

CINEPLEX

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

MAGAZINE

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DIGS INTO
TOY STORY 4
PAGE 28

DANNY BOYLE
LONGS FOR
YESTERDAY
PAGE 34

Mindy Kaling

Why **Late Night** is a movie
only she could make

PAGE 40



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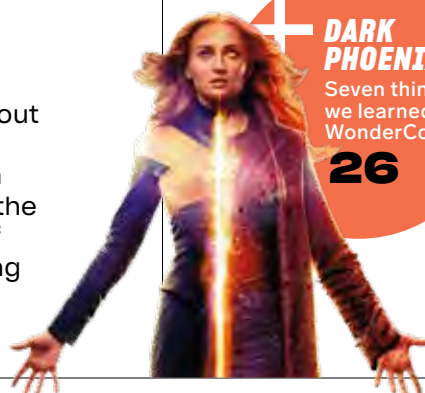
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Mindy on the Fringe

Do you remember the first time you saw Mindy Kaling?

Maybe it was as motormouthed customer service rep Kelly Kapoor on *The Office*, which was, amazingly, her very first professional screen role. Or perhaps it was in her first movie, *The 40 Year Old Virgin*, which came out just a few months later, in August 2005. She played Amy, the ex-girlfriend of Paul Rudd's character, who pops up across from Rudd unexpectedly at a speed-dating event.

But if you were lucky, really lucky, maybe the first time you saw Mindy Kaling was as Ben Affleck on stage at the 2002 New York International Fringe Festival.

That's right, I said "as Ben Affleck." That's not a typo. It's not supposed to be "opposite Ben Affleck" or "co-starring with Ben Affleck." Kaling, a Boston native, played Ben Affleck in *Matt & Ben*, a play she wrote with her roommate and Dartmouth theatre program classmate Brenda Withers, who played Damon.

The play asks the eternal question, how the heck did Matt Damon and Ben Affleck write the truly excellent, Oscar-winning screenplay for *Good Will Hunting*?

It starts with Matt, portrayed as the smart one, and Ben, the popular one, stuck inside Ben's messy apartment trying to turn J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* into a script simply by typing out the dialogue verbatim. That's when a mystery screenplay literally falls from the ceiling. It's *Good Will Hunting*. Ethical questions arise as the boys — Mindy looking pretty much like herself but in a blue track suit and backwards baseball cap, Brenda in khakis and a white button-down — try to decide whether to pass the script off as their own.

It was absurd, surreal, more than a little rough around the edges, and the hit of the festival winning "Best in Fringe" and earning a follow-up Off-Off-Broadway run in New York's East Village, at which

point *The New York Times*' Caryn James offered, "*Matt & Ben* represents a theater that appeals to a younger generation's pop cultural assumptions, a forward-looking theater that is not snobbish about movies, television or *US Weekly*."

More importantly, *Matt & Ben* caught the attention of *The Office* producer Greg Daniels, who not only gave Kaling the part of Kelly Kapoor, but also a position on the show's writing staff — the only woman in the room, never mind woman of colour. Over the course of eight seasons Kaling wrote 26 episodes of *The Office* (more than any other writer) and became the first woman of colour ever nominated for a writing Emmy.

And it's that experience writing for *The Office* that Kaling funnelled into the script for *Late Night* (which did not fall from the ceiling), a topical comedy in which Kaling also stars as a newbie writer hired to bring youth and a female perspective to a failing late night talk show. So, really, if you think about it, we have Ben Affleck to thank for this new movie. Not sure how Mindy would feel about that.

Turn to page 40 for "The Mindy Movie," our interview with **Mindy Kaling** about writing what she knows.

Elsewhere in this issue we talk with director **Danny Boyle** about his mind-bending musical rom-com *Yesterday* (page 34), *Toy Story 4* star **Tony Hale** explains what it's like to voice a plastic spork (page 28), and *Shaft*'s **Jessie T. Usher** tells us just how cool it really is to play Samuel L. Jackson's son (page 38).

MARNI WEISZ,
EDITOR





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drive high.**

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pas gelé.**

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#NeConduisPasGelé



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CLICK!

THERE SHE IS

She may look like Miss America here but she's a whole lot better, she's Captain Marvel. **Brie Larson** walks the stage at an *Avengers: Endgame* fan event in Seoul, South Korea.



CRUISE READY

Lupita Nyong'o dresses up just a bit to attend the launch of Christian Dior's Spring/Summer Cruise Collection in Marrakech, Morocco.



DOING THE HUSTLE

Jennifer Lopez (left) and **Madeline Brewer** shoot a scene for *Hustlers* in Manhattan.





↙
GO WEST
Tom Hanks
 and wife
Rita Wilson
 look a little bit
 country for the
 Stagecoach
 music festival in
 Indio, California.
 Wilson, an
 actor/producer
 who also sings
 country music,
 performed at the fest.



↗
NAME
THAT STAR
 We didn't
 recognize
Charlize
Theron
 at
 first. But that's
 her, looking
 all brunette
 and beautiful
 at a London
 screening of
Long Shot.



↖
BEAT OF HIS OWN BONGO
Matthew McConaughey returns to his old
 friend the bongos during the Mack, Jack &
 McConaughey Charity Gala in Austin, Texas.

CLICK!



➤
**WE'LL
HAVE WHAT
THEY'RE
HAVING**
Meg Ryan and
Billy Crystal
enjoy their
reunion at
the TCM
Classic Film
Festival's 30th
anniversary
screening of
*When Harry
Met Sally*.



➤
A HEAD FOR FASHION
Jared Leto brings a spare head to the 2019 Met Gala. We're not sure how the head fit into the theme, "Celebrating Camp," and we don't really care.



↖
**TIME FOR
A LAUGH**
Trevor Noah
makes Julianne
Moore laugh
at the Time
100 Gala in
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IN FOCUS

Sharing is Caring

Jim Jarmusch calls on old friends Bill Murray and Tilda Swinton to slay zombies in *The Dead Don't Die*

DO YOU THINK JIM JARMUSCH AND Wes Anderson have to sit down together with their calendars before either starts a movie?

Both filmmakers are known for working with the same actors over and over, and both are very fond of Bill Murray and Tilda Swinton, who play a police chief and mortician respectively in Jarmusch's new zombie movie, *The Dead Don't Die*.

This is the fourth movie Jarmusch and Murray have made together, after *Broken Flowers*, *Coffee and Cigarettes* and *The Limits of Control*, and the fourth movie for Jarmusch and Swinton, after *Broken Flowers*, *The Limits of Control* and the 2013 vampire movie *Only Lovers Left Alive*.

Similarly, Swinton and Anderson have

conspired three times, on *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, *Isle of Dogs* and *Moonrise Kingdom*, while Murray and Anderson have made eight movies together, those three with Swinton, plus *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *Rushmore* and *The Darjeeling Limited*. And the trio recently wrapped filming on Anderson's next pic, *The French Dispatch*.

The Dead Don't Die also stars Adam Driver and Chloë Sevigny as police officers who help Murray battle zombies. Neither are Jarmusch newbies. Driver played a poet/bus driver in Jarmusch's indie hit *Paterson* and Sevigny was a secretary in *Broken Flowers*. —MW

The Dead Don't Die opens June 14th.

↑
From left: Bill Murray, Chloë Sevigny and Adam Driver in *The Dead Don't Die*
Inset: Tilda Swinton

FANCY OPENING
The film debuted at the Cannes Film Festival.

IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD
Tom Waits plays a hermit named Bob.

LUCKY #13
This is Jim Jarmusch's 13th feature film.



“I think Marion and Rose-Lynn are both alpha females, basically, and so they’re going to come up against one another.”

— JULIE WALTERS ON PLAYING THE MOTHER OF AN EX-CON WITH DREAMS OF COUNTRY MUSIC STARDOM IN *WILD ROSE*

CASTING

KILLER LOOKS

Filmmaker Luc Besson gives into his love of casting supermodels in action films by giving the lead role in *Anna*, about a government assassin, to Sasha Luss, the Russian beauty who has walked runways for Chanel, Dior, Valentino and, as you see here, Balmain in 2017.

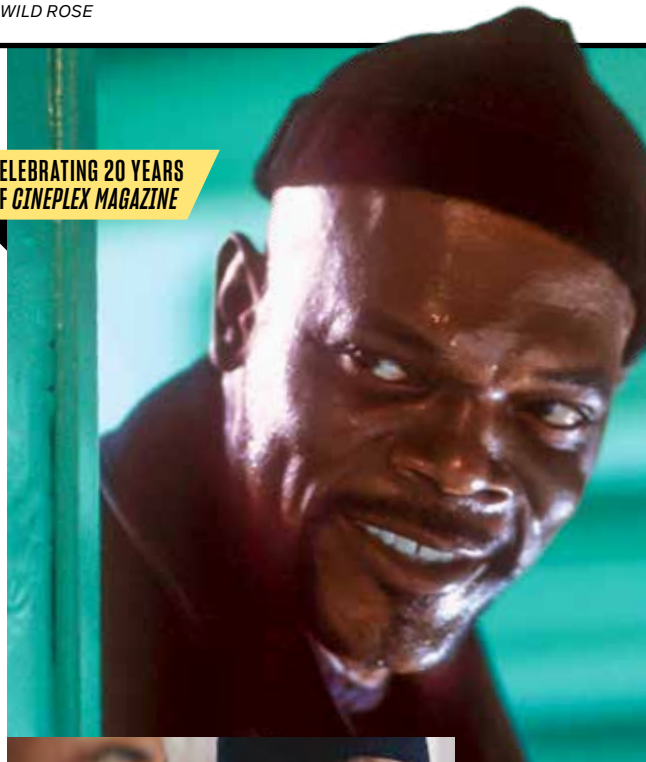
Besson previously gave model Cara Delevingne a starring role in *Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets* and cast model Milla Jovovich in both *The Fifth Element* and *The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc*.

.....
Anna opens June 21st.



↑
Sasha Luss in *Anna*

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CINEPLEX MAGAZINE



↑
Samuel L. Jackson in 2000's *Shaft*

←
Jackson (right) with Jessie T. Usher in 2019's *Shaft*

FROM THE ARCHIVES: JUNE 2000

SHAFT: NOW & THEN

Of all the things actors have told us over the past 20 years, Samuel L. Jackson may have shared one of the most honest when we spoke with him for his reboot of *Shaft* in June 2000.

