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Famous

september 2003 | volume 4 | number 9



Fall Preview 2003

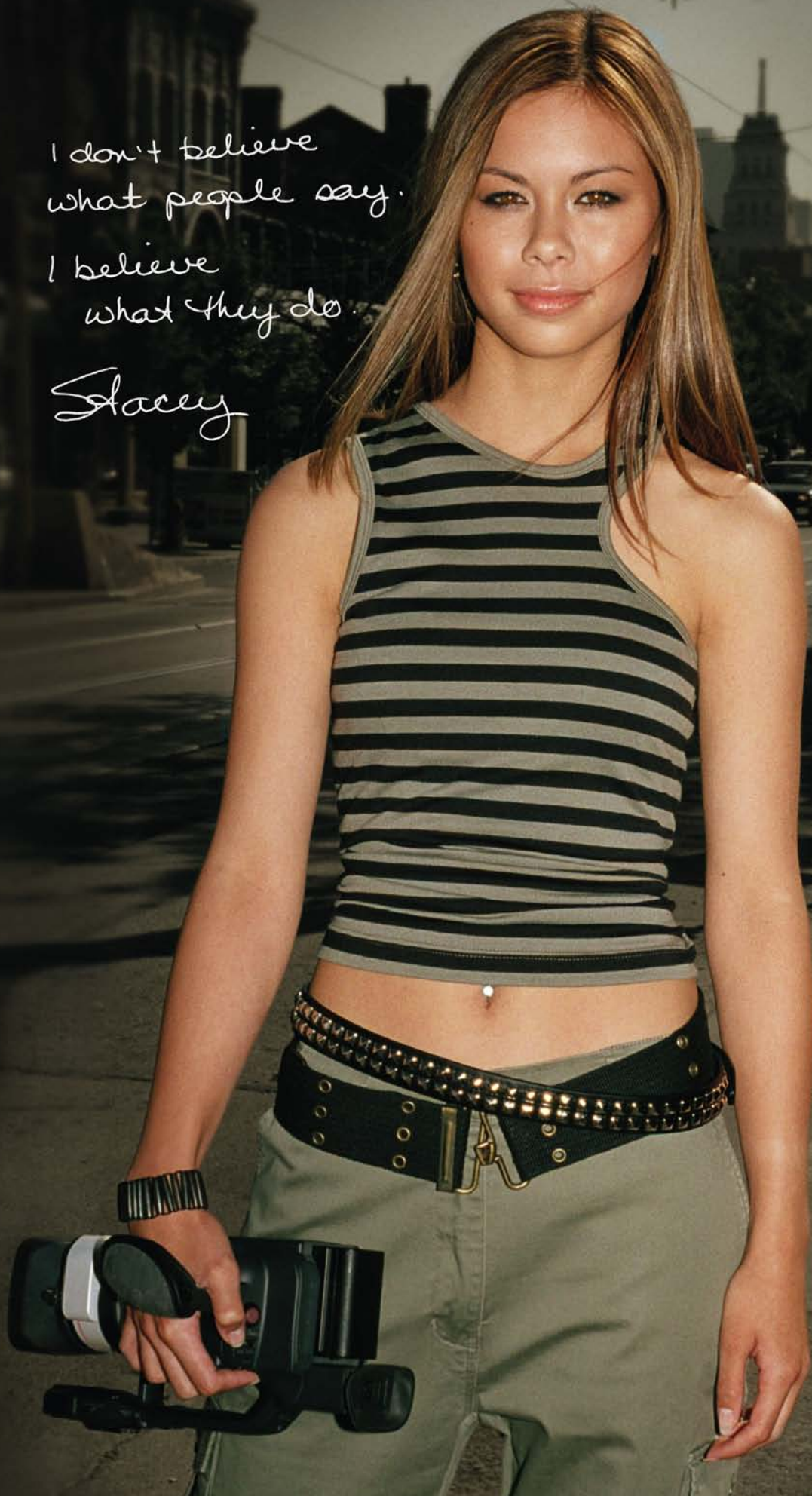


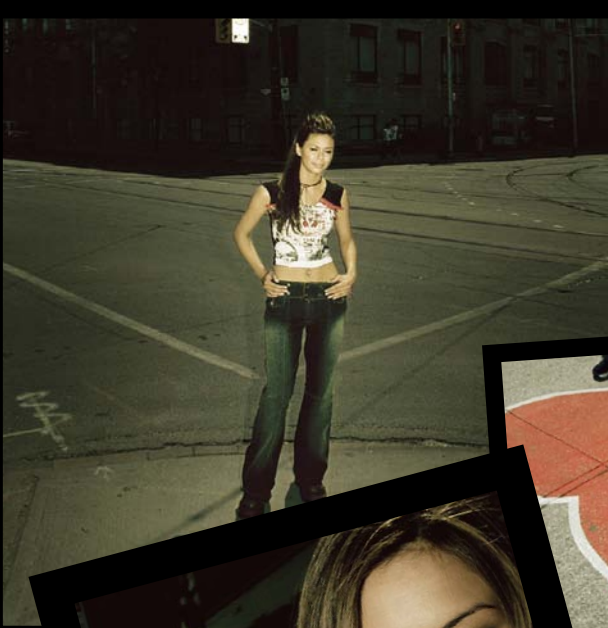
PLUS: SCOTT SPEEDMAN ON *UNDERWORLD* • ANTONIO BANDERAS TALKS *ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO*

I don't believe
what people say.

I believe
what they do.

Stacey





When people tell me they're funny, I say, don't tell me, just be funny; then I'll believe you. I'm always busy doing something. Right now, I'm planning on being an on-air reporter, reporting from exotic locations all over the world. Reporting anywhere would be fine, just as long as I'm getting great stories. I'm not just saying that. I'm already doing it part-time. You've got to know how to present yourself; how to look good. I love the camera. Hopefully it'll love me. I'm sure it will. I believe in myself. I believe in what I'm doing.



WAL★MART®

contents

Famous | volume 4 | number 9



FEATURES

- 26 KART THEM AWAY**
Quirky Canadian comic Harland Williams and his 16-year-old co-star Will Rothhaar on their new flick *Kart Racer* | By Ingrid Randoja
- 28 SPEEDMAN'S DESCENT**
Toronto native Scott Speedman talks about his chance start in acting and his slick new monster movie *Underworld* | By Marni Weisz
- 32 KATE BECKINSALE SUCKS**
No, really. She plays a vampire in *Underworld* | By Earl Dittman
- 34 FUNNY THAT WAY**
Mambo Italiano — a hilarious Canadian movie? Star Luke Kirby thinks so | By Marni Weisz
- 36 KILLING TIME WITH EL MARIACHI**
Antonio Banderas on resurrecting *Desperado's* gun-toting guitar player for *Once Upon a Time in Mexico* | By Barrett Hooper

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 EDITORIAL**
- 8 LETTERS**
Tracking down the lost track from the *28 Days Later* CD
- 10 SHORTS**
Sandra Oh gets some sun, the Toronto International Film Festival, and Jack Nicholson makes friends in Paris
- 14 SNAPS**
Sharon Stone comforts some kids, Michelle Rodriguez takes her best shot and Jennifer Garner plays with a pooch
- 30 TRIVIA**
What's the connection between Tom Hanks and Haley Joel Osment? And just how low has Woody Allen gone?
- 40 LINER NOTES**
Hawksley Workman's *lover/fighter*, and Krall and Wainwright try acting
- 42 VIDEO AND DVD**
Identity, *Anger Management* and *Bend It Like Beckham* for the home theatre
- 44 HOROSCOPE**
Basically, Virgo, just try to stay away from all human beings for the first 10 days of the month
- 46 FAMOUS LAST WORDS**
Keri Russell and Matt Damon embarrass themselves

COVER STORY

- 16 FALL/HOLIDAY PREVIEW**
Still three months to go before the final installment of *The Lord of the Rings*. But there's lots to see before then. Tarantino's back with *Kill Bill* and Cruise with *The Last Samurai*. So are Julia, Denzel and Nicole. How will you choose?
| By Ingrid Randoja

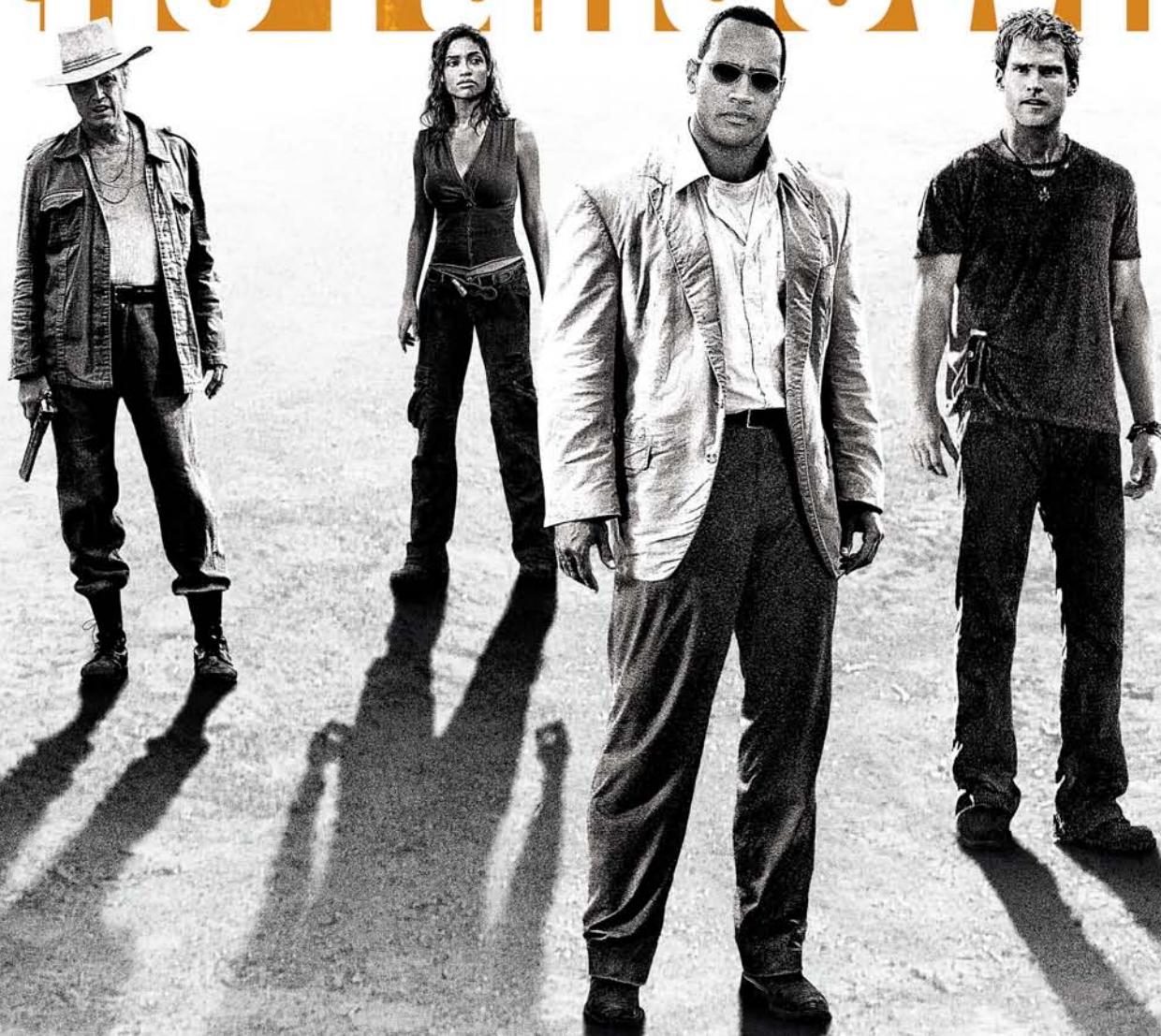
THE
ROCK

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DAWSON

the rundown



cut to the chase september 26

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On your marks, get set...



With but four months left in 2003, let's take a look at the Oscar race.

There's ummm... [Sound of pen tapping on desk.] Ahhhh, I think I heard someone say Tobey Maguire's got a shot for *Seabiscuit*. Then there's...no wait, that was a 2002 film. Do do do... Hey! Look over there!

Okay, so the kaboom-y action pics and girls-in-tight-clothes sequels that dominated the summer aren't exactly the stuff of Oscar fantasies. When Will Smith finished work on *Bad Boys II*, there's little chance director Michael Bay came over, put his hand on Smith's shoulder, and said, "Man, you were robbed when you didn't win for *Ali*. But if you don't get one of them statuettes for this movie, there will be hell on Earth! And I know just the guy to set us up with the pyrotechnics."

What all this means, of course, is that the best of the year is yet to come. Will Robert Rodriguez finally get a director nod for his third El Mariachi film, *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*? If so, will he be up against Quentin Tarantino who makes his long-awaited return with *Kill Bill*? *Mystic River* has a good combo for the Academy — dark, dramatic, based on a book, stars Sean Penn. What about the women — do Julia Roberts (*Mona Lisa Smile*), Nicole Kidman (*Cold Mountain*) or Cate Blanchett (*Veronica Guerin*) have a chance? And for God's sake, what does Viggo Mortensen have to do to get an Oscar nomination for Aragorn? Become King or something?!

Your first step in answering these questions is to turn to page 16 and take a look through our [Fall/Holiday Preview](#).

We also go heavy on the CanCon in this issue. Proud Torontonian [Scott Speedman](#), who played cutie-pie Ben on TV's *Felicity*, becomes a viable leading man with his role in the stylish monster movie *Underworld*. Find out how Speedman turned a dollar into a Hollywood career in "From Toronto to the Underworld," page 28.

Guelph, Ontario's [Luke Kirby](#) might have one of the season's biggest surprise hits on his hands when *Mambo Italiano* is released across Canada and the States this month. Having opened in Quebec this past summer the Canadian comedy about being gay in Montreal's Little Italy has already made close to \$3-million — which, last time I checked, placed it an impressive 89th in North American box office for the year to date. In "Coming Out at a Theatre Near You," page 34, Kirby muses about impending fame.

Plus, in "Racing Team," page 26, [Harland Williams](#) (a Scarborough, Ontario native) talks about his new pic *Kart Racer*, and on page 10 Nepean, Ontario's [Sandra Oh](#) fills you in on her latest, *Under the Tuscan Sun*.

