GET OUT YOUR CALENDAR! OUR 2020 MOVIE PREVIEW IS HERE 9 PAGE 32





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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020 **VOLUME 21 #1**

FEATURES

Coming of Age

Hugh Grant loves that he's no longer a fresh-faced rom-com star, and tells us that getting to play weirdos, like the sleazy private investigator in director Guy Ritchie's The Gentlemen, makes acting more fun

BY MARA REINSTEIN

Court Date

Michael B. Jordan savs it's a privilege to play real-life lawyer Bryan Stevenson in Just Mercy, a movie that confronts America's broken justice system by telling the story of a falsely accused death row inmate

BY INGRID RANDOJA

2020 Movie Preview!

It's going to be another huge year at the movies. Here we preview 10 films you don't want to miss, including No Time to Die, Black Widow, Tenet. Wonder Woman 1984 and Dune

BY INGRID RANDOJA & MARNI WEISZ



REGULARS

4 EDITOR'S NOTE

The gang's all here

6 CLICK!

Out and about with Jennifer Lopez, Idris Elba and Lin-Manuel Miranda

8 UP FRONT

John Cho talks The Grudge, Sonic gets a facelift, and we fall in love with The Photograph

16 RED CARPET

Kristen Bell, Janelle Monáe and Daniel Craig are all dressed up

18 IN THEATRES

Your quick scan through January and February movies

22 SPECIAL SCREENINGS

All My Sons casts big stars on stage, The Color Purple shines

42 IN THE WORKS

Rachel Weisz plays Elizabeth Taylor, Zoe Saldana joins the CIA

44 CINEPLEX STORE

Make it A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

46 SCREEN TEST

Reunited and it feels so good!

50 ART OF FILM

Sherri Rogers paints strong female characters



COVER STORY

38 Taking Flight

Margot Robbie returns as fun-loving psycho Harley Quinn in the Suicide Squad follow-up, Birds of Prey (And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn), an irreverent action pic that sees Quinn creating a girl gang of her own. Here the Aussie star and her castmates - Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Jurnee Smollett-Bell,

Rosie Perez and Ella Jay Basco — talk about joining forces in the name of grrrl power

BY MARA REINSTEIN

EDITOR'S NOTE

Ganging Up

Bad girls, bad girls, whatcha gonna do? Whatcha gonna do when they come for you?

While there's still a ways to go, the changes in Hollywood since #MeToo blew up in October 2017 have been surprisingly swift, with a noticeable increase in films starring and about women. That's great.

Perhaps the biggest trend, though, is one I didn't expect — the number of films about groups of dangerous women coming together to do criminal things. In Ocean's 8, eight ladies with various illicit skills join forces to steal a whack of diamonds at the Met Gala. In Widows, four women who've just lost their heist-loving husbands in a botched robbery unite to finish the job. In The Kitchen, three wives of New York gangsters take over their husbands' business after their men go to jail. And in *Hustlers* a handful of strippers hatch a plan to drug, blackmail and rob their male clients.

The women in these films are largely unapologetic and, for the most part, the filmmakers have resisted the temptation to give them the type of tragic background stories that fully justify their actions. They're fed up, pissed off, have been treated unfairly and often have their backs against the wall but their decisions are their own and the things they do are simply bad by polite society's standards.

It's a bit shocking at times, but no different than all the movies we've seen about gangs of men committing crimes — Ocean's Eleven, The Godfather, Reservoir Dogs. Instead of assuming that complex female characters have to be virtuous and nurturing, women are being shown from all angles, even the unflattering ones, in the name of a good story.

Though, I have to admit, at times I've been left craving a bit more heroism mixed in with the badassery.

Enter Birds of Prey (And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn).

This spinoff of 2016's comic book movie Suicide Squad — about a bunch of supervillains forced to be disposable assets for the U.S. government — was supposed to focus on that film's breakout character, Margot Robbie's vigilante antihero Harley Quinn. That is, until Robbie stepped up and said, nope, she wanted this to be a film about a group of women. So, Harley unites with the Birds of Prey — Huntress, Black Canary and a cop named Renee Montoya - to save a 12-year-old girl who has gotten herself in a pickle by stealing a massive diamond from a very bad man.

The fact that the Birds of Prey are leaning toward the hero end of the hero/villain spectrum isn't going to keep them from breaking laws, blowing stuff up and hurting people. It's just that they're doing it for the right reasons. Or right-ish, anyway. They're bad girls with a higher purpose.

