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# Famous

may 2003 | volume 4 | number 5

## Aniston *and the* ALMIGHTY

JENNIFER ANISTON SINGS THE PRAISES OF HER DIVINE  
NEW COMEDY *BRUCE ALMIGHTY*

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ZELLWEGER TALKS *DOWN WITH LOVE* | WAHLBERG AND NORTON ON *THE ITALIAN JOB*

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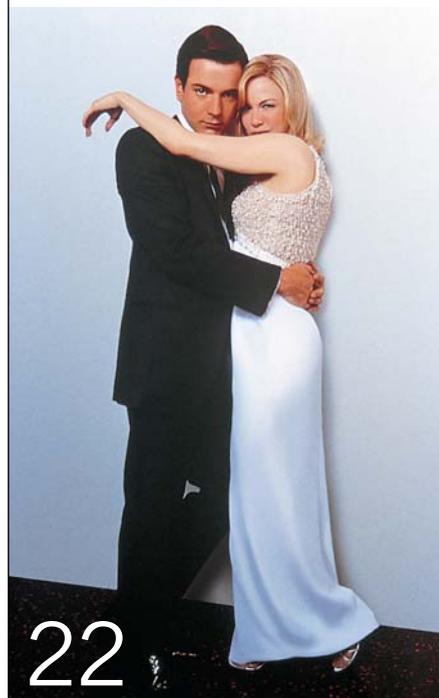
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## Outside THE BOX



It's not that **Jennifer Aniston**'s been a nobody for the past decade. She's done more to shape modern hairstyles than anyone. She took Brad Pitt off the market. Then there's *Friends*, which made her the queen of Must-See TV, not to mention that million-dollar-per-episode paycheque.

But an actor does crave more from time to time — artistic recognition, and all that. And this past year, Aniston finally got some. It started with an independent film called *The Good Girl* which was a big hit at Sundance and proved Aniston could act *sans* makeup and hairdresser (something about that always impresses the critics). Then, just a few months ago, she took home an Emmy and a Golden Globe for *Friends*, after years of fruitless nominations.

So what does one do with this new-found level of respect and acclaim? Depends on the actor. Some will continue to push boundaries taking only smart roles in substantive pictures. Others will fall back on the easy projects — taking parts they think the public wants to see them do. Aniston is on the cusp of that decision, and only time will tell which direction she'll take. In "Going Steady with God," page 30, she ponders the pigeonhole in which some would like to see her trapped, evades questions about her personal life and promotes her first post-*Good Girl* pic, *Bruce Almighty*, in which she plays girlfriend to God-for-a-day Jim Carrey.

**Renée Zellweger** looks like the kind of actor who begs to be typecast. She's small, she's cute, she's perky, she speaks with that adorable Southern drawl. But somehow she's confounded casting agents and audiences alike, ping-pong like a pinball from one extreme character to the next — the typical love interest in *Jerry Maguire*, a psychotic soap opera fanatic in *Nurse Betty*, a chubby modern gal (British, no less) in *Bridget Jones's Diary* (for which she got her first Oscar nomination) and a murdering, singing showgirl in last year's *Chicago* (earning her a second Oscar nomination, at just 33 years of age).

For her next project, Zellweger has chosen a stylish retro piece called *Down with Love*. Co-starring Ewan McGregor, the film re-creates the très cool look and feel of those old Rock Hudson, Doris Day movies, but with the ability to push the plot and themes way beyond what was acceptable in the '60s. In "Zellweger's New Day," page 22, the actor talks about paying her dues, double-entendres and her flippy little hairdo.

And if **Mark Wahlberg** is in danger of being typecast, it isn't for the kind of characters he chooses — it's because he keeps doing remakes. Three in a row at last count. His latest, *The Italian Job*, sees him playing a double-crossed gold thief in an update of the 1969 Michael Caine caper. In "Chasing the Gold," page 26, Wahlberg and co-star **Edward Norton** explain their very differing feelings about remakes, and tell you why they decided to give this one a try.

—Marni Weisz

**PUBLISHER** SALAH BACHIR

**EDITOR** MARNI WEISZ  
**DEPUTY EDITOR** INGRID RANDOJA  
**SENIOR DESIGNER** JUSTIN STAYSHYN  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER** SHEILA GREGORY

**CONTRIBUTORS** EARL DITTMAN  
 SUSAN GRANGER  
 BARRETT HOOPER  
 MICHAELLE LEMANNE  
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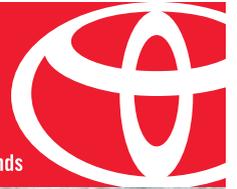
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Natascha McElhone with George Clooney in *Solaris*

### STOP YAPPING

Congratulations on your printing of Maurie Sherman's "SHUT UP" letter. I am tired of asking people if their attention span is spent when they are yapping during a movie. Perhaps Famous Players could commission someone like Denis Leary or Chris Rock to do a short ad on proper behaviour in a theatre. This would reach the members of the audience who do not read.

**Alan Crowther — Sudbury, Ont.**

### MORE ABOUT MCELHONE

Who is Natascha McElhone? I saw her in the brilliant *Truman Show* and in *FearDotCom*. She is very attractive and a good actress. I would like to read more about her. Thanks for your help.

**Emery Pi — Toronto, Ont.**

*The elegant beauty, who also played George Clooney's dead wife in last year's Steven Soderbergh sci-fi flick Solaris, was born in March 1971 in the Hampstead area of London, England, but was raised in Brighton by her journalist parents. Although her Hollywood stock has been rising over the past few years, McElhone still lives in London with her husband, a plastic surgeon, and their young son.*

*She made her big-screen debut as a young painter opposite Anthony Hopkins in 1996's*

*Surviving Picasso. Just one year later you caught her as Jim Carrey's forbidden high school love interest in The Truman Show. McElhone is expecting her second child this month, so you probably won't see much of her for the next little while.*

### BUTTER HELPS TURN PAGES

Good day to you. I enjoy reading your magazine. I usually go to the movies about an hour early to have my time before the movie starts to read what's ahead in the life of actors and their upcoming movies. Thanks for the added calories as I sit and eat more when reading *Famous*.

**Lori Jean Kjartanson — Winnipeg, Man.**

### GET IN TOUCH WITH CAT AND MIKE

I would very much like to be able to write Catherine Zeta-Jones and her husband Michael Douglas to convey how big a fan I am of their work. Is it possible for you to send an address where they can be reached, or perhaps an email address? I would appreciate any assistance from you. Take care and keep up the great work at *Famous* magazine.

**Jonathan A. Dean — Oshawa, Ont.**

*Although Michael Douglas does have his own rather extensive official website (www.michaeldouglas.com) with a fair bit of*

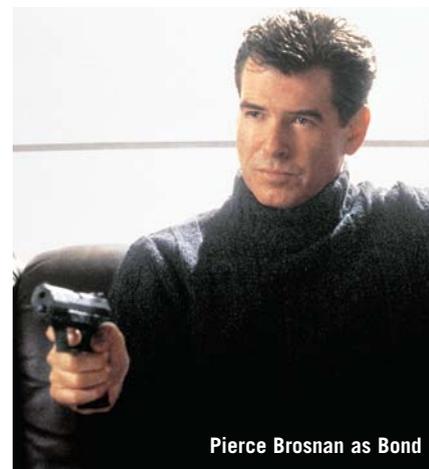
*info about his career and causes, he doesn't provide an email address, as do many other celebs with sites. But Catherine Zeta-Jones's official site does allow you to send a message directly to her, even claiming: "We guarantee your mail will be personally and privately sent directly to Catherine." Go to <http://www.safesearching.com/catherinezeta-jones/contact/> and follow the instructions.*

### TWEEN LOVES BOND

Hi, I am a 12-year-old girl and a huge fan of James Bond. I was just wondering if you could add a few more James Bond articles. I think that you should mabey interview Pierce Brosnan because he is like the greatest actor in history. So if you could just do me one more favour, could you please put in you magisine when *Die Another Day* comes on DVD and video. I think you should do this because James Bond rocks and Pierce Brosnan too. P.S. You guys at Famous Players have a great movie theatre and a great selection of films and a great magisine. Keep up the good work!

**Emily Nolan — St. Columban, Ont.**

*We probably won't have our next Bond story until the next Bond movie comes out. But you won't have to wait that long for the Die Another Day DVD — which should be in stores on June 3rd.*



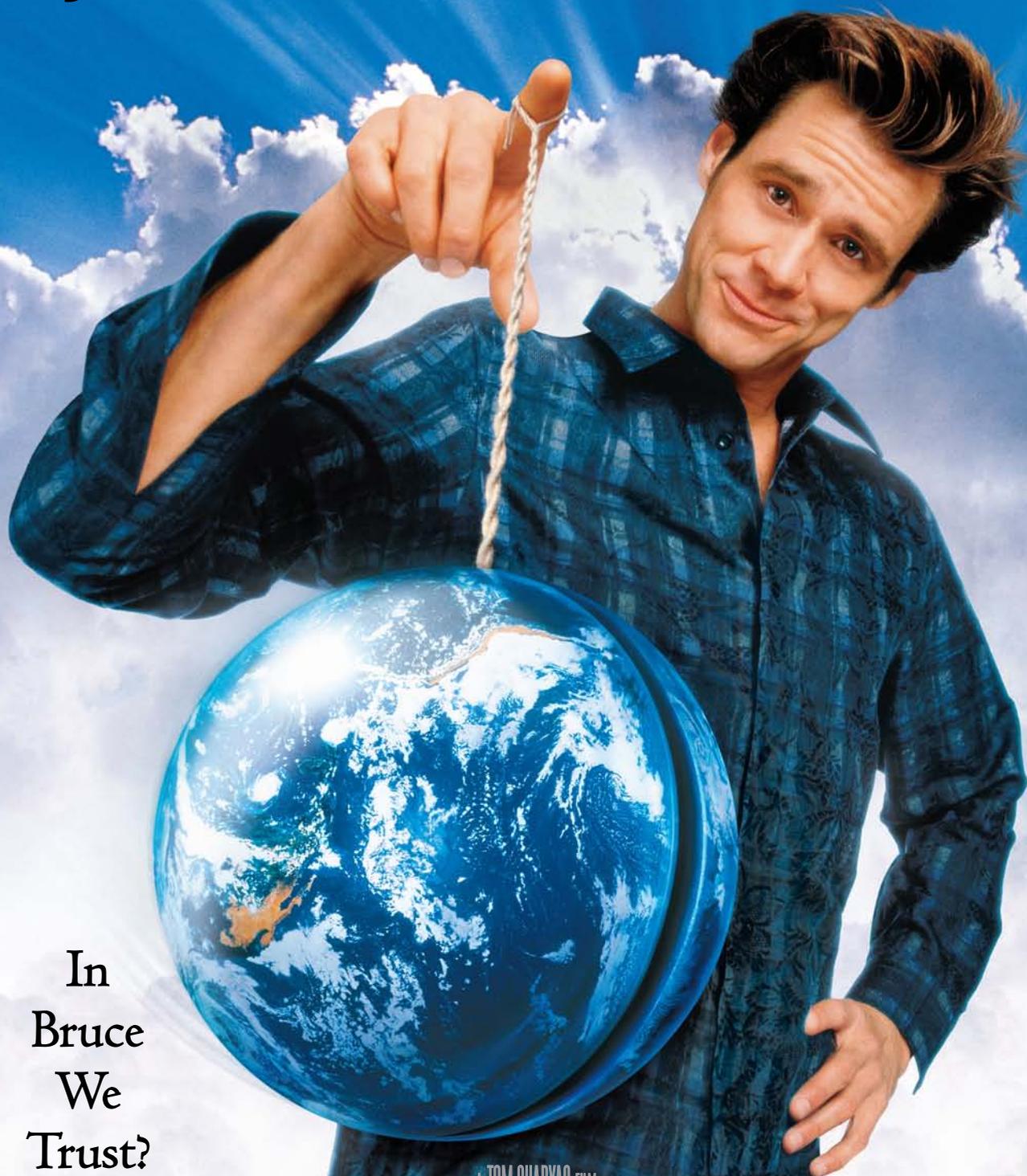
Pierce Brosnan as Bond

### FAMOUS WELCOMES YOUR COMMENTS

Address them to: Letters to the Editor, *Famous* magazine, 102 Atlantic Ave., Suite 100, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1X9; or fax us at 416.539.8511; or drop us an email at [editor@fmedia.ca](mailto:editor@fmedia.ca).

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include your full name, city of residence and contact info (phone or email).

J I M C A R R E Y



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# Bruce **ALMIGHTY**

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# CAUGHT ON FILM

*The stars work, play and come to blows*



<<

It's tough to juggle motherhood and starring in a hit HBO show. But **Sarah Jessica Parker** gives it her best shot, bringing six-month-old James along for a day of shooting *Sex and the City*. No word why daddy Matthew Broderick couldn't take him that day.

Wondering what **Helen Hunt** (right) has been doing since her last movie, *The Curse of the Jade Scorpion*, came out in August 2001? Most recently, it seems, rehearsing for the Broadway show *Life X Three*, in which she co-stars with **Brent Spiner** (left) and John Turturo. The comedy, written by Art scribe Yasmina Reza, depicts three alternate outcomes after some dinner guests arrive a full day early for their meal.

∨  
∨





PHOTO BY FRED PROUSER/REUTERS

↑  
Oscar-winner **Adrien Brody** joined Jennifer Love Hewitt, David Arquette and Jessica Biel as celebrity models at a GM-sponsored fashion show celebrating 75 years of film and the Academy Awards. Guess which movie he was paying tribute to with this outfit. Soon after, the star of *The Pianist* signed a modeling contract with designer Ermenegildo Zegna, whose suit he's wearing here.

