

THE HEAT IS ON! A GUIDE TO SUMMER'S HOTTEST MOVIES ➔ PAGE 24

CINEPLEX

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

MAGAZINE

ROCKET MAN

TARON EGERTON

ON PLAYING
ELTON JOHN
PAGE 38

**MENA
MASSOUD:
ONTARIO'S
ALADDIN**
PAGE 32

**KEANU
REEVES'
THIRD KICK
AT WICK**
PAGE 30

MAY 2019
PUBLICATIONS
MAIL AGREEMENT
NO. 4061555





Earn up to \$400 in bonus travel rewards^o
with the Scotiabank Passport™ Visa Infinite* Card.



Plus enjoy no foreign transaction fees[†]
and lounge access when travelling.

For full details, visit
scotiabank.com/passportinfinite

You're richer than you think.®



Conditions apply. ^o Bonus reward potential in first year. Earn 10,000 bonus Scotia Rewards® points when you spend at least \$40,000 annually in everyday purchases. And until June 30, 2019, earn an additional 30,000 bonus Scotia Rewards points with your first \$1,000 in everyday purchases in the first 3 months. [†] Scotiabank will not charge you Foreign Transaction Fees on foreign currency transactions including purchases, only the exchange rate applies. This fee relates to the mark-up that is typically charged by credit card issuers in addition to the exchange rate.

® Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia. ™ Trademarks of The Bank of Nova Scotia. * Visa Int./Licensed User.

CONTENTS

MAY 2019
VOLUME 20 #3

FEATURES

24

Summer Movie Preview!

It's going to be an epic summer at the movies. We highlight 12 must-see pics hitting screens in June, July and August, including new entries in the *Toy Story*, *Men in Black* and *Spider-Man* franchises

BY MARNI WEISZ

30

Wick's on Fire

We sit down with **Keanu Reeves** to talk *John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum*. And don't worry if you haven't seen the first two films, we've prepared cheat notes

BY TANNER ZIPCHEN

32 →

A Whole New World

Aladdin's Egyptian-Canadian star **Mena Massoud** describes what it was like to land the coveted role of street urchin Aladdin, and how the late Robin Williams inspired him

BY INGRID RANDOJA



REGULARS

4 EDITOR'S NOTE

First Freddie, now Elton. What a double bill

6 CLICK!

Out and about with Zachary Levi and Nicole Kidman

8 UP FRONT

Long Shot's Canadian connections, Olivia Wilde shares directing tips and Kelly Clarkson on voicing an UglyDoll

16 RED CARPET

Keira Knightley, Colin Farrell and Julianne Moore are all dressed up

18 IN THEATRES

Your quick scan through this month's movies

22 SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Indiana Jones returns to the big screen, *Shadow of a Doubt* comes out of the dark

44 IN THE WORKS

Tom Holland robs banks, Toni Collette trains a horse

46 SCREEN TEST

How well do you know the life and career of Ryan Reynolds?

50 ART OF FILM

Son Eunkyoung pencils wistful movie scenes

12 →



COVER STORY

38

PIANO MAN

Taron Egerton steps into the spotlight this month playing Elton John in the bio-pic *Rocketman*. Not only does the 29-year-old Welsh actor get to wear the pop star's outlandish costumes, he also does all his own singing. Here, Egerton talks about playing such a big personality, his favourite tunes to sing and honouring Elton John's sexuality

BY INGRID RANDOJA

Boxed Set

You were ready for Freddie.
Are you meltin' for Elton?

Often, when two similar movies come out back to back it dampens your enthusiasm for at least one of them. Think of *Antz* and *A Bug's Life*, *The Truman Show* and *EDtv*, *Armageddon* and *Deep Impact*, *Churchill* and *Darkest Hour*, even the two documentaries about the fun-to-hate Fyre festival that came out this past winter.

And yet, I don't feel that way about *Bohemian Rhapsody* and *Rocketman*. In fact, the success of the first, the Freddie Mercury bio-pic that earned four Oscars, including Best Actor for star Rami Malek, just makes me more excited about the second, this month's Elton John story with Taron Egerton stepping into those crazy platform shoes.

Although there are clearly similarities — both films are about larger-than-life, gay, British rock icons (born less than a year apart) — they seem less like competing projects and more like companion pieces within the same cinematic universe. Like Marvel, only more marvellous.

To start, it was *Rocketman* director Dexter Fletcher who was called in to finish *Bohemian Rhapsody* after that film's director was fired a few weeks from the end of shooting.

The productions also share a number of crew, most notably costume designer Julian Day, a crucial role on both pics. And they have at least one character in common. John Reid, played by Aidan Gillen in *Bohemian Rhapsody* and Richard Madden in *Rocketman*, managed both Queen and Elton John at different points, and was Elton's lover for years.

But, most importantly, Freddie and Elton were great friends in real life. Such

great friends that while he was dying Mercury managed to send John one last Christmas present, a painting that arrived weeks after Freddie had passed. "I was overcome, 44 years old at the time, crying like a child," recalled John in his book *Love is the Cure*.

And about five months after Freddie's death, when the top musical acts of the day came together for the monumental Freddie Mercury Tribute Concert for AIDS Awareness on April 20th, 1992, who do you think got to sing "Bohemian Rhapsody" with the remaining members of Queen? That's right, Elton John.

Of course, there are major differences between the films too; starting with the fact that Egerton sings his own songs whereas Malek, for the most part, did not. Turn to page 38 for "Shining Star," our interview with **Taron Egerton** about singing, and behaving, like Elton John.

Elsewhere in this issue, on page 32 we talk with **Mena Massoud**, the unlikely Egyptian-Canadian star of Disney's live-action remake of *Aladdin*, on page 30 **Keanu Reeves** brings us up to speed on *John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum*, and on page 24 our **Summer Movie Preview** takes you through the season's hottest films, including *Toy Story 4*, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* and *Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw*.

MARNI WEISZ,
EDITOR



CINEPLEX MAGAZINE

PUBLISHER Salah Bachir

EDITOR Marni Weisz

DEPUTY EDITOR Ingrid Randoja

CREATIVE DIRECTOR & DESIGNER
Lucinda Wallace

VICE PRESIDENT, PRODUCTION
Sheila Gregory

DIRECTOR, CONTENT STRATEGY
Tina Boroviak

CONTRIBUTORS Tanner Zipchen

Advertising sales for *Cineplex Magazine* is handled by Cineplex Media.

TORONTO HEAD OFFICE
416-539-8800

VICE PRESIDENT
Robert Brown

VICE PRESIDENT, SALES
John Tsirlis

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SALES
Giulio Fazzolari

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SALES
Ed Villa

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SALES
QUEBEC/EASTERN CANADA
Jonathan Laflamme

DIRECTOR, MEDIA OPERATIONS
Cathy Prowse

MANAGER, THEATRICAL PROGRAMMING
Debi Kingston

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

TORONTO 416-539-8800

Cory Atkins, ext. 5257

Zach Beach, ext. 5269

Lesley Taylor, ext. 5266

Sheree Kyte, ext. 5245

Beth Levery, ext. 5285

Zandra MacInnis, ext. 5281

Heather Marshall, ext. 5290

Jenna Paterson, ext. 5243

Julian Piek, ext. 5216

Brett Poschmann, ext. 5287

Lorelei von Heymann, ext. 5249

Wendell Sappor, ext. 5277

Jennifer Wishart, ext. 5282

Tom Woyzbun, ext. 5253

OTTAWA 844-870-1112

Nicole Beaudin

HAMILTON/NIAGARA 416-294-6355

Melanie Morgan

ATLANTIC CANADA 902-401-8152

Craig Jackson

QUEBEC 514-868-0005

Benoit Deschambault, ext. 224

Martine Ménard, ext. 222

MANITOBA/SASKATCHEWAN

204-396-3044

Morgan Comrie

CALGARY 403-264-4420

Kevin Leahy

EDMONTON 780-919-3011

Barb Kitzan

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Justin Sawicz 604-761-9508

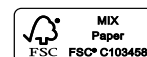
Matt Watson 604-689-3068

Cineplex Magazine™ is published eight times a year by Cineplex Entertainment. Subscriptions are \$34.50 (\$30 + HST) a year in Canada, \$45 a year in the U.S. and \$55 a year overseas. Single copies are \$5. Back issues are \$6. All subscription inquiries, back issue requests and letters to the editor should be directed to *Cineplex Magazine* at 1303 Yonge St., Toronto, ON, M4T 2Y9; or cineplexmagazine@cineplex.com

Publications Mail Agreement No. 41619533.

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: Cineplex Magazine, 1303 Yonge St., Toronto, ON, M4T 2Y9

656,500 copies of *Cineplex Magazine* are distributed through Cineplex Entertainment, *The Globe and Mail*, and other outlets. *Cineplex Magazine* is not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or other materials. No material in this magazine may be reprinted without the express written consent of the publisher. © Cineplex Entertainment 2019.



FIND CHALLENGE. CONQUER. REPEAT.

RANGER



INTRODUCING THE ALL-NEW **2019 RANGER**

Combining our legendary Ford toughness with our latest available off-road tech, the all-new Ranger has what it takes to squeeze the last drop of fun out of every adventure.

FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT **FORD.CA/RANGER**

© 2019 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.



CLICK!



FEELING UP

Sorry, Disney has not decided to do a live-action remake of *Up* starring **Allison Janney**.

She was just picking up a bunch of balloons at the Farmers Market in Studio City, California.



SHAZAM! IN T.O.

Zachary Levi high-fives fans during the "Shazam! Fan Experience" in Toronto, just before going into the film's Canadian premiere at Cineplex Cinemas Yonge-Dundas.



WHO'S HAVING MORE FUN?

Jennifer Lawrence (left) and **Cara Delevingne** attend the Christian Dior show during Paris Fashion Week.



↙
BEN BATHES

Benedict Cumberbatch takes a cold dip in chilly London to raise funds for mental health programs during Red Nose Day.

↗
HAIR-RAISING

A gust of wind wreaks havoc with **Nicole Kidman's** perfectly coiffed locks on the New York set of *The Undoing*.



↖
SHE WEARS IT WELL

Saoirse Ronan is back in period garb to shoot the 1840s-set romance *Ammonite* in Lyme Regis, England.



IN FOCUS

International Relations

It's all about an American election, but *Long Shot* was filmed right here in Canada with oodles of northern connections

LONG SHOT MAY JUST BE THE MOST Canadian movie ever made about American politics.