And lest you think we'd forgotten about the rest of the world, on page 36 you'll find "Back in Black," in which Spanish hottie [Antonio Banderas](#) says stuff like this of *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*: "It's The Good, The Bad & The Ugly. I, of course, am the good." (It's a lot better when you read it in Antonio's voice.)

—Marni Weisz

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RANDY QUAID

WILL ROTHHAAR

Kart Racer

COURAGE HAS NO SPEED LIMIT

ALLIANCE ATLANTIS PRESENTS A KNIGHTSCOPE ENTERTAINMENT AND APOLLOMEDIA PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH WARDENCLYFFE ENTERTAINMENT A STUART GILLARD FILM

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> Cillian Murphy in *28 Days Later*

GODSPEED REESE EVENESHEN

I just recently saw the horror flick *28 Days Later*. I enjoyed the movie so much that I had to go see it again the next day. But something that really caught my attention about this flick was its amazing music. So the next day I went out and purchased the soundtrack. It was a great CD, with one problem — it was missing my favourite tune out of the whole movie. There is a long scene in which the main character, Jim, is walking around an empty London, and there is an amazing score playing. I was wondering if you could tell me what happened to this mystery score and where I can get it.

Reese Eveneshen — Cambridge, Ont.

Gooooood question, Reese. Turns out the song, "East Hastings," is by the subversive, majorly anti-corporate, instrumental Montreal band

Godspeed You! Black Emperor. And while the band agreed to lend the tune to director Danny Boyle's anarchic flick about the near-end of civilization (and only after seeing the film in its entirety), they would not agree to have it on the soundtrack. It must have something to do with that whole being majorly anti-corporate thing. In fact, they're probably pissed they're being mentioned in this relatively mainstream magazine right now. Tough! You'll find your beloved song on Godspeed's 1999 debut album, F#a# (Infinity).

MARRIED, SCHMARRIED

Great magazine — I read it every time I take in a blockbuster. However, I find it a little strange that *Famous* reports Mark Wahlberg and Rhea Durham are not "committed to each other in any substantial way" ["Snaps," July 2003]. When two people decide to have a child

together they are certainly forming a family. It's not fair to downplay that commitment. Not everyone needs pre-nups, expensive wedding cakes and oodles of reporters to show they're devoted, even in Hollywood.

Nick Owens — Montreal, Que.

Ah, Nick — you misunderstand. Clearly you have no idea just how liberal we here at Famous are. The commitment thing wasn't a reference to the fact that Wahlberg and Durham aren't married, it was a reference to the fact that when the pregnancy was announced last March, they weren't even dating anymore, having split in January 2003. Looks like they've worked things out, though. Best of luck to 'em.

FOUR OUT OF FIVE INTERIOR DECORATORS RECOMMEND FAMOUS

I would just like to say I love your magazine. I really think you should add more posters of movies and actors. I need more posters for my wall! This would truly make my day.

Elisa Frankfurter — Hamilton, Ont.

STRIDER'S WALK

I, more than the next person, enjoy knowing what movies are coming to the theatres and appreciate your "Coming Soon" feature. But I'd like to point out that in your July 2003 issue, you stated that Viggo Mortensen had a part in *A Walk in the Clouds*. I believe you might have meant *A Walk on the Moon*, as I was unable to find what Mr. Mortensen had to do with that Keanu Reeves movie. Please continue to keep me up to date with La La Land, and keep up the great work!

**Jesse Lavendel —
Dollard-Des-Ormeaux, Que.**

D'oh! You're absolutely right, Jesse. Our apologies. But to be honest, as far as we're concerned Mr. Mortensen can walk anywhere he wants, as long as we can watch from behind.

FAMOUS WELCOMES YOUR COMMENTS

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

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



Mambo Italiano



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**GINETTE
RENO**

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IN THEATRES SEPTEMBER 19TH



There are some actors who you see on screen and immediately wish they were your friends. Maybe it's the way they laugh, or the way they listen, but you imagine they'd be great to go out drinking with, to have over for dinner or challenge to a late-night game of Scrabble.

Sandra Oh is one of those actors. She's not a big star, which is a shame because this 31-year-old native of Nepean, Ontario is immensely talented and charismatic. But she has been part of Canada's acting landscape since 1993 when she wowed audiences with her portrayal of teen prostitute, drug addict and poet Evelyn Lau in CBC's *The Diary of Evelyn Lau*. She won a Gemini for her performance and has since raked in two Genies for her starring turns in the comedy *Double Happiness* and the drama *Last Night*.

Her move to L.A. in 1996 meant starting over and forsaking starring roles. And while she's never been out of work, since landing in Tinsel Town she also hasn't landed the kind of emotionally juicy parts her talent demands. You may have seen her as the snarky publicist in *Bean*, the vice-principal in *The Princess Diaries* or in the recurring role of a police detective on TV's *Judging Amy*.

That may all change when movie types see her as Diane Lane's gal pal in director Audrey Wells' *Under the Tuscan Sun*. Based on Frances Mayes' best-selling book, the film follows a woman (Lane) as she rebuilds her life while rebuilding a crumbling Italian villa.

"My character is based on a very good friend of Audrey's," says Oh on the line from L.A. "I'm Diane's best friend, a lesbian who's pregnant and who sends Diane on her way to Tuscany because me and my lover are unable go on this romantic tour.

"I'm so thankful to Audrey because while I do play Diane's best friend, it's not your prototypical best friend role, it's actually a good one," Oh says, laughing. "I actually do more than push the

plot along. Audrey believed in me and it didn't matter to her what I looked like."

Oh is referring to the fact Wells couldn't care less about her Korean heritage. But while Wells may be colour blind, there are others in Hollywood who don't see beyond Oh's ethnicity.

"It's a slow, slow process and there's a long way to go, but I've noticed change," explains Oh. "There are many parts that I'm able to get that are non-Asian specific. You do realize that when you are cast you immediately become part of a movement."

On January 1st of this year, Oh relinquished her single status to marry filmmaker Alexander Payne (*About Schmidt*), and the couple are already planning to pair up on a project.

"One excellent way of spending time together is to work together," says Oh. "We want to start a work relationship alongside our life-long relationship. He's all worried, but I'm not. Ultimately I will do what the director says, but that's not how it works in the house," she says with a roaring laugh.

Oh is known for her exuberant personality, and yet when she gets down to the work of acting she's remarkably focused. However, she admits acting has not gotten any easier since she began working professionally at the age of 16.

"Last year I was doing a play with this wonderful older actress named Tsai Chin and I was really struggling. She said there are three sections in an actor's life. The section at the beginning of your career, which is short and where you are young and absolutely unafraid. The latter part, which you hope to get to and which is also short, where you become a master. The big part in the middle, where most actors are and where I feel I've just entered, is the point where you're afraid, because you suddenly know what you have to do. You are no longer ignorant. I'm definitely at that stage, understanding what it takes to keep doing this." —Ingrid Randoja

PHOTO BY TIM LEYES

"MISSING AN EPISODE
BECOMES UNIMAGINABLE."

-The Washington Post

"IF THERE'S A BETTER SHOW ON
TELEVISION, I'VE YET TO SEE IT."

-TV Guide

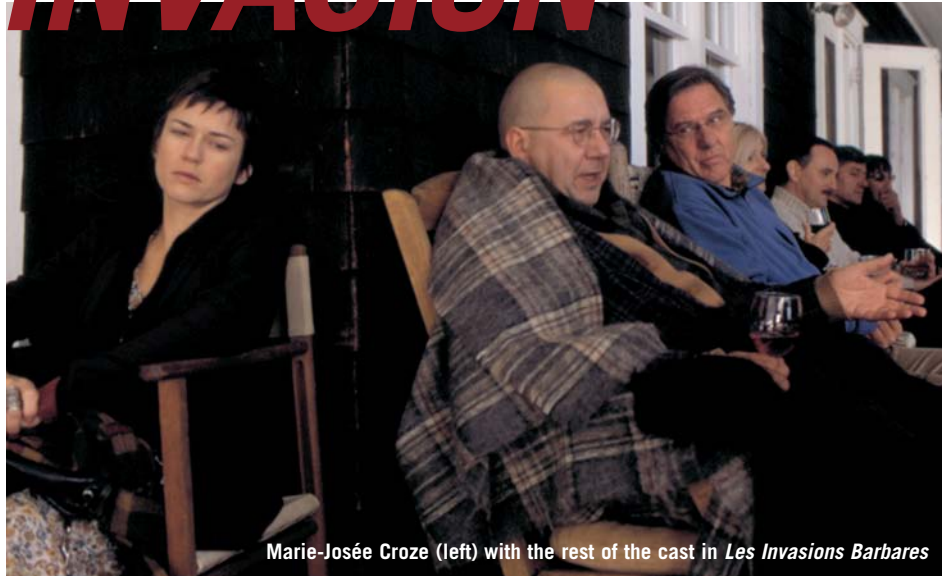
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INVASION of the TORONTO FILM FEST



Marie-Josée Croze (left) with the rest of the cast in *Les Invasions Barbares*

The 28th annual Toronto International Film Festival invades downtown T.O. from September 4th to the 13th — dates marked on the calendars of the city's dedicated movie fans, many of whom sneak out of the office early, or even take their vacations in order to check out some of the 300 films offered at Canada's most prestigious film fest.

The movie marathon kicks off with the opening night presentation of Denys Arcand's acclaimed drama *Les Invasions Barbares* (*The Barbarian Invasions*), which picked up the best screenplay (Arcand) and best actress (Marie-Josée Croze) awards at this year's Cannes film festival.

The opening night spotlight shines brightly on the stars who attend the gala, something Croze is accustomed to since her breakthrough film *Maelström* launched the Perspectives Canada program in 2000, and *Ararat* opened the festival last year.

"I remember everything," says Croze. "It's fun being there and having all that light and all that enthusiasm around the film."

Other high profile films screening in Toronto include madman Danish filmmaker Lars von Trier's nearly three-hour-long minimalist drama *Dogville*, starring Nicole Kidman as a woman who is abused by the residents of a 1930s Colorado town. Director Robert Altman chips in with *The Company*, which focuses on the day-to-day struggles of a novice ballet dancer (Toronto's own Neve Campbell). And the Quebec crowd pleaser *Mambo Italiano*, about a son coming out to his Italian immigrant parents, also lands a coveted gala spot.

Not going to be in Toronto this month? No worries, here are some other Canadian film festivals taking place throughout September:

MONTREAL WORLD FILM FESTIVAL (August 27 to September 7). More

accessible than its Toronto counterpart, you can often get tickets for this one right until show time.

ATLANTIC FILM FESTIVAL (September 12-20). This cozy Halifax festival pays attention to East Coast films with its Atlantic Focus program, but also showcases international animation in the Frame X Frame series.

CINÉFEST SUDBURY (September 15-21). This event, which screens about 100 films, began in 1989 and fashions itself after the Toronto fest. Its programs are similar, and a number of films screened in Toronto simply travel north up the Trans-Canada Highway to eagerly awaiting Northern movie fans.

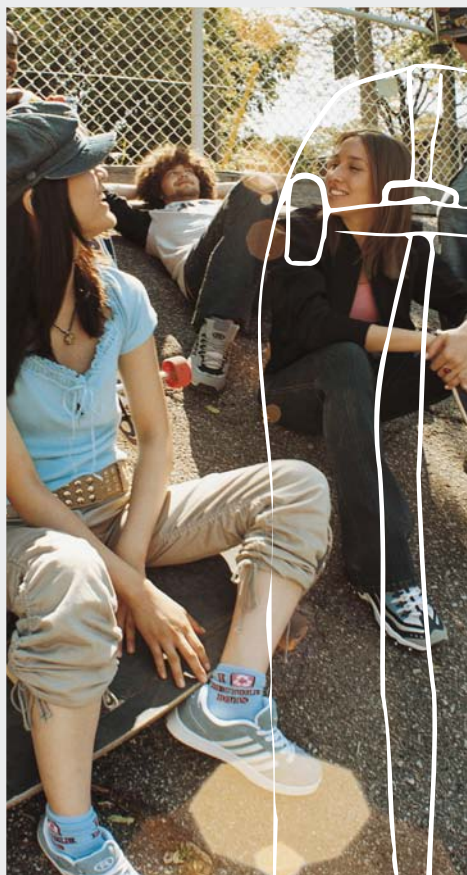
VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (September 25-October 10). The Vancouver fest entertains more than 150,000 moviegoers, and screens more than 300 films. As you would expect, Asian films take centre stage with a program titled *Dragons and Tigers: The Cinema of East Asia*, and this year's Spotlight series focuses on films from France. —IR

ANGER MANAGEMENT, PARIS STYLE

That's Jack Nicholson basking in the orange glow along Paris's Seine river, and shouting into a bullhorn. He was addressing striking French arts workers whose protest brought shooting of his film, *Something's Gotta Give*, to a halt. More than 600 French actors, costume designers and stagehands stormed a bridge over the famed Paris river where Nicholson was shooting a scene with Diane Keaton and Keanu Reeves. They were protesting a government plan to change their unemployment benefits when Nicholson picked up the bullhorn and asked what the commotion was all about. When they told him that artists' rights were being threatened he voiced his support, bellowing "The struggle continues" in broken French. The production then shut down for the night. —MW



PHOTO BY MATHIAS RABOT, AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE



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CAUGHT ON FILM

THE STARS WORK, PLAY AND PROMOTE THEIR FILMS



PHOTO BY GREGG DEGUIRE/WIREIMAGE

^ You can swaddle her in pink satin and pin up
^ her hair, but Michelle Rodriguez is always
going to look more comfortable with a big
Nerf Blaster in her hands. The *S.W.A.T.* star,
who's never been timid about expressing her
tomboy tendencies, fools around at the
movie's L.A. premiere.

PHOTO BY BILL DAVILA/FILMMAGIC



Jennifer Garner makes
nice with a pooch on
the set of *13 Going on
30*, due out next year.
She plays a frustrated
pre-teen, five days
shy of her 13th birth-
day, who makes a
wish and suddenly
finds herself 17 years
older. Which would
explain the pigtails.

<<<



PHOTO BY THE GROSBY GROUP

That's Sharon Stone crouching in the middle of that gaggle
of teens. The star of this month's *Cold Creek Manor* was
driving through Beverly Hills when a nearby vehicle was
involved in an accident. Stone got out of her car and
comforted the kids inside — hugs were given, soothing
words dispensed — while they all waited for police.