For our cover story, "Prey For Them," page 38, we spoke with all five of the film's female stars — Margot Robbie, Rosie Perez, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Jurnee Smollett-Bell and Ella Jay Basco about the physical rigours of making this movie, and why Robbie "really, really wanted this to be a girl gang film."

Elsewhere in this issue, Hugh Grant tells us why The Gentlemen is the kind of movie he was always meant to make (page 24), Michael B. Jordan inspires you to see Just Mercy (page 28), and we present our 2020 Movie Preview (page 32), a rundown of 10 of the year's most anticipated films, including a new 007 pic, the next chapter in Wonder Woman's story and two new Marvel flicks.

> MARNI WEISZ, **EDITOR**



DEPUTY EDITOR Ingrid Randoia **CREATIVE DIRECTOR & DESIGNER**

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNER

CONTRIBUTORS Mara Reinstein, Bob Strauss

DIRECTOR, CONTENT STRATEGY

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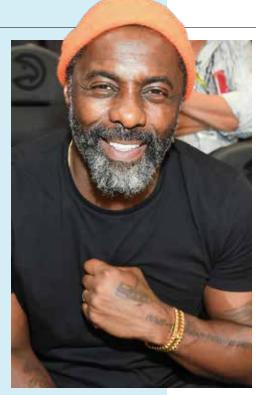








CLICK!



GO RAPS?

We're going to choose to believe Idris Elba was cheering for the Toronto Raptors when he was at this basketball game between the Raps and Atlanta Hawks in Atlanta. He was there shooting The Suicide Squad.



J.LO AT JFK Extra credit to **Jennifer Lopez** for stomping around in those sky-high stilettos while filming Marry Me at New York's JFK Airport.

THAT'S A STRETCH

Lin-Manuel Miranda interacts with members of Agua Sol y Sereno during La Fiesta de Pueblo in Vega Alta, Puerto Rico.







SHE HAS ARRIVED Jennifer Hudson shoots a scene for Respect, the Aretha Franklin story, at New York's Rockefeller Center.



Fabulous in fuchsia, Lily Collins shoots a scene for Emily in Paris in, well, Paris.

IN THE PINK



IN FOCUS

Creating a Bond?

We're not saying The Rhythm Section is the start of a new James Bond franchise, but the film's producers have a pretty strong pedigree when it comes to the spy game

WE'VE LONG WAITED FOR A FEMALE

James Bond and, at the risk of overstating things, when it comes to The Rhythm Section the comparison may be more than just lip service.

Based on the first of a series of four novels by Mark Burnell and starring Blake Lively, the film was produced by Barbara Broccoli and her half-brother Michael G. Wilson under the EON Productions banner. You may recognize Broccoli and Wilson as the producers of the last nine James Bond films — from 1995's GoldenEye, starring Pierce Brosnan, to the upcoming Daniel Craig entry No Time to Die, which hits theatres April 8th.

The duo took over from Barbara's father and Michael's stepfather, Albert R. "Cubby" Broccoli, who produced the previous 007 films going all the way back to 1962's Dr. No.

The Rhythm Section has Lively playing Stephanie Patrick, a woman who loses her family in a plane crash and then finds out the crash was no accident - there was a bomb on board. Obsessed with avenging her family's deaths, Patrick trains as an assassin and a spy and sets out to find those responsible.

Just as Bond films are notoriously tough shoots, filming was no piece of cake on The Rhythm Section for the former star of TV's Gossip Girl. An injury to Lively's hand while filming an action sequence required two surgeries and a six-month break in production while she recovered.

There's no word of future Stephanie Patrick films quite yet, but if The Rhythm Section is a success, Burnell's three subsequent stories about Patrick - Chameleon, Gemini and The Third Woman — could provide source material. -mw

THE RHYTHM SECTION OPENS JANUARY 31ST.