Aside from starring Vancouver native Seth Rogen as Fred Flarsky, an American journalist/speechwriter for Charlotte Field (Charlize Theron), the U.S. Secretary of State who's running for President, the political rom-com was shot mostly in Montreal.

The Sun Life Building, for example, was transformed into the U.S. Department of State, and when they needed to film a scene inside the White House they repurposed an old Oval Office set from one of the X-Men movies shot in the city.

Rogen co-produced the pic with his longtime creative partner Evan Goldberg, also from Vancouver, and best of all the film casts Swedish

Alexander Skarsgård as the sexy Canadian Prime Minister, James Steward, who bears an undeniable resemblance to our own PM, Justin Trudeau.

One big difference between Steward and Trudeau is that the fictitious Prime Minister is single. That lack of attachmen allows him to pursue Field, whose handlers would much rather she date the charismatic leader (poll numbers will soar!) than Flarsky, the scruffy but lovable schlub Charlotte used to babysit when they were kids.

By the way, that younger version of Charlotte the babysitter is played by another Canadian, Markham, Ontario's Aviva Mongillo, whom we interview on page 14. —MW

.....
Long Shot opens May 3rd.



↑
Charlize Theron and Seth Rogen in *Long Shot*. Inset: Alexander Skarsgård as the Canadian Prime Minister

WINNER!
The film won the Audience Award in the "Headliners" category at the SXSW Film Festival.

THE PREZ
Bob Odenkirk plays U.S. President Chambers.

NEXT UP
Theron will play former Fox News personality Megyn Kelly in December's as-yet-untitled Roger Ailes film.



**Intelligently optimizes
suction and run time.
Deep cleans everywhere.**

dyson v11 absolute



Available at DysonCanada.ca

| Free shipping and best price guarantee



“I had neck problems afterwards because we were always looking up so high. It was a larger scale, quite literally.”

— **MILLIE BOBBY BROWN** ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FILMING WITH THE MONSTERS OF *GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS* AND THE DEMOGORGONS OF *STRANGER THINGS*



↑
Anne Hathaway (right) with Julie Andrews in *The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement*



←
Hathaway (right) with Rebel Wilson in *The Hustle*

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CINEPLEX MAGAZINE

FROM THE ARCHIVES: **AUGUST 2004**

PRINCESS ANNE

She's an Oscar winner with more than 30 films under her belt and this month she plays the veteran to Rebel Wilson's newbie in *The Hustle*, about a couple of female con artists. But Anne Hathaway was still in the nascent stages of her career when we first interviewed her for *The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement* in 2004.

Even then the 22-year-old felt like she was miles ahead of where she'd been three years earlier when she

made her big-screen debut in *The Princess Diaries* opposite Hollywood icon Julie Andrews.

"I didn't know what the hell I was doing on the first one," she told us. "My first movie, and here I was starring. And I was working with Julie, and my every moment was occupied by, 'How do I make this performance I'm playing make sense to Julie Andrews?'"

The Hustle opens May 10th.

FRAME BY FRAME

DIRECTING TIPS FROM A FIRST-TIME DIRECTOR

Olivia Wilde just directed her first film, *Booksmart*, about studious friends Molly (Beanie Feldstein) and Amy (Kaitlyn Dever) who let loose on the last day of high school. And apparently it's pretty great.

The Wrap's Yolanda Machado wrote, "By far, one of the most perfect coming-of-age comedies I have ever seen," and *Hollywood Reporter's* John DeFore called it a "hilarious, blazingly paced teen comedy."

So, having just hit one out of the park on her first time at bat what advice does the actor best known for her role on TV's *House*

have for wannabe filmmakers?

"I think a lot of times people who want to direct stop themselves because they assume they have to do every job on their own and that's not true. A director is a collaborator," Wilde explained during a Q&A at the SXSW Film Festival. "The job of a director is to create the most fertile environment where people can do their best work, so all you have to do is bring the right people together, and you have to set them free."

Booksmart opens May 24th.

From left: *Booksmart* stars Billie Lourd and Kaitlyn Dever, director Olivia Wilde, writer Katie Silberman and star Beanie Feldstein





Health
Canada

Santé
Canada

Canada

CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES

Vaping nicotine can alter
teen brain development



CONSIDÈRE LES CONSÉQUENCES

Le vapotage avec de la nicotine peut altérer
le développement du cerveau chez les jeunes

[CANADA.CA/VAPING-INFO](https://canada.ca/vaping-info)

[CANADA.CA/INFO-VAPOTAGE](https://canada.ca/info-vapotage)

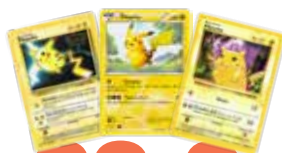
YOUR FAVOURITE NEW PODCAST! What's that? You want even more fun and insightful coverage of the most exciting movies coming to theatres? You got it. Cineplex has just launched the bi-weekly podcast *HelloMovies*, a deep dive into the latest must-see films. Hosted by Lana Gay, the show features interviews, trivia, behind-the-scenes scoops and a unique look at the culture of watching movies. Listen for free wherever podcasts are available.

**HELLO
MOVIES**

NUMBERS

POKÉMON STATS

Pokémon Detective Pikachu hits theatres this month with Ryan Reynolds voicing the fur ball



23.6
BILLION

Number of trading cards purchased



160

Number of countries that show the anime TV series



850
MILLION

Downloads of Pokémon GO mobile augmented reality game

Pokémon Detective Pikachu opens May 10th



THE CHAT

FULL OF MOXY

Singer **Kelly Clarkson** has sold 25-million albums worldwide, but now she puts her pipes to use voicing Moxy in the animated feature *UglyDolls*. Cheerful Moxy leads a group of misshapen dolls out of Uglyville to the town of Perfection, where all dolls must be perfect so they can find a child to love them. That's also the dream for Moxy and her friends, who are judged harshly for their imperfections. **INGRID RANDOJA** spoke with Clarkson on the line from her home in Nashville, where she was lying in bed after a long night prepping for her upcoming tour.

Describe Moxy, who is she?

"Man, she is just hope in a bottle. She's kind of the cheerleader of the whole Uglyville camp and is so optimistic, working towards something that everybody else has kind of let go of and thinks is a hopeless dream."

Do you see something of yourself in Moxy?

"Yeah, she kind of reminds me of me when I was a kid. I grew up in a very small town with very humble beginnings. I had a dream of singing one day but people around me were like, 'That's a pipe dream.' But for me it was real, it was totally obtainable,

and so she represents this never-ending hope that it could happen."

Did you enjoy doing voiceover work? It can be physically tiring.

"I mean, if you know me at all, I'm very physical in general, just my mannerisms, so it wasn't a stretch for me to be physical in the studio. I do that with singing as well. I get really into it when I'm in the studio. But it was just fun, it was just a different avenue of creativity I really haven't been able to explore."

And like anyone in the spotlight you must relate to the film's message that

we shouldn't judge people on how they look or what they wear.

"Yeah, in society, and especially in this industry, it's just so driven by aesthetics. I'm not against aesthetics, I get it, I love beauty, I love art, but at the same time this movie is just a reminder that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. I know that sounds really silly, but whatever is perfect for one person may not be for someone else. The movie is a celebration of someone that maybe stands out in a different way."

UglyDolls opens May 3rd

ALCON® DAILIES®

CONTACT LENSES



DID YOU SEE THAT?

DISCOVER ALL DAY COMFORT. MAKE THE SWITCH TODAY.



alcondailies.ca



SPOTLIGHT CANADA

A Young Charlize?

Aviva Mongillo plays the young version of Charlize Theron's character in *Long Shot*

FOR ONE DAY AVIVA MONGILLO KNEW WHAT IT FELT like to be Charlize Theron.

The 21-year-old Markham, Ontario, native best known for her role on TV's *Backstage* portrays the teenage version of Theron in the comedy *Long Shot*, a political rom-com that earned rave reviews when it premiered at the SXSW Film Festival in March.

Theron plays Charlotte Field, the U.S. Secretary of State who is running for President and hires the goofy Fred Flarsky (Seth Rogen) — whom she used to babysit when they were young — to be her speechwriter. Mongillo, who plays Charlotte the babysitter, says stepping into Theron's shoes felt right.

"I know her, I know her work, and I felt I could carry it well," says Mongillo on the line from Markham where she lives her parents.

HOME TOWN

Markham,
Ontario

FAVOURITE ACTORS

Meryl Streep,
Rachel McAdams,
Leonardo
DiCaprio,
Claire Danes

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

*Don't Talk to
Irene*, TV's
Workin' Moms
and *Backstage*

How did you get this role?

They asked me to send in an audition tape. You kinda have to look like Charlize, and I had been told before that I resemble her, which was a huge compliment. And I thought, "Oh my goodness, I know I have a shot at this, I could get this." I sent in the audition tape, I didn't hear anything so I thought I didn't get it, but I thought I did so well, and I was pretty disappointed. Then, after they started production, they told me I booked it and flew me to Montreal.

Do you have a favourite Theron movie?

That's difficult. The first time I ever saw her was in the movie *Hancock*. I love her in that movie, and I really loved her last movie, *Tully*. It was supercute.

You shot your scene in a single day.

How did you feel on set?

My focus the whole time was don't be dumb, don't say something stupid, be professional. I was nervous the whole day but at the end of it I remember having a pinch-myself moment. It was such a great day on set and I really felt confident with what we had done so I am looking forward to seeing the final result. And the movie itself looks like it's going to be hilarious.

Did you babysit growing up?

No, I never really babysat. I was 17 when I booked one of the leads in *Backstage*, the Family Channel series that was picked up by the Disney Channel and Netflix. That was my first role, which was kinda like being thrown into the ring.

You sang in *Backstage* and have a great voice. Do you prefer acting or singing?

They are very different. With music I write my own words, which is therapeutic for me, but with acting, because I don't write my own words, it's therapeutic in a different way, like I get to learn things about myself through the lens of another writer. Acting is my psychology lesson, learning how people think and behave.

—INGRID RANDOJA

Long Shot opens May 3rd

MARVEL
AVENGERS
ENDGAME

ONLY IN THEATRES



© 2019 MARVEL

*Bring home our new
action-packed collection*



RED CARPET



↑
Keira Knightley
At a New York screening of *The Aftermath*.



↑
Colin Farrell
In London for the European premiere of *Dumbo*.



↑
Julianne Moore
In New York for a screening of *Gloria Bell*.



