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Famous

may 2004 | volume 5 | number 5

**ONE-ON-ONE
WITH
LENNY
KRAVITZ**

**SPOTLIGHT
ON JAKE
GYLLENHAAL**

**ORLANDO
BLOOM
TALKS
TROY**

**RAISING
HELEN'S
KATE
HUDSON
DELIVERS**

THE LATEST
**Video
& DVD**
PAGE 42

**YOUR
ULTIMATE
SUMMER
PREVIEW
PAGE 14!**

Hugh Jackman

**THE ELEGANT STAR ON THE INS AND OUTS OF HUNTING
EVIL BADDIES IN *VAN HELSING***

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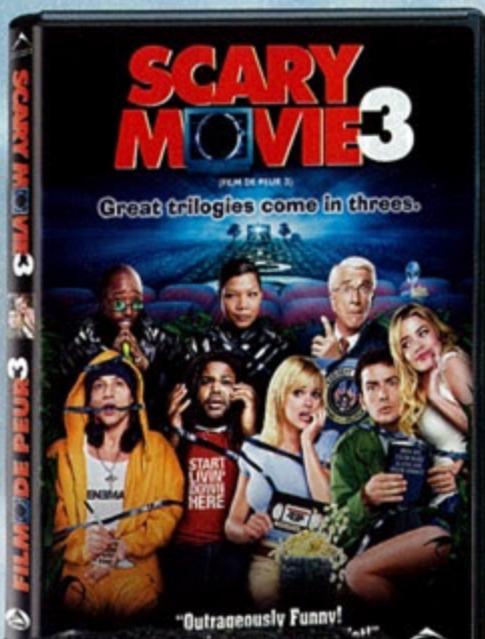
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PLUS SALMA HAYEK, ANTHONY HOPKINS AND OTHER STARS DIG IN THE DIRT

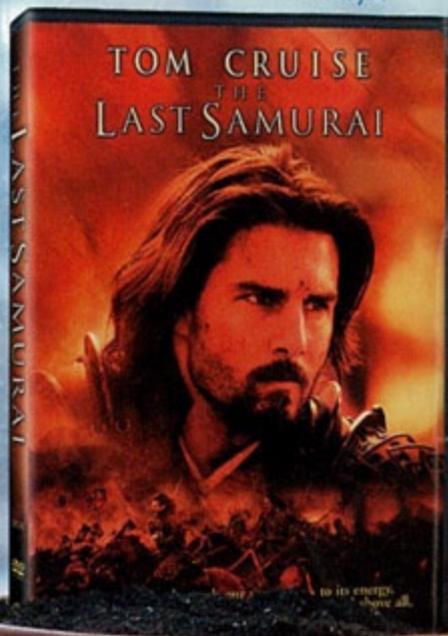
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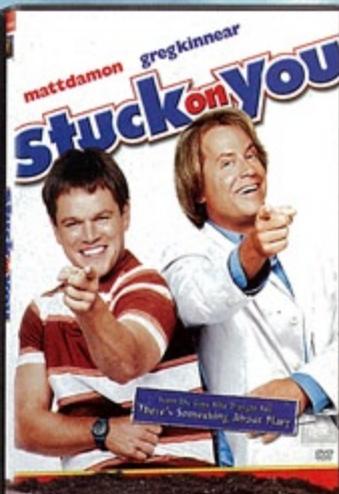
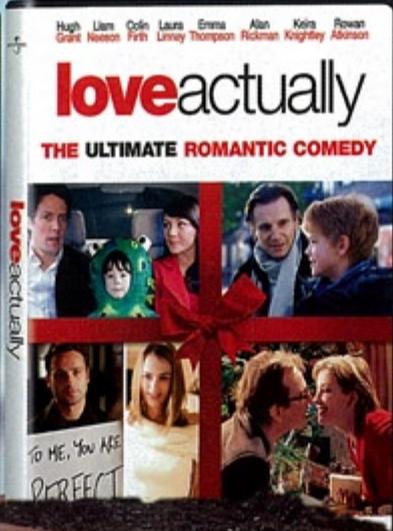
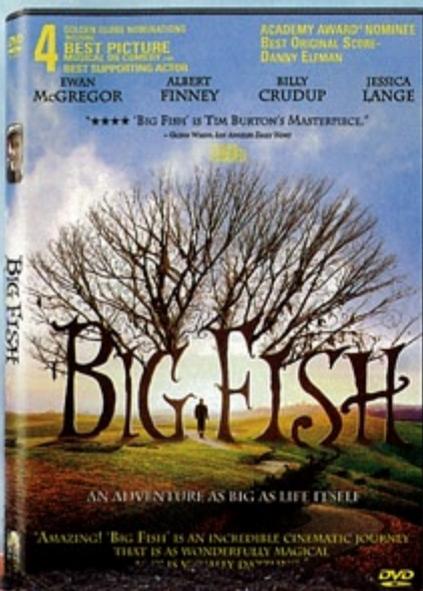
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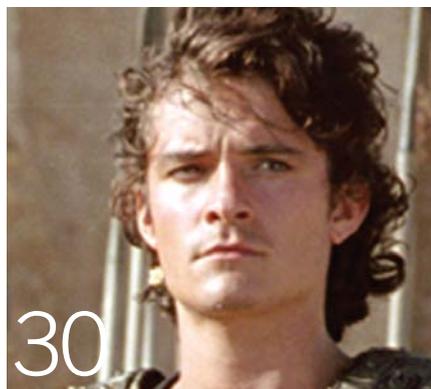


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| BY BARRETT HOOPER

COVER PHOTO BY GREG GORMAN/ICON INT'L



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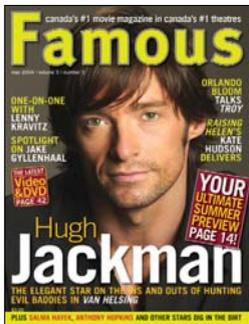
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WE KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER



Give yourself a hand. You deserve it. You changed Hollywood.

Last summer, movie theatres were overrun with sequels, most of them saddled with ridiculously long names like *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*, *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*, *Legally Blonde: Red, White and Blonde*, or my personal favourite *Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life*.

There were 13 sequels (or prequels — let's not forget *Dumb and Dumber: When*

Harry Met Lloyd) from the beginning of May until the end of August, compared to six the year before. And most of them were little more than thin extensions of the storylines that made their predecessors successful. All of the above-mentioned movies made significantly less than their predecessors with *Dumb and Dumber* being the dumbest idea, dropping from the original movie's \$127-million (U.S.) at the box office to \$26-million, despite costing \$2-million more to make.

There were some sequel success stories — like *X2: X-Men United*, which jumped from *X-Men*'s \$157-million to \$215-million. But, by most accounts (including my own), that sequel was actually a better movie than the first, for which you justly rewarded the filmmakers while saving much of your cash for unique flicks like *Finding Nemo* and *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*.

The happy result? This summer we're back down to a more manageable six sequels/prequels — *Shrek 2*, *The Chronicles of Riddick* (*Pitch Black*'s follow-up), *Spider-Man 2*, *The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement*, *Alien vs. Predator* and *Exorcist: The Beginning*. Filling the void you'll see a heap of original stuff like *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*, a film noir created entirely with CGI except for it's stars, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jude Law and Angelina Jolie, and *The Terminal*, the Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks picture inspired by the bizarre, but true, story of a man who's been living in Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport for 16 years. Turn to page 14 for the scoop on all the season's releases in our annual **Summer Preview**.

One of the first of those original new movies to hit screens will be this month's dark **Hugh Jackman** thriller *Van Helsing*. Although the film's title character has been shoving stakes through undead hearts since he was created by *Dracula* author Bram Stoker in 1897, Van Helsing has usually been a sidekick, rather than the star. For "Dressed to Kill," page 32, Hugh Jackman told Barrett Hooper why this slick, special effects-laden fantasy will actually remind you a lot of the old Errol Fynn movies.

On page 26 we've got "Baby Talk," Earl Dittman's question and answer session with new mom **Kate Hudson**. In one of her first interviews since giving birth to her baby boy, Ryder, the star of *Raising Helen* explains why she thinks raising Ryder on movie sets and tour buses is going to work out just fine.

And for "Orlando's Odyssey," page 30, *Troy*'s **Orlando Bloom** sat down with our deputy editor Ingrid Randoja to talk about why he just can't seem to get away from grand-scale swordfight pics, and the much smaller — but equally compelling — film he'd love to do next. —**Marni Weisz**

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THE STARS WORK, PLAY AND PROMOTE THEIR MOVIES

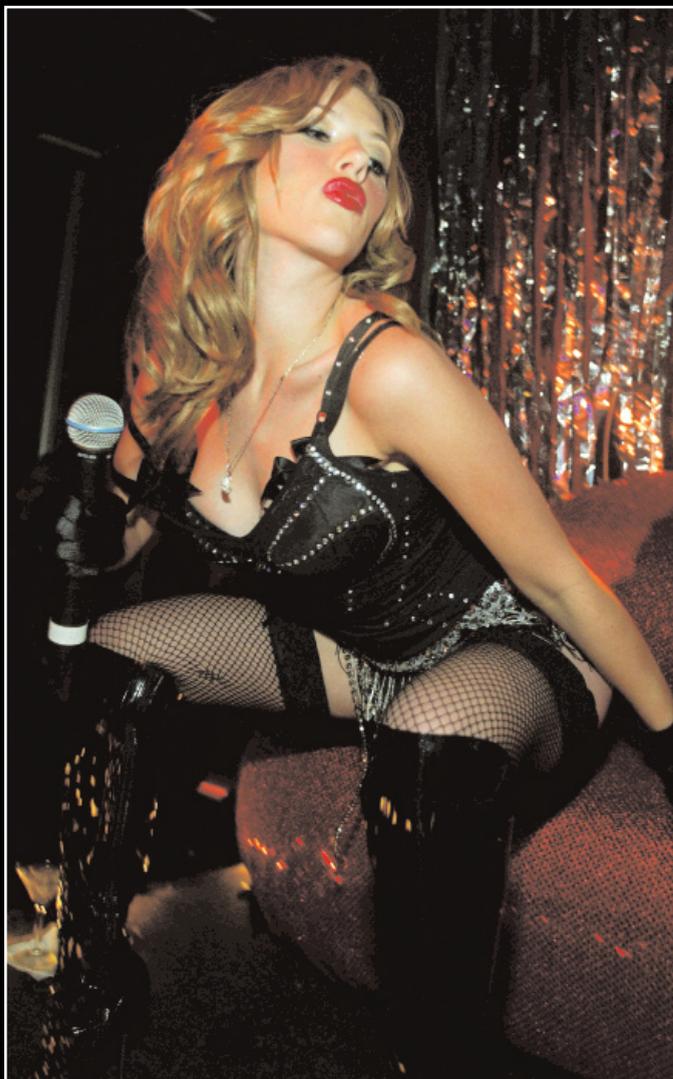


PHOTO BY JOHN SHEARER/WIREIMAGE

^ Scarlett Johansson becomes the latest star to be a guest performer ^ with Carmen Electra's raunchy girl band The Pussycat Dolls. The 19-year-old follows in the painfully pointy-toed footsteps of Charlize Theron, Christina Applegate and Brittany Murphy, all of whom have vamped it up with the Dolls at Johnny Depp's Viper Room in L.A.

>>> A cynic would say it's Hollywood marketing gone wild. Billy Bob Thornton peels off his shirt to show a journalist his new "Alamo" tattoo at the San Antonio premiere of *The Alamo*. The new bit of body art depicts a battle-worn Texas flag flanked by the words "Remember the Alamo." Thornton got it at an Austin tattoo parlour while shooting the film.

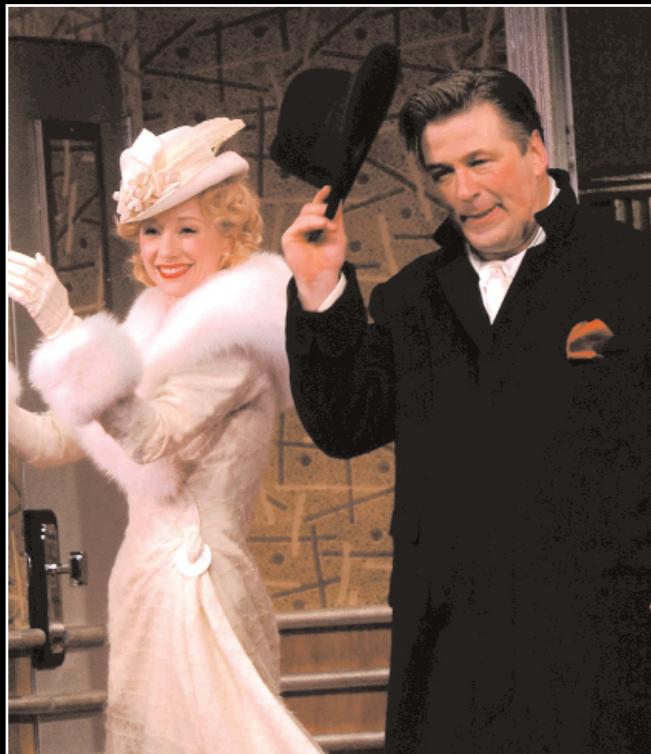


PHOTO BY EZIO PETERSEN/UP | PHOTO SERVICE

^ Alec Baldwin and Anne Heche greet the crowd during the opening ^ night curtain call for the Broadway remount of *Twentieth Century*. The play, which first hit the stage in 1932 and was later turned into a movie starring John Barrymore and Carole Lombard, tells of a pair of Hollywood lovers — she the star, and he the Machiavellian producer who created her.



