MARCH 2012 | VOLUME 13 | NUMBER 3

CINEPLEX MAGAZINE

Inside

JENNIFER GARNER

ED HELMS

LILY COLLINS

TAYLOR KITSCH

EMILY BLUNT

THE HUNGER GAMES' JENNIFER LAWRENCE RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

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OUR EIGHT FAVOURITE LOOKS FROM SPRING'S RUNWAYS, Page 42!

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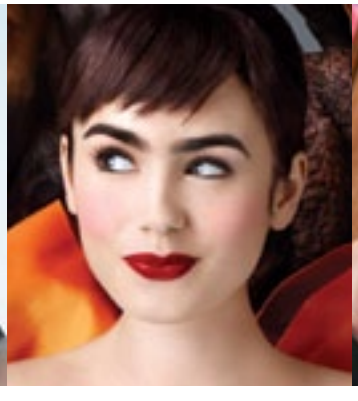

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EDITOR'S **NOTE**

GLADIATOR... **FOR KIDS!**

Imagine this movie pitch: "We want to make a politically charged gladiator movie — fight to the death, innocents killing innocents in order to save their own lives, a real bloodbath. And, get this, all of the participants are children! And it's aimed at an audience of children!"

Alas, there was no such pitch meeting for *The Hunger Games*, the first film of a trilogy poised to fill the hole left by the end of the *Harry Potter* and *Twilight* franchises. That's because the grim, but moving, thriller is based on a hugely popular book written for tweens and teens by children's author Suzanne Collins.

When *The New York Times* put *The Hunger Games* on its list of Notable Children's Books of 2008 the paper told us it was a "brilliantly plotted tale" in which "children fight to the death in ritual games" and it was "aimed at ages 12 and up."

It makes me think of another book that's creating a stir, Lenore Skenazy's *Free-Range Kids: Giving Our Children the Freedom We Had Without Going Nuts with Worry*, which was inspired by the outrage hurled at Skenazy after she allowed her nine-year-old son to take the New York City subway alone. Skenazy hypothesizes that today's kids are being raised on such short leashes they grow up scared of everything and unable to fend for themselves.

What an interesting contrast. The book that's popular with parents is about how kids are so overprotected they can't take the subway on their own, and the book that's popular with kids has a plot about children killing children that's so dark many adults would find it difficult to read.

So is *The Hunger Games*' popularity a case of kids craving the sense of danger that's absent from most of their lives? Or does Collins' brutal tale support the idea that there are dreadfully scary things out there and children should be very, very afraid? Perhaps both.

Now imagine casting such a movie. A litany of young women who've already proven they can take care of themselves (on screen, anyway) were up for the central role of reluctant fighter Katniss Everdeen, including Hailee Steinfeld, who bested murderous cowboys in 2010's *True Grit*, Saoirse Ronan, the titular assassin in last year's *Hanna*, and Chloë Moretz, who shocked filmgoers with her crude, violent heroine in 2010's *Kick-Ass*.

Instead, the role went to 21-year-old **Jennifer Lawrence**, who has some kick-ass cred of her own, having earned an Oscar nomination for her portrayal of an Ozark Mountains girl traversing dangerous terrain to track down her drug-dealing father in 2010's *Winter's Bone*.

In "Let the Games Begin," page 38, Lawrence tells us why she thinks *The Hunger Games* — a movie she says reminds us "of the worst part of humanity" — has struck a nerve with so many people.

Elsewhere in this issue we talk to **Jennifer Garner** about transforming dairy products into art for *Butter* (page 34), we're on the Montreal set of *Mirror Mirror* with **Lily Collins** (page 26), Canadian **Taylor Kitsch** gives us a preview of his Mars movie *John Carter* (page 22), **Ed Helms** talks about his two new films, *Jeff Who Lives at Home* and *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax* (page 30), and **Emily Blunt** discusses the impossible and *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* (page 37).

Plus, on page 42, we choose our **Eight Favourite Looks** from this year's spring runways.

■ **MARNI WEISZ**, EDITOR

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SNAPS

KUTCHER STREET SURFS

Caught in a torrential downpour during a trip to São Paulo, Brazil, **Ashton Kutcher** makes the best of it.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

ARNIE SNEERS

Arnold Schwarzenegger shows displeasure while watching the FIS Men's Downhill Skiing World Cup in Kitzbuehel, Austria.

PHOTO BY MARTIN SCHALK/GETTY

NIXON'S CLOSE SHAVE

Cynthia Nixon takes a curtain call after the opening performance of *Wit* in New York City. She plays a cancer patient.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL STEWART/GETTY

HUGH'S SNOW DAY

Hugh Jackman feeds daughter **Ava** fresh snow in New York City.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

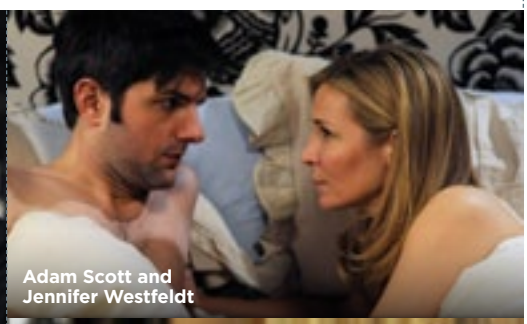
COTILLARD WRAPS UP

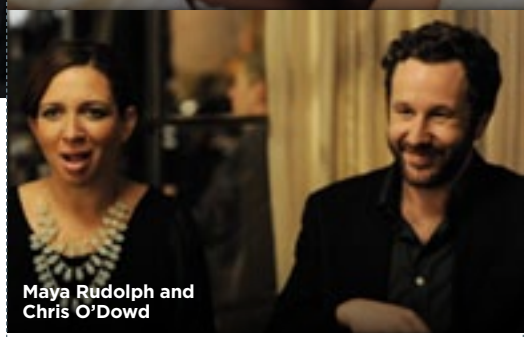
In Brooklyn's Prospect Park, **Marion Cotillard** (centre) shoots an as-yet untitled movie about an immigrant woman forced to work in burlesque.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

IN BRIEF

Kristen Wiig and Jon Hamm


Adam Scott and Jennifer Westfeldt


Maya Rudolph and Chris O'Dowd

THIS IS NOT A BRIDESMAIDS SEQUEL

Call it *Bridesmaids*' little sister.

Four of the stars of last year's big-buzz comedy *Bridesmaids* return in this month's limited-release indie *Friends With Kids*, though in completely different roles. Jon Hamm and Kristen Wiig, who played friends with benefits in *Bridesmaids* are now a warring married couple, while Maya Rudolph, who played the bride, and Chris O'Dowd, the Irish cop who stole Wiig's heart, are now a weary husband and wife raising two children.

None, however, are the stars of this new film about best friends who decide to have a baby together. Those roles go to Adam Scott (TV's *Parks and Recreation*) and Jennifer Westfeldt, who also wrote, directed and co-produced the film.

Jennifer who?

There are two ways to answer that question. Professionally, Westfeldt is best-known as the writer and star of the 2001 indie hit *Kissing Jessica Stein*, about a straight woman who has a gay relationship. But, personally, she's best known for kissing Jon Hamm; they've been in a long-term relationship for about 15 years.

Regarding the *Bridesmaids* connection, after a screening of the movie at the Toronto International Film Festival, Westfeldt told the audience that it was an accident. "We had no idea *Bridesmaids* would be the gajillion-dollar success that it is, we knew it would be great, and now we're just riding their coattails." *—MW*

Julianne Moore

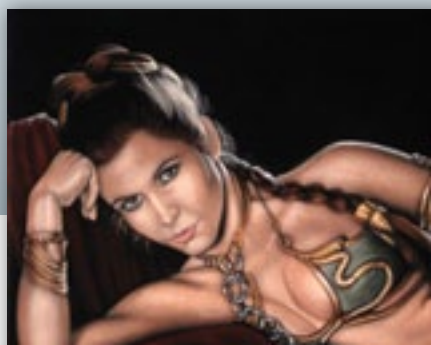
On Home Turf: THE SEVENTH SON

Julianne Moore and Jeff Bridges will haunt Vancouver's streets from mid-March to mid-May. They're in town to shoot *The Seventh Son*, a spooky 18th-century story about a young wannabe exorcist (Ben Barnes) who is tricked into unleashing an evil witch (Moore). Bridges plays the young man's teacher, Master Gregory.

Expect the movie to hit theatres in February 2013. *—MW*

THE ART OF FILM

Bruce White is a North Carolina-based tattoo artist who, in his spare time, likes to paint movie icons on black velvet, like these ones (clockwise from left) of Javier Bardem, Bill Murray and Carrie Fisher in iconic roles. But when asked why he's attracted to the medium White doesn't use words like kitsch or camp. Just the opposite. "Some of the earliest velvet paintings were actually created centuries ago depicting Christian religious icons," he says. "I'm a huge sci-fi fan and these subjects have become so embedded in pop culture they have become modern icons." Each piece is one of a kind; see more at www.velvetgeek.com. *—MW*



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PREGNANT MOM TREND!

Pregnant actors Alyson Hannigan (left) and Jennifer Garner both utilize their young daughters, Satyana and Seraphina respectively, to plug parking meters in Los Angeles. Garner is due this month, while Hannigan's baby should arrive in May.

PHOTOS BY SPLASH NEWS

Baby Bane

Not so scary now, are you Bane? The mumbling villain from this summer's blockbuster *The Dark Knight Rises* gets the Pop! Heroes bobble-head treatment.

Quote Unquote

She's completely insane, and that's always fun. She's unpredictable, and when I read the script I said, 'That is the role I've been waiting to play for a long time.'

—**OLIVIA WILDE** ON PLAYING A STRIPPER-TURNED-BUTTER-CARVER IN *BUTTER*

WHO'S BRO?