*The Quiet American's* **Brendan Fraser** winds up for a wicked throw at a celebrity dodgeball tournament in Hollywood. Proceeds went to the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS foundation.  
∨  
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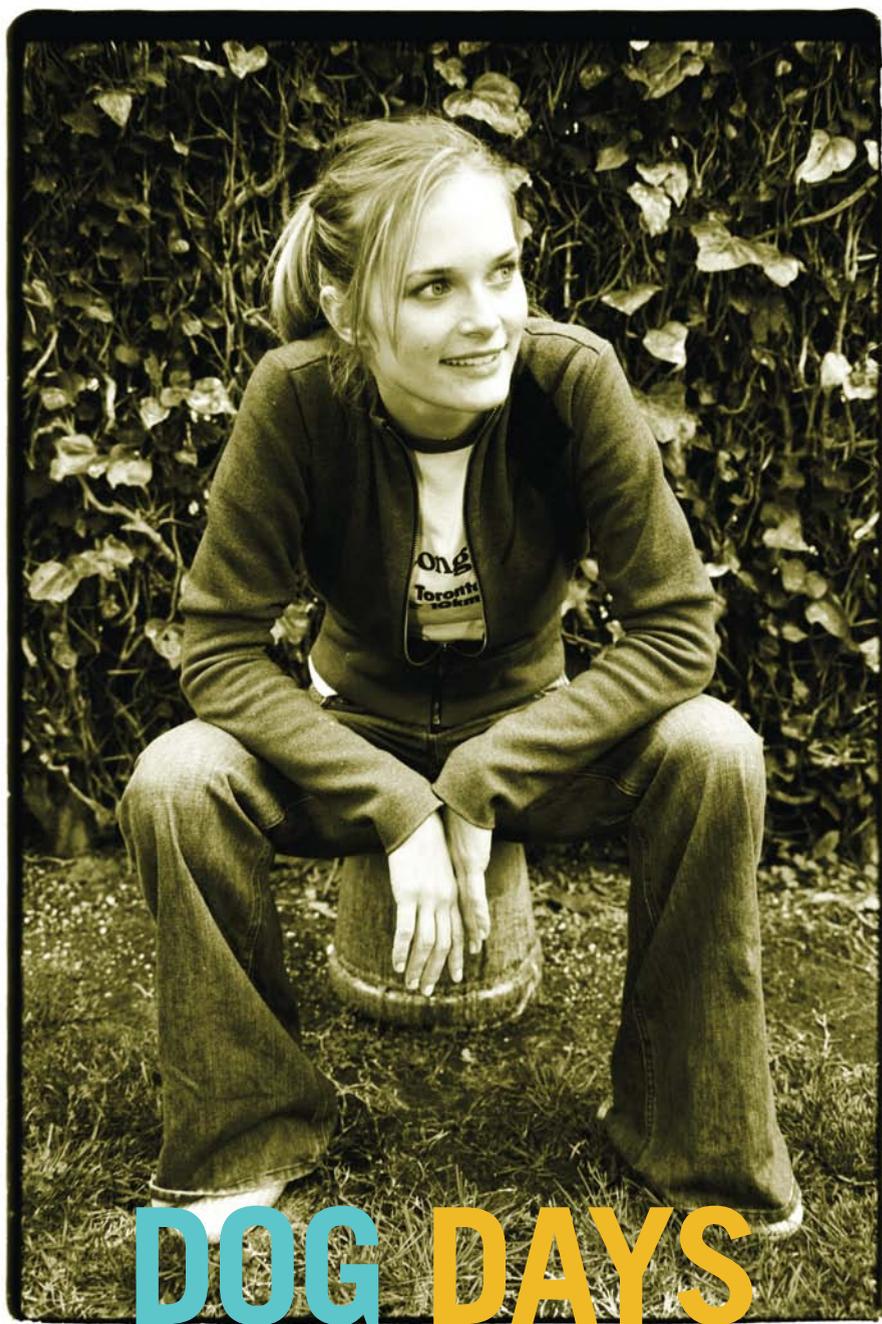


PHOTO BY MIKE GUASTALLA/REIMAGE

An altercation outside West Hollywood's Latin Lounge left *Old School's* **Vince Vaughn** (right) with a bloody nose. Apparently, another patron didn't like the way Vaughn was looking at him.  
∨  
∨



PHOTO BY DAVID KLEIN/GETTY



“Can you hold on one second,” begs Rachel Blanchard as she hastily excuses herself from the phone.

“Wasabi, no!” “Grrr....”

“Bad girl!” “Grrrrrr....”

The Toronto native, best known for playing Cher in the TV version of the film *Clueless*, is tussling with her grumpy Akita in her Santa Monica home. The dog’s been in a bad mood since she had a knee operation a couple of months ago. “She’s been such a pig and really bossy,” Blanchard explains. “She was up on the drier trying to eat the cat’s food.”

That these are the kind of dog problems

we in the western world face is something for which we should feel lucky. And no one knows this better than Blanchard, whose latest project is director Thom Fitzgerald’s *The Wild Dogs*.

The film, which gets a limited release starting May 30th, was shot on digital video in Bucharest and stars Fitzgerald (undoubtedly a result of his limited budget — somewhere around \$750,000) as Geordie, a small-time, morally confused pornographer sent to Romania to line up cheap talent. He arrives shortly after the fall of communism, when city officials have decided to catch and kill some

200,000 stray dogs that have been running wild since president Nicolae Ceausescu ordered their owners’ homes destroyed.

Blanchard plays Canadian ex-patriot Moll, who meets Geordie after her dad, a corrupt ambassador, brings him home for dinner. Soon after, she becomes embroiled in Geordie’s plot to force her father to issue a passport for a maimed gypsy.

“We shot the whole thing over three weeks. We did our own wardrobe, hair and makeup,” explains Blanchard. She liked the do-it-yourself aspect because it kept the actors on their toes, but says, “What I found really difficult was just the environment.” The worst were the days spent filming in a Romanian orphanage. “They were just starved for affection and love. You walked into a room and they would literally be on you in a second calling you ‘mommy,’” Blanchard recalls.

*The Wild Dogs* may seem like a strange choice for the actor who, aside from *Clueless*, played Tiffany in the adolescent Tom Green flick *Road Trip* and officer Richardson on the family values TV series *7th Heaven*. But, despite living in California since landing *Clueless* in 1996, Blanchard is anything but the typical Hollywood starlet. Perhaps that’s because there’s still a lot of Canada in this girl, like her love of hockey — not just watching, but participating.

“I’m going to play next weekend,” says the veteran of Toronto’s west-end Swansea league. “A bunch of people from [*7th Heaven*] rent the ice. It’s nice. It kind of reminds me of home to go out at 11 o’clock at night because you get cheap ice time.”

She even played on an almost exclusively male team (the only other woman was model Kim Alexis, wife of former New York Ranger Ron Duguay) in last year’s Celebrity All-Star Game. “That was pretty fun,” she says. “I got to check Bobby Orr. I hit him really hard and he turned around — he’s still a solid, big, strong guy. He didn’t move at all. He looked at me like, ‘Good hit!’ and I got so excited.”

Now that *7th Heaven*’s season has wrapped Blanchard is hoping to squeeze another film into her schedule. “What I really want to do on my hiatus is a Canadian movie,” she says. Particularly if she could work with *Men with Brooms* writer/director Paul Gross. “I loved that movie. I’d like to do a light-hearted Canadian movie like that,” she says.

So, if you’re reading this Paul, start working on something about a hard-checking hockey babe.

—MW

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**A** sincere-looking Ben Affleck and his sweet-smiling fiancée Jennifer Lopez manage to convince a cop not to give them a ticket after being pulled over in L.A. (It seems driving daredevil Affleck failed to yield to oncoming traffic.) Look closely, because if the rumours are true and the pair's upcoming movie, *Gigli*, is as bad as reported, this may be the acting couple's best performance of the year. —IR

## SCIENCE, WHOA!

**B**efore *The Matrix* arrived in theatres back in 1999, Warner Bros. kicked off their clever "What is The Matrix?" marketing campaign. Talk about whetting appetites. The movie became a box office and cultural phenomenon, so much so that great minds have spent a whole lot of brain cells contemplating that question, and the larger issue of what *The Matrix* means to society.

In *Taking the Red Pill: Science, Philosophy and Religion in The Matrix* (rolls off the tongue don't it, \$27, BenBella Books) editor Glenn Yeffeth compiles essays from smarty-pants types such as artificial intelligence pioneer Dr. Ray Kurzweil,

philosophy professor Dr. Nick Bostrom and renowned Canadian sci-fi writer Robert J. Sawyer, who bring fan-ish adoration to their intricate analysis of what, to them, is clearly a visionary work of art.

Don't expect light reading, this is a brainy book targeted at *Matrix* zealots and grad school types. Some of the topics covered: the parallels between Mahayana Buddhism and *The Matrix*, and the relevance of *The Matrix* to political economy. The essays are demanding, but compelling, so by the time you've finished the book you're convinced that *The Matrix* is, without a doubt, the most important film ever made. —IR

### TAKING THE RED PILL



Science, Philosophy and Religion  
in *The Matrix*

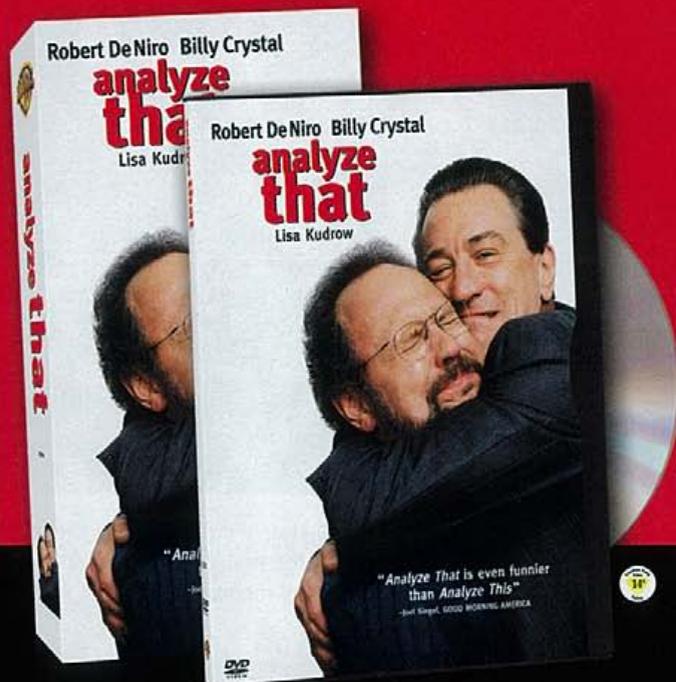
EDITED BY GLENN YEFFETH

INTRODUCTION BY DAVID GERROLD

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- Joel Siegel, "GOOD MORNING AMERICA"/ABC-TV



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Famke Janssen (left) and Halle Berry in *X2*

MAY 2

## THE LIZZIE MCGUIRE MOVIE

**Who's In It?** Hilary Duff, Adam Lamber

**Who Directed?** Jim Fall (*Trick*)

**What's It About?** Saturday morning TV's reigning good girl Lizzie McGuire (Duff, who turned on teen spy Frankie Muniz in *Agent Cody Banks*) moves to the big screen as Lizzie graduates from junior high, heads to Rome for the summer, meets a pubescent Italian hunk and causes havoc on fashion runways.

## X2

**Who's In It?** Patrick Stewart, Halle Berry

**Who Directed?** Bryan Singer (*X-Men*)

**What's It About?** Mutants, mutants and more mutants. The highly anticipated sequel to *X-Men* finds our mutant heroes doing damage control when some of their trouble-making brethren attack the U.S. President. Not only is there a public outcry for a Mutant Registration Act, but

Professor X's (Stewart) stately digs are destroyed, which leads the mutants to ponder an alliance among themselves.

## PEOPLE I KNOW

**Who's In It?** Al Pacino, Kim Basinger

**Who Directed?** Daniel Algrant (debut)

**What's It About?** Aging New York publicist Eli Wurman (Pacino) spends 24 hours

managing his over-the-hill movie star client (Ryan O'Neal, in perfect casting *n'est pas?*), a strung-out TV star (Téa Leoni) and a charity event from hell.

MAY 9

## THE QUEST

**Who's In It?** Unknown nubile college kids

**Who Directed?** Mike Fleiss (debut)

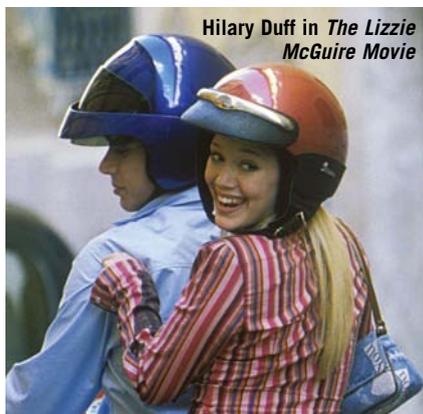
**What's It About?** From the makers of TV's *The Bachelor* comes a reality-based movie in which cameras capture the expected outrageous adventures of eight college guys and gals during their spring break in Cancun, Mexico. Wouldn't it be great if all we saw was them playing euchre and watching Mexican soaps?

## DADDY DAY CARE

**Who's In It?** Eddie Murphy, Lacey Chabert

**Who Directed?** Steve Carr (*Dr. Dolittle 2*)

**What's It About?** A father (Murphy) loses his high-paying high-tech job and faces



Hilary Duff in *The Lizzie McGuire Movie*



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Keanu Reeves in *The Matrix Reloaded*



financial ruin...until he and a group of pals decide to open a male-run day care centre. Of course, this doesn't sit well with the owner of a rival centre (Anjelica Huston).

M A Y 1 5

## THE MATRIX RELOADED

**Who's In It?** Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss

**Who Directed?** Andy Wachowski, Larry Wachowski (*The Matrix*)

**What's It About?** This is what every *Matrix* fan has been jonzing for, the sequel to the revered original, which picks up about six months after the first one ended. The human freedom fighters prepare for a devastating attack on Zion by the machine army, and Neo (Reeves) desperately tries to interpret his dreams featuring Trinity (Moss). Look for the series finale, *The Matrix Revolutions*, in November.