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acer
Empowering People

fall/holiday preview

From Tarantino's *Kill Bill* to your final helping of *Lord of the Rings*, we've got your next four months covered **BY INGRID RANDOJA**



SEPTEMBER 5

THE ORDER

WHO'S IN IT? Heath Ledger, Shannyn Sossamon

WHO DIRECTED? Brian Helgeland (*A Knight's Tale*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Ledger plays a conflicted priest (is there any other kind?), investigating the "sin eaters," a mysterious order of priests. This much-delayed drama reunites the director and three stars (Ledger, Sossamon and Mark Addy) of *A Knight's Tale*.

DICKIE ROBERTS: FORMER CHILD STAR

WHO'S IN IT? David Spade, Craig Bierko

WHO DIRECTED? Sam Weisman (*The Out-of-Towners*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Former child star Dickie Roberts (Spade) grew up without a conventional family. So when he lands a part playing a regular guy he panics and hires actors to pretend to be his family in an attempt to prepare for the role.

SEPTEMBER 12

MATCHSTICK MEN

WHO'S IN IT? Nicolas Cage, Sam Rockwell

WHO DIRECTED? Ridley Scott (*Black Hawk Down*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Roy (Cage) and Frank (Rockwell) are con-men working on the swindle of their lives when Roy's teenage daughter (Alison Lohman) makes a surprise appearance.

ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

WHO'S IN IT? Antonio Banderas, Johnny Depp

WHO DIRECTED? Robert Rodriguez (*Desperado*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Rodriguez continues his *El Mariachi* series (which kicked off with *El Mariachi* and *Desperado*) with some new blood as the vigilante with the guitar case full of guns (Banderas) is recruited by a CIA agent (Depp) to take down the leader of a drug cartel (Willem Dafoe). **See Antonio Banderas interview, page 36.**

COLD CREEK MANOR

WHO'S IN IT? Dennis Quaid, Sharon Stone

WHO DIRECTED? Mike Figgis (*Leaving Las Vegas*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A couple (Quaid & Stone) and their kids flee the city and settle in what they think is their perfect country mansion. But their bubble pops when the former owner (Stephen Dorff) gets out of prison and wants his house back. *Now.* This home-invasion thriller was shot in Toronto, Cambridge and the community of Ayr, Ontario, which boasts a picturesque main street, making it the perfect stand-in for small town U.S.A. Co-star Dorff was a hit with the locals, dishing out slices at a pizza parlour and signing plates for fans. **HITS THEATRES SEPTEMBER 12**

CABIN FEVER

WHO'S IN IT? James DeBello, Joey Kern

WHO DIRECTED? Eli Roth (debut)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? It's *28 Days Later* meets *Meatballs* as five college pals partying at a mountain cabin run into an oozy recluse who infects them with a nasty flesh-eating virus. What fun, sleeping under the stars, making s'mores and watching someone's skin fall off.

SEPTEMBER 19

THE FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS

WHO'S IN IT? Cuba Gooding Jr., Beyoncé Knowles

WHO DIRECTED? Jonathan Lynn (*My Cousin Vinny*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A New York advertising executive (Gooding) heads to a small southern town to collect an inheritance. However, when he gets there he discovers he must assemble a gospel choir if he wants to see the heavenly cash.

ANYTHING ELSE

WHO'S IN IT? Woody Allen, Christina Ricci

WHO DIRECTED? Woody Allen (*Hollywood Ending*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Oh man, the Woody Allen yuck factor hits an all-time high with the 66-year-old playing an aging artist who romances another artist, played by the 23-year-old(!) Ricci. If this trend continues Allen will be scouting elementary school plays for his leading ladies.

UNDERWORLD

WHO'S IN IT? Kate Beckinsale, Scott Speedman

WHO DIRECTED? Len Wiseman (debut)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Vampires and werewolves have a hate on for each other, which means vampire babe Beckinsale breaks rank with her neck-biting clan when she falls for a human (Speedman) whose rare blood could save the werewolves from extinction.

See interviews with Speedman, page 28, and Beckinsale, page 32.

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KILL BILL

WHO'S IN IT? Uma Thurman, Lucy Liu

WHO DIRECTED? Quentin Tarantino (*Jackie Brown*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? In a surprise move, Miramax boss Harvey Weinstein announced in July that Tarantino's three-hour film will be released in two parts, the first 90-minute half in the fall, but with no word on when the finale will hit screens. Thurman plays an assassin named The Bride who is gunned down at her wedding by her boss Bill (David Carradine) and his cronies. She survives, spends five years in a coma, and wakes up primed to take revenge against the men who popped her. Tarantino looks East for his violent inspiration, specifically samurai flicks and Hong Kong martial arts films. In fact, the yellow jumpsuit Thurman sports in the film is an exact replica of the yellow number Bruce Lee wore in his final film, *Game of Death*. **HITS THEATRES OCTOBER 10**

MAMBO ITALIANO

WHO'S IN IT? Luke Kirby, Peter Miller

WHO DIRECTED? Émile Gaudreault (*Wedding Night*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Call it My Big Fat Italian Coming Out. This comedy, set in Montreal, finds gay writer Angelo (Kirby) shocking his traditional Italian parents (Paul Sorvino and Ginette Reno) when he moves in with his boyfriend Nino (Miller), a cop who is unwilling to step out of the closet. **See Luke Kirby interview, page 34.**

SEPTEMBER 26

MYSTIC RIVER

WHO'S IN IT? Sean Penn, Tim Robbins

WHO DIRECTED? Clint Eastwood (*Blood Work*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Author Dennis Lehane's excellent thriller gets an all-star film treatment. Three childhood pals — Jimmy, Sean and Dave — are reunited when Jimmy's (Penn) daughter is murdered, and cop Sean (Kevin Bacon) suspects the psychologically unsound Dave (Robbins) of the crime.

UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN

WHO'S IN IT? Diane Lane, Raoul Bova

WHO DIRECTED? Audrey Wells (*Guinevere*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A divorced writer (Lane) packs up and

moves to Tuscany where she refurbishes a crumbling villa and catches the eye of a local pretty boy (Bova). Single women everywhere just let out a jealous sigh. Napean, Ontario's own Sandra Oh plays Lane's pregnant lesbian friend. **See Sandra Oh interview, page 10.**

KART RACER

WHO'S IN IT? Will Rothhaar, Randy Quaid

WHO DIRECTED? Stuart Gillard (*Rocket Man*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A teenager (Rothhaar), who wants to race go-karts, enlists the help of his estranged dad (Quaid) to build a kick-ass machine. Canadian Harland Williams steps in as an eccentric arcade owner. **See interview with Harland Williams and Will Rothhaar, page 26.**

THE RUNDOWN

WHO'S IN IT? The Rock, Seann William Scott

WHO DIRECTED? Peter Berg (*Very Bad Things*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A hardened bounty hunter (The Rock) and a rich kid (Scott) team up to search the Amazon jungle for a legendary treasure mine. This script has been kicking around since 1995 when Patrick Swayze was to play The Rock's role.

OCTOBER 3

OUT OF TIME

WHO'S IN IT? Denzel Washington, Eva Mendes

WHO DIRECTED? Carl Franklin (*One True Thing*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Washington asked for, and got, \$20-million to play a well-meaning Florida police sheriff who makes the costly mistake of stealing a bag of loot out of the evidence locker to help the woman he loves. Let the cover-up begin.

THE SCHOOL OF ROCK

WHO'S IN IT? Jack Black, Joan Cusack

WHO DIRECTED? Richard Linklater (*Waking Life*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? After guitarist Dewey Finn (Black) is booted from his band he makes ends meet by masquerading as a



SECONDHAND LIONS

WHO'S IN IT? Haley Joel Osment, Robert Duvall

WHO DIRECTED? Tim McCanlies (*Dancer, Texas*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A timid

teen (Osment) spends the summer on the farm of his eccentric great-uncles (Duvall and Michael Caine) and learns about their colourful and, perhaps, criminal past. **SEPTEMBER 26**

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THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

WHO'S IN IT? Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss

WHO DIRECTED? Andy Wachowski, Larry Wachowski (*The Matrix Reloaded*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Whoa, good question, 'cause what are any of *The Matrix* films really about, man? This final installment of the trilogy is actually the second half of *The Matrix Reloaded*, which was simply cut in half and packaged as this third film. All we know is that Neo (Reeves) and his band of human freedom fighters spend time on inhospitable Earth battling the machines that are terrorizing Zion. Monica Bellucci resurfaces as the sexy program Persephone, who tempts goody-two-shoes Neo, which will surely provoke the jealous Trinity (Moss). Did you see the look Trinity gave Persephone in the last movie? There's a cat fight a-coming!

HITS THEATRES NOVEMBER 5

▶▶ substitute teacher at a posh private school where his Eddie Van Halen ways loosen up his smarty-pants charges.

DUPLEX

WHO'S IN IT? Drew Barrymore, Ben Stiller

WHO DIRECTED? Danny DeVito (*Death to Smoochy*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A house-hunting couple (Barrymore, Stiller) find a perfect converted duplex in a nice New York City neighbourhood. There's just one problem: the person who lives there (Eileen Essell) doesn't want to sell, so our happy couple plots to off the old lady.

OCTOBER 10

GOOD BOY!

VOICE TALENT: Matthew Broderick, Megan Mullally

WHO DIRECTED? John Hoffman (debut)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The premise: Dogs are actually alien spies who were sent to Earth by their planet Sirius's military to prepare for an invasion. Thing is, dogs liked it here and became man's best friends. Wondering what happened to their invasion force, Sirius's military leader sends Canid 3942 to sort out the problem.

INTOLERABLE CRUELTY

WHO'S IN IT? George Clooney, Catherine Zeta-Jones

WHO DIRECTED? Joel Coen (*Fargo*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? When a sleazy divorce lawyer (Clooney) frames the wife (Zeta-Jones) of a client so she receives no settlement, she decides to get even by marrying the lawyer and then divorcing him. But, would you believe, she falls in love with him?! Let's hope Coen's patented quirkiness saves what sounds like an otherwise predictable romantic comedy.

OCTOBER 17

VERONICA GUERIN

WHO'S IN IT? Cate Blanchett, Colin Farrell

WHO DIRECTED? Joel Schumacher (*Phone Booth*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Based on a true story, this drama recounts the life of Irish journalist Veronica Guerin (Blanchett), who was murdered after writing articles about Dublin's underground drug scene.

THE WHOLE TEN YARDS

WHO'S IN IT? Bruce Willis, Matthew Perry

WHO DIRECTED? Howard Deutch (*The Replacements*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The sequel to *The Whole Nine Yards* finds retired hitman Jimmy the Tulip (Willis) coming to the rescue of dentist pal Oz (Perry) when Oz's wife is kidnapped.

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

WHO'S IN IT? Jessica Biel, Eric Balfour

WHO DIRECTED? Marcus Nispel (debut)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Five college kids are set upon by the cannibalistic, chainsaw-wielding Leatherface (bodybuilder Andrew Bryniaski). This gory remake of the 1974 horror classic is produced by action director Michael Bay, who, unbelievably, sits on a Hollywood committee concerned with violence in films.

RUNAWAY JURY

WHO'S IN IT? John Cusack, Rachel Weisz

WHO DIRECTED? Gary Fleder (*Don't Say a Word*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A member (Cusack) of the jury deciding a case against a gun manufacturer desperately tries to sway his fellow jury members' votes. It's based on the John Grisham bestseller, which actually focused on a case against a tobacco company. But since wicked weed growers have already served as villains in movies, the baddies were changed to gun makers.

OCTOBER 24

SCARY MOVIE 3

WHO'S IN IT? Anna Faris, Charlie Sheen

WHO DIRECTED? David Zucker (*My Boss's Daughter*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? *The Ring*, *Signs*, *LoTR* and *The Matrix Reloaded* get spoofed in this latest *Scary Movie* comedy.

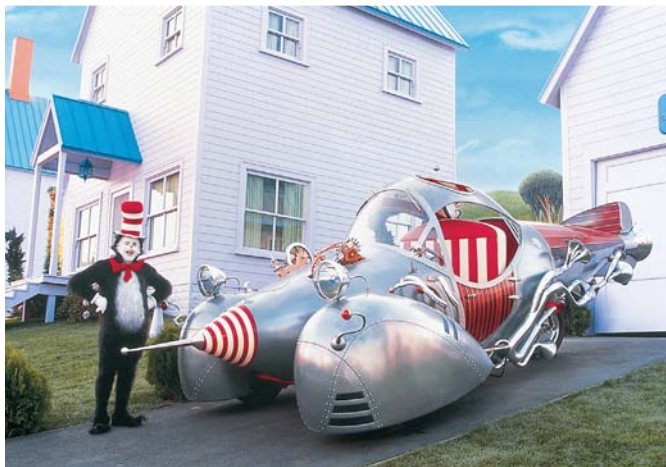
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DR. SEUSS' THE CAT IN THE HAT

WHO'S IN IT? Mike Myers, Dakota Fanning

WHO DIRECTED? Bo Welch (debut)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Two bored kids (Fanning and Spencer Breslin) are visited one rainy afternoon by a troublemaking cat (Myers) and his helpmates, Thing #1 and Thing #2. Fans of Dr. Seuss's classic children's book (and who isn't) are holding their breath hoping that this movie captures Seuss's spirit better than the last Seuss adaptation, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, oops, *How the Special Effects Stole Christmas*, oops, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. It seems only Canadian comics can play Seuss heroes, which brings up the frightening prospect of seeing Tom Green as Yertle the Turtle. **HITS THEATRES NOVEMBER 21**

IN THE CUT

WHO'S IN IT? Meg Ryan, Mark Ruffalo

WHO DIRECTED? Jane Campion (*The Piano*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Ryan plays a creative-writing teacher who reacts to the grisly murder of neighbouring women by having kinky sex.

BEYOND BORDERS

WHO'S IN IT? Angelina Jolie, Clive Owen

WHO DIRECTED? Martin Campbell (*Goldeneye*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A disaster relief worker (Owen) and a wealthy socialite (Jolie) are the star-crossed lovers who keep meeting against the backdrop of war, famine and other calamities.

