

CINEPLEX

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

MAGAZINE

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TAKES US
DOWNTON**
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BY INGRID RANDOJA



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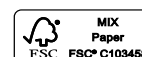
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Be Afraid. Be Very Afraid.

Why on earth do we love scary movies?

Only the most disturbed among us would enjoy watching such terrifying scenarios play out in real life. The rest of us would surely remove ourselves from the situation as swiftly as possible.

I'd hate to think we're a society of sadists.

Fear not, and blame science instead. Watching stressful, gruesome, super-natural events on the big screen is the easiest way to wake up our central nervous systems without any real risk to our own flesh and bones.

Just like if we encountered a bear or were attacked by a mugger in real life, seeing something shocking in a horror film triggers our fight-or-flight response, releasing a cocktail of delicious neurotransmitters like dopamine and adrenaline that increase our energy, lessen our sensitivity to pain, and turn off non-essential systems like critical thinking. Yay. No worrying about real-life stuff for a bit! Since we're in a controlled environment where we know there's no real danger the benefits are all positive — a sense of euphoria without the risk of extreme blood loss.

There's a catch. You have to be open to the experience, and not everyone is, which explains why a lot of people simply don't like horror movies.

That said, what do we mean by "horror movies" in the first place? Horror has got to be the most eclectic genre. You've got slashers, psychological mindbenders, zombie pics, found footage, ghost stories, extreme crime, battles between man and beast, spooky supernatural dramas, the list goes on. *Saw III* is a horror movie, but so is *The Shining*. Not a lot of similarities there.

There have even been six films that are considered horrors nominated for Best Picture at the Oscars — *The Exorcist*,

Jaws, *The Silence of the Lambs* (the only winner in the bunch), *The Sixth Sense*, *Black Swan* and *Get Out*. And while some of these films are wading in the shallower end of the horror pool, they all trigger those neurotransmitters to some extent.

Which brings us to the *It* films — 2017's *It*, the highest-grossing horror film of all-time, and now its terrifying follow-up, *It Chapter Two*.

Nestled right in the horror genre's sweet spot — you've got gruesome deaths, terrifying imagery, the supernatural, a really creepy clown and a story written by Stephen King — the sequel introduces a new element that will also appeal to those who don't necessarily consider themselves horror fans, two-time Oscar nominee **Jessica Chastain** as the grown-up Beverly Marsh.

So sit back in your comfy theatre chair, reach into your tub of popcorn (there couldn't possibly be anything scary in there) and let the celebrated actor put her body and mind on the line for you. We're sure she'll be okay.

Turn to "Bring It On," page 40, for Chastain's thoughts on why her character may be in the best position to defeat that creepy clown, Pennywise.

Elsewhere in this issue, we speak with *Downton Abbey*'s writer/creator **Julian Fellowes** about turning his beloved TV show into a movie (page 28), we travel to Bulgaria for an on-set visit with *Angel Has Fallen* star **Gerard Butler** (page 36), and **Constance Wu** tells us what she learned while prepping to play a stripper for *Hustlers* (page 32).

MARNI WEISZ,
EDITOR



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CLICK!



SPIDEY BLOWS UP

What? How can they be in the same place at the same time? **Tom Holland** attends the Hollywood premiere of *Spider-Man: Far From Home*.



RAINBOW CONNECTION

Neil Patrick Harris (second from right) with husband **David Burtka** and their two kids at the New York City Pride Parade.



CHILL BRO

Lin-Manuel Miranda takes a break from directing *In the Heights* in New York City.





PAINTED PETE

Can you spot the movie references in **Pete Davidson's** tattoos? The *Saturday Night Live* star is seen shirtless on the New York set of an untitled movie about his life, directed by Judd Apatow.



MURRAY GETS CAUGHT

Bill Murray (centre) and **Rashida Jones** shoot a scene for director Sofia Coppola's *On the Rocks* in Manhattan.

A LITTLE HART

Tiffany Haddish clowns around with **Kevin Hart's** son at the Westwood premiere of *The Secret Life of Pets 2*.



IN FOCUS

Sylvester Stallone in
Rambo: Last Blood

Ye Olde Rambo

Sylvester Stallone says the key to making a Rambo movie in his 70s is to own the aging

SYLVESTER STALLONE KNOWS HE'S getting old. And, more importantly, he knows you know he's getting old.

So when it comes to revisiting characters from earlier in his career, as he does in *Rambo: Last Blood*, instead of trying to imitate his younger self the 73-year-old action star makes his age a part of the story.

"If you embrace that it's like, 'Yeah, these are my battle scars,' and you don't try to hide it and say, 'Look at me, I'm great!' No you're not, you're a mess," he joked during an on-stage interview at the Cannes film festival. "Own that, and the audience goes 'Cool, I get it.'"

"So in the next *Rambo*, obviously I'm not the one I was earlier on, hanging from trees, but what he's replaced that with is cunning, knowledge, strategy."

Rambo: Last Blood sees the Vietnam vet living

in a network of tunnels underneath his perfectly nice ranch house because he's still struggling with guilt and post-traumatic stress. He's formed a makeshift family with his housekeeper and her granddaughter, and when the granddaughter gets into trouble with bad guys south of the border Rambo comes to the rescue.

"There's going to be some serious vengeance in this movie," he said. "A lot of people getting hurt in this film, boy."

But don't be fooled by the film's title, Stallone refused to say whether *Rambo: Last Blood* is truly the last Rambo film. "Let me just say something about the last of anything," he said.

"I thought *Rocky III* was the last so I don't know anything. If it works, I'll just keep going because I enjoy it so much." —**MW**

Rambo: Last Blood opens September 20th.

HEAD OF OPERATIONS
Sly estimates he's had 30 operations, including shoulder and back surgery and three neck fusions

FIVE ALIVE
Last Blood is the fifth *Rambo* movie since 1982's *First Blood*

AND, CUT
This is the first movie where Rambo doesn't have longer hair



“Me and my mom read it together, but I loved it so much. I thought it was hilarious.”

— TWELVE-YEAR-OLD CANADIAN ACTOR **JACOB TREMBLAY** ON READING THE SCREENPLAY FOR HIS RAUNCHY COMEDY, *GOOD BOYS*

TOP PICK

GO BIG!

If there's one movie you have to see on the big screen this season, it's *Ad Astra*. Brad Pitt plays an astronaut who travels into deep space to find his missing father, also an astronaut, but whose experiment with a classified material years before has put all life in our solar system in peril.

When he started working on the film in 2016 director James Gray (*The Lost City of Z*) said he wanted this to be the most realistic depiction of space travel ever seen on screen. Keep in mind, this was three years after Alfonso Cuarón's *Gravity* won seven Oscars.

So, yeah, find the biggest screen you can, and enjoy the ride.

Ad Astra opens September 20th.



↑
Renée Zellweger
as Judy Garland
in *Judy*



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←
Zellweger as
Bridget Jones in
*Bridget Jones's
Diary*

FROM THE ARCHIVES: **APRIL 2001**

CH-CH-CHANGES

Renée Zellweger has long been a master of the transformation, so it's appropriate that her transformation into Judy Garland for September's *Judy* should spur a bit of a comeback for the, of late, under-the-radar actor.

We first interviewed Zellweger for the April 2001 issue when most of the talk about the Texas actor's transformation into British office worker Bridget Jones for the much anticipated *Bridget Jones's Diary* centred around her weight gain.

But Zellweger had committed to the character in other ways, like moving to London and taking a job as an intern at a publishing house.

"I wanted to get a feel of place and understand the people," she told us. "On the surface it's a bit of the same language, but it's not; we speak different and have different innuendoes and I wanted to try to familiarize myself with them as best I could."

Judy opens September 27th.





CHARACTER STUDY

UNREAL ROLE

So far in his career Chadwick Boseman has played baseball and civil rights hero Jackie Robinson, R&B legend James Brown, the first African-American on the U.S. Supreme Court

Thurgood Marshall, and a comic book hero named Black Panther.

So playing a plain old cop in *21 Bridges* was a bit of a relief, as Boseman explained at this year's CinemaCon.

"It's not somebody that's real, and it's not a comic book character, people can't tell you one way or the other what it should be so you get to make some decisions that are original with this type of film."

21 Bridges opens September 27th.



From top: Boseman in *21 Bridges*, as Jackie Robinson in *42*, James Brown in *Get on Up*, Thurgood Marshall in *Marshall* and as the titular hero in *Black Panther*

THE CHAT

AGENT OF CHAOS

After *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *Stuber*, former wrestler **Dave Bautista** is carving out quite a niche in comedies. This month's funny family pic *My Spy* sees the big man playing JJ, a CIA agent who's surveilling a family when he's caught by their nine-year-old daughter, Sophie (Chloe Coleman). And then he threatens to kill her. If she tells on him, JJ will lose his job. So now JJ has to give in to Sophie's one request – train her to be a spy. **TANNER ZIPCHEN** sat down with Bautista on the film's Toronto set to talk about the spy game, being a kid and trying not to swear.

You are the spy, is that right?

I am a spy, not the best spy, but a spy.

So he's trying to do his best work and it's not working out?

For one, JJ's got a great heart. He's a little bit removed from being social. He's not the most social person, doesn't interact well with people, and he's also just not great at being a spy. He's great at being a tough guy, kick some butt, but just not great at the undercover stuff.

What's the key to being a good spy?

I think probably subtlety and discretion, and there's

not much subtle about me, which is why I'm great for the part of JJ [laughs].

What were you like as a kid, did you play any games?

We played different types of games. You know, I grew up in the 'hood man, so I played outside a lot.

What was your favourite toy growing up?

A skateboard. I was a skater.

I heard that there's a swear jar on set. How's that been going for you?