PHOTO BY JEFFERY WASHINGTON/KRT

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



^ Quirky Helena Bonham Carter wears a quirky outfit while strolling through London with the baby boy she and her quirky boyfriend director Tim Burton welcomed last fall.

>>> Gwyneth Paltrow should have used a stunt double to wear those heels while pregnant. The actor has been trying to hide from the prying paparazzi since she began to show a few months ago, but had to go public here at ShoWest, the Vegas movie conference where she was given the Distinguished Decade of Achievement in Film Award.

√ Okay, so it looks a bit funny to see Beyoncé, swaddle in lamé, at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo — but it *is* actually the largest livestock show and rodeo in the world, and the actor/pop star is a proud Houston native. Yeah, you're right, it still looks weird.

PHOTO BY DAVE ROSSMAN/WIREIMAGE



PHOTO BY DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/WIREIMAGE

All about Angela

If you know Angela Vint — and we mean know her personally, not just through her role as Ziggy the receptionist on TV's *Traders* — then we've got some surprising news.

She's married. Or, she should be, if all went according to plan. "When does this magazine come out," the delicate blonde asks, then mulls the dates to decide if it's safe to share that she and her boyfriend plan to elope at the end of April.

"We're going to Mexico, a nice private ceremony, just the two of us. We've been engaged for about a year and we're not really much for fuss," Vint explains. Her betrothed is a portrait artist she met at York University while studying drama there 10 years ago. They've been together ever since and the Oshawa, Ont.-raised actor smiles sweetly as she says, "He gives me butterflies in my tummy every day."

And so it comes as no surprise when Vint admits she had a bit of trouble relating to the content of her latest movie, *19 Months*. The funny faux documentary involves a young couple, Rob (*Last Wedding's* Benjamin Ratner) and Melanie (Vint), who buy into the research that says love never lasts more than 19 months, so plan to break up amicably at that time. Of course, that plan fails miserably. Shot in 2002, the film has been bumping around the festival circuit for the past two years but finally gets a theatrical release this month.

"It was hard to do a breakup [film] because I've been in a happy relationship," says Vint, "But then I realized it's all about feeling unworthy, feelings anyone can relate to."

And Vint has had her share of those feelings.

The role on *Traders* was her first paying job after graduating from York. It was supposed to be a one-episode gig, but by the time Vint got to her first read-through that had changed. "They're introducing everyone around the table and they introduce me and my character, Ziggy, as a 'new recurring character,'" Vint recalls. "And I leaned over to the guy beside me and said, 'Did they just say recurring?'"

"Recurring" quickly turned into "regular" and Ziggy even had a love interest by the time Vint's four-year stint came to an end. That was when she got her first taste of reality in the small Canadian film and television market. "When I first started on *Traders* I thought, 'Well, I'm going to the top,'" she recalls, "and then I got off the show and nobody wanted to see me because I had too much exposure, and I was right at the back of the line."

Since filming *19 Months*, Vint has spent time in New Zealand playing a Canadian doctor on that country's biggest nighttime drama, *Mercy Peak* (which aired on WTN last year). "It was fantastic. I got to live in New Zealand for five months, and work on a TV show and travel. It was exactly what I was looking for," she says. But since then she's also spent time waiting tables because those five months overseas took her out of the audition loop. "I hate it, it's very humbling," she admits. "It's hard to go from

being on TV to saying 'Would you like salad or fries with that?'"

And so Vint has come up with a theory about fame that seems to help. "I'm kind of realistic, I don't believe in fame," she says bluntly. "There's a moment where you're in the spotlight, and you get to have a voice, but then you kind of drift back and you're trying to get to that point again.... So I don't feel like that anymore. I have to think about the quality of the work, and if something comes of it, great." —MARNI WEISZ



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FAMOUS FOR HAVING A BIG HEART

Each year, the city of Las Vegas hosts the movie industry's largest convention, ShoWest. And don't let the word "convention" fool you, this gathering of executives and business types also attracts major star power. Gwyneth Paltrow, Jude Law, Jack Black and Nicole Kidman were just a few of the big names in attendance this year, most of them lured to the desert by the promise of a fancy award handed out at a swanky gala.

But this year, a brand new award was presented to none other than Canada's Famous Players. The Gold Heart Award for Outstanding Philanthropy was created to honour the theatrical distributor deemed to have made the most exceptional contribution to charity. Famous Players beat out entrants from across North America thanks to its Gold Heart Campaign, which raised more than \$517,000 for Variety: The Children's Charity. Famous Players has been raising money for the charity for years, but an intensified advertising push in 2003 saw proceeds shoot up 300 percent.

<<< Accepting the award on behalf of Famous Players were Robb Chase, Famous Players' president and CEO (seen right) and Andrew Sherbin, manager of corporate affairs (left).

Congratulations to Robb, Andrew and everyone across the country who bought a gold heart at a Famous Players theatre last year. —MW



PHOTO BY DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/WIREIMAGE

Proud to be putrid

Shrek 2 comes out this month, the continuing saga of the green ogre whose first movie was a big hit thanks to its satirical take on Disney-esque fairy tales and anthropomorphized woodland critters.

Much of that take came straight from the author of the children's book on which *Shrek* was based, Bronx-raised William Steig. Steig, who passed away last October at age 95, was a sharp-witted *New Yorker* cartoonist who took up drawing only to save his family during the Depression — he wanted to be a sailor and live in Tahiti — and didn't write his first children's book until 1968, at age 61.

Steig's *Shrek!*, published in 1990 when the author was already 83, conjures an even smellier, more vile and unapologetically repugnant character than the

Mike Myers-voiced ogre of the movie, and Steig's princess was an equally vile ogre from the moment they met, none of this ogre-in-a-beauty-queen's-body twistiness.

One of the book's icky exchanges between Shrek and the princess goes like this — Shrek: "Your horny warts, your rosy wens, like slimy bogs and fusty fens, thrill me." Princess: "Your lumpy nose, your pointy head, your wicked eyes, so livid red, just kill me."

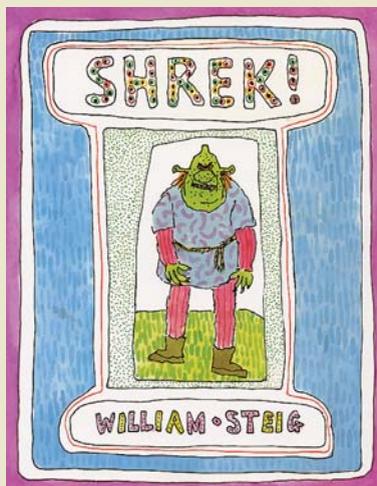
Unfortunately, Steig died before the sequel was finished, but he did see the first movie.

The author's New York agent Holly McGhee says Steig was terrified before sitting down to watch *Shrek*, positive that DreamWorks had messed it up (he had worked on some ideas for the film which were never used). But, according to McGhee, even though Steig's wart-ridden giant had been considerably cleaned up, his exact

words after the screening were: "It's vulgar, disgusting and I love it."

Still, fans of the *Shrek!* book (check out the glowing user comments at your favourite online bookseller) insist there's no comparison, and if you want to experience the real ogre, you should find yourself a copy of *Shrek!* by William Steig.

—MW



Left: The ogre as illustrated by William Steig; right: As he appears in the film

When I change,
So does my look.

Change is
important to me.
It lets me be
unique and reflects
who I am, at
any given
moment. I
want to be
an individual.
Who doesn't?

- Julia



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SUMMER PREVIEW

SPEND TIME IN ANCIENT GREECE WITH **BRAD PITT**, STUCK IN AN AIRPORT WITH **TOM HANKS**, IN CREEPY STEPFORD WITH **NICOLE KIDMAN**, IN OLD ENGLAND WITH **KEIRA KNIGHTLEY**, IN THE '70S WITH **WILL FERRELL**, IN THE FUTURE WITH **WILL SMITH**, IN GOTHAM WITH **HALLE BERRY**, OR IN A CAB WITH **TOM CRUISE** | BY INGRID RANDOJA



MAY 7

NEW YORK MINUTE

WHO'S IN IT? Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen
WHO DIRECTED? Dennie Gordon (*What a Girl Wants*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Twin sisters — smarty pants Jane (Ashley Olsen) and wannabe rocker Roxy (Mary-Kate Olsen) — ditch school to spend a day in the Big Apple trying to make their dreams come true.

VAN HELSING

WHO'S IN IT? Hugh Jackman, Kate Beckinsale

WHO DIRECTED? Stephen Sommers (*The Mummy Returns*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Jackman (sporting dashing hair extensions) stars as Gabriel Van Helsing, a monster hunter who travels

TROY

WHO'S IN IT? Brad Pitt, Orlando Bloom

WHO DIRECTED? Wolfgang Petersen (*The Perfect Storm*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? When the pretty Prince of Troy (Bloom) sails away with Greek hottie Helen (Diane Kruger), the Greeks send a huge army led by the almost invincible warrior Achilles (no, not the strappy sandals!) to get her back. See Orlando Bloom interview, page 30.

HITS THEATRES MAY 14

to Transylvania to take on Count Dracula, the Wolfman and Frankenstein's monster. He gets some help from his comely sidekick Anna Valerious (Beckinsale). See **Hugh Jackman interview, page 32.**

MAY 14

BREAKIN' ALL THE RULES

WHO'S IN IT? Jamie Foxx, Morris Chestnut

WHO DIRECTED? Dan Taplitz

(*Commandments*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? When Quincy's (Foxx) girlfriend dumps him, he pens a breakup manual that becomes a bestseller, turning him into a Dr. Phil with dreads.

MAY 21

SHREK 2

VOICES: Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz

WHO DIRECTED? Andrew Adamson,

Kelly Asbury and Conrad Vernon

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Newlyweds Shrek (Myers) and Fiona (Diaz) travel to her homeland of Far, Far Away so her parents (John Cleese and Julie Andrews) can meet their big, green son-in-law for the first time. Listen for Antonio Banderas as



HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN

WHO'S IN IT? Daniel Radcliffe, Gary Oldman

WHO DIRECTED? Alfonso Cuarón (*Y tu Mamá También*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Poor Harry, Hermione and Ron, not only are they hitting that awkward age where voices crack and hormones start to rage, they've got to deal with escaped convict Sirius Black (Oldman), who is out to get our scarred hero. Look for Cuarón to add just a smattering of sexual tension between our adolescent wizards and witches.

HITS THEATRES JUNE 4

the hot-tempered kitty Puss-in-Boots, *AbFab*'s Jennifer Saunders as *The Fairy Godmother* and CNN's Larry King as *The Ugly Stepsister*.

MAY 28

RAISING HELEN

WHO'S IN IT? Kate Hudson, John Corbett

WHO DIRECTED? Garry Marshall

(*The Princess Diaries*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A modeling agency executive (Hudson) suddenly finds herself raising her deceased sister's three kids. Corbett chimes in as the cuddly pastor who falls for Hudson. See **Kate Hudson interview, page 26.**

SOUL PLANE

WHO'S IN IT? Kevin Hart, Tom Arnold

WHO DIRECTED? Jessy Terrero (debut)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? After winning \$600-million in a lawsuit against an airline, Dakwon (Hart) starts his own airline specifically targeted to African-Americans. Snoop Dogg plays the high-flying pilot, while Arnold pops up as the head of a white family that's mistakenly re-routed onto the airline.

THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW

WHO'S IN IT? Dennis Quaid,

Jake Gyllenhaal

WHO DIRECTED? Roland Emmerich (*Godzilla*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? If you salivate when you see buildings collapse, cars flip over and people fleeing for their lives, then check out this special effects extravaganza starring Quaid as a paleoclimatologist

(say that three times fast), who sets out to save his son (Gyllenhaal), who's trapped in frozen Manhattan after global warming sends the planet into a new Ice Age.

JUNE 4

MINDHUNTERS

WHO'S IN IT? Val Kilmer, LL Cool J

WHO DIRECTED? Renny Harlin (*Driven*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? FBI trainees are shipped off to a remote island to fine-tune their profiling skills, and can you believe it, one of them is a killer. This thriller has been sitting on the shelf longer than that half-empty bottle of soy sauce in your pantry, which doesn't bode well for the final product.

JUNE 11

THE STEPFORD WIVES

WHO'S IN IT? Nicole Kidman,

Matthew Broderick

WHO DIRECTED? Frank Oz (*The Score*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? This remake of the chilling '70s feminist cautionary tale finds a married couple (Kidman, Broderick) moving to the small town of Stepford, Connecticut, where all the men's wives are perfectly coiffed and suspiciously subservient. Look for less feminist rhetoric and more sly humour this time around.

THE CHRONICLES OF RIDDICK

WHO'S IN IT? Vin Diesel, Judi Dench

WHO DIRECTED? David Twohy (*Below*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Diesel reprises



GARFIELD: THE MOVIE

WHO'S IN IT? Breckin Meyer,

Jennifer Love Hewitt

WHO DIRECTED? Peter Hewitt

(*The Borrowers*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Bill Murray provides the voice of CGI kitty Garfield, who comes to the rescue when his owner Jon's (Meyer) other pet, nitwit pooch Odie, is kidnapped.

HITS THEATRES JUNE 11



THE TERMINAL

WHO'S IN IT? Tom Hanks, Catherine Zeta-Jones
WHO DIRECTED? Steven Spielberg (*A.I.*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? When his homeland is invaded during his flight, an Eastern European traveler (Hanks) arrives at a New York City airport with an invalid passport, thereby forcing him to stay put and make the terminal his home. Zeta-Jones plays the female love interest in this tale inspired by the real-life travails of Merhan Karimi Nasseri, an Iranian man who has been living inside Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport for the last 16 years.

