

JULY 2011 | VOLUME 12 | NUMBER 7

CINEPLEX

MAGAZINE

Inside

**CHRIS
EVANS**

**MILA
KUNIS**

**JULIANNE
MOORE**

**LEIGHTON
MEESTER**

GOODBYE HARRY

**DANIEL RADCLIFFE,
RUPERT GRINT &
EMMA WATSON**

TALK ABOUT CLOSING THE
BOOK ON **HARRY POTTER**

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 41619533

YOU DON'T KNOW SMURF. 10 FUN FACTS TO GET YOU SMURFED FOR THE SMURFS

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF **WEDDING CRASHERS**
AND THE WRITERS OF **THE HANGOVER**



THE **CHANGE-UP**



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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF IRON MAN

COWBOYS & ALIENS

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BILLIONS AND BILLIONS

Usually, I find stories about money — box-office returns, production budgets, star salaries — boring. It's hard to hold my attention with numbers; where's the wonder? But I am spellbound by a figure looming over the Harry Potter franchise: 15 billion, as in dollars.

That's how much an article in the media magazine *Advertising Age* estimated the Harry Potter brand had generated. "We totted up broad estimates of everything from book, box-office and soundtrack sales to ad time sold on TV airings of Potter films," the piece explained. So neither J.K. Rowling nor Warner Bros. is sitting on a \$15-billion pile of cash. This money is spread around.

But how do we conceive of a number so enormous and abstract as 15 billion?

You need a thousand millions to make just one billion. Write 1,000,000 on a piece of paper, now write it another 999 times. If you spent one dollar every second, it would take 31 years, 259 days, one hour, 46 minutes and 40 seconds to spend \$1-billion. Believe in Jesus? One billion minutes ago he's said to have walked the Earth. Not so sure about Jesus? One billion hours ago it was the Stone Age. Remember when Oprah gave a car to each of the 276 people in her studio audience? For \$1-billion, she could have done that for 127 shows in a row.

That's *one* billion. Now multiply by 15.

But you wanna know the kicker? That *Advertising Age* article was published in July 2007 — three movies, one book and four years of merchandise ago. Seems pundits have simply lost track of Potter profits since then.

I'd love to conclude with some dramatic statement about how it all comes to an end this month with the release of the final Harry Potter film, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 2*, but, of course, we know that's not true. Harry Potter will live on in pop culture, and in retailers' tills, for a long time to come.

Three people who own a wee chunk of those profits are the films' stars, **Daniel Radcliffe**, **Rupert Grint** and **Emma Watson**. In "The End," page 40, they discuss closing the book on the Harry Potter films.

Also in this issue, on page 22 we have "Super Soldier," a chat with **Chris Evans**, the man who almost turned down *Captain America: The First Avenger*. On page 28, *Friends With Benefits'* leading lady **Mila Kunis** reveals her secret to success in "Mila's a Star, But Don't Tell Anyone." In "The Funny Thing About Marriage," page 32, *Crazy Stupid Love* star **Julianne Moore** explains why comedy's pull gets stronger as the years go by. **Leighton Meester** talks music, *Gossip Girl* and her new movie, *Monte Carlo*, in "Leighton Meester's Summer Vacation," page 36. And in "What's New With Nia," page 39, we talk to **Nia Vardalos** about teaming up with Tom Hanks to write *Larry Crowne*.

■ **MARNI WEISZ**, EDITOR



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SNAPS



COWGIRL CAMERON

Cameron Diaz and **Colin Firth** (left) film a remake of the 1960s art-con pic *Gambit* at London's Heathrow Airport.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



RYAN + NICOLAS

Ryan Gosling (right) plants one on his *Drive* director **Nicolas Winding Refn** during the Cannes Film Festival.

PHOTO BY PASCAL LE SEGRETAINE/GETTY





RODRIGUEZ HANGS OUT

Michelle Rodriguez takes advantage of the pool swing at the Eden Roc Hotel in the south of France.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



BIEBS AT THE BEACH

Justin Bieber and girlfriend **Selena Gomez** hit the beach in Hawaii.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



THE GRIFFITH SQUAT

Melanie Griffith

multitasks with a Red Bull, a phone call and a butt (kids, don't smoke) on a West Hollywood sidewalk.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

IN BRIEF



Harrison Ford (left) and Daniel Craig in *Cowboys & Aliens*



MONTREAL FANTASIES

The Fantasia International Film Festival (July 14th to August 7th) is where all the hip Montreal movie buffs will be. The festival of fantasy flicks is celebrating its 15th anniversary, and John Landis will be in town to accept a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Organizers have renamed the main jury award "Le Cheval Noir," which inspired Montreal artist Donald Caron's poster. Go to www.fantasiafestival.com for more info. ▶

THIS LAND FOR HIRE

When the team behind *Cowboys & Aliens* went looking for the perfect "Old West" location to shoot their movie, they called on the Islamic community for help.

Dar al Islam, an organization founded in 1979, wanted to build the first Islamic village in the U.S. The group initially bought 1,000 acres along the

Chama River in Abiquiu, New Mexico, and erected a mosque and a school. The area's striking landscape — full of picturesque mesas and white sand — includes the White Place, a rock formation that artist Georgia O'Keeffe loved to paint.

The rugged scenery also caught the eye of Hollywood types searching for a quintessential Western backdrop for their movies.

Both *City Slickers* and *All the Pretty Horses* were filmed partially at Dar al Islam, which is now a non-profit conference and retreat centre.

But *Cowboys & Aliens* star Harrison Ford didn't let the out-of-the-way location interfere with his daily routine — the star flew his helicopter to and from the set each day, and chose one lucky cast or crew member to fly home with him every evening. —IR

The Art Of Film

By day, Oliver Akuin is an animatic editor for the Cartoon Network, but after hours the Los Angelino creates illustrations "for fun and freelance" — and he's often inspired by film. "So much can be said in one shot of an entire movie," he says. Clockwise from left, these three were inspired by *True Grit* heroine Mattie Ross ("So determined and honest"), *Lost in Translation* ("The last scene where Bob says goodbye to Charlotte... you couldn't hear the dialogue, so it was almost like a portrait") and *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure* ("I love the scene where all the historical figures are hanging out at the mall drinking slurpees!"). —MW



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HUGH'S ▶ NEXT STAGE

Hugh Jackman will be in Toronto from July 5th to 17th — not filming a movie, but singing and dancing on stage at the Princess of Wales Theatre.

The show, billed as *Hugh Jackman in Concert*, debuted in San Francisco earlier this year, where the *San Francisco Examiner* described it as follows: “Backed by a large band and two Broadway-level singers, Jackman crooned, hip-shaked and kibitzed with adoring fans of the musical theater variety (rather than Wolverine of X-Men) in the sometimes cheesy production, which touched on aspects of his career.”

Cheesy or not, that opening night was a big hit, despite being plagued by production snafus, including one some fans may hope repeats itself. After the hunky star split his pants during a dance number, an assistant brought him a new pair, so he stripped to his boxers and changed right on stage.

Go to www.mirvish.com for more information. —MW



MOONLIGHT OF THE MONTH

A lot of celebrities take part in charity fashion shows, but Rosario Dawson is one of the first we've seen actually pull it off. Here, Dawson lends her strut to the “Fashion for Relief” show in Cannes.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

Quote Unquote

HE'S GERMAN, SO I SPENT A LITTLE TIME LISTENING TO A COUPLE OF FAMOUS GERMAN ARTISTS, ONE WERNER HERZOG AND THE OTHER KLAUS MARIA BRANDAUER, AND SORT OF SYNTHESIZED THEIR VOICES INTO THE VOICE OF RED SKULL.

—HUGO WEAVING ON CREATING CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE FIRST AVENGER'S VILLAIN RED SKULL



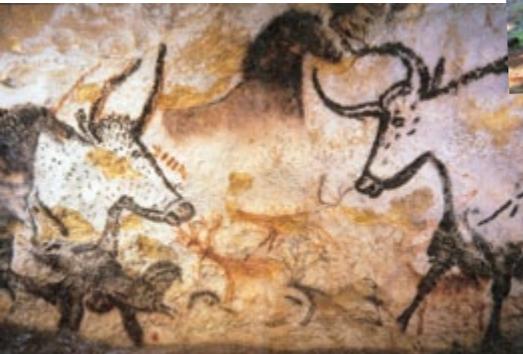


AARDMAN'S RETURN

It's been almost six years since Aardman Animations — the stop-motion geniuses behind the *Wallace & Gromit* films — had a stop-motion movie in theatres (*Wallace & Gromit in the Curse of the Were-Rabbit*). So we're thrilled to see them working with clay again for *The Pirates! Band of Misfits*, a stop-motion, high seas adventure slated to hit theatres next March. Listen for Hugh Grant as the voice of the Pirate Captain who dreams of winning Pirate of the Year. —MW

HE CAVED

You will never see this (below) 25,000-year-old painting from deep inside France's Chauvet cave firsthand. Entry is strictly regulated; humans contaminate the cave's delicate environment and radon gas inside the cave threatens human health. But German director Werner Herzog managed to get a film crew inside to make *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* (opens July 8th). And just to make the experience more awe-inspiring, he shot it in 3D. —MW



GIVE THAT TREE A CONTRACT!

Two years ago a creative team from the new *Winnie the Pooh* movie travelled to Ashdown Forest in Sussex, England (a mile from author A.A. Milne's country house), and took photos of the landscape and foliage for inspiration. This gnarly old tree (left), for example, was turned into Owl's home (right).