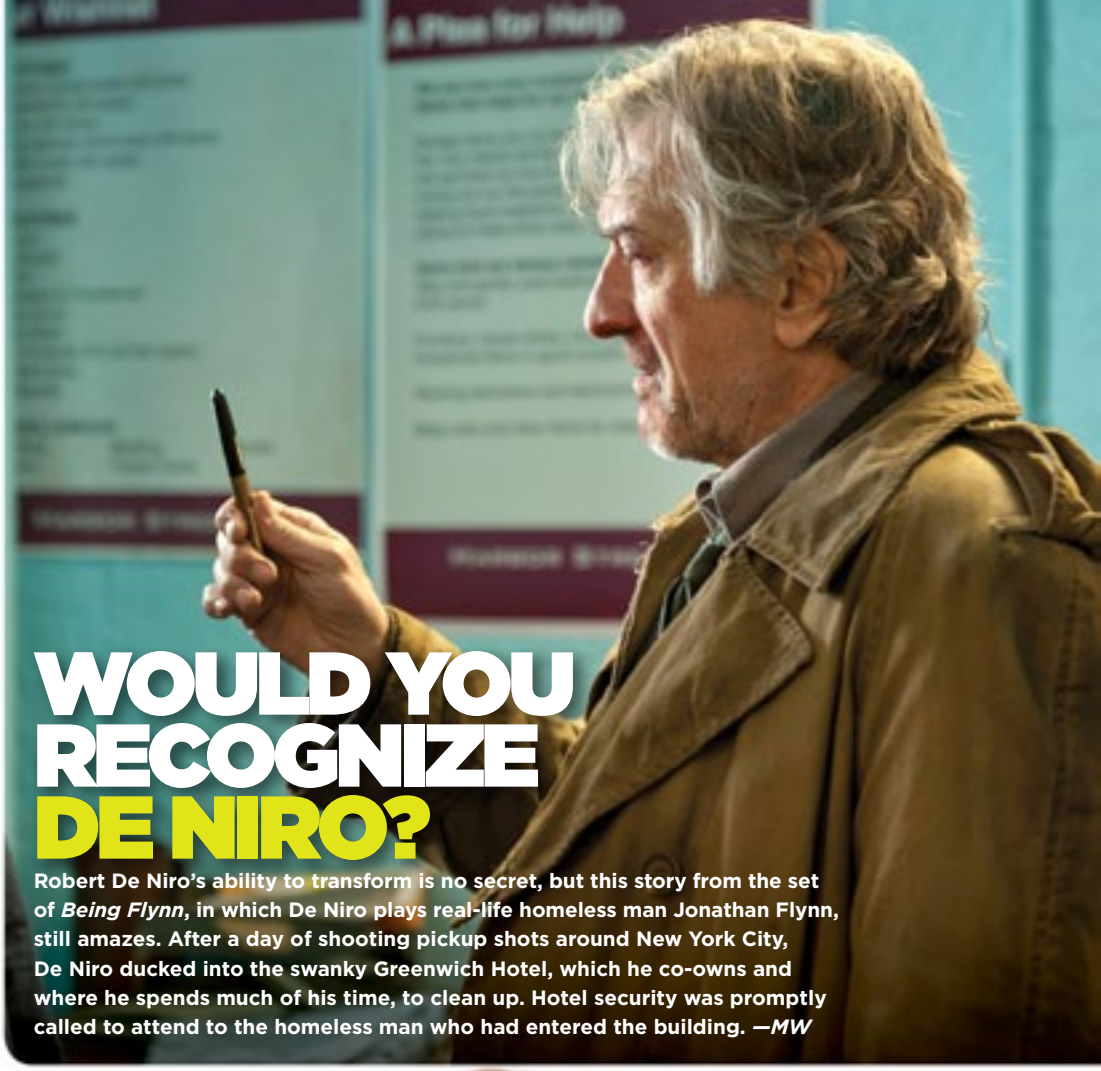
Any idea whose brother this is?

Meet Dave Franco, younger sibling of the equally adorable James Franco.

Twenty-six-year-old Dave plays high school drug dealer Eric in this month's *21 Jump Street*. It's not his first movie role, he played "Greg the Soccer Player" in 2007's *Superbad* and Mark, a bully, in last year's *Fright Night*, but it may be his biggest.

If you really want a taste of Franco Junior, though, check out his short films on Funnyordie.com, including the hilarious "Acting With James Franco" series, in which Dave gets acting tips from his satirically over-confident big bro. *—MW*

DANNY DEVITO PHOTO BY FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY



WOULD YOU RECOGNIZE DE NIRO?

Robert De Niro's ability to transform is no secret, but this story from the set of *Being Flynn*, in which De Niro plays real-life homeless man Jonathan Flynn, still amazes. After a day of shooting pickup shots around New York City, De Niro ducked into the swanky Greenwich Hotel, which he co-owns and where he spends much of his time, to clean up. Hotel security was promptly called to attend to the homeless man who had entered the building. *—MW*

¡VIVA EL LORAX!

When an animated Hollywood movie is dubbed for a foreign country, talent native to that country usually do the voice work. Not so for Danny DeVito, who plays the title role in *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*. DeVito also voices the Lorax in the film's Spanish, Italian, Russian and German versions. It's not that he's fluent in those languages; having a film's star dub in foreign languages is just becoming more common. First, a guide track is recorded by an actor who speaks the language, then the Hollywood star does their best to copy it with the help of a dialect coach. *—MW*

TIPS *from a* WAITER

The thing with making a movie about waiters is, you're bound to have a lot of chefs in the kitchen.

Joe Dinicol, star of the Canadian comedy *Servitude* — about one waiter's crazy last night on the job — confirms that "a good 90 to 95 percent" of the film's cast had waiting experience, as did writer Mike Sparaga and director Warren P. Sonoda.

"It's really the only thing we're qualified to do other than acting, if we're at all qualified to do that in the first place," says the 28-year-old Stratford, Ontario, native. He's been acting since he played Antony and Cleopatra's son at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in 1993; he's also waited or bussed tables at many restaurants in that time, including Toronto's Gladstone Hotel and Mildred's Temple Kitchen.

But, says Dinicol, the cast's waiting experience only made *Servitude* a better film. "It brought up a lot of stories and memories and creativity because we all had ideas about what to put in," he says. "If someone had an idea, we tried it. If it worked, great. If not, no one was too precious about it."

Dinicol's big contribution was the snap. "I was shooting a scene with Aaron Ashmore [who plays a customer] and he's giving me a hard time, and he sort of snapped his fingers. And I was like, 'Okay, we have to stop. We haven't done the snapping fingers thing.' I mean, I've been snapped at so many times in a restaurant I can't even count. And I looked at Mike Sparaga and I was like, 'Dude, we almost didn't put in someone snapping their fingers at you.'"

Dinicol is in the midst of his longest stretch without waiting tables. "Almost two years, knock on wood," he says. "I always assume I'll be back there."

And that wouldn't be such a bad thing.

"I actually quite liked it," he says. "On a good day you get to talk to people and charm them and entertain them, satiate them and bring them food. On a good day it can be a very, very good job.... Unfortunately, some people go to a restaurant and they aren't really there to enjoy themselves. They're there because they think they deserve to be there or because they can just afford it." —*MARNI WEISZ*

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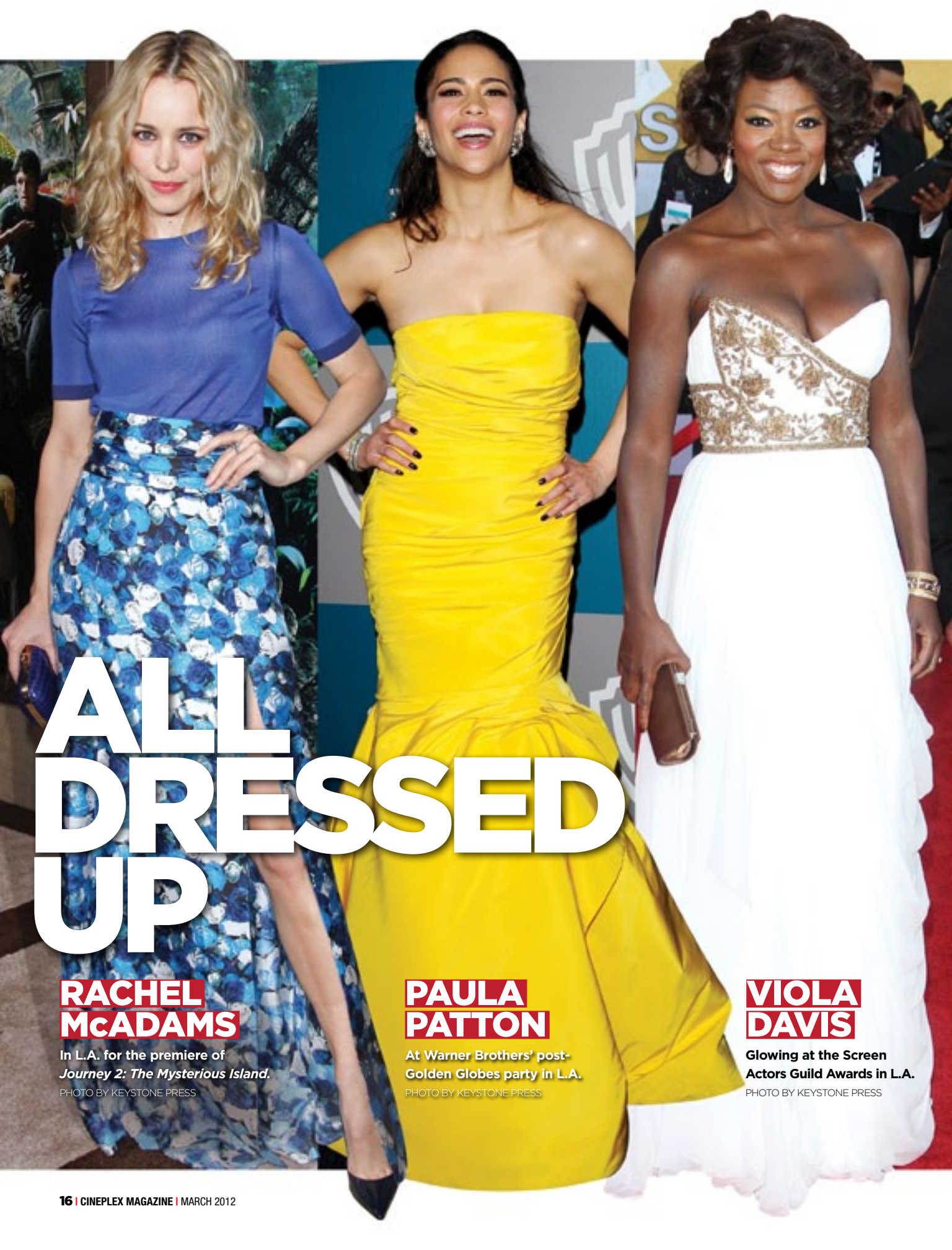