HITS THEATRES JUNE 18



WHITE CHICKS

WHO'S IN IT? Shawn Wayans, Marlon Wayans
WHO DIRECTED? Keenen Ivory Wayans (*Scary Movie 2*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Two FBI agents (the Wayans brothers) disguise themselves as white girls in order to act as bait and stop the kidnapping of a couple of hotel heiresses (any similarity to the Hilton sisters is, of course, completely coincidental).

HITS THEATRES JUNE 25



DODGEBALL: A TRUE UNDERDOG STORY

WHO'S IN IT? Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller
WHO DIRECTED? Rawson Marshall Thurber (debut)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? From the director of the hilarious short film *Terry Tate*, *Office Linebacker*, comes a comedy about a group of misfits who enter a dodgeball tournament to win the cash needed to save their grotty gym from being turned into a fitness studio. This movie could spawn an entirely new genre of sports films, such as *Tetherball Hell*, or *Pick-Up Sticks: A Personal Odyssey*.

HITS THEATRES JUNE 18

▶▶his role from the underrated sci-fi flick *Pitch Black*, escaped convict Riddick, who finds himself caught between two feuding galactic forces — the Necromongers (led by Canada's own Colm Feore) and the Elemental race (governed by Dame Dench).

JUNE 18

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

WHO'S IN IT? Steve Coogan, Jackie Chan
WHO DIRECTED? Frank Coraci (*The Waterboy*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Jules Verne's globe-trotting tale returns to the big screen with Coogan (*24 Hour Party People*) portraying 19th-century British inventor Phileas Fogg, who bets he can traverse the planet in the aforementioned time frame. Chan plays his thieving sidekick Passepartout. Keep your eyes peeled for all-star cameos by Kathy Bates, John Cleese and the governor himself, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

DARKNESS

WHO'S IN IT? Anna Paquin, Lena Olin
WHO DIRECTED? Jaume Balagueró (*The Nameless Sin*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Lots of very scary things start to happen when a teenage



THE NOTEBOOK

WHO'S IN IT? Rachel McAdams, Ryan Gosling
WHO DIRECTED? Nick Cassavetes (*John Q*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? An elderly man (James Garner) recounts the romance between two lovers (London, Ontario, natives McAdams and Gosling) to a woman in a nursing home (Gena Rowlands, who also happens to be the director's mother).

HITS THEATRES JUNE 25

girl (Paquin) and her family move into a gloomy house in the Spanish countryside. This Spanish-produced, English language film has been playing throughout Europe since 2002, and the international reviews claim we North Americans are about to be spooked silly.

JUNE 25

SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

WHO'S IN IT? Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow
WHO DIRECTED? Kerry Conran (debut)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Why bother with extras, locations or even sets when you can digitally insert everything, except your lead actors, into the action? Director Conran wrote a computer program that does just that, and the resulting look is retro cool. Paltrow plays a '30s reporter who discovers the world's scientists are disappearing, and Law is the swashbuckling pilot who helps her save the day.

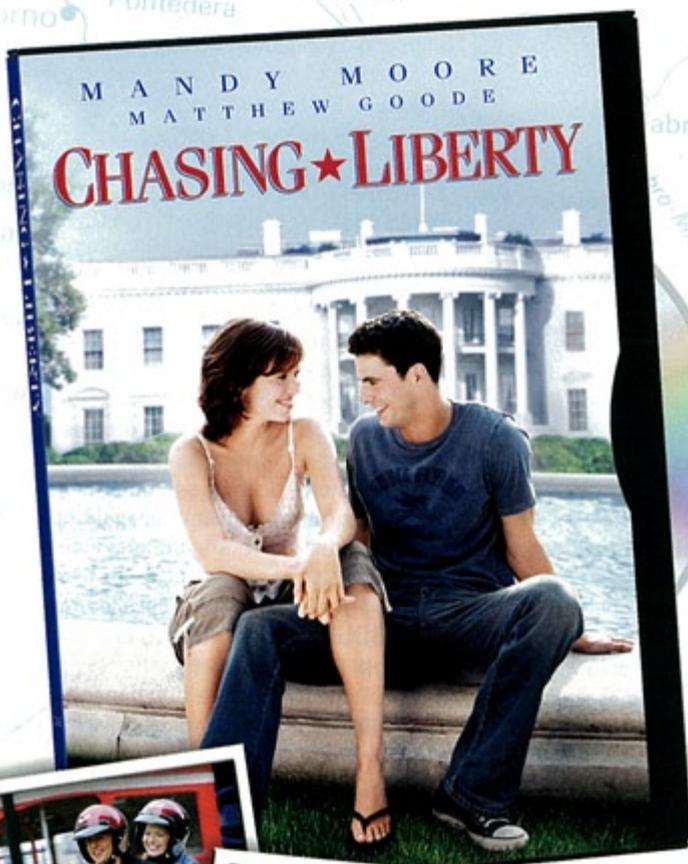
DE-LOVELY

WHO'S IN IT? Kevin Kline, Ashley Judd
WHO DIRECTED? Irwin Winkler (*Life as a House*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Such pop stars as Robbie Williams, Alanis Morissette, Elvis Costello and Sheryl Crow lend their ▶▶

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JULY 9

SLEEPOVER

WHO'S IN IT? Alexa Vega, Mika Boorem
WHO DIRECTED? Joe Nussbaum (debut)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Four unpopular girls compete in a scavenger hunt against their school's reigning clique. The winner gets dibs on the cafeteria's best table.

JULY 16

A CINDERELLA STORY

WHO'S IN IT? Hilary Duff, Chad Michael Murray
WHO DIRECTED? Mark Rosman (*Evolver*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The Cinderella fairy tale is recycled yet again, and this time Duff plays the downtrodden gal whose miserable existence is transformed when a cute guy picks up her lost cellphone and plans to meet her at the school dance.

I, ROBOT

WHO'S IN IT? Will Smith, Bridget Moynahan
WHO DIRECTED? Alex Proyas (*Dark City*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? It's the year 2035 and robots are programmed to serve humanity. However, when a man is murdered, detective Spooner (Smith) suspects a glorified can opener may be the killer. An awesome art department transformed Vancouver's trendy Gastown district, and other neighbourhoods, into futuristic Chicago.

JULY 23

THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

WHO'S IN IT? Matt Damon, Franka Potente
WHO DIRECTED? Paul Greengrass (*Bloody Sunday*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? This sequel to *The Bourne Identity* finds CIA operative Jason Bourne (Damon) framed for the murder of a Chinese diplomat. It's up to the real Bourne to find the masquerading murderer.

JULY 30

THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE

WHO'S IN IT? Denzel Washington, Meryl Streep
WHO DIRECTED? Jonathan Demme (*The Truth About Charlie*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Ten years after serving in Desert Storm, soldier Marco Bennett (Washington) remembers both he and his pal Raymond Shaw (Liev Schreiber) were brainwashed by the enemy. Now, he must

SPIDER-MAN 2

WHO'S IN IT? Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst
WHO DIRECTED? Sam Raimi (*Spider-Man*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Peter Parker, a.k.a. Spidey, is now a college student who pines for lost love Mary-Jane (Dunst) while having to do battle with the tentacled Doctor Octopus (Alfred Molina). The budget for this sequel nudged over the \$200-million mark, but when you consider the first movie made \$114-million over its three-day opening weekend, it's likely the producers will recoup their investment.

HITS THEATRES JUNE 30

▶▶ vocal talents to this musical recounting of the complex life of legendary American composer Cole Porter (Kline).

TWO BROTHERS

WHO'S IN IT? Guy Pearce, Christian Clavier
WHO DIRECTED? Jean-Jacques Annaud (*Enemy at the Gates*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? From the director of *The Bear* comes another heartrending animal tale. Set in the Cambodian countryside during the '20s, the film follows two brother tigers who are separated as cubs, but reunited as enemies when they

reach maturity. Pearce plays the hunter who captures the striped siblings.

JULY 7

KING ARTHUR

WHO'S IN IT? Clive Owen, Keira Knightley
WHO DIRECTED? Antoine Fuqua (*Tears of the Sun*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The Arthurian legend is given a historically accurate spin with Owen playing the 5th-century King as an ordinary bloke who unites lawless Celtic tribes after the collapse of the Roman Empire.

THE CLEARING

WHO'S IN IT? Robert Redford, Helen Mirren
WHO DIRECTED? Pieter Jan Brugge (debut)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A wealthy industrialist (Redford) is kidnapped and it's up to his wife (Mirren) to deliver the ransom. Through a series of flashbacks we see how this golden couple's marriage has floundered, and learn why the kidnapper (Willem Dafoe) chose his unsuspecting victim.

HITS THEATRES JULY 2





ANCHORMAN

WHO'S IN IT? Will Ferrell, Christina Applegate

WHO DIRECTED? Adam McKay (debut)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Ferrell stars as sexist '70s TV anchorman Ron Burgundy, whose reign as San Diego's top news dog comes to an end when a qualified female journalist (Applegate) enters the picture. Hopes run high for this comedy, although the filmmakers have been tweaking it after it had a poor test screening.

HITS THEATRES JULY 9

stop Shaw from carrying out his instructions. Frank Sinatra, who starred in and owned the rights to the original 1962 film, believed his film may have been a contributing factor in JFK's assassination one year after its release. It was only shortly before his death that he relented and gave permission for a remake.

THE VILLAGE

WHO'S IN IT? Judy Greer, Joaquin Phoenix

WHO DIRECTED? M. Night Shyamalan (*Signs*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A 19th-century Pennsylvania village is surrounded by woods and the "creatures" who live within its borders. Suddenly, the creatures have decided to come out of the forest to attack the village. Count on Shyamalan to deliver quality jumps and jolts (man, our fingernails are already digging into the armrest).

HAROLD AND KUMAR GO TO WHITE CASTLE

WHO'S IN IT? John Cho, Kal Penn

WHO DIRECTED? Danny Leiner (*Dude, Where's My Car?*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The mostly self-explanatory title informs us that stoner pals Harold and Kumar spend a night driving around New Jersey searching for the perfect White Castle hamburger.

AUGUST 6

COLLATERAL

WHO'S IN IT? Tom Cruise, Jamie Foxx

WHO DIRECTED? Michael Mann (*Ali*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? An L.A. cabbie (Foxx) realizes that the fare he's been shuttling around town is a contract killer (Cruise), and unless he can come up with a plan he's going to wind up as the killer's final victim. The big news here — 41-year-old Tom Cruise plays his first gray-haired character.

THUNDERBIRDS

WHO'S IN IT? Bill Paxton, Ben Kingsley

WHO DIRECTED? Jonathan Frakes (*Clockstoppers*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The Tracey boys, led by their father (Bill Paxton), operate International Rescue, an elite



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PENTHOUSE PARTY



CATWOMAN

WHO'S IN IT? Halle Berry, Sharon Stone
WHO DIRECTED? Pitof (*Vidocq*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Mee-ow, the fur's been flying since early snaps of Berry in her saucy midriff-baring costume were released — it seems *Catwoman* fans are hating her slutty look. The comic book *Catwoman* was named Selina Kyle, but in the film she's graphic designer Patience Price (Berry) who is killed by an evil cosmetics tycoon (Stone) and brought back to life by a magical Egyptian cat.

HITS THEATRES JULY 23



▶▶ team that stops nefarious baddies from taking over the world. Turning the cult '60s British show that featured mari-onettes into a live-action affair falls into the hands of Frakes, former *Star Trek: TVG's* Number One, Will Riker.

AUGUST 11

THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2: ROYAL ENGAGEMENT

WHO'S IN IT? Anne Hathaway, Julie Andrews
WHO DIRECTED? Garry Marshall (*The Princess Diaries*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Newly installed princess Mia (Hathaway) relocates to the tiny nation of Genovia and gets word that she is engaged to marry an English nobleman. Hmmm, this summer we've got movies featuring robotic women, a female action hero outfitted in a stripper's costume and now a teen comedy

SHALL WE DANCE?

WHO'S IN IT? Jennifer Lopez, Richard Gere
WHO DIRECTED? Peter Chelsom (*Serendipity*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? This remake of the 1996 Japanese film stars Gere as a depressed accountant who signs up for dance lessons after spying the good-looking instructor (Lopez). Will his growing love of dance save his troubled marriage and inspire his bored wife (Susan Sarandon)?

HITS THEATRES AUGUST 6

featuring an arranged marriage. Do you feel empowered ladies, do you?

AUGUST 13

YU-GI-OH!: THE MOVIE

VOICES: Dan Green, Wayne Grayson
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Seeing as most adults would rather have their eyes poked out with red-hot skewers than sit through an incomprehensible anime flick, we'll give you the 411 — spiky-haired Yugi has mastered the rules of an ancient card game that can unleash powerful forces.

CODE 46

WHO'S IN IT? Tim Robbins, Samantha Morton
WHO DIRECTED? Michael Winterbottom (*In This World*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? In the near-future, humanity has been divided into those who live in tightly controlled city states,



and those who live outside in the desert-like wild regions. Robbins plays a bureaucrat who falls for Morton, a woman who helps people sneak into the cities.

ALIEN VS PREDATOR

WHO'S IN IT? Sanaa Lathan, Lance Henriksen
WHO DIRECTED? Paul W.S. Anderson (*Resident Evil*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? It's the battle between nasty movie aliens when a gaggle of Predators arrive from outer space just as human scientists are unearthing a batch of slumbering Aliens in Antarctica.

AUGUST 20

EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

WHO'S IN IT? Stellan Skarsgaard
WHO DIRECTED? Renny Harlin (*Driven*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? It looked as if this film would never get released since its first director, John Frankenheimer, died before shooting began, and his successor, Paul Schrader, was let go when the studio decided they didn't like the cerebral thriller he turned in. It's now a completely new film, still starring Skarsgaard as a young Father Merrin who gets his first taste of exorcism action while working on a possessed African boy.