↑
Zachary Levi
At a Miami screening of *Shazam!*



↑
Eva Green
In L.A. for *Dumbo*'s premiere.

↑
Armie Hammer
At a New York screening of *Hotel Mumbai*.



↑
Lupita Nyong'o
At the New York premiere of *Us*.



↑
Brie Larson
In London for *Captain Marvel*'s European gala.



THE HUSTLE

Anne Hathaway and **Rebel Wilson** team up for this remake of the 1988 comedy *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Hathaway plays a high-class con artist who trains newbie scammer Lonnie (Wilson) in the fine art of fleecing rotten men. → [OPENS MAY 10TH](#)

MAY 3

THE INTRUDER

Scott (**Michael Ealy**) and Annie Russell (**Meagan Good**) buy their dream house in Napa Valley from widower Charlie Peck (**Dennis Quaid**). However, it seems Charlie isn't quite ready to let go of his home and goes from being a nuisance to a violent predator as he fights Scott and Annie for control of the awesome abode.

LONG SHOT

Charlize Theron proves she's as funny as she is beautiful in this snappy rom-com that casts her as U.S. Secretary of State Charlotte Field, who enlists smitten writer Fred Flarsky (**Seth Rogen**) — whom she used to babysit — to be her speechwriter.

UGLYDOLLS

In this animated pic a group of misshapen dolls from Uglyville — led by the cheerful Moxey (**Kelly Clarkson**) — arrive in the town of Perfection and set out to prove their worth to the immaculate dolls that live there. The voice cast includes **Emma Roberts, Janelle Monáe, Nick Jonas, Wanda Sykes** and **Blake Shelton**. → [SEE KELLY CLARKSON INTERVIEW, PAGE 12.](#)

MAY 10

TOLKIEN

J.R.R. Tolkien, author of *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*, is considered the father of the fantasy genre. This bio-pic casts **Nicholas Hoult** as the young Tolkien, whose experiences



Tolkien's
Nicholas Hoult

fighting alongside friends in the trenches of World War I were life-altering and inspired his classic novels years later.

THE HUSTLE

See spotlight box.

POKÉMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU

Tim Goodman (**Justice Smith**) is the only person who can understand a Pokémon detective named Pikachu (voiced by **Ryan Reynolds**). Tim needs Pikachu's help to

discover what happened to his father, a detective who disappeared while on a case.

POMS

At 73, **Diane Keaton** continues to live her best life, making movies that celebrate love and friendship. Her latest casts her as Martha, a retiree who convinces the women in her retirement community to form a cheerleading squad and enter a competition. Co-starring **Jacki Weaver, Pam Grier** and **Rhea Perlman**.

Any movie.

Worry free.



Pay securely with *Interac Flash*®)))



**Own
your
world™**

Interac Flash, the *Interac* logo and the *Interac Own your world* design are registered trade-marks of Interac Corp. The Contactless Indicator mark, consisting of four graduating arcs, is a trademark owned by and used with permission of EMVCo, LLC.

MAY 17

A DOG'S JOURNEY

This sequel to 2017's *A Dog's Purpose* finds Ethan (**Dennis Quaid**) asking his beloved dog Bailey (voiced by **Josh Gad**) to watch over his granddaughter CJ (**Kathryn Prescott**) as she grows up. Reincarnated over many lifetimes and as various breeds of dogs, Bailey fulfills that promise.

THE SUN IS ALSO A STAR

Author **Nicola Yoon's** (*Everything, Everything*) Young Adult novel comes to the screen starring **Yara Shahidi** as Natasha, an undocumented teenager whose family is about to be deported to Jamaica. She spends her last day in New York trying to reverse the order when she meets Daniel (**Charles Melton**), who believes they are meant for each other.

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 3 – PARABELLUM

We last saw former assassin John Wick (**Keanu Reeves**) on the run after he broke the rules of the Continental Hotel by killing crime boss Santino inside its property. Underworld leaders have put a bounty of \$14-million on his head and Wick must use all his fighting skills to stay alive. **Halle Berry** joins the action playing an assassin who helps Wick. → [SEE KEANU REEVES INTERVIEW, PAGE 30.](#)

MAY 24

ALL IS TRUE

Kenneth Branagh directs and stars in this period piece that finds William Shakespeare returning home to Stratford after his Globe Theatre in London is destroyed by fire. He's neglected his wife Anne (**Judi Dench**) and his daughters, and is still grieving the death of his son, Hamnet, decades earlier.

ALADDIN

Disney's live-action remake of its 1992 animated classic *Aladdin* stars relatively unknown Canadian actor **Mena Massoud**



GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS

This sequel to 2014's *Godzilla* stars **Vera Farmiga** as Dr. Emma Russell, who's invented an instrument that can communicate with the monster *Godzilla*. She and her daughter (**Millie Bobby Brown**) are kidnapped by a group that wants to use the tech to harness *Godzilla's* power, but that will have to wait as new creatures – including *Mothra*, *Rodan* and the three-headed *King Ghidorah* – arrive on the scene to dethrone *Godzilla* from the top of the monster pecking order. → [OPENS MAY 31ST](#)

as street urchin *Aladdin*, who, with the help of a blue genie (**Will Smith**), wins the heart of Princess *Jasmine* (**Naomi Scott**). **Guy Ritchie** directs, **Marwan Kenzari** plays villain *Jafar* and **Alan Tudyk** voices *Jafar's* talkative parrot, *Iago*. → [SEE MENA MASSOUD INTERVIEW, PAGE 32.](#)

BRIGHTBURN

The *Superman* myth gets turned upside down in this horror that sees a rural couple (**Elizabeth Banks** and **David Denman**) finding a baby inside an alien ship that crashed to Earth. The boy they name *Brandon* (**Jackson A. Dunn**) realizes he has superpowers,

but unlike the goodhearted *Clark Kent*, *Brandon* is a nasty kid with a taste for destruction.

BOOKSMART

Actor **Olivia Wilde** makes her directorial debut with this critically acclaimed comedy starring **Kaitlyn Dever** as *Amy* and **Beanie Feldstein** as *Molly*, two nerdy high school seniors who regret missing out on the teenage fun experienced by their peers. So on the night before graduation they let loose. How much trouble can two brainiacs get into?

MAY 31

ROCKETMAN

A life filled with drugs, depression, alcohol and fame took its toll on *Elton John*, but the 72-year-old pop star is still standing. **Taron Egerton** lands the plum role of *John* in this dreamy bio-pic directed by **Dexter Fletcher** (*Eddie the Eagle*) that uses many of the singer's best-known tunes (sung by *Egerton*) to capture his journey from musical child prodigy to global superstar. → [SEE TARON EGERTON INTERVIEW, PAGE 38.](#)

MA

Octavia Spencer is *Ma*, a creepy woman who lets teen *Maggie* (**Diana Silvers**) and her friends party in her basement. *Ma* loves hanging with the kids, but when they break her house rules, her creepiness turns sadistic.

GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS

See spotlight box.

THE FALL OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE

Veteran Quebec filmmaker **Denys Arcand** returns with this crime flick that is thematically linked with his previous films *The Decline of the American Empire* and *The Barbarian Invasions*. Here, a courier (**Alexandre Landry**) — who happens to have a PhD in philosophy — steals a bag full of money after witnessing a botched heist. It isn't long before the cops and bad guys come looking for him.

And the award for the least scary performance from a phone bill goes to...

**Avoid unexpected overages
with Shock-Free[®] data.**

Only from **Koodo**
Choose Happy™

SPECIAL SCREENINGS



FLASHBACK FILM FESTIVAL

Indy Films

Get out your whip and hang onto your fedora as Cineplex's Flashback Film Festival presents the first three Indiana Jones films in all their glory

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GEORGE LUCAS builds a sandcastle with Steven Spielberg? We get Indiana Jones.

Lucas was on vacation in Hawaii in 1977 when he met pal Spielberg, who was taking a break from working on *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. While building a sandcastle on the beach Spielberg mentioned he always wanted to make a James Bond film, and Lucas said he had a better character, and film idea, in mind and laid out the basics of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Spielberg loved it and agreed to direct the pic.

When *Raiders* hit screens in the summer of 1981 audiences were bowled over by the nonstop

action featuring Harrison Ford as hunky 1930s archaeologist Indiana Jones, who races the Nazis to find the Ark of the Covenant. The sequel, 1995's *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*, was actually a prequel that finds Indy in India searching for a mythical stone. And in 1989's *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, Indy teams with his father, Professor Henry Jones (Sean Connery), to find the Holy Grail. —IR

Raiders of the Lost Ark—May 3rd to May 16th;
Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom—May 17th
to May 23rd; *Indiana Jones and the
Last Crusade*—May 24th to May 30th

↑

Harrison Ford
in *Indiana Jones*
and the *Temple*
of *Doom*

MUSEUM WORTHY

The fedora and
leather jacket worn
by Harrison Ford in
Indiana Jones and
the *Last Crusade*
were donated to
the Smithsonian
Institute

MAGNUM JONES

Tom Selleck
was first cast
as Indiana Jones,
but when CBS
wouldn't let him
delay filming for
the *Magnum P.I.*
TV pilot he had
to bow out



Go to Cineplex.com/Events for times, locations and to buy tickets

“They literally call themselves Decepticons. That doesn’t set off any red flags?”