Not good for me. What I did was I just forked over a lot of money [up front], so I get some freebies.... You know, I thought about

it beforehand but I didn't realize how bad it was until [Chloe] actually came to work and said enough is enough and she had her little swear jar.

Is this going to be it for you, you're going to do comedy from here on in?

No, no. I'm going to go on and do some serious drama. I've got some good stuff lined up. I've got my next couple years mapped out and all kinds of stuff lined up but I have some serious, serious dramatic roles, which I'm looking forward to. But, you know, I wouldn't mind falling back into *My Spy: Part Two*.

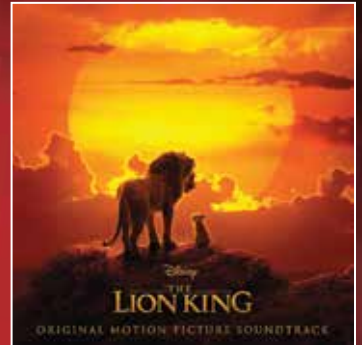
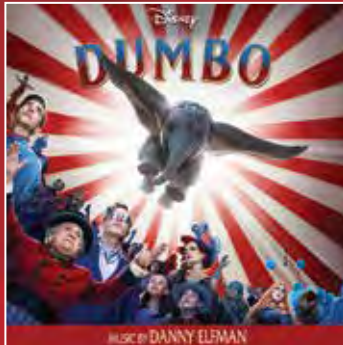
My Spy opens August 23rd.



Dave Bautista and Chloe Coleman in *My Spy*

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BRITTANY HOWARD
JAIME
SEPTEMBER 20

13

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SPOTLIGHT CANADA

Scary Stuff

Gil Bellows plays the authority figure in *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*

I T MAY BE HARD TO TELL FROM THE TERRIFYING TRAILER, but *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* is based on a series of children's books.

In the film, directed by André Øverdal and produced by master of creepy creatures Guillermo del Toro, a group of teens finds an old book in a deserted house and as they read its tales about various horrible beings — including murderous Harold the Scarecrow, the corpse-like Toe Monster, and the tall, fleshy Jangly Man — those stories become reality.

The teens could use some help from Police Chief Turner, played by Vancouver native Gil Bellows, but it's the late 1960s and straight-shooting Turner's not easily swayed by scary stories, or kids.

Bellows, who shot to fame as Billy on TV's *Ally McBeal*, lives in L.A. but was visiting family in Vancouver when we spoke by phone.

GOOD START

Bellows' first major film role was as Tommy in *The Shawshank Redemption*

HIS NEXT COP

Run This Town, the upcoming pic about Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, casts Bellows as a cop investigating the crack-tape saga and attempted blackmail

The trailer is really scary. Is this a kids' movie?

Well, I think it's a young person's movie. I definitely think it harks back to the movies of the eighties, films like *Goonies* and *Explorers* and *Poltergeist* that sort of have one foot firmly planted in that teen, pre-teen experience. And then, at the same time, I think they're very accessible to older demographics as well. It's got more scares, like a *Poltergeist* movie, but I think that there are tropes that are very connected to *Goonies*. But yeah, I guess 12, 13 and above.

The movie was shot in Southwestern Ontario. Where did you film your scenes?

I shot primarily in and around Toronto. We shot at a school on the outskirts of Toronto...and then fantastic locations that evoked the period that are surrounded by all the modern architecture that is sweeping through Toronto.

Who is Police Chief Turner?

I think he's a person who is sort of a step behind the times in a way. I think he's good at his job and is probably a pretty respected person within his community, but I don't think he's particularly enlightened in terms of looking at people from the point of view of being open to other cultures or experiences without seeing them as being threatening in some way.

How does he interact with the kids?

He's clearly the voice of authority and I think in that period in time, the voice of authority isn't very empathetic to hearing why the kids are doing what they're doing, and what their concerns are. He's just more interested in them stopping and heeding to his word.

What was your scariest moment on set?

When you saw the actual Jangly Man doing what he was doing, it was definitely upsetting and scary and highly unusual. It was kind of a perfect realization of that touch that Guillermo has in terms of making characters feel incredibly unique and, at the same time, resonate with some aspect of your imagination in a way that maybe you could never articulate.... The Jangly Man is the personification of scary monster.

—MARNI WEISZ

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark opens August 9th.

IT'S BETTER
WITH **REAL**
BUTTER 



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OF CANADA**
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RED CARPET



↑
Zendaya
At the Hollywood premiere of *Spider-Man: Far From Home*.



↑
Chadwick Boseman
At the AFI Life Achievement Award ceremony honouring Denzel Washington.



↑
Chloë Sevigny
At the New York premiere of *The Dead Don't Die*.



↑
Regina Hall
At the New York premiere of *Shaft*.



↑
Aubrey Plaza
In Santa Monica
for the MTV Movie
and TV Awards.

↑
Dan Stevens
In Hollywood for the
premiere of *Legion's*
third season.

↑
**Tessa
Thompson**
In Santa Monica
for the MTV Movie
and TV Awards.

↑
Felicity Jones
In London, England,
for The Summer Party
hosted by Serpentine
Galleries and
Chanel.



FAST & FURIOUS PRESENTS: HOBBS & SHAW

The fights are badass, the stunts outrageous and the testosterone is off the charts in the summer's most stupendous action pic.

Dwayne Johnson, **Jason Statham** and **Vanessa Kirby** team up to stop a cyber-genetically enhanced soldier (**Idris Elba**) from unleashing a deadly virus that could kill billions. → [OPENS AUGUST 2ND](#).

AUGUST 2

FAST & FURIOUS PRESENTS: HOBBS & SHAW

See spotlight box.

AUGUST 9

THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN

Kevin Costner voices Enzo the dog, who believes he'll be reincarnated as a human after he passes. Until then it's his job to help Denny (**Milo Ventimiglia**), a racecar-driving fanatic, his wife Eve (**Amanda Seyfried**), and their daughter Zoe (**Ryan Kiera Armstrong**) navigate life.

SCARY STORIES TO TELL IN THE DARK

Guillermo del Toro produced and co-wrote the film's script based on the children's book about a group of teens — **Zoe Margaret Colletti**, **Michael Garza**, **Gabriel Rush** and **Austin Zajur** — who come across a book full of scary stories. However, the real frights take place when the characters in the tales come to life.

DORA AND THE LOST CITY OF GOLD

This live-action take on Nickelodeon's animated TV program stars **Isabela Moner** as the teenage Dora, who leaves her jungle home to attend high school in the city. But when her parents (**Michael Peña** and **Eva Longoria**) go missing while searching for a lost Incan city, Dora, her monkey Boots and three pals have to find them.

THE KITCHEN

With their husbands serving time in prison and money hard to come by three women — **Melissa McCarthy**, **Tiffany Haddish** and **Elisabeth Moss** — start their own criminal enterprise, which doesn't sit well with New York City mobsters. Directed by screenwriter **Andrea Berloff** (*World Trade Center*, *Straight Outta Compton*).

AUGUST 14

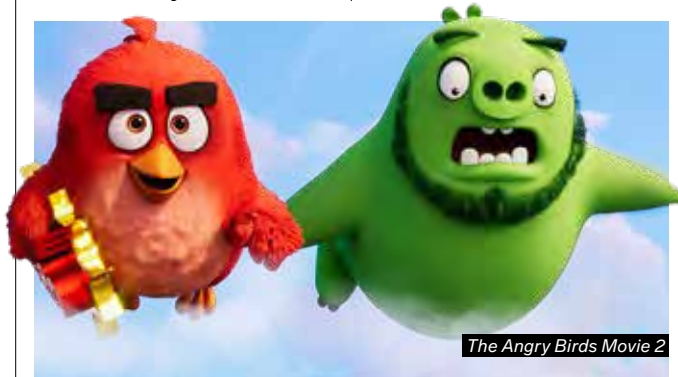
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2

This sequel to 2016's *The Angry Birds Movie* sees our hero Red (**Jason Sudeikis**) teaming with pig rival Leonard (**Bill Hader**) to take on Zeta (**Leslie Jones**), an exotic bird set on unleashing an ice age. The stellar cast also includes **Tiffany Haddish**,

Josh Gad, **Awkwafina** and **Sterling K. Brown**.

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

This crowd-pleasing British film is set in 1980s England where teenager Javed (**Viveik Kalra**) discovers the music of Bruce Springsteen, which inspires him to stand up for himself and fuels his own creative voice.



The Angry Birds Movie 2

AUGUST 16

GOOD BOYS

Call it *Superbad* lite as sixth-graders Max (**Jacob Tremblay**), Thor (**Brady Noon**) and Lucas (**Keith L. Williams**) embark on an adventure that sees them skipping school to retrieve a lost drone, going on the run with stolen drugs, evading the police and attending a party where Max hopes to finally kiss a girl. Produced by **Seth Rogen** and **Evan Goldberg**.

WHERE'D YOU GO, BERNADETTE

Richard Linklater directs this adaptation of **Maria Semple's** comic novel in which former architect Bernadette (**Cate Blanchett**) runs away from her life in Seattle, leaving her bright 15-year-old daughter Bee (**Emma Nelson**) and husband Elgie (**Billy Crudup**) to track her down.

47 METERS DOWN: UNCAGED

The sequel to the horror *47 Meters Down* finds four teenaged girls exploring the submerged remains of an Incan city. Their adventure takes a deadly turn when a giant shark joins the fun.

AFTER THE WEDDING

Bart Freundlich directs his wife **Julianne Moore** in this remake of the Danish drama of the same name. **Michelle Williams** stars as aid worker Isabel, who is hoping to get Theresa (Moore) to donate \$20-million to her orphanage in India. Theresa invites Isabel to her daughter's wedding where Isabel reunites with Theresa's husband, Oscar (**Billy Crudup**), a man with whom she shares a mysterious past.