CELLULAR

WHO'S IN IT? Kim Basinger, Chris Evans
WHO DIRECTED? David R. Ellis (*Final Destination 2*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A young man (Evans) gets a call on his cellphone from a woman (Basinger) who says she's been kidnapped, but doesn't know her location. Remember how the CB crept into movies in the '70s? Look for the same thing to happen with cellphones this decade.

AUGUST 27

VENOM

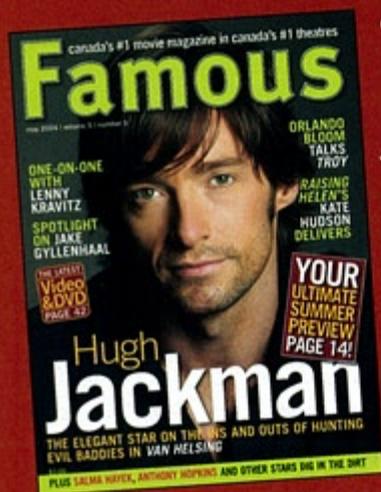
WHO'S IN IT? Morris Chestnut, Nicholas Hope
WHO DIRECTED? Dwight H. Little (*Deep Blue*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A scientific expedition heads to Borneo to find the rare Black Orchid, but runs into a few rather large snakes along the way. Campy fun rounds out the silly summer season at the movies.

CHECK WWW.FAMOUSPLAYERS.COM FOR SHOWTIMES AND LOCATIONS

Some films play only in major markets. All release dates subject to change.

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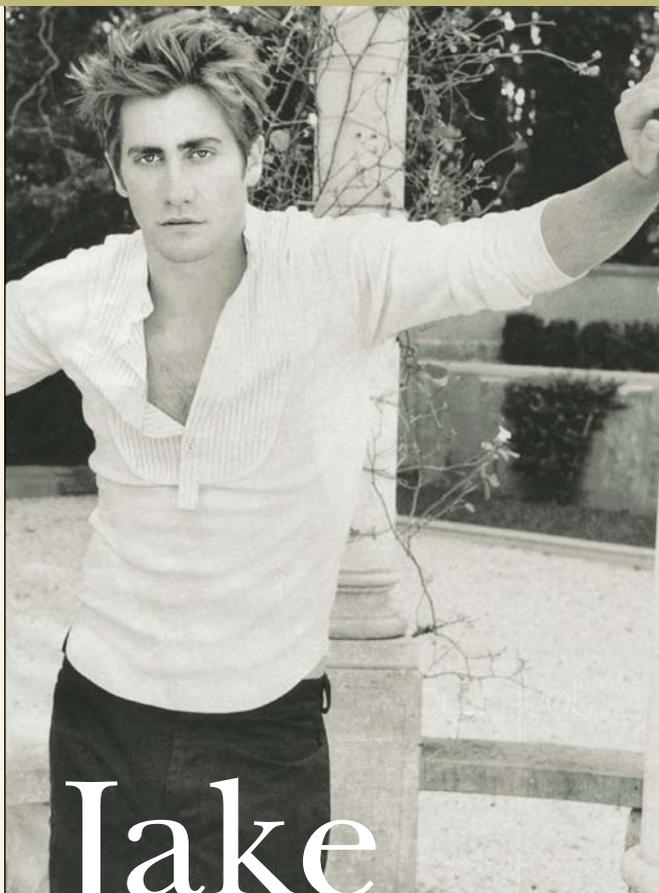
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Jake GYLLENHAAL

NOW APPEARING IN...the apocalyptic action flick *The Day After Tomorrow* as the son of a scientist (Dennis Quaid) trying to save the world after the greenhouse effect causes a catastrophic storm.

BIO BITS: He was named “Most on the Verge” in a *Movieline* poll; along with girlfriend Kirsten Dunst, he’s part of one of Hollywood’s hottest couples; and he has a rabid fan club that calls itself the Gyllenhaalics. Not bad for a skinny, gravely voiced 23-year-old with a cockeyed smile.

But this kid had some help. His dad, Stephen Gyllenhaal (pronounced “Jill-en-hall” — it’s Swedish), is an established director (*Felicity*, *Everwood*, an episode of *Twin Peaks*), and mom Naomi Foner is the screenwriter behind the Oscar-nominated, Golden Globe-winning *Running on Empty* and two films that were directed by her husband, *A Dangerous Woman* and *Losing Isaiah*.

Of course, lots of kids grow up in Los Angeles with a couple of semi-famous parents and never make it in show biz. And you need look no further than Gyllenhaal’s breakout role, rocketry enthusiast Homer Hickam in 1999’s *October Sky*, to see that he has talent — the same talent that filtered through the gene pool to his actor-sister Maggie Gyllenhaal (*Secretary*, *Mona Lisa Smile*).

Jake’s parents let him make only small forays into the world of child acting — he played Billy Crystal’s son in 1991’s *City Slickers*, Robin Williams’ kid in a 1994 episode of *Homicide*, and had a part in mom and dad’s 1993 big-screen adaptation of the novel

A Dangerous Woman. Instead, his folks kept the emphasis on his education early on, letting Jake learn the trade in school plays rather than Hollywood.

Gyllenhaal did spend a lot of time on sets with his parents, though, and close family friends include actors like Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen. In fact, in a 2003 *Interview* article in which Chelsea Clinton interviewed Gyllenhaal the pair recalled the time they sat together at her dad’s 51st birthday party, which was hosted by the Danson-Steenburgens on Martha’s Vineyard.

In 2002, Gyllenhaal made his professional stage debut as a rich kid on a bender in a production of Kenneth Lonergan’s *This is Our Youth* in London’s West End. Hayden Christensen and Anna Paquin co-starred, but it was Gyllenhaal who took home the Evening Standard Theatre Award for Outstanding Newcomer.

Next up for Gyllenhaal is *Proof*, in which he plays a math student who develops a relationship with the daughter (Gwyneth Paltrow) of his dying math professor (Anthony Hopkins).

INTERESTING TIDBITS: He lists several causes that are important to him on his official website (www.jakegyllenhaal.com), including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and College Summit, a group that aids low-income students. • Was one of the celebrities who joined the “Artists United to Win Without War” movement. • Dropped out of Columbia University after two years to concentrate on acting. • Made it to the final three actors vying for Ewan McGregor’s part in *Moulin Rouge!* — the third was Heath Ledger.

SELECT FILMOGRAPHY: Joe in *Moonlight Mile* (2002), Holden in *The Good Girl* (2002), Jordan in *Lovely & Amazing* (2001), Jimmy in *Bubble Boy* (2001), Donnie in *Donnie Darko* (2001), Homer in *October Sky* (1999), Leon in *Josh and S.A.M.* (1993), Edward in *A Dangerous Woman* (1993), Danny in *City Slickers* (1991)

LOVE LIFE: His sister Maggie introduced him to her *Mona Lisa Smile* co-star Kirsten Dunst. The pair have been dating ever since.

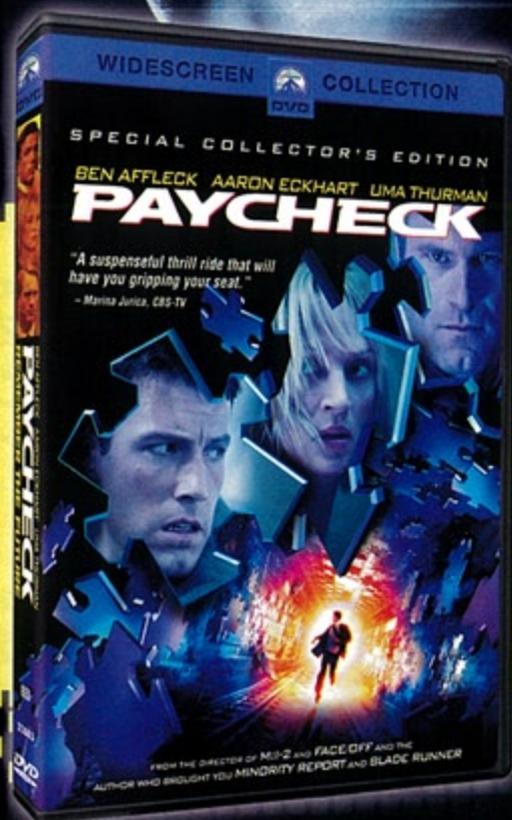
ON LEARNING FROM HIS PARENTS’ EXPERIENCES: “You watch people do well and not do well, and people pay attention and don’t pay attention. My mom won a Golden Globe and got nominated for an Oscar, and my dad won an Emmy, and everyone adored them with praise. Then their next movie comes out, and it’s not as successful, and everyone ignores them.” [*San Francisco Chronicle*, September 25, 2002] —MW



Gyllenhaal in *The Day After Tomorrow*

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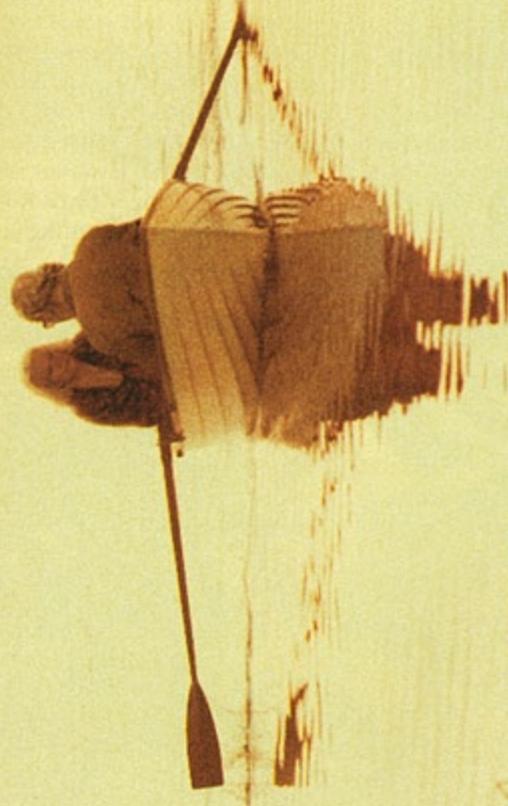
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Babytalk

*It's hard to believe that sweet, sensuous, young Kate Hudson is now someone's mom. But it's true. At least filming her latest movie, *Raising Helen*, opened her eyes to the realities of motherhood* | BY EARL DITTMAN

In a funny way, Kate Hudson understands her character in *Raising Helen* a lot better now than she did when she spent all day in her shoes while shooting the film.

In director Garry Marshall's latest, Hudson plays Helen, a free-spirited modeling agency assistant who suddenly finds herself the legal guardian of her nephew and two nieces after her sister dies in a car crash. But it wasn't until after filming had wrapped that the 25-year-old actor became a mom for real, giving birth to a boy named Ryder this past January. The baby's dad — for those who haven't walked past a *People* magazine in the last four years — is Black Crowes singer Chris Robinson.

"When you're babysitting your broth-

ers, you always know that mom and dad will be home later and will take over — your responsibility is pretty limited, you can still go out with your friends and let them worry about the kids. But when you have a child of your own, that baby is dependent on you for eating, being changed and for love and care.... You have to grow up really quickly, and that's what Helen has to do. But it makes her a better person. I know it made me one," says Hudson, who was raised by two actors, mom Goldie Hawn and stepdad Kurt Russell.



Raising Helen's Kate Hudson mothers Abigail Breslin

"In every film I've done, from *Almost Famous* to *The Four Feathers* to *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*, there was a little part of me in each of the characters," continues Hudson, casually dressed in a pair of worn jeans and a white, lacy cotton blouse. "But, with Helen, the old saying, 'film often imitates life,' really applies.... Of course, I wanted to have a child. I love being a mom. It just takes Helen a little longer to figure out how great they really are."

This movie covers some pretty emotional territory. What tone did Garry Marshall take?

"A lot of people have asked me if it's a comedy or a drama, and it's neither and it's both. The best way I can describe it to you is to say it's a dramatic comedy — a dramedy. It's more of a slice of life kind of movie.... It still has an important message about family and love, but it's a heartwarmer. Now that I'm a mom and getting older, I've got to start making movies my son can see. No more nude scenes for me."

Of all the scripts you must have been offered, why this one?

"It's a story about a woman who is forced to grow up and act like an adult for a change. I've had to mature a lot within the past three or four years, especially within the past 12 months. So I know exactly how Helen is feeling."

What do you have in common with Helen beyond just being moms?

"At its core, the story is about the love between family members. And my real family members are so close. I wanted to show what that kind of care and love is like. And, in the film, through the responsibility of taking care of our dead sister's children, me and my older sister [Joan Cusack] discover there was always a deep bond between us that we never knew was there."

Did you rush to film *Raising Helen* before your pregnancy began to show?

"No, I didn't have to because *Raising Helen* was actually filmed somewhere in-between *Alex & Emma* and *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*. We did a lot of *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days* in New York, so Garry said, 'Why not just film it here?' It's not home, but I love New York. With mom and dad temporarily moving to Vancouver with [half-brother] Wyatt for him to pursue



Hudson gets cuddly with John Corbett's sympathetic pastor in *Raising Helen*

his hockey ambitions, our family is kind of all spread out at the moment. But, for me, home is where Chris and Ryder, my sweet baby boy, are."

I have to say, even when you were close to your due date, you still looked sexy and radiant. Did you ever think you wouldn't look good pregnant?

"I was never worried about getting fat or anything. I just thought, 'It comes with the territory.' [Laughs.] Anyway, I always think women look their best when they are going to have a baby."