SPOTLIGHT

Roughing it WITH **JESSICA** **PARÉ**

Jessica Paré isn't a diva, but when she headed into the Yukon wilderness to shoot her latest film, *The Mountie*, the gracious actor had, shall we say, a moment.

"I was told we wouldn't have trailers, obviously you are in the middle of nowhere," says Montreal native Paré on the line from L.A., "but we'd have tents. For some reason I had it in my head it would be an *Out of Africa* safari tent, with perhaps some Persian rugs — okay, I am exaggerating a bit — but when I got there it was your standard Coleman issue tent, and there was nothing in it, just this plastic floor.

"And I went to makeup and I started to complain — I did, I'll be honest — and Tim, who did our makeup, was listening and he stopped me aghast and said, 'Hang on a second, you have a floor?!' And I looked down, and sure enough my chair was directly on the mossy underbrush. So that definitely set the tone — okay, this was how it was going to go, this wasn't going to be a luxury shoot."

The film, which gets a limited release this month, stars Andrew Walker as a 19th-century Mountie who battles Russian thugs terrorizing a settlement of Latvian immigrants in the Yukon. Paré plays a physically scarred woman who attracts the Mountie's attention. It's a far cry from her glamorous role as Don Draper's new love interest in *Mad Men* (which begins shooting its fifth season this month).

Paré says it's thrilling to slip into two completely different sets of costumes to play two completely different women.

"Wardrobe, for me as an actor, is a huge help in my transformation," she says. "*On Mad Men*, you are wearing a girdle and you walk differently, your thighs are cinched together so your stride is shorter.

"And then in *The Mountie* you have really heavy skirts and petticoats. It changes your walk, your legs are a bit wider apart and you have more of a waddle as opposed to the *Mad Men* wiggle. It informs your performance." —INGRID RANDOJA



PHOTO BY CHRIS GRISMER

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ALL DRESSED UP

HALLE BERRY

Baring her midriff for the Fifi Awards at New York's Lincoln Center.

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PENÉLOPE CRUZ

In Munich, Germany, for the premiere of *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

RENÉE ZELLWEGER

In New York for the Costume Institute Gala.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



**EMMA
STONE**

At the Costume Institute
Gala in New York.

PHOTO BY DOUG PETERS/
KEYSTONE PRESS



**DIANE
KRUGER**

At the ELLE Style Awards
in London, U.K.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



**BRADLEY
COOPER**

At the L.A. premiere of
The Hangover Part II.

PHOTO BY JASON SLANGSANG/
SPLASH NEWS

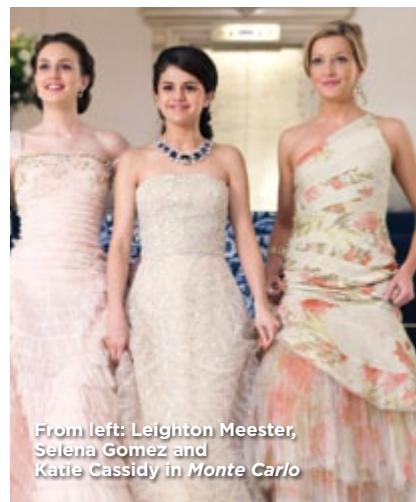
IN THEATRES

JULY 1



LARRY CROWNE

Tom Hanks must be pounding back the energy drinks, 'cause the 54-year-old directs, stars in and co-wrote (with **Nia Vardalos**) this rom-com about middle-aged, out-of-work Larry Crowne, who returns to community college and falls for one of his teachers (**Julia Roberts**). See **Nia Vardalos** interview, [page 39](#).



From left: Leighton Meester, Selena Gomez and Katie Cassidy in *Monte Carlo*

MONTE CARLO

Three American girls — **Selena Gomez**, **Leighton Meester** and **Katie Cassidy** — travel to Paris for a dream vacation where one of them is mistaken for a British heiress. The girls are in no hurry to rectify the mistake, especially when they are whisked away to Monte Carlo. See **Leighton Meester** interview, [page 36](#).

JULY 8



Page One: A Year Inside The New York Times

PAGE ONE: A YEAR INSIDE THE NEW YORK TIMES

Can *The New York Times* survive in the age of instant, digital news? That's the question director **Andrew Rossi** asks in this documentary that follows the

Times' editors and writers for one year as they deal with cutbacks, layoffs and the rise of social media. Add in the thousands upon thousands of Wikileaks documents dumped in their inbox that they must sift through and verify, and you've got a gripping look at

life inside "the Gray Lady."

ZOOKEEPER

He's Dr. Dolittle with a beer gut. Griffin Keyes (**Kevin James**) is a lonely zookeeper beloved by the animals he looks after. When the critters see he's failing at

winning the girl of his dreams (**Leslie Bibb**), they break the animal code of silence to share their can't-miss mating rituals. Big names voicing the animals include **Sly Stallone** as a lion, **Cher** as a lioness and **Billy Crystal** as a llama.

CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS

The perpetually curious filmmaker **Werner Herzog** was given special permission by the French government to enter, and film, inside the Chauvet Cave, where the earliest known cave paintings — dating back 32,000 years — were discovered in 1994. Herzog had a custom 3D camera built specifically for the shoot, which he could assemble while inside the cave to capture the breathtaking images.

HORRIBLE BOSSES

Enlightened souls know wishing harm on another human being, even if he/she is your boss, will slow down the karmic process. So, we suggest you live out your unhealthy fantasy with this mean-spirited comedy about three guys — **Jason Bateman**, **Charlie Day** and **Jason Sudeikis** — who conspire to kill their psychotic bosses, played by **Jennifer Aniston**, **Colin Farrell** and **Kevin Spacey**.



Horrible Bosses' good guys (from left) Jason Sudeikis, Charlie Day and Jason Bateman

JULY 15



Li Bing Bing (left) and Gianna Jun in *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*

SNOW FLOWER AND THE SECRET FAN

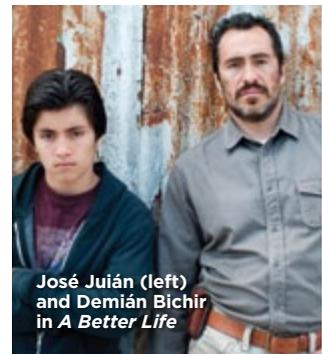
Director **Wayne Wang** (*The Joy Luck Club*) adapts **Lisa See's** best-selling novel about two 19th-century Chinese women who keep their friendship alive through notes penned to one another in a secret language. Wang tweaks the tale to include a

parallel, modern-day story about the relationship between two of the women's descendants. Look for an unlikely cameo by **Hugh Jackman** as a nightclub entertainer, who sings a country and western song in Mandarin.

A BETTER LIFE

Director **Chris Weitz**

(*New Moon*) delivers an intimate drama about illegal Mexican immigrant Carlos (**Demián Bichir**), who works as a gardener in Los Angeles. Carlos's dream of a better life is threatened when his truck is stolen, and he and his teenage son, Luis (**José Julián**), must find the truck before Carlos loses everything.



José Julián (left) and Demián Bichir in *A Better Life*

CONTINUED ►



► **WINNIE THE POOH**

There's something very comforting in knowing Winnie the Pooh, Eeyore, Christopher Robin, Tigger and their friends remain safely ensconced in Hundred Acre Wood. The gang's latest adventure involves Winnie hunting for honey, helping Eeyore find a new tail and searching for Christopher Robin, who he believes has been kidnapped.



Daniel Radcliffe

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS - PART 2

The kids' stuff is over. In the past 10 years Harry (**Daniel Radcliffe**), Hermione (**Emma Watson**) and Ron (**Rupert Grint**) have matured from wee pups to bloodied, bruised and battered warriors, who battle Voldemort (**Ralph Fiennes**) and his followers in the series' epic finale. **See interview with cast, page 40.**

JULY 22



FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS

Could this be the "fornicating friends" comedy to break out? (*Love & Other Drugs* and *No Strings Attached* suffered from premature box-office syndrome.) Here Jamie (**Mila Kunis**) and Dylan (**Justin Timberlake**) are the pals who've both been dumped and decide straight-up sex with no attachments is the way to go. **See Mila Kunis interview, page 28.**

CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE FIRST AVENGER

As World War II rages, scrawny Steve Rogers (**Chris Evans**) is too frail to enlist, but he can serve as a guinea pig for Operation: Rebirth, a

scientific experiment that transforms him into muscle-bound fighting machine Captain America. The Yanks need "Cap" to take down Hitler's crazed saboteur, Red Skull (**Hugo Weaving**). **See Chris Evans interview, page 22.**



Chris Evans in *Captain America: The First Avenger*



ANOTHER EARTH

Out of nowhere, another planet Earth appears in the sky, and it seems everyone here on our Earth has a doppelganger living over there. Rhonda (**Brit Marling**) dreams of travelling to the parallel world to escape the guilt she feels for killing the family of a composer (**William Mapother**) while driving drunk. This philosophical sci-fi was a hit at this year's Sundance Film Festival.



Steve Carell (left) and Ryan Gosling in *Crazy Stupid Love*

transported to New York City, where they take refuge with a nice couple (**Neil Patrick Harris, Jayma Mays**) while their arch-nemesis, the wizard Gargamel (**Hank Azaria**), hunts them down.

COWBOYS & ALIENS

This intriguing sci-fi/Western mash-up directed by **Jon Favreau** stars **Daniel Craig** as an outlaw who wakes up with no memory and a strange gadget attached to his wrist. **Harrison Ford** is the righteous lawman who wants to lock him up, but before he gets the chance aliens attack and the taciturn twosome team up to fight off the space invaders.