ALL DRESSED UP

RACHEL McADAMS

In L.A. for the premiere of *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island.*

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

PAULA PATTON

At Warner Brothers' post-Golden Globes party in L.A.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

VIOLA DAVIS

Glowing at the Screen Actors Guild Awards in L.A.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

JEAN DUJARDIN

In Los Angeles for the Screen Actors Guild Awards.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

TINA FEY

At the Golden Globes in Beverly Hills.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

DANIEL RADCLIFFE

At London's Royal Festival Hall for *Woman in Black*'s premiere.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

IN THEATRES

MARCH 2

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX

The producers of 2010's *Despicable Me* bring Dr. Seuss's beloved eco-tale to the big screen. A boy (**Zac Efron**) living in a world without nature sets out to impress a girl (**Taylor Swift**) by finding a tree. His search leads him to the bitter Once-ler (**Ed Helms**), who tells him of The Lorax (**Danny DeVito**), a small creature who did his best to guard nature from man's destruction. **See Ed Helms interview, page 30.**

PROJECT X

This raucous comedy is being dubbed "*The Hangover* for teens" with good reason. Three high school seniors — **Thomas Mann**, **Jonathan Daniel Brown** and **Oliver Cooper** — striving for popularity host a party that gets utterly out of control. Who invited the guy with the flamethrower?

MARCH 9

JOHN CARTER

Director **Andrew Stanton** (*WALL•E*) says he's been obsessed with **Edgar Rice Burroughs**' *John Carter* book series since he was a teenager. Stanton's special-effects extravaganza stars **Taylor Kitsch** as John Carter, a Civil War vet transported to Mars who finds himself caught between two warring races. **See Taylor Kitsch interview, page 22.**

BEING FLYNN

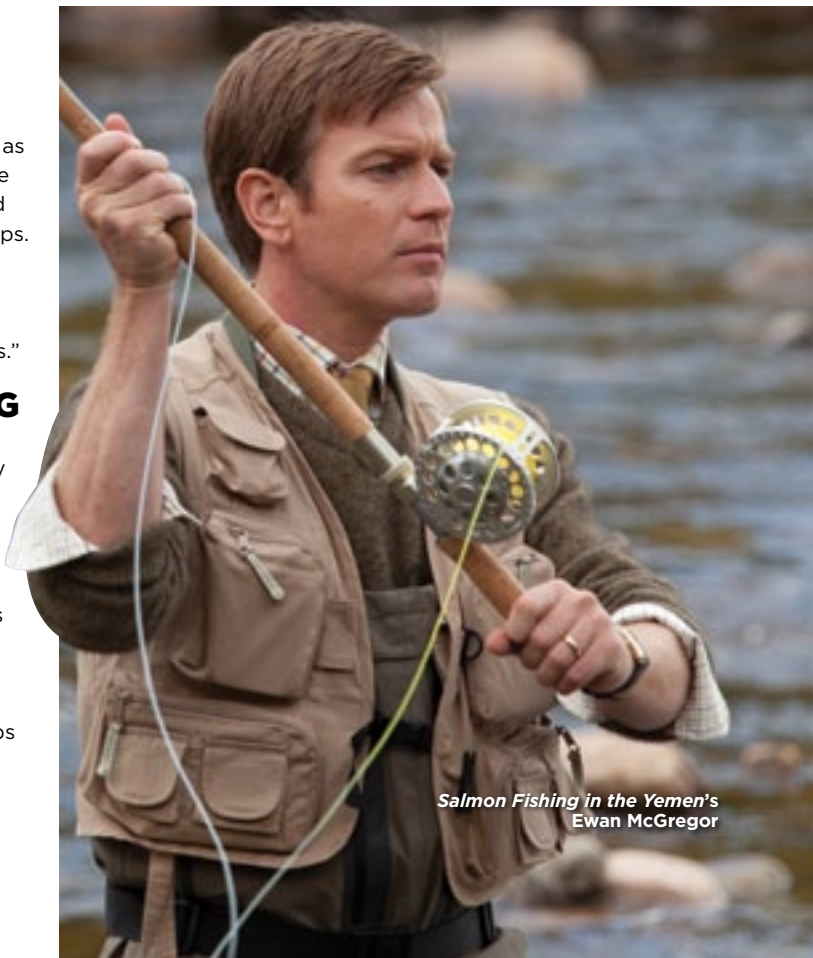
Paul Dano stars as a wannabe writer who takes a job in a homeless shelter where he meets his estranged father (**Robert De Niro**), a man dealing with demons and delusions of grandeur.

FRIENDS WITH KIDS

Best friends Jason (**Adam Scott**) and Julie (**Jennifer Westfeldt**) watch as all their married friends have kids, only to have the added burden ruin their relationships. Still, they know they want children. So they decide to team up and have a baby while remaining "just friends."

SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN

In this lighthearted, political inspired comedy, a British fisheries scientist (**Ewan McGregor**) is given the seemingly impossible task of fulfilling a Yemeni sheik's (**Amr Waked**) dream of building a fishing industry in his dusty Middle Eastern homeland. **Emily Blunt** steps in as the sheik's assistant. **See Emily Blunt interview, page 37.**



Salmon Fishing in the Yemen's Ewan McGregor

MARCH 16

21 JUMP STREET

The 1980s TV series that launched **Johnny Depp**'s career — he makes a cameo in the film — becomes a big-screen comedy starring **Jonah Hill** and **Channing Tatum** as incompetent cops whose youthful looks make them the perfect choice to go undercover at a high school and infiltrate a dangerous drug ring.

Margaret Atwood in *Payback*

PAYBACK

Canadian documentarian **Jennifer Baichwal** (*Manufactured Landscapes*) adapts **Margaret Atwood**'s book *Payback: Debt and the Shadow Side of Wealth*, which examines the origins of all sorts of debt — financial, societal and environmental — and what debt means to different societies around the world.

CASA DE MI PADRE

The fact that **Will Ferrell** doesn't speak Spanish didn't stop him from making this spoof of Spanish-language TV soap operas. He worked with a translator for a month to perfect his delivery playing an upright rancher whose brother (**Diego Luna**) involves the family in a war with a drug lord (**Gael García Bernal**).

JEFF WHO LIVES AT HOME

Writers/directors **Mark** and **Jay Duplass** (*Cyrus*) love to explore the psyches of quirky, emotionally lost men. They continue the trend here with this comedy about slacker Jeff (**Jason Segel**), who joins his brother Pat (**Ed Helms**) on a quest to catch Pat's wife (**Judy Greer**) cheating. **See Ed Helms interview, page 30.**

BULLY

In this award-winning documentary we see what life is like for five American teens troubled by constant bullying. We move from high school hallways to the kids' homes, where they and their families talk about the emotional and physical distress caused by bullying.

CONTINUED ▶

Jason Segel (left) and Ed Helms in *Jeff Who Lives At Home*

MARCH 23

Stanley Tucci and Jennifer Lawrence in *The Hunger Games*

THE HUNGER GAMES

The first novel in **Suzanne Collins**' best-selling trilogy comes to the big screen with **Jennifer Lawrence** as teenage rebel Katniss Everdeen. Set in the future, the former United States is now ruled by a pitiless government that demands teens from various districts battle each other in televised fights to the death called "The Hunger Games." Can Katniss and her partner Peeta (**Josh Hutcherson**) survive *and* hold onto their humanity? **See Jennifer Lawrence interview, page 38.**

FOOTNOTE

Nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at this year's Oscars, this Israeli dramedy focuses on the theological and personal conflicts between a father and son who both teach in the Talmud department at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

MARCH 30

MIRROR MIRROR

Director **Tarsem Singh**'s (*Immortals*) colourful, family-friendly film is the first of the year's two Snow White pics to hit theatres. **Lily Collins** plays the naive Snow White, who's sent packing by the Evil Queen (**Julia Roberts**) and finds herself making friends with a bunch of dwarfs and a handsome prince (**Armie Hammer**). **See Lily Collins interview, page 26.**

WRATH OF THE TITANS

In this sequel to *Clash of the Titans*, demigod Perseus (**Sam Worthington**), Queen Andromeda (**Rosamund Pike**) and Poseidon's son, Agenor (**Toby Kebbell**), come to the aid of Zeus (**Liam Neeson**), whose weakened control of Olympus leads to the release of the deadly Titans.

Joe Dinicol (left) leads a servers' revolt in ***Servitude***

SERVITUDE

Working in a kitschy steakhouse is bad enough, but when the servers, led by waiter Josh (**Joe Dinicol**), find out they're all going to be fired they take out their frustrations on the diners who torment them. **See Joe Dinicol interview, page 14.**

THE FORGIVENESS OF BLOOD

It's the clash of old ways vs. modernism, young people vs. their elders, in this Albanian film (directed by American **Joshua Marston**) about a teenage boy who's kept prisoner in his home to settle a feud between two families.

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***ERNANI* (VERDI)**
ENCORE: SAT., MARCH 31

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SAT., MARCH 3

SHREK
SAT., MARCH 10

E.T.: THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL
SAT., MARCH 17

STUART LITTLE
SAT., MARCH 24

THE NEVERENDING STORY
SAT., MARCH 31

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THURS., MARCH 8 & SAT., MARCH 17

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JOHN CARTER
HITS THEATRES MARCH 9TH

Canadian actor **Taylor Kitsch** gets his big break starring in the solar system-spanning period piece ***John Carter***

BY MARNI WEISZ

Taylor Kitsch is sitting at the kitchen table of a two-bedroom suite at London's Soho Hotel. The B.C. native — he was born in Kelowna, raised just outside Vancouver, but now calls Austin, Texas, home — is in England to spread the word about what is undoubtedly the biggest movie of his career, *John Carter*. He's already been to Paris and Munich to schmooze with the media and show clips from the film.