—JOHN CENA AS AGENT BURNS IN *BUMBLEBEE*

CINEPLEX EVENTS

MET OPERA

DIE WALKÜRE (WAGNER)

Encores: Wed., May 1;
Sun., May 5

DIALOGUES DES CARMÉLITES (POULENC)

Live: Sat., May 11

FLASHBACK FILM SERIES

RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK

Fri., May 3 to Thurs.,
May 16

INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM

Fri., May 17 to Thurs.,
May 23

INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE

Fri., May 24 to Thurs.,
May 30

BILL & TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

Fri., May 31 to Thurs.,
June 6

FAMILY FAVOURITES

INSTANT FAMILY

Sat., May 4

BUMBLEBEE

Sat., May 11

SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE

Sat., May 18

AQUAMAN

Sat., May 25

CLASSIC FILMS

SHADOW OF A DOUBT

Sun., May 5; Tues.,
May 7; Sun., May 12;
Mon., May 13; Tues.,
May 14; Wed., May 15;
Sat., May 18

ANIME

OKKO'S INN

Sat., May 4
(English version)
Mon., May 6 (Japanese
with English subtitles)

DOCUMENTARY

WHAT WE LEFT BEHIND: LOOKING BACK AT STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

Mon., May 13

ASBURY PARK: RIOT REDEMPTION ROCK 'N ROLL

Wed., May 22;
Fri., May 24

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE

ALL ABOUT EVE

Sat., May 18

SENSORY FRIENDLY SCREENINGS

POKÉMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU

Sat., May 18

BOLSHOI BALLET

CARMEN SUITE/ PETRUSHKA

Sun., May 19

STUDIO GHIBLI ANIME SERIES

NAUSICAÄ OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND

Mon., May 20

DANCE

MATTHEW BOURNE'S SWAN LAKE

Sun., May 26



GHIBLI ANIME FILM SERIES

NAUSICAÄ OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND

One of anime filmmaking legend Hayao Miyazaki's first films was 1984's *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind*, based on his successful manga set in a polluted, post-apocalyptic world. The story sees princess Nausicaä fighting to save her land from destruction, and the film's stunning animation — full of lush, almost hallucinogenic images — and its themes of environmental activism and feminine power would become a trademark for Miyazaki as he set out on his filmmaking journey. → MAY 20



CLASSIC FILMS

SHADOW OF A DOUBT

Alfred Hitchcock said *Shadow of a Doubt* (1943) was his favourite among the 55 feature films he directed. That's surprising because the movie doesn't feature any spectacular set pieces, big stars or clever red herrings, but rather is a deftly crafted drama that builds tension scene by scene. Joseph Cotton plays serial killer Charles Oakley, who flees to his sister's home as the police close in on him. His teenage niece, Charlie (Teresa Wright), named after her uncle, begins to suspect debonair Uncle Charles is hiding something and ultimately discovers his secret. → MAY 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18

SUMMER MOVIE

TOY STORY 4

IT'S BEEN 24 YEARS SINCE *TOY STORY*, Pixar's inaugural animated feature, thrust the industry in a bold new direction — it was the first animated film made completely with computers. But now that mind-blowing CG animation is the industry standard, how does this fourth film in the granddaddy of all animated franchises stay fresh?

By introducing Forky (Tony Hale), a misfit craft project struggling with his identity. Cobbled together by Bonnie — the toys' new human — using a plastic spork, some googly eyes and a pipe cleaner, Forky doesn't know whether he's a toy, a craft or an eating utensil, never mind the whole fork or spoon thing.

And we get to go on a road trip that reunites Woody (Tom Hanks) with his old crush Bo Peep (Annie Potts), a tough lady (despite her porcelain exterior) who has led quite the adventurous life since leaving the gang. Speaking of which, look for a bunch of new toys voiced by the likes of Keanu Reeves, Christina Hendricks, Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele to join your old faves like Buzz Lightyear (Tim Allen) and Mrs. Potato Head (Estelle Harris).

JUNE 21

STARRING

Tom Hanks,
Tony Hale,
Keanu Reeves

DIRECTED BY

Josh Cooley
(debut)



**HIT MACHINE
RANDY NEWMAN
HAS WRITTEN
THE MUSIC
FOR ALL OF
THE *TOY STORY*
MOVIES,
INCLUDING
THIS ONE.**



From left:
Toy Story 4 stars
Woody (Tom Hanks),
Buzz (Tim Allen),
Jessie (Joan Cusack)
and Forky
(Tony Hale)



JUNE 7

DARK PHOENIX

This 12th X-Men movie is set in the earlier years (think James McAvoy instead of Patrick Stewart) and sees the team battling for the soul of their friend Jean Grey (Sophie Turner) who, after being hit by a solar flare, becomes the dangerous Dark Phoenix.



PREVIEW

A MONTH-BY-MONTH BREAKDOWN OF THE SEASON'S HOTTEST FILMS

BY MARNI WEISZ



JUNE 14

SHAFT

Nineteen years after Samuel L. Jackson picked up the Shaft mantle from 1970s star Richard Roundtree in 2000's *Shaft* (Jackson played Roundtree's nephew), Jessie T. Usher enters the fray as Jackson's estranged son who asks dad for help when a friend is killed.



JUNE 14

MEN IN BLACK: INTERNATIONAL

One of the Men in Black is now a woman! *Thor: Ragnarok* co-stars Tessa Thompson and Chris Hemsworth take over from Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones in the superfun franchise about a secretive force that protects Earth from intergalactic scum.

SUMMER MOVIE PREVIEW



ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD

JULY 26

STARRING

Leonardo DiCaprio,
Brad Pitt, Al Pacino

DIRECTED BY

Quentin Tarantino
(*The Hateful Eight*)

LEONARDO DICAPRIO. BRAD PITT. QUENTIN TARANTINO.

Three names that should be enough to put this period crime pic at the top of your must-see list. But wait 'till you hear the story.

Tarantino's tale weaves together fact (it's set in 1969 L.A. circa the Manson Family murders, with Margot Robbie playing Roman Polanski's pregnant wife Sharon Tate) and fiction, with DiCaprio and Pitt as a has-been TV star and his stunt double, respectively, both of whom are trying to break into the movie biz. As you can see by this pic, there's a plum role for Al Pacino, too. He plays Marvin Schwarzs, DiCaprio's agent.

Burt Reynolds was supposed to play George Spahn, owner of the ranch taken over by Charles Manson and his followers, but died before filming began and was replaced by Bruce Dern. You will, however, see Luke Perry in his final film role. The actor who passed away in March plays Wayne Maunder, one of DiCaprio's co-stars on the TV Western *Lancer*.



From left: Brad Pitt, Leonardo DiCaprio and Al Pacino in *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*



THIS IS THE FIRST FILM TARANTINO HAS MADE POST-WEINSTEINS, WHO EITHER PRODUCED OR DISTRIBUTED ALL OF HIS PREVIOUS FEATURES.



JULY 5

SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME

Peter Parker (Tom Holland) just wants to go to Europe with his friends and have some fun. But then Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) shows up and tells him he's got work to do. Cue Jake Gyllenhaal's entry into the Marvel universe as the powerful Mysterio.



JULY 12

STUBER

Canadian director Michael Dowse (*Fubar*, *Goon*, *The F Word*) helms this action-comedy about a burly detective (Dave Bautista) who forces his overly accommodating Uber driver Stu (Kumail Nanjiani) to ferry him around in pursuit of a sadistic terrorist.



JULY 19

THE LION KING

Polymath Donald Glover can add "voice of beloved Disney character" to his eclectic résumé after stepping into the adorable paws of Simba, the crown prince of the Pride Lands, in this CGI/live-action remake of the 1994 animated classic.

SUMMER MOVIE PREVIEW

AUGUST



AUGUST 9

ARTEMIS FOWL

It's a little bit Harry Potter, a little bit James Bond, and a little bit *Ocean's 11*. Ferdia Shaw is 12-year-old genius Artemis Fowl who is descended from a long line of criminal masterminds, including his dad, who has gone missing.

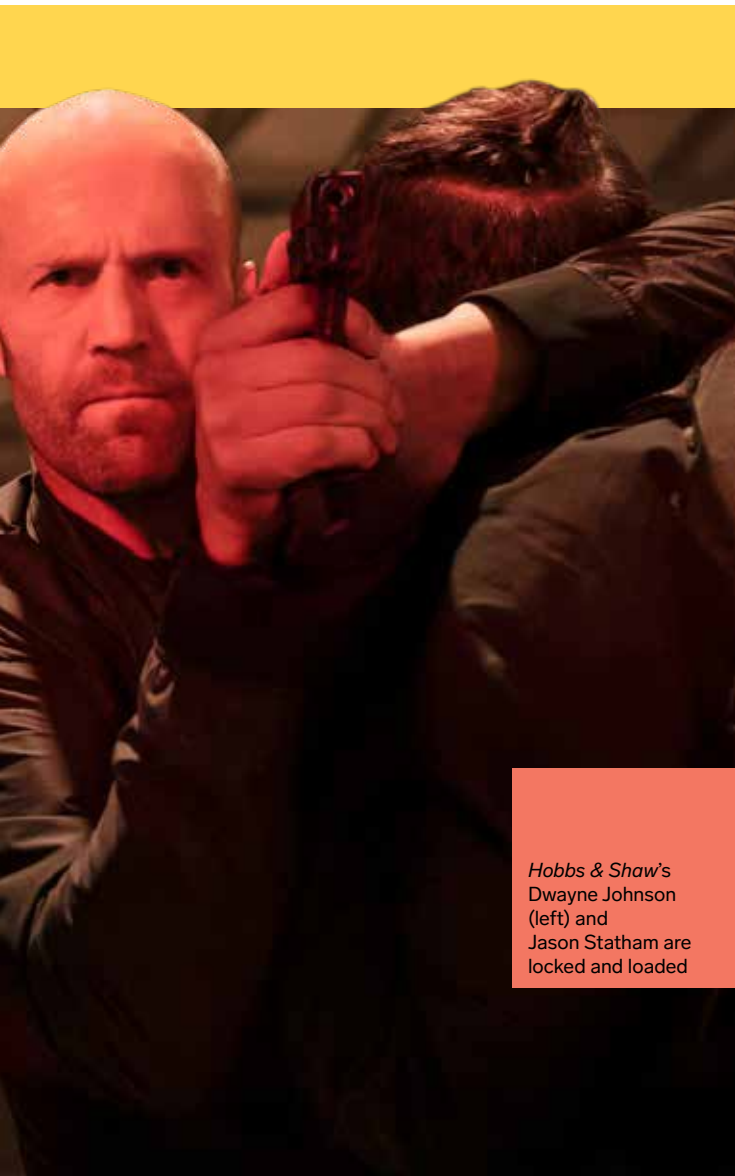


AUGUST 9

THE KITCHEN

The directorial debut from *Straight Outta Compton* screenwriter Andrea Berloff stars Melissa McCarthy, Tiffany Haddish and Elisabeth Moss as the wives of New York mobsters who take over their husbands' business when the men go to jail.





Hobbs & Shaw's
Dwayne Johnson
(left) and
Jason Statham are
locked and loaded

FAST & FURIOUS PRESENTS: HOBBS & SHAW

MOVIES ABOUT BICKERING, MISMATCHED cop couples forced to get along have been around forever — think *Lethal Weapon*, *Rush Hour*, *Bon Cop*, *Bad Cop*. So why is this particular movie floating atop the most-anticipated movies of 2019?

Well, it's all there in the elongated title. It's a spinoff of the massively popular *Fast and the Furious* franchise.