Cowboys & Aliens
Daniel Craig

CRAZY STUPID LOVE

Cal Weaver's (**Steve Carell**) wife (**Julianne Moore**) dumps him, requiring Cal to re-enter the dating game. It's a daunting task made easier with the help of smooth-as-silk Jacob (**Ryan Gosling**), who gives Cal a mantastic makeover. **See Julianne Moore interview, page 32.**

THE SMURFS

Kids growing up in the '80s went through an annoying phase of using the word smurf to describe anything and everything; all because of a popular Saturday morning cartoon starring a cast of sweet, little blue creatures. Look for the trend to come back 'round again with the release of this live-action/CGI film that finds the Smurfs

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**CAPTAIN AMERICA:
THE FIRST AVENGER**
HITS THEATRES JULY 22ND

SUPER ★ SOLDIER

As Captain America, **Chris Evans** plays a fearless warrior who puts his life on the line to fight for all that's good and righteous. So why was the actor so scared to take on the role?

■ BY MARK PILKINGTON



Chris Evans (left)
and Sebastian Stan
in *Captain America:
The First Avenger*

Captain America. Marvel's star-spangled superhero and the one comic book character above all others who stands for truth, justice and the American way.

With that in mind, Great Britain may not be the first place you think of when visualizing the new movie *Captain America: The First Avenger*. It is here, however, at the world-famous Pinewood and Shepperton Studios in London, that huge, sprawling sets have been designed and constructed to bring the comic book hero's world to life.

Set during the Second World War, the movie recounts the transformation of Steve Rogers, a sickly young man, into the strapping Captain America. Too scrawny to join the American military, Rogers undergoes an experimental procedure that turns him into the brawny supersoldier who goes up against the Nazis and the forces of HYDRA, the fictional terrorist organization of the Marvel Universe.

We sat down with Chris Evans — the 30-year-old blond, blue-eyed Sudbury, Massachusetts, native who plays the Captain — on the British set of Marvel's latest big-screen adventure.



Having already appeared in the two *Fantastic Four* movies, also based on Marvel comics, was it tough to take this role, which required you to sign a long-term contract?

"Yeah it was a really tough decision, and not entirely because of the past *Fantastic Four* movies. It was a very intimidating and daunting commitment to take on. The original contract was for nine pictures, but in the end we got it down to six. Even with six movies, that's making a decision for a very big portion of your life. I love acting...but there are other things I want to do."

Such as?

"I want to direct one day. The good thing about doing movies one at a time is if it ever becomes too big and you want a break, you can. But by doing this, it's basically saying if the movies all do well and they want to exercise all six films, I can be doing this until I'm 40. That's a crazy thing to try and process, and it's a crazy decision to make."

So that made you nervous.

"Going into any film you never know how it's going to go. Not only could this be something I'm wrapped up in for the CONTINUED ►



▶ next 10 years, but what if it's a bad experience? What if I don't connect and what if the film is just something I want to leave in my past and move on from? Until you get to day one of filming, those questions are going to be in your head. It only starts to feel real the first time you put on the suit and step onto set."

And how was that?

"I remember the first time I saw the suit and I thought, "This could be the suit that I die in!" I wouldn't trade in this movie, at this point, for anything and I am more than happy with the decision I made. But at the time, yeah, I was pretty scared."

Captain America was created as an icon for the United States. How do you feel about playing such a nationalistic character?

"Well, Captain America was created at a time when we were at war against the Nazis, so I think it was something that was essentially borderline propaganda. He was fighting a common enemy. He was called Captain America because he was created in America, but what I think they were trying to say — and by no means do I think America is always in the right — they may as well have called him Captain Good or Captain Right.

"I don't think anyone will defend the Nazis and I think we can all agree that this was a common evil, people rooted for Captain America not because he was American but because it was a matter of good versus evil. I know America is not always the place the rest of the world roots for. I'm not going to get tangled up in the notion that Captain America embodies his country, because I don't think that was why the character was created. It's not about America, it's about good and righteousness."

DID YOU KNOW?



Chris Evans' younger brother, Scott Evans, is also an actor, appearing on more than 100 episodes of *One Life to Live* as police officer Oliver Fish (left), who comes out of the closet and has a relationship with Kyle (Brett Claywell).

The couple, affectionately known as Kish, was credited with having the first hot and heavy gay sex scene on a daytime soap, but it may have been too much for some viewers — the actors were written out of the show last year. Scott Evans is out of the closet in real life, too. —MW



Chris Evans as Captain America
ABOVE LEFT: Hayley Atwell and Evans

You could say the timing of the film is actually quite good; what the world needs now is to focus on a hero who is quintessentially a good guy and does the honourable thing.

"I think it's all relative. Twenty years ago they would have been saying the same thing. It's always right to have something to represent a reason for doing things for no other purpose other than it is right, it is good and it is not self-serving."

How would you describe Captain America's emotional arc?

"Steve Rogers is the underdog, he is the little guy. Unlike most other superheroes who were born with it or given their power by accident, he was chosen because he's a good man and because he has an unshakable moral compass. When given this power most people would become corrupted by it, however he kept his wits and morals about him not to misuse that power."

Finally, I have to ask, what's the costume like? Is it comfortable?

"It's terrible! No, I shouldn't say that really. It's cumbersome. When you put it on first thing in the morning it feels really stiff, then after about four hours sweating in it, it starts to loosen up — by the end of the day you kind of forget it's even on. It's like putting on a pair of ski boots, an hour later you're skiing and you don't even think about your feet. The most difficult thing is the mask; it's a little tricky at times. It's where most of your body heat escapes from, so it does get warm. But then, if that's the biggest worry I have to deal with, then life's not too bad." ☑

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

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10 FACTS ABOUT Smurfs

As the live-action/CGI hybrid *The Smurfs* arrives in theatres, we present 10 random (but fascinating) facts about the little blue creatures



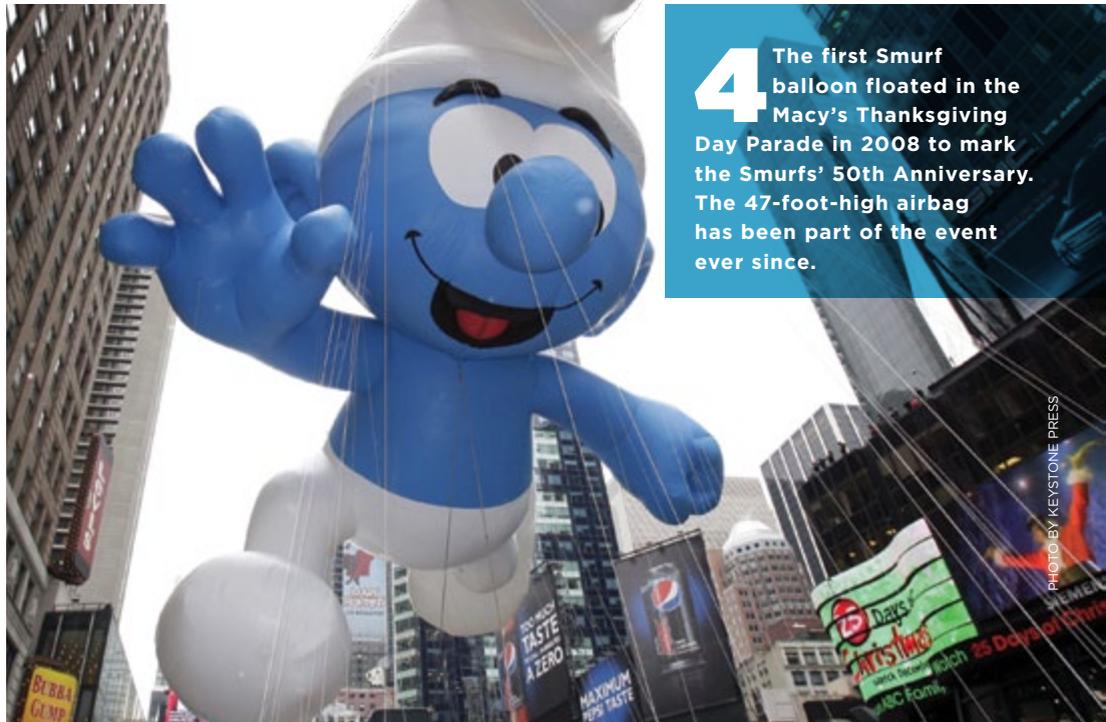
PHOTO BY JOSE PEREZ/SPLASH NEWS



1 *The Smurfs'* human actors, like Neil Patrick Harris (above), filmed their scenes with Smurf dolls, which were replaced by animated Smurfs later in the production process.

2 The new movie marks the big-screen debut of two celebrities not known for their acting — pop star Katy Perry, who's the voice of Smurfette, and culinary artist Wolfgang Puck who lends his pipes to Chef Smurf.

3 Belgian artist Pierre Culliford (a.k.a. Peyo) created the Smurfs — or les Schtroumpfs, as they're called in French — in 1958. He made up the name while attempting to ask a friend to pass the salt. He couldn't remember the proper word ("sel" in French), and instead asked for the schtroumpf.



4 The first Smurf balloon floated in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 2008 to mark the Smurfs' 50th Anniversary. The 47-foot-high airbag has been part of the event ever since.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

5 The record for the most people dressed as Smurfs was set on June 8th, 2009, in Swansea, Wales. The magic number was 2,510, smashing the previous record of 1,253.

6 In 2005, UNICEF created an ad in support of ex-child soldiers in Africa in which the Smurf village is bombed, Smurf bodies are strewn around, and Baby Smurf is left alone crying. It was only shown after 9 p.m. so as not to disturb young Smurf fans, and had the tagline "Don't let war destroy the children's world."