Have you had to say no to any projects because of the baby?

"No, I just started back to work — as planned before I got pregnant — on *The Skeleton Key*, a psychological thriller with director Iain Softley."

Will you take Ryder to the set?

"Definitely, if he's not at home with his daddy, Chris, he will be at work with me. That's one of the great things about being an actress, you're able to bring your baby to work with you every day. Not all mothers have that luxury. I'm pretty lucky that way. Plus, his

mama has got to start saving money for college."

Was Goldie happy about becoming a grandmother?

"She was really excited, but I think Kurt was even more excited about being a grandfather. That's why the baby's middle name is Russell. I thought it was the least I could do to honour one of the most important men in my life. He doesn't always show a lot of emotion, but when we told Kurt that the baby's middle name was Russell, he cried. It was an incredible moment in all our lives."

Do you hang out with a lot of other celebrities?

"No, not really, just a few. I mean, I grew up with Liv Tyler, we were always together. I count her as a best friend. But that's about it for me."

When did you figure out that Chris was the man for you?

"I don't know, we just met and it happened. We were both very happy and couldn't really live or be apart from each other and just went with it instead of freaking each other out about it. ▶▶

►► Because we could've gone the other direction and gone, 'This is all happening way too fast,' and Chris could've gone, 'Well, she's too young,' and I could've gone, 'Well, he's 12 years older than me, and rock 'n' roll is a kind of lifestyle which I was not raised around.' But both of our lives changed drastically when we met each other. It just sort of happened."

Did you help Chris give up some of the bad habits that come with a rock 'n' roll lifestyle?

"I think we helped each other.... He had to give up a lot to be with me, but he wanted to. It wasn't tough for him because he knew that was the only way to make our marriage work. But I was there for him all the time. I mean, I had to change a lot of things in my life too. And he helped with that."

Like what?

"Just to believe in myself and my talents more. I mean, I've always been pretty fearless, but sometimes I get insecure about my abilities, and he's always been there to remind me I can do anything I want to do."

Do you and Chris have "a song?"

"Yeah, believe it or not, it's 'Lay Lady Lay' by Bob Dylan. We're big Bob Dylan

fans. He's always in our lives, everywhere, Bob. Everywhere he's playing, we're there. Yeah, we've actually seen him in a lot of different countries and a lot of different cities, and Bob does something to me that I don't think that anyone else, as far as musically, you know, no one else can do."

Do you want more kids?

"Oh yeah, I love kids. I don't think we'll try for a ton of them [laughs]. I definitely would like two or three — at the very least."

Isn't it tough to balance motherhood with the kind of job you have?

"Oh, I have a feeling that I'll do a fine job. With us women, we can grab a little handkerchief, throw it on our back and walk through airports with our babies. We'll be fine. We'll be the kind of parents like mine were, where you're strapped to their backs and wherever they are, you are. If that means that our kids are going to be living on a tour bus, they're going to be with us. If I'm working and he's working it's hard, but you find your times together. But, you know, I have nothing to complain about. I mean, we have got great jobs." **E**

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



Kate Hudson experiences a bring-your-child-to-work moment

famous TRIVIA

1 Name the sitcom on which *New York Minute* stars Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen shared the dual role of Michelle Tanner.

2 Which of his movies led to *Troy* star Brad Pitt being banned from China?

3 *Soul Plane's* Tom Arnold has a regular gig hosting what sort of program on Fox TV — sports, game show, political commentary or celebrity dating?

4 *Shrek 2* is released this month with Mike Myers once again voicing the grumpy ogre. But which comic was slated to provide *Shrek's* voice until he died suddenly in 1997?

5 Which British star of *Raising Helen* and *The Clearing* (both out this month) was born Ilynea Mironoff?

6 Dennis Quaid, who has a son named Jack, plays professor Jack Hall in *The Day After Tomorrow*. In which of the following movies was Quaid's character not named Jack — *Any Given Sunday*, *Postcards from the Edge*, *Innerspace* or *Come See the Paradise*?

answers

1. *Full House*
2. *Seven Years in Tibet*
3. sports
4. Chris Farley (*The Best Damn Sports Show Period*)
5. Helen Mirren
6. *Innerspace*

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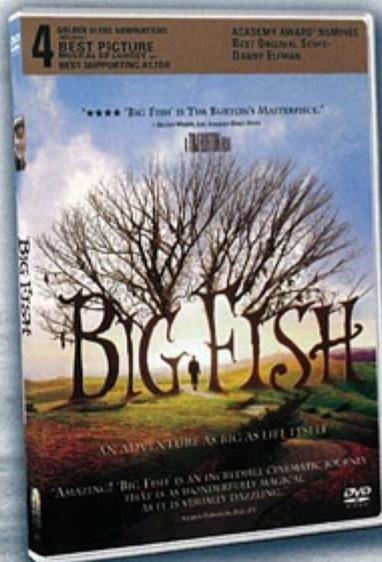
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COLUMBIA
PICTURES



ORLANDO'S ODYSSEY

How British heartthrob Orlando Bloom went from accident-prone dyslexic to dashing prince of Troy | **BY INGRID RANDOJA**

You may think Orlando Bloom is the luckiest guy in the world. After all, he was just 22 when director Peter Jackson plucked him out of drama school to play heartthrob elf Legolas Greenleaf in the globally popular *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. He then went on to co-star alongside Johnny Depp in the another worldwide hit, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and he's popping up again in this month's huge action flick *Troy*. Oh, and he's dating Kate Bosworth.

But this lucky chap has also suffered a fractured skull (on two separate occasions as a baby), a crushed toe, broken leg, nose, finger, wrist, ribs and back. It was the back-breaking incident — an impetuous 21-year-old Bloom climbed up a drainpipe but lost hold and fell three floors — that almost killed him and left him temporarily paralyzed.

Emotionally, he's also had his fair share of bumps. As a child growing up in Canterbury, England, he struggled with dyslexia, and when he was 13 he was shocked to discover the man who he thought was his father, the late South African human rights activist Harry

Bloom, wasn't his biological dad. That honour belonged to a family friend named Colin Stone. It's been a rough ride for the seemingly blithe actor.

"I'm just grateful to be able to do any of this stuff," says Bloom at a New York press junket.

The "stuff" to which he's referring is the swashbuckling heroics that have turned him into the planet's hottest young action star, a pretty boy phenom who seemed to materialize out of thin air.

"I feel really, really lucky," he says earnestly. "I'd like to have done some smaller movies, but I sort of started big, which is a different way to approach things...but it wasn't intentional, it just happened that way."

His latest "big" movie is director Wolfgang Petersen's period epic *Troy*, which casts Bloom as Paris, the Trojan prince whose romance with, and subsequent kidnapping of, Greek gal Helen (Diane Kruger) starts a decade-long war between Troy and Greece. Brad Pitt plays Greek warrior Achilles in this retelling of the legend which

was made famous in Homer's epic poem *The Odyssey*.

"I'm the guy who creates all the mess," says Bloom with a smirk.

Seated amongst a throng of journalists, the star is wearing a hoodie and sporting a pair of low-rise jeans which allow both the waistband of his boxers and his tattooed tummy (he's got a sun etched on his flat stomach) to peek out.

Asked about the whirlwind that has been his career up to this point, the 27-year-old is able to put his success in perspective. "I think there's a rite of passage for a young actor, and just because you've done one role in a big movie doesn't mean you suddenly have access to all the great character roles in the world, 'cause you don't," he says emphatically.

"I'm being offered more work than I've ever been offered before, but it's still in a certain frame. I have to prove myself as more than just an 'action-reaction-action' guy. It's a gradual process for me, and I feel Paris is a good step in the right direction because he's really a lover not a fighter, although I do have a fight sequence, but it's more like an acting scene because I'm getting my ass kicked all over the floor [laughs]."

Bloom has made two smaller films, the British drama *The Calcium Kid*, in which he plays a milkman-turned-boxer, and the Australian period piece *Ned Kelly*, alongside Heath Ledger. They didn't garner the attention of his big-budget work, but did give him the opportunity to flex a different set of acting muscles and inspired him to think about some personal projects.

"I want to get a film about Dan Eldon made. He was a young Reuters photographer who got stoned to death in Somalia in 1993. He left behind these letters that are incredibly beautiful, which his mother published as a book. And I have a couple of other pet projects, we'll see," he says, smiling.

Until then, Bloom will continue to thrust and parry his way across the screen. He's committed to a *Pirates of the Caribbean* sequel (and possibly a third film), and he's signed on to play a crusading knight in *Kingdom of Heaven*.

"I want to do something that doesn't involve a sword, I really do, but I do enjoy stepping back in time and playing characters that have a weight about them." **F**

PlayStation 2

JET LI RISE TO HONOR



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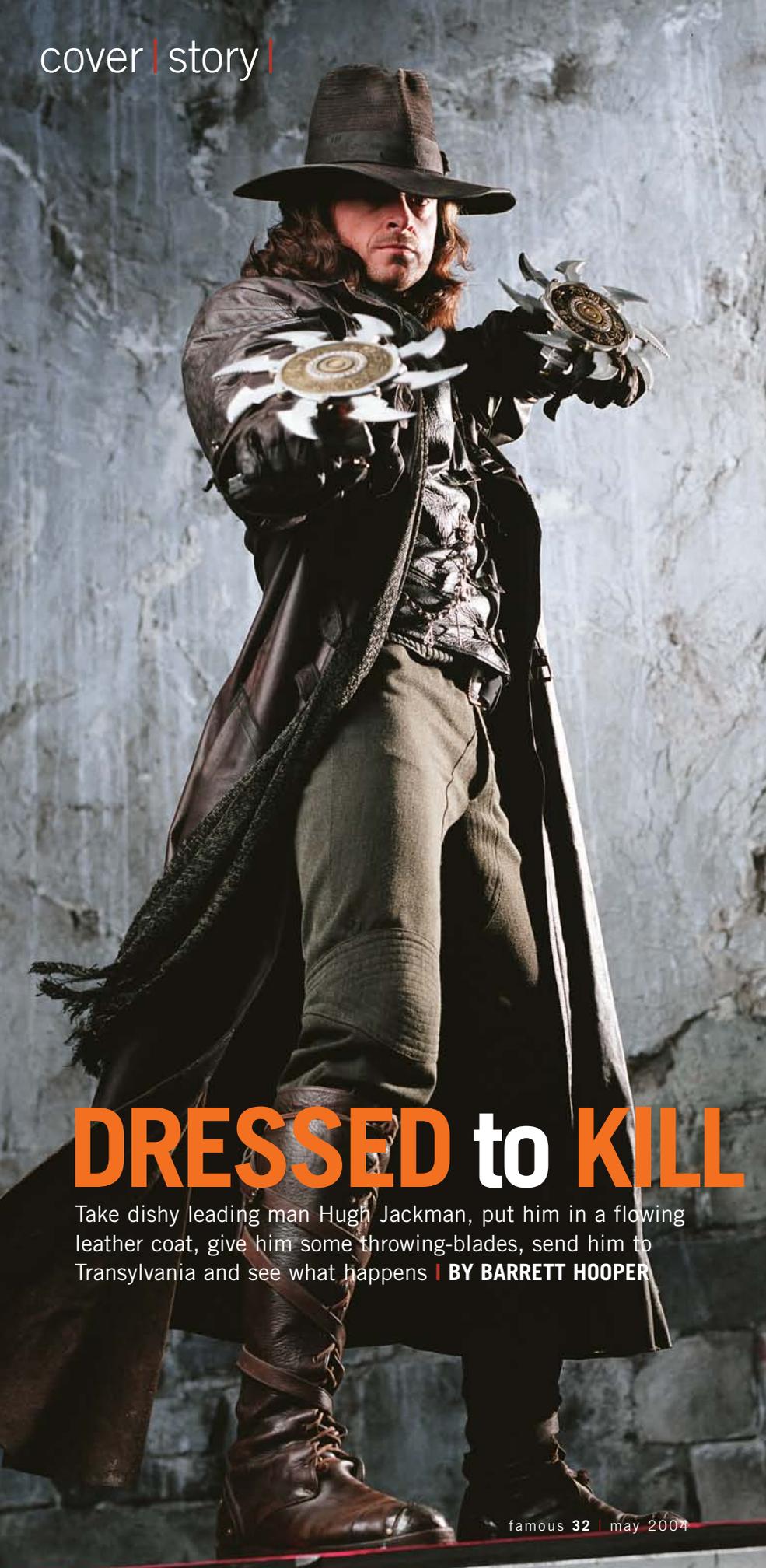


Violence

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DRESSED to KILL

Take dishy leading man Hugh Jackman, put him in a flowing leather coat, give him some throwing blades, send him to Transylvania and see what happens | **BY BARRETT HOOPER**

Hugh Jackman's wife used to have a crush on Lorenzo Lamas. Of course, this was back before she met Jackman on the set of the Aussie prison drama *Correlli*. And before he landed on *People* magazine's "50 Most Beautiful" list thanks to starring roles in *X-Men*, *Kate & Leopold* and *Swordfish*. Even so, it comes as a bit of a surprise when Jackman shows up for our interview looking like, well, Lorenzo Lamas back in his *Falcon Crest* days.

Humming a Rodgers and Hammerstein tune when he enters the Pasadena hotel room, Jackman quickly sets the record straight on his current appearance. It seems everyone's favourite X-Man still has a couple of weeks of filming remaining on *Van Helsing*, which casts him as a leaner and meaner ("and younger," the 35-year-old points out) version of the legendary vampire slayer from the pages of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. "Some of the crew joke that I'm the fourth Charlie's Angel," he says, tugging playfully at a ridiculously long hair extension. "But my wife loves it."