AUGUST 21

READY OR NOT

See spotlight box.

AUGUST 23

OVERCOMER

This faith-based drama stars **Alex Kendrick** (also the film's director) as high school basketball coach John Harrison, who's asked to coach Hannah



Denny (Milo Ventimiglia with dog Enzo in *The Art of Racing in the Rain*)

(**Aryn Wright-Thompson**), a young cross-country runner.

MY SPY

Dave Bautista's acting career is taking off with roles in the *Guardians* pics, *Stuber* and now this family-friendly comedy that casts the former wrestler as tough CIA operative JJ, whose mission is compromised by nine-year-old Sophie (**Chloe Coleman**). Sophie agrees to keep the mission a secret as long as JJ trains her to be a spy. → [SEE DAVE BAUTISTA INTERVIEW, PAGE 12.](#)

THE DEATH AND LIFE OF JOHN F. DONOVAN

It's been a long wait for writer-director **Xavier Dolan's** drama that started shooting back in 2016 and premiered at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival. **Jacob Tremblay** stars as a troubled boy who cherishes his pen-pal relationship with actor John Donovan (**Kit Harington**), a closeted gay TV star who feels isolated from the world.

ANGEL HAS FALLEN

Secret Service agent Mike Banning (**Gerard Butler**) saved the American president in *Olympus Has Fallen* and *London Has Fallen*, and now he must save himself in *Angel Has Fallen* when he's framed for an assassination attempt on the new president (**Morgan Freeman**). → [SEE GERARD BUTLER INTERVIEW, PAGE 36.](#)



READY OR NOT

It's a wedding night from hell for bride Grace (**Samara Weaving**). After marrying Alex (**Mark O'Brien**), she is forced to play a deadly game of hide and seek with his family, who must kill her in order to save their own lives.



→ AUGUST 30

OFFICIAL SECRETS

The true story of whistleblower **Katherine Gun** comes to the screen with **Keira Knightley** portraying the British intelligence translator who, in 2003, leaked an email from the American National Security Agency. The email was proof that the U.S. and the British government were conspiring to bug the offices of six UN nations to find out if they would support the invasion of Iraq. Gun's effort led to her arrest and a trial.

PLAYMOBIL: THE MOVIE

This animated pic finds Marla (**Anya Taylor-Joy**) and her brother Charlie (**Gabriel Bateman**) transformed into Playmobil figurines. When Charlie is captured by Emperor Maximus (**Adam Lambert**) and sent to fight in the gladiatorial games, Marla joins with Del the truck driver (**Jim Gaffigan**) and secret agent Rex Dasher (**Danie Radcliffe**) in an attempt to rescue him.

SEPTEMBER 6

IT CHAPTER TWO

The sequel to the 2017 horror blockbuster *It* is set 27 years after the first film and sees the adult "Losers Club" returning to the town of Derry to once again battle the evil entity Pennywise (**Bill Skarsgård**). Your adult Losers are Bev (**Jessica Chastain**), Bill (**James McAvoy**), Ben (**Jay Ryan**), Richie (**Bill Hader**), Mike (**Isaiah Mustafa**), Eddie (**James Ransone**) and Stan (**Andy Bean**). → [SEE JESSICA CHASTAIN INTERVIEW, PAGE 40.](#)

SEPTEMBER 13

THE GOLDFINCH

Ansel Elgort plays Theodore Decker in this adaptation of **Donna Tartt's** Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. Theo's life is turned upside down when his mother (**Hailey Wist**) is killed in a terrorist bombing inside the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



JUDY

It takes a brave actor to step into an iconic role, and **Renée Zellweger** is just that as she portrays Hollywood legend Judy Garland in this bio-pic depicting Garland's struggles as she arrives in London in 1969 to perform a series of sold-out concerts.

→ [OPENS SEPTEMBER 27](#)

Aneurin Barnard plays Theo's charming criminal pal Boris, **Jeffrey Wright** is his antique dealer mentor Hobie, and **Ashleigh Cummings** is Pippa, the red-haired girl whom Theo loves from afar.

HUSTLERS

Jennifer Lopez's big-screen revival continues with this fact-based tale about a group of strippers who get into trouble when they begin drugging their Wall Street clients and then running up their credit cards. Lopez's thieving crew includes **Constance Wu**, **Keke Palmer** and **Lili Reinhart**, with **Cardi B** popping up in a small supporting role.

→ [SEE CONSTANCE WU INTERVIEW, PAGE 32.](#)

SEPTEMBER 20

AD ASTRA

Writer-director **James Gray** calls his sci-fi tale a "*Heart of Darkness* story." **Brad Pitt** plays astronaut Roy McBride, who is sent to the outer edges of our solar system to find his missing father Clifford McBride (**Tommy Lee Jones**), whose scientific experiments from decades before now threaten the universe.

DOWNTON ABBEY

Downton Abbey's creator **Julian Fellowes** brings his beloved TV soap to the big screen with storylines for some 20 series regulars. The film's main plot revolves around the Earl and Countess

of Grantham (**Hugh Bonneville** and **Elizabeth McGovern**) preparing for a visit from King George V and Queen Mary. Beyond that we're not sure what's in store for Mary (**Michelle Dockery**), Edith (**Laura Carmichael**), Branson (**Allen Leech**), Carson (**Jim Carter**), Mrs. Hughes (**Phyllis Logan**) and the rest of the troupe. → [SEE JULIAN FELLOWES INTERVIEW, PAGE 28.](#)

RAMBO: LAST BLOOD

We first met John Rambo (**Sylvester Stallone**) in 1982's *First Blood* and now 37 years later he's back in *Last Blood*. This time Rambo's quiet life on his Arizona ranch is upended when he takes on a Mexican cartel that has kidnapped a young woman close to him. Co-starring **Paz Vega** and **Adriana Barraza**.

SEPTEMBER 27

ABOMINABLE

Animated yetis are all the rage having been the focus of recent films *Smallfoot* and *Missing Link*. In this co-production between DreamWorks and China's Pearl Studio a teenager named Yi (**Chloe Bennet**) helps a captured yeti make his way home to Mount Everest.

THE HUNT

Plot details for this Blumhouse horror are being kept secret, but reports indicate it will focus on the escalating tension between America's political right and left. The cast includes **Emma Roberts**, **Betty Gilpin**, **Ike Barinholtz** and **Amy Madigan**.

JUDY

See spotlight box.

21 BRIDGES

Chadwick Boseman stars as New York City Detective Andre Davis, who is called in when eight cops are killed during an armed robbery. He closes the island of Manhattan (all 21 bridges) and scours the city to find the cop killers. Co-starring **Sienna Miller**, **Taylor Kitsch**, **J.K. Simmons** and **Stephan James**.

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IN CONVERSATION

↑
Margaret Atwood

Atwood Testifies

Canadian literary icon Margaret Atwood introduces *The Testaments*, the sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*, in a live event streamed directly to Cineplex theatres

ON SEPTEMBER 10TH, CANADIAN author Margaret Atwood unveils *The Testaments*, the sequel to her 1985 dystopian novel *The Handmaid's Tale*. And she'll kick off the release with a live-streaming event broadcast at select Cineplex theatres across Canada. The affair takes place in London's National Theatre where Atwood will read excerpts from the book and answer questions from broadcaster Samira Ahmed. Set 15 years after the events of the first novel, the

sequel uses three female narrators to update us on the state of life in the militaristic theocracy of Gilead where fertile women are kept captive and forced to have their masters' babies. The good news is that Atwood's novel takes place years ahead of what's going on in the popular TV adaptation of *The Handmaid's Tale*, so there should be no spoilers. —IR

.....
Margaret Atwood: Live in Cinemas screens on September 10th.

AWESOME AT 80

Margaret Atwood turns 80 on November 18th. She's been called "spry for her age" and in a 2017 CBC interview said, "I'd rather have that than 'remarkably decrepit for her age'"

MUCH WORK FOR HANDMAIDS

The Handmaid's Tale has been adapted as a feature film, opera, radio drama, stage play, TV series and graphic novel



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

“It’s only after we’ve lost everything that we are free to do anything.” —BRAD PITT IN *FIGHT CLUB*

CINEPLEX EVENTS

CONCERTS & MUSIC

**GRATEFUL DEAD:
MEET UP AT
THE MOVIES**
Thurs., Aug. 1

WOODSTOCK
Fri., Aug. 2 to
Fri., Aug. 16

**BRING THE SOUL:
THE MOVIE**
Wed., Aug. 7 to
Sun., Aug. 11

**ANDRÉ RIEU 2019
MAASTRICHT
CONCERT: SHALL
WE DANCE?**
Sat., Aug. 10 to
Wed., Aug. 21

**RUSH: CINEMA
STRANGIATO 2019**
Wed., Aug. 21

FAMILY FAVOURITES

**PAW PATROL:
READY, RACE, RESCUE**
Fri., Aug. 2; Sat., Aug. 10

**PEPPA PIG:
FESTIVAL OF FUN**
Sat., Aug. 17

THE DARK CRYSTAL
Sat., Aug. 24

UGLYDOLLS
Sat., Aug. 31

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE

HAMLET
Encores: Sat., Aug. 3;
Wed., Aug. 14;
Sun., Aug. 18

THE LEHMAN TRILOGY
Sat., Sept. 14 to
Sat., Sept. 28

THE MET SUMMER ENCORE

AIDA
Sun., Aug. 4

STUDIO GHIBLI ANIME SERIES

**KIKI'S DELIVERY
SERVICE**
Sun., Aug. 4
(English version)
Wed., Aug. 7
(Japanese with
English subtitles)

MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO

Sun., Aug. 25
(English version)
Wed., Aug. 28 (Japanese
with English subtitles)

