he's stuck on the island. The movie is slated for release next Christmas.

AFFLECK AS A SHORTSTOP?

Hunky **Ben Affleck** (*Good Will Hunting*, *Chasing Amy*, *Armageddon*), a huge baseball fan — particularly of the Boston Red Sox — may play the lead role in a comedy about a gay major league shortstop who has an affair with a second baseman. Based on the 1992 novel *The Dreyfus Affair: A Love Story*, the romantic scenes between Affleck and his lover will not be graphic — probably just a kiss after they turn a nice double-play.

BRIEFLY

♦ **Ethan Hawke** will direct his first feature, an indie flick set in a New York hotel called *Last Word On Paradise*, and it will reportedly star wifey **Uma Thurman**, **Kris Kristofferson** and **Steve Zahn** ♦ **Danny DeVito** is set to have a revelation in *Revelations*, about a cop who gets religious after a near-death experience. ♦ **Kevin Spacey** will star as a mentally and physically scarred teacher who strikes up an odd friendship with a student (**Haley Joel Osment** from *The Sixth Sense*) in *Pay It Forward*.

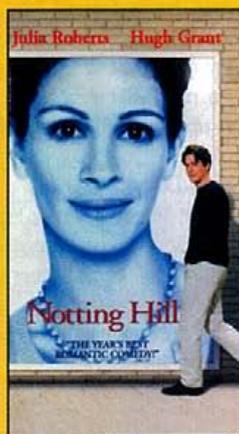


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more than middle DIANE KEATON: of the road

With her new movie *Hanging Up* now in theatres, we examine some of the actress's best films

Who says mature actresses can't get work in Hollywood? February is Diane Keaton's month. Not only does the 54-year-old actress star in the new movie *Hanging Up*, she also directed the comedy about three sisters coming to terms with the impending death of their father.

This isn't the first time she's stepped behind the camera. Keaton made her directing debut in 1987 with a documentary called *Heaven*, which explored people's beliefs about the afterlife. She has also directed the feature films *Wildflower* (1991) and *Unstrung Heroes* (1995), as well as episodes of TV's *China Beach* (1988) and *Twin Peaks* (1990).

It is as an actress, however, that we best know Keaton. But how well? A generation of moviegoers have come to see her as the matronly, middle-of-the-road character she adopted for *Father of the Bride* (1991) and *The First Wives Club* (1996). But that's too bad considering this Oscar-winning actress has had just about as diverse a career as anyone. She established herself in Hollywood with a plum role in *The Godfather*, has starred in riveting dramas and proved herself a worthy comedic actress in the 1970s, when she was Woody Allen's lover, muse and most utilized actress.

Here's a brief look at some of Keaton's "don't miss" performances, all of which are available on home video. —Marni Weisz



Diane Keaton as Kay in 1990's *The Godfather III*

The Godfather's Daughter-in-Law

Godfather I (1972), II (1974) and III (1990)

Director: Francis Ford Coppola

Also Stars: Al Pacino, Marlon Brando

Keaton starred as Kay Adams, the girlfriend, then wife, then ex-wife of Michael Corleone (Pacino). Kay was one of the few outsiders allowed into the Corleone family, so she gave the audience a perspective that was fresh and insightful. She was always there to remind her hubby that there was life beyond the mob, and that maybe the family business wasn't the best environment for their children.

The Woody Allen Years

Play it Again Sam (1972)

Also Stars: Woody Allen, Tony Roberts

It's hard to believe that Keaton starred in this witty comedy in the same year that *The Godfather* was released, but it is a testament to her versatility. Based on Allen's stage play of the same name, the story revolves around hapless Alan (Allen), a film buff who gets advice about his love life from an imaginary manifestation of Humphrey Bogart. Keaton plays Linda, a married friend who ends up falling for Alan.

Sleeper (1973)

Also Stars: Woody Allen, John Beck

Miles Munroe (Allen), a 1970s health-food store owner, has died and been cryogenically frozen. In the distant future, he is thawed and released into a world where the government is ruled by a maniacal dictator and the resistance has been forced into the wilderness. Keaton plays Luna Schlosser, who starts out as a member of the bourgeoisie, but becomes a militant rebel after being kidnapped by Allen and dragged to a rebel base.