Van Helsing, which aims to raise the stakes on monster movies when it hits theatres this month, pits the crossbow-wielding hero in a CGI showdown with *Dracula*, the Wolfman and Frankenstein's monster in what has to be the biggest big-screen monster mash since Abbott and Costello lampooned their way through Universal's menacing menagerie more than 50 years ago.

This major re-teaming of those classic creatures came about thanks to writer-director Stephen Sommers, the man behind *The Mummy* and *The Mummy Returns*, in which Brendan Fraser starred as a goofy Indiana Jones clone battling



Elena Anaya as Dracula's Bride

Egyptian undead. And, like those two films, *Van Helsing* promises to deliver a new action-oriented twist on the type of horror films that made stars of Bela Lugosi, Boris Karloff and Lon Chaney Jr.

But unlike *The Mummy* films, Sommers is hoping for a more serious tone. Call it more vamp, less camp.

A step in the right direction is the casting of Jackman in the role made famous by Peter Cushing in the old Hammer Dracula movies, which should knock some of the stuffiness out of Van Helsing's stiff British upper lip.

"It's a big, swashbuckling kind of role," says Jackman excitedly, arms flailing.

While Jackman's performance as Wolverine, the mutant with the anger-management issues in the two *X-Men* movies, drew comparisons to Clint Eastwood ("He looks just like Dirty Harry," observed *X-Men* director Bryan Singer), and his gentleman charmer in the time-travel rom-com *Kate & Leopold* led to Cary Grant's name being bandied about, *Van Helsing* is likely to draw yet another comparison, this time to Tasmanian devil Errol Flynn. And that couldn't please Jackman more.

"The feel of this movie is very much like those classic Errol Flynn movies," he says, flashing the brightest smile this side of a Donny and Marie lunchbox.

"There's a kind of heroic look about Van Helsing that you could imagine Errol Flynn starring as him. It's a fun movie — hopefully — and you have to have a little twinkle in your eye while you're doing it. That's the kind of thing Errol would have done — he was a lovable rogue, shall we say."

And while Jackman calls *Van Helsing* "an old-fashioned, epic, Indiana Jones

type of movie," it still has its roots in classic horror.

"It has its dark side, sure," says Jackman.

While the main story involves Van Helsing's hunt for Dracula, he has more than vampires on his undead agenda. "Van Helsing is basically a mercenary for the Catholic church hired to kill possessed souls," Jackman explains. "It's kind of like 19th-century black ops [super-secret government operations], so any possessed soul that is out there, Van Helsing's job is to go out there and

"It's a fun movie — hopefully — and you have to have a twinkle in your eye while you're doing it," says Jackman

exterminate them." For example, at the beginning of the film he must track down Dr. Jekyll. Or is that Mr. Hyde? "All these mythological creatures are on the loose and Van Helsing is sent to take care of them," he continues. "He's a warrior. And because of the nature of the job, he's a loner. And rather lonely. He's a very conflicted character, not really happy with what he does."

But because Van Helsing is so mysterious and enigmatic, not to mention laconic, not unlike Wolverine, it actually makes the character more of a challenge

to play, says Jackman. "Those roles are deceptively difficult to do because you have to feel the inner life of the character in order to make relatively little dialogue [convey] the heart of the character."

Joining the fight is Kate Beckinsale, who knows her way around the undead thanks to her role as a vampire in her last film, *Underworld*.

"I wasn't too sure about making another movie with vampires, but working with Hugh has been wonderful," Beckinsale told me during interviews to promote *Underworld*. "He's such a gentleman and such a great spirit to have on the set, especially during some of those long shooting days in Prague, fighting monsters, hanging upside-down by wires."

In *Van Helsing*, Beckinsale plays a gypsy princess named Anna, who enlists Van Helsing to track down her missing brother, who has been turned into a werewolf. Their Transylvanian quest eventually leads them to Frankenstein's castle. "What we don't realize is that Dracula is using the Wolf Man to do his dirty work," says the actor.

At this point Jackman pauses, and considers what he's said.

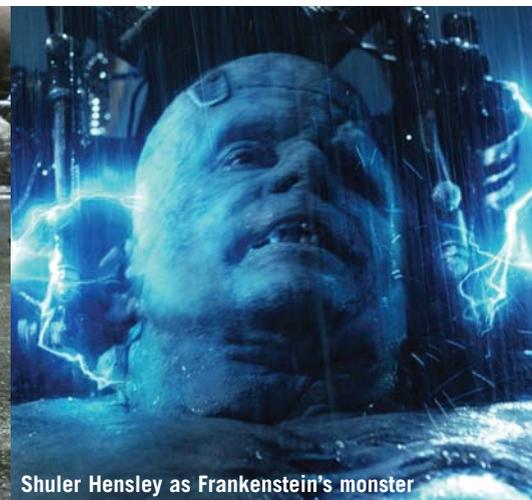
"Am I giving too much away?"

Perhaps it's time to move on to another topic, like Jackman's latest diversion, musical theatre.

A self-described "song-and-dance man at heart," he was performing in a London production of *Oklahoma!* when Singer cast him as Wolverine after *Mission: Impossible 2*'s Dougray Scott backed out. "There was something about him that seemed to fit Wolverine — that no matter how dangerous and ▶▶



From left: David Wenham, Hugh Jackman and Kate Beckinsale



Shuler Hensley as Frankenstein's monster

▶▶ rampaging he gets, you can trust him with your kids,” Singer says of Jackman.

And while that role established the Australian actor in Hollywood, the resulting film career has kept him off the stage.

Until now.

Jackman has traded Wolverine’s adamantium claws for polished fingernails, currently appearing as the late Peter Allen in the Broadway production of *The Boy From Oz*. He’s committed himself to the role for an almost unheard of 15 months, “which probably doesn’t make my agent very happy,” he cracks.

He had turned down the role of the Australian-born Allen in the original Aussie stage production to do a couple of less-than-spectacular movies — *Swordfish* and *Someone Like You* — and had always hoped to get another opportunity. “It was a huge success in Australia, and [is] the first Australian musical ever on

Broadway,” he says, bubbling with enthusiasm.

A cabaret performer, Allen was once a protégé of Judy Garland’s and was even briefly married to Garland’s daughter Liza Minnelli in the ’60s. “He had a very complicated sex life,” Jackman says. “But it’s about so much more than that. Peter was just so” — Jackman pauses dramatically — “wickedly funny and irreverent.”

What’s more, Jackman clearly relishes the opportunity to play someone he describes as “the polar opposite” of a character like Wolverine. “There’s definitely none of the slicing and dicing and testosterone that *X-Men* fans might expect.”

Instead, fans will find Jackman in gold lamé pants, singing and dancing on pianos, “and about 25 minutes into the play, I kiss a guy,” says Jackman, who will host the Tony Awards for the second year in a row on June 6.

Of course, given the critical and box-office success of *X2: X-Men United*, *X-Men 3* can’t be too far off. And although Jackman’s not signed for a third film yet, it’s difficult to imagine the series continuing without him.

“I love this character. He’s a gift,” Jackman says of Wolverine. “It’s rare for a summer blockbuster to have a character with so much meat on his bones.”

The role also made Jackman a hot property in a market where he was previously unknown. “From the moment the first *X-Men* opened until the following Monday, my phone wouldn’t stop ringing with job offers. It’s more than you could ever hope to get out of a movie like this.”

As for the further adventures of Van Helsing, Jackman is signed for a sequel. So it just comes down to whether the audience wants to see more of the character. “If it does well at the box office I’m sure the studio will want another one,” he says. “Besides, there are plenty more monsters out there.” **F**

Barrett Hooper is a freelance writer based in Toronto.



Beckinsale and Jackman spy something spooky

KEEPING COUNT

Hugh Jackman isn’t the first to play Professor Van Helsing, the vampire-slayer made famous in author Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*. More than a dozen others have taken a crack at the hunter of the undead. Here are some of the more interesting:

PETER CUSHING: You remember him as Grand Moff Tarkin, Darth Vader’s boss who gets blowed up good at the end of *Star Wars*, but Peter Cushing also played Prof. Van Helsing in six vampire movies — from 1958’s *Dracula* opposite Christopher Lee’s blood-sucking Count, right up to 1974’s *The Legend of the 7 Golden Vampires*, a kung fu — yes, kung fu — vampire movie in which Van Helsing rides a remote Chinese village of it’s thirsty rabble.

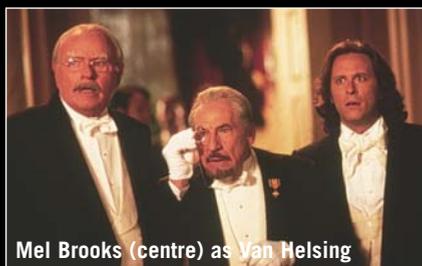
NEHEMIAH PERSOFF: You’ve probably never heard of this American character actor who played Van Helsing in a 1973 CBC version of *Dracula*, but he does have one trivial claim to fame: He was the uncredited cabbie carting Marlon Brando and Rob Steiger around in *On the Waterfront* when Brando mused “I coulda been a contender...”

SIR LAURENCE OLIVIER: A year after appearing in *The Boys from Brazil*, and a year before doing *The Jazz Singer*, the Shakespearean genius played Van Helsing

to Frank Langella’s Count in 1979’s *Dracula*. Olivier was 72 at the time and there’s a rumour that impressionist Rich Little was brought in to dub some of his lines because Olivier spoke so softly.

RICHARD BENJAMIN: 1979 was the year. *Love at First Bite* was the movie. George Hamilton gave Count *Dracula* an orangey-brown hue that he couldn’t possibly have picked up in Transylvania. And comic actor Richard Benjamin played Dr. Jeffrey Rosenberg, a bumbling modern-day distant relation of Van Helsing’s who tries to off the Count before he can sink his teeth into Rosenberg’s girlfriend.

SIR ANTHONY HOPKINS: The second Sir to play Van Helsing did so in 1992, when Francis Ford Coppola took his overblown stab (so to speak) at the Count with *Bram Stoker’s Dracula*. The first thing most people remember about this version was Gary Oldman’s really bad wig, the second is usually Keanu Reeves’ really bad acting, but the third might be the deliciously droll edge Anthony Hopkins brought to Prof. Van Helsing — like when he explained to a character whose girlfriend had just succumbed to the Count that he didn’t want to perform an autopsy: “No, no. Not exactly. I just want to cut off her head and take out her heart.”



Mel Brooks (centre) as Van Helsing

MEL BROOKS: Not only did Brooks direct the campy 1995 spoof *Dracula: Dead and Loving It*, the king of shlock also played Van Helsing so he could hunt down his own pointy-fanged creation played by — anyone, anyone? — Leslie Nielsen. —MW

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

The image is a movie poster for 'The Day After Tomorrow'. It features a dramatic, blue-toned scene of the Statue of Liberty in a frozen, desolate landscape. The statue's crown and upper body are partially submerged in a layer of ice. In the background, the New York City skyline is visible, also partially covered in snow. The sky is dark and cloudy, with a bright light source breaking through on the right side. The overall mood is one of a catastrophic, icy event.

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Petal Pusher
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Flower Hour
Step out in botanical style with these fuchsia, low-heeled, **Appliquéd Mary Janes** from Aldo (\$70).

Garden To-Go-Go
Modern and retro at the same time, this **Floral Print Tote** from Jeanne Lottie (\$100) is the perfect summer carry-all. Visit www.jeannelottie.com for availability.



Rosy Glow
For a feminine change from the season's must-have trench, this **Sateen Rose-Print Topper** from Banana Republic (\$300) is an instant way to cultivate a ladylike look.

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LENNY ON LIFE AT 40, AND MELISSA AUF DER MAUR GOES SOLO | BY INGRID RANDOJA

KRAVITZ CRAVES SIMPLE LIFE

Lenny Kravitz turns 40 this month, and like many people who hit that mark he's reflecting on his life. However, the difference between Kravitz and other 40-year-olds is that he gets to share his thoughts publicly, specifically on his new album, *Baptism* (in stores May 18).

"I called the album *Baptism* because I feel reborn — musically, spiritually — in every way," says the deep-voiced one on the line from Miami where he makes his home.

"It's such a blessing to be in the game 15 years and still have the inspiration to make music."

Born in Brooklyn to TV-executive father Sy Kravitz and actress Roxie Roker, Kravitz moved to California when he was 10 and followed his musical aspirations by earning a spot in the California Boys Choir. He first came to the world's attention not for his music, but for his marriage to *Cosby* Show star Lisa Bonet in 1987. Then in 1989, his debut album, *Let Love Rule*, rocketed up the charts and Kravitz was getting attention for his tunes as well as his sexy Bob Marley-meets-Jimi Hendrix looks.

But fame has taken a toll on Kravitz. Yeah, there's a string of hit records, but there has also been a divorce from Bonet and a lot of lady admirers (you're thinking of Nicole Kidman, aren't you?) who



haven't been able to settle his restless heart.

On *Baptism*'s second track, "I Don't Want to Be a Star," Kravitz sings about getting high with Mick Jagger, partying and having "too many distractions running through my brain."

"That song is about the simple life I used to have before I made it," says Kravitz. "When you're struggling to make it, there's a beautiful energy that comes with the power in believing in yourself. But then things change and you miss your simple life, where you used to be able to walk down the street, get a coffee and look at people."

Kravitz's lifestyle may have changed, but he's remained true to

his guitar-based roots and his famous riffs that conjure up images of Hendrix and Sly Stone. And the man has always been willing to share his pain with listeners.

"I believe in being vulnerable and exposing things. It takes a strong person to show their vulnerable side and not be ashamed of it. That's what's missing in today's music, everyone is so damn macho. Man, everyone is so 'Ugh, Ugh,' ya know?"