THE SECRET WORLD OF ARRIETTY

Sun., Sept. 29
(English version)
Wed., Oct. 2 (Japanese
with English subtitles)

FLASHBACK FILM FESTIVAL

JURASSIC PARK
Fri., Aug. 9 to
Thurs., Aug. 15

NAPOLEON DYNAMITE
Fri., Aug. 23 to
Thurs., Sept. 5

**MONTY PYTHON
AND THE HOLY GRAIL**
Fri., Sept. 6 to
Thurs., Sept. 19

**2001: A SPACE
ODYSSEY**
Fri., Sept. 20 to
Thurs., Oct. 3

CLASSIC FILMS

THE RIGHT STUFF
Fri., Aug. 9 to
Wed., Aug. 22

LEGENDS OF THE FALL
Fri., Sept. 13 to
Thurs., Sept. 26

JAPANESE ACTION

KINGDOM
Fri., Aug. 16 to
Thurs., Aug. 22

EVENTS IN VIP

PULP FICTION
Fri., Aug. 23

THE GAME CHANGERS
Fri., Sept. 16

FIGHT CLUB
Mon., Sept. 23

IN CONVERSATION

**MARGARET ATWOOD:
LIVE IN CINEMAS**
Tues., Sept. 10

GLOBE THEATRE

**THE MERRY WIVES
OF WINDSOR**
Sat., Sept. 28



CONCERTS & MUSIC

CINEMA STRANGIATO 2019

Rush fans, considered among rock 'n' roll's most loyal, will gather on August 21st for what the Canadian rock band calls its "annual exercise in fan indulgence." Broadcast in theatres around the globe, *Rush: Cinema Strangiato* includes highlights from Rush's R40 tour, including "Closer to the Heart" and "Tom Sawyer," interviews with Tom Morello, Billy Corgan and Taylor Hawkins, and a bonus interview with Geddy Lee, who shows off his mammoth bass guitar collection and talks about his new book, *Geddy Lee's Big Beautiful Book of Bass*. → [AUGUST 21ST](#)



FLASHBACK FILM SERIES

MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL

We can thank Elton John, Led Zeppelin, Genesis and Pink Floyd for *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. The rock stars were among the 10 investors who each contributed £200,000 to comedy troupe Monty Python — composed of Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin — to fund its first film, a brilliantly silly take on Arthurian legend. Thank goodness they ponied up the cash because our world would be pretty dull without the Knights Who Say Ni, insult-spewing French soldiers, the Killer Rabbit of Caerbannog, and the blood-spurting Black Knight. → [SEPTEMBER 6TH TO 19TH](#)

BACK-TO-SCHOOL COOL

Seven stylish pieces to start
your year off right



CHILL OUT

The **Royal Sovereign Retro Compact Fridge** (\$190, staples.ca) is perfect for dorm rooms, and not just because it has a built-in bottle opener.

LAP OF LUXURY

Turn your bed or couch into a workspace with a handy **Lap Desk** (\$30, indigo.ca) and read, write or sketch in comfort.



WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR BACK

Fall in love with the **Sweet 16 Be Mine Backpack** (\$28, SportChek). It's made from 100% recycled water bottles.



ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL

This **GapKids Graphic Raglan T-Shirt** (\$25, gapcanada.ca) has a positive message for everyone in the class.



IN THE BAG

Stop feeling guilty every time you bring your lunch to school in a plastic baggie and switch to **Stasher Reusable Bags** (\$12 to \$15, mec.ca).



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Take Cardi B, Drake or, umm, a young Leonardo DiCaprio (we know, it looks like Bieber, too) to school with a **Celebrity Icon Notebook** (\$7 each, HomeSense).



THE RIGHT CORD

Nothing says fall like an **Old Navy Cord Jacket** (\$55, oldnavy.ca), especially since it comes in so many great colours.



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ROC25

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A close-up photograph of three women of different ages laughing together. The woman on the left is older with white hair, the woman in the center is middle-aged with dark hair, and the woman on the right is older with grey hair. They are all smiling broadly and laughing, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

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“I’m an Indigenous woman and that inherently makes me an activist.”



Sarain Fox - an artist and activist - comes from a long line of storytellers. Her mother and great aunt are the oral record keepers of the family. They’ve passed down timeless knowledge from the generations before them and raised Sarain to be a proud Anishinaabekwe. She belongs to a strong and powerful circle of women who have taught her the importance of taking care of elders, listening, sharing stories and raising up the voices of Indigenous people.

Growing up, Sarain never saw herself reflected in mainstream media. She didn’t

see herself on stage or in front of the camera. That is why Sarain believes that representation matters. She is loud and proud, grounded in her culture and shares that truth with the world. She carries her culture into everything she does so that young people can see themselves represented in the world around them and feel like they belong.

Beauty for Sarain is about authenticity, connection, and community. It’s using your voice to express who you really are, and amplifying the voices around you. ■



King OF THE Castle

Here comes Carson!
Mr. Carson (Jim Carter) is
back for the movie version
of *Downton Abbey*

Every character, every line of dialogue, every plot twist in ***Downton Abbey*** has come from the mind of **Julian Fellowes**. As our favourite British aristocrats and their hardworking servants prepare for their big-screen debut, the Oscar-winning writer talks about reuniting the cast, creating complex characters and returning to Highclere Castle, *Downton Abbey*'s real-life setting

BY MARNI WEISZ



Julian Fellowes

DOWNTON ABBEY IS GETTING THE royal treatment.

It's 1927, two years after we last saw the aristocratic Crawley family and their steadfast servants at the end of *Downton Abbey*'s sixth and final season. Now, for the movie of the same name, King George V and Queen Mary (Queen Elizabeth's grandparents) are coming for a royal visit.

The principal cast has all returned, including Hugh Bonneville and Elizabeth McGovern as Cora and Robert Crawley, a.k.a. the Earl and Countess of Grantham, Michelle Dockery and Laura Carmichael as their daughters Mary and Edith, Maggie Smith as the Dowager Countess, and, of course, the downstairs floor full of servants, including Phyllis Logan as Mrs. Hughes and Jim Carter as Mr. Carson. →

→ Highclere Castle is back, too, as *Downton Abbey* itself, which stands tall, cool and imposing as the world around it hurtles toward modernity.

And, as if there were any alternative, once again the story comes from the mind of Julian Fellowes, the Oscar-winning writer (for *Gosford Park*) who penned every single episode of the series. They did experiment with using other writers during the first season, “but I ended up rewriting both episodes because it was very difficult for them to get the kind of rhythm of the show,” Fellowes explains over the phone from his London flat.

He’s sitting at the very desk where he wrote many of those episodes. It was his mother’s desk, Regency Revival with five drawers, a kneehole and a glass top.

How did it feel to have the gang all together again?

Actually, it was quite strange, really. I went down very early on to Highclere. I parked my car in the same place, I walked down the drive and there everyone was. They were all in their costumes and we’d go into the same rooms and there was something quite surreal, really, because when we finished there we all thought that was it, that was the end.

The trailer is lovely with the household preparing for a visit from the King and Queen but there’s no death, no war, no murder trial, no car crash. Are we being set up here? In your words, tell me what does happen in the movie.

I can’t really say what does happen beyond the fact that the royal visit affects everyone, because it affects how the downstairs people get involved in it and how they’re treated, and the upstairs people, how they get involved and how it takes over their life for a period, and while it’s taking over their lives all the other stories in the movie come out of that. So, in a sense, that is the kind of trunk and the other stories are the branches.

How do you make a movie like this different than just watching a few episodes back to back?

Well, I think that is an interesting point because people differ when they make films out of television series. Sometimes people make them entirely different, and the whole cast goes off to Hawaii or something. Whereas others, they try to make a bigger, brighter, better version of the TV show that is more suited to the big screen and I would say of those two options we went with the latter. Far from anything else, we couldn’t really change the principal location because the house is one of the main characters in the show, and I can’t imagine making a very significant episode or movie without the house.



OUR LORD

Did you know that Julian Fellowes is himself a Lord, and the proper, formal way to refer to him is Lord Fellowes? “I was created a peer by the Prime Minister David Cameron, so I sit in the House of Lords,” says Fellowes.

As the upper house of the United Kingdom’s Parliament, the House of Lords has the power to review bills that have been approved by the House of Commons and make recommendations.



From left, Laura Carmichael, Hugh Bonneville, Maggie Smith and Elizabeth McGovern in the film

You hadn’t shot at Highclere Castle in a few years, the last episode aired in 2015.

What happens when you’re not there?

Well it has its life, you know. The Carnarvons live there and they have various exhibitions and shows and demonstrations, and they also host a lot of charity functions and there are weddings. They are certainly a very hardworking family and they keep it turning over brilliantly.

Do they have Downton tours there now?

Oh yes, yes. I mean, you have to book in, but you can go and see it, yes.



Julian Fellowes (centre) on the *Downton Abbey* set with producer Gareth Neame and star Michelle Dockery

Do you ever wonder who their grandchildren and great-grandchildren would be these days? What sort of lives they'd be living now?

Well of course it slightly depends on whether they've hung onto the house and the estate. I mean, quite a lot of families did, more than a lot of people think, and they are still in their houses, living differently, of course, calling their servants by their Christian names and being called by their Christian names in return. Not everyone, actually, there is still a bit of "my Lording" going on. I think now, to keep the houses and estates they must work harder at them. They must take it seriously and find out how to make money from them and what will be profitable, and so on. So in a sense they are living a much more hardworking life than their forebears.

That's interesting.