“I understand the fact that people are kind of amazed sometimes when they see you in places that they don’t expect to see you,” he admitted for the cover story of only our sixth issue. “And, you know, interestingly enough, I actually walk around the streets some

days just to see how many people will notice.”

“Honestly. I think a lot of them do,” he continued. “I actually think that actors who say, ‘I hate watching myself on screen,’ should stop lying.”

Now, 19 years later, Jackson stars in the follow-up to 2000’s *Shaft*, which is also called simply *Shaft*. And he’ll be watching it right along with the rest of us.

.....
Shaft opens June 14th.

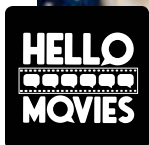
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Hello Movies
host Lana Gay



Chris Hemsworth and Tessa Thompson
in *Men in Black: International*

THE CHAT

MEN'S WOMAN

It seems appropriate that when **Tessa Thompson** visited a comic book convention to promote *Men in Black: International* it was Brazil's version, Comic Con Experience. As the title infers, this next chapter in the franchise that previously starred Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones as secret agents tasked with monitoring alien life forms on Earth expands from New York to the rest of the world. And this time it's Thompson and her *Thor: Ragnarok* co-star Chris Hemsworth who continue the important work. Here are a few tidbits Thompson shared about the movie while in São Paulo, Brazil.

On her character, Agent M

She's badass because she's really smart and she's a total geek and she isn't afraid to admit it. And I think her superpower is her mind. She's like a really dope nerd who's happy to be one and is obsessed with the world of aliens and the world of *Men in Black*.

On what's different this time

It's a continuation of the franchise we all know and

love but this time it takes an international scope. You've only seen the agents in New York and this time you get to see them all over the world.

On working with her MCU co-star Chris Hemsworth again

The cool thing is Chris and I really have a rapport. We like to make each other laugh and tease each other so that was pretty easy.

On the rest of the cast

We have tons of aliens,

we have new villains, we have this really great little character named Pawny that's voiced by Kumail Nanjiani, who's so funny. Rebecca Ferguson is in our film and she is really fierce and fantastic, Liam Neeson is here and his daughter did not get taken in this one, he has other stuff to do. And, of course, because it's a *Men in Black* movie there's probably, maybe some cool cameos.

Men in Black: International opens June 14th.



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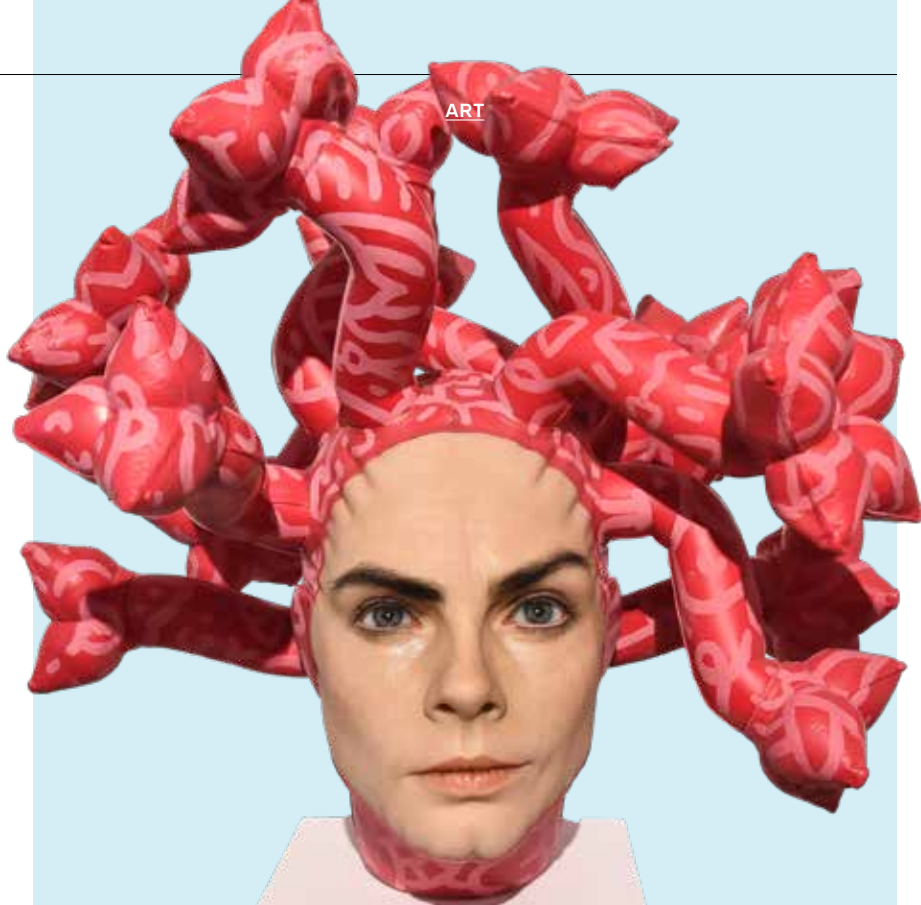


BOOK IT

PARTY LIKE IT'S 1999

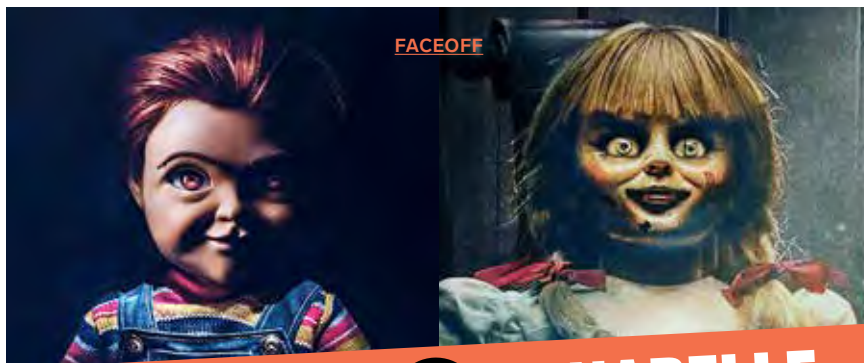
It is uncanny. Twenty years ago, in 1999, some of the best and most influential movies of the past few decades came out all in the same year — *Fight Club*, *The Matrix*, *Office Space*, *The Sixth Sense*, *Being John Malkovich*, *Election*, *Boys Don't Cry*, *Magnolia*, *The Blair Witch Project*, *The Iron Giant*, *Eyes Wide Shut*, and your Best Picture Oscar winner, *American Beauty*. Also out that year, *Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace*.

Why so many great movies, and *The Phantom Menace*, all in one year? You'll have to read pop-culture scribe Brian Raftery's slick new book *Best. Movie. Year. Ever.* (Simon & Schuster) to find out.



HEAD ON OVER

Travelling to Jolly Old England this summer and hoping to run into British model/actor Cara Delevingne? You can guarantee a sighting, of sorts, by popping into JD Malat Gallery to see artist Aspencrow's sculpture *Olympe*, which depicts Delevingne as a modern-day, feminist version of Medusa. Just don't look directly into her eyes.



CHUCKY VS ANNABELLE

Two creepy, redheaded dolls. Two new movies opening one week apart. Lots of murders. Why can't we just put *Child's Play*'s Chucky and *Annabelle Comes Home*'s Annabelle in a locked room and let them finish each other off? Unless of course, they might procreate. Bad idea, bad idea.

.....
Child's Play opens June 21st. *Annabelle Comes Home* opens June 28th.

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SPOTLIGHT CANADA

Play Time

David Lewis comes face-to-face with Chucky in the *Child's Play* reboot

WE'RE WORRIED ABOUT DAVID LEWIS. HE PLAYS Shane in this month's *Child's Play*, a reboot of the franchise about Chucky, the evil, redheaded doll with a habit of killing everyone. Chucky belongs to Andy (Gabriel Bateman), and Shane is Andy's mom's (Aubrey Plaza) new boyfriend. Better be careful.

Born and raised in Vancouver, where *Child's Play* was shot last fall, Lewis has remained in the city throughout his long career, which includes roles in *The X-Files*, *Man of Steel*, *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency* and most recently the CBC movie *Unspeakable*, about Canada's tainted blood scandal. "I've worked in a bunch of places but I've pretty much just lived here," says the 42-year-old, happily.

He was at home in Vancouver when we spoke about this eighth movie in the Chucky universe.

HOME TOWN
Vancouver, B.C.

FAMILY REUNION
Coincidentally, Vancouver's Amber Taylor plays Lewis's daughter in both *Unspeakable* and *Child's Play*

GREETINGS
He's lost track of the number of Hallmark movies he's made

What's it like to work with the doll?

It's creepy as hell, I'm not going to lie to you. The first time they brought it out I was like, "Wow." We did day shoots, studio shoots, night shoots, just the way they would position this doll at certain points, and I would go to the monitor and look at it on camera, it's creepy, it's scary, it looks fantastic.

Your character doesn't exist in the original movie. What does he add to this one?

I think that there's an interesting dynamic when it comes to single moms and a character who's not the dad. That's always an interesting thing that can happen in a relationship.

Is it a remake?

It's not part of the canon of the original *Child's Play* but there are a lot of similarities when you talk about a doll that comes to life. It's its own entity, but a really smart spin on it just with technology being one of the main components of the film.

Right, he's Wi-Fi enabled this time.

Yeah, and I think that's a really interesting thing that we're dealing with as a society right now.... I see it with my kids all the time. We've had to institute a no-screen rule for parts of the night when they came home because they bury themselves in their computers or their phone, which is, I get it, I've caught myself as well. We're becoming more and more dependent on smart cars and our appliances being attached to Wi-Fi and they're talking about putting smart chips in clothing to adjust your body temperature, and it sounds great on paper but I think there's a real double-edged sword to that.

Why do you think there's been such a resurgence of horror movies?

Certainly with *It* and with *Child's Play* there's a nostalgia factor at work, which is really exciting, just to take yourself back to being a kid and being scared as an adult. But I think that horror films, done properly, people like to be scared and I think being scared with a bunch of people in a theatre is a very exciting thing. But also holding a mirror up to what's happening in the world and where we are in society, it's a good way to do that.