"It's coming out in a couple of months and we're raring to go," says Kitsch over the phone. "It's been so long since we started working on it.... We did some pickup shots six or seven months ago, but we started shooting on January 17th, 2010."

That's a long time in the career of an anxious young actor. To date, Kitsch is best known for playing an alcoholic high school football player on TV's *Friday Night Lights* and the mutant Gambit in *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*. But two years is not an unusually long time when you're making such an epic, special-effects laden film.

And this one is epic. It starts as a Civil War-era Western and ends on Mars.

Kitsch plays the titular John Carter, a veteran of the American Civil War who joins up with a nomadic tribe of very tall, green-skinned Martians called Tharks after he's somehow transported to the faraway planet. How does he get there? "I can't give too much away," says Kitsch, "but he's being chased by Apaches and runs into this cave, and something mysterious happens."

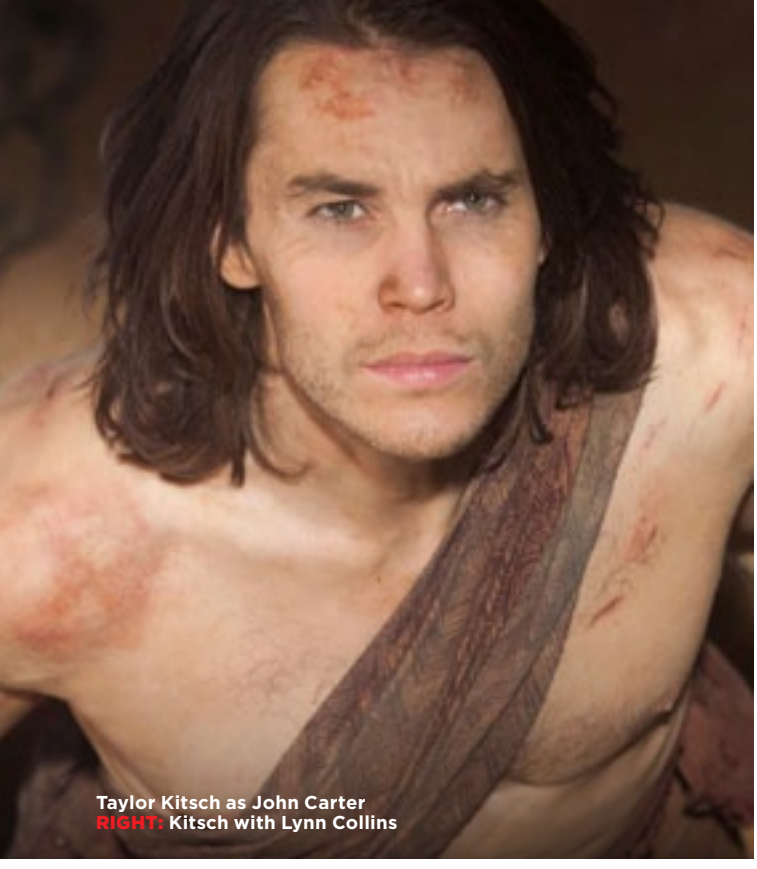
There's also a humanoid species on Mars, and when the Tharks take their princess (Lynn Collins) captive Carter has to play peacemaker and get her released.

If the idea of combining the 1800s with extra-terrestrials seems derivative of last year's *Cowboys & Aliens*, or an Earthling fighting on behalf of another planet's inhabitants reminds you of *Avatar*, you should know this movie is based on the century-old *Barsoom* series by novelist Edgar Rice Burroughs — Barsoom being the name the planet's natives use for their home world.

Best known as Tarzan's creator, Burroughs actually wrote about John Carter first, and the series kicked off with *A Princess of Mars* in February 1912.

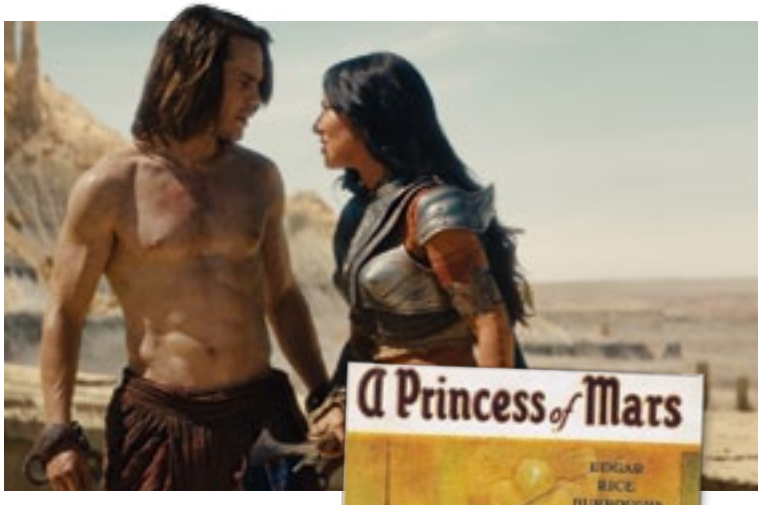
When asked whether it's frustrating to see his film compared to *Cowboys & Aliens* or *Avatar*, since John Carter's been around so much longer, Kitsch sighs. "I think that no matter what movie you make, there are always going to be other movies that you can compare it to. And I think that in five years people are going to be comparing other movies to *John Carter*."

CONTINUED ▶



Taylor Kitsch as John Carter
RIGHT: Kitsch with Lynn Collins

"In the trailer you see a lot of the physical stuff but there's **also lots of internal stuff, a lot of twists and turns in the plot,"** says Kitsch



▶ That would be the hope. After all, landing the title role in a movie rumoured to have cost about $200-million was quite a coup for Kitsch, who turns 31 next month. Reports are, both Jon Hamm and Josh Duhamel met with Disney to discuss the role. So why did the studio settle on the lesser-known Kitsch?

"I don't know, that's a good question for Stanton," Kitsch says of the film's director, Andrew Stanton, who makes his live-action debut with this film after helming the animated Pixar films *Finding Nemo* and *WALL•E*. "I was on my boat in Austin, on the lake, and he called me — it's always a good sign when the director makes the call himself — and he said, 'I just wanted to say great reading, and great screen test, and prepare yourself because you're about to have a lot of fun.'"

Could it have been Kitsch's physique that earned him the role? The actor had to be strung up on wires 150 feet in the air for some scenes that take advantage of Mars' lighter gravity. And before he became an actor, Kitsch made a living as a physical trainer and played Junior A hockey for the Langley Hornets.

But Kitsch doesn't think his muscles earned him the part. "I mean, if Jon Hamm had gotten the role I'm sure he would have prepared himself. I'd like to think it had more to do with my acting ability. In the trailer you see a lot of the physical stuff but there's also lots of internal stuff, a lot of twists and turns in the plot."

Just two months after *John Carter* hits theatres, Kitsch stars in a second big-budget, special effects movie that involves a surprising use of aliens — *Battleship*, based on the board game of the same name. But Kitsch, who plays a navy officer forced to take charge, insists he wasn't taken aback to see aliens had invaded *Battleship*'s script, despite having nothing to do with the Hasbro game. "It makes perfect sense," he says.

So, aside from taking place on battleships, how does the movie relate to the game? "There are little moments, an homage here and there. How we interact with the aliens when they come down," says Kitsch, adding, "and the aliens look like pegs."

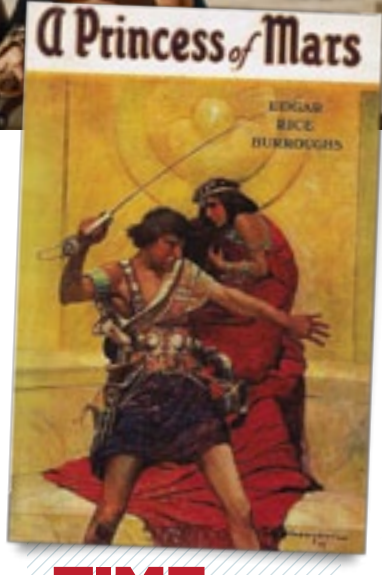
Kitsch continues his big year with an about-face, starring in Oliver Stone's character-driven thriller *Savages* in July. He plays a hippie pot grower who takes on a Mexican drug cartel when they kidnap the girlfriend (Blake Lively) that he shares with his business partner (Aaron Johnson). "It's just an incredible film," says Kitsch. "All of the cast, and Oliver, the characters and the story, it's all very unapologetic."

With such a busy schedule, it's no surprise when Kitsch admits he spends very little time in Canada these days. "I get back to B.C. maybe once a year, if that, at Christmas," he says.

But that's okay, because the dream home he's building in Austin is almost ready. He fell in love with the Texas city renowned for its rich arts community when he started shooting *Friday Night Lights* there in 2006.

"It's well-situated between L.A. and New York," he says. "I would never want to live in L.A., for a variety of reasons. Everyone's so creative in Austin, none of my friends are actors. They don't care who you are, which I love." C

Marni Weisz is the editor of Cineplex Magazine.



TIME WARP

While the American Civil War seems, almost, like ancient history to us, keep in mind that when Edgar Rice Burroughs published his first story about Civil War soldier turned galactic traveller John Carter in 1912, it was only 47 years after the Civil War had ended in 1865. That would be like a book that takes place during the Vietnam War coming out today. *—MW*

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MIRROR MIRROR
HITS THEATRES MARCH 30TH

FRESH SNOW

In only her fourth feature film, newcomer Lily Collins takes on the iconic role of fairy tale heroine Snow White for *Mirror Mirror*. So how did she get the role? Well, those eyebrows didn't hurt ■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

Armie Hammer as Prince Alcott
LEFT: Snow White (Lily Collins) with her dwarf pals

A prince leads his horse through a foggy, snow-covered forest lined with silver birch trees.