M A Y 1 6

## DOWN WITH LOVE

**Who's In It?** Renée Zellweger, Ewan McGregor

**Who Directed?** Peyton Reed (*Bring it On*)

**What's It About?** Zellweger and McGregor pay homage to those sexually sly Doris

Day/Rock Hudson comedies of the early '60s — "Mmm, he's sooo dishy, and he still lives with his mother!" Zellweger plays an advice writer whose perfect ways are disrupted when playboy journalist McGregor walks into her life. **See Renée Zellweger interview, page 22.**

M A Y 2 3

## BRUCE ALMIGHTY

**Who's In It?** Jim Carrey, Jennifer Aniston

**Who Directed?** Tom Shadyac (*Liar Liar*)

**What's It About?** When chronic complainer Bruce Nolan (Carrey) curses God (Morgan



*Finding Nemo*

CHECK [WWW.FAMOUSPLAYERS.COM](http://WWW.FAMOUSPLAYERS.COM) FOR SHOWTIMES AND LOCATIONS

Freeman) for the world's woes, the Almighty challenges him to make the world a better place in the next 24 hours or else He will unleash an apocalyptic cataclysm not seen since, well, *Ishtar*. Aniston plays Bruce's girlfriend. **See Jennifer Aniston interview, page 30.**

**THE IN-LAWS**

**Who's In It?** Michael Douglas, Albert Brooks **Who Directed?** Andrew Fleming (*Dick*) **What's It About?** Shot last summer in Toronto, this remake of the 1979 Alan Arkin/Peter Falk comedy *The In-Laws* follows a CIA agent (Douglas) and a podiatrist (Brooks) whose children (Ryan Reynolds and Lindsay Sloane) are about to get married. But before that happens, the two dads become entangled in a mysterious adventure.

MAY 30

**FINDING NEMO**

**Who's In It?** Alexander Gould, Erica Beck **Who Directed?** Andrew Stanton (*A Bug's Life*) **What's It About?** An all-star cast — including Albert Brooks, Willem Dafoe, Ellen DeGeneres, Allison Janney and Geoffrey Rush — lend their voices to this animated comedy about a fish named Marlin who must work with other sea creatures to rescue his son Nemo from an aquarium in a dentist's office.

**THE ITALIAN JOB**

**Who's In It?** Mark Wahlberg, Edward Norton **Who Directed?** F. Gary Gray (*The Negotiator*) **What's It About?** In his third straight remake Wahlberg stars as the leader of a group of thieves who try to make off with a safe full of gold stolen from his double-crossing ex-partner (Norton). It's an updated version of the 1969 British comedy starring Michael Caine, Benny Hill and Noel Coward. **See interview with Mark Wahlberg and Edward Norton, page 26.**

**WRONG TURN**

**Who's In It?** Eliza Dushku, Jeremy Sisto **Who Directed?** Rob Schmidt (*Crime and Punishment in Suburbia*) **What's It About?** A carload of college students takes a detour and winds up in the hills of Appalachia (actually the woods outside Toronto), where they are tormented by deformed, inbred, cannibalistic mountain men.



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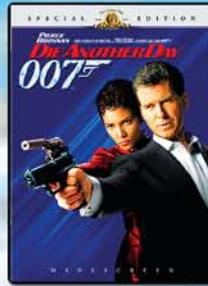
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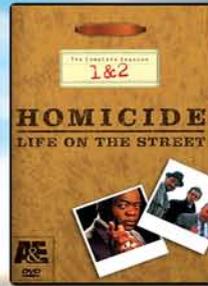
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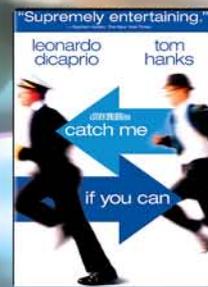
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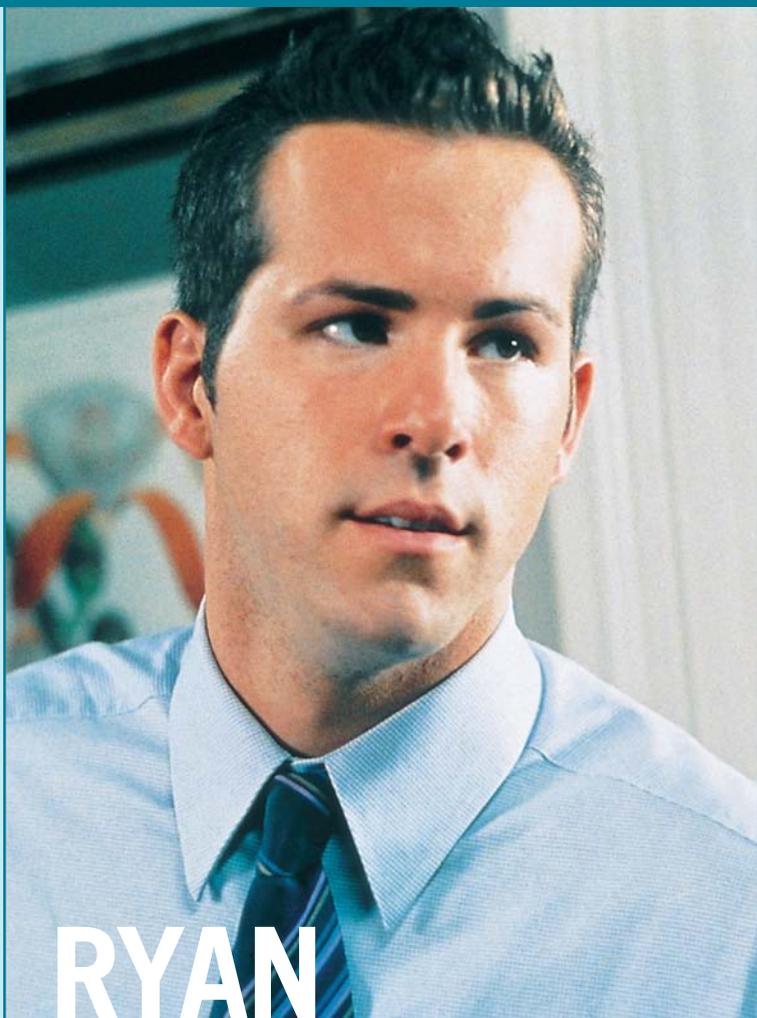
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# RYAN REYNOLDS

**NOW APPEARING IN...** *The In-Laws* — a remake of the 1979 Alan Arkin, Peter Falk movie of the same name — as the soon-to-be-wed son of a CIA agent (Michael Douglas).

**BIO BITS:** Don't be surprised if, sometime in the future, you hear an Alanis Morissette song about a guy who sounds a lot like Ryan Reynolds. At last report, the Ottawa pop star and the B.C.-born actor were dating and, as everyone knows, ex-boyfriend angst is often fodder for Morissette tunes.

The song might have something to do with a beautiful boy who was born in Vancouver some 26 years ago to a young couple named Jim and Tammy. Not the Jim and Tammy of PTL Club fame, fortunately. Instead, dad was an RCMP



Ryan Reynolds' groom-to-be in *The In-Laws*

officer, and mom worked in a retail store. Ryan was the youngest of four boys — the other three grew up to be a painter, an electrician and another Mountie.

Reynolds has described the family dinner table as the funniest place he's ever been, and says that sense of humour was the biggest inspiration behind the comic direction his career has taken.

Playing a snowflake in the school play *Father Time* was about the extent of Ryan's acting experience until, at 13, the cheesy Nickelodeon TV show *Fifteen* came to Vancouver looking for actors. On a whim, Reynolds gave it a shot, and beat out more than 2,000 other kids for the role of Billy Simpson. That meant spending three years in Florida, where the show was taped.

When *Fifteen* finally died a merciful death, Reynolds moved back to B.C., did some TV work (*Sabrina, the Teenage Witch, The Outer Limits, The X-Files*), and took time off to be a regular guy, working at a grocery store and in a warehouse, and attending Kwantlen College for a few months before dropping out. He was almost ready to give up acting when fellow-*Fifteen* cast member and Burnaby native Chris Martin talked him into moving to L.A. and giving stardom one last shot.

Reynolds had been in the city less than an hour when he pulled his jeep up to the Highland Gardens hotel, popped in to take his bags to his room, and returned to find that his jeep had been stolen. But that bitter introduction to L.A. was offset when he scored the part of charming med-student Berg on the moderately successful sitcom *Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place* (1998 to 2001). After that, a starring role in last year's *Van Wilder* helped Reynolds make the jump from TV to the big screen.

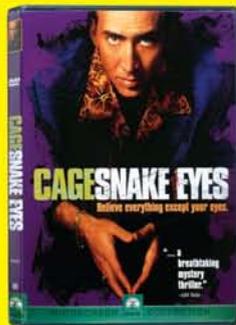
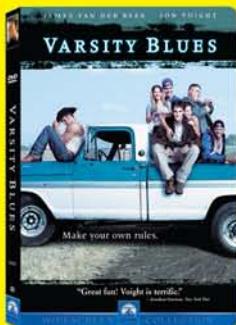
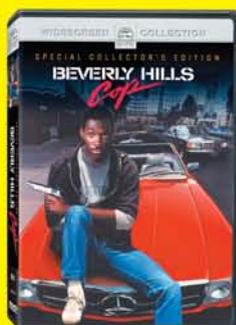
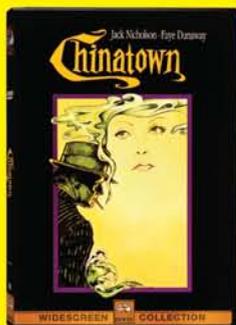
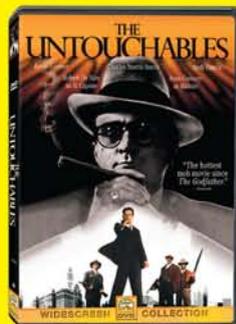
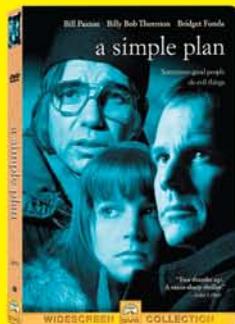
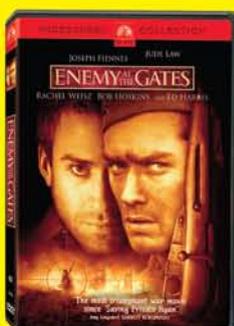
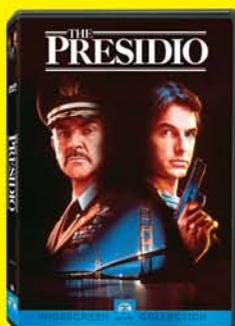
**SAMPLE ROLES:** Van Wilder in *Van Wilder* (2002), Quigley in *Finder's Fee* (2001), Red Shoes in *We All Fall Down* (2000), Chip in *Dick* (1999), Howard in *Life During Wartime* (1997), Ganesh in *Ordinary Magic* (1993)

**TRIVIA:** Starred in *Finder's Fee*, an indie thriller written and directed by *Survivor* host Jeff Probst. • Has had a fear of flying since a sky-diving mishap where his parachute didn't open on the first tug. • Spends a lot of time with his dog Jobey, a boxer. • Still considers Vancouver home, and lives there when work allows.

**ON HIS PERSONAL LIFE:** "I lead one of the most boring existences you can ever imagine. I don't hit the party scene, you won't find me in Hollywood clubs. I live in Vancouver, I have a dog, I wake up in the morning and eat a bowl of plain oatmeal and walk the dog. You're falling asleep already, I can see." [*Dark Horizons*, April 2002] —**MW**



# MEN AT PLAY



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Ewan McGregor and Renée Zellweger in *Down with Love*



# Renée's *new Day*

STEPPING INTO DORIS DAY'S PINK PUMPS, RENÉE ZELLWEGER DOES HER BEST TO BRING BACK THE STYLISH SEX COMEDIES OF THE SIXTIES IN *DOWN WITH LOVE*. HERE SHE TALKS ABOUT THAT DREAMY EWAN MCGREGOR, HER FLIPPY HAIRDO AND THE PLEASURES OF SEXUAL INNUENDO | BY EARL DITTMAN

Thanks to a little film called *Chicago*, Renée Zellweger is suddenly one of the most powerful women in showbiz. But don't call her an overnight sensation.

"I didn't do *The Return of the Texas Chainsaw Massacre* because I thought it was important work — I've paid my dues, babe," says the petite, 33-year-old as she removes her square-framed, rose-coloured glasses and sips the first of many cups of tea.

And it's not like she hadn't already had a good helping of success — both critical and box office — before *Chicago* brought her a Golden Globe for Best Actress in a Comedy or Musical and a nomination for Oscar's Best Actress statuette. The star of *Jerry Maguire*, *Nurse Betty*, *Bridget Jones's Diary* and this month's *Down with Love*

seems to have a knack for picking good films and avoiding stinkers... *Chainsaw Massacre* aside.

“Seriously, there are so many good scripts out there that never get made into movies, and it’s a shame. That’s why when I run across things like *Down with Love*, I just have to do it... I laughed out loud when I first read the script. It’s funny, but it’s incredibly smart, too. It’s so streamlined, with not a wasted moment.”

Directed by Peyton Reed and co-starring Ewan McGregor, David Hyde Pierce, Sarah Paulson and Tony Randall, *Down with Love* is a ’60s-style sex comedy with an edgy retro twist that riffs off classic Rock Hudson, Doris Day movies like *Pillow Talk*, *Lover Come Back* and *Send Me No Flowers*.