—MARNI WEISZ

Child's Play opens June 21st.



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↑
Scarlett Johansson
In L.A. for the world premiere of *Avengers: Endgame*.



↑
Dwayne Johnson
In New York for the Time 100 Gala.



↑
Janelle Monáe
At the L.A. premiere of *UglyDolls*.



↑
Amber Heard
In New York for a screening of *Gully* at the Tribeca Film Festival.



↑
Naomie Harris

At the launch event for *Bond 25* in Montego Bay, Jamaica.



↑
Ryan Reynolds

In Tokyo for the world premiere of *Pokémon Detective Pikachu*.



↑
Isla Fisher

At the L.A. premiere of *The Beach Bum*.



↑
Zac Efron

At the European premiere of *Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile* in London.

IN THEATRES



THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2

In this follow-up to the 2016 hit about what pets do in their private time, Max (**Patton Oswalt**) is adapting to life after his human Katie (**Ellie Kemper**) has married and had a kid. Listen for **Harrison Ford** as the voice of farm dog Rooster; his first animated feature. → [OPENS JUNE 7TH](#)

JUNE 7

DARK PHOENIX

This 10th film in the X-Men franchise sees mutant Jean Grey (**Sophie Turner**) develop strong new powers after the team — which includes Beast (**Nicholas Hoult**), Cyclops (**Tye Sheridan**) and Mystique (**Jennifer Lawrence**) — is hit by a solar flare during a space mission. Unfortunately, the new Jean Grey, or Phoenix,



The Souvenir's
Honor Swinton Byrne

isn't planning to use those powers for good.

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2

See spotlight box.

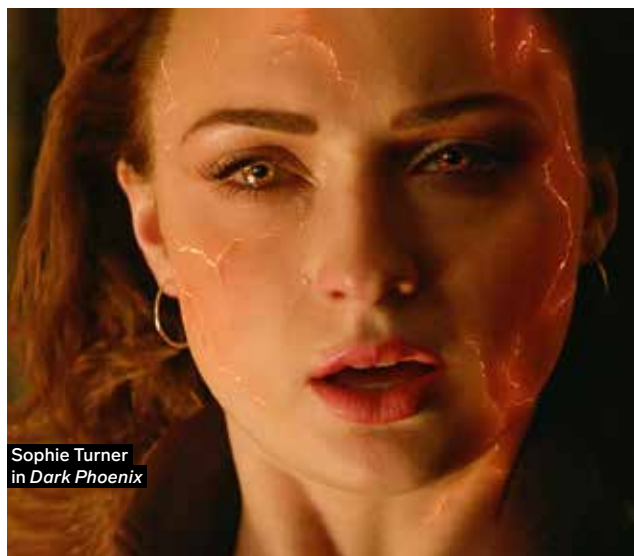
LATE NIGHT

Low ratings and the accusation that she doesn't support women force late night talk show host Katherine Newberry (**Emma Thompson**) to add young comedy writer Molly (**Mindy Kaling**) to her all-male writing staff. Kaling also wrote the script, drawing on her own experiences breaking into the male-dominated biz.

→ [SEE MINDY KALING INTERVIEW, PAGE 40.](#)

THE SOUVENIR

Honor Swinton Byrne, daughter of **Tilda Swinton**, is earning rave reviews for her turn as upper-class film student Julie, who is struggling to define herself as an artist when she falls in love with a troubled man (**Tom Burke**). Tilda joins her daughter on screen playing Julie's emotionally reserved mother.



Sophie Turner
in *Dark Phoenix*

JUNE 14

**MEN IN BLACK:
INTERNATIONAL**

See spotlight box.

THE DEAD DON'T DIE

Writer-director **Jim Jarmusch** assembles an eclectic cast for this zombie comedy that sees the undead wreaking havoc in a sleepy town. **Bill Murray**, **Adam Driver** and **Chloë Sevigny** play the town's cops, **Tilda Swinton** is a samurai sword-carrying mortician, **Steve Buscemi** plays a farmer and **Iggy Pop** and **Carol Kane** pop up as zombies.

SHAFT

The new *Shaft* film unites three generations of the crime-solving family as cybersecurity expert John "JJ" Shaft Jr. (**Jessie T. Usher**) calls on his estranged dad John Shaft II (**Samuel L. Jackson**) and granduncle, the original John Shaft (**Richard Roundtree**), to investigate the murder of JJ's best friend.

→ [SEE JESSIE T. USHER INTERVIEW, PAGE 38.](#)



MEN IN BLACK: INTERNATIONAL

The *Men in Black* franchise gets its fourth installment, and finally welcomes a woman to the mix. **Tessa Thompson** is newbie Agent M, who teams with Agent H (**Chris Hemsworth**) to find the mole in the Men in Black organization. Co-starring **Liam Neeson**, **Emma Thompson** and **Kumail Nanjiani** as the voice of alien Pawny. → [OPENS JUNE 14TH](#)



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ANNABELLE COMES HOME

Ed and Lorraine Warren (**Patrick Wilson**, **Vera Farmiga**) have one house rule: do not touch anything in the artifacts room, especially that creepy doll Annabelle! When their daughter's friend breaks that rule, bad, bad things start to happen. → [OPENS JUNE 28TH](#)

JUNE 21

TOY STORY 4

For the past 24 years a group of pixilated movie toys have made us laugh, cry and contemplate the meaning of life. In this fourth *Toy Story* film contemplation takes centre stage as Forky (**Tony Hale**), a craft project created by Bonnie out of a spork, is tormented by the fact he doesn't know if he's a toy or a piece of cutlery. When Woody (**Tom Hanks**) and Forky get separated from the gang they reconnect with Bo Peep (**Annie Potts**) and meet new toys that help them understand their purpose in life. → [SEE TONY HALE INTERVIEW, PAGE 28](#).



Toy Story 4

ANNA

French filmmaker **Luc Besson** is enamored with women who can kick ass — *The Fifth Element*, *La Femme Nikita*, *Lucy* — and he adds to his oeuvre with this thriller starring Russian model-turned-actor **Sasha Luss** as assassin Anna Poliatova, a merciless killer who gets caught up in a dangerous mission. Co-starring **Helen Mirren**, **Cillian Murphy** and **Luke Evans**.

WILD ROSE

Rose-Lynn Harlan (**Jessie Buckley**) comes out of prison knowing she has to take care of her two kids who are living with her mother (**Julie Walters**) in Glasgow. However, Rose-Lynn's true calling is to be a country



Himesh Patel (left) and Ed Sheeran in *Yesterday*

music singer, and now she has to decide whether to follow her dream or do right by her kids.

CHILD'S PLAY

The *Child's Play* franchise gets a reboot starring **Gabriel Bateman** as a lonely boy whose mom (**Aubrey Plaza**) buys him a Wi-Fi-enabled doll named Chucky (voiced by **Mark Hamill**). Chucky's ability to control various forms of technology allows him to carry out all sorts of bloodthirsty deeds.

DOGMAN

This Italian drama finds mild-mannered dog groomer and single dad Marcello (**Marcello Fonte**) sucked into the criminal schemes of the town's bully, Simone (**Edoardo Gero**). Now gentle Marcello must find the strength to break from Simone's grasp.

JUNE 28

YESTERDAY

Director **Danny Boyle** and scriptwriter **Richard Curtis** team for this clever musical rom-com that finds singer-songwriter Jack (**Himesh Patel**) being knocked unconscious and waking up to discover the Beatles don't exist. Jack starts passing off Beatles songs as his own, leading to fortune and fame. But is it possible someone out there knows the truth? Co-starring **Lily James**, **Kate McKinnon** and **Ana de Armas**, with appearances from **James Corden** and **Ed Sheeran**. → [SEE DANNY BOYLE INTERVIEW, PAGE 34](#).

ANNABELLE COMES HOME

See spotlight box.

**KUMAIL NANJIANI
DAVE BAUTISTA**

STUBER

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX PRESENTS "STUBER" KUMAIL NANJIANI DAVE BAUTISTA IKO UWAIS NATALIE MORALES
BETTY GILPIN JIMMY TATRO WITH MIRA SORVINO AND KAREN GILLAN MUSIC BY JOSEPH TRAPANESE EDITED BY JONATHAN SCHWARTZ
PRODUCTION DESIGNER NAAMAN MARSHALL DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BOBBY SHORE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS NICHOLAS THOMAS JEREMIAH SAMUELS JAKE WAGNER
PRODUCED BY JONATHAN GOLDSTEIN, J.P.P. JOHN FRANCIS DALEY, J.P.P. WRITTEN BY TRIPPER CLANCY DIRECTED BY MICHAEL DOWSE

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CONCERTS & MUSIC

Hitting the Right Notes

Get ready to shake, rattle and roll as a pair of musicals starring Prince and John Travolta shimmy onto screens

FANS OF MUSICALS GET THEIR FIX as two hip-shaking flicks hit Cineplex screens this month. First up is the 1984 cult classic *Purple Rain*, Prince's over-the-top romantic drama that sees him falling for an up-and-coming singer (Apollonia Kotero). *Purple Rain* gave Prince his first starring movie role, and while it's obvious the pop star had limited acting range it doesn't matter in the slightest as the film's best scenes are the electrifying concert sequences showcasing Prince at the height of his musical powers.

Then *Hairspray* turns back the clock to the

1960s when vivacious teen Tracy Turnblad (Nikki Blonsky) proves she deserves a spot on *The Corny Collins Show*, a local TV dance show. Tracy also wants to help integrate the show to include African-American teenagers. The surprise casting in the musical, based on the Broadway show, is John Travolta, who is unrecognizable as Tracy's full-figured mom, Edna, and gives a wonderfully nuanced and touching performance. —IR

Purple Rain - June 7th to June 20th

Hairspray - June 21st to July 4th

↑

Hairspray's John Travolta and Nikki Blonsky
Inset: Prince and Apollonia Kotero in *Purple Rain*

STUDIO ANGST

Warner Brothers' thought *Purple Rain* was such a mess it didn't deserve a wide release. However, a few early rave reviews changed executives' minds and it became a box-office hit.

TRANSFORMING TRAVOLTA

It took John Travolta four hours to transform into *Hairspray*'s Edna as five separate silicone prosthetics had to be applied to his face in addition to the 30-pound body suit.