Blake Lively in The Rhythm Section

CALLING THE SHOTS

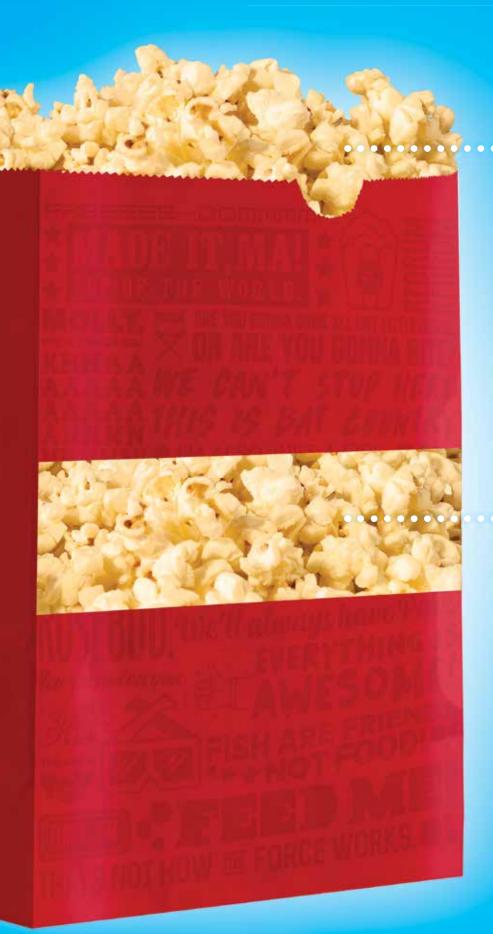
Director Reed Morano helmed the first three episodes of TV's The Handmaid's Tale

LIVELY'S MEN

Jude Law and Sterling K. Brown have supporting roles in the film

DRESSING UP

Disguises are a big part of Stephanie Patrick's spy game



BETTER WITH BUTTER

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VALENTINE'S DAY PICK

T'S

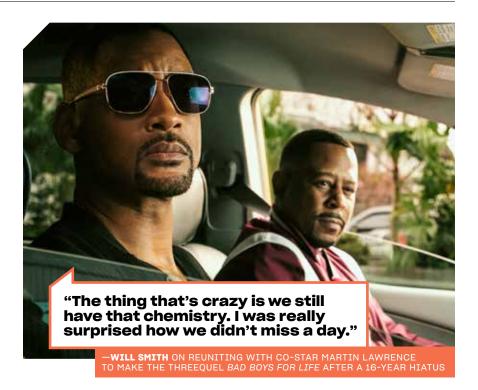
We've loved LaKeith Stanfield in so many roles - as lobotomized Andre in Get Out, as Snoop Dogg in Straight Outta Compton, as Donald Glover's philosophyspouting friend Darius on Atlanta, and as Cash, a telemarketer who discovers a bizarre plot to transform people into horses in Sorry to Bother You.

But, so far, we haven't seen much of the rapper/ actor as a romantic lead, which is why we're so excited about the unapologetically romantic love story The Photograph that hits theatres this Valentine's Day.

Stanfield plays a journalist working on a story about a famous photographer who has recently passed away. His research leads him to the photographer's daughter (Issa Rae), who is wary of love. A steamy relationship ensues.

Skip the chocolates and the cheesy stuffed animal and just go straight to the movie.

THE PHOTOGRAPH OPENS FEBRUARY 14TH.









ON LOCATION

I SPY SOMETHING

Think you're a good sleuth? Keep your eyes peeled during the new Dave Bautista family film My Spy and you should be able to spot a few Toronto locales subbing in for Chicago. Take the skating scene that's in the trailer. That was shot at the rink in front of the North York Civic Centre.











































































FAN POWER

SONIC'S READY TO PLAY

first trailer's unpopular version, and the triumphant final form

You have more power than you know. When the original trailer for Sonic the Hedgehog, the animated feature based on the speedy videogame character, came out in April of last year fans were incensed about the titular character's appearance. Too human! Where are his gloves? Scary teeth!

So, director Jeff Fowler and his

team went back to the drawing board, or whatever tools they use to create digital animation, and came up with a new and improved Sonic that looks more like the videogame version.

While doing press for his TV series Kidding, the film's human star Jim Carrey, who plays the villainous Dr. Robotnik, acknowledged the

change saying, "Sometimes you find that the collective consciousness decides it wants something and then when it gets it, it goes, 'Okay, I don't want it."

The reaction to the retooled Sonic has been much better.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG OPENS FEBRUARY 14TH.