Zellweger plays Barbara Novak, a writer who has just published *Down with Love*, a pre-feminist manifesto on saying “No” to love and “Yes” to career, empowerment — and sex. As her revolutionary tome rockets to the top of bestseller lists, she becomes the target of ace journalist Catcher “Catch” Block (McGregor), a ladies man who’s determined to take her down a notch.

With her blond locks styled into a sleek pageboy, Zellweger flops onto the sofa of her New York hotel suite to discuss the new movie, her next project and the one true love of her life.

**[Q]** How does *Down with Love* relate to those Doris Day movies?

**[a]** “This is our new millennium version of *Pillow Talk*, and I’m Doris Day and Ewan is an even hunkier Rock Hudson. It is a classic love story done in the style of those cool romantic comedies that we all love from the ’60s. It was such a treat to be able to go back and play it old school, in the original style of that filmmaking. The colours, the backdrops, the lighting and the clothing is such wonderful visual eye candy. I think moviegoers will be heartbroken when the movie is over, because they want to be in that world a little bit longer.”

**[Q]** But it’s a bit saucier than those old movies, right?

**[a]** “What makes the film so great is all the double entendres and the sexual undertones going on between the characters.... It is so much fun to see how much further you can take the double entendre today. It is a little naughtier

and a little bit more suggestive than something like *Pillow Talk*. But, again, it is paying homage to the suggestion of sexuality instead of overtly presenting it.”

**[Q]** What was it like working with Ewan McGregor?

**[a]** “Ewan McGregor was a hoot. I love that man.... There is nothing he can’t do. And, I have to admit, he is so dreamy in his little suits. He was great. But, I have to say, I think my little pink suits, and hair flips are the cat’s meow. I can’t tell you how much fun I had doing this movie. Let me tell you, it ain’t a bad life, boys and girls.”



“I have to say, I think my little pink suits and hair flips are the cat’s meow,” says Zellweger. “I can’t tell you how much fun I had”

**[Q]** Both *Chicago* and *Down with Love* play with the conventions of modern filmmaking. Are you consciously trying to be experimental in your choices?

**[a]** “Not at all. I’m curious, and I’m attracted to experiences that are life-enriching in more ways than just picking up a skill.... It’s about going with your gut instincts. Failure is not trying. Failure is saying, ‘Oh, I could never.’ [I prefer] getting in there and saying, ‘Whatever. I don’t care because I love the material and the people I’m working with, and my life is going to be better for having done it, regardless of how the film is received.’ Life is too short not to take chances.”

**[Q]** Is it true that, initially, you turned down *Chicago*?

**[a]** “I did, but not because I didn’t have faith in my vocal or dance abilities. I was just tired and didn’t feel like working. I just finished another film and had just got home. I wasn’t ready to work. I like to take time to have a little life in between movies and pay attention to the people and the critters that I love. Then *Chicago* came along. I read it, but I had no idea what the hell was on the paper. I was like, ‘I don’t know what that it is, so it’s probably not a good idea to do it.’ Plus, I had never seen the musical and didn’t know what it was

about. I knew what the poster looked like, and that was about it. So I threw it in the rejection pile.”

**[Q]** What changed your mind?

**[a]** “A phone call from John Corbino, my good friend and manager, who always seems to know what’s right for me. He said, ‘Go meet this Rob Marshall.’ I said, ‘I don’t want to do this. I read it and I don’t understand it.... He said, ‘You will go down to that Four Seasons Hotel and you will meet him,’ and he hung up on me. So I went and I sat with Rob. From that moment on, I didn’t care if I couldn’t sing or dance or fell on my face trying. I didn’t



Zellweger works with director Peyton Reed

► care if I was humiliated and made fun of for the rest of my life. I was going to spend six months of my life with that man making *Chicago*.”

**[Q]** You just finished the Civil War movie *Cold Mountain* in Romania for director Anthony Minghella (due out this Christmas). Is it true that he asked you and Nicole Kidman to sew together your own clothing in order to understand the hardships your characters faced?

**[a]** “He did, and I don’t know how those women back then did it. It’s pretty interesting when all you have to work with is some wool. But it was quite an experience. It really got us into the mindset of what it was like to live during the 1860s. When we think about the task of bringing the groceries from the car into the kitchen, that’s nothing compared to these women having to walk half-a-mile every day just to get water.”

**[Q]** Your other co-star, Jude Law, told me that the Transylvanian slope where *Cold Mountain* was filmed certainly did justice to the film’s name.

**[a]** “He ain’t joking, I froze my butt off up there. It was freaking cold. And since it was so secluded and treacherous, we didn’t have the luxury of having cars driving us to the set. Every day we had to

schlep through so much mud just to get to the actual farm.”

**[Q]** And, as a cosmic send-off gift, right before leaving Romania, weren’t you hit with what the crew jokingly referred to as ‘Dracula’s Revenge’?

**[a]** “Don’t remind me [laughs]. I was so anxious to get out of there, and we were trying to beat the clock, and I didn’t have time to eat a lot. So, of course, I ate the chicken salad from the food cart, like a brilliant person. It even had a crust on it, but I ate it anyway, like a fool. I was so sick, every hour on the hour, all during my call time the next day. And Anthony had me running up and down this apple orchard. You’ll see the scene in the movie and you’ll know the pain and worry on my face is real. I just knew I wasn’t going to make it to the Porta-Potty in time.”

**[Q]** Are you going to do *Bridget Jones 2*?

**[a]** “We’re talking about that — if it’s good and it needs to be made, and we have the time to do it right.”

**[Q]** So you’d have to gain weight again?

**[a]** “Yeah, that’s doing it right. She’s got to be who she’s got to be, you know? I’ll have a dumb haircut, and I’ll go away for a while.”

**[Q]** Are you planning to marry George Clooney anytime soon?

**[a]** [Laughs.] “I like the way you snuck that one in there. Like I’ve always said, we are just pals. He’s a very sweet man.”

**[Q]** Who are you dating?

**[a]** “You’re determined, aren’t you! Let’s just say I’m available — kind of.”

**[Q]** So, what really happened with you and Jim Carrey?

**[a]** “Sometimes people just want different things in life and realize being together is not such a great idea.”

**[Q]** Who is the real love of your life right now?

**[a]** “My dog, Dylan. She’s a grandma old lady, lounging around the yard. She doesn’t even want to go to the bank with me anymore. She’s just content. She likes sitting in the breeze and her hair getting blown in the wind. We’re just enjoying the golden years together.” **F**

*Earl Dittman is an entertainment writer based in Houston, Texas.*

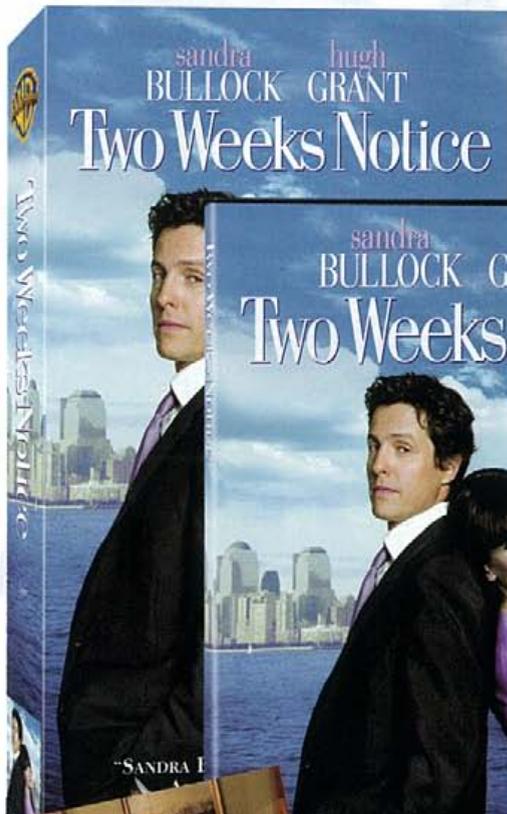
## famous trivia

- 1 Which *People I Know* star was once crowned Junior Miss Georgia — Sophie Dahl, Téa Leoni or Kim Basinger?
- 2 Which star of *Daddy Day Care* hosted the very first MTV music awards back in 1984?
- 3 Name the Francis Ford Coppola film Laurence Fishburne, who plays Morpheus in this month’s *The Matrix Reloaded*, did when he was just a teen.
- 4 With which movie did *Bruce Almighty*’s Jim Carrey become the first actor to earn \$20-million for a role?
- 5 Barry Humphries provides the voice of Bruce, a shark, in the new animated feature *Finding Nemo*. But by what name is the Australian actor better known?
- 6 For which band did *The Italian Job*’s Edward Norton play guitar for a couple of gigs in 1998? (Hint: He used to date their lead singer.)

## ANSWERS

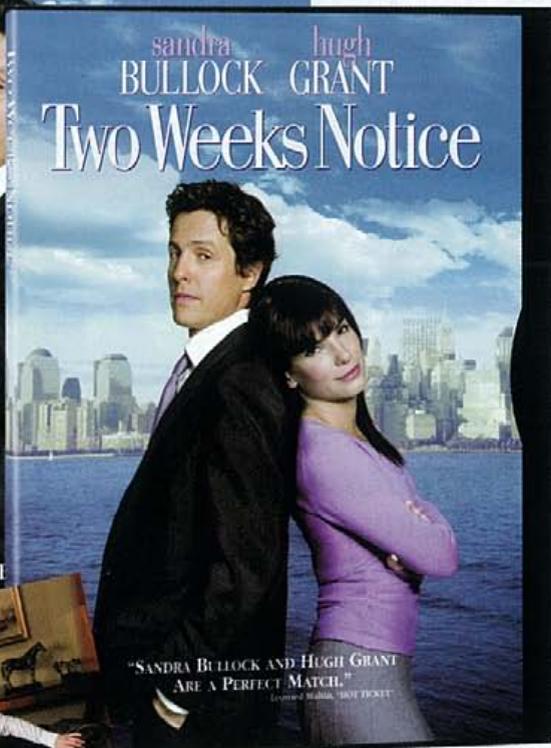
- 1 Kim Basinger 2 Eddie Murphy
- 3 *Apocalypse Now* 4 *The Cable*
- 5 Guy 6 Dame Edna 6 Hole

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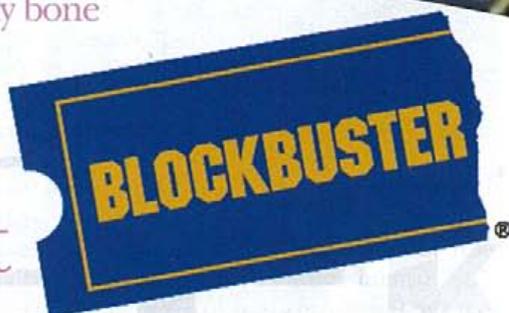
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Mark Wahlberg  
in *The Italian Job*



# Chasing the gold

**AN UPDATE OF THE 1960S HEIST FLICK *THE ITALIAN JOB* SEES MARK WAHLBERG TRACK DOUBLE-CROSSING EDWARD NORTON HALF-WAY AROUND THE WORLD FOR HIS SHARE OF THE GOLD. BUT WHAT'S WITH ALL THE REMAKES LATELY? THE TWO STARS DISCUSS | BY EARL DITTMAN**

**A**ccording to Mark Wahlberg, it's pure coincidence that his last three films — *Planet of the Apes*, *The Truth About Charlie* and this month's *The Italian Job* — have all been updates of 1960s flicks.

"It's not like I'm going after the title of The Remake King of Hollywood or anything like that," says the pop-idol-turned-actor on a cold and rainy New York City morning. The former underwear model is looking suave in a dark blue Armani suit. "It just so happens that the filmmakers that I've wanted to work with decided to do remakes.

"I wanted to work with Tim Burton, so I did *Planet of the Apes*," he continues. "I've always been a big fan of Jonathan

Demme, and he was doing *The Truth About Charlie* [a remake of *Charade*], so I did that. And the chance to do a film with F. Gary Gray came up with *The Italian Job*, so I jumped on that immediately."

The latter was inspired by the 1969 film of the same name, which featured Michael Caine, Benny Hill and Raf Vallone. Like the original, Gray's (*A Man Apart*, *The Negotiator*) version is a stylish heist film (think *Ocean's Eleven*) that features a stellar cast — this time Edward Norton, Charlize Theron, Seth Green and Donald Sutherland.

"This is a great big action film, so you need really good actors to hold their own up against all the chases, crashes

and explosions," says Wahlberg. "I lucked out being able to work with these guys. There's a very compelling and intricate story that's going on during all the excitement, and these guys make sure the story doesn't get lost."

Wahlberg plays Charlie Croker, an expert thief who, along with his well-picked crew, lifts a ridiculous amount of gold bullion from a heavily guarded palazzo in Venice, Italy. But Charlie doesn't have long to enjoy his accomplishment before being double-crossed by Steve (Norton), one of his own gang, who makes off with the booty. Out for revenge, Charlie enlists the talents of Stella (Theron), a sexy safe cracker who works for the Philadelphia police department. Why would a good girl like that team up with a no-good thief like Charlie? Steve killed her dad during the robbery.

So Charlie, Stella and the rest of the gang track Steve to Southern California where they hatch a plan seemingly constructed to thrill fans of the car chase.

By manipulating traffic signals, Charlie orchestrates one the biggest traffic jams in Los Angeles history, during which the principals use Hollywood's car *du jour*, the Mini Cooper, to zip up and down sidewalks, and even down into L.A.'s woefully underused subway system.

Despite the fact that the original Mini Cooper also played a large part in the 1969 film, Gray says fans of that film won't recognize a whole lot in his movie. "If you have seen the original, you'll discover our version of *The Italian Job* is definitely not a remake," he insists. "At the most, it is an homage to the original. It tries to duplicate the wonderful spirit of that movie."