GOTHIKA

WHO'S IN IT? Halle Berry, Penélope Cruz

WHO DIRECTED? Mathieu Kassovitz (*Hate*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A criminal psychologist (Berry) wakes up in the hospital where she works accused of killing her husband. And you thought waking up with pins and needles was a bad way to start the day.

LOONEY TUNES: BACK IN ACTION

WHO'S IN IT?

Brendan Fraser,
Jenna Elfman

WHO DIRECTED?

Joe Dante
(*Small Soldiers*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? In a universe in which Looney Tunes characters co-exist with real people, the disgruntled Daffy Duck (he's had it up-to-here with Bugs) quits his job and teams up with stuntman Fraser to search the world for a missing diamond. The tricky conceit of combining live action and animation has not been seen since 1996's NBA marketing tool *Space Jam*. **NOVEMBER 14**



NOVEMBER 1

BROTHER BEAR

VOICE TALENT: Joaquin Phoenix, Jeremy Suarez

WHO DIRECTED? Aaron Blaise and Robert Walker (debuts)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Disney's animated fall film finds Native American Kenai (Phoenix) magically transformed into a bear while hunting the bear that killed his father. Rick Moranis and Dave Thomas revive their Bob and Doug McKenzie SCTV personas playing a pair of lunkheaded moose who say "eh" an awful lot.

NOVEMBER 7

ELF

WHO'S IN IT? Will Ferrell, James Caan

WHO DIRECTED? Jon Favreau (*Made*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Santa (Ed Asner) comes clean and tells Buddy (Ferrell), a six-foot elf, that he's really not an elf but a man who was abandoned as a baby and brought to the North Pole. Buddy then heads to New York City in search of his biological father (Caan).

NOVEMBER 14

MASTER AND COMMANDER: THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD

WHO'S IN IT? Russell Crowe, Paul Bettany

WHO DIRECTED? Peter Weir (*The Truman Show*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Napoleonic-age adventurer Captain Jack Aubrey (Crowe) and his ship's surgeon Stephen Maturin (Bettany) sail half-way around the world to chase down the French frigate which attacked their ship, the HMS Surprise. This adaptation of author Patrick O'Brian's 10th installment of his 20-part series reportedly cost a whopping \$135-million to make.

TUPAC: RESURRECTION

WHO'S IN IT? Tupac Shakur

WHO DIRECTED? Lauren Lazin (debut)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? This documentary on the late rapper Tupac Shakur is the only "authorized" film version of his life, and

that's because it's partly produced by his mom's production company. Fans are treated to home movies, excerpts from his journal and even a few unreleased songs.

HONEY

WHO'S IN IT? Jessica Alba, Mekhi Phifer

WHO DIRECTED? Bille Woodruff (debut)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? What's a tough, sexy inner-city choreographer to do when her mentor tells her she has to either sleep with him or be blacklisted from the industry? Open up her own dance studio for underprivileged youth, of course. That inner city audiences will be looking at is actually Toronto, the movie was filmed there last fall.

NOVEMBER 21

BARBERSHOP 2

WHO'S IN IT? Ice Cube, Cedric the Entertainer

WHO DIRECTED? Kevin Rodney Sullivan (*How Stella Got Her Groove Back*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? This sequel to last year's surprise hit *Barbershop* hits theatres faster than you can get a trim and a shave. Calvin (Ice Cube) and his crew of fellow barbers continue

to brag about bustin' booty in his Chicago barbershop. Queen Latifah pops up as the owner of a nearby beauty shop, setting the stage for her upcoming spin-off movie, *Beauty Shop*.

RADIO

WHO'S IN IT? Cuba Gooding Jr., Ed Harris

WHO DIRECTED? Michael Tollin (*Summer Catch*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? In this feel-good drama (based on a real-life story), high school football coach Harold Jones (Harris) takes a mentally challenged and persecuted teen named James Robert "Radio" Kennedy (Gooding) under his wing.

NOVEMBER 26

TIMELINE

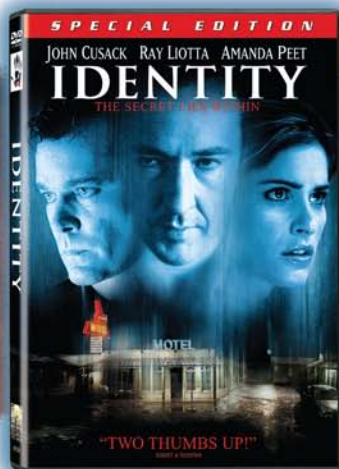
WHO'S IN IT? Paul Walker, Frances O'Connor

WHO DIRECTED? Richard Donner (*Conspiracy Theory*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A history professor (Billy Connolly) travels back in time and gets trapped in 14th-century France. It's up to his students, including Walker and O'Connor, to go back and retrieve him. Author Michael Crichton allegedly handed over the rights to his book, *gratis*, in exchange for 15% of the movie's profits, up to a maximum of \$15-million.



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THE LAST SAMURAI

WHO'S IN IT? Tom Cruise, Ken Watanabe

WHO DIRECTED? Edward Zwick (*Legends of the Fall*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Disillusioned Civil War veteran Captain Woodrow Algren (Cruise) takes a job promoting Winchester rifles. He's sent to Japan to train the emperor's army, who will use the guns to wipe out the remaining obsolete samurai warriors. But when he winds up a captive of the samurai, Captain Algren switches his allegiance. The film was shot in the picturesque region of Taranaki, New Zealand (chosen mostly because the nearby mountain bears a striking resemblance to Mt. Fuji), and mega-star Cruise proved to be a considerate guest. Hearing that a national radio station would pay \$5,000 to anyone who got an interview with him, Cruise called up the station and agreed to be interviewed only if they raised the sum to \$7,000, which he matched, and then donated to a local elementary school building fund. **HITS THEATRES DECEMBER 5**



THE HAUNTED MANSION

WHO'S IN IT? Eddie Murphy, Marsha Thomason

WHO DIRECTED? Rob Minkoff (*Stuart Little 2*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The latest film to be based on a Disney theme park ride finds job interviewee Murphy running into 999 ghosts inside a scary mansion. This family-friendly flick co-stars one of movie history's all-time great scaredy-cats, Mr. Chicken himself, Don Knotts.

BAD SANTA

WHO'S IN IT? Billy Bob Thornton, Bernie Mac

WHO DIRECTED? Terry Zwigoff (*Ghost World*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? An alcoholic safe-cracker (Thornton) and his small criminal pal (Tony Cox) disguise themselves as Santa Claus and his elf and travel around shopping malls ripping off stores along the way. Zwigoff is responsible for the ultra-depressing *Crumb* and bittersweet *Ghost World*, so don't expect cheery fa-la-la fun from this holiday film.

LOVE DON'T COST A THING

WHO'S IN IT? Nick Cannon, Christina Milian

WHO DIRECTED? Troy Beyer (*Let's Talk About Sex*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

This remake of the 1987 teen comedy *Can't Buy Me Love* (minus the hair gel and thick leather wrist bands) stars Cannon as a high school loser who pays a cheerleader (Milian) to pretend to be his girlfriend. **DECEMBER 12**



DECEMBER 5

HIGHWAYMEN

WHO'S IN IT? Jim Caviezel, Rhona Mitra

WHO DIRECTED? Robert Harmon (*They*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? You'll need your fuzzy dice and mirrored sunglasses for this four-wheel thriller. A grieving husband (Caviezel) hunts a serial killer who, get this, runs over his victims with his '72 Cadillac Eldorado.

DECEMBER 12

STUCK ON YOU

WHO'S IN IT? Matt Damon, Greg Kinnear

WHO DIRECTED? Bobby Farrelly, Peter Farrelly (*Shallow Hal*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Conjoined brothers (Damon and Kinnear) head to Hollywood hoping to break into acting, but will fame and fortune split them apart? The Farrellys, who have been trying to get this sight gag-ish comedy made since 1993, line up cameos from real-life stars Cher, Meryl Streep and Al Pacino.

SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE

WHO'S IN IT? Jack Nicholson, Diane Keaton

WHO DIRECTED? Nancy Meyers (*What Women Want*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Aging record exec Harry Langer (Nicholson) suffers a heart attack at the family home of his young girlfriend (Amanda Peet). While recuperating he and his doctor (Keanu Reeves) fall in love with the trophy girlfriend's mom (Keaton).

DECEMBER 25

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

WHO'S IN IT? Steve Martin, Bonnie Hunt

WHO DIRECTED? Shawn Levy (*Just Married*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? This remake of the 1950 comedy has a college



THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING

WHO'S IN IT? Orlando Bloom, Viggo Mortensen

WHO DIRECTED? Peter Jackson (*The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? If you are an Aragon admirer (manly/sensitive), as opposed to a Legolas lover (sensitive/sensitive), then get ready for the all-Aragon (Mortensen) love fest. Sure Frodo and Sam are fighting their way to the crack of Mount Doom, but this grand finale of the *LotR* trilogy shines the spotlight on the heir to the throne of Gondor and his king-like feats. Jackson promises the *RotK* battles — The Siege of Gondor, the Battle of Pelennor Fields and the Battle at the Black Gate of Mordor — will make The Battle of Helm's Deep look like a skirmish. And for Jackson's next trick? You may have thought the Kiwi dynamo would take a break and relax with a quiet drama. Nope. He's remaking *King Kong*.

HITS THEATRES DECEMBER 17

football coach (Martin) and his author wife (Hunt) raising 12 kids, one of whom is played by hip hop star and producer Missy Elliott.

PETER PAN

WHO'S IN IT? Jeremy Sumpter, Jason Isaacs

WHO DIRECTED? P.J. Hogan (*My Best Friend's Wedding*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? For the first time, J.M. Barrie's classic children's story gets a strictly live-action adaptation, and for the first time, a real boy (Sumpter) will play the lead. There's some pre-teen sexual heat between Wendy (Rachel Hurd-Wood) and Peter, which has drawn the ire of Barrie's god-daughter Laura Duguid, who's said Barrie would be "horrificed" at any hint of hanky-panky.

THE ALAMO

WHO'S IN IT? Dennis Quaid, Billy Bob Thornton

WHO DIRECTED? John Lee Hancock (*The Rookie*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The year's male weenie recounts the heroic 1836 siege at the Alamo, in which Texas frontiersmen such as Sam Houston (Quaid) and Davy Crockett (Thornton) fought a losing battle with the Mexican army over a period of 13 days. Just the thought of a wacky Billy Bob parading around in a raccoon cap and gun makes us giddy.

PAYCHECK

WHO'S IN IT? Ben Affleck, Uma Thurman

WHO DIRECTED? John Woo (*Windtalkers*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? An engineer (Affleck) working on a top-secret government project wakes up to discover he has huge gaps in his memory, and that instead of being paid with a regular cheque, he's being paid with seemingly random objects. *Paycheck* is based on a Philip K. Dick short story. The writer's obsession with altered memories is tailor-made for Hollywood,

which has already turned his stories into such hits as *Blade Runner*, *Minority Report* and *Total Recall*.

COLD MOUNTAIN

WHO'S IN IT? Jude Law, Nicole Kidman

WHO DIRECTED? Anthony Minghella (*The English Patient*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The highly anticipated adaptation of Charles Frazier's best-selling book reunites the talented *Talented Mr. Ripley* team of Minghella and Law, with the latter starring as a wounded Civil War veteran, who makes the long trek home to Cold Mountain, North Carolina, and his waiting sweetie (Kidman). At one point, divorced mega-stars Kidman and Tom Cruise were both, unknowingly, up for the leads.

MONA LISA SMILE

WHO'S IN IT? Julia Roberts, Kirsten Dunst

WHO DIRECTED? Mike Newell (*Pushing Tin*)

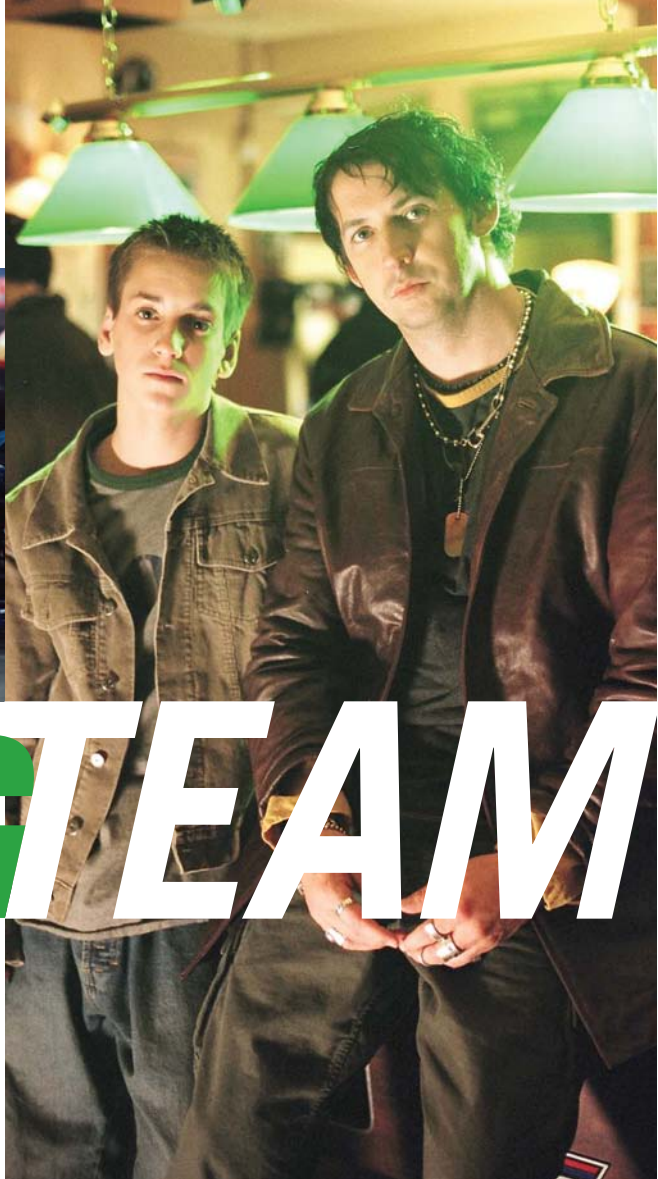
WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

It's 1953 and the students at the all-women's college of Wellesley are inspired by their free-thinking art history teacher Miss Watson (Roberts), who certainly ain't no Sister Wendy! The season's best female cast, including Marcia Gay Harden, Julia Stiles, Maggie Gyllenhaal and singer Tori Amos, will surely attract legions of women moviegoers. **DECEMBER 19**



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RACING TEAM

CANADIAN COMEDY VET HARLAND WILLIAMS AND UPCOMING AMERICAN TEEN WILL ROTHHAAR PAIR UP FOR *KART RACER* | BY INGRID RANDOJA

Would it surprise you to learn that Harland Williams might be the most multitalented comic to come out of Canada?