7 Collectible Smurf figurines are as important to the Smurf universe as comics and TV shows. When the German manufacturer Schleich unveiled its line of Smurf dolls tied to the new movie there was at least one difference — blue eyes, instead of the usual black.



8 They're Schtroumpfs in French and Smurfs in English, but what about other languages? Our faves are Die Schlümpfe in German; Los Pitufos in Spanish; I Puffi in Italian; Os Estrumpfes in Portuguese; Törpök in Hungarian; Dardasim in Hebrew; and Sumafu in Japanese.

9 When her father, Al, became Vice President of the United States, 19-year-old Karenna Gore was allowed to choose her own Secret Service code name — but it had to start with "s" and be two syllables. She chose Smurfette, and says she's regretted it ever since.



10 Smurf hats are based on Phrygian caps, which date back to the Roman Empire and signify freedom and liberty. This bust of Attis wearing a Phrygian cap is from the 2nd century AD.



MILA'S A STAR, BUT DON'T TELL ANYONE

After stealing scenes in *Black Swan*, Mila Kunis has her first lead role, starring in the sexy, funny *Friends With Benefits*. But could all this success ruin her method for surviving Hollywood?

■ BY JIM SLOTEK

Mila Kunis was a no-brainer to star in a sitcom. The Ukraine-born actor who played Jackie on *That '70s Show* talks in exclamations and is a hilarious storyteller. Our favourite story involves being “grossed out” when her brother hit on one of the girls in a Mila Kunis lookalike contest at the San Diego ComicCon.

She is just now emerging from that show's shadow, and a sitcom-rep (solidified by being the voice of Meg on *Family Guy*) that unfairly led people to trivialize her talent. But Kunis's scene-stealing turn in *Black Swan* — as Natalie Portman's frenemy and a manifestation of her dark id — earned her a Golden Globe nomination, and many thought she was deserving of an Oscar nom as well.

Kunis, now 27, was at a Los Angeles hotel when we spoke about her new romantic comedy *Friends With Benefits*, and building a career based on low expectations.

A colleague of mine once said of you, “I saw her in *Forgetting Sarah Marshall* and I was surprised at how good she was. And I saw her in *The Book of Eli* and was surprised at how good she was. And I saw her in *Black Swan* and said, ‘I’ve got to stop being so surprised.’” Is he right?

“No, no, no, no! I prefer people to be surprised. Low expectations are amazing. It’s how my career’s gone so far. ‘Hey, you don’t suck!’ And my response is, ‘Um, thank you, I guess.’”

And now you’ve been in *Black Swan*, a serious movie that got serious reviews.

“You’re saying my low expectation days may be over.”

On the positive side, it also puts *That '70s Show* farther back in people’s memories.

“Y’know, one day, I really do believe people will stop talking about *That '70s Show*. I mean, that may be a hopeful prediction considering it’s on TV all the time. And I run into 12-year-olds who weren’t even born when I started doing the show, who tell me they love it. They weren’t even alive!”

Still, it’s interesting to look back at all the talent in the cast. First Ashton Kutcher got all the attention. Then Topher Grace because of (Steven Soderbergh’s) *Traffic*. Is it your turn?

“I don’t think it’s anybody’s turn. I think everyone was incredibly talented and is incredibly talented. But this industry is so fickle, you just never know.”

Your first movie after *Black Swan* is a comedy, *Friends With Benefits*. The director (Will Gluck) just did *Easy A*, which got great reviews. Tell me about the new film.

“It’s very funny. I mean, it’s *very* funny, I think [laughs]. The little bit I saw, which was four minutes, was great. It was an amazing cast. We shot the movie in two-and-a-half months, 18-hour days, six-day weeks. People think comedies are easy, but they’re

CONTINUED ▶



Friends With Benefits' dynamic duo Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis

FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS HITS THEATRES JULY 22ND

and in *Alpha Dog*. And yet, it could be argued he doesn't get respect.

"He and I had a running joke that we both have careers based on low expectations. We had a whole bonding experience over that. Everywhere I went, it was like, 'That's that little girl from *That '70s Show!*' And with him, to some people, he comes from a specific thing from 10 years ago [*NSYNC], and he's a completely different person now."

I promise not to be surprised by him anymore.

"Y'know what? It's time people stopped being surprised, because he has an immense amount of talent."

Are you still the *Robot Chicken* guys' favourite credit?

"Yep, me and Sarah Michelle Gellar." [*Robot Chicken* is an animated comedy series on Teletoon that's produced by Kunis's *Family Guy* voice co-star Seth Green. Each episode features a made-up production credit for Kunis.]

What's the weirdest credit they ever gave you?

"Extras Wrangler, considering there are no extras. It's a cartoon. By far my favourite credit."

You and Natalie were on an almond diet for *Black Swan*. What was the first thing you ate once shooting stopped?

"I guess mac and cheese, followed by Panda Express at JFK Airport, followed by a double-double [double patties, double cheese] at the In-N-Out Burger when I got back to L.A. I like to say it took me months to lose 20 pounds and hours to gain it back. It was like magic." ☑

Jim Slotek writes about movies for the Toronto Sun.

▶ just as hard. You have to be funny at 3 or 4 a.m. We shot half in New York and half in L.A. and I never laughed more in my life. I loved going to work. I truly woke up and it would be 4:30 a.m. and you'd go, 'I'm going to go and have a great day today!'"

So run through the characters.

"Justin Timberlake and I play friends. I play a headhunter in New York who brings Justin's character from L.A. to New York to work for *GQ*. He and I become friends. I just got out of a relationship and he just got out of a relationship. And we decide to be intimate with no emotional attachment whatsoever."

Very practical and reasonable.

"It's like two guys almost, very logical about how this is all going to play out. And then you see what happens."

Woody Harrelson is in it. How does he figure in?

"Woody plays the sports editor at *GQ* magazine, who's also Justin's friend in the film. Patricia Clarkson plays my mother. And you find out that my mother was an absentee mother, that she's more like the adult child that I raised. And then Richard Jenkins plays Justin's father."

You mentioned Justin. There's another guy who's kind of in the same boat as you. He did a great job in *The Social Network*

BLONDES MAY HAVE MORE FUN, BUT...

Friends With Benefits is the third movie in eight months about sex without commitment.

Love & Other Drugs starred Anne Hathaway as a woman trying to keep squeeze Jake Gyllenhaal at arm's length, *No Strings Attached* had Natalie Portman ordering lover Ashton Kutcher not to get attached, and now Mila Kunis wants nothing but nookie from pal Justin Timberlake.

Notice a similarity between the three leading ladies? Blondes may have more fun, but for some reason Hollywood thinks brunettes are more into casual sex. —*MW*



Anne Hathaway



Natalie Portman



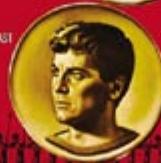
Mila Kunis

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CRAZY STUPID LOVE
HITS THEATRES JULY 29TH

The Funny Thing ABOUT MARRIAGE

Lately, **Julianne Moore's** been attracted to movies about marital woes, and to comedies. Good thing she found ***Crazy Stupid Love*** ■ BY KEVIN WILLIAMSON

At 50, **Julianne Moore** is welcoming her laugh lines. “Oddly, tragedy becomes less appealing the older you get,” she says, relaxed and gregarious during an interview at a Beverly Hills hotel. “Lately, I’ve been really interested in comedy. I think life is hard. Particularly now, I think about what I’d want to see and what people respond to and how to tell a story.”

So while she’s best known — and frequently praised — for her dramatic work, in recent years she’s gravitated toward more light-hearted fare.

Following last summer’s sleeper success *The Kids Are All Right*, as well as a memorable recurring stint on TV’s *30 Rock* as Alec Baldwin’s Boston-bred love interest, this month Moore stars opposite Steve Carell in the romantic comedy *Crazy Stupid Love*.

She and Carell play forty-something high school sweethearts divorcing after more than two decades together. While she begins a new relationship (with Kevin Bacon), a despondent, straight-laced Carell turns to a suave, smooth-talking lady’s man (Canadian Ryan Gosling in an atypically commercial role) to help him succeed on the rebound.

But after a dalliance with a very willing woman (Marisa Tomei), Carell — in his first role since leaving *The Office* — decides to win his ex-wife back. Meanwhile, Gosling struggles with his own emotional awakening when he falls for a young woman (Emma Stone) who is immune to his charms. Behind the camera are Glenn Ficarra and

John Requa, who penned *Bad Santa* and last directed the little-seen Jim Carrey comedy *I Love You Phillip Morris*.

“It’s superfunny, hopefully, and I hope touching and real, too,” Moore says. “I’m crazy about Steve. I was very, very excited to get to work with him. He’s such a terrific actor and so talented and so fun to be with. It was a great experience.”

Moore has long enjoyed a reputation as one of Hollywood’s most versatile, respected stars.

After getting her big break on the soap opera *As the World Turns* in the early 1980s — winning a Daytime Emmy in 1988 — she segued to the big screen in the 1990s. At first her parts were mostly supporting in such thrillers as *Assassins*, *The Hand that Rocks the Cradle* and *The Fugitive* (in a role that was supposed to be a love interest for Harrison Ford, but was reduced so as not to distract from the action).

But as the independent film movement surged during that decade, so did Moore’s profile. She began to move back and forth between big-budget productions like *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* and *Hannibal*, and such headier fare as *Boogie Nights*, *Magnolia* and *The Hours*.

She’s been nominated for four Oscars, most recently for the aforementioned *The Kids Are All Right*, in which she and Annette Bening portrayed middle-aged lesbian parents whose seemingly happy home life is disrupted when their teenagers seek out their biological father (Mark Ruffalo).