Love and Death (1975)

Also Stars: Woody Allen, Harold Gould

Keaton is Sonya, a politically-minded Russian with dreams of overthrowing Napoleon. But her husband, Boris (Allen), is as cowardly as she is brave, and is much more interested in sex than social upheaval.

Annie Hall (1977)

Also Stars: Woody Allen, Tony Roberts

Keaton won a Best Actress Oscar for her portrayal of Annie Hall, the neurotic female counterpart to Allen's just as neurotic Alvy Singer, in this story about a turbulent romance. The role also made Keaton a trend-setter in the fashion world — her masculine attire (suit jackets, ties and brimmed hats) was mimicked by women across North America.

Manhattan (1979)

Also Stars: Woody Allen, Mariel Hemingway, Meryl Streep

Isaac (Allen) has divorced his wife Jill (Streep) and is dating 17-year-old Tracy (Hemingway). But all is not well: Jill is working on a tell-all book about their relationship, so Isaac turns to Mary (Keaton), who happens to be his best friend's girlfriend. No matter: They end up having an affair anyway.

The Dramas

Looking for Mr. Goodbar (1977)

Director: Richard Brooks

Also Stars: Richard Gere, Tom Berenger

People either love this disturbing drama or hate it, but most agree that Keaton's performance is stellar. She plays Theresa Dunn, a mild-mannered school teacher by day, a reckless swinger in search of sexual liberation by night. Her increasingly reckless behaviour inevitably leads to her self-destruction in this dark tale.

Reds (1981)

Director: Warren Beatty

Also Stars: Warren Beatty, Gene Hackman

Keaton plays writer Louise Bryant, who seems content to write stories about art shows until she meets left-wing journalist John Reed (Beatty). Reed is obsessed with Communism and the Russian Revolution but his passion, which first inspires Bryant, ends up consuming him and their relationship.

january video releases

An Ideal Husband (Jan. 18)

Stars: Rupert Everett, Jeremy Northam, Cate Blanchett, Julianne Moore

Director: Oliver Parker

Story: It's London in the 1890s, and an ace government minister, Sir Robert Chiltern (Northam), is having a blast with Lady Chiltern (Blanchett). But when the scheming Mrs. Cheveley (Moore) threatens to reveal a secret from his past, he has to call upon his party-boy chum, Arthur Goring (Everett), for help.

Bowfinger (Jan. 18)

Stars: Steve Martin, Eddie Murphy, Heather Graham, Robert Downey, Jr.

Director: Frank Oz

Story: B-movie producer Bobby Bowfinger (Martin) devises a way of making a low-budget Hollywood flick with a huge star, Kit Ramsey (Murphy), who wants no part of it: He hires second-rate actors and uses a hidden camera to shoot them interacting with the unknowing screen idol.

The 13th Warrior (Jan. 18)

Stars: Antonio Banderas, Diane Verona

Director: John McTiernan

Story: It is AD 922, and an important ambassador (Banderas) is banished from his homeland for, oops, sleeping with the king's wife. After being taken in by a group of unruly Vikings, he decides to help them fight mysterious creatures that are slaughtering their clan.

The Wood (Jan. 18)

Stars: Taye Diggs, Omar Epps

Director: Rick Famuyiwa

Story: On his wedding day, a groom (Diggs) is giving second and third thoughts to the 'as long as you both shall live' line. So instead of getting hitched, he hops in a car with some buddies and heads to Inglewood, the middle-class suburb where he grew up, to do some reminiscing.

Runaway Bride (Jan. 25)

Stars: Julia Roberts, Richard Gere, Joan Cusack

Director: Garry Marshall

Story: Marshall reunites with his *Pretty Woman* stars for this romantic comedy about

a New York newspaper columnist (Gere) who travels to rural Maryland to write about a woman (Roberts) who enjoys being engaged but has a tendency to leave men standing alone at the altar.