Unlike Wahlberg, Edward Norton admits that, initially, he wasn't crazy about the project. "I was familiar with the first film, and I liked it, particularly Michael Caine's performance," he recalls on another chilly a.m. in the Big Apple. "But I'm not a real big fan of remaking movies, and I didn't know if it could be successfully remade. Even after reading the shooting script, I had a few reservations. But after sitting down with F. Gary Gray and listening to his ideas and working with him for a bit, I knew it

## "If it was a hit once, chances are it'll be one again," says Wahlberg

could be a really exciting film."

However, Norton's reservations may have gone deeper than he's letting on. Shortly after filming began, reports surfaced in the New York tabloids claiming the star of *25th Hour* and *Red Dragon* was being forced to make the film because of a three-picture deal he'd signed with Paramount. Rumour had it he'd signed the deal early in his career, when he made *Primal Fear*, and as he kept rejecting script after script, the studio was getting antsy.

While Norton remains tight-lipped about the subject, Wahlberg says he was never very worried that his co-star would back out. "Two weeks after we had started filming, I spoke to Edward and he said that he was looking forward to doing the movie and working with me," Wahlberg recalls. "I'm really not sure

what the problem was. Initially, I think that Edward wanted to play my part, and he ended up playing the bad guy. But it was rewritten to his liking. So I think that took care of some of his issues."

According to Gray, whatever negative feelings Norton may have had before production began, they weren't apparent on set.

"Edward Norton is one of the most professional people you could ever hope to work with," Gray insists. "And there was certainly no antagonism between Edward and Mark Wahlberg. Once he showed up, he brought a great deal of energy to the set, and that's exactly what we needed. In fact, all the actors brought real electricity to the film. And that was perfect, because this is definitely a high energy kind of movie. It's a fun, sexy heist film."

Besides, being a bit difficult and brooding seems to work well for Norton. It's abundantly clear at any of his public appearances — from awards shows where he lurks behind his spotlight-magnet of a girlfriend Salma Hayek, to TV interviews, where he seems about as comfortable as a wet cat — that part of his appeal is that he's far

Wahlberg with co-star  
Charlize Theron



Edward Norton in *The Italian Job*

▶▶ from a publicist's dream. More often than not, it seems that he'd rather be completely anonymous.

Norton admits being famous can get weird — but not enough to outweigh the positive aspects of his job. “I’ve been walking through animal markets in Western China along the Southern border and had people come up to me and go, ‘*Fight Club, Fight Club.*’ There’s no avoiding it,” he laments. “But those are minor inconveniences. If it was worse than the good things that come with doing the work you enjoy doing, then you would stop. But it’s not that big of a deal. I love acting, and I enjoy making movies. So you learn to manage it so it doesn’t have to be a negative experience. There’s certainly a lot of worse things that can happen to an actor in this business.”

Like having a string of failures? With the hostile reviews that were heaped upon *Planet of the Apes* and the box-office failure of *The Truth About Charlie*, Norton's co-star Wahlberg is in desperate need of a remake worth its weight in gold. And with industry insiders predicting *The Italian Job* may be one of this summer's early blockbusters, the film could help him into the \$20-million-per-picture club (a far cry from the \$10-million he got for *Apes*). Which would be nice, considering come July he'll be shelling out for diapers and designer baby duds when his on-again/off-again girlfriend, Rhea Durham, gives birth to his first child. But, of course, the cash isn't what's important, right? What's important is creating movies worth watching, and Wahlberg thinks he has that equation figured out.

“Great directors equal great movies, it's as simple as that,” he says. “Of course, you are not going to hit a home run every time, but the odds are in your favour you'll be a part of a great film. And if it's a remake of a successful movie, the odds are even better. If it was a hit once, chances are it'll be one again. But people make too big of a deal out of remakes. I mean, there are very few original stories out there. With every film, it's always kind of the same story anyway, it's just how it's told. Film-wise, it's not like anyone has really reinvented the wheel. When they do, then I'll consider never doing a remake again. But don't hold your breath.” **F**

*Earl Dittman is an entertainment writer based in Houston, Texas.*

# coming soon

## ALEX AND EMMA >> JUNE

**Stars:** Luke Wilson, Kate Hudson

**Director:** Rob Reiner (*When Harry Met Sally*)

**Story:** Unlike Jane Austen's novels, Fyodor Dostoyevsky's work has never been very popular with North American filmmakers. But now Rob Reiner takes a chance, bringing Dostoyevsky's short story “The Gambler” to the big screen. A novelist (Wilson), labouring under a writer's block and gambling addiction, takes a \$50,000 advance on his next book, which he agrees to complete in 30 days. Catch is, if he fails to deliver, his publisher will own all his future work. Enter Hudson as a stenographer who slows Wilson down by continually questioning his work. Betcha 10-1 they fall in love.

## 28 DAYS LATER >> JUNE

**Stars:** Cillian Murphy, Naomi Harris

**Director:** Danny Boyle (*Trainspotting*)

**Story:** Twenty-eight days after a virus wipes out most of London's population, a handful of survivors begins to rebuild the society. Director Boyle, best known for his U.K. hits *Shallow Grave* and *Trainspotting*, helms this gory sci-fi that was shot on digital video in London, mostly in the early morning hours to ensure deserted streets. The film's crew did, however, have to ask the city's notorious clubbers to keep out of the way as they straggled home.

## T-3: RISE OF THE MACHINES >> JULY

**Stars:** Arnold Schwarzenegger, Nick Stahl

**Director:** Jonathan Mostow (*U-571*)

**Story:** The \$170-million budget for *T-3* is the largest approved budget in the history of Hollywood. Arnie pockets \$30-million playing a brand new T-800 Terminator sent to protect 18-year-old John Connor (Stahl), who is being stalked by the relentless Terminatrix. The 55-year-old Schwarzenegger says he can still pull off the demanding role and he's got the body to prove it; he reported to the set weighing 220 pounds, which is what he weighed 12 years ago when he last played the part.

## LARA CROFT AND THE CRADLE OF LIFE: TOMB RAIDER 2 >> JULY

**Stars:** Angelina Jolie, Gerard Butler

**Director:** Jon de Bont (*Twister*)

**Story:** Lara Croft (Jolie) searches the globe for the archaeological site known as “The Cradle of Life.” Jolie is happier this time around because she's a sleeker and more athletic Lara Croft (we'll see less jiggling breasts).

## S.W.A.T. >> AUGUST

**Stars:** Samuel L. Jackson, Colin Farrell

**Director:** Clark Johnson (debut)

**Story:** It only lasted two seasons, but the T.V. series *S.W.A.T.* left a lasting impression. A screen adaptation has been in the works for some time, at one point Arnold Schwarzenegger was pegged to star, but now the honours go to Samuel L. Jackson and Colin Farrell, who play Los Angeles S.W.A.T. team members escorting a convicted drug lord out of L.A.

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Jennifer Aniston and Jim Carrey in *Bruce Almighty*

# GOING STEADY *with* GOD

**JENNIFER ANISTON DISHES ABOUT PLAYING GIRLFRIEND TO JIM CARREY'S GOD IN THEIR DIVINE NEW COMEDY *BRUCE ALMIGHTY* | BY BARRETT HOOPER**

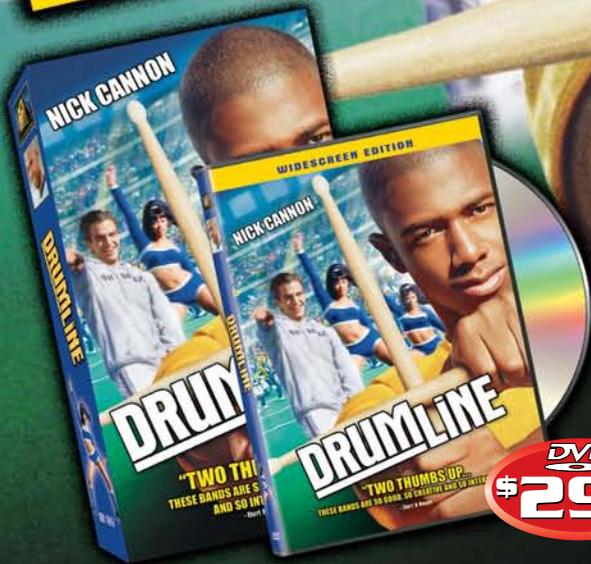
In real life, Jennifer Aniston is married to no lesser a mortal than Brad Pitt, an A-list actor and Hollywood hardbody who's also as down-to-earth as you'll likely find in celebrity-obsessed Tinseltown. And while his adoring fans swoon at the mere mention of his name, deifying Pitt as though he walks on water, in Aniston's new film, *Bruce Almighty*, it's her boyfriend who has an honest-to-goodness God complex.

The metaphysical comedy stars Canadian Jim Carrey as Bruce Nolan, a Buffalo, N.Y., television reporter who is discontented with almost everything in life, despite how idyllic his life seems to be. At the end of one particularly horrible day, Bruce takes out his frustration and anger on the Almighty, raging with fist-clenching fury against Him. God, played with omnipotent affability by Morgan Freeman (*Shawshank Redemption*), responds by challenging ►►

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►► Bruce to do a better job.

He endows Bruce with divine powers and a pocket full of miracles, and gives him just one day to make the world a better place — or God will bring forth a Revelations-style apocalypse that will hurtle mankind back to the Dark Ages. (Carrey's powers extended off-screen as well, it seems, as he saved Aniston's life during filming last fall when he pushed her out of the way of a falling crane blown over by strong winds.)

Aniston plays Grace, Bruce's much put-upon better half who finds herself losing faith in their relationship even as Bruce's faith in humanity and joy of life are strengthened. Of course, *Bruce Almighty* is still a Jim Carrey comedy, not a prayer meeting, and it reteams the funnyman with his *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective* and *Liar Liar* director Tom Shadyac, which means plenty of crude humour and sight gags. Among the many jokes are those involving Bruce walking on water, answering E-prayers (online) to God at Yahweh Insta-Prayer (a play on the Hebrew name of God and Yahoo.com), and giving Grace an impromptu breast enlargement.

"It's such a blast," says Aniston. "It seems like anything goes with those two. Nothing is off-limits or sacred."

Playing the straight role to Carrey's zany, rubber-faced antics seems perfectly suited to the *Friends* star and Carrey, for one, agrees. "She's really amazing," he said during an interview last fall. "I think we have a nice chemistry together. She seems like that girl you want to come home to."

Aniston blushes at the compliment. "He's so sweet and kind," she says a few weeks later, with a too-bubbly laugh familiar to anyone who still cares whether Rachel and Ross get back together. Sliding the spaghetti strap on her blousy purple cotton dress up over one perfectly tanned shoulder for the upteenth time, she continues, "As an actor, Jim is a comedic genius and he knows how to get there for you."

Seated comfortably on her hotel room sofa, the 34-year-old is much

prettier, if less glossy, in person than on the covers of *People* and *US* magazines. Her hair is long and pin-straight, her make-up slight, and she has large, round eyes that rarely make contact with mine.

Like most celebrities with a movie to promote, Aniston wants to talk to the



Jennifer Aniston  
in *Bruce Almighty*

**"I WAS KIND OF BORED,  
FRUSTRATED, WONDERING IF I'LL  
EVER BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF  
THIS ONE CHARACTER"**

press. But, like most stars whose lives are under constant scrutiny, it's the movie, and only the movie, she wants to talk about. In case I wasn't aware of that fact, there's an NFL linebacker sitting over my shoulder, and before Aniston was brought into the room someone joked that if I "step out of line" with my questions — about recently published tabloid photos, about *Friends* gossip, about being Mrs. Brad Pitt — he'll

"snap my neck." And as we talk, Aniston conspicuously skips over references to *Friends* and Pitt.

Born in Sherman Oaks, California, Aniston is the daughter of *Days of Our Lives* regular John Aniston (Victor Kiriakis) and the goddaughter of Kojak himself, Telly Savalas. She's been acting professionally since she graduated from New York City's High School of the Performing Arts (the *Fame* school). After appearing in such Off-Broadway productions as *For Dear Life* and *Dancing on Chequer's Grave*, she landed a regular role playing the Jennifer Grey part in the short-lived TV version of *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*.

Starting in 1994 she spent six years primarily known for playing Rachel, a hairstyle in Menola Blahnicks, on TV's highest-rated sitcom. But since July 2000, she's been at least as well-known for her marriage to Pitt.

Thanks to last year's decidedly unglamorous indie drama *The Good Girl*, however, it's her acting that's finally bringing her notice. In addition to praising her depth and range as a serious dramatic actor, *The Good Girl* director Miguel Arteta has called her a "comic genius" and compared her to the late Lucille Ball.

*The Good Girl* saw Aniston leave the makeup kit and styling mousse in her Beverly Hills pad to play Justine Last, a bored department store cashier in Nowheresville, Texas, whose very name is indicative of the dead-end life she is leading. "She's a dark, depressed woman who is stuck," says Aniston.

When pressed, she admits she has also felt stuck as an actor. "In terms of the roles I've been offered and the kind of characters I've been allowed to portray I hadn't been given an opportunity to do anything other than..." Her voice trails for a second, allowing me to fill in the blank — fashion-conscious Rachel Green or any of her self-absorbed big-screen counterparts in *The Object of My Affection*, *Picture Perfect* and *She's the One*? "Which I was grateful for," she says quickly. "We're lucky as actors to work at all. I was just

at that place where I was kind of bored, frustrated, wondering if I'll ever be able to get out of this one character."

That feeling of being trapped by audience expectations is one that, she says, perhaps she shares with her *Bruce Almighty* co-star. Just as Carrey has had trouble being accepted by moviegoers when he plays roles that demand more of him than talking out of his ass, such as in *Man on the Moon* or *The Majestic*, Aniston's transition to the big screen has always been overshadowed by her sitcom success.

"I wonder if it just takes a while for people to become comfortable with you, as they are very used to seeing you a certain way — and then you try and do the crossover," she says. "They go, 'What are you trying to do? I'm not used to that.'"