Except it isn't really a prince, it's actor Armie Hammer, the fog is actually a mixture of compressed mineral oil and C02, the snow isn't snow but three different types of road salt mixed together, and the birch trees are, in fact, dead birch logs standing on their ends to resemble live trees.

The horse, however, is real.

We are on the stunning Montreal set of *Mirror Mirror*, also known as "one of those Snow White movies." Filmed under the watchful eye of director Tarsem Singh (*Immortals*), *Mirror Mirror* arrives in theatres a little more than two months before the year's other Snow White pic, *Snow White and the Huntsman*.

What's the difference between the two films? *Snow White and the Huntsman* is the edgier, darker tale that stars Kristen Stewart as the avenging Snow White, while *Mirror Mirror* is the comedic, family-friendly version starring up-and-comer Lily Collins as the naive princess who goes toe-to-toe with her evil queen stepmother (Julia Roberts) and falls for the handsome prince (Hammer).

The daughter of Genesis drummer and successful solo artist Phil Collins, the 22-year-old Collins has a fresh-faced beauty perfectly suited to a fairy tale princess. Oh, and a pair of dark, thick eyebrows that director Singh says caught his attention immediately and clinched her casting.

"It's a compliment," says Collins. "He's a very visual director so he knew exactly what he wanted Snow to look like, and apparently he responded well to my eyebrows. [Laughs.]"

Collins is seated in front of another of the film's amazing sets — the dwarfs' home, which is located inside a huge tree. Poke around and CONTINUED ▶

▶ you'll find a hand-carved table and seven small stools, finely crafted pots and pans in the kitchen, and a wooden staircase leading to a raised sleeping loft.

The actors who play the dwarfs aren't home at the moment, they're on a neighbouring sound stage shooting a scene with Hammer. However, Collins, wearing dress jeans and a light top, is here to chat about the movie, and her take on one of literature's most famous goody-goody girls.

"She's this innocent princess that everyone knows," says Collins. "She's locked up in her room in the castle and the queen hates her. Snow's not given the opportunity to shine, but she escapes, and the dwarfs in our story are mentors, they teach her to look within and not to live on just how beautiful she is."

As with all Tarsem Singh films, *Mirror Mirror* is bursting with breath-taking visuals — from the magical sets to the over-the-top costumes.

"The whole look of the movie is so vibrant and it really plays on the idea that Snow White is all about colour," says Collins. "Tarsem takes colour to a new extreme in this film. And I literally have butterflies coming off of my dress, so while the film isn't shot in 3D, it has a 3D feel."

Mirror Mirror is Collins' fourth film. She debuted as Sandra Bullock's daughter in *The Blind Side*, then played Paul Bettany's niece in *Priest*, and she was last seen in *Abduction* as Taylor Lautner's gal pal. Although her movie resumé spans only a few years, the British-born Collins started working in showbiz about the same time she stopped wearing diapers.

"I've always loved performing, I did a TV show when I was two in England," she remembers. When she was six, her American mother, Jill Tavelman, divorced Collins and moved with Lily from their Surrey country mansion to Beverly Hills.

In L.A., Collins continued to study acting, did some modelling and TV work, but also took a keen interest in journalism. As a teenager she penned a column about life in L.A. for U.K.'s *Elle Girl*, and contributed to *Seventeen* and *Teen Vogue*. At one point she thought she might become a journalist rather than actor.

"I went to USC to study broadcast journalism and writing," she explains, "and I've written for magazines since I was 15, so I am always going to love journalism and I hope to continue writing. But there was a point where I was interviewing actors who I then was going to be auditioning with. It got a little bit awkward."

Maybe it was inevitable that acting would win out. Her grandmother, June Collins, was a theatrical agent, and father Phil was a child actor who played the Artful Dodger in the original London stage production of *Oliver!*, and was an extra in *A Hard Day's Night* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* before focusing on music. It's a side of her father she only recently got to know.

"A few years ago I was on vacation with him and I got some emails about putting myself on tape," she says, "so for the first time I got my flip-camera out and my dad and I did scenes together.

"We had never done that before. At first, it was like, 'This is awkward,' then it was really fun because I saw him light up in a way I hadn't seen before. Acting was the first thing he did, and all of a sudden he's like, 'Why don't you try this, or let's do this,' and it became this new part of our relationship that we had never entered before."

Her daddy will surely get a kick out of seeing his little princess as, well, a princess, and Collins herself is thrilled she gets to play the enchanting incarnation of Snow White as opposed to the armour-clad, warrior found in that competing movie.

"I actually read the other script," says Collins, "and they are two totally different stories. I'm really excited for Kristen, I think she's perfect for their version.

"Her and I have joked about it 'cause everyone thinks there's this huge rivalry, but there's not, we're friends and we're really excited for each other. And I think she's going to do an amazing job and I can't wait to see that version, but for me, this is the version I've always lived with in my head." C

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

DREAM CLASS

What do *Mirror Mirror* director Tarsem Singh, Michael Bay (*Transformers*) and Zack Snyder (*300*) have in common? They were classmates at Pasadena's Art Center College of Design.

"In that film class there were eight people, Zack was with me, Michael Bay was with me," says Singh. "Our professor said something like only five percent of the people who come out of film schools stay in the industry. Say you wanted to be a director and you wind up being a caterer on set, that's still considered in the industry.

"Out of those eight most came out of school and were working immediately, and we were employing our teachers in about eight months."

Whatever they learned paid off big-time — the three former classmates' films have earned a combined total of $5.9-billion worldwide. —*IR*

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THE LORAX
HITS THEATRES MARCH 2ND
JEFF WHO LIVES AT HOME
HITS THEATRES MARCH 16TH

The Rise of ED HELMS

With two movies in theatres this month, and his promotion to leading man on TV's *The Office*, supporting nice guy **Ed Helms** is looking more and more like a star ■ BY BOB STRAUSS

Ed Helms is everywhere these days.

Usually in a supporting role, true, but the 38-year-old actor has a way of snagging the spotlight in movies and TV shows. Some would even say his ability to mine comic gold out of insecure backup characters has turned Helms into a star.

He probably wouldn't, though.

"Star? That's just sort of this label that other people generate," Helms says during a ride through Los Angeles on his way to the taping of a TV talk show. "It's not something that feels very different while you're just walking around every day. It's kind of like a birthday, like 'How does it feel to be 35?' I'm still the same idiot I was before.

"But it has definitely changed the game for me professionally, within the entertainment industry," he acknowledges. "Which I'm really grateful for, that's just something that comes along once in a lifetime."

We watched Helms break out of the (wolf) pack to become the heart and deranged soul of the hit *Hangover* films. Then, this season, his self-doubting, socially awkward Andy Bernard was promoted to replace Steve Carell's self-assured, socially awkward Michael Scott as head of *The Office*.

And, this month, he's in two new movies, *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax* and *Jeff Who Lives at Home* — not playing the Lorax or Jeff, though.

"*The Lorax* is a big animated movie based on the Dr. Seuss book," Helms explains. "Danny DeVito is the Lorax, I'm the Once-ler."

For those unfamiliar with Seuss's 1971 eco-parable, the Lorax is a mythical creature whose mission is to protect trees and the imaginary animals those trees support. The Once-ler, however, narrates the tale of his own initially innocent, increasingly greed-driven, destruction of a forest — and is arguably the book's real, well, star.

"There's a wide range of emotions," says Helms, a veteran of voiceover commercials and TV cartoons, of his first major movie voice role. "Joy, accomplishment, megalomania, remorse — and he can be sort of mean."

Jeff Who Lives at Home was written and directed by Jay and Mark Duplass, the brother team that started in the no-budget mumblecore movement (*The Puffy Chair*, *Baghead*) and moved up the indie ladder with *Cyrus*.

"Gosh, I am so proud of this movie," Helms gushes. "Jason Segel and I are co-stars. We play brothers. Jason is Jeff, I'm Pat, and the story is I find out that my wife might be cheating on me, and Jeff and I go on this madcap caper to catch her in the act. We're very contentious brothers who have this whole big journey of self-discovery and rediscovering our brotherhood.

"It's a very poignant movie, not outright comedy that you might expect from Jason and I," Helms notes. "That's what was so fun, and what I love so much about Mark and Jay Duplass. They just kind of wring it out of you, you didn't even know you had it."

As a young man, Helms certainly didn't know he had what it took to be an actor.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, he went to Oberlin College in Ohio to study geology, but wound up earning a film degree. It was during an exchange semester at New York University that Helms first acted on a childhood dream and went up on stage at a comedy club. After graduation, he edited commercials for a living CONTINUED ▶

PHOTO BY LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY

"There's a wide range of emotions," Helms says of voicing The Once-ler. **"Joy, accomplishment, megalomania, remorse — and he can be sort of mean"**

Ed Helms in *Jeff Who Lives at Home*. ABOVE: Helms' animated character The Once-ler in *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*

and trained with the improv troupe Upright Citizens Brigade.

Five years (off and on) as a correspondent for the satirical news series *The Daily Show* followed. Carell, who was a colleague there, helped Helms get his first role in a major movie, *Evan Almighty*.

Of course, they've worked together on *The Office* as well. And while Helms clearly misses acting with Carell, he admits his day job is now more invigorating. "We've come into our own as a full ensemble cast," he says. "Steve's departure was a massive heartbreak because he's one of the funniest human beings on Earth — and one of the most benevolent, wonderful guys you'll ever work with. But that departure also offered all of us this incredible opportunity to just step up and reinvent this show in a way that few shows have an opportunity to do."

Also on the Helms agenda: reinterpreting his favourite kind of music in hopes of widening its audience.

"I've had a passion for bluegrass music for most of my life," says Helms, whose self-penned ukulele ballads about his character Stu's troubles are highlights of the *Hangover* films. "I've played in a lot of bands, particularly one called The Lonesome Trio since college; we still play together. I play guitar and banjo. I help put together the L.A. Bluegrass Situation weekend every year, and we get incredibly enthusiastic crowds. It really blows me away. I think there really is a market for it. Our interpretation of the word bluegrass is very broad; it really encompasses a lot of cool fun."