Moore, if it wasn’t already clear, has never shied away from potentially controversial material.

“I don’t like to be divisive about gender, sexuality or race or nationality. I’ve been incredibly fortunate — I’ve worked

CONTINUED ►



Steve Carell and Julianne Moore in *Crazy Stupid Love*

▶ with many talented filmmakers, many gay among them, to tell stories, sometimes extreme stories, about what it means to be a human being. I'm attracted to people with that kind of sensibility."

Kids, *Crazy Stupid Love* and Moore's 2009 Atom Egoyan film, *Chloe*, all deal with marriages in crisis, threatened by either apathy or infidelity or both. That in at least two of these instances the couple in question decides to stay together despite the hardship is a reflection of real life, Moore believes.

"Most of the people I know who have been together a significant amount of time have had any number of kinds of bumps along the way. It's interesting in my life now, I know a lot of people who have stayed together and ones who split up. And the people who have stayed together haven't experienced any less than the ones who've split up. They just have kind of decided they're going to stay together. I think it's all personal and it's what you can deal with in a relationship and what that stuff means to you.... Time and investment and all that stuff, it really alters things."

In her own life, Moore is married to Bart Freundlich. They met when he directed her in 1997's *The Myth of Fingerprints* and have two children, 13-year-old son Caleb and nine-year-old daughter Liv Helen. "A long-term relationship is challenging and rewarding," she says.

And not impossible in Hollywood, regardless of the attention given to showbiz breakups and hookups. Bening, of course, is married to screen legend Warren Beatty while Carell has two children with his wife of 16 years, Nancy Carell.

"When you're both living a family life and you're both parents, it's very easy to connect that way," Moore says.

As well, being a parent has inspired her to branch out beyond acting. Her first book as a children's author, *Freckleface Strawberry*,

was published in 2007. Two years later she followed it with *Freckleface Strawberry and the Dodgeball Bully*.

And a little diversity is probably called for at a time when film studios are increasingly only interested in producing comic-book blockbusters and sure-thing sequels. Given this creative and economic climate, it's likely no surprise that Moore's next role is taking her to television. She's set to star as conservative firebrand Sarah Palin in an upcoming HBO movie about the 2008 presidential election.

Nor does she rule out a return to *30 Rock*.

"It was so fun to do and they're really skilled," Moore says, adding that since her character wasn't killed off, there's always a chance she'll be back. "You never know with them." □

Kevin Williamson is a Calgary-based movie columnist for Sun Media.

DID YA KNOW?
 Julianne Moore's children's book *Freckleface Strawberry* was turned into a musical, and has had two successful off-Broadway runs at New York City theatres. *The New York Times* called the production "fast-moving and funny," while *The Huffington Post* said it was "charming." —MW

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MONTE CARLO
HITS THEATRES JULY 1ST



Leighton Meester's SUMMER VACATION

The girl knows how to take advantage of a hiatus, squeezing four movies into her *Gossip Girl* downtime this year alone. But will the European fantasy **Monte Carlo** finally impress fans and critics? ■ BY BOB STRAUSS

Leighton Meester insists there's no truth to the rumour she will soon leave her hit TV show *Gossip Girl*. "That's just another example of when your answer to a question is totally misconstrued for the purpose of making an article sound better," the 25-year-old actor says of the internet, um, gossip during a Beverly Hills interview. "Someone asked me, 'What's after *Gossip Girl*?' and I said I didn't know. I have a couple of more years on my contract; we've finished the fourth year and we're all on a six-year contract, which is pretty standard."

While we certainly believe Meester is not about to jump from the ship that made her a star, it's easy to see why many gave credence to the report. After all, she's been branching out like crazy in her *Gossip Girl* downtime, with a burgeoning music career and four films out this year. The Nashville drama *Country Strong* and psycho-horror *The Roommate* have already come out, while the indie character study *The Oranges* opens in the fall.

And this month there's *Monte Carlo*, a frothy Euro-confection about three young American tourists who ditch their boring Paris itinerary for the Riviera when one of them is mistaken for a wealthy British heiress.

"It's really great," Meester enthuses. "It's so sweet and fun, and it's beautiful looking. We shot it in Paris and Monte Carlo with Selena Gomez and Katie Cassidy. It's a story about three young women who go on vacation — reluctantly — together. But they end up just growing and learning and really becoming close and falling in love. Coming of age, essentially."

Though the source novel, *Headhunters* by Jules Bass, concerned a quartet of middle-aged gold diggers in Monaco's entertainment capital (the project was initially a vehicle for Nicole Kidman and Julia Roberts), producers ultimately thought it would work better as a showcase for Disney teen star Gomez and the *GG* tandem of Meester and Cassidy. And before you write the whole thing off as chicklet fluff, know this: the director is Thomas Bezucha, who made the sharp romantic comedy *The Family Stone*.

Meester isn't making any claims about *Monte Carlo*'s art-film cred. Yet, despite the critical dismissal of her last two releases, doing movies that matter seems to be her goal.

"In the last couple of years, especially, I've been yearning for that a bit," she admits. "I just want to continue to work on things that make me happy, and grow as much as possible. I have a movie coming out in November called *The Oranges* that's funny and, in some weird way, a love story. It's about two families that live across the street from each other, and my character falls in love with the CONTINUED ►



Monte Carlo stars (from left) Leighton Meester, Katie Cassidy and Selena Gomez

▶ father across the street. It's about change and inevitability.

"I read a lot, classic books if I can," Meester adds. "I try to learn and be open-minded. I travel a lot; learn languages and music. I try to be smart!"

Well-spoken and clearly intelligent, Meester seems genuinely curious and happy to deepen her knowledge. Tabloid psychologists might accuse her of overcompensating for her family background (her mom was serving a prison sentence for drug-related charges when Leighton was born) or the idea that, well, models are supposed to be dumb (she had a Wilhelmina contract prior to hitting puberty).

Before *Gossip Girl*, Meester had already proven herself bright enough to make guest appearances on many of TV's smartest series, including *Law & Order*, *Entourage*, *24*, *Veronica Mars* and *House*.

"I never went to college, but I've done a lot of what people probably get out of that college experience," Meester says with a shrug. "I don't regret it at all; I think that what I would get out of college is learning, and I do a lot of that on my own. There is the social aspect of what the college experience is, but I've had my share of that, which is fine — that gets boring after awhile, so I'm done!"

Unlike many an actor who fancies rock stardom as well, Meester is taking a personal, carefully considered approach to music in the wake of several pop singles ("Somebody to Love," "Good Girls Go Bad") and positive notices for her *Country Strong* foray into twang.

"I fell in love with that genre of music and learned so much in Nashville and working with

everybody, about performing and playing and everything to do with country music," she says. "It really influenced my music and what I do, how I write and play."

As for an album, it will come out according to her schedule, not some record company's.

"Music, I think, should be important to everyone, and it's really important to me," she says. "Making my own music...I love writing, love singing, love performing. It's a huge part of who I am, in my heart. But I don't want the pressure of making it a career to make money. That's the last thing I'd want because I want it to be pure and I want it to feel right. When everything's perfect I'll release it, because I do want people to hear it. In the meantime I'm really just enjoying the process of creating."

As is the case with her family, Leighton Meester makes no apologies for her scheming *Gossip Girl* character Blair Waldorf, a rich Manhattan princess who's been compared to a junior league Joan Collins. Although Waldorf is as judgeable as she is judgmental, Meester has learned from life that most people deserve to be given a break. Regardless, it doesn't sound like she wants to give up the character anytime soon.

"She's kind of larger than life, which I think for the show's purpose is a good thing," Meester says. "She dresses very specifically and very well, which is fun. And the writing's so good that, luckily, I can have some [negative] feelings for her and still love her." □

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



PARTRIDGE PARENTAGE

Eight months after Leighton Meester was born in a federal prison, her *Monte Carlo* (and *Gossip Girl*) co-star Katie Cassidy was born into showbiz royalty. She's the daughter of 1970s teen pop star David Cassidy, who played Keith Partridge on *The Partridge Family*.

LARRY CROWNE
HITS THEATRES JULY 1ST

WHAT'S NEW WITH **Nia**

■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

“Yes, we’re lovers,” jokes actor-writer **Nia Vardalos** when asked about her close relationship with *Larry Crowne* writing partner Tom Hanks.

Vardalos and Hanks joined forces five years ago to begin writing the screenplay about middle-aged Larry Crowne (Hanks), who loses his job, returns to community college to kick-start his career, and falls for his public speaking instructor (Julia Roberts).

But before we get to dishing about Tom Hanks, Vardalos wants to shoot down a misconception floating around the interwebs (originated in an *L.A. Times* article) that at one point she wanted to give up acting.

“That is a complete falsehood, it was misconstrued in the *L.A. Times* and I would love the opportunity to clear that up,” says the 48-year-old Winnipeg native over the phone from Los Angeles.

“I’m not a quitter in any way, I never thought about quitting acting. What I said was, at the time Tom asked me to write the script for *Larry Crowne* I was not comfortable being on camera because I was grieving my infertility situation, which led me to the world of adoption. That was it. I was taking a self-imposed leave of absence to take care of my heart and health.”

She needed time away from the spotlight to accept that after a 10-year struggle to get pregnant she was never going to have a baby. That realization led Vardalos and her husband, Ian Gomez (who plays Andy on TV’s *Cougar Town*), to adopt a three-year-old girl living in the foster care system. That was in 2008 and Vardalos claims it’s “the best thing that’s ever happened to me.” She remains a spokesperson for foster care adoption in both Canada and the U.S. (she became a U.S. citizen in 1999).