But really we're going into that time in the '20s and really Mary is quite a hard worker, she's no slouch. She and Branson work pretty hard to keep the estate going. So I think we're already seeing that transition that Mary works harder than, for instance, Robert ever would have done at her age.

I'm curious what you watch on TV. When *Downton* ended, *The Crown* came in and filled a bit of a void. Did you watch *The Crown*?

I did watch *The Crown*, but I also love American series. I watched *Mad Men*, which I absolutely loved. I watched *West Wing*, I watched *The Good Wife*, I watched *Scandal*, and I am currently working my way through *Grey's Anatomy*.

For many years you were a prolific actor, but you haven't acted since 2005. Why is that?

Well, at first, I just found it was too difficult to find the time because I had a lot of writing work. I couldn't fit them both in. I did the odd presentation of documentaries and things and I did a series about English country houses and I went to Burghley and Goodwood and places. But in the end it was a question of the time, really.

Were you tempted to give yourself a small roll in *Downton*, as many actor/directors do?

[Laughs.] No, I've never done that. I feel that Alfred Hitchcock did that, he did it for all of us, really.

Any chance that if this one does well there will be another *Downton Abbey* movie?

Well there's always that chance. ☐

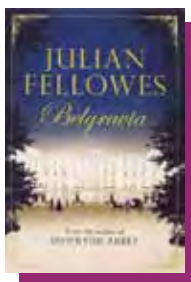
Marni Weisz is the editor of *Cineplex Magazine*.

The film's director, Michael Engler, helmed four episodes of *Downton*, but his résumé is largely made of American comedy series — *30 Rock*, *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, *Sex and the City*. Would you say he brings more of a comic eye to the film?

I think he has a very good comic eye, but I wouldn't really say he altered the amount of comedy in *Downton*. It was always a reasonable slab and Maggie always had a few laughs in every episode. I mean, he did also direct my script of *The Chaperone* with Elizabeth McGovern, the movie. Again, it had some funny moments but it's not a comedy in that sense. I think he's quite at home in non-comedy.

I read that one of your peeves with American cinema is that characters tend to be good or bad, black or white. It made me think of Mary in particular, who is such a great character, bouncing back and forth between the two.

You're right, I like to mix up people and give them sympathetic and unsympathetic things to do so you can't make your mind up about them easily. I always get a little bit bored when you're told this is the hero and that is the heroine and they are the baddies... [With Mary,] I'd like to think she's human. She's snobbish and rather self-important at times, but at the same time she has a reasonably kind heart and a reasonable sense of honour and wanting to do the right thing. I think you see all sides in the film.



BACK IN TIME

Julian Fellowes is just wrapping up work on his next TV series, *Belgravia*, based on his own novel. "It opens in 1815," explains Fellowes, "at the Duchess of Richmond's ball, just before Waterloo. But then there is a gap of 25 years, and it starts again in the 1840s. It's really about the beginning of social mobility."



CONSTANCE WU,

The star of *Crazy Rich Asians* and TV's *Fresh Off the Boat* explains why ***Hustlers***, in which she plays a stripper who's doing what she has to do to get by, is exactly the type of film she wants to make

BY INGRID RANDOJA

CONSTANCE WU PLAYS A STRIPPER IN *HUSTLERS*, WHICH IS based on the real-life tale of a group of New York dancers who steal from their wealthy Wall Street clientele. But she says there's a lot more to this band of misbehaving women than their titillating jobs.

"I want people to care about these girls as humans and not just write them off as their occupation or their bad deeds," says Wu on the line from Los Angeles. "We're not saying that these girls did these great, glorious things, 'cause stealing from people and drugging people is not great, and we're not trying to romanticize that. But that's just the means for us, in the story, to understand the friendships, because that was our goal and I think that's the most important part of the movie."

Written and directed by Lorena Scafaria (*The Meddler*), the film is based on the article "The Hustlers at Scores," which appeared in the December 2015 issue of *New York Magazine*. Jennifer Lopez headlines the cast as Ramona, the ringleader of the group that's composed of Wu, Keke Palmer, and Lili Reinhart, while Cardi B pops up in a small supporting role. →

STRIPPED DOWN



Jennifer Lopez (left) and Constance Wu go for a ride in *Hustlers*

HUSTLERS
OPENS SEPTEMBER 13TH

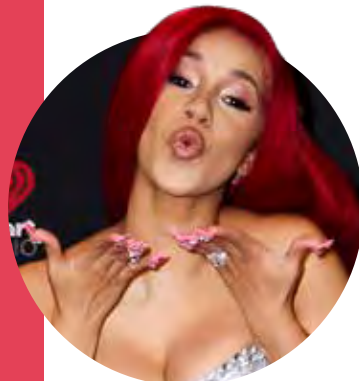
LESSONS FROM CARDI B

Rapper Cardi B makes her feature-film acting debut in *Hustlers*, a film that mirrors her own life — she's admitted to drugging and robbing men when she worked as a stripper before finding success in the music industry.

Wu says the charismatic Cardi is a born actor.

"She was only able to shoot for one day, but she's so funny in her scenes," says Wu. "My character, she's not that good at being a dancer, and there's this scene where I'm with Cardi, her character is named Diamond, and she's like, 'Okay, well show me how you do the lap dance.' And so I have to give Cardi a lap dance, and in the script it's something like, 'Oh, girl, this is not good. You suck.'"

"So, I did that, I was giving Cardi a lap dance and she did not even have to act," she says with a laugh. "When I started, she was like, 'Oh, honey, no!' It was really, really funny. She was really excited to be in a movie. And you know, she worked hard on it."



→ **WU WAS BORN AND RAISED IN** Richmond, Virginia, and landed her big break playing no-nonsense mom Jessica Huang on TV's *Fresh Off the Boat*. However, it was her starring role in last year's huge hit *Crazy Rich Asians* that brought her big-screen acclaim.

Wu played lovestruck Rachel, who was willing to walk away from the man she loved (Henry Golding) for all the right reasons. Her *Hustlers* character, Destiny, proves a less noble, but perhaps more interesting, character for Wu.

"Destiny is a girl who didn't really start out with much in her life," explains the 37-year-old actor. "And she uses the currency that the culture assigns her to get by in this world because she didn't really have much of an education, her family life was difficult. Self-worth is really important in terms of what you'll end up doing. At the end of the day Destiny is a woman who wants more than money and more than security, she wants friendship and she wants love."

When Wu first got the script, Destiny's character wasn't fully fleshed out.

"But I knew all the pieces were there," she remembers. "I met with Lorene and I knew that she understood the way to make this story without the male gaze, and when you don't have the male gaze, when you're not just looking at the external beauty of women, when you're actually focusing on what's going on inside, it humanizes women in a way that I think, recently, our culture and our politics has tried to take away from women."

"So I knew Lorene was the director to do it, and with every draft that she wrote it just got closer and sharper and just tighter and better. And that doesn't always happen. Sometimes, somebody will go through many drafts and they get worse and worse."

Wu did some prep and fact-finding for the role, which meant hanging out with exotic dancers.

"I definitely did a lot of research, let's put it that way [laughs]. It was actually really fun, and I got to know some girls who are dancers and it actually sucks because you realize that so many people stereotype these women, and when you actually meet them you see how these women have been reduced to their occupation when they're people inside."

HUSTLERS IS THE KIND OF MOVIE Wu wants to keep making — edgy, promoting female-empowerment and with a diverse cast. She got into hot water earlier this year when it was announced that her show *Fresh Off the Boat* would come back for a sixth season and she wrote on Twitter that she was disappointed.

She later apologized and clarified the tweet, explaining that the show's renewal meant she had to drop out of a project that excited her. While grateful for what her breakout TV role has given her, Wu wants to be challenged.

"I want to give characters a voice who haven't had a voice before, that haven't been explored fully," she says.

"I want to make sure that I do right by them as an actor and we do right by them as storytellers. I want to support the female directors, directors of colour and LGBTQIA directors. I really have done that for the most part. Since *Fresh Off the Boat* I've almost exclusively, in terms of live-action stuff, only done projects that were directed by either women or people of colour. I'm actually proud of that, and happy to continue to do it." ■

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

B R A D P I T T

THE ANSWERS WE SEEK ARE JUST OUTSIDE OUR REACH

A D A S T R A

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX AND REGENCY ENTERPRISES PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH BONA FILM GROUP A NEW REGENCY, PLAN B ENTERTAINMENT, KEEP YOUR HEAD, RT FEATURES, MADRIVER PICTURES PRODUCTION
A JAMES GRAY FILM BRAD PITT "AD ASTRA" TOMMY LEE JONES RUTH NEGGA LIV TYLER AND DONALD SUTHERLAND COSTUME DESIGNER ALBERT WOLSKY MUSIC BY MAX RICHTER MUSIC SUPERVISORS RANDALL POSTER AND GEORGE DRAKOULIAS
EDITORS JOHN AXELRAD, ACE LEE HAUGEN PRODUCTION DESIGNER KEVIN THOMPSON DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY HOYTE VAN HOYTEMA, ASC, FSC, NSC EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARC BUTAN LOURENÇO SANT'ANNA SOPHIE MAS YU DONG JEFFREY CHAN ANTHONY MOSAWI PAUL CONWAY
PRODUCED BY BRAD PITT DEDE GARDNER, P.G.A. JEREMY KLEINER, P.G.A. JAMES GRAY, P.G.A. ANTHONY KATAGAS, P.G.A. RODRIGO TEIXEIRA, P.G.A. ARNON MILCHAN WRITTEN BY JAMES GRAY & ETHAN GROSS DIRECTED BY JAMES GRAY



SEPTEMBER 20



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THIS TIME IT'S PERSONAL

After saving the president not once, but twice, now it's **Gerard Butler's** Secret Service agent Mike Banning who needs to be saved. Of course, he's the only man for the job. On the Bulgarian set of ***Angel Has Fallen***, Butler tells us why this third film in the series focuses on Banning's personal struggles as much as the action

BY TANNER ZIPCHEN



FIRST OLYMPUS, THEN LONDON, AND NOW ANGEL HAS FALLEN.