So what other ambitions is he hiding? Moving into the more prestigious, if not necessarily harder, realm of dramatic acting? Putting that film degree into action behind the camera?

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Dr. Seuss book *The Lorax*, The Once-ler (Ed Helms' character in the movie) is never seen, except as a pair of wrinkly green arms.

Helms seems more than content to be right where he is; maybe with others ahead of him, but second to none at what he does.

"Comedic actor is probably how I would describe myself at this point," he says. "I came up through stand-up comedy, but that seems to have definitely taken a backseat to acting. My acting is limited to comedic roles, for the most part. *Jeff Who Lives at Home* may change that game a little, but I am totally okay with it. It's what I've always wanted to do.

"As far as aspirations beyond, that's kind of a grey area. I wouldn't rule anything out, but I really just love what I do."

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

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Dairy Queen

Jennifer Garner talks about finding her voice as a producer, time off with her family and mastering the art of competitive butter sculpting for ***Butter***

BY INGRID RANDOJA

BUTTER
HITS THEATRES
LATER THIS YEAR

We've all seen the paparazzi

pics of Jennifer Garner the radiant, down-to-earth wife and mother. There she is with husband Ben Affleck and their two kids (as of press time the pregnant Garner had not yet given birth to the couple's third child) on a family outing to the beach or the market.

But there's more to Garner than the stroller mama pics would have you believe. The 39-year-old actor who became a household name playing a secret agent on TV's *Alias*, and has starred in films such as *Juno*, *13 Going on 30* and *The Kingdom*, is now a producer. Her debut effort is the satirical comedy *Butter*, which comes out later this year.

Set in Iowa, *Butter* casts Garner as Laura Pickler, the ambitious wife of butter-carving champion Bob Pickler (Ty Burrell). When Bob retires, Laura throws herself into winning the state crown, but she meets her match in Destiny (Yara Shahidi), a talented 10-year-old African-American girl with a gift for turning butter into pure art.

During the Toronto International Film Festival, we spoke with the expectant mother about *Butter*, becoming a producer and the power of trusting her own voice.

Q: Tell me about creating Laura Pickler, this hilarious, high-strung woman who basks in the glory of her husband's butter-carving career.

"I did the strangest research for this movie. YouTube is a wonderful thing for actors."

What did you watch on YouTube?

"I watched archive footage of all kinds of first ladies — first ladies of Iowa, first ladies of Texas, presidential first ladies — people Laura would aspire to be. And I watched a lot of beauty queens. Then weird things like Muhammad Ali, when he was at his 'float like a butterfly, sting like a bee' stage. It was a blast."

CONTINUED ▶

***Butter*'s glam couple Jennifer Garner and Ty Burrell**

And you have to carve butter in the movie. How was that? Are you artistic? Are you visually minded?
"I don't look at the world visually at all! From getting dressed to leaving my house and knowing which way to go, to the way a room should be set up, none of it makes sense to me. So I am not a visual person, but I can mimic someone's body movements. I don't know if it's from so many years studying ballet, but I can do it with a stunt double and I could do it here."

Right, you worked with a food artist to learn how to carve.
"Yes, I just watched this man work. I got under his hands to see how he was holding his tools. That's really what I cared about, the way he would divot something out, or the way he held onto the back of something while he was working on the front, what that looked like. I took pictures of his hands, I didn't try to master it. He told me to keep my day job."

Part of your day job was to act as a producer on the film for your own production company, Vandalia Films. What was that like?
"I started this production company with my partner eight years ago and this is the first thing we've actually gotten made. But the process of developing scripts and getting almost all the way to the finish line before a movie is pulled, going through that process so many times, gave me my own voice."

Were you lacking a voice?
"I'll tell you, being in on notes meetings, sitting down with the studio again and again and again, reminded me that all I studied in college was dramatic literature. I thought, 'I know how to break down a script as well as any of these people, why am I sitting back wishing this was different.' Now I just say things. And I am older. It's good to be older."

Are you that confident on set as well?
"Yes, I can walk on set and say, 'You are not going to be able to have a top light on me, that won't work.' And that's really because of *Alias*, being in front of a camera every day for five years. I wouldn't trade that."

Are you looking forward to time off with the new baby?
"That's the great thing and the hard thing about having a baby as an actress — it's an imposed amount of time off, but it's awesome once you have kids. It's great to have time off. I love my job, but I am happy to spend time with my kids."

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

HISTORIC BUTTER COW

Iowa, the state depicted in *Butter*, has a proud heritage of butter carving. Last August, this butter cow marked the 100th anniversary of butter cows at the Iowa State Fair. Carved by butter master Sarah Pratt, it weighs 600 pounds (a real cow weighs 1,000 pounds), and would be able to butter 19,200 slices of toast. Thankfully, much of the butter is recycled and can be reused for up to 10 years. That's a relief when you think about the sheer volume of milk cows had to produce to create their own butter effigy. *—MW*

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN
HITS THEATRES MARCH 9TH

Emily Blunt On...

***Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*'s unlikely trio, from left: Amr Waked, Ewan McGregor and Emily Blunt**

On *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*, about two Brits (Blunt, Ewan McGregor) who bond while bringing a Yemeni sheik's dream of fishing for salmon in his home country to life.

"I got a call from my agent saying there's a film called *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*. I just said, 'What, are you serious?' He said, 'Yeah'.... I was like, 'What is that?' I read 20 pages and I said yes. It was so wonderful. It's the most powerful script, it was so clever and a little off the wall and it was a mix of so many different things and it was funny and it was poignant and it was lovely. It was something uplifting, thank God, about the Middle East; there's finally a story that is uplifting."

On connecting with co-star Ewan McGregor.

"I think we are very similar actually and that does help.... We like to laugh, we like to kind of play with the scene and stretch it around. I don't think anyone took themselves too seriously on this film."

On how they spent their evenings off, first while filming in London, then in Morocco, which stood in for Yemen.

"In London everyone just went back to their own house and did their own things. We were so tired, we were shooting six days a week most of the time. Then we went to Morocco and it was heaven. All the crew and the cast were in the same hotel. People would have drinks at night and then we'd wander across the street to this French restaurant. It was just great; it was like being at camp. People get really stupid."

On what she wants people to take away from this movie.

"That the impossible can happen. That the impossible is possible. I think that is what the title represents. *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* seems to be an impossible feat and far-fetched and yet it can happen. That's what I love about the film. There is something hopeful in it." — *MATHIEU CHANTELOIS*

THE HUNGER GAMES
HITS THEATRES MARCH 23RD

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

All eyes are on 21-year-old Oscar nominee **Jennifer Lawrence** as ***The Hunger Games***, the first film of the franchise touted to fill the *Harry Potter* void, hits theatres. So is she feeling the pressure?

BY INGRID RANDOJA

She's the rebel hero every young actress wanted to play — Katniss Everdeen in the Hollywood adaptation of *The Hunger Games*, the first book in author Suzanne Collins' best-selling trilogy.

Hailee Steinfeld, Abigail Breslin, Chloë Moretz, Saoirse Ronan, Emma Roberts and Shailene Woodley were all in the running before 21-year-old, Oscar-nominated Jennifer Lawrence (*Winter's Bone*, *X-Men: First Class*) nailed the audition and walked away with the part. "It was the easiest casting decision I ever made in my life," director Gary Ross told *Entertainment Weekly*.

In the film, the totalitarian government of Panem (the former United States of America after a brutal civil war) keeps a dissenting population in line with its yearly staging of The Hunger Games. The government selects, at random, one teenage boy and girl from 12 different districts and puts them in an outdoor arena where their fight to the death is televised for all to see.

Outdoorsy, 16-year-old Katniss Everdeen volunteers to take her younger sister's place alongside Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson), and proves that a young woman with a lot of heart, courage and lethal archery skills can inspire an oppressed nation.

We spoke with Kentucky native Lawrence on the phone from Los Angeles about making the most anticipated film of her young career.

Q:

You had to get fit and trim to play Katniss. Was it difficult to play such a physical role while keeping your weight down?

"It's funny, I'm eating right now as I answer that [chewing noises]. Actually, there was so much activity in the movie that I had to eat more on this film than any other. Because you have to be consistent, and when I would run up and down a mountain all day and all of a sudden I lost three pounds, which shows, then you have to eat a cheeseburger to get it back so you look the same. So it was hard to actually keep the weight on."

Did you have a nutritionist and trainer on set?

"We had a trainer, and I started out with a nutritionist, and when we got to the place where they went, 'Okay, that's it,' then I ate whatever I wanted, exercised and kept my body looking the same." CONTINUED ▶

Jennifer Lawrence on the set of *The Hunger Games*

Is it true you fell in love with archery?
"I did. I have a love/hate relationship with archery. It's a bitch when you mess it up and you hit the inside of your arm and it swells up and it hurts. But then you hit the target, you hit the bull's eye, it's the best feeling in the entire world. I really did start to love it."

And is it safe to say you are the best Oscar-nominated tree climber out there?
"Oh, that's quite a title, but I'll go for it."

What's the secret to being a good tree climber?
"A harness and a wire [laughs]. The secret is I was trained with a specific kind of choreography — this hand goes here, this hand goes there, using these knots to hold onto. And those knots were then transferred over to the tree where they were disguised to look like little knobs in the tree bark. And then it's just choreography."

Why do you think *The Hunger Games* has struck a nerve with so many people?
"Because it's a story that reminds us of the worst part of humanity. We're living in a world obsessed with reality television and our shock factor is constantly desensitized. It takes more and more to surprise us and interest us, and we feed off of other people's trauma."

And then there is Katniss, who represents female empowerment.
"Absolutely, she is a symbol for revolt and hope and freedom. She is this young girl who is forced to do things that are unimaginable. She wants more for the world. She's kind of a futuristic Joan of Arc."