THE CHAT

GRUDGE MATCH

There's a website called #StarringJohnCho, on which a fan photoshops Korean-American actor John Cho's face onto blockbuster movie poster characters played by white guys. The 47-year-old Cho has nothing to do with the online endeavour, but has nonetheless been

acting out its point that

Asian-American faces work just fine in any kind of movie Hollywood can imagine. From the Harold and Kumar stoner comedies to Mr. Sulu in the current Star Trek movie franchise to a recent run of acclaimed indie dramas, Cho has exhibited ever-increasing versatility and depth. Currently recovering from an injury on the set of Netflix' Cowboy Bebop series, Cho can be seen this month in another reboot of an Asian genre landmark, the seminal J-horror ghost story The Grudge. BOB STRAUSS spoke with Cho about the film.

What attracted you to this reboot of a series that's already gone through previous Japanese and **Hollywood iterations?**

It's a great character piece. That's what's so interesting about horror right now;

it's digging into how people behave and think.

What does the new director **Nicolas Pesce** do with the material that's different from Ju-On and earlier Grudge creator Takashi Shimizu's vision?

He's a very interesting young director, but Nic's just a very mature filmmaker already. One of the interesting things about the movie that struck me when I first read the script was that there are no young people. I'm the youngest character in the movie, and to have all of these

mature characters...I said, I'm in just for that! It runs counter to everything we're seeing, and counter to horror in general. And it's about real adult problems. It's a very interesting, soulful but spooky story.

You play a real estate agent who walks into the wrong listing. Can you tell us more about your character, **Peter Spencer?**

You know, I'm on a run of these characters who have family problems in films like Searching and Columbus. In this, I worked with a wonderful actress named Betty Gilpin - she's in GLOW - and that was one of the pleasures of that movie. She plays Peter's wife and business partner; we have issues.

You've arguably been the most solid Asian-American presence on screen for decades now. How do you feel about that, and that you've gotten to work with more Asian-American

filmmakers in recent vears?

I'm hopeful we're on the cusp of seeing a lot more storytellers, and that's what it's about to me. Telling stories the way we want to tell them, much less about me being in these movies. Whatever that #StarringJohnCho is, it's not me, it's separate from me, it's my face And I'm happy to be working! I don't want to give you the wrong impression. What's really been the most satisfying part of the last few years, though, has been collaborating with, particularly, great Asian-American filmmakers.

Do you know anything about future Star Trek movies?

I don't know anything. I'm glad I don't know anything so I don't have to lie to you. I've gotten no calls from Quentin Tarantino.

THE GRUDGE OPENS JANUARY 3RD.





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SPOTLIGHT CANADA

Falls View

Hannah Gross stars in the Niagara Falls mystery Disappearance at Clifton Hill

HE DAUGHTER OF CANADIAN ACTORS Paul Gross (Due South) and Martha Burns (Slings and Arrows), Hannah Gross is carving out an eclectic career of her own.

Over the past few years the Toronto born and raised actor has played Debbie, the intellectual girlfriend to Jonathan Groff's FBI agent on Netflix' Mindhunter, Joaquin Phoenix's young mother in Joker flashbacks, and now Laure, the level-headed sister to Tuppence Middleton's Abby in the Canadian drama Disappearance at Clifton Hill, which made its debut at the Toronto International Film Festival this past September.

Laure, who works in surveillance at a casino, provides the stability when erratic Abby returns home to Niagara Falls following their mother's death. They've inherited the family's tacky Clifton Hill motel and while Laure wants to sell, Abby is preoccupied with investigating a mysterious kidnapping she witnessed in the area as a child. Though, whether that kidnapping took place at all is a mystery all its own.

Gross was at home in New York battling a cold when we spoke by phone.

FALLS MEMORIES

Gross was about 14 when she first visited Niagara Falls on a trip with an Australian exchange student

IS THAT CRONENBERG?

Yes! Director David Cronenberg plays a Niagara Falls historian and podcaster who helps Abby with her investigation

SPARK OF TRUTH

The film is inspired by an experience director Albert Shin had in Niagara Falls as a child

What was it like shooting this film in Niagara Falls?

It was so fun and weird. It's definitely by far the most time I've spent there. I went back and forth to Toronto on weekends. I was not as intrepid as Tuppence and Albert [Shin], the director, who stayed there the whole time but yeah, it was a particularly mysterious time of year. It was December and right before the holidays so there was still tourism but definitely not as much. You had the quality of any sort of tourist vacation town that you can tell is really, for the most part, alive during the summer months.

Tell us about the relationship between the sisters, Laure and Abby.