That may sound implausible if you simply recognize Williams as the jag-eared, goofy-looking guy whose comedic shtick mixes the cerebral musing of Ellen DeGeneres with the flat-out weirdness of Tom Green. Perhaps you saw him as the hitchhiking serial killer in *There's Something About Mary*, Tom Green's best friend in the much-maligned *Freddy Got Fingered*, or in his only leading role, as *Rocketman*'s clumsy astronaut.

But did you know he's also an animator who's written and illustrated a series of children's books? That's he's an accomplished artist whose paintings hang in galleries? That he's a published poet, or that he spent five years working for the Ministry of Natural Resources as an outdoorsy type (planting trees and all) before he

realized comedy was his calling?

Of course, all of these sidebars fall by the wayside when Williams steps in front of a movie camera. That's when his inspired weirdness kicks in. In his latest film, *Kart Racer*, Williams has a small role as Zee, the owner of the arcade where the local kids, including teen hero Watts (Will Rothhaar), play a virtual NASCAR racing game. It's this game which Watts uses to prepare for driving the motorized kart he and his estranged father (Randy Quaid) are building to take part in an important qualifying race for the National Kart-Racing Championships.

Williams only has a few scenes, but he makes them count, hitting his stride with an off-beat monologue about the difficulty of the arcade game: "...it's probably past your little burnt-out Nintendo-ride to choo-chooville, isn't it? The cat that tames that wild beast is going downtown on a ham sandwich

and he ain't puttin' any mustard on it."

Williams has become an expert at the pop-up, comedic cameo.

"I don't know if I'm a specialist, but I've been lucky 'cause when people want me to come in it's always been for a real cool part," he says over the phone from a hotel room in Tampa, Florida, the latest stop on his summer stand-up tour. "You can kinda go nuts 'cause [these parts are] so concentrated."

"I mix it. I always give directors a take right from the script, just so they know I'm capable of doing it [laughs]. They usually know what I'm all about, so then they ask me to go a little nuts, and if they don't, I say 'Let me try a spin on it.' And what I find is that most of the time it's a 50-50 split, where they'll use the scripted version and they'll splice in half of the stuff I improvised."

While Williams has perfected the art of the quick comedic hit, he's more interested in long-term laughs. Jim

Carrey, Mike Myers and Williams all hail from Toronto, and while Carrey and Myers have scored big with their *Ace Ventura* and *Austin Powers* movies respectively, Williams is still searching for his breakthrough role.

"I've had a lot of really great roles and I've been really lucky, but I'd love to get that one piece of work, a real lasting character that you could turn into a franchise and do a number of movies," says Williams. "Something people will really like and laugh their butts off at. It's weird, it's something you can't control. I don't know where it's going to come from or how, but it would be the next step I'd love to get to."

With his friendly looks and slightly twangy, slow delivery you'd be forgiven if you mistook Williams for a dairy farmer instead of an actor, let alone an artist whose interests can veer towards dark and scary subject matter. Check out his web site, www.harlandwilliams.com, which includes a gallery of his provocative paintings like "The Crackpipe,"

"I'D LOVE TO GET THAT ONE PIECE OF WORK, A REAL LASTING CHARACTER THAT YOU COULD TURN INTO A FRANCHISE," SAYS WILLIAMS

"The Drivebye" or the Holocaust camp-inspired "The Smell of Food," full of large-headed, soulful figures.

"Those were done when I first moved to L.A.," says Williams. "I got there in the early '90s and I didn't know anybody, or anything. That's just when I was getting my feet on the ground so there was a lot of down time in between trying to get somewhere. Rather than just sit around

and wait for the phone to ring I tried to use that time creatively and decided to go nuts painting my visions." Williams studied animation at Oakville, Ontario's Sheridan College but dropped out and became a forest ranger. At around the same time, he wrote and illustrated a series of kids book about a curious dinosaur by the name of Lickety Split. He hasn't doodled for children in some time, but that's about to change.

"It's bizarre, but I just inked a deal with Penguin books to do three children's books and they're going to be a totally new series. That's what I love about my art. It's always there in the background and it's always kind of percolating."

It's obvious that Williams has an affinity for entertaining kids. Whether it's in print or in movies, the often-childlike actor leaves a mark with the younger set. "I somehow seem to have a knack for improvising funny stuff," he says. "A lot of the lines kids quote me on the street always seem to be the lines I've made up. That makes me feel good." **F**

WHO IS WILL ROTHHAAR?

Kart Racer's young star, 16-year-old Will Rothhaar, is quietly making a name for himself in acting circles. The New York City-born Rothhaar comes by his acting talent honestly, his father ran a theatre company in Pennsylvania, and Rothhaar made his stage debut as a four-year-old in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

"I was raised in the theatre," says Rothhaar on the line from Arizona, where he's attending an intensive three-week Shakespeare camp. "When I was a baby my parents would put my playpen down in the orchestra pit, and when I was, like, three or four, I'd hang out with the actors backstage on their cigarette breaks."

Rothhaar's résumé includes tons of TV shows and commercials, as well as movies, including *Kingpin* and *Hearts in Atlantis*. He's serious about his work, hence the Shakespeare camp, where he's the youngest participant, keen to learn his craft.

Ask him about the actors who have influenced him, and he brings the conversation to a dead halt, pondering, and finally offering an intricate and thoughtful answer.

"I guess it's mix of a couple of

people," he says. "To play calm, cool, but to be like a cobra ready to strike, I love Harvey Keitel. For a kind of wildness, but also with genuine emotion, I like Brad Pitt. And I like a lot of what Sean Penn does."

In *Kart Racer*, Rothhaar plays the teenage hero Watts Davies, who gets his emotionally distant dad (Randy Quaid), a former NASCAR driver and engineer, to help him build a deluxe kart. It's a role that allowed Rothhaar to show off his acting chops, as well as to have a blast driving the motorized karts.

"It was a fun movie to make," says Rothhaar. "You can't complain when you're racing around in a kart six hours a day. When I was filming the kart was controlled, but when I was on my own, just having fun, I got it up to 95 kilometres an hour on the back straight."

Kart Racer is Rothhaar's first leading role, and while he enjoyed the chance to shine, he knows he's entering that difficult in-between stage — no longer a child, but not quite a man.

"I'm waiting for this period with open arms," says Rothhaar, "because now people are starting to look at me for more adult roles, and also still for



roles about growing up. But they're not stupid roles, you know, like playing a kid who doesn't like his babysitter so he kidnaps them. They are more intense roles, and I'm looking forward to that."

—IR



from Toronto to the UNDERWORLD



HOW SCOTT SPEEDMAN TURNED 60 SECONDS AT
SPEAKERS CORNER INTO A HOLLYWOOD CAREER

| BY MARNI WEISZ

It's 1993 and Toronto teen Scott Speedman has a dollar. He can spend it on anything — a chocolate bar, a cup of coffee. But instead he drops it in the slot at CityTV's *Speakers Corner*, and begs the casting director of *Batman Forever* to let him try out for Robin.

To this point, the 18-year-old has never acted in anything. He was a swimmer, attending Earl Haig Secondary School's renowned program for gifted athletes and artists, and even took part in Olympic trials — twice. But a neck injury quashed his aquatic aspirations, and he started hanging out less and less with the school's athletes and more and more with the actors.

He didn't get Robin, but that spot on *Speakers Corner* did get him an agent.

Now best-known as oh-so-perfectly tortured Ben Covington on the WB's defunct university-angst drama *Felicity*, Speedman is starting to build a career in movies — first with last February's L.A.P.D.-corruption thriller *Dark Blue* and now with *Underworld*, a dark, slick vampires vs. werewolves thriller which was shot in Hungary last fall and stars Kate Beckinsale as a leather-clad bloodsucker and

Speedman as a regular guy with a strange link to the ages-old monster feud.

Although he just bought a little house in L.A., Speedman was on one of his three or four annual visits home to Toronto when he spoke with *Famous*.

From what I've read, it sounds like you're desperately trying not to become an L.A. actor. You don't have a cellphone or a TV and you drive a Honda Civic.

"[Laughs.] I think a lot of that comes from the fact that journalists like to create a character that they can write around, which is understandable. And, you know, when I first moved down to L.A. I was pretty stubborn about not wanting to become part of the world down there. But I have to admit that I do now own a cellphone. I had to get one because I moved to New York temporarily and I was in a sublet which didn't have a phone. And I now have a TV. I kind of got addicted to basketball so I had to get a satellite so I could watch all the games."

Don't you play in an actors' league in L.A.?

"Yeah, it's an entertainment league. It's cool for a nerd like me. The NBA sponsors it and you get refs and the actual NBA uniforms."

There are lots of ex-pat Canadian actors who play in Jerry Bruckheimer's *Bad Boy Hockey League* in L.A. Is it just more comfortable to play with other celebrities?

"Well, most of the people in this NBA league are not actors. It's for agents and producers and directors. There are people who do stand out because they're celebrities, though."

Is it possible to just make friends with non-Hollywood people in L.A., someone you might meet at a coffee shop?

"It's possible. It's not easy, but it's possible. People do it a lot. I'm not that good at it, but people do it a lot."

What made you go to *Speakers Corner* that day?

"This girlfriend of mine heard that people were going on *Speakers Corner* and auditioning for this American casting director that was in town — Mali Finn. She was casting a couple of things, one was *Hackers* and one was *Batman Forever*. And my swimmer friends were all in Hamilton, so I was driving there one day and I was just going through downtown, and I was on Queen St. in a traffic jam, and I said, 'What the hell?'



> Kate Beckinsale and Scott Speedman in *Underworld*

"I'D RATHER HAVE A COUPLE OF DISASTERS AND FIND INTERESTING DIRECTORS THAN WORK WITH 70-YEAR-OLDS THAT HAVE DONE IT 30 TIMES"

So I double parked the car and I ran in. I literally just said my name and my phone number, and that I want to audition so call me, and they did."

What was the audition like?

"It was in this hotel. They had a separate audition for amateurs and I did a good job so they called me back. I was kind of the last person the casting director saw in Toronto, and I got to talk to her for a bit. So I said 'Should I get into this?' And she said, 'Yeah.' And she helped me get an agent."

Have you seen the *Speakers Corner* clip since?

"I did *Good Morning America* and Diane Sawyer surprised me with it. When I was watching it she actually said, 'What did they see in you?' It's weird because I look just like this punk kid that I wouldn't have called in for anything. I've got a bad Caesar haircut and bad acne to go along with it, so it's a mystery to me."

Would you say that was the most pivotal moment of your career?

"Yeah, definitely. Doing that audition

with that casting director and what happened in that room. Just even showing up, just going through the fear and coming out the other side is not an easy thing to do. I don't even know *why* I did, or what was driving me to do that.

And also, you know, the *Felicity* one for sure, auditioning for that was a pivotal moment, because I did not feel like doing that at the time."

Why not?

"I'd just dropped out of school [The Neighborhood Playhouse in New York]. I was pretty depressed. I was living on my mom's couch in Toronto and this casting director couldn't find a guy she liked, and she started shooting in five days. Then she remembered me, and she just decided to take a shot in the dark."

You've said the hardest thing about doing *Dark Blue* was having to shoot a guy, because in Canada we don't grow up with guns. Being such a pacifist Canuck, what was living in the States this past year like for you?

"That's a great question. It's all over the place. A lot of it brought up how proud I was to be a Canadian, and I was proud of what this country did. I do think that [the U.S.] is a good country, and I hope that it goes in a good direction. It can. For sure."

What appealed to you about *Underworld*?

"The director [Len Wiseman] had never directed a feature before, but you could tell from his stuff that he was good. I talked to him. You know, you get a feel. And at that point you just sort of jump off and see what happens. I'd rather ▶▶



►► have a couple of disasters and find interesting directors than work with 70-year-olds that have done it 30 times.”

What can you reveal about the plot and your character?

“This is a tough one. At its core it’s a war movie between vampires and werewolves set in modern eastern Europe, and my character, for whatever reason, the werewolves are tracking me, and need me. And Kate Beckinsale’s character is trying to figure out why. There’s a romance there for sure, but it’s a subplot. I actually just watched the preview online for the first time.”

And what was your impression?

“It’s hard for me to be objective, but I thought it looked really good. You’ve gotta remember they gave us \$20-million to make that movie, which isn’t a lot.”

Did you get to do your own stunts?

“Yeah, I mean, any really tough stunts I didn’t do [laughs]. But there was cool stuff I got to do. Like wire training. You’re in a harness and there are, like, two guys on either rope. Someone yells ‘Action,’ and someone yells ‘Pull,’ and I fly up into the air and try not to look stupid.”

How does that feel?

“Cool, very fun. It can be frustrating at times, learning to balance and stuff like that, but it’s great.”

It must have been a fun set — Len Wiseman and Kate Beckinsale just got engaged.

“That’s what I hear.”

Did they meet on the set?

“Yeah.”

You dated your *Felicity* co-star Keri Russell, and I know you hate talking about that. But I’ve always wondered, when you’re attracted to a co-star, do you ever think, “No, I’m not going to do this because it’ll probably last three months and then I’ll have to answer questions about it for the next 10 years”?

“God no. I mean, I’m not that petty, I guess. It’s just like anything else man, it really is. It’s not any different than any other relationship. If you feel something, you feel something. If you don’t, you don’t.”

But for most people, the only people who ask uncomfortable questions about the nature of their relationships are their parents — not the whole world.

“But you don’t think about it like that. First of all, they understand your life. They understand the pressures, they understand the ups and downs, they understand how crazy it can be and insecure it can be. They understand everything. So it makes total sense to me when I see actors falling in love with other actors.”

Speaking of women in your life, your next movie co-stars Sarah Polley, who also went to Earl Haig. Were you there at the same time?