There is so much pressure associated with the role — living up to the expectations of the fans, and carrying what may ultimately be three films on your shoulders. What's that like?
"You can't really think about that. I mean, I am aware of it and I appreciate it, understand its gravity, but you can't think about it too much or it'll freak ya out."

Do you think growing up with brothers in Kentucky helped prepare you to play Katniss?
"Yeah, I definitely don't think it hurt."

What was your relationship with your brothers like? Outdoorsy?
"My middle brother, who is closer to my age — obviously, since I am the youngest — we were always outdoors, playing war, having fights, battles, the whole thing. My older brother and I — he's 10 years older than me — he would drive me around in his car, we'd play music and he'd let me work the stick shift in the car. Sometimes he'd watch *SpongeBob SquarePants* with me. I had a different relationship with each of them."

You're only 21 but have been working non-stop since you were 16. What's the one thing you've gotten better at when it comes to making movies?
"I think it gets so much easier to let things roll off your back. It's such a business of hurry up and wait, and if you let it get to you it will drive you absolutely insane, like, 'Why was I called in at four in the morning and I haven't been used until one in the afternoon?' And, 'Why are we shooting this a million times when we have five other scenes to shoot?' But you get to a point where you just say, 'This is filmmaking. This is what you get paid for. Everybody is doing the best they can.' It's what you have to live with."

It's true, and you have limited energy, and you don't want to waste it stressing out.
"I've gotten really good at that. I work hard and I relax so hard."

What does "relax so hard" mean?
"You get out of bed to eat and go to the bathroom and that's it." C

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

BROTHERLY **ADVICE**

Liam Hemsworth (*The Last Song*) plays Katniss Everdeen's (Jennifer Lawrence) best friend and hunting pal Gale Hawthorne in *The Hunger Games*.

Like Lawrence, Hemsworth — the younger brother of Chris Hemsworth (*Thor*) — had to transform physically to play a young man who, like the rest of his community, doesn't have enough to eat.

It turns out his brother helped him do that.

"I lost a lot of weight, I wanted to look somewhat hungry," he says on the line from L.A. "One of the biggest inspirations before I started shooting came from my brother when he texted me and said, 'Hey fatty, it's called *The Hunger Games* not *The Eating Games*.' So I started working out a lot more and eating a lot less." —*IR*

Cineplex.com Hunger Games Contest!
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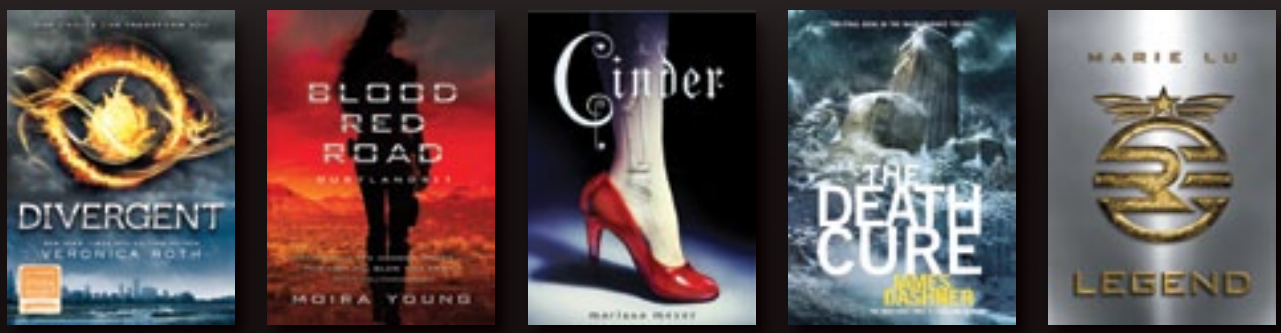

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COLOUR BLOCKING
It's back — and works beautifully with the season's hottest hues in this dress from **Agatha Ruiz de la Prada**.
PHOTO BY GETTY FOR IMAGE.NET

Spring FASHION PREVIEW

Our Favourite Looks and the Trends They Set

BY MARNI WEISZ

STILL MAD FOR *MAD MEN*

Carolina Herrera channels Betty Draper for this ladylike frock and scarf featuring another hot trend — bird prints.

PHOTO BY FRAZER HARRISON/ GETTY FOR IMAGE.NET

ABSTRACT PRINTS

Do we see fish, or are those flowers? It's a walking Rorschach test on the **Lela Rose** runway.

PHOTO BY MIKE COPPOLA/GETTY FOR IMAGE.NET

THE NEW NEON

Marc Jacobs, and many others, zipped back to the '80s to stock up on neon. A skinny tie completes the retro look.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

MUST-HAVE COLOURS

Spring's three hottest colours — orange, yellow and pink — are perfectly pulled together at **Badgley Mischka**.

PHOTO BY PETER MICHAEL DILLS/ GETTY FOR IMAGE.NET

CONTINUED ▶

THE SHOE

Footwear of the season? It's a kitten heel, which pairs perfectly with **Tory Burch**'s school-girl inspired ensemble.

PHOTO BY FERNANDA CALFAT/ GETTY FOR IMAGE.NET

ART DECO

This **Jill Stuart** dress hits three of our favourite trends — Art Deco-inspired, flowy skirt and that brilliant orange.

PHOTO BY FRAZER HARRISON/ GETTY FOR IMAGE.NET

FRONT ROW

WHITE LIGHT

For both men and women, stark, ethereal white is huge. Here's **QingQing Wu**'s take on the trend for **VLOV**.

PHOTO BY FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY FOR IMAGE.NET

Proud hubbie **Orlando Bloom** watches his wife, model **Miranda Kerr**, walk the runway at **Dior**.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

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CASTING CALL

BY INGRID RANDOJA

MARA DEALS WITH *BITTER PILL*

Rooney Mara replaces Blake Lively in director Steven Soderbergh's *Bitter Pill*. In her first leading role since *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*, Mara will play a depressed woman on trial for murdering her just-out-of-prison husband (Channing Tatum) while on medication. Jude Law plays the doctor who prescribed the dodgy pills. Shooting begins next month for a Spring 2013 release.

KURYLENKO MEETS CRUISE

Jessica Chastain can't star in every movie. When the busy Chastain dropped out of Tom Cruise's untitled sci-fi flick (it was being called *Oblivion*), Ukrainian-born Olga Kurylenko (*Quantum of Solace*) stepped in. The plot revolves around a soldier (Cruise) banished to a decimated Earth who finds a crashed pod containing a beautiful woman. *Tron* director Joseph Kosinski will helm the pic that starts shooting shortly and arrives in theatres next summer.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH... 24

It's been almost two years since TV's *24* turned off the clock, but star Kiefer Sutherland was adamant there'd be a big-screen version of the show about his hot-tempered, counter-terrorist agent Jack Bauer, and he was right. After finally settling on a script, *24* starts shooting in April or May. Five directors are in the hunt to helm the action-packed story covering a 24-hour period in Bauer's frenetic life.

BRAND SCARES UP WORK

Russell Brand is in New Orleans trying to get his suddenly lackluster career back on track. He's shooting writer **Diablo Cody**'s (*Juno*) untitled directorial debut about a woman (**Julianne Hough**) who reassesses her life after surviving a plane crash. He and *The Help*'s **Octavia Spencer** play people who guide Hough in her journey. Brand follows that with a starring role in producer **Michael Bay**'s *Hauntrepreneur*, in which he'll play a man who arranges visits to haunted houses.