That means Gerard Butler's highly skilled Secret Service agent, Mike Banning, is being called back into action, but this time the tables have turned. Banning is framed for an assassination attempt on the new president of the United States — Morgan Freeman's Allan Trumbull, previously Speaker of the House, is now the leader of the free world — and now his own agency is out to get him.

"It's much more like *The Fugitive*," says Butler, "a man on the run like a hunted dog having to discover his predator side in a whole different way."

Like the previous installments, the film was shot in Sofia, Bulgaria, largely at Nu Boyana Film Studios, which is known for its massive sets, including a London street and life-sized replica of the city's famous St. Paul's Cathedral built for *London Has Fallen*.

On this day, production has moved out of the studio and onto the streets of Sofia for the final, action-packed moments of the film and, twice, our interview comes to a halt thanks to the deafening sound of gunfire from filming a couple hundred metres away.

Do you have a property here in Bulgaria yet?

No, I don't live here. I feel like I do. This is actually, I think, the fifth time I've been here. I was also here 20 years ago when I made a movie called *The Cherry Orchard* with a director called Michael Cacoyannis who directed *Zorba the Greek*.

Ah! Oh, no! Goddamit!

(Gunfire heard in the background. Butler pretends to have been shot.)

Geez, I thought they used blanks. So, anyway.

That gives you a little bit of an idea of what this movie is about.



How do you do it, though? How deafening is it for you to actually be in there, because we're a couple hundred feet away and it's loud out here.

I have to say, over the years it's definitely taken an impact on my hearing. You use ear plugs, but it still gets through. Whenever I do big action sequences, my ears are ringing for a couple of days. If you do a big action sequence that can take seven days. So it definitely causes some damage, but it's fun.

Did you do a little tour down memory lane at Nu Boyana Film Studios? I see the *London Has Fallen* set is still there.

Yeah, we still have the St. Paul's set, we have a lot of London there, there's always these little tidbits of things that you've done in the past that I kind of go, this is my life. It's fun.

And your dog is from here?
Yes.

That's a unique souvenir to bring back.
So, I was shooting up in the mountains, I was shooting something for a movie called *Hunter Killer* and we were at the bottom of this mountain and we found this stray dog. We were in the middle of nowhere and she was starving and was just a beautiful dog.

Just so present, right in your face, would just sit and look at you, and I thought, "What am I going to do, just leave her?" So we fed her all day, but then she didn't seem like was she was very well and she was very hungry and thirsty so we decided to take her to the vet, and the vet cleaned her up and then I thought, "Well, what are they going to do now?" Because they were just going to turn her back loose, so we had her shipped out to America.

And you brought her back for this trip?
She said to me when I was coming, "There's no way you're going back if I can't come back with you." So we've taken →

ANGEL HAS FALLEN
OPENS AUGUST 23RD

**MORGAN FREEMAN IS
NOW THE PRESIDENT...
HE'S LIKE A
FATHER FIGURE
TO ME AND WE REALLY
GO INTO THAT IN A
VERY BEAUTIFUL WAY**

Secret Service agent Mike Banning
(Gerard Butler, left) with President Trumbull
(Morgan Freeman) in *Angel Has Fallen*

→ her back up to some of the places where we found her and you can tell, she knows. I would take her out in the woods and she feels right at home.

What's her name?

I have no idea. No, I'm joking. It's Shushka. Shushka has absolutely no meaning in Bulgarian. So there was an AD on the movie going, "Hey Shushka, Shushka." So I thought, "That's a great name for a dog," and she seems like a Shushka. But I've since found out that Shushka actually means nothing. It's kind of like, "Hey, hey there." So my dog is called Hey There.

So *Angel Has Fallen*. Mike Banning, how many times now has he got stuck in a situation like this with the president? He's got some bad luck.

Yeah, we brought that up in the last movie. Like, is this me or you who has the bad luck here? He works in protection for the president and sh-t has to come up otherwise there will be no movie.

That's true.

But we've taken a very different angle this time. When we got [director] Ric Waugh on board we all knew we had to go in a very different direction, there's only so many times you can lose a city or a place so it became a much more personal, intimate

portrayal of Banning and the struggles that he's actually having. He's not quite the superhero that he was. He's dealing with a lot of issues in his life that have come up from those previous movies and his previous service, psychological and physical issues, and he very much wants to stay active but that is now causing him to act in ways that is not becoming of him. He's seeing doctors in private, he has issues with painkillers and he knows if he's honest about this then he's going to be taken out of the field and he doesn't want that to happen.

This time Morgan Freeman steps up into that president role.

That's right, yeah.

And then Mike has to fight for his life, as we can tell by the big action scene happening behind us right now.

Like I say, it's about betrayal, it's betrayal of his own body, betrayal of his friend, betrayal of his own people, his government turning against him. Morgan Freeman is now the president, but he's like a father figure to me and we really go into that in a very beautiful way. My scenes with him were just fantastic and it's all the more painful to Mike that this is also a man that he's having to lie to about where he's at in his life.

(Gunshots interrupt again.)

It's like they're shooting a movie there or something.

This is the part of the movie where somebody is very angry with somebody else. I'm not quite sure where, but there's definitely a pissed off one or two people back there.

That's what that's all about, someone blew a take and that's the firing squad.

In the *Has Fallen* movies, that's somebody basically ordering a coffee at Starbucks.

Speaking of this series, is there another one planned? I know it's too early to think about it, but eventually you'll get older, maybe it will just be called like *Help I've Fallen*.


That's good [laughing]. This movie is actually *Help I've Fallen*, if there's a better title than *Angel Has Fallen*, because this is about Banning falling, and it is about him struggling. I actually don't know, we'll see how this one goes. For better or for worse, we're taking a very different direction, but I have to say I'm way more excited about this one. It feels like a way more brave effort than the other two. ☐

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



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We just knew Pennywise wasn't going to stay dead. The evil clown is back and so too are the kids who tried to stop him the first time, only this time they're all grown up. We speak with **Jessica Chastain** about playing the older Beverly Marsh, the only female in The Losers' Club, and why her starring role in ***It Chapter Two*** was pretty much inevitable

BRING IT ON

BY INGRID RANDOJA



HERE WERE NODS OF APPROVAL WHEN

it was announced that Jessica Chastain would play the grown-up Beverly Marsh in *It Chapter Two*, the sequel to 2017's horror blockbuster *It*. The strong resemblance between Chastain and Sophia Lillis, who played the teenage Bev in the first film, made it an obvious choice. Bev was the lone female in the

Losers' Club, a bunch of kids who are terrorized by Pennywise, an evil entity that takes the form of a really creepy clown.

However, as Chastain explains, her casting wasn't a surprise, nor did it happen by chance. Andy Muschietti, who directed both *It* films and is good friends with Chastain — she starred in his first film, the chilling horror *Mama* — had his pal in mind from the time he started planning out the two-film series.

"I'm friends with Andy and Barbara Muschietti [Andy's sister and a producer on the *It* films], and before Andy made the first film, I think after he cast Soph, he sent me a picture of Soph and I together," says Chastain on the line from an L.A. office on the Warner Bros. lot. "She looks a lot like I did when I was a kid, it's really kind of uncanny. I don't remember what he wrote, but it was like, 'What do you think?' So I think in his mind he'd always kind of seen [the fit]."

Chastain had fun feigning her disinterest in the project, which is based on one of Stephen King's most popular novels.

"I tried to play hard to get a little bit," she says with a laugh. "I mean, I always knew I was gonna do it, but Andy had a screening of the first movie, and I came in and Barbara handed me a glass of red wine. I mean, it's nice because they're your friends and you're playing hard to get. Like, they spoil you."

"And we sat and watched the movie. And within the first five minutes I jumped, and I spilled the red wine. I thought, 'Oh, I'm in the power seat,' and then I realized I wasn't at all because Andy, with this terrifying film, had me scared out of my mind."

T CHAPTER TWO PICKS UP 27 YEARS AFTER THE

events of the first film, in which the members of the Losers' Club faced their fears and seemingly defeated Pennywise (Bill Skarsgård). But, just in case, they made a blood oath to reunite if Pennywise ever returned.

When the evil entity resurfaces and kills a local man (Xavier Dolan), the adult Mike (Isaiah Mustafa), now the town of Derry's librarian, calls his friends back. Leader Bill (James McAvoy), the

The adult Losers' Club reunites in *It Chapter Two*



Bill Skarsgård as Pennywise

wise-cracking Richie (Bill Hader), shy Ben (Jay Ryan), the hypochondriac Eddie (James Ransone), and Bev, a survivor of abuse at the hands of her lecherous father, must fight through their terrifying childhood memories and once again battle Pennywise.

For Bev, the past is ever-present.

"The adult Bev's been working in fashion, and I guess the demons of her past haven't quite left her," notes Chastain. "I mean, she's still continuing an abusive relationship, and it isn't until she's reminded of her past that a flood of memories come back."

But the thing about Bev is that she is, ultimately, the strongest member of the Losers' Club.

"Why I loved the first movie so much is that out of all the Losers, Pennywise captures Beverly because she's the one who isn't afraid," says the actor. "Her biggest nightmare is waiting for her at home. So, for her, she has this sense of fearlessness that the other characters don't have. Of course, she's still fearful because Pennywise is a really, really dark force. But it isn't so much that the guys have to protect her because, in some sense, she's in a situation where she has to protect them."