“Yeah, I remember talking to her but she doesn’t remember talking to me, which I thought was funny. I think I was in grade 12 when she was in grade nine. But she was ‘Sarah Polley’ even then so that was probably why I was trying to talk to her [laughs].”

And what’s the movie you just did together?

“It’s called *My Life Without Me* and it’s about a girl who has kids at a relatively young age — 17, 18 — and isn’t down on her luck, but doesn’t have a lot of money. She lives with her husband in a trailer, that’s me, and she finds out she has six weeks to live and decides not to tell anybody. And she makes a list of things she wants to do before she dies and she tries to do them. It opens September 26th and is actually premiering at the Toronto film festival. I think *Underworld* will create it’s own buzz, and already has. But I think it’s just as important to [create a buzz about] a good Canadian film. If people are going to see a movie, they should see this one.” **E**

famous trivia

1

The Order was written and directed by Brian Helgeland and stars Heath Ledger and Shannyn Sossamon. Name the other movie the trio did together.

2

Twenty-three-year-old Christina Ricci plays the object of Woody Allen’s affection in *Anything Else*. Who was the youngest actor to play one of Woody’s girlfriends? Hint: She was 17 at the time.

3

Which 1995 western is the only movie *Cold Creek Manor* star Sharon Stone has produced?

4

In which movie did *Secondhand Lions*’ Haley Joel Osment play the son of Tom Hanks?

5

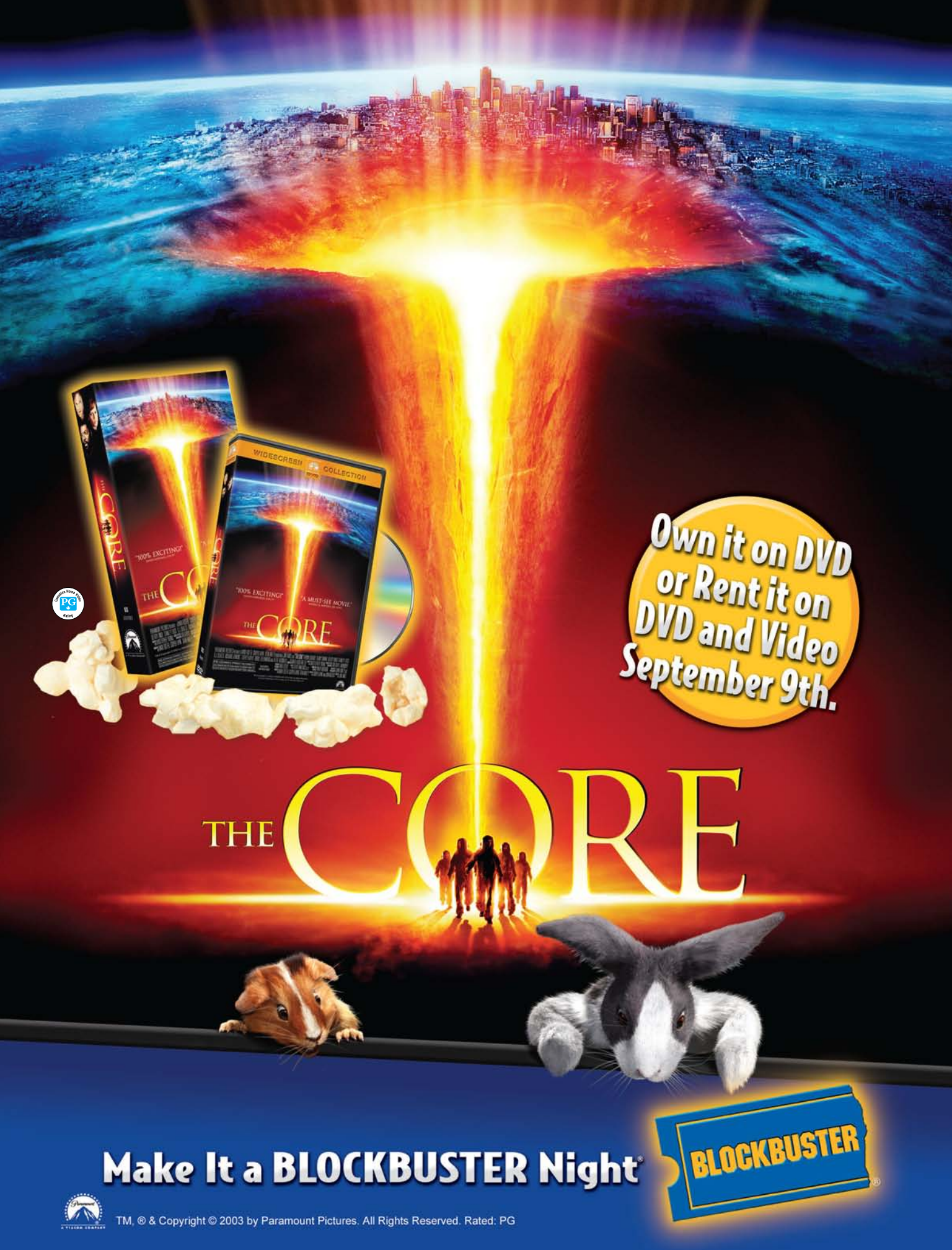
Which star of *Sex and the City* did *Matchstick Men*’s Nicolas Cage date in the early ’90s?

6

Once Upon a Time in Mexico director Robert Rodriguez has worked with Antonio Banderas six times. The first was for *Desperado* and the second was *Four Rooms*. Which trilogy makes up the other three?

A N S W E R S

1 *A Knight’s Tale* 2 Mariel Hemingway in *Manhattan* 3 *The Quick and the Dead* 4 *Forrest Gump* 5 Sarah Jessica Parker 6 *Spy Kids*



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Beckinsale *bites back*

Although it looked as if Kate Beckinsale had gone missing in action after her back-to-back performances in 2001's historical drama *Pearl Harbor* and the romantic comedy *Serendipity*, the 29-year-old British actress was simply gearing up for what may turn out to be the most intriguing phase of her career. While she did take some personal time to have a daughter with actor Michael Sheen, then break-up with him after a nine-year relationship, Beckinsale has spent the past two years filming a rather diverse group of films — the already-released *Laurel Canyon*, next summer's big-screen monster fest *Van Helsing* and this month's supernatural romantic thriller *Underworld*.

"I know a lot of people thought I'd decided to stop acting, but that would never happen, because it means too much to me," says Beckinsale, the daughter of English TV actor Richard Beckinsale and Judy Loe, a casting director for the BBC. "Acting gives you a particular kind of self-expression that is extremely stimulating. You discover so much about the characters, but you also discover a lot about yourself and life. It's a process that some people find through painting and singing, but for me it's through acting and writing. Although, I've not been writing much recently."

Instead, she's been busy playing a werewolf-hunting vampire who falls for a human with werewolf blood (Scott Speedman) in the fang-filled love story *Underworld*. "Imagine *The Matrix* meets *Interview with the Vampire*," she says. Initially, though, Beckinsale's long-time loathing for monster and horror flicks nearly had her pass on the project.

"I didn't even want to read the script,"

she recalls. "But when they said it wasn't a typical monster movie, but a totally different take on the horror film, I decided to give it a read. And I'm glad I did because it's really cool and original."

"I really liked Len [Wiseman]'s vision for it — I had complete faith in him as a director," she says. We'll assume her opinion isn't swayed by the fact that she fell in love with Wiseman on set, and they're now engaged. "Also, I liked my costume a lot. I mean, I have an outfit complete with some really sexy leather pants. That sealed the deal for me."

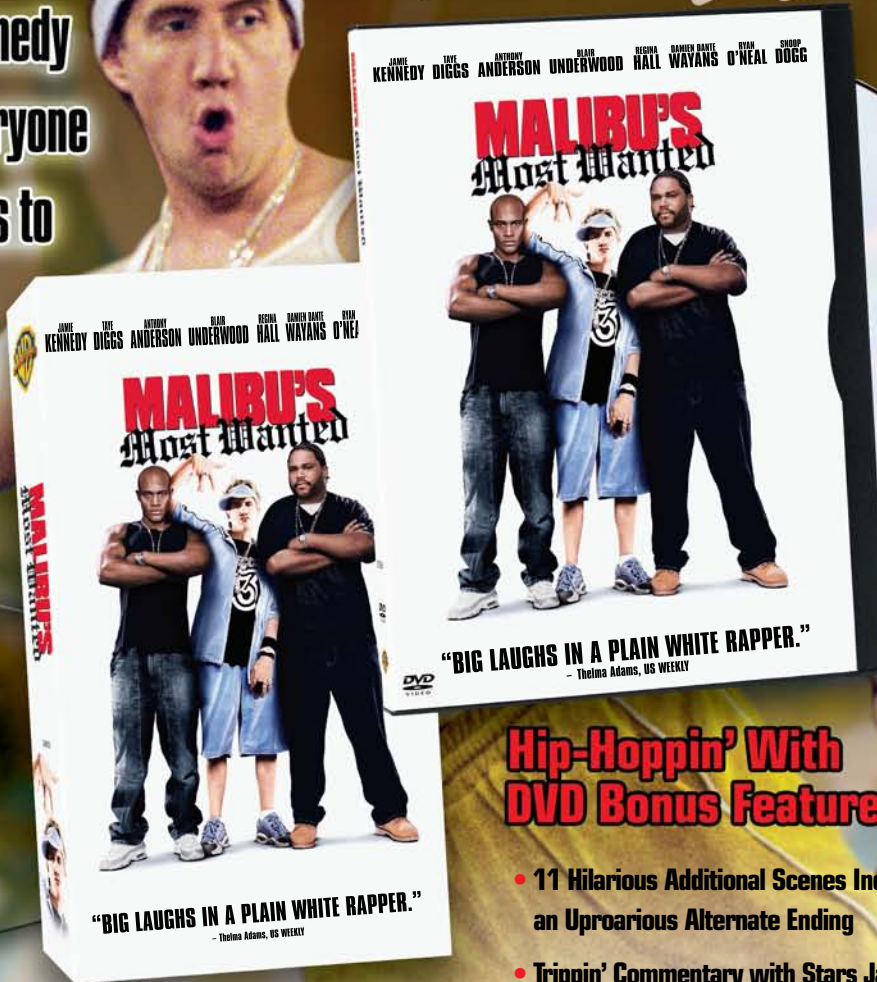
— Earl Dittman

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COMING OUT AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU

THE NEW COMEDY **MAMBO ITALIANO** TELLS OF A NICE ITALIAN BOY WHO SHOCKS HIS TRADITIONAL PARENTS BY REVEALING HE'S GAY. LEADING MAN **LUKE KIRBY** EXPLAINS WHY IT DIDN'T REALLY MATTER THAT HE'S NOT ITALIAN, AND HE'S NOT GAY

| BY MARNI WEISZ

It's too bad Luke Kirby's so ugly. His hideous appearance almost cost the 25-year-old National Theatre School graduate the lead in *Mambo Italiano*, a light Canadian comedy about Angelo, a gay Montrealer who does the unthinkable and comes out to his old-world Italian parents — mom Maria (Quebec actor/singer Ginette Reno) and dad Gino (American character actor Paul Sorvino). The film will enjoy one of the largest openings in Canadian film history this month, with a rare simultaneous release in the U.S. Plus, it nailed down the coveted Saturday night gala spot at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Kirby might not look so bad to you — but the response his audition tape got from *Mambo's* casting director went something like this: "They love the tape, they really like [the character you've created]. They think he's really funny. But they think he's ugly," Kirby recalls, pausing to laugh. "They think he's fat and really unattractive."

When Kirby made that tape he was about to start shooting another film — *Luck*, a period piece which takes place during hockey's famed Summit Series of 1972. Kirby stars as an obsessive guy who develops a bad gambling problem after the girl he loves (Sarah Polley) moves away.

Which might explain the whole "ugly" thing.

"I had, like, mutton chops at the time, and pretty long hair," he says. "I had probably put on a bit of weight. I certainly let myself go a bit. I didn't intentionally go 'I'm gonna gain weight.' But I did say, 'You know what? I don't f-cking care because [my character's] life sucks.'"

So Kirby got on a train and went to Montreal to have a face-to-face with *Mambo's* director Émile Gaudreault and writer Steve Galluccio (who also penned the play on which it's based). "We hung out and did some scenes and they seemed to go well,"

Kirby recalls, “And I think seeing me in person, I dunno what — made them change their minds about the superficial nature of my being? Then they thought I was handsome or something like that.”

The fact that he wasn’t gay, and wasn’t Italian, “actually didn’t come up,” says Kirby.

The Guelph, Ontario native did, however, make sure he was in Montreal well before filming started so that he could spend time in Little Italy. “I got to know

making an impressive \$2-million in its first few weeks.

That early success, combined with the film’s ethnic subject matter, family focus, funny touch and indie nature made comparisons to *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* — the highest-grossing indie film of all time — inevitable. As for how Kirby responds to those comparisons: “I haven’t seen that movie. I just haven’t had the chance. I would watch it, I just haven’t. It’s not at the top of my list.”



“HE’S IN LOVE WITH THIS PERSON, AND YOU BREAK IT DOWN IN TERMS OF WHERE HIS HEART LIES,” SAYS KIRBY, “NOT IN TERMS OF WHAT GIVES HIM A BONER”



Kirby (right) with Peter Miller in *Mambo Italiano*



...and with Paul Sorvino and Ginette Reno

that aspect of the character, and really just tried to gauge what it would be like for him to be in the closet, living in that neighbourhood, in that culture.”

But Kirby didn’t waste a lot of time or energy developing the gay side of Angelo, who not only shocks his parents when he comes out, but also his happily closeted lover Nino (Peter Miller). “The sexuality thing is one part of that character,” Kirby explains, “and, truth is, you read the script and you say, okay, well, he’s in love with this person, and you break it down in terms of where his heart lies, not in terms of what gives him a boner.”