It's something all six *Friends* have faced as they've tried to parlay their primetime popularity into boffo box office and avoid becoming the next Ellen DeGeneres or David Caruso. After the show began, many of the cast members chose roles in romantic

## "CERTAINLY WITH EACH SUCCESS I HAVE, THAT MAKES FINDING THE NEXT PROJECT A LITTLE BIT EASIER," SAYS ANISTON

comedies, playing characters similar to their TV personae in the hope of carrying some of that Must-See TV audience from the living room into theatres. The results were less than spectacular. Anybody remember *Ed? Three to Tango? The Pallbearer?*

And while Courteney Cox-Arquette has the strongest track record among the *Friends* cast thanks to the half-billion-dollar *Scream* trilogy, and Lisa Kudrow has made a conscious effort to seek out quirky-but-not-Phoebe-quirky roles, many are pegging Aniston as the frontrunner for long-lasting movie stardom. And with next year's abbreviated

*Friends* TV season, the show's 10th and expected to be the last ("I think it's time," is all Aniston will say on the subject), the pressure to make that leap before the \$1-million-an-episode pay-cheques run out is heightened.

Although Aniston seems unfazed by such Hollywood concerns. "My job is to act, that's what I do," she says a bit defensively. "All I really want to do is find good roles in good projects, and certainly with each success I have, that makes finding the next project a little bit easier."

It doesn't hurt that her next two projects, *Bruce Almighty* and an as-yet-untitled romantic comedy with Ben Stiller and Philip Seymour Hoffman, are what she calls "grossly commercial" feature films.

"I've been really spoiled with the work I've been able to do and the people I've been able to work with," she says. "If only the tabloids would write a story about that." **F**

*Barrett Hooper writes about movies for the National Post.*

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# VARDALOS SINGS DINNER THEATRE, DAY-LEWIS RETREATS TO A COMMUNE AND LATIFAH GETS HER HAIR DONE | BY INGRID RANDOJA



## NIA LIKES IT HOT

How do you follow-up *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, the largest-grossing indie film and romantic comedy of all time? Well, if you're **Nia Vardalos**, the writer and star of the little movie that could, you play it smart and borrow the premise from the classic comedy *Some Like it Hot*. In *Connie and Carla*, Vardalos (who also wrote the script) and **Toni Collette** (*The Hours*) star as dinner theatre singers who disguise themselves as drag queens to perform in an L.A. gay club. Enter **David Duchovny** (*Full Frontal*) as a man looking for his drag queen brother, only to fall in love



## DAY-LEWIS TAKES DIRECTIONS FROM HIS WIFE

Reclusive actor-turned-cobbler **Daniel Day-Lewis** (*Gangs of New York*) has pleasantly surprised fans and industry types alike by announcing he'll act once more, this time under the watchful and adoring gaze of his writer/director wife **Rebecca Miller** (*Personal Velocity*). In *Rose and the Snake*, which begins filming this summer off the B.C. mainland, Day-Lewis plays a reclusive widowed father living with his 16-year-old daughter (**Camilla Belle**) on a deserted commune. When he learns he's dying and the commune may be bought by developers, dad calls upon his ex-lover (**Catherine Keener**) and her family to come help educate his daughter in the ways of the world. There's no word whether Day-Lewis will build the sets himself, as he did partly for *The Crucible*, the movie which brought Day-Lewis and Miller together.

with Vardalos. Filming begins this month in Vancouver, which should be very familiar territory for ex-*X-Files* star Duchovny, who spent years shooting the series in the city.

## DENCH AND DIESEL?

Whoever thought **Dame Judi Dench** (*Iris*) and **Vin Diesel** (*A Man Apart*) would share the same screen? The regal Dench has been cast in *Riddick*, (shooting this summer in, again, Vancouver), which is the sequel to Diesel's break-out sci-fi film *Pitch Black*. *Riddick* is the name of Diesel's character, and the sequel finds the convict on the run after escaping from *Pitch Black*'s deadly planet. Dench plays an ambassador of a strange race who provides Riddick with clues to his origins. The film co-stars **Thandie Newton** (*The Truth About Charlie*) and our very own **Colm Feore** (*Chicago*).

## LATIFAH RETURNS TO CHICAGO

Look for Oscar nominee **Queen Latifah** (*Chicago*) to make a cameo in *Barbershop 2*, the sequel to *Barbershop* that begins filming this summer in Chicago. It seems she'll play the owner of a beauty parlour next door to the shop, and while her part won't be substantial, it'll pave the way for her own spin-off movie, *Beauty Shop*, that MGM believes can be just as successful as the male-oriented *Barbershop* films.



## B R I E F L Y

■ Director **Peter Jackson** will follow-up his *Lord of the Rings* trilogy with a remake of *King Kong* to be shot in his native New Zealand and released in 2005. ■ **Robin Williams** is working on two films back-to-back this summer, the sci-fi thriller *Final Cut* and director **Terry Gilliam's** *The Brothers Grimm* with **Matt Damon** and **Heath Ledger**. ■ **Jude Law** has signed to star in the remake of the 1972 whodunit *Sleuth*. ■ *E.R.*'s **Maura Tierney** has joined the cast of the comedy *Mooseport*, playing the girlfriend of **Ray Romano**, who gets into a nasty small-town mayoral race with a former U.S. president played by **Gene Hackman**.

# Veal with appeal

Kevin Costner says he's never eaten better than when he dined at Calgary's Osteria de Medici | BY MICHAELLE LEMANNE

**A**lthough we might not have seen much of Kevin Costner over the past couple of years, one family eatery in Calgary saw (and fed) the actor several nights a week last summer. After grueling days of starring in, and directing, his western epic *Open Range* just outside of Calgary, Costner often made his way to Osteria de Medici for the sumptuous Veal Maria Helena.



From left: Maurizio, Kevin and Antonietta at Osteria de Medici

“When he came in, he never asked for anything by name, he just asked for ‘the usual,’” recalls Osteria manager, waiter and sommelier, Maurizio Terrigno.

The usual consisted of tender veal scaloppini smothered in a rich cream and wine sauce, served with asparagus and other seasonal vegetables. The Italian restaurant only cooks with 100 percent certified organic ingredients (which is appreciated by health-conscious celebrities) and boasts a wine list that would please any connoisseur, including Costner, who always washed down his tender veal with a glass of 1997 Tignanello.

“I think he really enjoyed his time here,” says owner and hostess Antonietta Terrigno. “He always sat at his favourite table, and remarked at how he’s never eaten better,” she adds. Situated on the upper deck of the restaurant, Costner’s table had a vista perfect for observing other diners. “He always had to have his back against the wall, because he liked to watch the people come in. He’s a big people watcher,” Antonietta notes.

Located in Calgary’s trendy Kensington district, Osteria has served its Florentine grub to many celebrities. “Tom Selleck was in almost every night when he was filming his western here last summer,” recalls Antonietta. “He just loves the seafood scampi with risotto.” The scampi was such a hit that Selleck recently called from London, England, for the recipe. Aside from the risotto, Selleck had one other request — no parsley in anything. “He absolutely did not want parsley, or anything green, sprinkled anywhere,” Maurizio says with a laugh.

Rocker-turned-actor Jon Bon Jovi is another Osteria favourite. “He always ordered everything with extra parmesan and extra heat,” recalls Maurizio. “He’s probably one of the most fun stars we’ve ever served.”

And that’s saying something considering all the famous mugs plastered across Osteria’s Wall of Fame, including Anthony Hopkins, Heather Locklear, Christopher Reeves and Isabella Rossellini.

And if, like Selleck, any of them are craving Antonietta’s recipes they need look no further than the several cookbooks she’s published, including *Antonietta’s Classic Recipes*. “People, famous or not, were always asking me how to make what we serve,” she explains, “so I thought this would be the best way to tell them.”

Antonietta also holds a cooking class one afternoon every month for diners who have a hankering for hands-on experience and advice. And, who knows? With any luck, the famous fingers pounding veal scaloppini next to yours might just belong to a star.

For reservations call 403.283.5553.

Michaelle LeManne is the assistant editor of Calgary’s Avenue magazine.



VEAL PHOTO BY BRENT WYKYSHYN

## VEAL MARIA HELENA

SERVES 6

- 12 veal scaloppini, pounded
- salt & pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) flour
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) oil
- 3 tbsp. (45 ml) butter
- 1 cup (250 ml) dry white wine
- 1/2 litre of 35% cream
- 5 sprigs parsley, finely chopped
- 2 cups (500 ml) chicken broth
- 12 sprigs of asparagus
- 1/4 pound of fresh, sliced mushrooms

Pound each piece of veal firmly with a flat-surfaced mallet until each is two to three times larger in size. Season with salt and pepper. Lightly flour and shake off excess. In the meantime, steam asparagus until tender and blanche mushrooms for five minutes. In a large heavy skillet heat the oil and 3 tbsp. butter over high heat, add the veal. Cook each side for two minutes. Discard the oil and leave the veal in the skillet. Add the wine, parsley, broth and cream and stir until blended. Lower heat and reduce the sauce further. Stir for five minutes and remove from heat. Add blanched mushrooms to the sauce. Place the veal on individual plates and leaf the asparagus on top. Pour the sauce over the final dish, and serve with vegetables.

Preparation time: 30 minutes

Cooking time: 15 minutes

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## ▶ SHINE ON

Tired of trying keep everything matte all summer long? Stop struggling and play up your summer glow with Jergens' new **Soft Shimmer Skin Radiance Moisturizer** (\$6 to \$10, depending on size). The effect is a subtle, but sexy, metallic glimmer.

## ▶ JUST A TOUCH

No one wants to feel made-up when the weather gets warm. But sometimes it's nice to have just a bit of coverage. Enter Almay's **Nearly Naked Touch-Pad Liquid Makeup** (\$11.50). A tiny bit of this light-as-air formulation spreads easily from your fingertips over your entire face.





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# THE THORNS CUT THEIR FIRST ALBUM, AND MARILYN MANSON RECORDS VAUDEVILLIAN VISIONS | BY INGRID RANDOJA

## PRICK UP YOUR EARS

Matthew Sweet, Shawn Mullins and Pete Droge are self-confessed spotlight hogs, singer/songwriters who thrive working solo and have the introspective tunes to prove it.

But about a year ago all three artists felt isolation pangs, so, with the help of mutual friends who suggested they'd hit it off, they assembled in a recording studio to see what would happen.

The result is the new band The Thorns, and a sweet-sounding, self-titled debut album (in stores May 20) based entirely on melodic three-part harmonies reminiscent of Crosby, Stills and Nash.

"We hear the Crosby, Stills and Nash comparison a lot, but to be honest I don't even know Crosby, Stills and Nash very well," admits Sweet, who's probably best known for his 1991 hit album *Girlfriend*. "I heard their hits on the radio, but I never sat down and listened to their albums. All I know is that they're great, so I really can't agree with the comparison."

The Thorns meld Sweet's pop-song sensibilities, Droge's Tom Pettyish rock

From left: Pete Droge, Matthew Sweet and Shawn Mullins are The Thorns



background (he's the one behind the adolescent-angst anthem "If You Don't Love Me [I'll Kill Myself]") and Mullins' folkish ways into what Droge calls "musical comfort food." Sitting in a Toronto hotel the morning before an industry-only gig, the trio reflect on their melodic merger.

"I use a lot of two-part harmonies in my music," says Droge, "and there's a lot of things you can get away with in two-part, but not in three-part harmony. It requires a different skill set to make three male voices work."

"You can easily become the Oak Ridge Boys or Wilson Phillips, if you're not careful," adds Mullins, whose lilting southern accent (he's from Georgia) will be familiar to fans of his 1998 ballad "Lullaby."

These are three very relaxed guys, which makes you wonder if they ever butted heads while making such harmonious music together.

"We get along a lot better now than when we first met," says Sweet. "That was the tough part," adds Mullins, "we were all used to being our own boss, producer and visionary."

"Yeah, but now we're all missing each other's voices," notes Droge. "It sounds empty when we play separately."

## CREEPY CABARET

Rock's smartest freak returns to centre stage this month with the release of *The Golden Age of Grottesque* (in stores May 13).

Marilyn Manson, whose surprisingly insightful remarks about America's violent, fear-mongering society in the Oscar-winning documentary *Bowling for Columbine* prove he's more than just a pretty face, was inspired by vaudeville and the decadent cabaret scene of '30s Berlin for his latest CD.

He collaborated with renowned Viennese artist Gottfried Helnwein on the CD artwork, which includes photos of Manson made up to look like Mickey Mouse, a very disturbed Mickey Mouse, which should get the attention of Walt Disney lawyers.

Love him or hate him, you have to admit Manson is a master of multimedia marketing. You can have a look at videos and artwork from *The Golden Age of Grottesque* at Manson's website, [www.marilynmanson.com](http://www.marilynmanson.com).



## OUT THIS MONTH

### Macy Gray | *The Trouble with Being Myself* >> MAY 13

The queen of rasp is back with another funky, in-your-face effort that includes a very cool remix of the Beatles classic "Come Together." The CD's first single, "When I See You," screams hit.

### Third Eye Blind | *Out of the Vein* >> MAY 13

This semi-charmed band releases its third CD, and it looks as if they've put their problems behind them, settling a lawsuit last year with ousted guitarist Kevin Cadogan.

### Staind | *14 Shades of Grey* >> MAY 20

Judging by their CD titles it seems alternative metal band Staind is cheering up, slightly. Their discography reads: *Tormented*, *Dysfunctional*, *Breaking the Cycle* and, now, *14 Shades of Grey*.

# TOURIST SITES

| BY MARNI WEISZ

**N**ow that spring is here our thoughts turn to leisurely drives and outdoor adventures — perhaps even combining the two and taking a road trip. Of course, every good road trip has to have a theme. So here are a trio of sites to help you plan high-way excursions on the quirky side.