“I’m just one stomach flu away from my goal weight.”

—EMILY BLUNT IN *THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA*

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

CINEPLEX EVENTS

LIVE SPORTS

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL
Sat., June 1

FAMILY FAVOURITES

A DOG’S WAY HOME
Sat., June 1

STUDIO GHIBLI ANIME SERIES

NAUSICAÄ OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND
Sun., June 2
(English dubbed version)
Wed., June 5
(Japanese with English subtitles)

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE

THE AUDIENCE
Encores: Mon., June 3;
Sat., June 15; Thurs.,
June 20; Sat. June 29

ALL ABOUT EVE
Sat., June 22

SMALL ISLAND
Thurs., June 27

MUSIC AT THE MOVIES

PURPLE RAIN
Fri., June 7 to
Thurs., June 20

HAIRSPRAY
Fri., June 21 to
Thurs., July 4

MET OPERA

DIALOGUES DES CARMÉLITES (POULENC)
Encores: Sat., June 8;
Mon., June 10; Wed.,
June 12; Sun., June 23

ROMÉO ET JULIETTE (GOUNOD)

Encore: Wed., June 19

LA BOHÈME (PUCCINI)

Encore: Wed., June 26

GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

VAN GOGH & JAPAN
Sun., June 9

FLASHBACK FILM SERIES

LABYRINTH

Fri., June 14 to
Thurs., June 27

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Fri., June 28 to
Thurs., July 11

SENSORY FRIENDLY SCREENINGS

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2

Sat., June 15

TOY STORY 4

Sat., June 29

CLASSIC FILMS

KRAMER VS. KRAMER

Sun., June 16; Tues.,
June 18; Sat., June 22;
Mon., June 24;
Wed., June 26

EVENTS IN VIP

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
Mon., June 17

LONDON’S WEST END

KINKY BOOTS
Mon., June 24



GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

VAN GOGH & JAPAN

Renowned 19th-century Dutch artist Vincent Van Gogh never visited Japan but was enthralled by the nation’s art forms, especially *ukiyo-e*, colour woodcuts. This Exhibition on Screen presentation takes us inside Amsterdam’s Van Gogh Museum where we learn how the woodcuts inspired Van Gogh to incorporate unconventional composition, bolder lines and vibrant colours into his own paintings, serving as a lasting influence in his all-too-short life as an artist. → [JUNE 9](#)



CLASSIC FILMS

KRAMER VS. KRAMER

Forty years ago, a movie about a failed marriage and bitter custody drama stormed the box office and set off a cultural debate that continues to this day. *Kramer vs. Kramer* stars Meryl Streep as Joanna, who leaves her husband Ted (Dustin Hoffman), forcing him to raise their seven-year-old son Billy (Justin Henry) alone. She returns seeking custody, thus setting off a court battle. While Hoffman is the heart of the film — an intense dad who learns to emotionally connect with his son — it is Streep who is its soul, a woman who refuses to live an unexamined life, and pays the price for her choice. → [JUNE 16, 18, 22, 24, 26](#)

7 FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT DARK PHOENIX

The 12th X-Men movie, *Dark Phoenix*, finds our mutant heroes enjoying a period of unprecedented approval. Until, that is, they're struck by a solar flare while on a mission to help stranded astronauts in outer space. The blast has a particularly dangerous effect on Jean Grey (Sophie Turner), threatening to turn her into the malevolent Phoenix against her will. Turner and fellow cast members Tye Sheridan, who plays Cyclops, and Nicholas Hoult, who plays Beast, joined writer-director Simon Kinberg at WonderCon in Anaheim to share behind-the-scenes insights into the making of the film

BY MARNI WEISZ

1 THIS IS THE FIRST X-MEN MOVIE THAT GOES INTO OUTER SPACE, AND THE FIRST TO FEATURE AN ALIEN (PLAYED BY JESSICA CHASTAIN).



3 SIMON KINBERG WANTED TO KEEP AS MANY OF THE EFFECTS AS POSSIBLE PRACTICAL, RATHER THAN DIGITAL, SO THEY BUILT A STREET OF HOUSES IN MONTREAL, WHERE THE FILM WAS SHOT, JUST TO BLOW THEM UP.



"ALL OF THOSE HOUSES THAT LOOK VERY REAL ARE VERY REAL ON THE OUTSIDE BUT HAVE NOTHING ON THE INSIDE," HE SAID.



4 SOPHIE TURNER MAY LOOK FANTASTIC WITH HER HAIR BILLOWING IN THE WIND, BUT SHE LOOKED ANYTHING BUT WHILE FILMING. SHE WAS ACTUALLY WEARING A BALD CAP WITH TRACKING POINTS FOR THE CGI SO THE UNDULATING LOCKS COULD BE ADDED LATER.

"AND ONE PART OF MY COSTUME IS THIS PURPLE COAT WITH THIS HUGE COLLAR...AND I'VE GOT THIS BALD CAP ON AND I LOOK LIKE MEGAMIND," SHE SAID. "IT'S TERRIBLE. YOU DON'T FEEL COOL. YOU DON'T FEEL POWERFUL. YOU LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT."

5 TYE SHERIDAN'S CYCLOPS WEARS A DARK VISOR, SO THE ACTOR COULD ONLY SEE THROUGH A NARROW OPENING IN FRONT OF HIS EYES.



"YOU DON'T WANT TO PULL IT OFF BECAUSE THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COME FIX YOUR HAIR AGAIN," SAID SHERIDAN. "YOU DON'T WANT TO TAKE IT OFF EVERY TIME YOU HAVE TO WALK UP THE STAIRS SO, YOU KNOW, YOU TRIP AND GET A LOT OF BRUISES ON YOUR SHINS."

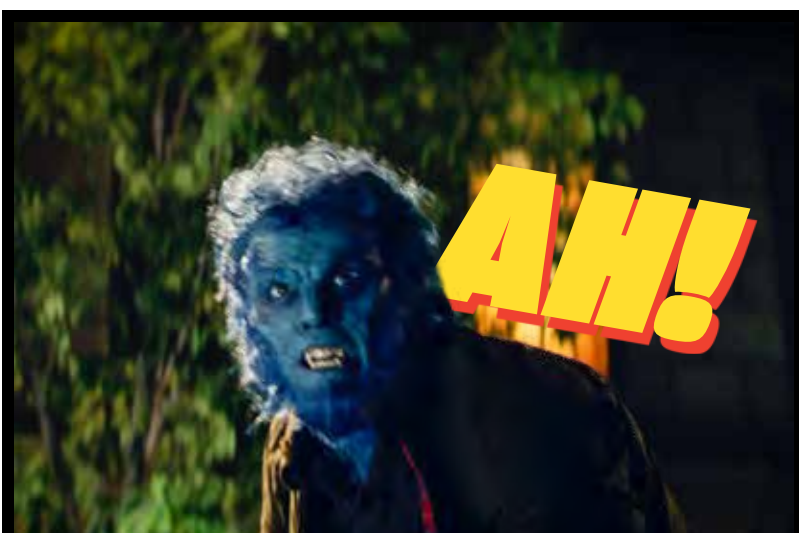


"ONE OF THE WONDERFUL THINGS THAT A LOT OF MOVIES HAVE DONE, AND CERTAINLY MCU HAS DONE IT PERHAPS THE BEST, IS TELL INTERGALACTIC COMIC BOOK STORIES," SAID KINBERG. "SO WE FELT LIKE YOU ALL WERE READY, AND WE WERE READY TO DO OUR VERSION OF THAT."

2 SOPHIE TURNER RESEARCHED PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS IN PREPARATION TO PLAY HER DIVIDED CHARACTER, JEAN GREY/PHOENIX.



"WE WANTED TO STUDY SCHIZOPHRENIA AND DISSOCIATIVE DISORDER TO REALLY DELVE INTO THE PSYCHE OF THE CHARACTER AND GROUND HER IN SOMETHING QUITE REAL," TURNER SAID.



6 NICHOLAS HOULT, WHO PLAYS BEAST, IS NOT AS GOOD AT "QUAD RUNNING," OR RUNNING ON ALL FOURS, AS HIS STUNT GUYS WHO MAKE BEAST'S GAIT LOOK FAST AND GRACEFUL.

"AND THEN THEY'RE LIKE, NICK, SO YOU JUST FINISH OFF THE QUAD RUN INTO THE SCENE," DESCRIBED HOULT. "I'M NOT BUILT TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT SO IT ENDS UP ME KIND OF CRAWLING AND THEN POPPING UP INTO FRAME AND BEING LIKE, 'AH,' AND THEN CARRYING ON WITH THE SCENE. I'M SURE THERE'S SOME VERY EMBARRASSING CUTS OF THAT."

7 AT THE END OF ONE SCENE THAT JAMES MCAVOY, WHO PLAYS PROFESSOR X, WAS SHOOTING WHILE SUSPENDED ON WIRES, JESSICA CHASTAIN ARRANGED FOR THE SOUND CREW TO START PLAYING THE MACARENA, AND FOR THE CREW CONTROLLING MCAVOY'S MOVEMENTS TO MAKE HIM DANCE.



"JESSICA CHASTAIN IS A MENACE," SAID KINBERG.

STICK A FORK

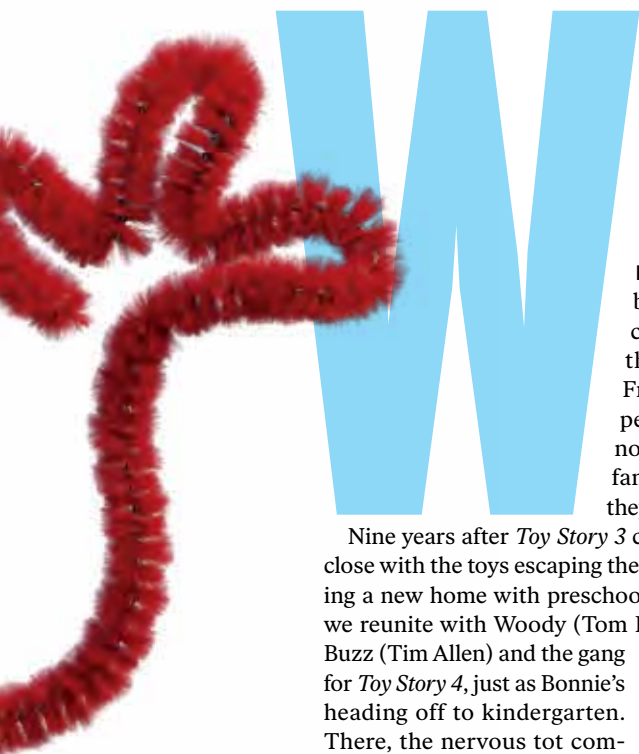
How do you make the venerable **Toy Story** franchise fresh for a fourth movie? Introduce a new toy that's not really a toy at all.