And bicker they do! But former elite British military operative Deckard Shaw (Jason Statham) and American Diplomatic Secret Service agent Luke Hobbs (Dwayne Johnson) also work together when cyber-genetically enhanced bad guy Brixton Lore (Idris Elba) decides that in order to help the world, he first has to hurt it.

AUGUST 2

STARRING

Dwayne Johnson,
Jason Statham,
Vanessa Kirby

DIRECTED BY

David Leitch
(*Deadpool 2*)



VANESSA KIRBY,
WHO PORTRAYED
PRINCESS MARGARET
ON *THE CROWN*, PLAYS
SHAW'S SISTER HATTIE,
AN MI6 AGENT.



AUGUST 9

WHERE'D YOU GO, BERNADETTE

Richard Linklater (*Boyhood*) directs Cate Blanchett in this adaptation of Maria Semple's bestseller about a wife and mother who disappears, and the husband (Billy Crudup) and daughter (Emma Nelson) who try to find her. (It's not as dark as it sounds.)



JOHN WICK, annotated

If you haven't seen the first two John Wick movies you may feel lost reading about the third, **John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum**¹, so we've annotated our interview with star **Keanu Reeves** in the hopes that everyone can understand. As *John Wick: Chapter 2* ended, our lethal protagonist John Wick (Keanu Reeves) was on the run, literally, after a global bounty worth \$14-million was placed on his head. In anticipation of the third film, **TANNER ZIPCHEN** sat down with Reeves in Los Angeles

1. Parabellum is Latin for "prepare for war."

2. John Wick's puppy Daisy, a beagle given to him by his late wife, is the catalyst for the first film's action. Daisy's murder at the hands of Russian criminals spurs Wick, a retired assassin, to seek revenge. At the end of the first film Wick adopts a young pit bull, the dog referenced here.

First, is the dog okay?

The dog² [pauses for dramatic effect] is okay.

Going into the second sequel, how do we step it up from the one prior?

I think the way that the story is evolving actually led to it expanding. We wanted to open up the world of the Continental³ and open up the world that we were introduced to in *Chapter 2* of the High Table⁴. With that, it brought other characters and other consequences...from *Chapter 2*, which was the excommunicado⁵, which means he gets no services from the Continental, no help. [Add in] the open contracts, or the people after him to kill him, and then this story is about John surviving. And we introduce a new character from the High Table called the Adjudicator⁶ who is going to adjudicate. And this is not only about John Wick, but now Winston⁷ at the Continental, did he break rules?

4. A council of high-level crime lords. In *Chapter 2* Wick is forced to kill High Table member Gianna D'Antonio to fulfill a debt.

6. The Adjudicator is played by Asia Kate Dillon, who you may recognize as skinhead Brandy from *Orange Is the New Black*.

3. A hotel exclusively for members of the underworld where the most important rule is that no killing can happen on its property.

5. At the end of *Chapter 2* Wick is excommunicated from the Continental for breaking its cardinal rule and killing crime lord Santino D'Antonio on its property.

7. Played by Ian McShane, Winston runs the Continental Hotel and breaks the rules in *Chapter 2* by giving Wick a one-hour head start before excommunicating him and triggering the global bounty on his head.





We've seen the training videos from the previous films, are we going to see another one for this film?

I don't know. I continued working with Taran Butler⁸, who trained me for the weapons.... There's still the judo, jujitsu, some aikido and other techniques and then also there's a sequence where I'm riding a horse and doing some trick riding.... I really enjoy doing physical action; the connection that can potentially bring with an audience.

8. A weapons expert who has also advised on *The Fate of the Furious* and *Black Panther*.

With John Wick you've got the gun fu⁹, as well. Do you ever feel like more of a dancer when you're on set?

Yeah, definitely dance, because we call it fight choreography, right? So it is dancing, it is what all of that entails. It's not just you, it's you amongst others, it's other people with you, it's the camera work. All of these things are going into the cooperation to do this dance and to tell the story.

9. Gun fu is the genre created by the combination of martial arts and gun fighting.

Is the suit you're wearing today wardrobe from John Wick?

No, this is Keanu's personal wardrobe.

Do you get to keep the wardrobe?

I don't.

You'll have to work that out in the contract for the next one.

Well, I have to wear the suit¹⁰; they have to take care of it. That's actually been one of the rare but cool experiences. After we did the first film and we had the opportunity to continue the story in *Chapter 2*, I put on, literally, the same suit. And then from *Chapter 2* to doing *Chapter 3*, I put on the same suit, and there was something kind of, you know, time has gone by but then you're putting the character back on, and then John's in his armour, and let's go. ■

10. Wick's suits are created by designer Luca Mosca, who has a cameo as Wick's tailor in the second film. Although they look black, the suits are actually dark grey because black doesn't read well on camera.

Tanner Zipchen is the host of the Cineplex Pre-Show.

WISH COME TRUE

How did a little-known actor from Markham, Ontario, score one of the biggest roles of the year? We talk with **Mena Massoud** about his stab-in-the-dark audition tape for ***Aladdin***'s title role, and why he managed to get the part over a bunch of big-name stars

BY INGRID RANDOJA

IT WAS THE CASTING CALL HEARD round the world.

In 2016, when Disney decided it would make a live-action version of its 1992 animated hit *Aladdin*, it understood there could be no Hollywood whitewashing. Director Guy Ritchie and the studio needed to find actors of Middle Eastern descent to populate the film set in the fictional ancient kingdom of Agrabah, where a street urchin named Aladdin releases a blue genie from its lamp and using one of his three wishes transforms into a prince to woo the independent-minded Princess Jasmine.

The producers issued a global casting call and Mena Massoud — born in Cairo, Egypt, but raised in the Toronto suburb of Markham — sent in an audition tape. And waited, and waited some more. →



Naomi Scott with
Mena Massoud in *Aladdin*



→ “The first tape was a shot in the dark. It was like, ‘Of course I’m gonna do it, because that’s what I do as an actor,’ says 27-year-old Massoud on the line from Los Angeles where he’s lived for the past two years. Months passed and it became clear the filmmakers were having trouble finding their Aladdin, passing on actors such as Riz Ahmed, Dev Patel and other more established stars.

“They spent months and months trying to find a singer who could act the role, and I think they slowly came to realize that what they really needed was a strong actor who could pull off the singing, and not vice versa,” he says.

We must remember that, aside from being a robust adventure story and romance, *Aladdin* is also a musical that includes the well-known songs “Friend Like Me” and the Oscar-winning “A Whole New World.”

Jonathan Eirich, one of *Aladdin*’s producers, noticed a photo of Massoud on the set of Amazon TV’s *Jack Ryan*, in which Massoud plays Jack Ryan’s (John Krasinski) CIA colleague, Tarek Kassir. They checked their store of tapes and found Massoud’s audition.

“They had that tape for four months, but no one had seen it because that’s not

who they were looking for. I think they probably got over 10,000 submissions from around the world, and sometimes you just don’t have the infrastructure to go through all of that.”

That led to more auditions, which included two trips to London to work with a vocal coach and choreographer, and to make sure he had chemistry with Naomi Scott, who portrays his on-screen love interest, Princess Jasmine. And when he finally got word he’d landed the role Massoud could only think, “Sometimes the stars align, and when something’s kind of meant for you no one can get in the way of that.”

A **LADDIN WAS FILMED OVER** seven months on grand sets built in Surrey, England, and on location in the deserts of Jordan. Will Smith rounds out the cast in the pivotal role of the big, blue, wisecracking Genie. The filmmakers used CGI to create Smith’s towering figure, but that didn’t stop the star from making his presence felt on set.

“I couldn’t have asked for a more generous, genuine superstar to be working with,” says Massoud. “He showed up every day, even sometimes when he didn’t have to. A lot of the time when he’s big

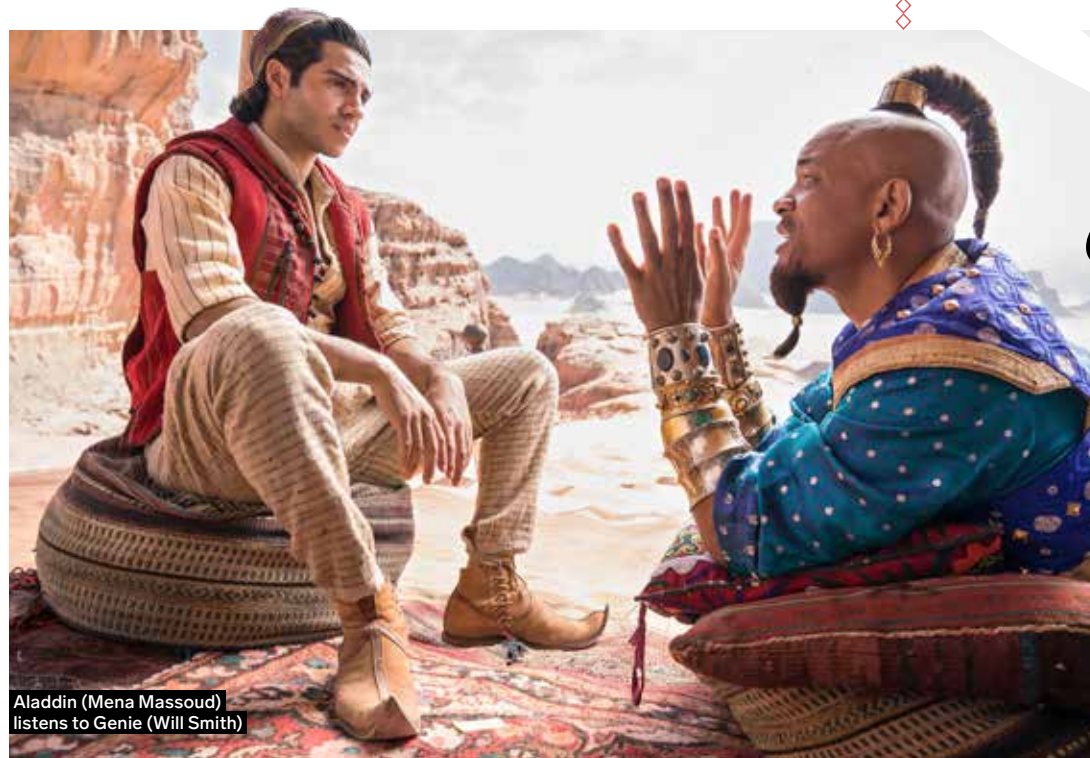
REMEMBERING ROBIN

Mena Massoud feels a personal connection to Robin Williams, the man who played Genie in Disney’s original *Aladdin* (top).