"When you listen to Marvin Gaye or Stevie Wonder, their music isn't just about what they feel, but about things that make them weak, or things they have to get through. You get no dynamics today. Everything is formulated. Where's the soul, where's the spirit, where's the passion, where's the vulnerability? Where's all that? I miss that."

AUF DER MAUR ALL ALONE

Montreal's Melissa Auf Der Maur earned her rock 'n' roll education playing bass for Courtney Love's band Hole and Billy Corrigan's Smashing Pumpkins. Now, she's out on her own



with her debut solo album, *Auf Der Maur* (in stores May 18). This metal maiden sizzles with a '70s flair, and the album is full of choice cuts that let her rip, including the opening track "Lightning is My Girl." But she also traipses through a few tender tunes, such as "Would if I Could" and "Overpower Thee."

OUT THIS MONTH

K.D. LANG

Hymns From the 49th Parallel >> May 4

Lang pays tribute to Canadian songwriters with this album comprised of tunes written by such talented Canucks as Neil Young, Joni Mitchell, Jane Siberry and Leonard Cohen.

MORRISSEY

You Are the Quarry >> May 18

Morrissey claims his first CD since 1997 "is a much brighter sounding album than much of my previous work." Let's hope the maudlin musician from Manchester is right.

AVRIL LAVIGNE

Under My Skin >> May 25

Lavigne's follow-up album to her breakthrough debut effort, *Let Go*, offers an assortment of equally catchy grrrl tunes.



Souls will cry.

SMACK
DOWN
PRESENTS

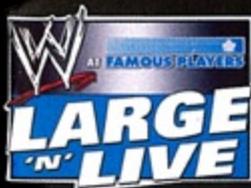
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PLAYING THE HOLLYWOOD GAME

Movie tie-ins put your favourite characters in the palm of your hand | BY SCOTT GARDNER

Ah...May — the month Canadians welcome our 2-4 long weekend, the summer's first blockbuster movies and, apparently, blockbuster videogame tie-ins. And while licensed-from-the-movie games have a well-deserved rep for mediocrity, this spring's crop actually seems pretty promising.

SHREK 2: THE GAME (PS2, XBOX, GC, PC)

Starting things off with a grumble and a belch is *Shrek 2: The Game*. As in the new *Shrek* movie, the big guy and his bride, Princess Fiona, are journeying to Far, Far Away to meet the in-laws...and reveal their true ogrish selves.

Featuring a family-friendly mix of puzzle solving and enemy bashing, players control one of four characters and swap between them at any time. Plus, each character has a special ability: Donkey has his ominous "Burro Blast," Shrek can chuck heavy objects around, and Fiona — in a nod to her fight scene in the first movie — can slow down time, *Matrix*-style.



VAN HELSING (XBOX, PS2)

The monster-infested *Van Helsing* is based on the Hugh Jackman blockbuster of the same name. In this third-person action/combat game, the roguish Van Helsing traipses through the appropriately gritty castles and foreboding forests of Transylvania, crossing swords with Dracula, the Wolf Man, Frankenstein's Monster and a whack of original fiends.

Early reports suggest this actioner is not the most original of its ilk but it does offer slick, fast combat and delightfully gruesome skirmishes. And for an 1890s swashbuckler, Van Helsing has some nifty weapons, including a crossbow, buzz saw, Gatling gun and his trademark grappling hook for dicing the demons and Tarzan-like swings. And let's face it, this is as close as any of us regular guys are ever going to get to being Hugh Jackman.

HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN (PC, XBOX, PS2, GBA, GC)

May's third high-profile movie tie-in, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, features a new twist on the series' mix of platforming, exploring, puzzles, combat and Quidditch. For the first time, players will be able to control Ron and Hermione as well as Harry, alternating between the characters to take advantage of each kid's unique abilities.

In keeping with the book, Harry is a Quidditch prodigy who can also conjure a *Patruonus* charm to fend off Dementors. Ron is a bit clumsy with his magic, but has a handy sixth sense for puzzles, and Hermione, ever the keener, uses magic to repair stuff, freeze enemies and transfigure books into mice and statues into dragons. Gamers will also face plenty of new characters and creatures, engage in a variety of sub-quests, fly on a Hippogriff, reveal the secrets of the Marauder's Map and engage in multiple two-player challenges. Happily, the planned spelling bees and algebra challenges did not make it to the final version.



MEGA MAN ANNIVERSARY COLLECTION (PS2, GC)

In celebration of Mega Man's 15th birthday, Capcom is releasing the *Mega Man Anniversary Collection* — an anthology set collecting the 2-D action titles *Mega Man 1* through *8* in a single package. The set also includes *Mega Man: The Power Battle* and *Mega Man: The Power Fighters*, two titles previously only available in Japanese arcades.



Old school fans of the little blue robot boy will also find a cache of bonus features including updated soundtracks, additional artwork, original television commercials, anime segments, producer interviews and a history of the series.

THIEF: DEADLY SHADOWS (PC, XBOX)

In *Thief: Deadly Shadows*, gamers once again take on the role of Garrett, a master thief who's rarely seen, never caught and capable of breaking into the most ingeniously secured places.

Back in the late '90s, the original *Thief* helped bring the "first-person sneaker" style of stealth gameplay into the mainstream. In *Deadly Shadows* — also known as *Thief III* — Garrett continues to steal from the rich and give to himself, but he has inadvertently roused an ancient evil that threatens to destroy his city, and bring on a new Dark Age.

Garrett has also picked up a few new tricks, including improved lock-picking and the ability to scale virtually any wall. And with improved A.I. powering the guards, he'll need to think on his feet and improvise — just lurking, stabbing and grabbing won't cut it this time.





The forces of the evil beastmen are gathering, casting a shadow of uncertainty over the future of Vana'diel. Now three proud nations must unite in an epic battle whose outcome depends on you.



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Online, where you can join forces with people from all over North America, as well as Japan. Immerse yourself in a persistent world that continues evolving whether you're in it or not. And even play across platforms with PC gamers as you work together to alter the course of Vana'diel history. FINAL FANTASY XI. Infinitely beyond.SM



Introducing the internal Hard Disk Drive (40GB) (for PlayStation 2). Included with your purchase of FINAL FANTASY XI, the HDD exponentially expands the PlayStation 2 experience. With it, it's possible to download content like new missions, levels and characters. Experience persistent worlds. And even speed up loading times. It's just one more way the world of PlayStation 2 is constantly evolving.



Game Experience May Change During Online Play

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PlayStation 2



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www.us.playstation.com Online play requires Internet connection and Network Adaptor (for PlayStation 2) (sold separately). Players are responsible for all applicable Internet and subscription fees. Children under the age of 13 are not permitted to use PlayOnline services, including games. Acceptance of certain agreements is required. A valid credit card required to set up account. Free subscription for 30 days. Some restrictions may apply. ©2001-2004 SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. All Rights Reserved. Title Design by Yoshinaka Ameno. FINAL FANTASY and VANA'DIEL are registered trademarks of Square Enix Co., Ltd. SQUARE ENIX, the SQUARE ENIX logo, PLAYONLINE and the PlayOnline logo are trademarks of Square Enix Co., Ltd. "PlayStation" and the "PS" Family logo are registered trademarks and the HDD is a trademark of Sony Computer Entertainment Inc. The Online icon and "Live In Your World. Play In Ours." are trademarks of Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc.

new releases

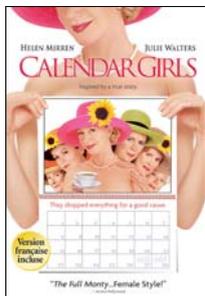
GO HOME WITH **PETER PAN**, **CALENDAR GIRLS** OR **THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE**

MAY 4



KART RACER

Stars: Will Rothhaar, Randy Quaid
Director: Stuart Gillard (*Rocket Man*)
Story: After a great loss, a gifted 14-year-old driver and his dad rekindle their relationship through the challenge and teamwork of go-kart racing.



CALENDAR GIRLS

Stars: Helen Mirren, Julie Walters
Director: Nigel Cole (*Saving Grace*)
Story: The true-ish story of a group of middle-aged

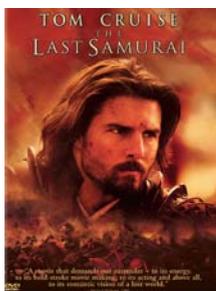
English women who spice up their charity calendar by dropping everything for the cause. It's this year's feel-good comedy about naked British people. **DVD Extras:** deleted scenes, behind-the-scenes features



GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING

Stars: Scarlett Johansson, Colin Firth
Director: Peter Webber (debut)
Story: Delft, Holland, 1665.

Seventeen-year-old Griet (Johansson) becomes a maid in the house of painter Johannes Vermeer (Firth). Though worlds apart in upbringing, education and social standing, the Master recognizes her intelligence and insight, and a clandestine relationship slowly develops.



THE LAST SAMURAI

Stars: Tom Cruise, Ken Watanabe
Director: Edward Zwick (*Glory*)
Story: Tom Cruise stabs, slices and soul-searches as a burned-out

Civil War-era soldier who embraces the Samurai culture he was hired to destroy. **DVD Extras:** director's commentary, a History Channel doc, five featurettes, deleted scenes, trailers, ROM goodies



PETER PAN

Stars: Jason Issacs, Jeremy Sumpter
Director: P.J. Hogan (*My Best Friend's Wedding*)
Story: In the first

live-action movie based on the J.M. Barrie story since the silent era, Peter (Sumpter) leads Wendy and her brothers to the lush jungles of Neverland and their inevitable showdown with Captain Hook (Issacs). And no one breaks into song. **DVD Extras:** alternate ending, deleted scenes, 11 featurettes



TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE

Voices: Jean-Claude Donda, Mari-Lou Gauthier
Director: Sylvain Chomet (debut)

Story: Tiny Madame Souza teams up with the Belleville Sisters — an aged song-and-dance act — to rescue her kidnapped grandson from the surreal Belleville. Both funny and sinister, this animated wonder that was nominated for a Best Animated Feature Oscar also boasts a soundtrack of bizarre, alternate-reality

'30s jazz. **DVD Extras:** Audio commentary, two featurettes, video of Oscar-nominated title song

MAY 11



IN AMERICA

Stars: Samantha Morton, Djimon Hounsou
Director: Jim Sheridan (*My Left Foot*)
Story: Based on the director's own experi-

ences, this poignant film follows a poor Irish clan searching for a better life "In America." Amongst the harrowing tenelements of 1980s New York, a mysterious neighbour (Hounsou) helps the troubled family recover their belief in hope and magic. **DVD Extras:** director's commentary, three featurettes, nine deleted scenes, alternate ending



SCARY MOVIE 3

Stars: Anna Farris, Charlie Sheen

Director: David Zucker (*The Naked Gun*)
Story: The comedy spoof series that knows no fear returns to poke fun at the latest Hollywood and pop culture horror tales, including *The Ring*, *Signs*, the *Matrix* trilogy, *Eight Mile*, *The Others*, *American Idol* and more. Watch for cameos by Pammy Anderson, *Idol*'s Simon Cowell and 142 hip-hop artists. **DVD Extras:** deleted scenes, two spoof featurettes, outtakes, bloopers, trailers

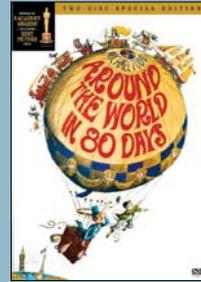
MAY 18

MIRACLE

Stars: Kurt Russell, Patricia Clarkson
Director: Gavin O'Connor (*Tumbleweeds*)
Story: U.S. Olympic hockey coach Herb

NEW to DVD

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS: TWO-DISC SPECIAL EDITION



Next month, Disney is launching a new big-screen adaptation of Jules Verne's novel *Around the World in 80 Days* that promises to be whimsical (on a

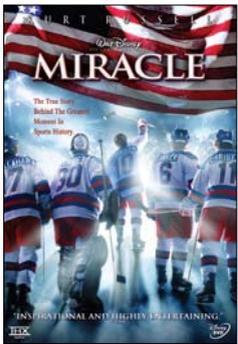
bet, a fella drops everything to travel the globe), lavish (costing more than \$110-million) and cameo-laden (Arnold Schwarzenegger, John Cleese, Owen Wilson, Kathy Bates, Rob Schneider).

But if you can't wait that long, you can check out the winner of the 1956 Oscar for Best Picture (beating *Giant*, *The King and I* and *The Ten Commandments*) — a whimsical, lavish, cameo-laden version of *Around the World in 80 Days*, making its DVD debut May 18.

Dry, dapper David Niven was perfectly cast as the imperturbable but suddenly adventurous 19th-century Englishman, Phileas Fogg. And he was supported by — hold on to your hat — Shirley MacLaine, Frank Sinatra, Marlene Dietrich, Buster Keaton, John Gielgud, Red Skelton, Red Buttons, Cesar Romero, Charles Boyer, Edward R. Murrow, Noel Coward, Peter Lorre and more — 40 cameos in all. In fact, legend has it this movie was the first to use the term “cameo” to describe a small part by a famous person.

The production stats are even better. The film used 140 sets built at six Hollywood studios as well as in England, Hong Kong and Japan, 74,685 costumes, the cast and crew flew more than 4 million miles and 68,894 extras were employed in 13 countries. The film also set a record for the use of animals in a movie, with 90 animal handlers wrangling 3,800 sheep, 2,448 buffalo, 950 donkeys, 800 horses, 512 monkeys, 17 bulls, 15 elephants, six skunks and four ostriches.

In all honesty, the tale has dated a bit, but it stands as an example of what Old Hollywood could produce by way of gorgeous cinematography, extravagant production values and sheer spectacle.