Tony Hale explains how he got into character to voice Forky, a sentient craft project who joins Woody, Buzz and the gang for one more adventure

BY MARNI WEISZ

IN IT!





WHEN YOU THINK OF big-screen existential crises you probably think of avant-garde French cinema or experimental indie pics, not so much animated family features. Unless they're from Pixar.

Nine years after *Toy Story 3* came to an emotional close with the toys escaping the incinerator and finding a new home with preschooler Bonnie we reunite with Woody (Tom Hanks), Buzz (Tim Allen) and the gang for *Toy Story 4*, just as Bonnie's heading off to kindergarten. There, the nervous tot comforts herself by making a doll, of sorts, out of craft supplies fished from the garbage — a plastic spork, a pipe cleaner, some googly eyes. Meet Forky!

Forky instantly becomes Bonnie's favourite toy and joins the gang on a road trip with Bonnie's family. But the spork-man still sees himself as a piece of trash (hence the existential crisis) and jumps out of the moving RV to find his proper place in the world. Woody jumps after him, launching a new adventure in which the pair finds Woody's old love interest, Bo Peep (Annie Potts), living in an antique shop.

Who could voice such a confused, conflicted, out-of-place little guy? Pixar went straight to two-time Emmy winner Tony Hale, whom you may know as naïve mama's boy Buster Bluth on *Arrested Development* and Gary Walsh, the effusive aide to Julia Louis-Dreyfus' Vice President on *Veep*, currently in its final season. Those Emmys were for the latter.

Hale was in Glendale, California — already working on his next project, an animated TV show based on *Archibald's Next Big Thing*, a kids' book he wrote years ago — when we spoke by phone. →



JOKE'S ON HIM

Tony Hale isn't new to voice work. He has almost two dozen voice credits, including *The Joker* in *Batman Ninja* (above) and Doctor Psycho in the upcoming, animated *Harley Quinn* series, characters who are very different from his nervous alter egos in *Arrested Development* and *Veep*. "It's fun to play someone like The Joker who's just completely evil," he says.



Woody and Forky hit the road in *Toy Story 4*

→ ***Toy Story 4* director Josh Cooley said they were thinking of you when they came up with this character, a conflicted plastic spork. How does that make you feel?**

I know. They told me that. I was like, “That tracks, that tracks.” But it was fun ‘cause when I came in they had attached some of Buster’s lines [from *Arrested Development*] and Gary’s lines [from *Veep*] to Forky’s voice, to the character, and I was able to watch him, it was really fun to see. I mean, here’s the deal. What Pixar does is absolutely just jaw-dropping to me. To not only just walk into the space and have the opportunity to do something in *Toy Story*, which is such a beautiful franchise, but to have already put my voice onto a character that they’re developing, the whole thing was just kind of a lot to take in.

Cooley also said, “Tony’s performance as Forky is a comedy salad of confidence, confusion, and empathy served by a hilarious spork.” I love that quote but I want to know, in your eyes, who is Forky?

First of all, that’s very nice.... When I came into it I really kind of thought of, he has

a very baby-like mentality. Babies are so great, they’ll express exactly what they’re feeling. They don’t care who you are, what the situation is, they’re just going to say it and emote. And Forky’s very much like, he’ll ask questions, he doesn’t know what’s going on, he’s looking at people weird. He doesn’t care about social, moral, putting on a nice face. It’s just kind of like, if he’s confused, he’s confused. But then he starts to learn a lot about friendship and just life and ask a lot of questions. I don’t know, I really came in being like, this guy is one big sponge.

How do you get into character when you’re playing a googly-eyed spork?

The sad thing is some of the times it comes a little naturally. He is very confused, I’m confused about a lot of things.... I’ve gotten that question a lot with Buster or Gary, and the key is whatever kind of scene you’re acting out, you kind of have to find the truth within yourself of that situation, and this sounds really actor-y to say that, but if Forky is confused about something, you kind of think about the many times you’ve been confused, or the things that confuse you. →

“HE HAS A VERY BABY-LIKE MENTALITY,” HALE SAYS OF FORKY. “BABIES ARE SO GREAT, THEY’LL EXPRESS EXACTLY WHAT THEY’RE FEELING”



IF KEANU REEVES WERE A TOY...

Forky isn’t *Toy Story 4*’s only new plaything.

Keanu Reeves joins the team as Duke Caboom who is, appropriately, a Canadian motorcycle stunt-riding action figure. Not only is Keanu Canadian in real life, he is also the co-founder of Arch Motorcycle, a custom motorcycle building company, and loves to ride.



**SOME MOVIES BECOME THE VOICE
OF A GENERATION. THIS YEAR,
THAT VOICE IS A WHISPER.**

Reese
THE MOVIE
A MOVIE ABOUT REESE

HERSHEY CANADA PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH ANOMALY TORONTO A COMMON GOOD PRODUCTION A JAMIE WEBSTER FILM
"REESE THE MOVIE" STARRING **ASMR DARLING GIBI ASMR MATTY TINGLES** WITH **ALB IN WHISPERLAND** AND **SEAFOAM KITTEN**
DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHY **ANDRÉ TURPIN** EDITED BY **RED BARBAZA** EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS **HECTOR DE LA BARREDA JACKSON HITCHON MATHIEU GAMACHE**
KAETLYN GRAHAM AND ANDIE DOAN AUDIO DIRECTION **GRAYSON MATTHEWS** FOOD STYLIST **KESTER BIRCH** PRODUCTION DESIGNER **MICHAEL LEACH** FIKER **ERIN WILBUR**
PRODUCED BY **JULIAN NIEVA AND ATHENA KOUVERIANOS** SCREENPLAY **MARKO PANDZA JASON KERR AND JAMIE MARCOVITCH**

JUNE 9
Crave

PRESENTED IN
 **ASMR**

JUNE 17
 /REESE CANADA

→ **So it doesn't even matter that he's a spork?**

It doesn't matter he's a spork. You know, Buster deals with anxiety, I've dealt with anxiety. Gary was overwhelmed by politics and had all these issues, I'm kind of overwhelmed by politics and I have a lot of issues.

What was it like in the recording studio?

Typically, when you do voiceover or any kind of animation, you're typically in a booth separate from the people that are directing. Then everything is just silent, then they're talking about you behind the glass. You're like, "What are they saying? What's going on?" And all of your insecurities come out 'cause you don't know what they're saying. But with *Toy Story*, it was like one big room and they were in the same room with me. I just love that they made that choice because I felt a lot more a part of the process. I don't know, it formed a connection with them, and them with me, that I think was really special.

Were you ever with Tom Hanks or any of the other actors, or was it all done individually?

It was all done individually, yeah. But one time [Hanks] recorded right before me. I was able to meet him and he's such a nice man.

Did you have a Forky doll or maquette to look at and hold?

They did not have a doll, but they had a big poster of what he was going to look like and that was just really cool. The voice people, actors, come in afterwards and they do these fun voices and crazy voices, but the amount of work that is put into the animation, and the writing, and the design, and all that kind of stuff is so enormous.... We're thrown in and hopefully it works, and hopefully I can bring some life to Forky. But I have such tremendous admiration for the entire process. Those guys, they're the ones that have done all the work.

Actual toys that you can buy are such a big part of *Toy Story* and all of the Pixar franchises. Is there going to be a Forky toy?

I've seen it! They sent me one, and that was really cool.

Is it just a plastic spork?

Well, it's not too far off. I think, to me, the thing about Forky that's really cool is not only is he simple in design — he's a fork, he's some pipe cleaners, he's got some little clay feet — but he's simple as a character. He sees the world very simply. Everything is kind of like broken down to like, "What's this? What's that?" Everything is just trying to get to the simple. His whole being and design and everything is just from a very pure, simple place.



Is it going to fall apart when you play with it?

No. No, no, no, no. No, they built him well. He's simple, but he's built well.

Have you seen the finished film?

Yeah, I did, and it's so beautiful and so good. I actually went to a screening with Keanu Reeves and Tim Allen. I had never met them, and they're incredibly nice guys.... It hits me that I'm in *Toy Story* in phases. First you're like, "Oh, yeah, this is really fun" when I see a poster of my character, then I hear my voice in a trailer and I'm like, "Oh, wait. Is that my voice? Wait, I am in it." Then you see the actual movie and you're like, "Wow, I'm actually in this." It comes in kind of waves, so I think I was, the whole time, just kind of mesmerized. 📺

Marni Weisz is the editor of *Cineplex Magazine*.

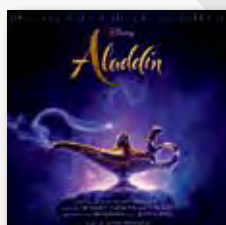
THE BO PEEP MYSTERY

Whatever happened to Bo Peep, Woody's crush? She's a big part of *Toy Story 4* thanks to their reunion, but after significant parts in *Toy Story* and *Toy Story 2* the porcelain lamp base was absent from the third movie, save for a few fleeting frames in an old home movie. In *Toy Story 4*'s opening scenes we finally see the night Bo left Andy's house, and get to watch her tearful farewell with Woody.