“I grew up with *Aladdin* obviously playing in the house a lot, and I grew up with *Mrs. Doubtfire* (bottom). It was a very limited spread of films,” he says. “When I got older, and I was able to, I sought out Robin Williams films. I actually got into acting, first, doing voices because that was Robin’s speciality. He would do all these incredible voices and accents, so I started doing that as well.”



and blue in the film he’s about 10-, 12-feet tall so I’m acting basically with a ping pong ball somewhere very high up. And he still showed up every day and fed me his lines because he wanted me to have a genuine experience and response. So, yeah, he’s absolutely amazing.” →



Aladdin (Mena Massoud) listens to Genie (Will Smith)

“I couldn’t have asked for a more generous, genuine superstar to be working with”

THE FEELING OF CONFIDENCE.

Introducing the all-new 2019 Mazda3, for the first time ever with i-Activ all-wheel-drive.

MAZDA3
AWD



Feel Alive™

“One of the things I’m most proud of is the visibly ethnic representation this film provides”



→ **M**ASSOUD WAS BORN IN CAIRO, Egypt, and immigrated to Canada when he was three years old. His family settled in Markham, Ontario, where Mena began acting in school plays at St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School and even served as the captain of his theatre improv team at Brother André High School. However, he believed his passion would be short-lived.

“Coming from an immigrant family I was taught, ‘You can’t be an artist as a profession. That’s something that you do as a hobby,’” he recalls. “I went to the University of Toronto for neuroscience for a year because I thought I was going to be a doctor, and I was sitting in calculus class one day and it kind of just hit me that I wasn’t going to be able to do something that I was passionate about for the rest of my life.

“So, I left that day. I contacted my high school drama teacher, who I’m still very close with, and said, ‘Listen, I want to audition for theatre school.’ I set up to audition for theatre schools across Canada, got accepted at Ryerson University, and I don’t think I looked back since that point.”

While his parents continue to worry about Massoud’s career choice — “My dad still thinks I should get my Master’s and teach acting,” says Massoud with a laugh — the young actor knows his timing is perfect as Hollywood is finally getting the message that diverse movie casts are crucial to scoring with global audiences.

“One of the things I’m most proud of is the visibly ethnic representation this film provides,” says Massoud. “I think people really celebrate it when it’s an all-Black cast or an all-Asian cast, and that’s amazing, we should definitely celebrate that, but with this film I think we kind of go beyond that.

“I’m Egyptian-Canadian, Naomi is British-Indian and Marwan Kenzari, who plays [sorcerer] Jafar, is Tunisian-Dutch.” And throw in 500 extras from a range of diverse backgrounds and you’ve got a multicultural spectacle. Massoud got a taste of that diversity while filming halfway across the world.

“When I went to Jordan there was a little bit of a language barrier as we had a local crew, and had local Bedouins handling the camels,” he remembers, “and

they didn’t speak anything but Arabic and I was able to speak Arabic to them, and just getting to learn about them and their culture was amazing.”

WHILE MASSOUD HAS SPENT the past year travelling the world for his roles in *Jack Ryan* and *Aladdin*, he’s also spent time back in Toronto shooting the Rob Ford drama *Run This Town*, which debuted at this year’s SXSW Film Festival and casts Massoud as a fictional aide to Toronto’s crack-smoking mayor, Ford (Damian Lewis). Getting the chance to work at home is important for Massoud, who is determined to lend a hand to fellow Toronto actors.

“I think it’s important we all support each other and celebrate each other,” he says, “and I’m trying to start a foundation that helps support visibly ethnic artists in Toronto, helping to break down some barriers.”

It’s a wish this big-screen *Aladdin* doesn’t need a genie to grant. ■

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of *Cineplex Magazine*.

SUNRISE RECORDS | YOUR SOURCE FOR MOVIES & MUSIC



CAPTAIN MARVEL OST
NOW AVAILABLE



A STAR IS BORN OST
NOW AVAILABLE



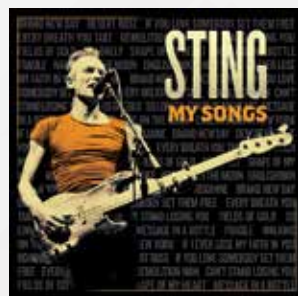
DUMBO OST
NOW AVAILABLE



SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE OST
NOW AVAILABLE



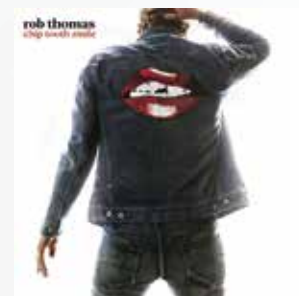
NORAH JONES BEGIN AGAIN
NOW AVAILABLE



STING MY SONGS
5/24/19



COREY HART DREAMING TIME AGAIN
5/3/19



ROB THOMAS CHIP TOOTH SMILE
4/26/19



JOEY LANDRETH HINDSIGHT
NOW AVAILABLE



JOHNNY ORLANDO TEENAGE FEVER
NOW AVAILABLE



**BILLIE EILISH WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP,
WHERE DO WE GO?**
NOW AVAILABLE



US
6/18/19

SHIN



GOSLAR



That's **Taron Egerton** doing his best Elton John in *Rocketman*, which tracks the meteoric rise of one of rock music's most enduring performers. And by all accounts, Egerton's best Elton John is pretty damn good, including singing all of his own songs. No problem, says the young star, except for that one tune...

BY INGRID RANDOJA

ELTON JOHN HAS SAID ON MORE THAN ONE occasion that he should not be alive. The 72-year-old pop star didn't just dabble in sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll, he dove in headfirst and was lucky to surface.

So, when it came to making a bio-pic of his life, John wanted a film that would not only celebrate his memorable music, but also capture the craziness that surrounded his rise to stardom.

It was that notion that excited Taron Egerton, the 29-year-old Welsh actor who was chosen to portray Elton John in *Rocketman*, directed by Dexter Fletcher (the same director who finished shooting *Bohemian Rhapsody* after Bryan Singer was fired).

"*Rocketman* is sort of a musical fantasy on Elton's life with some moments of psychedelia," says Egerton on the line from London. "It was always the mandate that

we were going to make something that was true to his experience and, frankly, I was never really interested in doing another version of this. It's about him recounting his life from the therapy room, so it would be wrong to not explore the darker aspects of his life.

"At the same time, we want it to be a celebration of his life in music so I hope people will find it joyous. But yeah, the story arc is of a man who nearly f--ks it all up."

The film sees musical prodigy Reginald Dwight (Elton John's real name) encouraged by his mum (Bryce Dallas Howard) to follow his dream of making music. Dwight meets lyricist Bernie Taupin (Jamie Bell), and their partnership results in the newly named Elton John becoming a global pop star famed for his over-the-top costumes and outlandish behaviour. It's John's growing addiction to drugs and alcohol, and the fact he has to hide his homosexuality — including his longterm relationship with manager John Reid (Richard Madden) — that nearly costs him his life.

LIKE THE QUEEN BIO-PIC *BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY*, *Rocketman* took years to get off the ground. John announced back in 2012 that he was developing a film about his life and wanted to be played by Justin Timberlake. When that didn't pan out Tom Hardy was cast in the role, and when he left the project, Egerton — who met John when the pop star filmed a cameo for *Kingsman: The Golden Circle* — was offered the part.



From left: Lyricist Bernie Taupin (Jamie Bell) and Elton John (Taron Egerton) create beautiful music together in *Rocketman*

No offense to Timberlake and Hardy, but Egerton really is the perfect choice; not only does he bear a resemblance to the younger John, he can sing. It's his voice you hear singing all the songs in *Rocketman*.

"I feel that there is something of Elton in me, the capacity to be quite a big personality," says Egerton with a laugh. "That sort of juxtaposition of two extremes sort of exists within myself. And then there's the musical element as well. Singing has been a part of my life for a long time and I've been kind of yearning for an opportunity to really flex that muscle."

HITTING THE HIGH NOTES

Hollywood loves its singers. Here are 10 of the most memorable performances by actors who transformed into singing stars



1978

Gary Bussey as
Buddy Holly in
The Buddy Holly Story

1980

Sissy Spacek as
Loretta Lynn in
Coal Miner's Daughter

1986

Gary Oldman as
Sid Vicious in
Sid & Nancy

1989

Dennis Quaid as
Jerry Lee Lewis in
Great Balls of Fire!



“ONE OF THE THINGS I’M MOST PROUD OF ABOUT THE FILM IS THAT IT FEELS VERY GAY”

EGERTON WAS BORN IN BIRKENHEAD, MERSEYSIDE, JUST outside Liverpool, but moved to Wales when he was a child. He started acting as a teenager and at age 19 was accepted into the prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. Upon graduating he landed his first movie — and first starring role — as young spy Eggsy in the 2014 hit *Kingsman: The Secret Service*.

It was two years later that he revealed his singing voice on screen, performing the end credits song (with OMD and Hugh Jackman) for his film *Eddie the Eagle*, and then playing Johnny the singing gorilla in the animated musical *Sing*.

Rocketman sees Egerton performing a plethora of Elton John hits. Asked if he has a favourite, he says it’s just too hard to choose.

“I love singing ‘Bennie and the Jets’ and I love singing ‘Your Song’ and I love singing ‘Saturday Night’s Alright for Fighting,’” he says, listing three of John’s biggest hits. “I mean, different ones for different reasons. ‘Tiny Dancer’ is actually one of the ones that I find harder to sing and that’s the one in the movie trailer.

I actually performed it with Elton the other night at his Oscar party. It’s not the one I would have chosen to sing first because it’s not the one I feel most confident singing, but I actually had a great time in the end.”

IT’S HARD FOR EGERTON TO GET HIS HEAD AROUND THE fact that not only is he portraying Elton John in a big-buzz movie, he has become friends with the icon. “It feels kind of f--king surreal to me,” he admits.

Yet his casting also raised some eyebrows since Egerton is straight and John is gay. Some wondered if the young actor would feel comfortable honestly exploring John’s sexuality. Egerton says that is not a problem.

“One of the things I’m most proud of about the film is that it feels very gay,” he states. “For me there’s already touchy ground as a heterosexual man playing a gay man. I was acutely aware that if I were to have any integrity playing this role, that I had to push the envelope in terms of making sure that my performance felt authentically gay.