Back to Hanks, who first came into Vardalos’s life when his wife, Rita Wilson, convinced him they should produce a film version of Vardalos’s one-woman play *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. That little movie went on to become the highest-grossing romantic comedy of all time, taking in more than \$368-million (U.S.) worldwide.

Hanks is often described as the “Nicest Guy in Hollywood,” which



is wonderful, but niceness is a trait that can get in the way of a creative working relationship. Vardalos remembers how she had to get her *Larry Crowne* co-writer to bare his teeth.

“After the first draft of the script I really had to sit him down, look him in the eye and say, ‘Don’t be polite. I’m your partner in this. What do we like, what don’t we like? I’m tough, I’m from Second City, I can handle it.’”

That heart-to-heart led to an amazing writing experience.

“For me, it was the most creatively satisfying process I’ve had since *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*,” she says. “Sometimes we wrote together, sometimes we wrote separately, we would show each other drafts and it was so respectful. We’d sit in his office, pick the whole script apart, write it out on a whiteboard, put it back together, it was just fantastic.”

With *Larry Crowne* completed, Vardalos is focusing on the other half-dozen projects she’s got on the go. She’s writing scripts, developing films in which she’ll star and, of course, she’s taking care of her little girl. Asked about time management, the comedian takes the opportunity to shatter the myth of the “Hollywood Mom.”

“I don’t like when Hollywood moms say ‘I do it all’ without acknowledging, ‘I do it all...with a nanny and a housekeeper.’ I just find that so disingenuous. So yeah, I have an amazing supportive family, and I do it with a lot of help.”

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.



T

**HARRY POTTER AND THE
DEATHLY HALLOWS – PART 2**
HITS THEATRES JULY 15TH

THE

A decade has passed since we met Hogwarts heroes **Daniel Radcliffe**, **Rupert Grint** and **Emma Watson**. As *Harry Potter*'s final page is turned, the three stars reflect on their magical journey and ponder what's to come

■ BY KEVIN WILLIAMSON

END

For the stars of *Harry Potter*, it's their final magic act. Vanquishing Voldemort? Boarding broomsticks for one last match of Quidditch? Conjuring up a climactic spell with the wave of a wand? Nothing quite so dazzling. Rather, it's just getting used to being unemployed muggles for the first time in a decade.

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint are preparing themselves for post-Potter life as their eighth and final Potter film, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2*, closes the book on J.K. Rowling's epic series.

"It's going to take awhile for that to sink in — that I'll never be doing it again," says 22-year-old Grint, who originated the role of sidekick Ron Weasley in 2001's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. "The last day was quite sad. I was surprised at how emotional we all got.... Not having that routine is going to be weird. It literally has been half of my life. I can't remember life before this."

It's a sentiment shared by his fellow actors on a chilly rain-swept afternoon at London's Claridge's Hotel.

"I'm very proud to have been a part of a franchise that has become pretty renowned for the quality of films that we make," Radcliffe says, reflecting on 10 years spent playing the titular boy-turned-teen wizard.

"The last film, I think, will be epic."

Indeed, for all the computer-generated spectacle the filmmakers have created onscreen, the most captivating effect has arguably been watching Harry, Hermione and Ron grow from children to adolescents to adults.

That kind of consistency and commitment is virtually unheard of in Hollywood franchises, and underscores just how well they were cast in the first place.

"I think they probably saw my mother and thought, 'Well, this boy isn't going to grow that much,'" says Radcliffe, who turns 22 this month. "Because she's like five-foot and my grandmother is four-foot-nine, so they presumably just thought, 'Ah, he's not going to get too tall for the role, that's for sure.'"

"To be honest with you, I think studios have a reputation for being quite cutthroat and I don't think they have been on *Potter* at all," Radcliffe continues. "There was definitely a sense of loyalty and there was never a sense that we were going to be screwed over by the studio in any way. They were always very, very supportive and I think they always realized, particularly in the early days, that they were dealing with young kids, whose hearts would be broken if suddenly they said, 'We're replacing you.'"

"I think that's why the casting process took so long, because they wanted to find people that would not only be right for the first film, but also sort of durable enough to last, hopefully, for quite a few years."

What the actors are left with now is "like a really expensive home video," says Grint.

"It's something I can always look back at.... It's only when I go back and look at the films that I notice we've changed so much. It just seems to have happened before our eyes, really. It's hard to relate to that little boy in the first few films. I feel so different now."

For 21-year-old Watson, the fact that — until recently — she'd been studying at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, gave her an "infrastructure to fall back on." Besides, she adds, "It's nice to be able to take a break.... Making these two films back-to-back was exhausting."

CONTINUED ►

“They wanted to find people that would not only be right for the first film, but also sort of durable enough to last, hopefully, for quite a few years,” says Radcliffe



► Picking up where the dark, harrowing *Deathly Hallows - Part 1* left off, with the forces of good and evil racing toward a conclusive clash of wills, *Part 2* is “shocking,” Grint reports. “It’s like a war film, really — bodies everywhere and people dying.”

Not surprisingly, then, it also proved to be the most physically gruelling shoot.

“We get dropped by a dragon into a lake and I think it was January or February,” Watson recalls. “The lake wasn’t heated. And because we had to get changed right after, we couldn’t wear anything underneath. I was like, ‘This must be a joke!’ I think at one point Rupert thought his heart stopped beating. We pretty much spend *Part 2* soaking wet.”

Then again, at least they made it this far. After all, with the publication of each new Rowling tome, speculation intensified about which character might get killed off along the way. “I was worried I wasn’t going to make it, to be honest,” Grint admits.

Surviving to the end has meant they’ve not only witnessed each other grow as people, but as actors.

During one pivotal scene with Grint in *Part 2*, Watson recalls “having to remind myself to keep acting because I was going to just go, ‘You’re amazing! That was amazing!’ I don’t know where he pulls it



Harry Potter stars (from left) Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint

from. And I’ve had the same moments with Dan, where I’ve just been amazed.... He’s fearless. I’m gobsmacked. He gives it, everything.”

While production has long since wrapped on the sequels, Radcliffe, Watson and Grint have nevertheless been together on the worldwide promotional circuit. “We always have these dates where we know we’re going to see each other again,” says Watson. “So I guess when the last movie is out, we’ll have to figure it out how to see each other again.”

In the meantime, they are keeping occupied. Radcliffe has already filmed the supernatural thriller *The Woman in Black* and is currently appearing on Broadway in the musical *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

Watson, meanwhile, decided to leave Brown to focus on acting and fashion earlier this year. “I want to be a Renaissance woman. I want to be good at a lot of things. I thrive on variety. I’m just taking it slow. I’m not diving into anything.”

The same goes for Grint, who is contemplating simpler things.

“I’ve never really had full control over my hair and stuff and now that I do, I don’t really know what to do.” ☐

Kevin Williamson is a Calgary-based movie columnist for Sun Media.

MY HOW THEY’VE GROWN

We couldn’t resist one last comparison of our *Harry Potter* stars, then (2001’s *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone*) and now (2011’s *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*).



Daniel Radcliffe



Rupert Grint



Emma Watson



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He is Spartacus

Movies have the power to restore a withered, white-haired man to a bronzed warrior.

Kirk Douglas is now 94 years old, but in the 1960 classic *Spartacus* he's an athletic movie star in his prime. As the Thracian slave-turned-gladiator who leads a revolt against Rome, Douglas makes us believe one man, with right on his side, can defeat an Empire. And what an Empire it is, ruled by erudite English actors Laurence Olivier, Peter Ustinov and Charles Laughton.

Directed by a 30-year-old Stanley Kubrick, and boasting a cast of more than 10,000, *Spartacus* remains the yardstick by which every sword-and-sandal picture is measured — in fact, Mel Gibson liked it so much he basically remade it as *Braveheart*. —IR

Spartacus screens as part Cineplex's Classic Film Series on July 13th and 24th. Go to Cineplex.com/events for times and locations.

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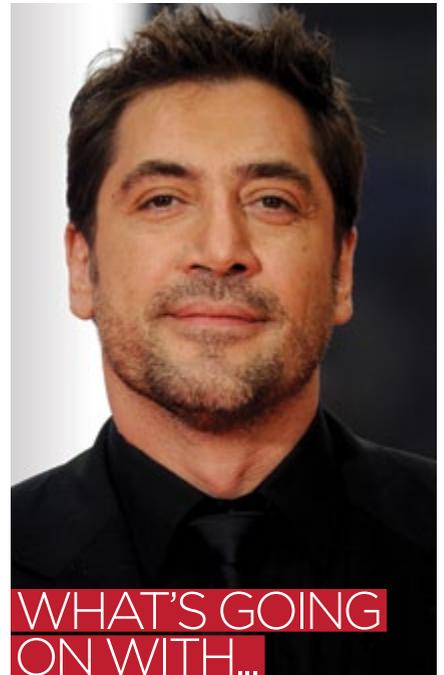
CASTING CALL

BY INGRID RANDOJA



ROYAL ENGAGEMENT

She was Queen Victoria and he was King George VI, and now one-time royals **Emily Blunt** and **Colin Firth** team up for an untitled dark comedy about a man who fakes his death, takes a new identity and meets a women who's also trying to reinvent herself. Commercial director-turned-filmmaker **Dante Ariola** will helm the pic that starts shooting this fall.



WHAT'S GOING ON WITH...

The Dark Tower

Fans of **Stephen King's** seven-book *Dark Tower* series were stoked when it was announced last year that **Javier Bardem** would star as gunslinger Roland Deschain in director **Ron Howard's** big-screen adaptation. The plan is for three films and two limited-run TV series. Now word is that the first film's start date has been pushed from this summer to next February so Universal Pictures can trim the ambitious project's huge budget.