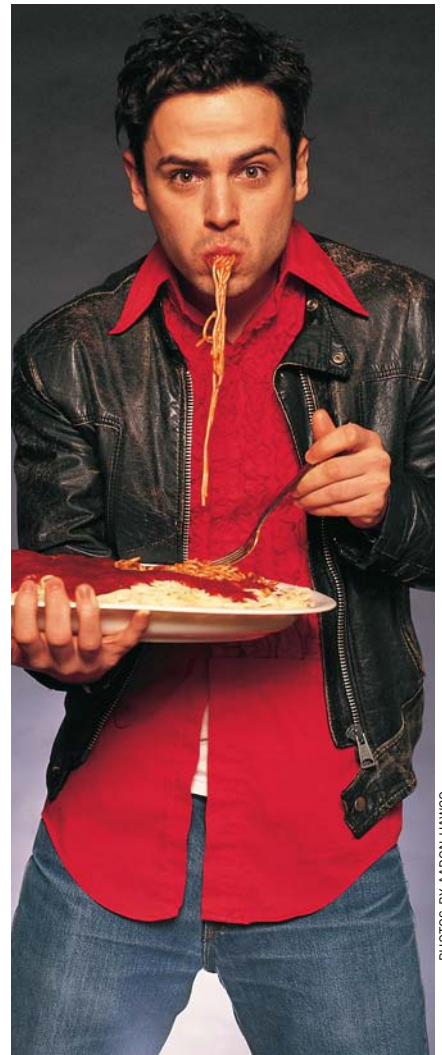
Like Paul Gross’s 2002 curling comedy *Men with Brooms*, *Mambo Italiano* has a chance to hack away at the reputation Canadian films have of being serious, depressing, and non-commercial. But that doesn’t mean the film is a piece of fluff. Even though the tone is light, the subject matter gives it a certain edge, or as Kirby puts it, “It’s very well balanced. If it goes anywhere too far, it manages to pull it back with something else.”

Being Montreal-made, and starring some of Quebec’s biggest celebs (aside from Reno, there’s Sophie Lorain who also appears in Denys Arcand’s latest, *Les Invasions Barbares*), *Mambo Italiano* actually opened in Quebec last June,

That cool attitude might help the young actor deal with whatever fame he’s about to find. He’s actually doing this interview via cellphone as he drives down L.A.’s Santa Monica Blvd. in a rental car. “I’m just *cruuuuising*. I came down to spend time with my new Americano agent,” he says with a bit of a mock-Hollywood drawl. “It’s a little overwhelming. It’s L.A. and I’ve never spent any time here. It’s a new city and I’m driving a car and my legs are practically atrophied because I haven’t walked in three weeks.”

What the future holds for Kirby truly is a question mark — and in more than just a career sense. “I’m leaving L.A. this weekend. I don’t really know where to, maybe to Vancouver, New York or back to Toronto,” he says. The aimless drifting is, in part, because just three weeks previous he had to give up his sublet apartment in Toronto’s Parkdale neighbourhood.

And in terms of where his career’s going? “I don’t really know, I don’t have a sense of where I’m at,” Kirby admits. “I have two movies coming out that I’m very proud of, and I feel kinda lucky to be a part of. And that’s exciting. But I don’t know what it means in terms of career or anything like that. I just keep pushing it.” **F**



PHOTOS BY AARON HAWCO



BACK *in* BLACK

AFTER TAKING A DEPARTURE FROM HIS SEXY, SMOLDERING IMAGE TO PLAY DAD TO THE SPY KIDS AND GIVE BROADWAY MUSICALS A SHOT, ANTONIO BANDERAS RELOADS HIS GUNS FOR THE THIRD EL MARIACHI FILM, *ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO* | BY BARRETT HOOPER

Not since Phoebe Cates emerged like a wet dream from the swimming pool in *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* has an actor in slow motion so excited an audience as Antonio Banderas in *Desperado*. Remember him leaping backward from a rooftop, eyes smoldering and twin .45s blazing? Or walking down a dusty Mexico main drag with a guitar case full of guns and Salma Hayek at his side? Moments more beautiful — and more volatile — than any *Matrix* bullet-time shootout.

Strangely, it doesn't appear to be an effect created by the camera but simply something captured by it. Because, entering the L.A. hotel room for our interview, Banderas moves with the casual directness of a runway model, graceful, unhurried and in perfect focus.

The 43-year-old Mambo King has just stepped off a flight from Buenos Aires, where he was filming the political thriller *Imagining Argentina*, and he looks more like an island castaway than a Latin Lothario. He's wearing a white cotton shirt open at the neck, his hair is short and greasy and his beard is flecked with grey. And although he hasn't slept in 35 hours, his brown eyes are clear and sharp and he speaks in flourishes of passionate prose.

His speech is almost lyrical at times, which isn't surprising — the *Evita* star plays piano and guitar, sings and has composed and recorded dozens of songs in his home studio, mainly for his children. It's a love of music that informs his portrayal of the gunslinging guitar player in the El Mariachi revenge trilogy, which continues with this month's Sergio Leone-inspired *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*.

In the film, Banderas goes after the drug lord (Willem Dafoe) responsible for his wife's death, while Johnny Depp plays a crooked

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CIA agent. “It’s The Good, The Bad & The Ugly,” says Banderas. “I, of course, am the good.”

And under the direction of maverick filmmaker Robert Rodriguez, who entered indie-film history when he loaned his body for medical research to raise \$7,000 to make *El Mariachi*, audiences can expect more Hong Kong-style, slow-mo showdowns and, of course, a Mexican standoff or two.

“We are not doing serious violence. Serious violence is Coppola, where you find the head of a horse in the bed of a gangster. This is opera, this is Spanish,” Banderas says, comparing the character’s presence to a bullfighter or a flamenco dancer. “He’s a very sad character, very romantic. He lives alone in a big mansion that was totally destroyed, and the only relationships he has are with these guitar makers. He plays a lot of soulful ballads. And then he goes after the man who killed his wife.”

“Antonio plays him very much like the artist as hero, where he’s an artist who can no longer express himself creatively,” said Rodriguez during an interview for the recent *Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over*, the final chapter in his junior James Bond trilogy which also stars Banderas. “So he bottles up all his emotions and ultimately explodes.”

Banderas is also making some noise on Broadway, where he’s earning standing ovations as the star of the musical *Nine* at the Eugene O’Neill Theater.

Inspired by Federico Fellini’s semi-autobiographical film *8 1/2*, *Nine* casts Banderas as Guido Contini, a womanizing Italian director on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Contini is in love with his wife, mistress and muse, but is blocked creatively. The title comes

“I don’t know what a Latin lover is anyway,” says Banderas. “I am Latin. And I am a lover.”

from his emotional age as he approaches his 40th birthday.

Banderas describes Contini’s contradictions as a cross between Don Giovanni and Pinocchio. “I probably have been Guido Contini at times in my life,” he says. “Not with my talent, but certain areas of my relationships. With women, yeah. Pretty messy.”

Newsweek praised Banderas’s performance as “hilarious yet vulnerable,” and the actor himself calls the role his “dream project.” But that didn’t stop him from turning the part down when it was first offered to him four years ago. “I was scared, afraid of doing theatre in English and a musical on Broadway,” he admits. “I have a sense of respect for musical theatre that is very strong. I think it’s probably one of the hardest art forms. It’s very demanding, and you have to become almost like an athlete to do eight performances a week singing.”

Acting has been a passion for Banderas since he was a teen, when a broken foot ended his dreams of playing professional soccer in Malaga, Spain. “The first time I decided to be an actor was when I saw *Hair* in Spain in 1973,” he says. A year later he was performing on stage for \$5 a night in Madrid, where director Pedro Almodovar found him and cast him in his first film, 1982’s *Labyrinth of Passion*.

Since making his Hollywood debut in 1992’s *Mambo Kings* — and despite being an acclaimed actor in his native Spain

thanks to such films as Almodovar’s *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* and *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!* — Banderas has found himself typecast as a cat-eyed Don Juan both on- and off-screen. He swept Catherine Zeta-Jones off her feet in *The Mask of Zorro*, yearned for Madonna in *Evita* and was spurned by Angelina Jolie in *Original Sin*. He also charmed Melanie Griffith away from on-again, off-again husband Don Johnson in real life.

“I kind of understood the Latin lover thing. It’s very difficult to get away from that,” he says. “I don’t know what a Latin lover is anyway. I am Latin. And I am a lover.”

At the same time, he relishes the opportunity to let his hair down and indulge his inner Desi in films like *Spy Kids*. As Gregorio, the father of a pair of junior supersleuths, his pencil-mustached composure takes a beating. In particular, last year’s *Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams* shows Banderas in a decidedly unsuave light. One particularly hilarious scene has him and co-star Mike Judge squaring off in one of the lamest fistfights since Laverne threw down on Shirley in a sitcom slapfest.

“It’s fun to hear audiences react to this side of Antonio,” says Rodriguez, who took particular glee in ruffling the star’s peacock feathers. “Everybody thinks of him as this debonair, do-no-wrong ladies man with the sexy accent, and then they see him acting wacky. I know him and he’s like that already and I wanted to show a bit of that.”

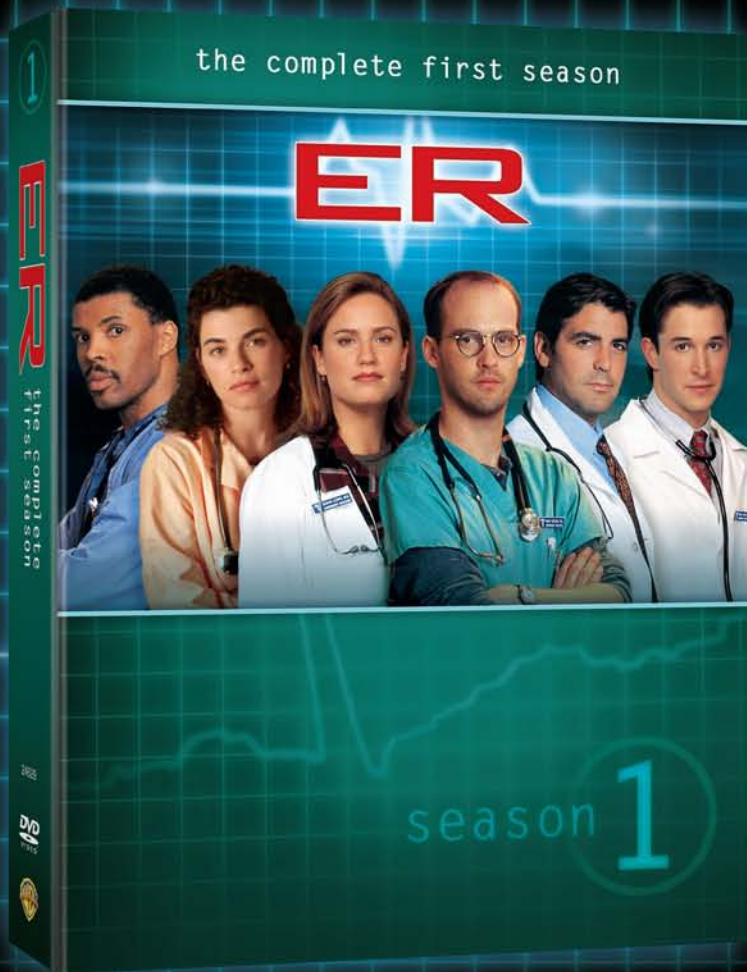
While he often comes across as quite humourless during our interview, Banderas says he enjoys laughing at himself. “I love to tell, in some way, the message, which is ‘Don’t take it so seriously.’ I never ever forget in my life that the product that we do costs \$7 [U.S.],” he says. “That doesn’t mean that I don’t respect the movies. But I recognize myself much more as a comedian, as a working actor who loves to be eclectic.”

And if Rodriguez calls on him to star in a fourth *El Mariachi* movie (which the director has hinted is a possibility), Banderas won’t hesitate. “I love working with him, and I am not even thinking career-wise,” Banderas says. “In fact, I don’t really give a damn about my career. Anything he calls me to do I will do, no question.” **F**

Barrett Hooper writes about movies for the National Post.

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HAWKSLEY WORKMAN IS NOT A CABARET SINGER, AND KRALL AND WAINWRIGHT GO HOLLYWOOD | BY INGRID RANDOJA

HAWKSLEY'S WORKMANSHIP

A quick update on the whimsical world of Hawksley Workman. But first...some background.

Born Ryan Corrigan in Huntsville, Ontario, he demonstrated a prodigious talent for music as a kid (he played a mean set of skins) and recorded his first album at the age of 20. He changed his name (the revamped handle is the combination of his maternal grandparents' names), moved to Toronto and produced two sexy, evocative albums, 1999's *For Him and the Girls*, and 2001's (*last night we were*) *The Delicious Wolves*. *Wolves* produced the suggestive cult hits "Striptease" and "Jealous of Your Cigarette," which showcased Workman's seductive voice and cleverly arousing lyrics.

He spent most of 2002 living in Paris, where his music was feted by the French media. He toured with David Bowie (Workman's voice is often compared to Bowie's), and even covered The Beatles tune "Revolution" for a commercial starring soccer star Zinedine Zidane.

But late that year he made his way back home, more specifically, to a 100-year-old schoolhouse outside of Huntsville where he spent months writing and producing his third album, *lover/fighter*, which is, by far, his most complete album. It still contains Workman's tortured lyrics about love and loss, but it also has a couple of pop ditties that are sure to please.

"All my other records were made in two weeks, while this record took the better part of eight months," says Workman on the line from his Toronto home. "I patiently poured over every song and I went through the endurance of hating them, then loving, then hating and then loving them again."

"But there's less mystery in this record than my other records. There's nothing intellectual about those. I just sort of farted them out and there they are. They smell the same as the day I did them."

Workman's never been shy about using, ah, descriptive language. Remember, this is the man who wrote, "I'm jealous of your cigarette. And how you want to suck on it and not me." Yet he's surprisingly pragmatic about his writing style.



Hawksley Workman

"I develop the feeling the record is going to have," says Workman. "I know how it's going to taste, or at least what menu it's going to be on, and then I have a list of about 20 song titles and I work back from there. They're kind of like punchlines and all I have to do is write the jokes."

With *lover/fighter* Workman looks to shed his cabaret singer image, one that he once briefly courted and now hates.

"I was really disappointed by the laziness of some journalists who thought that just because I had a piano and I was a decent performer that I was a cabaret artist. Does that make Elton John a cabaret artist? I started to wonder, is Billy Joel a cabaret artist?"

"I didn't want this record to be misconstrued. It's a rock 'n' roll, pop record, probably better than a lot of other ones. Period."