## GHOST TOWNS

[www.ghosttowns.com](http://www.ghosttowns.com)

**T**his extensive site, with its appropriately cheesy barn-board and barbed-wire theme, has easy to navigate pull-down menus that let you surf the state or province of your choice. A quick scan of the Canadian section reveals that New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are the only provinces without any ghost towns (or, at least, none that have been reported by the site's many contributors). Ontario leads the country with about 75, like the one-time stagecoach resting ground Seguin Falls, while Alberta and Saskatchewan have about 30 a piece — the former with its shameful shell of a World War One internment camp at Castle Mountain, the latter being home to historic Batoche, which witnessed the climax of Louis Riel's rebellion. If you prefer, you can head south to New York's aptly named Doodletown, or to a bunch in Hawaii (although driving there would be difficult), many of which met their demise when bubbling lava decided to put a crimp in villagers' happy lives. The site's major downside? No maps or directions.



## LARGE CANADIAN ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

[www.cyberbeach.net/~solonyka/LCRA/main.htm](http://www.cyberbeach.net/~solonyka/LCRA/main.htm)

**L**ow-tech in the extreme (but that's what gives it its charm), this site was created by a guy named Ed Solonyka, who has an inexplicable fixation with large things that line our country's roads. You've got your old faves like the Wawa Goose (or geese — he actually has three different geese in various stages of flight) and that sculpture of Kelowna's resident sea monster, Ogotogo. But have you ever heard of the World's Largest Painting on an Easel in Altona, Manitoba? It's a replica from Van Gogh's sunflower series. How about the Smurf Huts in Beaufort, Quebec, with their creamy blue roofs and faux brick chimneys? Then there's Pinto MacBean in Bow Island, Alberta. (Think of a giant Mr. Potato Head in an orange hat, boots and gloves, with a sassy polka dot neckerchief. Now imagine he's a bean). Or the enormous photographic bust of Joey Smallwood — Newfoundland's first premiere under confederation — at Joey's Lookout in Gambo, Newfoundland. The site also has a special section exclusively for "Planes on Pedestals."

## ROADSIDE AMERICA

[www.roadsideamerica.com](http://www.roadsideamerica.com)

**N**avigating your way around this jam-packed collection of slightly peculiar U.S. tourist attractions is kind of like a road trip itself, in that — like all good vacations — the best plan is not to have a plan at all. Your random exploration might bring you to "Mystery Spots" — comprised of places like Gold Hill, Oregon, where brooms defy gravity by standing on their butt ends and tennis balls roll up hill. All of this is reported with a roll-your-eyes skepticism that somehow deepens the draw for kitsch lovers. Then there's the Museum of Family Camping in Allenstown, New Hampshire, where you can pay to see people's old laundry hanging on a clothesline, that same gas lantern you have in your crawl space and a tabletop model of an idyllic campground that was crafted by a Canadian couple — George and Noreen Smith of Ontario. Or, check out the Wigwam Village Motel in Cave City, Kentucky, where you can spend the night in one of 14 authentic (well, they look authentic anyway) teepee-style abodes. Of course, real wigwams didn't have cable TV, air conditioning and tile baths. But you're on vacation kemo sabe. Live a little!



# GOING COMMANDO

Military title *Brute Force* charges to the head of new releases | BY MARK MAGEE



## Brute Force >> XBOX

Multiplayer games have long been a staple of PC gaming, and now that the internet has become so ubiquitous, the three big consoles are finally starting to catch up.

The latest made-for-multiplayer offering is *Brute Force*, a squad-based action title that puts you in charge of four specialized sci-fi-themed commandos. Each of your soldiers has different strengths and weaknesses, so their survival requires you to scout out situations and plan appropriate tactical responses. Some fights call for heavy firepower, while others are better served by stealthy sniping.

While you can play the game by yourself — switching between the four characters on the fly — most gamers will find the multiplayer approach much more entertaining. That's because you and your pals can hook up online and play together, either as one butt-kicking team or as dueling commandos. After all, nothing says "friendship" like unloading a rail gun in someone's face.

## NBA Street Vol. 2

>> GAMECUBE, PS2, XBOX

Love basketball, but can't stand the lack of attitude and showboating in the uptight NBA? Then kick things up a notch with this way-over-the-top streetball game that's full of trash-talking, rule-breaking and gravity-defying dunks. Best of all, you can take on some of the dopest old school b-ballers around, from Dr. J to Wilt the Stilt.

## Tomb Raider: The Angel of Darkness

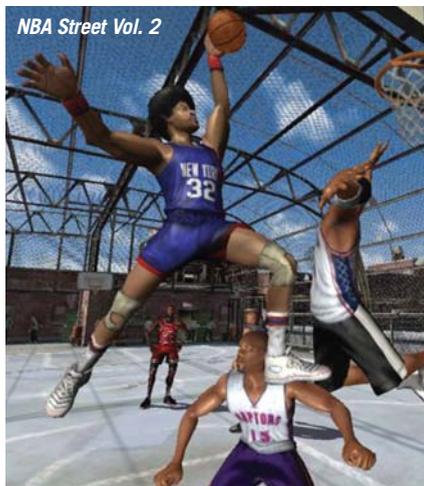
>> PC, PS2

The first lady of videogames returns for another round of puzzle-solving and platform-leaping action. As always, Lara must muddle her way through a number of exotic locations in a never-ending quest for priceless artifacts, pulse-pounding adventure and form-fitting duds. But, this time, she's wearing mascara!

## Sonic Adventure DX

>> GAMECUBE

The over-caffeinated hedgehog is back for yet another high-speed outing. This time, he's strapping on his sneaks in an attempt to foil the plans of the evil Dr. Eggman, which — of course — involve world domination and other assorted nastiness.



## X2: Wolverine's Revenge

>> GAMECUBE, PC, PS2, XBOX

Hardcore comic book geeks will be pleased to hear that all of Wolvie's mutant skills are on display in this slash-'em-up action game — from his healing power to his adamantium claws to his advanced senses (enemies' smells appear as an ethereal trail). And the whole thing was written by Marvel Comics scribe Larry Hama, who penned Wolverine's solo comic for years.

## Evil Dead: A Fistful of Boomstick

>> PS2, XBOX

Who ya gonna call when a bunch of evil Deadites invade small-town America? The one and only Ash, the man with the world's biggest chin. Based on the wildly popular cult film franchise, this gore-packed adventure is filled with plenty of one-liners, makeshift weapons and undead villains. Available at your friendly neighbourhood S-Mart. Groovy.

## Enter the Matrix

>> GAMECUBE, PC, PS2, XBOX

Focusing on two of the minor characters from the *Matrix* movies — Niobe and Ghost — this combat-heavy adventure game follows the duo as they battle for the future of humanity.

As expected, the game is loaded with lots of snazzy fighting moves, including the now-omnipresent "Bullet Time," which allows you to slow down the clock to pull off super-cinematic manoeuvres.

## The Hulk

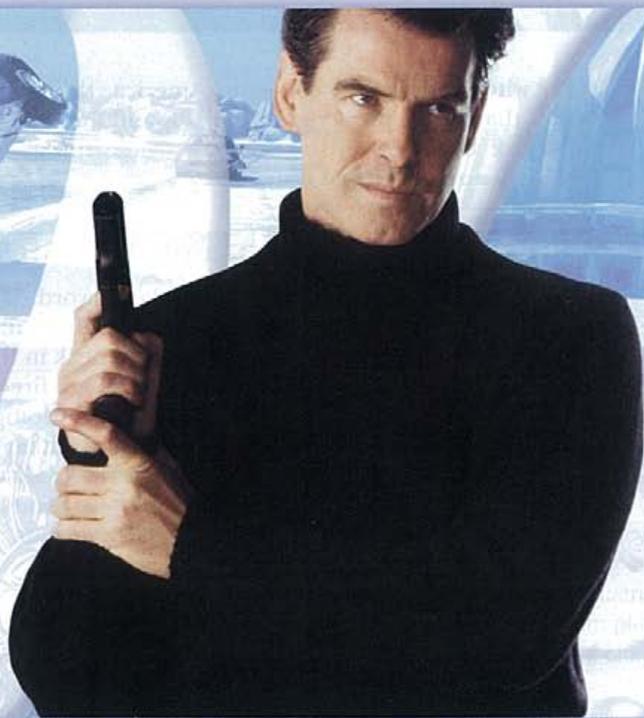
>> GAMECUBE, PC, PS2, XBOX

When it comes to comic book characters, nobody's simpler to understand than the Hulk. He's big. He's green. And he likes to smash. Therefore, playing him in a videogame is pretty easy to understand as well. You turn big and green, and then you smash things. Guess simple pleasures really are the best.

## Speed Kings

>> GAMECUBE, PS2, XBOX

Racing games are a dime a dozen, but it's been a while since someone put out a solid motorcycle race title like this that manages to include both speed-boosting stunts and...um... "aggressive" riders (read: ones who kick and punch). Perfect for anyone who's always wanted to be a two-wheeled speed demon, but doesn't like the idea of making skid marks with their skull.



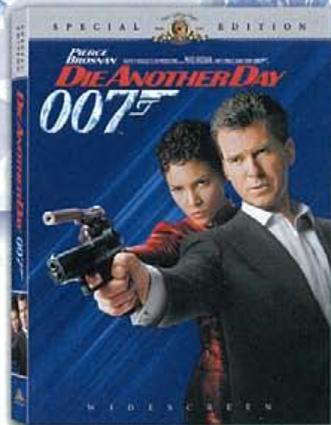
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# Hulk Hogan

## MAKES HIS PICKS

**A**ny list of the top pop culture icons of the last 20 years surely includes Hulk Hogan. Arguably the most popular and flamboyant character in the world of professional wrestling, he is just as much of a celebrity to millions of people who have never even seen him in the ring.

In his recent autobiography, *Hollywood Hulk Hogan*, the 6'7", 275-pound Hogan (born Terry Bollea in 1953) shared details about his early life and recounted a career of highs and lows, including his widely publicized use of steroids.

Hogan went one-on-one with *Famous* before meeting throngs of Hulkamaniacs at Famous Players' Paramount theatre in Toronto.

### WHAT ARE YOUR FIVE FAVOURITE FILMS?

"Number one — and this is going to be a weird one — is *True Romance* [1993] with Patricia Arquette and Christian Slater. I love that film. It just caught me off guard, man. I wasn't a big fan of [Arquette] but she was very sexy in the role, and dangerous and outgoing...just the whole thing where she had to be a prostitute for a little while.

- Number two, I have to go with *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* [1991]. In the original, Arnold looked like he was on steroids and he was all pumped up and smooth looking. In *Terminator 2* he was somebody that could have been a Terminator. He didn't look like a puffy kid, he looked like a man.
- Number three, I'm going to go with *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial* [1982]. I just love that movie.
- Number four is *The French Connection* [1971] with Gene Hackman. That was a great movie. I became a huge fan of his after that.
- Number five should have been number one but I'm going to go with *Scarface* [1983]. It was Al Pacino, the

whole immigrant comes to America, the cocaine thing that was so prevalent in the '70s and the '80s, the power of the mob. His acting, the whole thing. The whole craziness of that drama."

### WHY DO YOU THINK YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO BECOME A HUGE MOVIE STAR?

"I don't know. It's a double-edged sword. When I had my chance to do movies I had this thing called professional wrestling going on. It was at its peak in the '80s. So do I take a chance on doing a movie? I got fired from the WWF one time for doing a movie — for doing *Rocky III* [1982] — then I was back and all of a sudden I had this great chance to do all these movies. Do I walk away from something that turned out to be a 10-year run at the top, making tons of money, to go take a chance on a film and then come back and not have it?"

### ARE WE GOING TO SEE YOU IN ANY FUTURE MOVIES?

"I hope so. The director of the new Superman movie wants me to come out and read for the bad guy part. The director of the third Harry Potter movie wants me to come out and read for it. I really don't know if I have anything going. There's a ton of TV stuff...they want me to do another TV series, which I'm not really into. Fox is hot on my trail to do a reality show like *The Osbournes* but I don't want 70 production people in my house 12 hours a day."

### HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH BEING A ROLE MODEL TO SO MANY KIDS? I MEAN, YOU CAN'T EXACTLY GET CAUGHT WITH A DEAD HOOKER IN YOUR BED.

"That could have been something that could have happened when I was younger. But now I don't have a problem with it. Now I just be myself. Everything that I've done, everybody has known about it. I had a few things that I was hiding over the years but everybody finds out anyway.

"So you can bring up anything you want to about Hulk Hogan and I guarantee they already know about it. Now it's real easy to be myself. You come to a place in your life where it all makes sense: timing, body, mind, spirit and soul all function as one."

### HOW DO YOU SEPARATE TERRY BOLLEA FROM HULK HOGAN?

"It's one and the same. I mean, in private I don't do the Hulk stuff in my house because that doesn't fly after being married for 20 years. My wife isn't impressed if I rip off my pajama shirt. When I go out in public, if I say 'Hey, what's up brother?' they'd rather hear [in growling Hulk voice] 'Hey brother, what's up?' It's kind of like saying that Santa Claus's name is Bob. If I act like Terry in public it ruins the mystique."

### AND WHAT ABOUT THOSE CRAZY FANS?

"I hate to sound like a suck-up but when I come to Canada these people have more passion, more commitment and they're more loyal than people in the States. If I should have ever been born and lived somewhere else it should have been here. I just can't believe how nice everybody is."  
—John Kennedy

# new RELEASES

LAUGH AT **COMEDIAN**, PONDER **ANALYZE THAT**  
OR TAKE ON **NEMESIS**

MAY 6

## CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

**Stars:** Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks

**Director:** Steven Spielberg (*Minority Report*)

**Story:** This based-on-a-true-story flick follows the adventures of Frank Abagnale, a young conman who specialized in passing fake cheques, creating new identities and evading the FBI.

MAY 13

## ANALYZE THAT

**Stars:** Robert De Niro, Billy Crystal

**Director:** Harold Ramis (*Analyze This*)

**Story:** The nervous shrink and the anxiety-ridden gangster return for another round of therapy-themed mob jokes in the sequel to *Analyze This*.