ARNIE LOCKS FIRST PIC

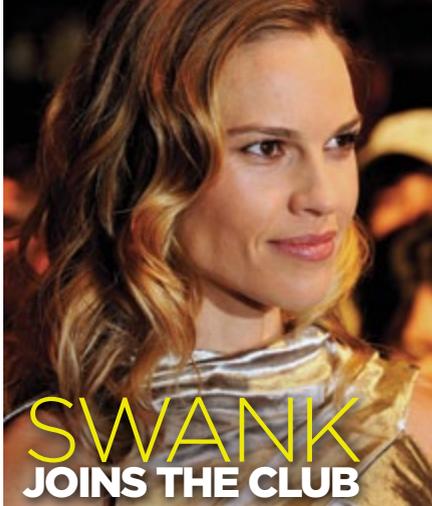
Once he gets his personal life sorted out, it looks like former politico **Arnold Schwarzenegger's** first film back in front of the camera will be the dramatic thriller *Cry Macho*, in which he plays a fired horse trainer who kidnaps his boss's son. **Brad Furman** (*The Lincoln Lawyer*) will direct the pic.



HEMSWORTH IS THE HUNTSMAN

Thor star **Chris Hemsworth** trades his hammer for an axe. The Aussie actor has agreed to star in *Snow White and the Huntsman*, which casts **Kristen Stewart** as the feisty fairy tale hero. The plot revolves around a huntsman who's been sent to kill Snow White, but instead helps her in her quest to defeat the Evil Queen (**Charlize Theron**). The pic is slated to open on June 1, 2012.

COLIN FIRTH, CHRIS HEMSWORTH, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, HILARY SWANK, JAMIE CAMPBELL BOWER AND JAVIER BARDEM PHOTOS BY GETTY FOR IMAGE.NET



SWANK JOINS THE CLUB

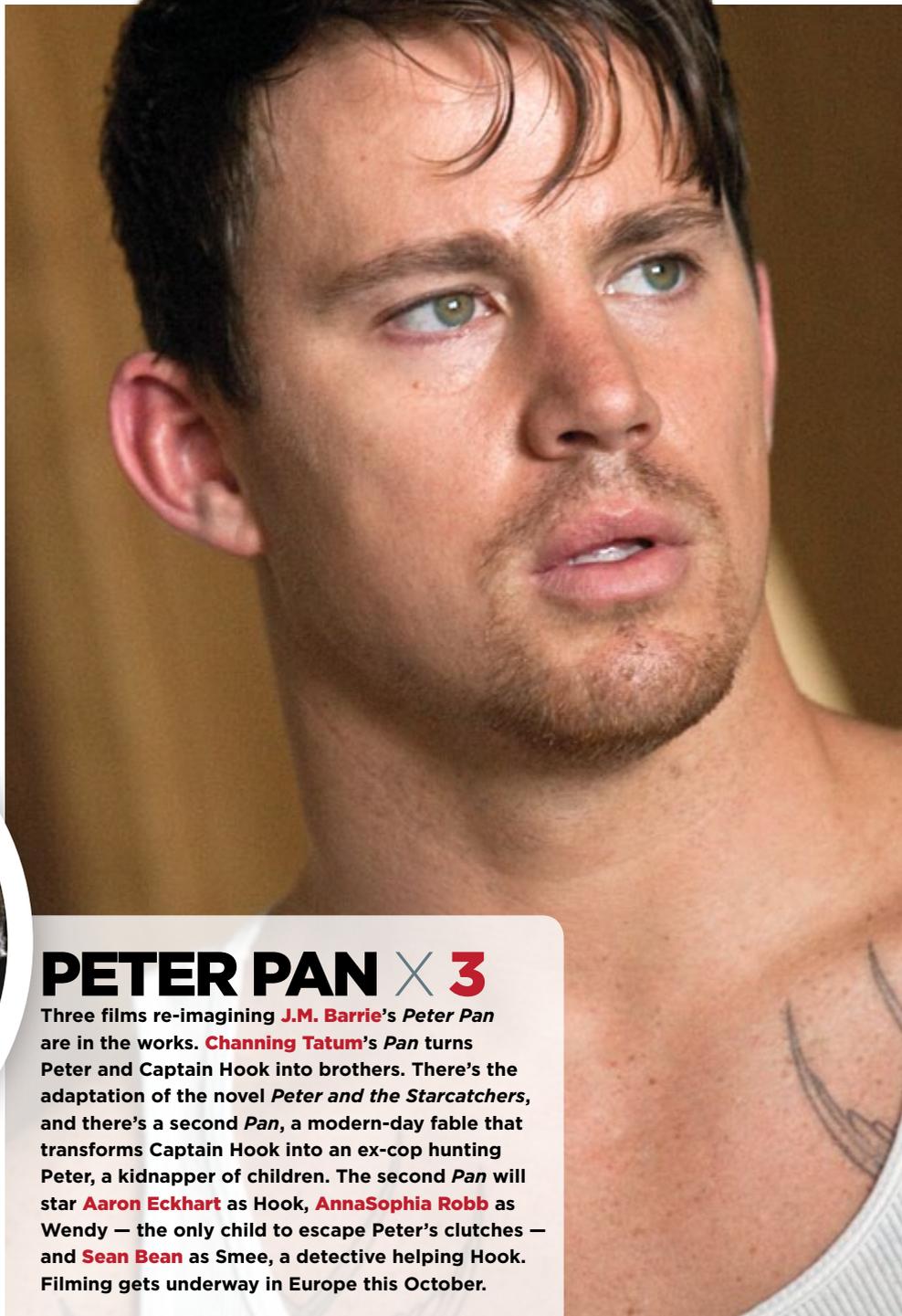
Hilary Swank takes a break from her burgeoning producing career — *Something Borrowed* was her baby — to join **Matthew McConaughey** in *The Dallas Buyer's Club*, a drama directed by Quebec's own **Jean-Marc Vallée** (*C.R.A.Z.Y.*). It recounts the real-life exploits of Texas electrician Ron Woodroof (McConaughey) who, after contracting AIDS in 1986, began smuggling experimental, life-extending drugs into the U.S. to help himself and others.



FRESH FACE

JAMIE CAMPBELL BOWER

Not many actors land roles in two of Hollywood's biggest franchises, but musician/model/actor **Jamie Campbell Bower** can claim the feat. The 22-year-old British-born Bower plays wizard Gellert Grindelwald in this month's *Harry Potter* finale, and appears as vampire Caius in the *Twilight* flicks. Add his portrayal of Arthur in STARZ TV's *Camelot* and he's practically cornered the market on fantasy dreamboats.



PETER PAN X 3

Three films re-imagining **J.M. Barrie's** *Peter Pan* are in the works. **Channing Tatum's** *Pan* turns Peter and Captain Hook into brothers. There's the adaptation of the novel *Peter and the Starcatchers*, and there's a second *Pan*, a modern-day fable that transforms Captain Hook into an ex-cop hunting Peter, a kidnapper of children. The second *Pan* will star **Aaron Eckhart** as Hook, **AnnaSophia Robb** as Wendy — the only child to escape Peter's clutches — and **Sean Bean** as Smee, a detective helping Hook. Filming gets underway in Europe this October.

ALSO IN THE WORKS ▶ **Larry David** does drag to play a nun in the upcoming *Three Stooges*. ▶ Look for **Ethan Hawke** to pop up in a *Total Recall* cameo. ▶ *The Bailout* casts **Jack Black** as a man hoping to rebuild his financially ruined life. ▶ Boxing pics are once again on Hollywood's radar, including one titled *The Bleeder* that will star real-life couple **Liev Schreiber** and **Naomi Watts**.

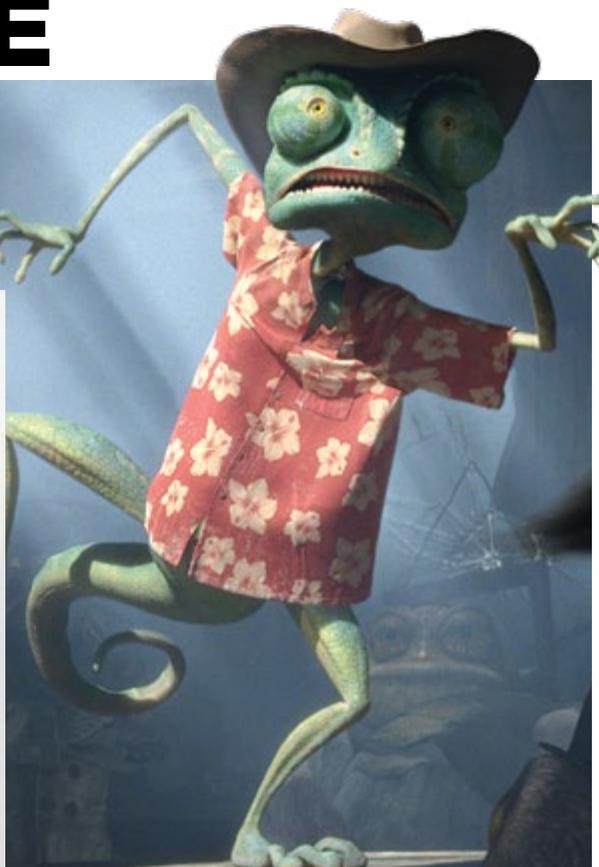
AT HOME

July's BEST DVD AND BLU-RAY

RANGO

JULY 15

It's your typical fish out of water story. Well, lizard out of terrarium. Rango (voiced by **Johnny Depp**) is a bug-eyed, crook-necked reptile who escapes from his terrarium after it's left by the side of a desert road. He finds his way into the dusty Old West town of Dirt where he becomes a hero after accidentally killing the hawk that's been terrorizing Dirt's motley citizens. The DVD includes a feature called "Real Creatures of Dirt," in which animal experts talk about the actual species that inspired the film's characters.