The sisters provide an example of diverging responses to an upbringing, where Abby is on one side of the spectrum and Laure, well she's probably grown tired. [She has] this Type A personality so growing up in a motel with wacky parents is probably very stressful. Her response to that was to choose a life of great stability and security which is why she takes great pride in her job and in her home life with her husband.

Any reactions after seeing the film?

I'm really proud to be a part of this movie, I love it a lot. It hearkens back to a quality in cinema that's very much of the '70s. It's kind of a playfulness with the genre and with the milieu.

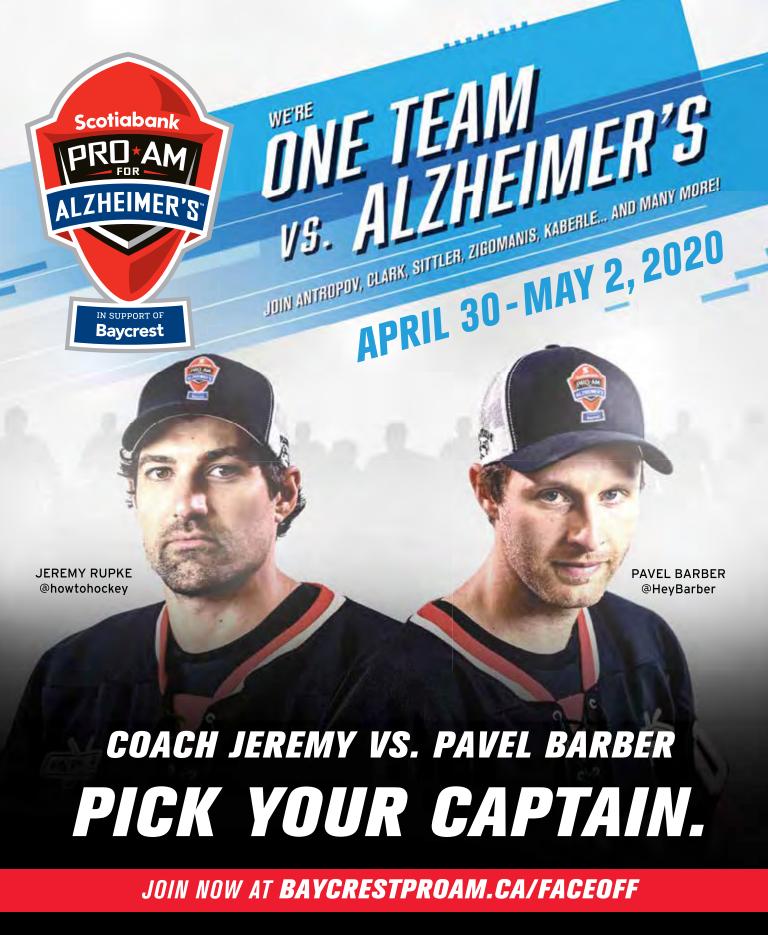
Your next film, Falling, is Viggo Mortensen's directorial debut. Is that right?

Yeah, though you wouldn't be able to tell that at all. He really ran an incredibly beautiful set. I think he's just an incredibly generous, open person and those characteristics imbued the set with the same qualities. There was a real care involved in everything, every detail and how every person was treated, and then in return everyone treated the film with the same care and respect. So yeah, it was one of the most special working environments I've ever been a part of.

Who do you play?

I play [Mortensen's] mother.... In flashbacks, not present day. -MARNI WEISZ

DISAPPEARANCE AT CLIFTON HILL OPENS FEBRUARY 28TH.