Tarzan (Feb. 1)

Voices of: Minnie Driver, Glenn Close, Rosie O'Donnell, Nigel Hawthorne

Directors: Kevin Lima, Chris Buck

Story: An orphaned boy is raised in the jungle and gets to monkey around with the wild animals in this animated version of Edgar Rice Burroughs' novel. When he discovers he's human, he has to decide between a planet of the apes or planet of the yahoos. Tough call.

Chill Factor (Feb. 1)

Stars: Skeet Ulrich, Cuba Gooding, Jr.

Director: Hugh Johnson

Story: A convenience store clerk (Ulrich) and an ice cream delivery man (Gooding) get some excitement in their ho-hum lives when they get a hold of a bioweapon that a team of assassins wants back right away.

The Astronaut's Wife (Feb. 8)

Stars: Johnny Depp, Charlize Theron

Director: Rand Ravich

Story: The pregnant wife (Theron) of a NASA astronaut (Depp) begins to suspect something's wrong with her hubby after he returns from a near fatal mission and is acting kinda strange. Is he just traumatized? Did he meet another woman up there? Is it really even him? And what is Theron carrying in her stomach?

The Story of Us (Feb. 15)

Stars: Bruce Willis, Michelle Pfeiffer

Director: Rob Reiner

Story: Willis and Pfeiffer play a couple who have been married for 15 years and are beginning to wonder if they wasted 5,475 days of their lives with the wrong person. Will they keep it together?

Grey Owl (Feb. 15)

Stars: Pierce Brosnan

Director: Sir Richard Attenborough

Story: Brosnan plays Archibald Belaney, an Englishman who immigrated to Canada in 1906 to immerse himself in Native culture. Passing himself off as part Native, Belaney became a renowned conservationist and writer in the thirties.

The Muse (Feb. 15)

Stars: Albert Brooks, Sharon Stone, Andie MacDowell, Jeff Bridges

Director: Albert Brooks

Story: A washed-up Tinseltown screenwriter (Brooks) hires a 3,000-year-old muse (Stone) to help him get his edge back. Only problem is this descendent of Zeus is extremely high-maintenance.

Brokedown Palace (Feb. 15)

Stars: Claire Danes, Kate Beckinsale, Bill Pullman, Lou Diamond Phillips

Director: Jonathan Kaplan

Story: Two young American girls, Alice (Danes) and Darlene (Beckinsale), go to Thailand to chill out after high-school graduation, but get more chilling out time than they bargained for when they're each sentenced to 33 years in the slammer for drug possession.

Bats (Feb. 22)

Stars: Lou Diamond Phillips, Dina Meyer

Director: Louis Morneau

Story: Genetically mutated bats, the result of a mad scientist, prey on everything in their path in smalltown Texas. The sheriff (Phillips) and a bat expert (Meyer) have to figure out how to de-wing them ASAP.

Stigmata (Feb. 29)

Stars: Patricia Arquette, Gabriel Byrne

Director: Rupert Wainwright

Story: Arquette is a Steel Town hairdresser whose strange physical wounds, aka stigmata, have everyone puzzled. Byrne plays a priest (he specializes in researching miracles) who wants to find out why a gal who doesn't believe in God is increasingly exhibiting the wounds of Christ.

Patricia Arquette in *Stigmata*



Random Hearts (Feb. 29)

Stars: Harrison Ford, Kristin Scott Thomas

Director: Sydney Pollack

Story: A cop (Ford) and a Republican congresswoman (Scott Thomas) become friendly after they find out that their spouses, who died in the same plane crash, were doing more than flying together.