## COMEDIAN

**Stars:** Jerry Seinfeld

**Director:** Christian Charles (debut)

**Story:** The man who gave us *Mulva*, the *Soup Nazi* and *Man-Hands* returns to his stand-up roots in this funny documentary about the working life of a comedian.

## TALK TO HER

**Stars:** Javier Camara, Dario Grandinetti

**Director:** Pedro Almodóvar (*All About My Mother*)

**Story:** After his bullfighter girlfriend is gored and sent into a coma, a journalist meets a male nurse who is caring for another comatose girl, and the two strike up an unusual friendship.

MAY 20

## ADAPTATION

**Stars:** Nicolas Cage, Meryl Streep

**Director:** Spike Jonze (*Being John Malkovich*)

**Story:** An uptight screenwriter finds his efforts to adapt a book about an orchid

thief are going nowhere, so he calls in the help of his freewheeling twin brother.

## ANTWONE FISHER

**Stars:** Derek Luke, Denzel Washington

**Director:** Denzel Washington (debut)

**Story:** Thanks to his tendency to blow up at nothing, an angry young sailor is assigned to a Navy psychiatrist and, together, the two of them plumb the depths of his depressing childhood.

## STAR TREK: NEMESIS

**Stars:** Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Frakes

**Director:** Stuart Baird (*U.S. Marshals*)

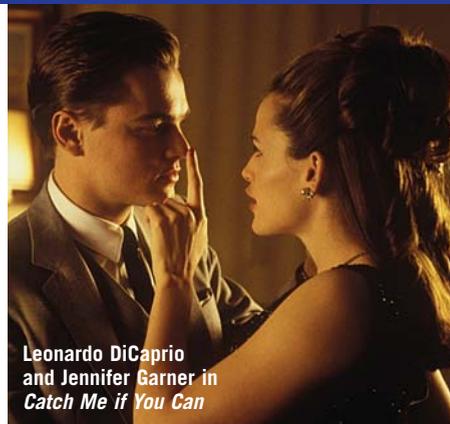
**Story:** Picard and company suit up to do battle with the Romulans. This is supposedly the last "Next Generation" film, which means *DS9*'s Sisko may finally get his moment in the cinematic sun! But we doubt it.

## 25TH HOUR

**Stars:** Edward Norton, Barry Pepper

**Director:** Spike Lee (*Bamboozled*)

**Story:** Faced with seven years of prison, a small-time drug dealer spends his last



Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Garner in *Catch Me if You Can*

night out on the town with his two best friends and his girlfriend, while reflecting on how he ended up a convict.

MAY 27

## A GUY THING

**Stars:** Jason Lee, Julia Stiles

**Director:** Chris Koch (*Snow Day*)

**Story:** A soon-to-be-married guy wakes up after his bachelor party with a woman who ain't his bride. Needless to say, wacky shenanigans ensue.

## THE RECRUIT

**Stars:** Al Pacino, Colin Farrell

**Director:** Roger Donaldson (*Thirteen Days*)

**Story:** Impressed by his intelligence and skill, a top CIA veteran enlists a new recruit to help him ferret out a suspected mole within the notoriously shady Agency.

## new to DVD

### BY BRAKHAGE

Experimental filmmaker Stan Brakhage made almost 400 movies, but unless you're a film professor or an art critic, odds are you've never seen one. That can change if you get your hands on this new collection that contains such classics as *Mothlight* and the 1964 masterpiece *Dog Star Man*, which is listed by the Library of Congress as one of the most important films ever made, alongside *Citizen Kane*, *Star Wars* and the Zapruder footage of JFK's assassination.



### A BUG'S LIFE: COLLECTOR'S EDITION

This new edition of the hilarious cartoon about a hapless ant's attempts to save his colony from hungry grasshoppers doesn't have any new scenes or footage, but it does have a ton of intriguing "making-of" featurettes that are perfect for anyone interested in the art and science of computer animation.

GO TO [WWW.BLOCKBUSTER.COM](http://WWW.BLOCKBUSTER.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION

# may

H O R O S C O P E | BY DAN LIEBMAN

## taurus

April 21 >>> May 22

You continue to develop new skills, and in the process may make an unlikely friend. Lines of communication are finally untangled, so make important pitches around the 20th. Late month provides an excellent chance to reconnect with an estranged relative.

## gemini

May 23 >>> June 21

Influential people are accessible and receptive, making May an excellent month to make presentations. Geminis will enjoy an unusually active summer, so it's important to get in shape now. Relationships have an intellectual side.

## cancer

June 22 >>> July 22

This is an excellent time to think about making some extra money. Expect Scorpios and Capricorns to be ultra-sensitive (an understatement). Be sure to avoid quarrels with members of these signs. Travel and romance blend well, especially late-month.

## leo

July 23 >>> August 22

Self-confidence soars, and by late May you're ready to tackle the most ambitious of projects. Avoid overdoing things — including exercise — around the 20th. Someone you're close to may seem distant. Show concern, but also allow space.

## virgo

August 23 >>> September 22

Whether you call them feuds or debates, there are lots of them during the first chunk of May. Don't try to win every one. You get some nice financial news after the 15th. When it comes to health and romance, listen to those you trust the most.

## libra

September 23 >>> October 22

This is a transition month. You may be easing into a new relationship, job or location. In any case, be patient, observant and more than a little adventurous. Relatives benefit from your encouraging words, while friends look for opportunities to pamper you.

## scorpio

October 23 >>> November 21

This is an ideal time to pay tribute to someone you've long admired. It's also a good month to take on new responsibilities — personal, professional or both. May also includes some quirky coincidences and, after the 25th, a series of pesky delays.

## sagittarius

November 22 >>> December 22

Reflection is important right now, since you're about to make a binding commitment. For Sagittarius — the zodiac's eternal student — it's an excellent time to sign up for seminars. Unexpected visitors bring laughter and chaos into your life.



KATIA SMIRNOVA

## capricorn

December 23 >>> January 20

This is an excellent time to collect information, since your knowledge of trivia could pay off in June or July. It's also a good month for hanging around upbeat people.

## aquarius

January 21 >>> February 19

You enjoy renewed energy all month, but be wary of an impulsive streak that can surface around the 19th. If making an important purchase, be certain it comes with an ironclad guarantee.

## pisces

February 20 >>> March 20

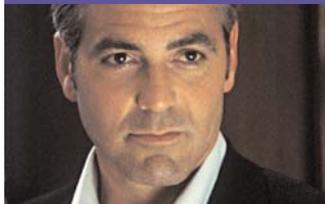
You're witty this month, and open-minded too. And you're about to seize at least one exciting opportunity. You're also intuitive — about everyone's situation but your own.

## aries

March 21 >>> April 20

This is not the time to demand star treatment. Be willing to blend into the team, and this can be one of your most productive periods in recent memory. And, if you take the initiative, May will prove the perfect month for healing old wounds.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS



1st [Wes Anderson](#)  
2nd [Dwayne Johnson](#)  
3rd [James Brown](#)  
4th [Lance Bass](#)

5th [Richard E. Grant](#)  
6th [George Clooney](#)  
7th [Traci Lords](#)  
8th [Melissa Gilbert](#)  
9th [Rosario Dawson](#)  
10th [Bono](#)  
11th [Natasha Richardson](#)  
12th [Jason Biggs](#)  
13th [Mary Walsh](#)  
14th [Cate Blanchett](#)  
15th [Chazz Palminteri](#)

16th [Pierce Brosnan](#)  
17th [Bill Paxton](#)  
18th [Chow Yun-Fat](#)  
19th [Nora Ephron](#)  
20th [Cher](#)  
21st [Fairuza Balk](#)  
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23rd [Drew Carey](#)  
24th [John C. Reilly](#)  
25th [Mike Myers](#)  
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**COURTNEY LOVE**

"I tried bisexuality once and then I asked myself, 'Where's the main course?'"

# 10 stars SHARE THEIR SEX SECRETS

**JIM CARREY** "If you have good sex, and you know you've made the other person happy, it's so much better than doing it for yourself. Although, if you're using your left hand, it's really like you're with someone else."

**KEVIN COSTNER** "In my youth, I used to pick up sluts. I don't mean that nastily. It's a term of endearment."

**PAMELA ANDERSON** "Making love in the morning got me through morning sickness. I found I could be happy and throw up at the same time."

**ROBERT DOWNEY JR.** "A lot of my peer group think I'm an eccentric bisexual.... That's okay. I think that everybody is bisexual."

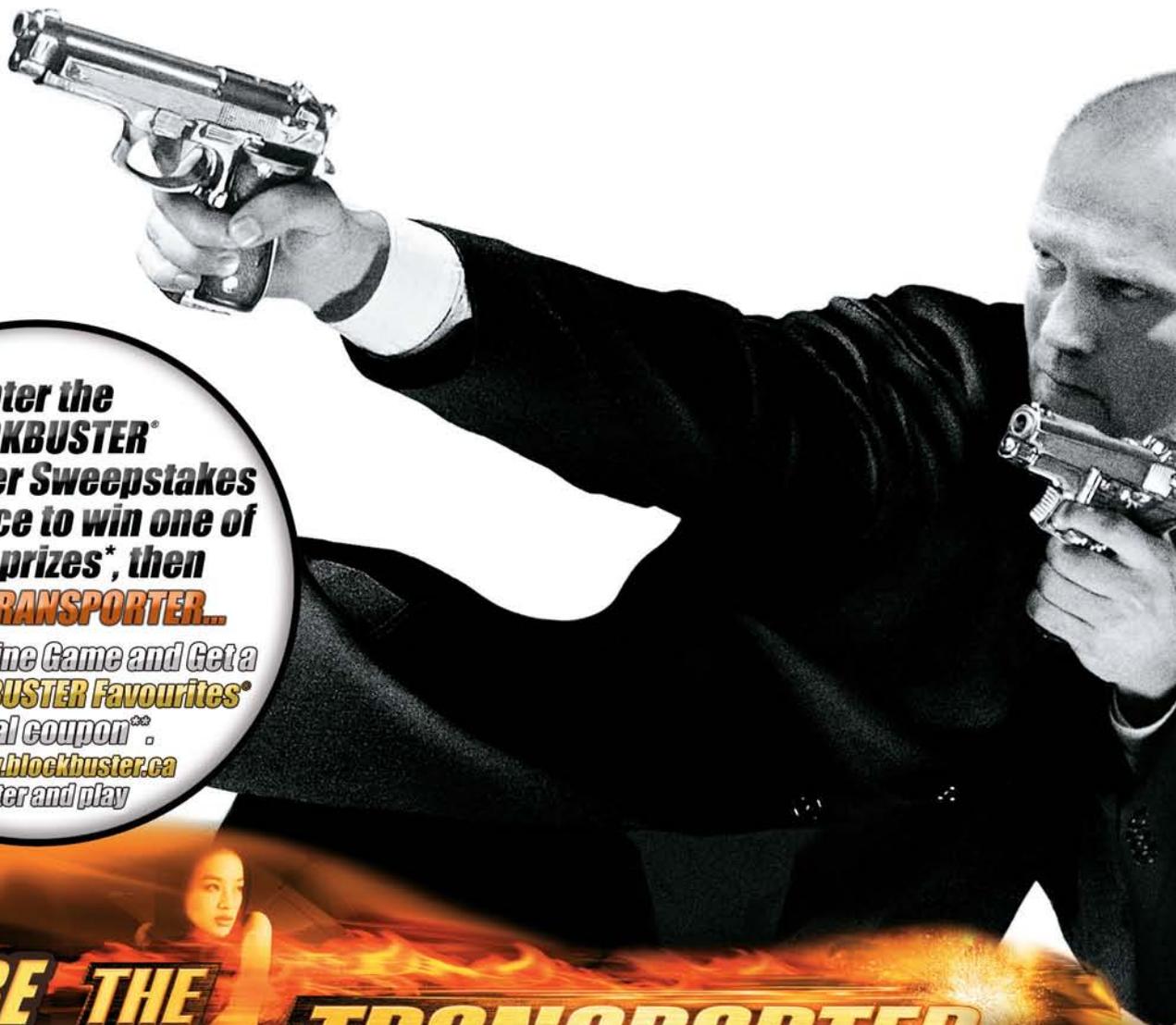
**STING** "When I was quoted saying I had sex for seven hours with tantric yoga, that included dinner and a movie."

**SOPHIA LOREN** "Sex appeal is 50 percent what you've got, and 50 percent what people think you've got."

**CATHERINE ZETA-JONES** "The only thing better than sex is sex with chocolate on top."

**FARRAH FAWCETT** "God gave women intuition and femininity — and, used properly, that combination easily jumbles the brain of any man I've ever met."

PHOTO BY JAMES DEVANEY/WIREIMAGE

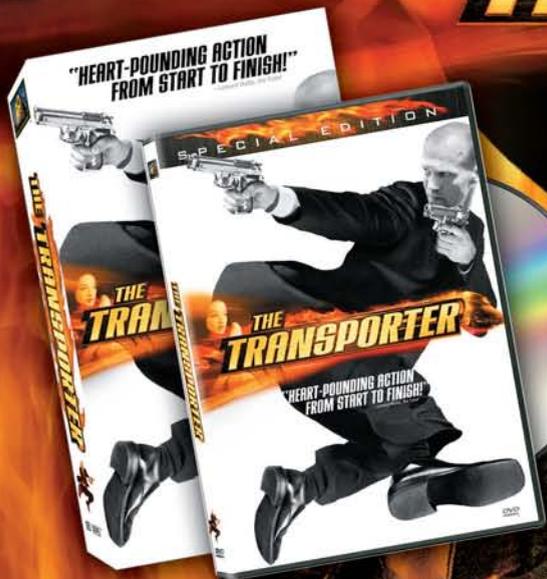


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