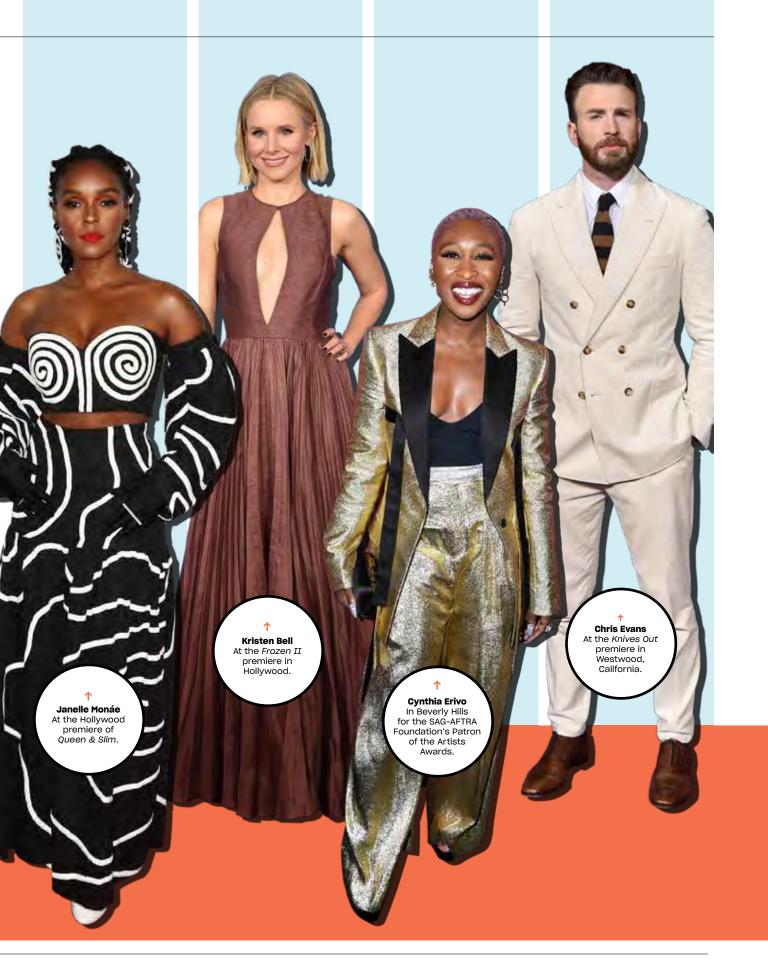
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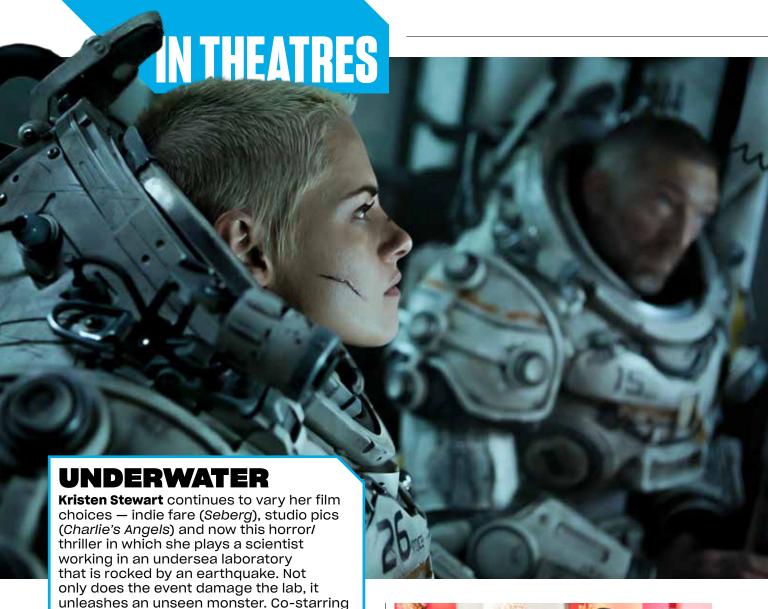
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JANUARY 3

Vincent Cassel, Jessica Henwick and T.J. Miller. → OPENS JANUARY 10TH

The Grudge

This reboot of The Grudge horror franchise casts Andrea Riseborough as a cop and single mom who investigates a possible murder in a vacant house. She learns the house is cursed and all who enter, including a real estate agent (John Cho), are doomed to suffer a violent death. SEE JOHN CHO INTERVIEW.

JANUARY 10

Underwater

PAGE 12.

See spotlight box.

Like a Boss

Good friends Mel (Tiffany Haddish) and Mia's (Rose Byrne) struggling cosmetics company gets an influx of cash from investor Claire Luna (Salma Havek). who then steals the gals' products for her own company. Mel and Mia decide to take drastic action to get back what belongs to them.

My Spy

Former wrestler Dave Bautista has established a fine acting career with appearances in the Guardians pics, Stuber and now this family comedy that casts him 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.

Cunningham

Lovers of modern dance will appreciate this gorgeous

documentary about dancer/choreographer Merce Cunningham and his iconic dance company. Director Alla Kovgan uses archival footage and stunning recreations of Cunningham's groundbreaking works to paint a vivid, moving picture.