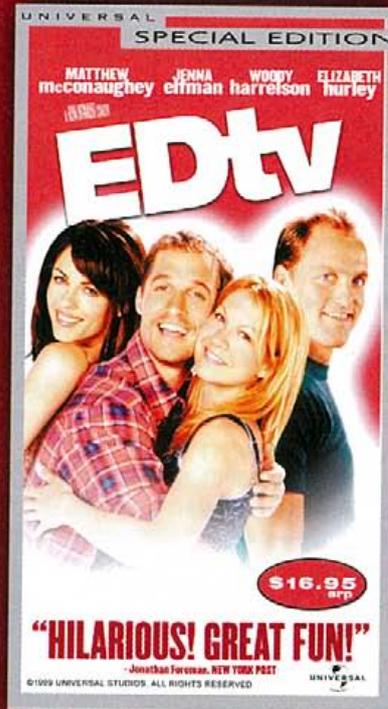
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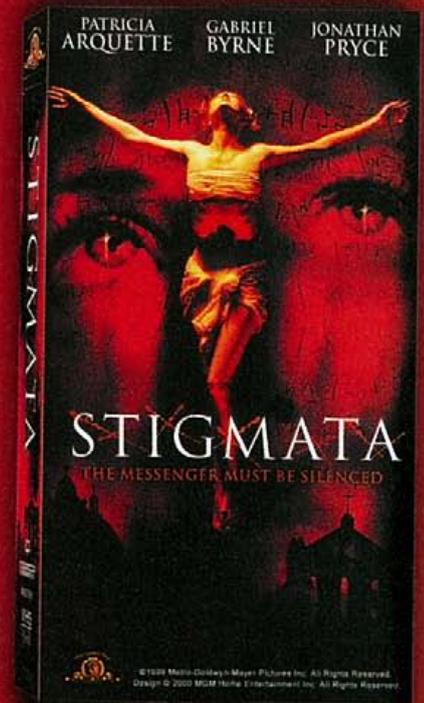
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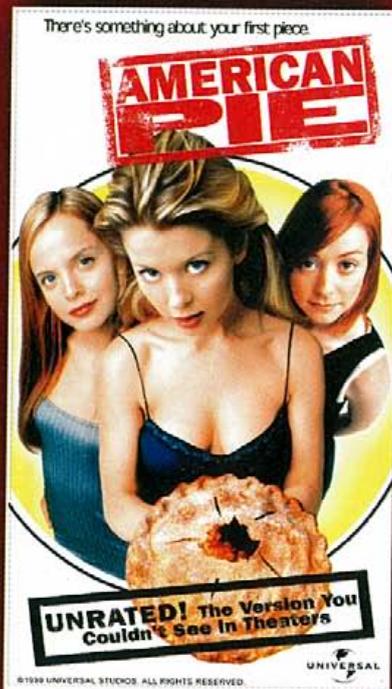
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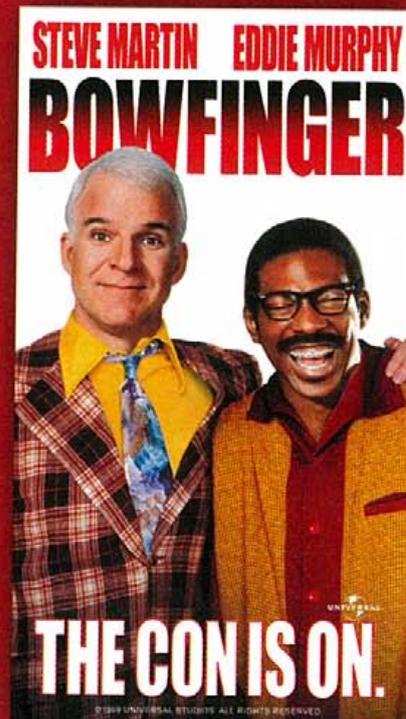
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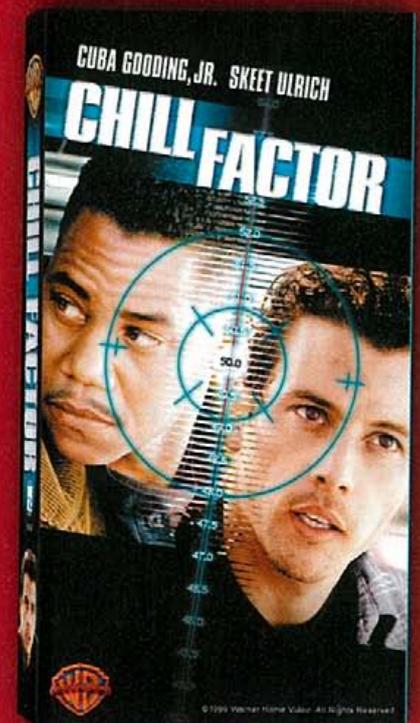
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HOROSCOPES TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE THROUGH A FROSTY FEBRUARY