Brooks (Russell) challenges a ragtag squad of college kids to take on the awesome juggernaut from the Soviet Union — the greatest hockey team in the world — at the 1980

Winter Olympic Games. If you aren't careful, this rousing tale might even have you chanting: “U-S-A! U-S-A!” **DVD Extras:** “making of” featurette, commentaries, “ESPN Roundtable” with Russell and goalie Jim Craig, outtakes, tribute to the late Brooks

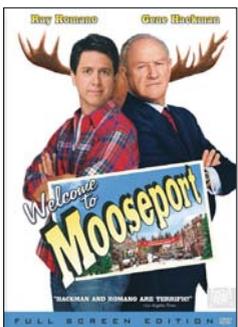


PAYCHECK

Stars: Ben Affleck, Uma Thurman
Director: John Woo (*Face/Off*)
Story: A brilliant engineer (Affleck) missing his memory tries to solve some sort of

mystery using time-honoured investigative techniques like explosions and car chases. Critics called this mind-bendingly generic tale of near-future paranoia and suspense “efficient” and “occasionally fun.” On the bright side, Big Ben is much more convincing as a high-IQ scientist than Keanu was in *Chain Reaction*. **DVD Extras:** director's commentary, two featurettes, deleted/extended scenes

MAY 25



WELCOME TO MOOSEPORT

Stars: Gene Hackman, Ray Romano
Director: Donald Petrie (*Miss Congeniality*)
Story: In a sleepy Maine town, Monroe

“The Eagle” Cole (Hackman), a suspiciously Bill Clinton-ish former President of the United States, challenges a local plumber (Romano) for both the mayor's job and the hand of a fair maiden.

DVD Extras: six deleted scenes, outtake reel, Easter eggs

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING

Stars: Elijah Wood, Viggo Mortensen
Director: Peter Jackson (*Heavenly Creatures*)

Story: For some reason, this small-budget, little-seen chamber drama will enjoy two DVD releases this year. This two-disc edition with the theatrical cut will be followed by a four-disc fiesta offering the usual extended version and wheelbarrow-load of extras. That one will be out...can you guess? Yep, around Christmas.



BUBBA HO-TEP

Stars: Bruce Campbell, Ossie Davis
Director: Don Coscarelli (*The Beastmaster*)
Story: An aging, cantankerous Elvis Presley (Campbell) and a decrepit (and black) President John F. Kennedy (Davis) take on a 3,000-year-old Egyptian mummy terrorizing the Shady Rest retirement home in Mud Creek, Texas. The very definition of a “cult classic.”

DVD Extras: numerous deleted scenes, four featurettes, audio commentary by “The King”



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HOROSCOPE
| BY DAN LIEBMAN



KATIA SMIRNOVA

Taurus

April 21 >>> May 22

For much of the month, you find yourself in unlikely places. Partners — platonic or romantic — tend to be intense, especially after the 21st. You, however, are a hit with a month-long case of spring fever, which emphasizes your mischievous side.

Gemini

May 23 >>> June 21

Small changes happen at home or close to it, but you're quite adaptable. A relationship with a co-worker or neighbour is off to a smoother-than-expected start. It's an ideal time to launch self-improvement plans, with the emphasis placed on health and well-being.

Cancer

June 22 >>> July 22

Early May sees your sentimental side emerge. You pamper your friends and are able to express honest feelings to a relative. The new moon of the 19th transports you to the world of practicality. You finally make a dent in that mountain of paperwork.

Leo

July 23 >>> August 22

You'll enjoy a few spurts of success — professional and artistic — throughout the month. Until you really think them out, keep your controversial views to yourself. Look forward to new sports and fitness activities, but watch out for a tendency to do too much too soon.

Virgo

August 23 >>> September 22

Expect sweeping changes in your work environment, but look forward to stability in personal relationships. It's a good month to develop a new interest. Read the papers carefully and keep up-to-date on local events, especially during the week of the 24th.

Libra

September 23 >>> October 22

You win praise for originality, especially in areas involving science and technology. Somewhat out of character, you tend to quarrel over trivial things, especially early in the month.

Scorpio

October 23 >>> November 21

Your willpower is strong, particularly after the 4th. Follow through on all those resolutions you've been postponing since January 1. If this month were a movie, you'd be the director — far better at calling the shots than at following orders.

Sagittarius

November 22 >>> December 22

Overall it's a particularly good month to make demands on yourself. But don't put pressure on family members — especially after the 24th. If you're considering any kind of travel, even in the long-term, be sure all of your documents are in order.

Capricorn

December 23 >>> January 20

There's a lot of magnetism surrounding you, as people respond enthusiastically to your charisma. But the attraction works both ways, and you're drawn to material objects that you really don't need. So keep on charming the world around you. Just lock up your credits cards.

Aquarius

January 21 >>> February 19

Avoid a tendency to blame yourself for someone else's fiascoes. It's a good month to reconnect with an acquaintance or visit family members. You'll find the atmosphere much friendlier than expected. Promote your major talents on the 17th.

Pisces

February 20 >>> March 20

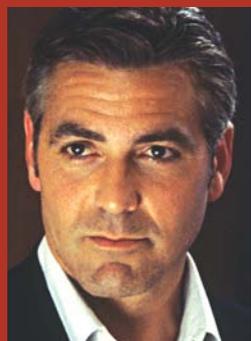
In just about every area — from home decorating to personal relationships — a light touch is better. Don't hesitate to take a more prominent role in family matters. It's a good month to make travel plans, but try to be more open-minded.

Aries

March 21 >>> April 20

Romance benefits from a less direct approach. Emphasize subtlety and humour. Around the 19th you cross paths with someone you've been trying to avoid, and it turns into a pleasant experience. You can no longer postpone making a critical decision.

MAY BIRTHDAYS



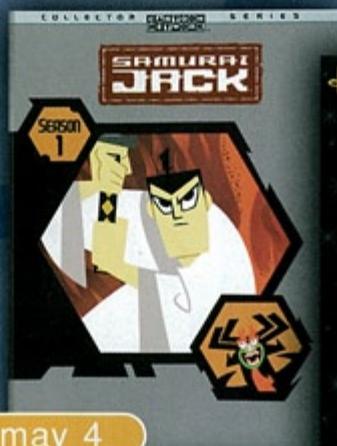
1st Wes Anderson
2nd Dwayne Johnson
3rd James Brown
4th Lance Bass
5th John Rhys-Davies
6th George Clooney
7th Amy Heckerling
8th Melissa Gilbert
9th Candice Bergen
10th Bono
11th Natasha Richardson

12th Jason Biggs
13th Stevie Wonder
14th Cate Blanchett
15th Jamie-Lynn DiScala
16th Janet Jackson
17th Enya
18th Chow Yun-Fat
19th Nora Ephron
20th Cher
21st Fairuza Balk
22nd Naomi Campbell

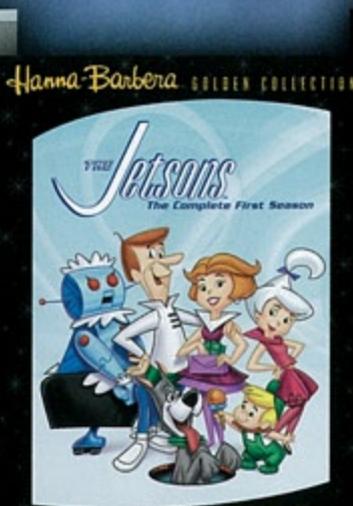
23rd Drew Carey
24th Patti LaBelle
25th Mike Myers
26th Lenny Kravitz
27th Joseph Fiennes
28th Gladys Knight
29th Annette Bening
30th Wynonna Judd
31st Colin Farrell



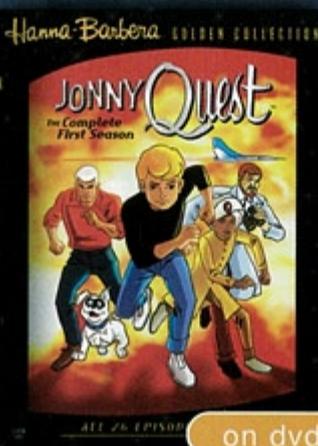
NOTHING ON TV?



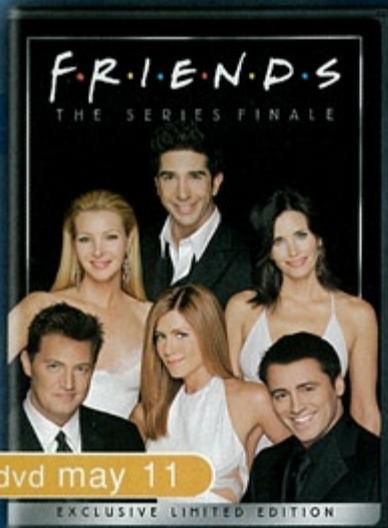
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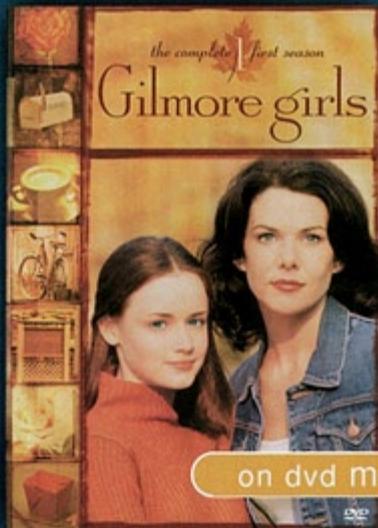


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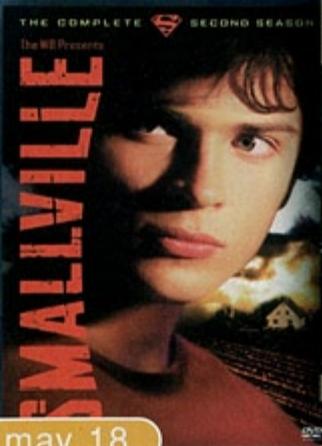


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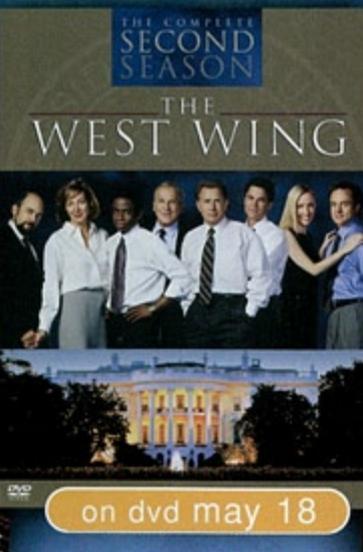
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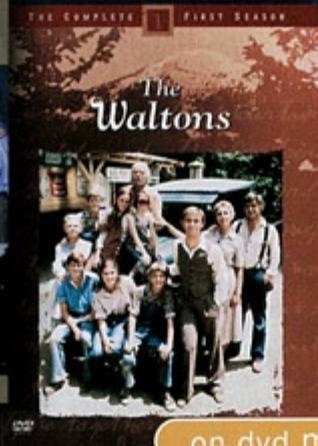
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...ON DVD!



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10

stars
SHARE THEIR
LOVE OF
GARDENING

| BY SUSAN GRANGER

SALMA HAYEK "I've planted lavender, gardenia and jasmine — great scents. And I love my fruit tress. There's lemon, for the tequila, as well as orange, grapefruit, peach, persimmon and fig. But I'm most proud of my strawberry plants which drape over a low wall. I planted everything, and I eat everything."

KELSEY GRAMMER "I love to tend to my vegetable garden. I have no particular food favourites. I just like toiling in the soil. Every spring I plant vegetables — carrots, corn, radishes, easy stuff. I just love to see things growing out of the ground.... Indoor plants are important too, they make a home feel homey. They just seem to bring a certain energy to a room."

KENNETH BRANAGH "I love my garden, but the most outstanding feature is the throne from *Henry* [his 1989 movie *Henry V*]. There are plants growing all over it. People say, 'What is that? That's a strange piece of garden furniture.' I just go, 'Oh, that's the throne of England.'"

ISABELLA ROSSELLINI "When I bought a 150-year-old barn and six overgrown acres on the eastern edge of Long Island it was uncared for and unwanted. The garden

had been untended for some 30 years, and it was quite magical. I had the feeling of nature repossessing something. Now I grow tomatoes and eggplant, zucchini and rhubarb and, of course, lots of herbs."

SEAN BEAN "I love making bird boxes. I make them in the garage and put them up in the trees. It's great for a garden."

MARK RUFFALO "I love flowers. I have a new home in Los Feliz [a Los Angeles suburb] and I'm really into the garden. I just got watsonias which attract hummingbirds and lavatera. I seem to be attracted to purple flowers like a little purple elephant ear plant, or pretty purple salvia. And, wow, I love sweet lavender. I got the fragrant French kind you can make bread with."

ROB LOWE "My wife and I love the lush countryside of Santa Barbara but when we

bought our house the landscape was barren. We planted pear trees, magnolias, roses, foxgloves, daylilies and created vegetable beds. It's a growing paradise now."

MICHAEL CAINE "I love to garden and often give walking tours through the hedgerows of our 21 acres."

KRISTIN SCOTT THOMAS "I grew up in Dorset, England, in the middle of nowhere. We spent our lives in the fields. It's very green and very beautiful. Now we live in Paris but we have a great 100-year-old stone farmhouse on 1.5 acres of land near Villeneuve-sur-Yonne in Burgundy."

ANTHONY HOPKINS "One of my great pleasures has been designing the gardens that surround our home by the ocean in Malibu. The soil is rich and we can grow many varieties of flowers."

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