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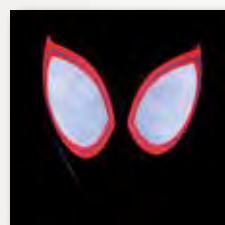
ROCKETMAN OST
NOW AVAILABLE



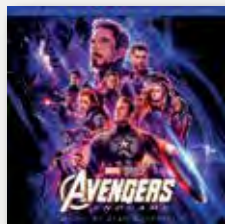
ALADDIN OST
NOW AVAILABLE



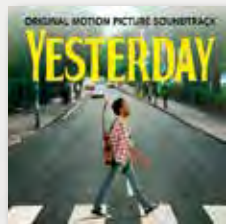
DUMBO OST
NOW AVAILABLE



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



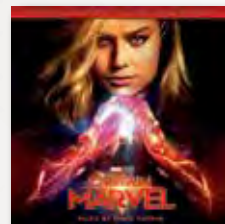
AVENGERS: ENDGAME OST
NOW AVAILABLE



YESTERDAY OST
6/21/19



A STAR IS BORN OST
NOW AVAILABLE



CAPTAIN MARVEL OST
NOW AVAILABLE



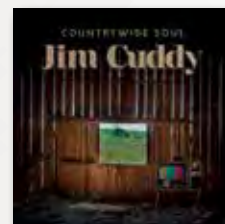
PRINCE ORIGINALS
6/21/19



KRIEGER DOVETALE
6/7/19



THE BLACK KEYS LET'S ROCK
6/28/19



JIM CUDDY COUNTRYWIDE SOUL
5/31/19



LITTLE
7/9/19



CAPTIVE STATE
6/11/19



PET SEMATARY
7/9/19



LONG SHOT
7/30/19





TICKET TO RIDE

BY INGRID RANDOJA

It may be the year's strangest, and best, idea for a movie. Following a global blackout every person on Earth, except for one floundering singer-songwriter, has no recollection of The Beatles. Now that one man has to decide whether to put ethics aside and turn history's greatest discography into a massive meal ticket. Director **Danny Boyle** says with a premise like that ***Yesterday*** was impossible to pass up

←
Yesterday's
Himesh Patel



↑
Danny Boyle

WHEN DANNY BOYLE FINISHED reading Richard Curtis' script for *Yesterday*, he knew, without a doubt, that he was going to direct the film.

"It doesn't happen every film, to be absolutely honest," says Boyle on the line from London. "When you have that instant reaction, where you just go, I'll do it, and you say it almost like you write it in blood. I wrote back to Richard and said, 'Richard, it is just brilliant, so I'll do it.'"

And the premise is brilliant. Based on a story idea by Jack Barth, *Yesterday* finds struggling singer/songwriter Jack Malik (Himesh Patel) ready to give up his music career when he's hit by a bus during a global power outage and knocked out. After recovering he casually sings the Beatles tune "Yesterday" to some friends, including gal pal Ellie (Lily James). The friends are astonished that Jack wrote such a beautiful song and he comes to realize that nobody in the world remembers The Beatles; it's as if they never existed.

Suddenly, Jack has the greatest collection of pop songs to pass off as his own, and the world takes notice. With help from music executive Mandi (Kate McKinnon), Jack becomes a superstar — look for cameos from real-life celebs Ed Sheeran and James Corden. But can the ruse last, and will Jack finally see that Ellie is the girl for him?

"The concept is extraordinary," says Boyle. "It's a very simple concept, the kind of concept you think, 'Oh surely that's been done before, but no, not like this. It allows you to take something that we are all incredibly familiar with, and it says your role in this film, you the audience, is that you've forgotten them as well, and this guy is gonna reintroduce them, and it's almost like an audience participation movie in a way.'"

Finding the right actor to play Jack was a challenge. Himesh Patel is familiar to U.K. audiences having played Tamwar Massod for almost nine years on the BBC soap *EastEnders*, but at first glance he doesn't strike us as a pop star. →



Jack (Himesh Patel) meets the press with music rep Mandi (Kate McKinnon) by his side

YESTERDAY
OPENS JUNE 28TH

RIFFING ON THE BEATLES

Three more outside-the-box Beatles movies that don't star The Beatles



1978

THE RUTLES: ALL YOU NEED IS CASH

A mockumentary about a Beatles-like band that stars Monty Python's Eric Idle and Michael Palin, with cameos from George Harrison and Mick Jagger.



1978

I WANNA HOLD YOUR HAND

Director Robert Zemeckis' 1964-set comedy that follows six New Jersey teens determined to get to New York and see The Beatles on Ed Sullivan.



2007

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

Evan Rachel Wood and Jim Sturgess star as young lovers Lucy and Jude in director Julie Taymor's ambitious musical that uses Beatles songs to illuminate their love story.

→ “The problem was, we had to find an actor who could play the songs in a way that wasn't like a karaoke singalong,” remembers Boyle.

“I saw a lot of guys, very talented musicians, who auditioned for the part. They had to play two songs and Himesh came in and played “Yesterday,” and it was as though you were hearing the song for the first time, even though you knew the song. He played the songs pretty much the same as The Beatles played them. He's not reinventing the wheel or anything, but it's like he's a vase of clear water that you can see through, and you can hear the songs through.”

Even before casting Patel the filmmakers had to make sure they could land the rights to the Beatles catalogue. Boyle's participation carried weight, he is after all an Oscar-winning director — his 2008 crowd-pleaser *Slumdog Millionaire* won eight Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Director. And his versatility as a filmmaker is astonishing: he's made thrillers (*Shallow Grave*, *Trance*) raucous comedies (the two *Trainspotting* pics), a sci-fi (*Sunshine*), horror (*28 Days Later...*) and dramas (*127 Hours*, *Steve Jobs*). Boyle notes it was Curtis' script and the esteemed production company, Working Title, that sealed the deal.

“Richard is, in Britain anyway, I regard him as a kind of poet laureate of romance in comedy,” he says. “And Working Title is the top company here in Britain. They did a deal with the Beatles' Apple and Sony, who own the music rights. But obviously, when we finished the film, I wrote to each of the four group members, or their widows, explaining why we'd made the film the way we did. We got a wonderful letter back from Ringo, and a wonderful one from Olivia Harrison, George's widow,

and an acceptance by the others to go ahead, and so it was rather wonderful actually.”

While the film's musical elements are garnering the most attention, Boyle reminds us that *Yesterday* is, at its heart, a love story.

“The Beatles were the great writers of love songs. Everybody says that love is mentioned 600 times in Beatles songs, and only 50 in the Old Testament or New Testament, or something like that. You can look that up online,” he says with a laugh.

“But there's something about that, and as Himesh gathers more and more of the songs he realizes how he has his own work to do on the romantic front. So, It's actually a love story, a slightly unusual love story, between Himesh and Lily James. Don't forget Lily James.”

Not every Beatles song makes it into the film, and fans no doubt hope their favourite tune makes the cut. When asked if he has a favourite Beatles song used in the film, Boyle's answer is surprising.

“It's not a very obvious one actually because it was hated by the other Beatles,” says Boyle. “They refused to play it, they disliked it so much. It wasn't in the original script, but there's a song at the end that we use, and this is me confessing, but I'm with Paul on this, I think it's an absolutely wonderful song called “Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da.”

“Paul wrote it because of the reggae influence in London at the time; reggae music was beginning to establish itself here. It's an early version of white crossover into reggae and I love that song, and although it's the song that's most disliked by the fellow members of the band it's one I think is worthy of resurrection.”

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



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TALKIN'BOUT SHAFT

The first **Shaft** movie hit theatres 20 years before he was born. He was still in grade school when Samuel L. Jackson revived the franchise in 2000. But now it's time for **Jessie T. Usher** to join the family and become the latest John Shaft in the crime franchise that made being a private eye right on

BY MARNI WEISZ

ON THE DAY THE TRAILER for the new *Shaft* movie was released, its three stars — 1970s John Shaft, Richard Roundtree, the 2000 movie's John Shaft, Samuel L. Jackson, and the newest John Shaft, Jessie T. Usher — interrupted Jimmy Kimmel's monologue to deliver the goods, strutting on stage in matching rust-coloured trench coats to the funky strains of the franchise's theme song.

Roundtree and Jackson were stone-faced, intimidating. Usher? Not so much.

"Ha!" exclaims the 27-year-old actor over the phone from L.A., recalling the bit. "Big smile!"

It's not easy to stifle a grin when you've just played Samuel L. Jackson's son in the first *Shaft* movie in 19 years, and the grand-nephew of the legendary Richard Roundtree, who originated the franchise in the 1970s.

But no worries, being a softer, gentler John Shaft fits just fine with Usher's character. He plays John Shaft Jr., or JJ, an MIT-educated FBI cybersecurity expert



who asks for his investigator dad's help navigating Harlem's underbelly after a friend is killed. JJ, who lacks his dad's rough exterior, hasn't seen his father since he was a baby, an estrangement Usher says is explained early on in the movie.

"You see his mom making an executive decision to take him away to a safer place, somewhere she felt more comfortable raising a child," explains the actor who is no stranger to playing the son of a Hollywood icon. Usher's big break came when he was cast as the offspring

of Will Smith's character in 2016's *Independence Day: Resurgence*. Even though Smith didn't appear in that movie, Usher acknowledges the trend.

"That's kind of like an ongoing joke within my family," he says, adding that playing the sons of Tichina Arnold (TV's *Everybody Hates Chris*) on *Survivor's Remorse*, the LeBron James-produced show that starred Usher as a basketball phenom, and Regina Hall (*Girls Trip*) in *Shaft*, were also thrills. "Like, how many Hollywood stars' child can I be?"



Shaft's Jessie T. Usher
Inset, from left: Usher,
Samuel L. Jackson and
Richard Roundtree in *Shaft*



NORTHERN EXPOSURE

Jessie T. Usher is probably in Canada right now.

"I love it! Vancouver's one of my favourite cities," he says. After shooting the teen TV series *Level Up* in Vancouver about six years ago he returned to the city this past May to make the Netflix movie *Windfall*. He also shot the first season of the dark superhero series *The Boys* (above) in Toronto last summer and is back in T.O. this summer to shoot the second season. "I'm a big food person, and the food there is incredible so it's not a bad place to be if I'm going to be away from home."

Usher, who was born in Maryland but moved with his family to L.A. when he was 11 so he could pursue acting, knew he wanted the role as soon as he read the script. Then, by chance, he kept running into people associated with the film around town and telling them that he wanted in. Eventually they asked him to come in for an audition and meet director Tim Story (*Barbershop*, *Ride Along*).

"And Samuel L. Jackson was in the room," Usher recalls, still a bit surprised. He didn't expect the star to be there. "He just popped up and we did our thing, ran the scenes together, riffed off a little bit here and there, just having fun. And then the next thing I know they offered me the movie."