By Dan Liebman

ARIES

March 21-April 20

Your optimistic nature carries you through a month that's long on challenges and, apart from some last-minute jaunts, short on diversions. But by leap year day you're a stronger, and possibly even wealthier, person. Valentine's Day brings meaningful gifts, poetic expression (feel free to gush) and an odd coupling. Seize the day — *carpe diem* — is your motto for February.

TAURUS

April 21-May 22

High society is the theme this month. You could be acquiring some luxury possessions, and there will be mingling with the rich, the famous and the mildly obnoxious. By the 10th, feet-on-the-ground Taurus will discover the delights of spontaneity. Friends and colleagues will be confused (what else is new?), amazed and ultimately delighted by your unpredictable antics.

GEMINI

May 23-June 21

Creative expression is your forté, and it's been a while since you've been able to meld your art with your message so effectively. Around the middle of the month, those in high places will be quietly observing your decision-making skills. An extravagant purchase will have to be put on hold. In fact, cutting back is your current theme as you rid yourself of excess baggage — including the kind with a pulse.

CANCER

June 22-July 22

Joe jobs take on an aura of drama. If decorating (good to do in the second and third weeks), play up your sign's bold colours — violet, green, silver. Meanwhile, friends forgive your histrionic lapses, which is not to say you'll be up for an Oscar. Expect to attract celebrities from various fields during a month that focuses on VIPs. Just one cautionary note for the whole month: Don't overcommit yourself, because you don't have that much to give.

LEO

July 23-August 22

Enthusiasm is your middle name, a quality that wins professional praise (first week) and romantic smiles (Valentine's Day and beyond). Self-confidence rides high, even for Leo. Just check that notorious ego. Travel is a good idea (especially toward the 20th), but so is cocooning (even though it might not be by choice). Overall, a curious kind of month that favours home alone and far and away.

VIRGO

August 23-September 22

Play it again, Virgo, for this is a month that spotlights return engagements. A one-time friend may attempt to wriggle back into favour. Are there hidden motives? Remember why you got rid of them in the first place. Acquisitions are highlighted around mid-month, a potentially blissful thing for a materialistic person like yourself. Just remember: more research, less impulse.

LIBRA

September 23-October 22

It's a month that features a strange brew of events. Reasoning powers could be in a slump over the first 10 days or so, so go slow in making generous offers — the world will go on without them. Then, starting around the 15th, you're leapfrogging over job-related obstacles. Your exceptional talents could lead to a bonus or promotion. As February comes to a close, a spiritual influence helps you resolve a long-lasting romantic dilemma. You've done it before, so why the self-doubt now?

SCORPIO

October 23-November 21

Your keen intuition and secretive nature (so much to hide) can work to tremendous professional advantage. Valentine's Day is ideal for romantic patchups, but in this case your mysterious ways can be a big-time liability. Family matters ask that you heighten your expectations — especially of youngsters. Don't worry, they won't disappoint.

SAGITTARIUS

November 22-December 22

Subtlety, we know, is not your strong suit. But take a page from Libra's book on diplomacy, and you'll get some respect from those you admire. At the same time, look forward to expanding your circle of friends. (This time, look for some with personality.) Risk-taking pays off by the 22nd. Also, look forward to support from crusty relatives — even the grumpiest old men and women.

CAPRICORN

December 23-January 20

An early February sea of calm can turn into a tidal wave by the 10th. Drop-in guests, rearranged travel plans and ruffled feathers all conspire to throw you off. But you're blessed with an inner strength that will bode well when you begin wrestling a new megaproject. Ultimately, there's something about Capricorn — namely a sense of humour — that makes the month fun as well as fiscally rewarding.