THE LINCOLN LAWYER

JULY 12

Matthew McConaughey plays Mick Haller, a low-rent lawyer who operates out of the back seat of his Lincoln Town Car. So you just know something's up when a baby-faced rich boy (**Ryan Phillippe**) seeks out Haller to represent him in a battery case.



LIMITLESS

JULY 12

Playing on the notion that we use only a tiny portion of our brains, **Bradley Cooper** portrays a failed writer given a pill that allows him to access 100 percent of his gray matter. This makes him brilliant, which makes him rich and powerful. But what happens when the pills run out?



SOURCE CODE

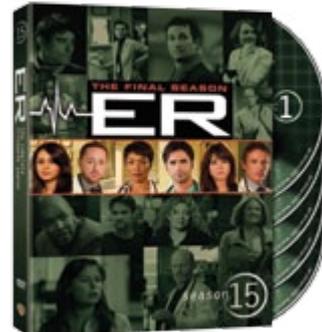
JULY 22

After a terrorist blows up a commuter train, a victim's brain is harvested and a soldier (**Jake Gyllenhaal**) is plugged into the dead man's last eight minutes of memory in order to figure out who the killer is. But when at first that soldier does not succeed he must try try try try try again.

Something Special

ER: THE FINAL SEASON

JULY 12



If you're wondering, 'Who are all those people on the cover of the *ER* DVD?' then you obviously didn't stick with the groundbreaking series until the end. Now's your chance to catch up on the 15th, and final, season, which aired a couple of years ago but finally reaches DVD this month. Bonus material includes a look back at those seminal 15 years.

Games

Why We Love...



EARTH DEFENSE FORCE: INSECT ARMAGEDDON

PS3, XBOX 360

JULY 5

You know how some movies are so bad they're good? That's how we feel about the original *Earth Defense Force 2017* and this new sequel. C'mon. Giant bugs smoked with a pesticide gun.

MORE MOVIES ▶ OF GODS AND MEN (JULY 5) ▶ HOBO WITH A SHOTGUN (JULY 5)
▶ TAKE ME HOME TONIGHT (JULY 19) ▶ LIFE DURING WARTIME (JULY 26)
▶ MAO'S LAST DANCER (JULY 26) ▶ INSIDIOUS (JULY 26) ▶ TRUST (JULY 26)

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SHOWING THE WAY

David Schwimmer's difficult drama *Trust*, about an online predator, comes to DVD ■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

David Schwimmer directs Liana Liberato on the set of *Trust*



Clive Owen



Catherine Keener

A father's pain inspired David Schwimmer.

At the Santa Monica-based Rape Foundation's annual brunch (Schwimmer's on the board), the actor-director witnessed an incredible moment.

"This big, lumbering, professional guy who was obviously incredibly nervous and shaking, gave this very open speech about his journey after his 14-year-old daughter had been brutally raped," says Schwimmer, "and I just sat there, just really, really devastated by it."

The 44-year-old Schwimmer recounts the story in a Toronto hotel room last September. He's here to screen his second directorial effort, *Trust*, at the Toronto International Film Festival. The film will be released on DVD July 26th.

Trust stars Clive Owen and Catherine Keener as Will and Lynn Cameron, the parents of 14-year-old Annie (Liana Liberato), who is lured by an online predator pretending to be a boy about her age. She agrees to meet him, and instead finds an older man who rapes her.

For Schwimmer, who's been involved with the Rape Foundation for seven years, it was the father's take on the incident that opened his mind, showing him how to make a movie about the horror of rape. "My whole involvement in the Rape Foundation is to try and generate more awareness for men about the issue. Suddenly, I thought, if the point of view in the film is the father's point of view, his experience of this, then it might kind of click more with men."

Getting Clive Owen, a strong actor with a rugged screen persona (and who's also a dad to two teenage girls), to star as the angry and confused father was key to Schwimmer's vision of the film.

"It took months just to get [the script] to him through his team," says Schwimmer, "but once he got it, within two days I heard he wanted to meet me. He told me that the day he read the script was also the day he had a computer expert come into his house to educate him and look at his daughters' computers and make them internet safe. So it was definitely something he was living with and aware of."

Schwimmer's post-*Friends* career has been focused mainly on directing and performing with Chicago's Lookingglass Theatre Company, a troupe he co-founded, or directing TV and movies — his last on-screen acting gig was in 2008's *Nothing But the Truth*.

Talking with him, you feel his passion for directing, especially when it comes to working with *Trust*'s young star, Liana Liberato, a relatively unknown actor from Galveston, Texas.

"She was one of three actresses I was very interested in," he says. "I can kinda smell when someone is not being the character, especially with kids. I really don't like it when I feel a child is acting, and with Liana I just felt such presence and authenticity, she just became this person in a way I've never seen with a young actor. She's only 14, it's kinda uncanny."

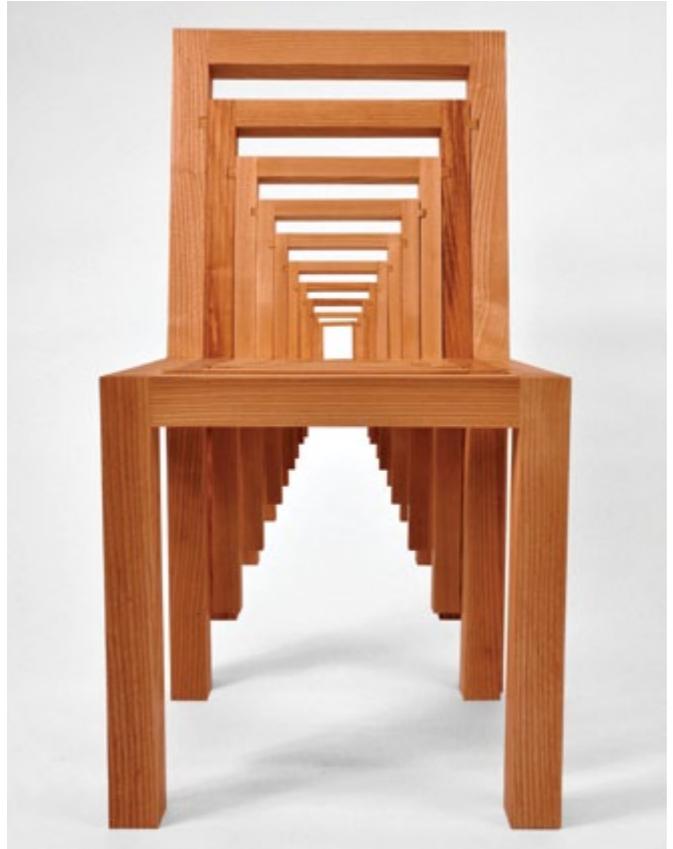
Preparing Liberato for the emotionally demanding role was Schwimmer's chief priority. "I would spend a lot of time with her, give her a lot of material to read, I had her meet victims, I had her go to Stuart House, a place that's just for child victims of sexual assault and rape. And when we were doing scenes like the rape scene, I choreographed every moment so everyone knew what was going to happen from every touch to every look."

Schwimmer and his wife, photographer Zoe Buckman, welcomed their first child, a daughter named Cleo, this past May. One day he'll have a teenager living in his home, and while no one can know what the internet will have morphed into decades from now, Schwimmer does know helping keep a kid safe will always come down to one simple thing.

"It sounds obvious, but just talk to your kids. The single best thing for parents to do — and this is from a Department of Justice report as well — is to just be present and keep talking to your kids about what they are doing and who they are talking to. Ask yourself, 'Do I know what my kids are doing online?' 'Cause the average kid has a Facebook account the parents know about, and then they have a secret one. Be on it." □

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

FINALLY...



THE INCEPTION CHAIR

Vivian Chiu's "Inception Chair" blows our minds. Chiu, who was born in L.A. and raised in Hong Kong, is working toward her BFA in furniture design at the Rhode Island School of Design. But her other love is movies. "Growing up in a family of film buffs we have spent ages debating about the ending of *Inception*," she says of director Christopher Nolan's 2010 mind-bending thriller.

"I was not initially inspired by *Inception*, the movie, but the realization of the similarity definitely came early on in the design process and made the fabrication much more fun," says Chiu. "After putting the chair together, it had more optical illusions than the film had dreams. If you stare straight into the chair you feel as if you're going down a hallway that leads you to limbo." —MW

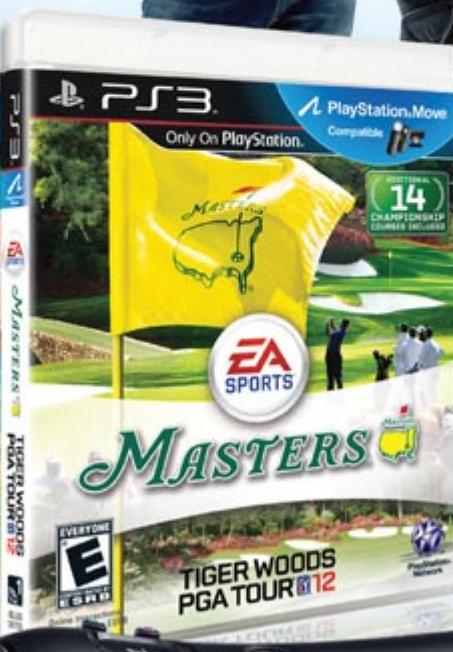


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