NOW AND THEN

One of the challenges of shooting *It* and *It Chapter Two* was finding two sets of actors to play the same characters. Here's a look at the kids from *It* with their adult versions from *It Chapter Two*.

BILL DENBROUGH

BEVERLY MARSH

BEN HANSCOM



Jaeden Lieberher

James McAvoy

Sophia Lillis

Jessica Chastain

Jeremy Ray Taylor

Jay Ryan



SPICING IT UP

Isaiah Mustafa plays the adult Mike Hanlon in *It Chapter Two*. But you may recognize him as “The Man Your Man Could Smell Like” from the hilarious series of Old Spice commercials that hit YouTube and TV airwaves beginning in 2010 (pictured above). He was last seen playing a detective, and werewolf, in the TV series *Shadowhunters: The Mortal Instruments*.

LIKE THE FIRST FILM, *IT CHAPTER TWO* WAS FILMED in Toronto and the surrounding area, including the city of Oshawa and the town of Port Hope, Ontario. Chastain says she can’t get enough of shooting movies in Hollywood North.

“I think I’ve made seven movies in Canada,” she says. “I’ve made more movies in Toronto than anywhere else in my career. I love Toronto and, in fact, I’m about to go do some films and I’ve even recently said, ‘Oh, I wish we were going to Toronto to film.’ I find the city so incredible and it really feels like a home to me.”

What is it about Toronto that appeals to her?

“I love the food, I love the people,” she raves. “Canadians are super-nice. It’s not a stereotype, they are nice people, they’re raised right. I love the crews. The crews in Toronto are probably some of the best I’ve ever worked with in my career, and I’ve worked with many of them multiple, multiple times. And I love the drives outside of Toronto. I love Niagara. I love the butterflies at the Butterfly Conservatory.”

Making horror movies can be intense, but Chastain says this

mix of actors, including her good friend James McAvoy (this is their third film together), made the shoot fun.

“So, so fun,” she says. “We have a WhatsApp group of the Losers, and we were always talking about going to do karaoke, we went and played ping-pong, a lot of singing.”

But enough of the feel-good vibes. We are going to see *It Chapter Two* because we want to be frightened. We want to shriek at the big-moment scares, feel the apprehension and fear experienced by the characters.

What does Chastain want audiences to feel after seeing the film?

“First, I want them to probably change their pants because they were so scared. They’re going to need to,” she says, laughing.

“Second, you know what would be nice? If the film helps you reconnect with your childhood self. You know, like the freedom of what it is to be a child and the joy of what that is. And maybe the friendships that you’ve had. That would be really wonderful.”

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

RICHIE TOZIER

MIKE HANLON

EDDIE KASPBRAK

STAN URIS



Finn
Wolfhard

Bill
Hader

Chosen
Jacobs

Isaiah
Mustafa

Jack
Dylan Grazer

James
Ransone

Wyatt
Oleff

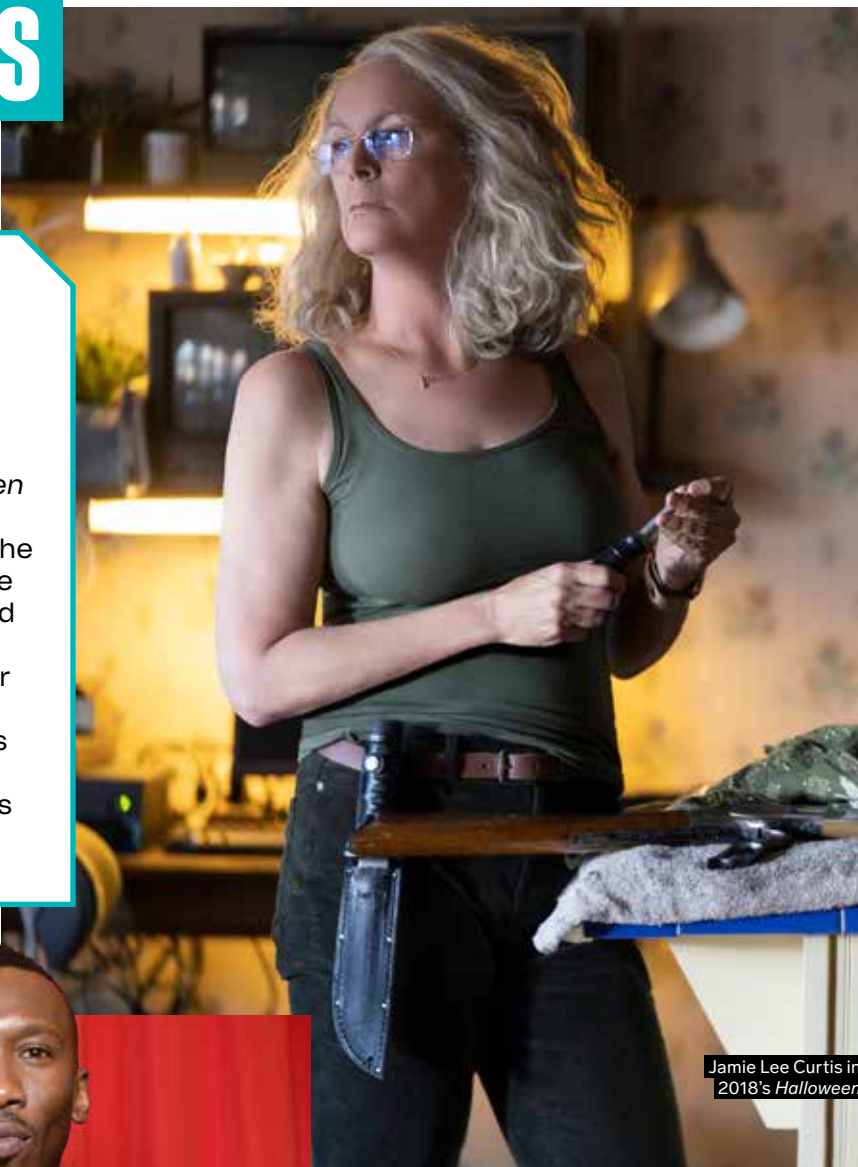
Andy
Bean

IN THE WORKS

BY INGRID RANDOJA

Curtis Celebrates Another Halloween

The success of 2018's *Halloween* (it earned \$255-million U.S. worldwide) meant a sequel to the film that rebooted the franchise was likely, and now comes word that **Jamie Lee Curtis** is in fact returning to play super-survivor Laurie Strode for the sixth time. Also returning from 2018's *Halloween* are **Judy Greer** and **Andi Matichak**, who play Curtis's daughter and granddaughter respectively.



Jamie Lee Curtis in 2018's *Halloween*



Ali Eyes Solitary

Mahershala Ali is circling the role of Albert Woodfox in the drama *Solitary*, based on Woodfox's memoir about surviving 43 years in solitary confinement in Louisiana's notorious Angola Prison. Woodfox's solitary confinement – the longest in U.S. history – was based on a bogus conviction for murdering a prison guard. No word on who will direct.



FASSBENDER IS A SPY

Michael Fassbender has been laying low, having starred in just one film (*Dark Phoenix*) since 2017. Now comes word he'll play superspy Malko Linge, based on the SAS series of espionage

novels by Gerard de Villiers. Linge is an Austrian prince who works as a freelance CIA agent to help finance the repairs to his family's castle. **Eric Warren Singer** (*American Hustle*) is penning the script, which is based on de Villiers' novel *Checkpoint Charlie*.



EASTWOOD'S OLYMPIAN EFFORT

Director **Clint Eastwood's** *Richard Jewell* is coming together nicely. The film is based on the story of Richard Jewell,

the security guard at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta who was falsely accused of setting off a bomb at Olympic Park. **Paul Walter Hauser** is playing Jewell, **Jon Hamm** is an FBI agent investigating the bombing, **Kathy Bates** will play Jewell's mom and **Olivia Wilde** portrays real-life reporter Kathy Scruggs.



YEOH CIRCLES MOUNTAIN

Michelle Yeoh is eyeing the starring role in *Gold Mountain*, which recounts the story of a Chinese widow and a young girl

in 1850s San Francisco who orchestrate a marriage con targeting men arriving in the city during the famed Gold Rush. Playwright **Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig** pens the script and **Alan Taylor** (*Thor: The Dark World*) directs.

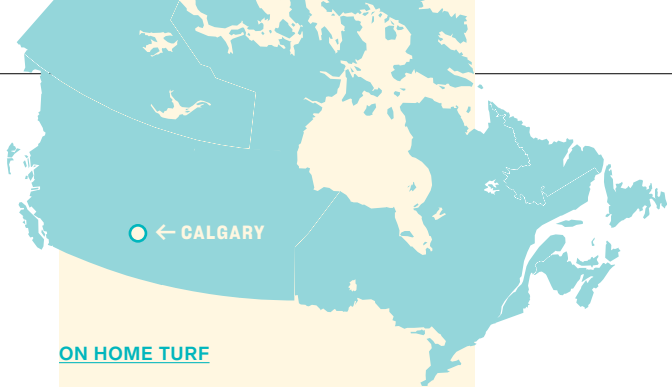


GRANT DOES DRAG

Recent Oscar-nominee

Richard E. Grant does drag for his upcoming role in *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*, based on the real-life story of 16-year-old Jamie New, a

British teen who overcomes prejudice and hate to fulfill his dream of becoming a drag queen. Newcomer **Max Harwood** plays Jamie while Grant is drag queen Loco Chanelle, who mentors the young man. The film is based on the hit British musical and will be directed by choreographer-turned-director **Jonathan Butterell**.