“And I am very at peace with that,” he says. “One thing that I really love about *Rocketman* is that Elton’s main relationship is with John Reid, who is played by Richard Madden. And although it is well-documented that relationship went into something of a spiral, what I love is the way we handled their first meeting, their first moment of intimacy. I think it’s done with tenderness, beauty and love.”

Rocketman could well send Egerton’s career into orbit, and for the actor who turns 30 in November, the timing is just right.

“You make lots of mistakes in your 20s and I feel like you learn a lot about yourself,” says Egerton, “and although I’m only probably a third of the way through this journey that we call life, I feel like I’m starting to know myself better. I feel more settled and less anxious than I ever have been.

“My 20s have been so fantastic in terms of opportunity, with working with Matthew [Vaughn] on the *Kingsman* films and various other roles I’ve done, but I definitely would like to feel like I’m moving towards playing men rather than boys in my 30s.”

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of *Cineplex Magazine*.



1991
Val Kilmer as
Jim Morrison in
The Doors

2004
Jamie Foxx
as Ray Charles
in *Ray*

2005
Joaquin Phoenix
as Johnny Cash in
Walk the Line

2014
Chadwick Boseman
as James Brown in
Get on Up

2015
O'Shea Jackson Jr.
as Ice Cube in
Straight Outta Compton

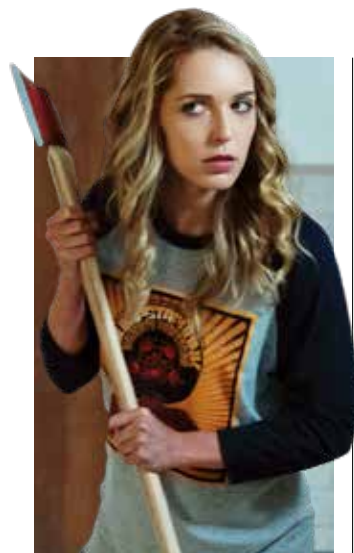
2018
Rami Malek as
Freddie Mercury in
Bohemian Rhapsody



HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD

In this third film in the popular animated franchise human hero Hiccup (**Jay Baruchel**) watches as his trusty dragon Toothless finds love, and together they fend off the attacks of a dragon hunter named Grimmel (**F. Murray Abraham**).

→ BUY IT **MAY 7** | RENT IT **MAY 21**



HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U

C'mon, again?! Poor old Tree Gelbman (**Jessica Rothe**) once again finds herself in a time loop that always ends with her death, but this time the loop is in an alternate reality. Once she figures out how to close the loop Tree must decide whether or not to stay in her new dimension or return home.

→ RENT IT **MAY 14**



WHAT MEN WANT

Taraji P. Henson shows off her comedic talents playing a sports agent who evens the playing field when she discovers she has the ability to hear men's thoughts. Co-starring **Tracy Morgan** and a slew of real-life sports celebrities including **Shaquille O'Neal**, **Devonta Freeman** and **Lisa Leslie**.

→ RENT IT **MAY 7**

THE LEGO MOVIE 2: THE SECOND PART

This fast-paced and imaginative sequel to *The LEGO Movie* finds little Bianca (**Brooklynn Prince**) sending her brother's LEGO toys, including Emmet (**Chris Pratt**) and Lucy (**Elizabeth Banks**), to the glitter-filled Systar System where Queen Watevra Wa'Nabi (**Tiffany Haddish**) is set on marrying Batman (**Will Arnett**).

→ RENT IT **MAY 7**



ISN'T IT ROMANTIC

Cynical Natalie (**Rebel Wilson**) doesn't believe in happy endings, but after hitting her head she wakes up to discover she's living inside a PG-rated rom-com where her best friend (**Adam Devine**) and a hunky billionaire (**Liam Hemsworth**) vie for her attention.

→ RENT IT **MAY 21**



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

Thanks for reading us since
November 1999, and for
making us Canada's most popular
entertainment magazine.

Get your copy in theatre lobbies,
the *Globe and Mail*, or read us online
at Cineplex.com/magazine.



IN THE WORKS

BY INGRID RANDOJA

Weisz Lands Lanny

Rachel Weisz follows up her Oscar-nominated performance in *The Favourite* by starring in *Lanny*, based on **Max Porter**'s lyrical new novel. Lanny is an artistic boy who moves with his mom (Weisz) and dad to an English village where he awakens a centuries-old creature called Dead Papa Toothwort. Weisz is also producing the film through her LC6 production company.



Holland Picks Cherry

Tom Holland takes a break from his Spider-Man duties to tackle a much darker role in *Cherry*, based on **Nico Walker**'s autobiographical novel. Holland portrays a former U.S. Army medic suffering from PTSD who turns to bank robbing to fund his heroin addiction. Walker wrote the novel while in prison serving time for robbing 10 banks in four months. The **Russo Brothers** (*Avengers: Infinity War*) direct the film that's expected to start shooting this summer.



"I deeply appreciate Disney's decision and I am excited to continue making films that investigate the ties of love that bind us all."

— JAMES GUNN FOLLOWING NEWS HE HAS BEEN REINSTATED AS DIRECTOR OF *GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY 3*



SERKIS STANDS GUARD

Master of motion-capture acting **Andy Serkis** will be at it again for the CGI adaptation of **David Petersen's** comic book series *Mouse Guard*. Directed by

Wes Ball (*Maze Runner* trilogy), the film tells the story of the Mouse Guard, whose job is to keep the peace and protect mice from dangerous predators. Serkis plays Midnight, a mouse who turns on his comrades.



ELBA TAKES AIM AT DEADSHOT

When news broke that **Will Smith** would not be returning as assassin Deadshot in the *Suicide Squad* sequel producers quickly set their

sights on **Idris Elba** to take over the role. Writer-director **James Gunn** met with Elba, the pair reportedly hit it off, and all signs point to Elba returning to a big-budget franchise after his stints in the *Thor* and *Avengers* films. The *Suicide Squad* sequel hits screens August 6th, 2021.



COLLETTE'S HORSE SENSE

Toni Collette will portray the real-life Jan Vokes, a barmaid living in a small Welsh village who convinces her friends and fellow villagers to breed and train a

champion racehorse they name Dream Alliance. Vokes' story was first told in the award-winning documentary *Dark Horse*. The pic, directed by **Euros Lyn** (TV's *Black Mirror*, *Happy Valley*), co-stars **Damian Lewis** as a village accountant who joins in the plan.



WASHINGTON IS ON THE CASE

Little Things has cast **Denzel Washington** as a deputy sheriff who teams with a Los Angeles detective to hunt down a shrewd serial killer.

John Lee Hancock, who directed *The Founder* and *The Blind Side*, penned the script and is considering directing the pic that starts shooting later this year.



ON HOME TURF

COSTNER AND LANE IN CALGARY

Kevin Costner and **Diane Lane** wrap up work on their drama *Let Him Go* in Calgary this month.



Kevin Costner



Diane Lane

Costner is a retired sheriff and Lane plays his wife. When their son dies, they set out to find and retrieve their grandson who's living off the grid with a family they consider dangerous somewhere in the Dakotas.

It's not the first time Costner's filmed in Alberta. He shot the Western *Open Range*, the third of the three films he's directed, in the province about 15 years ago.

FRESH FACE

DIANA SILVERS

We get a double dose of **Diana Silvers** this month as the 21-year-old L.A. native plays Hope in the teen comedy *Booksmart* and Maggie in *Ma*. The latter is the bigger role, with suspicious high school student Maggie realizing there's something wrong with the woman (**Octavia Spencer**) who lets kids party in her basement.

Silvers is a former model who dropped out of NYU after one year to pursue her acting dream. She'll next be seen in the thriller *Eve*, which stars **Jessica Chastain** as an assassin on the run.



ROLE CALL

■ Listen for **Gina Rodriguez** as Velma and **Will Forte** as Shaggy in a new animated *Scooby-Doo* movie.

■ *The Photograph* casts **Issa Rae** and **LaKeith Stanfield** as lovers whose romance moves between the past and present.

■ **Peter Dinklage** and **Josh Brolin** portray mismatched siblings in the comedy *Brothers*.

■ **Florence Pugh** plays a spy alongside **Natasha Romanoff (Scarlett Johansson)** in *Black Widow*.

Reynolds Wrap

You won't see **Ryan Reynolds** in this month's family flick *Pokémon Detective Pikachu*, but there's little chance you'll mistake his voice. Reynolds brings his trademark snark to little Pikachu who, in the first live-action Pokémon movie, is a Pokémon detective searching for his missing partner. It may seem like a strange role for the Hollywood heartthrob, but it wouldn't be the first time he's surprised us. How well do you know the life and career of Ryan Rodney Reynolds?



Ryan Reynolds and his alter-ego from *Pokémon Detective Pikachu*

1. Where was Ryan Reynolds born?

- a) Toronto
- b) Montreal
- c) Winnipeg
- d) Vancouver

2. In which movie did he first appear as Wade Wilson/Deadpool?

- a) *Blade*
- b) *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*
- c) *Elektra*
- d) *Ghost Rider*

3. On which TV show did he play a character named Berg?

- a) *Perfect Strangers*
- b) *Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place*
- c) *ER*
- d) *King of Kensington*

4. With which of these celebrities was he romantically involved first?

- a) Charlize Theron
- b) Blake Lively
- c) Alanis Morissette
- d) Scarlett Johansson

5. In which year was he named *People's Sexiest Man Alive*?

- a) 2000
- b) 2005
- c) 2010
- d) 2015

6. In which movie did he star opposite Sandra Bullock?

- a) *Ocean's Eight*
- b) *The Proposal*
- c) *The Lake House*
- d) *Crash*

7. For which movie did he earn his only Golden Globe nomination?

- a) *Buried*
- b) *Mississippi Grind*
- c) *Deadpool*
- d) *Woman in Gold*

8. Which of these Ryan Reynolds thrillers is Canadian?

- a) *Foolproof*
- b) *Self/less*
- c) *Smokin' Aces*
- d) *Criminal*

9. Which of these comic book characters did he play before *Deadpool*?

- a) Green Goblin
- b) Green Lantern
- c) Green Hornet
- d) Green Fury

10. For which of these animated movies did he NOT provide a voice?

- a) *The Croods*
- b) *Turbo*
- c) *Pokémon Detective Pikachu*
- d) *Monster House*

ANSWERS 1) d; 2) b; 3) b; 4) c; 5) c; 6) b; 7) c; 8) a; 9) b; 10) d



4500 KM TRAVELLED
FOR PRACTICE

HOW FAR WILL YOU GO?