As we saw on Kimmel, Jackson and Roundtree both have that intimidation thing down. So, which of the two elder Shafts is more intimidating in person?

"I think Sam Jackson is more intimidating," says Usher. "Richard Roundtree, he's like that 24/7, he keeps that stone face and although he's very nice and approachable, when you look at him he just keeps that very stern, serious look, so that could be intimidating. But Sam, everything about him, like his energy, his voice, his demeanour and character, all those things are intimidating."

"But at least he's aware of it," Usher adds with a laugh, "and he can kind of put the fires out before they start."

As for that trio of rust-coloured trench coats we saw on Kimmel, and in the first image released for the movie, Usher chuckles when asked why the three Shaft men thought it was a good idea to get matching coats and wear them out at the same time.

"Those are the things that happen when you're in *Shaft*," he says. "I just feel like the Shaft family has a custom trench coat

tailor, or maker, or designer. And that moment, that's one of the more iconic moments in this new *Shaft* film; that's when you finally get to see all three generations of Shaft come together with a common interest and a common goal." ■

Marni Weisz is the editor of *Cineplex Magazine*.

THE Mindy MOVIE

It's not exactly autobiographical, but **Mindy Kaling**'s new movie ***Late Night*** sure draws on a lot of the actor/writer's experiences breaking into the male-dominated world of comedy. Here she tells us why she was the only one who could write this movie, and how relieved she was when the woman she wrote it for said yes

BY INGRID RANDOJA



M

MINDY KALING KNOWS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO be the only woman in a room full of male comedy writers. She knows what it feels like to be the only person of colour in that room, and she knows how hard it is to be taken seriously when it comes to being funny.

Kaling took those experiences and funnelled them into her screenplay, *Late Night*, which casts Kaling as Molly, a novice comedy writer who joins the staff of a late-night talk show hosted by Katherine Newbury, played with prickly precision by Emma Thompson.

Katherine has been hosting the show for 28 years, but the low ratings and lack of buzz — where are the viral videos!? — could spell the end of her reign as the network president (Amy Ryan) informs her she's going to be replaced by a younger, hipper host. Faced with having to revamp her show and image, the hard-edged Katherine leans on Molly to help her rekindle her passion for the job.

"I'm at the place in my career where I only want to write things that seem like I could be the only one that writes them, and this particular story felt very suited to that aim," says the 39-year-old Kaling on the line from Los Angeles. "I had 15 years of observations and memories to draw from for this movie."

KALING WAS JUST 24 WHEN SHE WAS HIRED TO join the writing staff of *The Office*. She was the only woman on the staff of eight, but her work wasn't limited to the writing room as *The Office* producer Greg Daniels also cast her in the recurring role of talkative customer service rep Kelly Kapoor. After eight seasons on the beloved show she left to star in, write and produce *The Mindy Project*. It was while already pulling triple duty on her own show that she began piecing together *Late Night*.

"I worked for so many years on this movie," she says. "It was not like one of these quick processes. Every Sunday while I was working on *The Mindy Project*, I would just write, a scene here, a scene there. So it took forever."

Kaling's script takes a smart, lighthearted approach to the issues of workplace gender equality, office romance and ageism. It's also a love letter to actor



“I think Emma Thompson is the greatest living actress. I love everything she's ever done”



Emma Thompson, whom Kaling had in mind when writing the script. Screenwriters are told to never write a part with a particular actor in mind, but Kaling couldn't help herself. She envisioned Emma Thompson, and only Emma Thompson, as the acerbic Katherine.

"Writing something that only one person could play, I think was very stupid and I don't know that I'll do it again because it leaves you so vulnerable as





Mindy Kaling as Molly in *Late Night*
Inset: Kaling with Emma Thompson

a filmmaker,” states Kaling. “But I don’t think this is hyperbole — although of course it’s really subjective — but I think Emma Thompson is the greatest living actress. I love everything she’s ever done. She’s one of those people who is so deeply funny but is also incredibly talented at drama. There are so many amazing dramatic actors, but she’s someone who can also be so light on her feet, and nimble, and she also has one of the most unique comic minds out there. She’s a writer herself who came from comedy, came through stand-up and sketch.”

YOU CAN’T BLAME KALING FOR WANTING talented actors to perform her work, after all it’s something with which she’s familiar.

“I’ve been lucky what with Steve Carell, I used to get that weekly on *The Office*. You’d write this stuff for Michael Scott, and he would do it. You get really addicted to that, so when you don’t have that calibre of performer saying your lines it’s very demoralizing. That was what was so wonderful about working with Emma, she just nailed it.”

While Thompson’s Katherine cuts through BS with a rapier wit, Kaling’s Molly takes a much gentler approach. Some may think Kaling is simply playing a version of herself, but that would be underestimating her acting talents.

“For the past 10 or 11 years I have played characters that are big comedy characters with big flaws, and with delusions of grandeur,” she says referring to her *Office* and *Mindy Project* characters. “But I’ve never played a character as earnest as Molly. The way that she approaches work and the way that she expresses herself at work is kind of something that I borrowed from younger writers that I’ve met along my career.

“Obviously, we bear a lot of similarities, she is incredibly ambitious and hardworking, which we do have in common, but her earnestness and her lack of cynicism, I’m not like that at all.”

KALING WAS BORN AND RAISED IN CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts, the daughter of an architect father and obstetrician/gynecologist mother. She grew up on the TV sitcoms and movies her protective Indian parents felt were appropriate, and she drew on her love of whip-smart comedies when it came to crafting *Late Night*.

“So much of the inspiration of this movie came from those ’90s comedies and Mike Nichols movies,” she remembers. “Where it’s like a workplace movie and people are dressed well, trying hard, have big personalities. I wanted to try to do something that felt a little like the movies that I watched when I was a teenager. They made me want to move to New York City, and want to be a grown-up, when a lot of movies now are kind of about how fun it is for grown-ups to behave more like teenagers.”

In the end, Kaling wants viewers to see that change is possible, that people can make better workplaces for themselves, where women can succeed, and men can be part of the solution.

“People hope that they will see change in their lifetime, in their industries, and I’ve been so amazed that from my 20s to my 30s there’s been so much change. I started in *The Office* and I was the only woman, and I was the only person of colour on that staff. And now that would be insane. Like, there’d be litigation,” she says with a laugh. “So now the fact that it’s such a different experience is really nice, and for someone like me, it makes me feel so hopeful and excited.” ■

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



WRITING FOR A WRITER

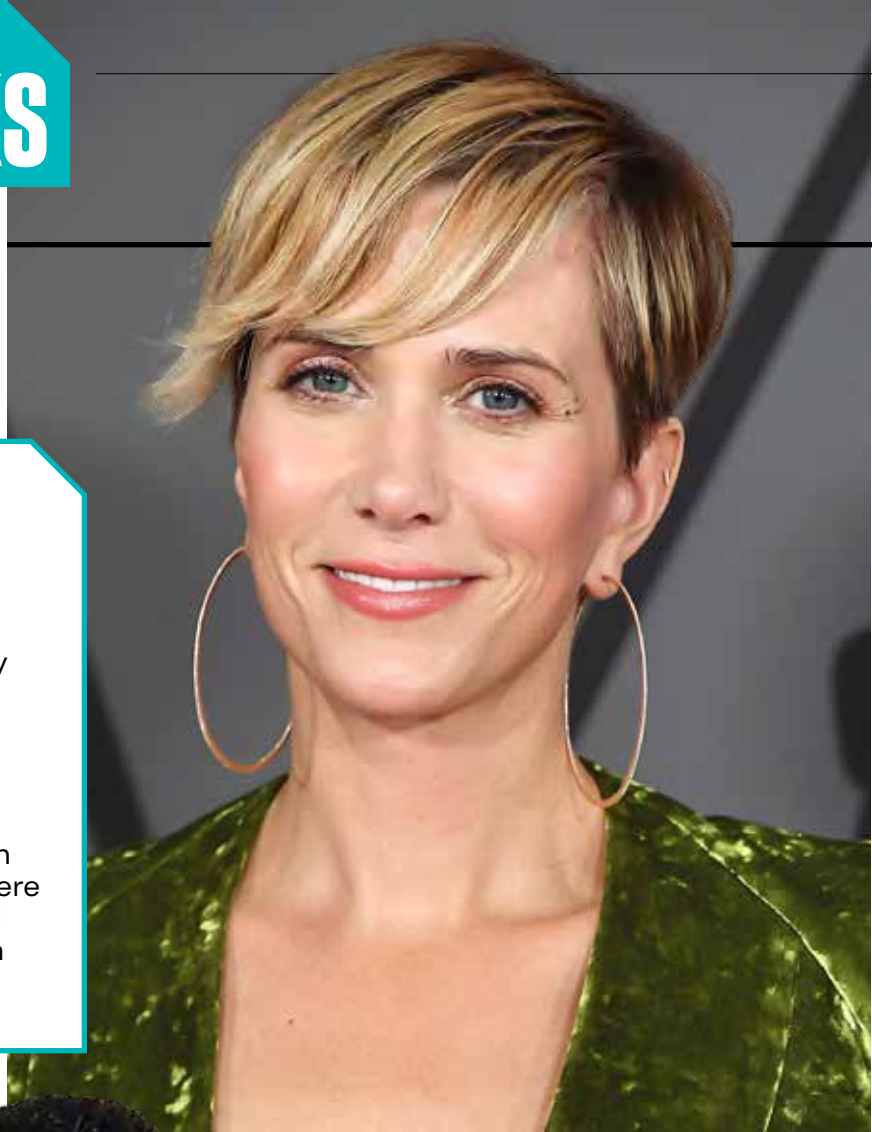
Mindy Kaling chose to write for the only person to have won Oscars for both acting and writing. Emma Thompson nabbed the Best Actress award for her turn in *Howard’s End* (1992) and picked up the Best Adapted Screenplay prize for *Sense and Sensibility* (1995), pictured above.

IN THE WORKS

BY INGRID RANDOJA

Wiig Takes a Road Trip

Kristen Wiig reunites with her *Bridesmaids* co-writer **Annie Mumolo** for the buddy comedy *Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar*. Along with penning the script the pair will star as the titular gals who leave their small town for the first time to vacation in Vista Del Mar, Florida, where they get caught up in a wild adventure involving a villain who plans to wipe out Vista Del Mar's population.