ON HOME TURF

CALGARY AIN'T AFRAID OF NO GHOSTS

If you see a river of ectoplasm flowing through Calgary, you'll know who to call. The tentatively titled *Ghostbusters 3* — the third film in the series that started with 1984's *Ghostbusters* and its 1989 sequel, *Ghostbusters 2* — is expected to film in the city until the end of October. (The 2016 *Ghostbusters* that starred Kristen Wiig and



Jason Reitman

Melissa McCarthy won't figure into this film's storyline.)

Ivan Reitman directed the first two films, but he passes the torch to son **Jason Reitman**, who helms the new film.

Original *Ghostbusters* actors **Bill Murray**,

Ernie Hudson, **Dan Aykroyd**,

Sigourney Weaver and **Annie Potts** are expected to return, joining young cast members **Finn Wolfhard**, **Mckenna Grace** and **Carrie Coon**. *Ghostbusters 3* hits theatres July 10th, 2020.



Bill Murray (left) and Dan Aykroyd in 1984's *Ghostbusters*

FRESH FACE

EMMA NELSON

Where'd You Go, Bernadette director

Richard Linklater auditioned almost 500 girls before he stumbled across 14-year-old

Emma Nelson. Linklater was looking for a teenager of play Bee Branch, the brainy daughter to **Cate Blanchett's** Bernadette. Nelson, who hails from Chicago, had never acted in film (she had one theatre credit), but Linklater was bowled over by her "composure, confidence and unflappability."



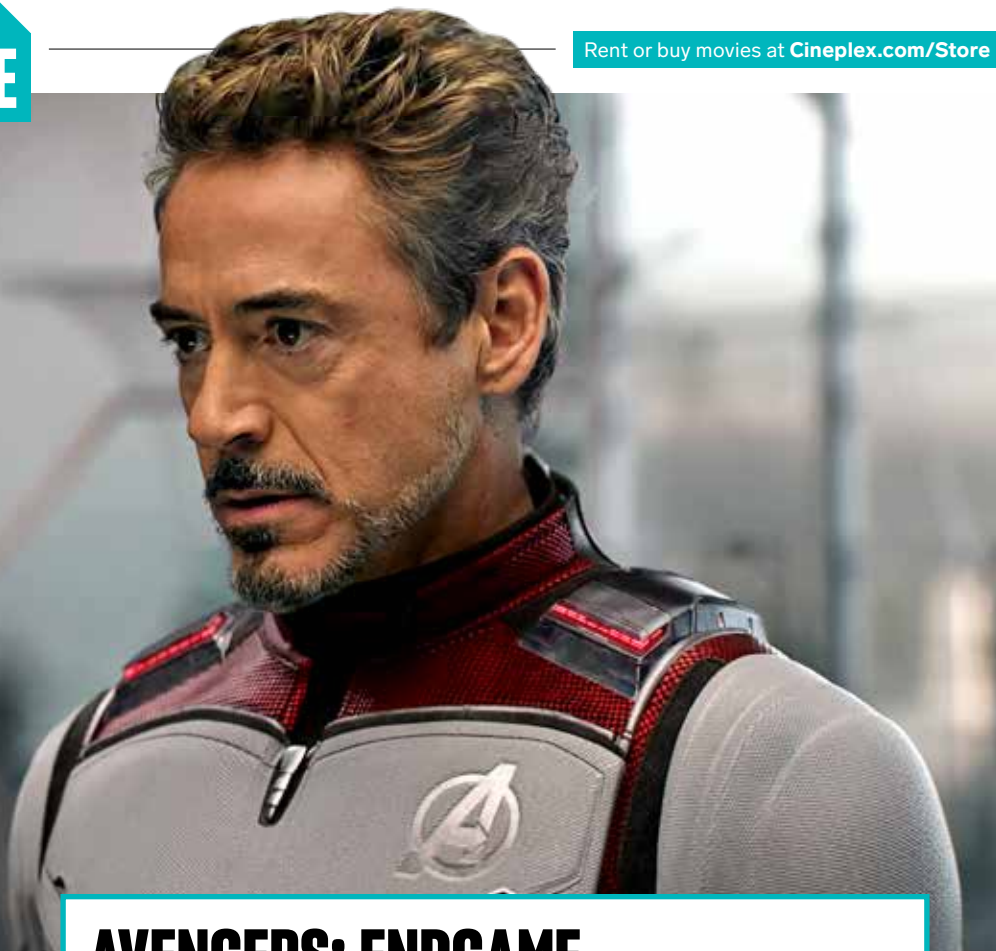
ROLE CALL

■ *Gilded Rage* casts **Bill Skarsgård** as the real-life Thomas Gilbert Jr., who murdered his hedge-fund manager father.

■ **Ray Winstone** joins the cast of *Black Widow*.

■ *Goodbye, Vitamin* finds **Constance Wu** organizing a fake class to help her father, a history professor struggling with Alzheimer's.

■ **Imogen Poots** stars in the remake of the 1974 horror *Black Christmas*, which hits screens this Holiday season.



AVENGERS: ENDGAME

The finale to the Avengers franchise delivered on all fronts, giving us epic adventure, a dose of humour and powerful emotional moments that wrapped up a film series that's taken root in our hearts and minds. It demands an encore viewing from the comfort of your home where you can unashamedly shed a tear or two.

→ [BUY IT OR RENT IT AUGUST 13](#)



GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS

The fun in this sequel to 2014's *Godzilla* is seeing a whole new set of prehistoric creatures — Mothra, Rodan and the three-headed Ghidorah — battle it out while humans **Vera Farmiga**, **Millie Bobby Brown** and **Kyle Chandler** look on.

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ROCKETMAN

Taron Egerton throws himself into the role of Elton John in director **Dexter Fletcher's** fantastical bio-pic that uses John's greatest hits to explore his complicated life as a gay man, addict, rock star and the ultimate survivor.

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[RENT IT AUGUST 27](#)



JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 3 — PARABELLUM

Keanu Reeves returns to fight, shoot and stab his way to redemption as he travels to Casablanca to enlist the aid of a friend (**Halle Berry**) in an effort to get the \$14-million bounty on his head reversed.

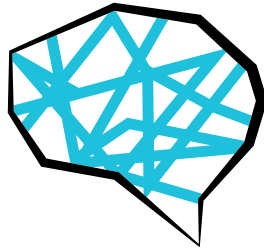
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MA

Octavia Spencer embraces her creepy side as Sue Ann "Ma" Ellington, a woman who allows teens to party in her basement. But Ma grows increasingly unstable and sadistic when the kids start snooping into her past.

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Jason Statham (left) and Dwayne Johnson in *Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw*

Start Your Engines

Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw earns its long title by being the first spinoff of the phenomenally popular *Fast and the Furious* film franchise, which follows a crew of street racers turned espionage experts. The new film sees two of the franchise's newer characters – Luke Hobbs (**Dwayne Johnson**), a one-time U.S. Diplomatic Security Service agent, and Deckard Shaw (**Jason Statham**), a former British military officer – coming together to defeat a cyber-genetically enhanced bad guy (**Idris Elba**). Which is fun, because Hobbs and Shaw hate each other. How well do you know the franchise?

1. Which year did the franchise's first film, *The Fast and the Furious*, come out?

- a) 1999
- b) 2001
- c) 2004
- d) 2006

2. The first film was partly inspired by an article in which of the following magazines?

- a) *Vibe*
- b) *Vice*
- c) *Wired*
- d) *The New Yorker*

3. Which of the following franchise stars did not appear in the first movie?

- a) Vin Diesel
- b) Paul Walker
- c) Tyrese Gibson
- d) Michelle Rodriguez

4. Before *Hobbs & Shaw*, how much had the *Fast and the Furious* franchise earned (U.S.) at the worldwide box office?

- a) \$45-million
- b) \$800-million
- c) \$3-billion
- d) \$5-billion

5. Who helped finish *Furious 7* by acting as Paul Walker's stand-in after the actor died in an off-set car crash?

- a) His sons
- b) His brothers
- c) His father
- d) His trainer

6. In a post-credits scene at the end of *Fast & Furious 6* Deckard Shaw is revealed to be responsible for the death of:

- a) Han Seoul-Oh
- b) Chew Dhaka
- c) Obi-Wan Kyoto
- d) Luke Shanghai-Walker

7. Who played Deckard Shaw's brother, Owen Shaw, in *Fast & Furious 6*?

- a) Luke Evans
- b) Cole Hauser
- c) Kurt Russell
- d) Scott Eastwood

8. In *The Fate of the Furious*, Luke Hobbs is shown coaching his daughter's...

- a) Cheerleading squad
- b) Softball team
- c) Soccer team
- d) Hockey team

9. Which of these actors has never appeared in a *Fast and Furious* film?

- a) Charlize Theron
- b) Helen Mirren
- c) Eva Mendes
- d) Judi Dench

10. Which actor/wrestler is slated to follow Dwayne Johnson into the franchise for next year's *Fast & Furious 9*?

- a) Dave Bautista
- b) John Cena
- c) Steve Austin
- d) Hulk Hogan

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



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All Dolled Up

San Francisco-based artist Andy Stattmiller uses a unique format for his pop-culture portraits. Nesting dolls. "They are perfect for making a series of characters," he says.

That they are, even if painting dolls comes with its own unique challenges. "It's much different from painting a flat canvas because it's a 3D object and attention is put into all sides," explains the artist.

After some research, Stattmiller sketches the characters on blank dolls, then paints them with acrylics and finishes it off with a layer of varnish.

Most of his works, whether nesting dolls, sketches or more traditional paintings, depict TV and movie characters. "I make them based on the movies that I've always liked, or what I think would be a good concept," he says. "If I get commissioned the customer will choose the theme."

He's already made 52 sets. —MW



To see more go to
andystattmiller.com

↑
From top:
Star Wars, Predator



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