Esso is a trademark of Imperial Oil Limited. Imperial Oil, licensee.

FLASHBACK

FILM SERIES

MONTY PYTHON'S LIFE OF BRIAN



APRIL 19 - MAY 2

RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK



MAY 3 - 16

INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM



MAY 16 - 23

INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE



MAY 23 - 30

BILL & TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE



MAY 31 - JUNE 13

LABYRINTH



JUNE 14 - 28

GREAT MOVIES EVERY MONTH

TICKETS \$6.99

CINEPLEX.COM/FLASHBACK


CINEPLEX
EVENTS



WG^N

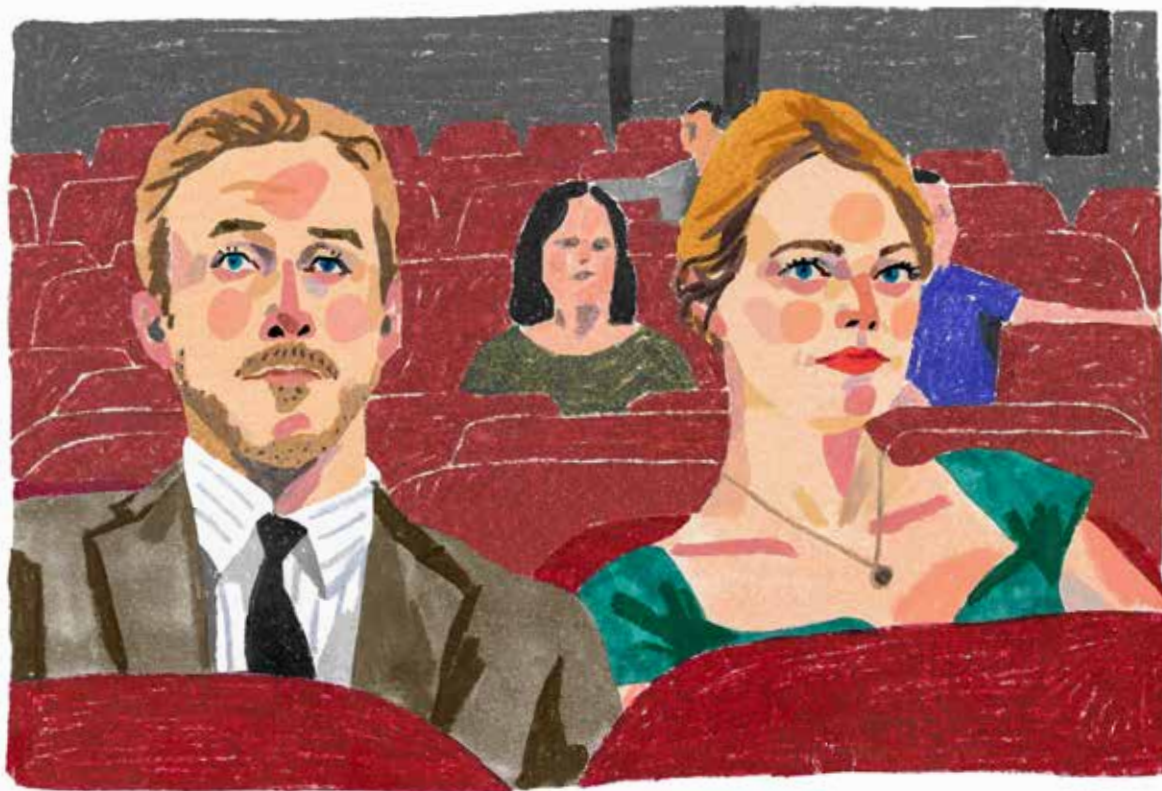
**WORLD
GAMING
NETWORK**

LEVEL UP YOUR GAME

**FREE ONLINE VIDEO
GAME TOURNAMENTS
FOR ALL!**

**DAILY ONLINE TOURNAMENTS
LIVE ESPORTS EVENTS**

WorldGaming.com



Penciling It In

When so many of her contemporaries are painting with pixels, Seoul, South Korea's Son Eunkyong prefers to stick with the mainstays of any good grade-school pencil case – markers and pencil crayons. “I think coloured markers and pencils are the best way to express textures and depict people’s faces,” she says. “And it is really good that I can work anywhere because it’s so portable.” The results are lively and wistful impressions of the most memorable scenes from her favourite movies. As for why she depicts movie scenes at all, she says it’s simple, “I’m just such a big fan.” —MW

To see more go to
[instagram.com/thanksforbeingu](https://www.instagram.com/thanksforbeingu)



↑
 From top:
La La Land,
Léon: The
Professional,
Bohemian
Rhapsody



D A R K P H O E N I X

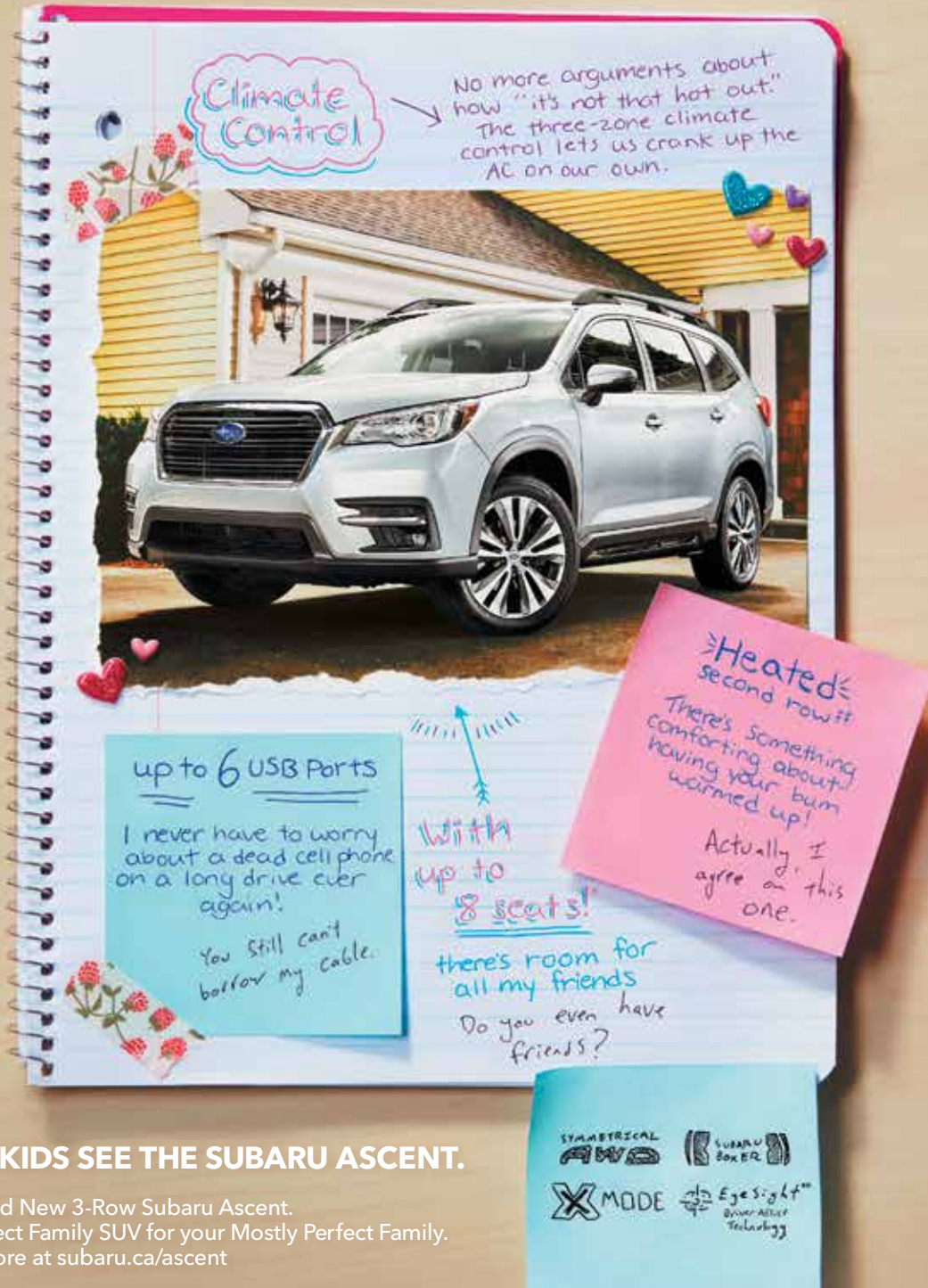
TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX PRESENTS AN AGC COMPANY WITH MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT A KOBAL GROUP PRODUCTION "DARK PHOENIX" JAMES MCAVOY MICHAEL FASSBENDER JENNIFER LAWRENCE IAN MCKELLEN SOPHIE TURNER TYE SHERRIDAN ALEXANDRA SHIPP AND JESSICA CHASTAIN
DANIEL CRUZ AND PHILIP ZIMMER MUSIC BY PHILIP ZIMMER COSTUME DESIGNER JULIE SARTI AND STYLING CLAUDE PARE EDITOR MAURO TROTTI EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STAN LEE AND JOSH MCGALEN PRODUCED BY SHAWN KINGSLEY WRITTEN BY HUTCH PARKER DIRECTED BY LANTHE SHARPLEY
MARVEL PRESENTS A TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM REALD 3D IMAX

IN THEATERS JUNE 7

© 2019 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. TM & © MARVEL. DARKPHOENIX.COM

2019 **ASCENT**

WELL-EQUIPPED FROM
\$35,995*



HOW KIDS SEE THE SUBARU ASCENT.

The Brand New 3-Row Subaru Ascent.
The Perfect Family SUV for your Mostly Perfect Family.
Learn more at subaru.ca/ascent

2019 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK+†

ON MODELS WITH SPECIFIC HEADLIGHTS

*Available with 7 or 8 passenger seating capacity. Some features described or shown may not be standard features or equipment. †MSRP of \$35,995 on 2019 Ascent Convenience CVT (KT2C8). MSRP excludes Freight & PDI of \$1,800. Taxes, license, registration and insurance are extra. \$0 security deposit. Model shown is 2019 Ascent Limited CVT (KT2L8) with an MSRP of \$46,495. Dealers may sell for less or may have to order or trade. ††Outboard seats in second row are heated. †††See Owner's Manual for complete details on system operation and limitations. 1. Ratings are awarded by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). Please visit www.iihs.org for testing methods. See your local Subaru dealer for details. Ascent and Subaru are registered trademarks.