Washington in Greece

John David Washington (*BlacKkKlansman*) teams with **Alicia Vikander** (*Tomb Raider*) for *Born to Be Murdered* from director **Ferdinando Cito Filomarino**. Set in Greece, the thriller sees a vacationing couple pulled into a deadly conspiracy. **Boyd Holbrook** and **Vicky Krieps** also star in the film produced by **Luca Guadagnino**, who directed *Call Me By Your Name*.

“I promise you all I will be making sure Mr. Bond does not have an easy ride of it in this, his 25th outing.”

— RAMI MALEK ON PLAYING THE VILLAIN IN THE NEXT JAMES BOND FILM



BROWN INVESTIGATES

Shooting gets underway this summer on *Enola Holmes* starring **Millie Bobby Brown**. Based on the **Nancy Springer** book series *The Enola Holmes Mysteries*, the movie casts Brown as Enola Holmes, Sherlock Holmes' younger sister, who also has a knack for solving crimes. **Harry Bradbeer** (TV's *Killing Eve*) directs.



DICAPRIO'S NIGHTMARE

Leonardo DiCaprio is circling **Guillermo del Toro's** *Nightmare Alley*, the follow-up to the director's Best Picture-winning *The Shape of Water*. Del Toro is adapting the 1946 novel by **William Lindsay Gresham** that sees a mentalist conman falling for a deceitful female psychiatrist. Production gets underway this fall and is expected to take place in del Toro's beloved Toronto.



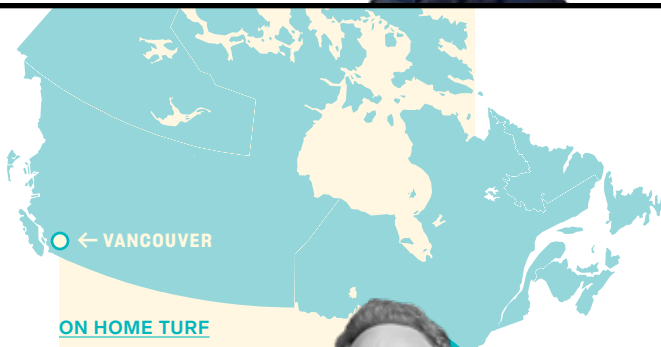
AFFLECK GATHERS ARMY

Ben Affleck just signed on to direct and star in *Ghost Army*, a World War II drama about the U.S. military's top-secret 1,100-man unit that was deployed across Europe to deceive the Germans. They used inflatable tanks, sound trucks and fake radio transmissions to make it seem the U.S. army was on the march and planning attacks, diverting attention from real missions.



ANOTHER SKARSGÅRD!

We've seen three Skarsgård brothers — Alexander, Bill and Gustaf — on the big screen and TV, and now a fourth son of actor Stellan Skarsgård makes his Hollywood debut. **Valter Skarsgård** recently shot *Don't Click* in Hamilton, Ontario. Directed by **G-Hey Kim**, who immigrated to Canada from South Korea four years ago, the film finds a man (Skarsgård) knocked out by a flashing light while watching porn. When he wakes, he's trapped in a dark cellar.



ON HOME TURF

90210 GANG IN VANCOUVER

The hairlines have receded, and the waistlines may have expanded since the 1990s, but they are still the kids from *Beverly Hills*, *90210*, and we'll catch up with them in *90210*, a six-episode TV event that is currently



Ian Ziering



Tori Spelling

shooting not in Los Angeles, but in North Vancouver. **Jason Priestley**, **Jennie Garth**, **Ian Ziering**, **Gabrielle Carteris**, **Brian Austin Green** and **Tori Spelling** are all in town to shoot the limited series that sees the actors portraying "heightened versions" of themselves as they come together to get a *Beverly Hills*, *90210* reboot off the ground. Of course, the absence of **Luke Perry**, who passed away in March, will make this reunion a bittersweet affair.

FRESH FACE

KOTA EBERHARDT

Anna star **Sasha Luss** isn't the only model getting screen time this month. Meet 29-year-old American model **Kota Eberhardt**, who portrays mutant Selene in this month's *Dark Phoenix*. Selene is a member of Magneto's (**Michael Fassbender**) crew and has telepathic and telekinetic powers. Eberhardt will next appear in the Netflix series *The I-Land*, about a group of people who wake up on a mysterious island with no memory of how they got there.



ROLE CALL

■ Look for **John Cena** as the misguided antihero the Peacemaker in the *Suicide Squad* sequel.

■ **Marisa Tomei** joins **Pete Davidson** in an untitled comedy directed by **Judd Apatow** and based on Davidson's life growing up on Staten Island.

■ **Michelle Yeoh** has been cast as scientist Dr. Karina Mogue in the *Avatar* sequels.

■ *Killer's Game* stars **Dave Bautista** as a hitman who thinks he's dying and puts a contract on himself only to learn he's going to live.



CAPTAIN MARVEL

Marvel made us wait for its first female-led superhero flick, but it was worth it as audiences flocked to see **Brie Larson** deliver the goods as Carol Danvers, a test pilot transformed into the MCU's most powerful hero, and one of the linchpins needed to fight baddie Thanos.

→ RENT IT JUNE 11



GLORIA BELL

Julianne Moore gives a live-affirming turn as divorcée Gloria Bell, who finds joy by smoking weed, laughing and boogying on the dance floor. It's that energy that attracts former marine Arnold (**John Turturro**), but is he the right man for her?

→ RENT IT JUNE 4



WONDER PARK

This animated tale finds June (**Brianna Denski**) and her mother (**Jennifer Garner**) creating an imaginary amusement park together. On her way to math camp, June runs away and stumbles on the real-life version of her park, but it's in disrepair and needs a lot of TLC to get up and running.

→ BUY IT JUNE 4
RENT IT JUNE 18

CAPTIVE STATE

In director **Rupert Wyatt's** (*Rise of the Planet of the Apes*) futuristic thriller humanity has been living under the thumb of alien invaders for a decade and it's time for people to rise up against their oppressors. Starring **Ashton Sanders**, **Vera Farmiga**, **John Goodman** and **Machine Gun Kelly**.

→ BUY IT OR RENT IT JUNE 11



DUMBO

Disney's cartoon elephant gets a 21st-century makeover as an adorable CGI-created pachyderm who becomes the main attraction in a circus run by a desperate ringleader (**Danny DeVito**) and shady new owner (**Michael Keaton**). Directed by **Tim Burton** and co-starring **Colin Farrell** and **Eva Green**.

→ BUY IT OR RENT IT JUNE 25



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The Secret Life of Pets 2

Acting Like Animals

It's time to go even deeper into the lives of an eclectic pack of domestic animals as *The Secret Life of Pets 2* hits theatres June 7th. The family flick features an impressive voice cast including Kevin Hart (Snowball), Harrison Ford (Rooster), Eric Stonestreet (Duke), Patton Oswalt (Max), Jenny Slate (Gidget), Hannibal Buress (Buddy), Lake Bell (Chloe), Tiffany Haddish (Daisy) and Bobby Moynihan (Mel). They're certainly not the first actors to go furry, finned or feathered for animated films. How well do you know the voices behind these on-screen animals?

1. Which former *Saturday Night Live* star voiced Red in *Angry Birds*?

- a) Billy Crystal
- b) Jason Sudeikis
- c) Darrell Hammond
- d) Tim Meadows

2. Which TV talk show host voiced blue tang fish Dory in *Finding Nemo*?

- a) Ellen DeGeneres
- b) Oprah Winfrey
- c) Rosie O'Donnell
- d) Ricki Lake

3. Which Spanish star was the voice of *Shrek 2*'s Puss In Boots?

- a) Javier Bardem
- b) Penélope Cruz
- c) Antonio Banderas
- d) Enrique Iglesias

4. Which *Lord of the Rings* star voiced penguin Mumble in *Happy Feet*?

- a) Sean Astin
- b) Viggo Mortensen
- c) Cate Blanchett
- d) Elijah Wood

5. Which actor/producer voiced Rosita the singing pig in *Sing*?

- a) Drew Barrymore
- b) Jessica Chastain
- c) Reese Witherspoon
- d) Angelina Jolie

6. Which Canadian actor voiced the titular mouse in *Stuart Little*?

- a) Jim Carrey
- b) Michael J. Fox
- c) Ryan Reynolds
- d) Christopher Plummer

7. Which former correspondent on *The Daily Show* voiced Steve the porcupine in *Wonder Park*?

- a) Steve Carell
- b) Rob Corddry
- c) John Oliver
- d) Ed Helms

8. Which actor/musician voiced the panda Po in *Kung Fu Panda*?

- a) Jack Black
- b) Justin Timberlake
- c) Johnny Depp
- d) Will Smith

9. Which Academy Awards host voiced Marty the zebra in *Madagascar*?

- a) Jon Stewart
- b) Steve Martin
- c) Whoopi Goldberg
- d) Chris Rock

10. Which actor/comedian voiced gourmand rat Remy in *Ratatouille*?

- a) Patton Oswalt
- b) Ricky Gervais
- c) Jerry Seinfeld
- d) Ray Romano

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

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The Other Empire

"It all started with *Star Wars*," says Murat Palta, a 29-year-old Turkish artist from Istanbul who paints movie scenes in the style of Ottoman Empire-era miniatures. "It's not a secret that George Lucas had many inspirations from history and mythology in writing *Star Wars*," says Palta, who has lost count of how many pieces he's painted in this style since he started six years ago. "Darth Vader, wearing a huge sultan hat and robes, surrounded by Janissary-looking Stormtroopers was easy to picture," he says. Janissaries were the sultan's elite guard. Palta also loves the fact that Ottoman miniatures look "naïve" at first, but when you look closely there are a lot of smaller stories being told. "This is a brilliant way of expression," he says. "During those times, you were unable to tell whatever you want as today. This is why there are many innuendos in that art form. Figuring out these messages feels like deciphering." —MW

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



↑
 Clockwise from top, Murat Palta's takes on the *Star Wars* universe, *Ghostbusters* and *The Dark Knight Rises*

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