CANUCK CROONERS ON SCREEN

You've already seen **Diana Krall** giving her best come hither look in those TV car commercials, so it comes as no surprise that she's making her move into movies. The 38-year-old Nanaimo-born jazz pianist/vocalist made her screen debut in 1999's soapy *At First Sight*, playing a singer. This month she hits screens again in Woody Allen's new comedy, *Anything Else*. But as per usual the tight-lipped Allen hasn't



Rufus Wainwright

revealed a whole lot about the film, including what role Krall will play.

Fellow Canuck **Rufus Wainwright**, whose new album, *Want*, hits stores September 23, is also making a move into movies. The tragically handsome singer is slated to act, and perform two songs, in Martin Scorsese's Howard Hughes bio-pic, *The Aviator*.

OUT THIS MONTH

STARSAILOR

Silence is Easy >> SEPTEMBER 2

This quartet from Northern England conjures up the ghosts of Jeff Buckley and a young Van Morrison to create their distinct melancholy pop sound.

ELVIS COSTELLO

North >> SEPTEMBER 23

Diana Krall's main squeeze releases his 24th album, which is loaded with piano-based ballads rather than electric guitar riffs.

STING

Sacred Love >> SEPTEMBER 23

Look for the airwaves to part when Sting's ballad with Mary J. Blige, "Whenever I Say Your Name," makes its way to radio stations.

THE MALE THOUGHT PROCESS

BEER



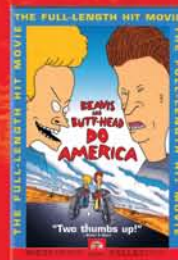
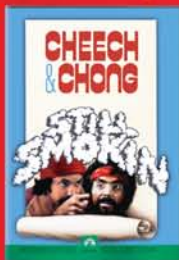
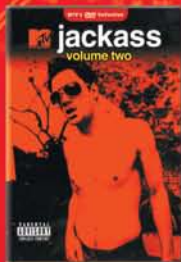
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new RELEASES

A MIGHTY WIND, BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM AND ANGER MANAGEMENT FOR THE SMALL SCREEN

SEPTEMBER 2

IDENTITY

Stars: John Cusack, Amanda Peet

Director: James Mangold (*Kate & Leopold*)

Story: Ten strangers take shelter at a desolate hotel during a particularly nasty storm. But their haven quickly becomes a hell when somebody starts killing them off one by one.

SEPTEMBER 9

BULLETPROOF MONK

Stars: Chow Yun-Fat, Seann William Scott

Director: Paul Hunter (debut)

Story: A nameless Tibetan monk decides to teach a mouthy street kid the secrets of kung fu so he can keep an ancient and powerful scroll safe from evil.

MALIBU'S MOST WANTED

Stars: Jamie Kennedy, Taye Diggs

Director: John Whitesell (*See Spot Run*)

Story: Afraid his would-be rapper son will ruin his re-election chances, a senator hires two thuggish actors to scare the lad away from the world of do-rags and moronically oversized pants.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Stars: Gwyneth Paltrow, Mike Myers

Director: Bruno Barreto (*Bossa Nova*)

Story: A fledgling stewardess does battle with mean-spirited rivals, airplane food and a really weak script.

SEPTEMBER 16

ANGER MANAGEMENT

Stars: Adam Sandler, Jack Nicholson

Director: Peter Segal (*Tommy Boy*)

Story: In a stunning inversion of their never-tiresome on-screen personas, Jack stars as an eccentric, unstable wacko, while Sandler walks around screaming and punching people.

CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND

Stars: Sam Rockwell, George Clooney

Director: George Clooney (debut)

Story: This based-on-a-“true”-story bio-pic tells the tale of TV producer Chuck Barris, who spent his days on *The Gong Show* and his nights (according to him) on the job as a CIA assassin.

SEPTEMBER 23

DADDY DAY CARE

Stars: Eddie Murphy, Steve Zahn

Director: Steve Carr (*Dr. Dolittle 2*)

Story: A couple of recently laid-off dads open their own male-run day care centre, leading to plenty of sugar highs, wayward bodily fluids and screeching kids.

HOLES

Stars: Sigourney Weaver, Jon Voight

Director: Andrew Davis (*Collateral Damage*)

Story: After being sentenced to Camp Green Lake — a barren wasteland where young prisoners dig holes to “build character” — a couple of kids discover an amazing secret. Based on the award-winning novel.



Identity

A MIGHTY WIND

Stars: Christopher Guest, Eugene Levy

Director: Christopher Guest

(*Best in Show*)

Story: This latest “mockumentary” from Guest sets its sights on folk musicians. But while the jokes fly fast and furious, the film’s oddly sweet semi-dramatic love story steals the show.

SEPTEMBER 30

2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

Stars: Paul Walker, Tyrese

Director: John Singleton (*Baby Boy*)

Story: The hard-driving gearheads return for another round of street racing and undercover police work in this brain-dead ode to souped-up Honda Civics and neon undercarriages.

BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM

Stars: Parminder Nagra, Keira Knightley

Director: Gurinder Chadha (*What's Cooking?*)

Story: A British Sikh girl goes against her parents’ wishes and sets out to become a pro soccer player in this delightful tale of rebellion, corner kicks and aloo gobi.

new to DVD

MONTY PYTHON NEW EDITIONS

Two of the Python gang’s hilarious feature films — *Meaning of Life* and *The Holy Grail* — come to DVD, complete with a raft of trippy special features. Perfect for all those annoying geeks who feel that reciting the entire “Knights Who Say ‘Ni’” routine verbatim is the pinnacle of comedy.

FARGO: SPECIAL EDITION

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september

HOROSCOPE | BY DAN LIEBMAN

virgo

August 23 >>> September 22

The first 10 days of the month aren't the easiest: friends come on strong, your ego is easily bruised and family stress intensifies. But a huge reversal starts around the 11th.

libra

September 23 >>> October 22

Your charm lies in the way you convince people that they can't survive without your help. Your longing for privacy won't be satisfied until the latter part of September. Seek out second opinions in health matters. With relationships, follow your instincts.

scorpio

October 23 >>> November 21

You've recently been overshadowed in either a family or work situation. But with the full moon of the 10th, you take on a much higher profile. Any drought in your social life ends with a couple of glitzy events toward the latter part of September.

sagittarius

November 22 >>> December 22

You shift gears early in the month, moving from a creative period to one emphasizing business and other practical interests. Family tensions ease up when you take a neutral approach. Communications hit a snag around the 20th. Back up files and copy important documents.

capricorn

December 23 >>> January 20

Money is less tight and it's a good time to collect outstanding debts. Still, you're not quite ready to splurge. You're becoming more decisive and more persuasive.

aquarius

January 21 >>> February 19

Someone you need to contact is doing a disappearing act. But your persistence and charm can wear anyone down — so don't give up. Check important documents to make sure they're all up-to-date. Overall, it's a superb month for bargain hunting and decorating.

pisces

February 20 >>> March 20

A period of cooperation and collaboration continues, as long as you're willing to carry 60 percent of the load. Make a point of being with those who bring out your best qualities. Late in the month, you can expect to run into someone you're trying to avoid.

aries

March 21 >>> April 20

Achievement is heightened. You can ace exams, and your pet project gets the approval you've been seeking. September may also find you learning more about your family history. Book appointments — especially those related to health — as quickly as possible.



KATIA SMIRNOVA

taurus

April 21 >>> May 22

This is a month for leading, not delegating; for moving ahead, not indulging yourself; and, especially, for getting rid of clutter.

gemini

May 23 >>> June 21

This is not the month to stifle your opinions. You may be less than popular, but those who most benefit from your honesty will be grateful for it.

cancer

June 22 >>> July 22

The first two weeks are just right for promoting your ideas — and the more offbeat they are, the better. Your competitive nature takes over around the 17th. The last 10 days find you announcing your own blockbuster plans or hearing about someone else's.

leo

July 23 >>> August 22

Friends are unpredictable and even unreliable, especially around the week of the 21st. Relatives, especially older ones, are dependable and surprisingly generous.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



1st Lily Tomlin
2nd Keanu Reeves
3rd Charlie Sheen

4th Beyoncé Knowles
5th Raquel Welch
6th Rosie Perez
7th Shannon Elizabeth
8th David Arquette
9th Adam Sandler
10th Ryan Phillippe
11th Harry Connick Jr.
12th Paul Walker
13th Jean Smart
14th Sam Neill

15th Tommy Lee Jones
16th Mickey Rourke
17th John Ritter
18th James Gandolfini
19th Jeremy Irons
20th Sophia Loren
21st Luke Wilson
22nd Bonnie Hunt
23rd Jason Alexander
24th Nia Vardalos
25th Catherine Zeta-Jones



26th Olivia Newton-John
27th Avril Lavigne
28th Gwyneth Paltrow
29th Tom Sizemore
30th Fran Drescher

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10 STARS CONFESS *their most* EMBARRASSING MOMENTS

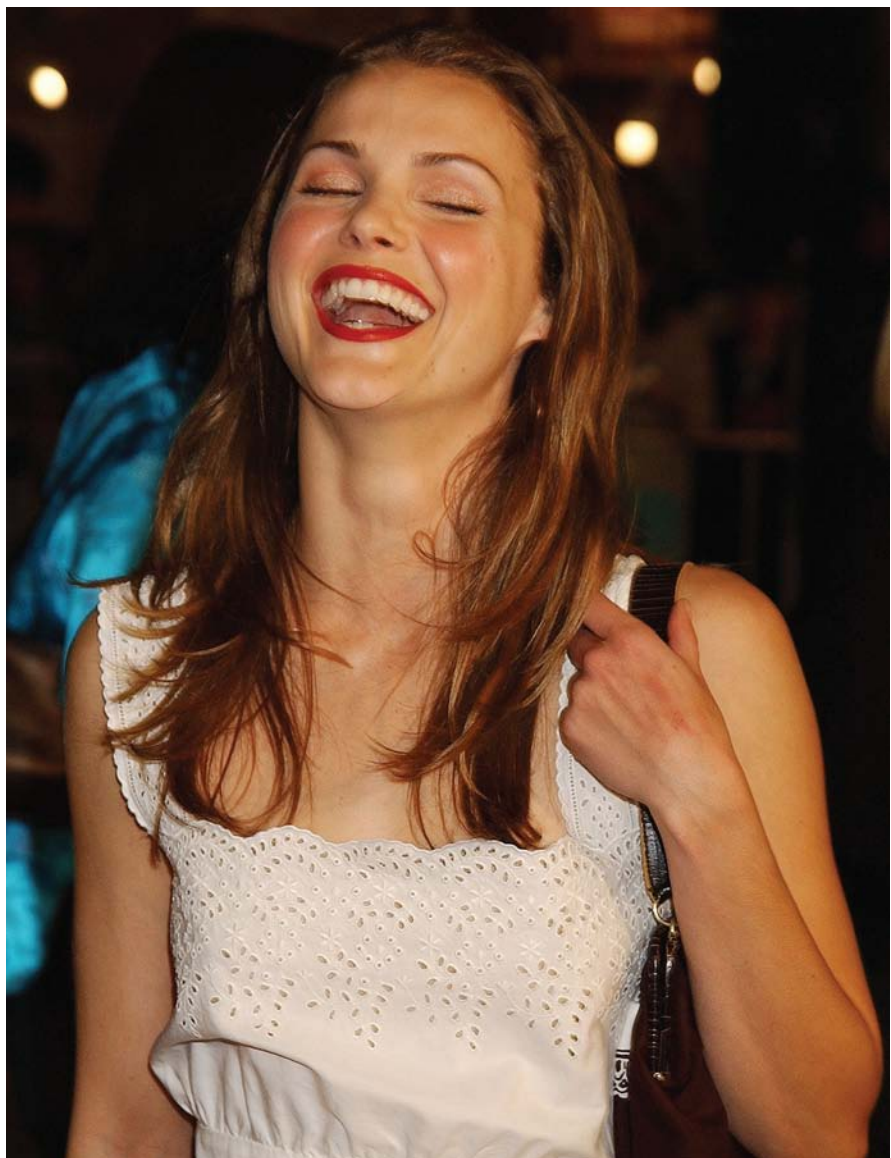
| BY SUSAN GRANGER

JADA PINKETT SMITH "I was at a barbecue at a friend's house and I had just bought a motorcycle. There were all these guys there with motorcycle horror stories and the scars to show it. I was like, 'You're full of crap,' but as I was leaving the party, I crashed into a truck — with all these guys standing there. I flipped off the motorcycle and ripped my clothes. I was trying to be all cool and not wear my helmet. But a friend persuaded me, that's why I wasn't badly hurt."

BEN AFFLECK "Watching an update of my relationships on CNN. It's bizarre in a way I cannot explain. You think, 'Isn't there something happening in Bosnia, by God?'"

MATT DAMON "I went around bragging to all my friends in Boston that the president of Touchstone Pictures had called and wanted to meet me. I arrived at Disney in New York and said, 'Hi, I'm Matt Damon, and I'm meeting with the president.' She said, 'But you're here on the list for the Mickey Mouse Club audition.' I danced. I sang 'Happy Birthday.' And I didn't even get the part. I was so embarrassed."

SETH GREEN "When I was new on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* the crew didn't know



KERI RUSSELL "Telling everyone watching the David Letterman show that I think I lost my virginity in a friend's apartment, in a bathroom suite with a closet, on the floor."

me, so they kept saying 'Extras are over there.' I'd say, 'But I'm in the show,' and then someone would ask, 'Do you need to fill out your SAG [Screen Actors Guild] waiver?' And I'd have to explain, 'No, I'm already in the union.'"

LISA KUDROW "I guess my most embarrassing moment was at Taft High in Woodland Hills, California, where I was told, 'You've got to put on makeup.'"

BRENDAN FRASER "I was dumped on Valentine's Day in college. Can you believe that?"

MERYL STREEP "When I went to the movies and said, 'I just can't stand that

guy's face! I'm sorry, I know he's a good actor, I just can't look at him.' And then I realized that I have that effect on many people."

EMILY WATSON "I had two — the two times I was rejected from drama school after I left university. I had quite a low opinion of myself at the time."

GOLDIE HAWN "I was dressed in a tutu, performing in the chorus of *Kiss Me Kate* in summer stock. One of the actors, playing a strong man, couldn't find his loincloth, so he showed up in a girl's leotard. I laughed so hard I peed down my legs. Everyone could see it. I didn't run offstage, though. I stuck it through."

PHOTO BY GREGG DEGUIRE/REIMAGE

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