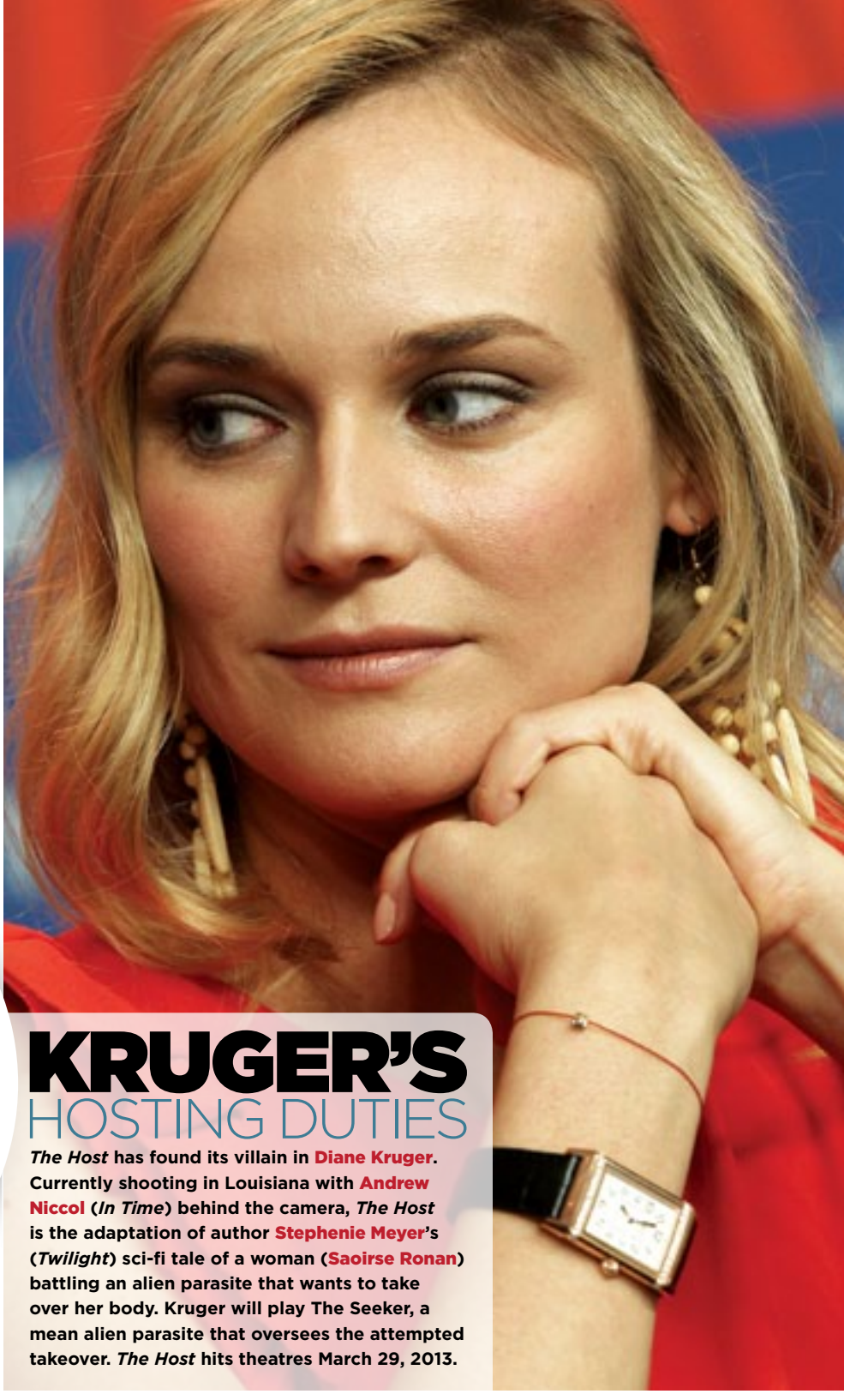
HIDDLESTON JOINS VAMPIRE PIC

Tom Hiddleston (Loki in both *Thor* and *The Avengers*) has signed onto director Jim Jarmusch's vampire pic *Only Lovers Left Alive*. He joins cast mates Mia Wasikowska, John Hurt and Tilda Swinton in this love story that involves two bloodsuckers. The vampire thing has been done to death, but the involvement of quirky Jarmusch, and a curious cast, has us intrigued.

FRESH FACE MATT MILNE

A complete unknown, **Matt Milne** got his big break when **Steven Spielberg** cast him as Albert's best friend, Andrew, in *War Horse*. The 21-year-old drama studies student needed permission from his university to skip school and finish filming *War Horse*, but getting notes to miss class is a thing of the past for Milne as his career heats up. You can catch the ginger-haired actor in this month's *Wrath of the Titans* as warrior Agathon.

PHOTO BY PAUL TREADWAY/KEYSTONE PRESS



KRUGER'S HOSTING DUTIES

The Host has found its villain in Diane Kruger. Currently shooting in Louisiana with Andrew Niccol (*In Time*) behind the camera, *The Host* is the adaptation of author Stephenie Meyer's (*Twilight*) sci-fi tale of a woman (Saoirse Ronan) battling an alien parasite that wants to take over her body. Kruger will play The Seeker, a mean alien parasite that oversees the attempted takeover. *The Host* hits theatres March 29, 2013.

ALSO IN THE WORKS

▶ Look for Kristen Wiig as the girl Ben Stiller desires in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*. ▶ Vera Farmiga will play Fleetwood Mac's Christine McVie in the Dennis Wilson bio-pic, *The Drummer*. ▶ *Timeless* casts Liam Hemsworth as a man who builds a time machine so he can see his late wife one last time. ▶ Paul Giamatti stars as Friar Laurence opposite Hailee Steinfeld's Juliet and Douglas Booth's Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*.

the Candyman Can

It's the kids' movie that parents didn't want their kids to see. *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* (based on the book by Roald Dahl) was a box-office dud when it was released in 1971. Perhaps it was the idea of a group of children being tormented while touring the factory of a strange, verging-on-mad confectionary genius (Gene Wilder, pictured above with the film's Oompa-Loompas) that kept families away.

But when *Willy Wonka* started to air on TV and was released on home video in the 1980s, viewers began to appreciate its surreal splendour, and its message that finding a golden ticket to enter candy heaven could also lead to sugary hell for children who were naughty. —*IR*

Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory screens as part of Cineplex's Classic Film Series on March 14th and 25th. Go to Cineplex.com/events for times and locations.

AT HOME

March's BEST DVD AND BLU-RAY

THE DESCENDANTS MARCH 13

Hawaiian lawyer, land baron and father of two Matt King (**George Clooney**) is devastated when his wife is critically injured in a boating accident. But as she lies dying in a hospital bed, Matt's oldest daughter (**Shailene Woodley**) tells him that mom was cheating, and his feelings become much more complicated.

MY WEEK WITH MARILYN

MARCH 6

The true story of wannabe filmmaker Colin Clark (**Eddie Redmayne**) who spends a week with Marilyn Monroe (**Michelle Williams**) as she films 1957's *The Prince and the Showgirl*. Williams earned raves, and many awards, for her performance.

MONSIEUR LAZHAR

MARCH 13

Canada's great hope at this year's Oscars was this French-language film directed by **Philippe Falardeau** and starring **Mohamed Fellag** as an Algerian immigrant who takes over an elementary school class after their previous teacher dies suddenly.

THE MUPPETS

MARCH 20

Hipster nostalgia junkies were stoked about **Jason Segel**'s take on their beloved Muppets before this movie came out, and even more so after they'd seen it. Segel plays Gary, a human who reunites the Muppets and helps them put on a show to save their old theatre.

MORE MOVIES ▶ **FOOTLOOSE** (MARCH 6) ▶ **IMMORTALS** (MARCH 6) ▶ **MELANCHOLIA** (MARCH 13) ▶ **THE THREE MUSKETEERS** (MARCH 13) ▶ **CARNAGE** (MARCH 20) ▶ **TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY** (MARCH 20) ▶ **THE SITTER** (MARCH 20) ▶ **A DANGEROUS METHOD** (MARCH 27)

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Something Special

CASABLANCA 70TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

MARCH 27

This limited-edition, numbered gift set comes with a reproduction of the original 1942 French film poster, a collectible coaster set and two new feature-length documentaries, *Casablanca: An Unlikely Classic* and *Michael Curtiz: The Greatest Director You've Never Heard Of*.

Games

Why We Love...

MASS EFFECT 3

MARCH 6

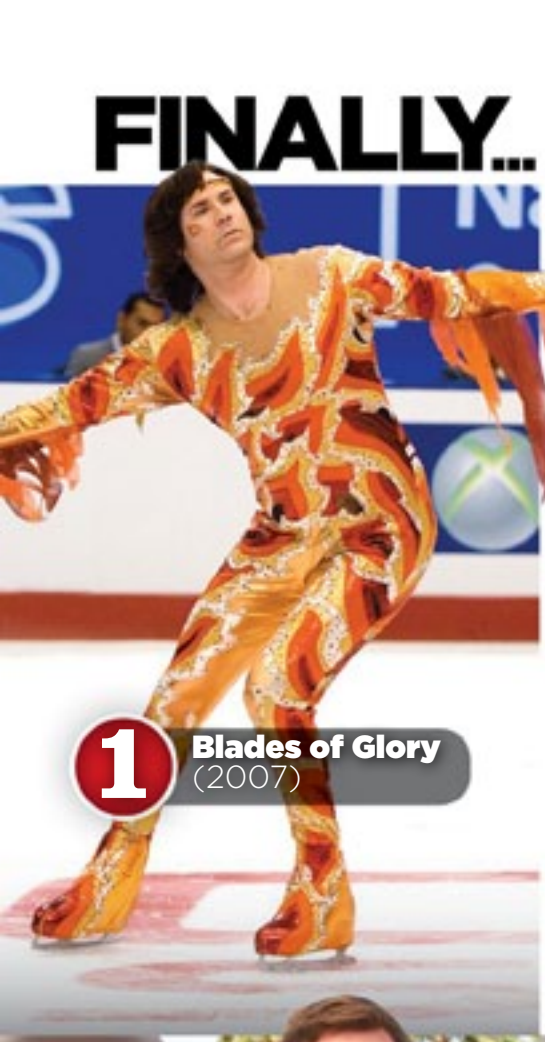
PS3, XBOX 360, PC

The hugely popular role-playing trilogy finally concludes. In the first game the Reapers were hinted at. In the second game we tried to stop them from reaching us. Now, they are here.

FINALLY...

5 BEST WILL FERRELL COSTUMES

Ranking our favourite Will Ferrell costumes is like, well, choosing our favourite child. We love them all. Where Helen Mirren may be Queen of the Costume Dramas, Ferrell is surely King of the Costume Comedies. But choose, we must. So as Ferrell's latest costume comedy — the spoof of Mexican melodramas *Casa de mi Padre* — hits theatres we rank Will Ferrell's five best on-screen ensembles. *—MW*

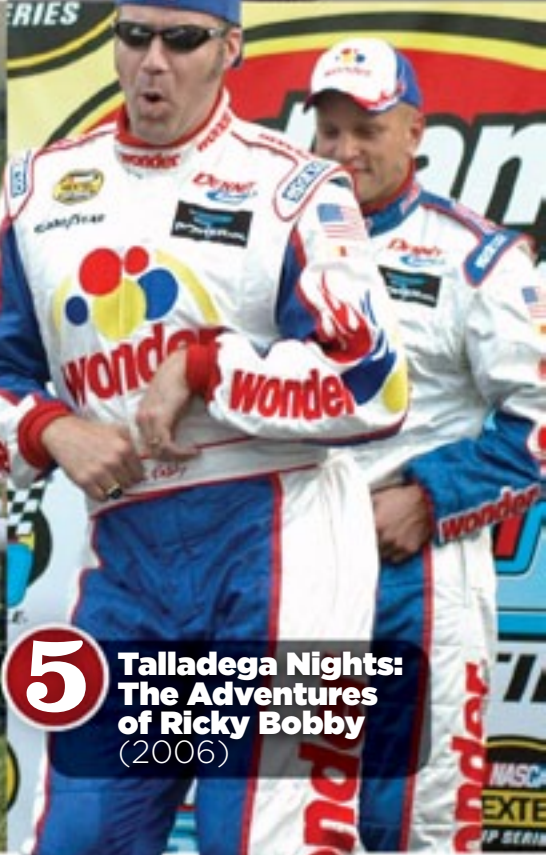


1 Blades of Glory (2007)

2 Elf (2003)

3 Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy (2004)

4 Casa de mi Padre (2012)



5 Talladega Nights: The Adventures of Ricky Bobby (2006)

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