AQUARIUS

January 21-February 19

Not very adaptable, are we Aquarius? Not to worry. For once, your rigid approach can bring academic or professional kudos. As for romance, some serious lightening up is a must — especially if you're thinking about making a Valentine commitment. For the performer, late February is the perfect time to strut your stuff — if you have stuff! And if you're a wanna-be, who knows? There's always cable.

PISCES

February 20-March 20

To say the least, life this month will not be routine. Career and academic opportunities pop up when and where least expected. Friends are erratic, even volatile. And romantic vibrations haven't buzzed this much in many a moon. February is an ideal month for a great escape with a carefully selected travel companion.

February Birthdays by date:

1st Clark Gable; **2nd** Farrah Fawcett; **3rd** Nathan Lane; **4th** Ida Lupino; **5th** Jamie Lee Curtis; **6th** Zsa Zsa Gabor; **7th** Chris Rock; **8th** James Dean; **9th** Mia Farrow; **10th** Laura Dern; **11th** Burt Reynolds; **12th** Christina Ricci; **13th** Henry Rollins; **14th** Gregory Hines; **15th** Jane Seymour; **16th** Ice-T; **17th** Barry (Dame Edna) Humphries; **18th** John Travolta; **19th** Jeff Daniels; **20th** Sidney Poitier; **21st** Alan Rickman; **22nd** Drew Barrymore; **23rd** Peter Fonda; **24th** Billy Zane; **25th** Tea Leoni; **26th** Jackie Gleason; **27th** Elizabeth Taylor; **28th** Bernadette Peters; **29th** Antonio Sabato, Jr.



Gwyneth Paltrow and Joseph Fiennes share a dance in *Shakespeare in Love*

FADE TO BLACK

Great movies often have great last lines. You be the judge about these — the final lines from the last 10 movies to win Best Picture at the Academy Awards

Compiled by Wayne Carter

1999

Shakespeare in Love

"It will be a love story, for she will be my heroine for all time. And her name will be Viola."

— Joseph Fiennes as William Shakespeare in a voice-over narration

1998

Titanic

"Three years I've thought of nothing except Titanic, but I never got it. I never let it in." — Bill Paxton as marine treasure hunter Brock Lovett

1997

The English Patient

"She'll take you as far as Florence."

— Willem Dafoe as Caravaggio

"I can get in back." — Juliette Binoche as Hana

1996

Braveheart

"In the year of our Lord, 1314, patriots of Scotland, starving and outnumbered, charged the fields of Bannockburn. They fought like warrior poets. They fought like Scotsmen and won their freedom."

— Mel Gibson in a voice-over narration

1995

Forrest Gump

"You understand this is the bus to the school now, dontcha?" — Siobhan Fallon as bus driver

"Of course, and you are Dorothy Harris and I'm Forrest Gump." — Haley Joel Osment as Forrest Gump, Jr.

1994

Schindler's List

"Heil Hitler." — Ralph Fiennes as Amon Goeth just before being hanged for war crimes

1993

Unforgiven

"You better bury Ned right! You better not cut up nor otherwise harm no whores, or I'll come back and kill every one of you sons-of-bitches."

— Clint Eastwood as William Munny

1992

Silence of the Lambs

"I do wish we could chat longer but I'm having an old friend for dinner. Bye." — Anthony Hopkins as Hannibal Lector over the phone to Jodie Foster as Clarice Starling

"Dr. Lector? Dr. Lector? Dr. Lector? Dr. Lector?", Starling replies

1991

Dances With Wolves

"Sergeant! Over here — now!"

— shouted off-screen by soldier

1990

Driving Miss Daisy

"Oh, look at here. You didn't eat your Thanksgiving pie here. Go on now. Here, here, let me help you. Let me help you. I got it. There you go. It's good, uh? You want some more?" Morgan Freeman as Hoke Colburn to Jessica Tandy as Daisy Wertham



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