JANUARY 17

Bad Boys for Life

It's been almost 17 years since we last saw Miami detectives Mike Lowrey (Will Smith) and Marcus Burnett (Martin Lawrence) cracking wise and taking down criminals. In this third film in the series. Marcus is working as a police inspector and ready to retire when an unknown assailant attempts to murder Mike. The pair reunites to discover who wants Mike dead.

Dolittle

Not only is Dolittle Robert Downey Jr.'s first film after Avengers: Endgame, it's his first family film since 2006's The Shaggy Dog (and he played second fiddle to Tim Allen back then). Loosely based on the 1922 children's book The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle, the film has Downey playing the 19th-century veterinarian who can speak with animals and goes on a mission to find a cure for the ailing Queen Victoria (Jessie Buckley). The voice cast for the film's talking

critters is top-notch and includes Emma Thompson as macaw Polynesia, Rami Malek as gorilla Chee-Chee. John Cena as polar bear Yoshi and Tom Holland as dog Jip.

JANUARY 24

The Gentlemen See spotlight box.

The Turning

This modern retelling of Henry James' 1898 horror novella stars Mackenzie Davis as Kate, a nanny who takes a job in a country home to look after orphan siblings Miles (Finn Wolfhard) and Flora (Brooklynn Prince). It soon becomes clear to her that the children are communicating with unearthly spirits who are up to no good.

The Last Full Measure

to the genre stars **Matthew McConaughey**

as Mickey Pearson, a marijuana drug lord

sorts of criminal shenanigans. Co-starring

Jeremy Strong. SEE HUGH GRANT INTERVIEW,

Hugh Grant, Charlie Hunnam, Colin Farrell,

living in London who wants to cash out

of his profitable business, leading to all

Michelle Dockery, Henry Golding and

PAGE 24. → OPENS JANUARY 24TH

A campaign to award the Medal of Honor to a heroic airman (Jeremy Irvine) who died in Vietnam 34 years earlier unearths a long-buried story.

JANUARY 31

The Rhythm Section

When Stephanie Patrick's (Blake Lively) parents and siblings perish in a plane crash she spirals into a drug-fuelled life working as a prostitute. However, when she learns that the crash was not an accident, she teams with a British operative (Jude Law) and becomes an assassin to find those responsible for her family's murders. Based on the first book in author Mark Burnell's Stephanie Patrick series.





Birds of Prey (And the Fantabulous **Emancipation of** One Harley Quinn)

The year's most extravagantly titled film is the follow-up to 2016's Suicide Squad and stars Margot Robbie as the delightfully deranged Harley Quinn, who has split from the Joker and joins forces with Black Canary (Jurnee Smollett-Bell). Renee Montoya (Rosie Perez), and Huntress (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) to save a girl (Ella Jay Basco) from the villain Black Mask (Ewan McGregor). SEE INTERVIEW WITH

FEBRUARY 14

MARGOT ROBBIE AND THE

REST OF THE CAST, PAGE 38.

Sonic the Hedgehog See spotlight box.

Fantasy Island

If you thought this big-screen take on the cheesy '70s TV show was going to be fluffy fun, surprise! Instead, we've got a full-on horror courtesy of Blumhouse Productions that takes the show's setting of an island resort where people's dreams come true and turns it into a place of nightmares. Starring Maggie Q, Lucy Hale, Portia Doubleday and Michael Rooker.

The Photograph

When noted photographer Christina Eames dies. journalist Michael Block (LaKeith Stanfield) contacts her daughter, Mae (Issa Rae), for a story. They fall in love, but Mae is conflicted and just like her mother she isn't sure she can commit to loving someone.

FEBRUARY 21

The Call of the Wild

Harrison Ford puts his grizzled appearance to good use in this adaptation of Jack London's 1903 novel about a dog named Buck, who is stolen from his California home and sold as a sled dog in Alaska. After being mistreated by various owners, he's rescued by kind outdoorsman John Thornton (Ford), who takes Buck with him as he searches for gold.

Bloodshot

Vin Diesel plays comic-book character Bloodshot, a soldier whose bloodstream contains a billion nanobots that give him superstrength and enable him to heal and interface with technology. With his memory wiped, he believes the people he's

killing are responsible for his wife's death, but he slowly learns he's being manipulated by a shady doctor (Guy Pearce).

road to evade capture from Dr. Robotnik (Jim Carrey) who wants

to harness Sonic's power. → OPENS FEBRUARY 14TH

Brahms: The Boy II

This sequel to the 2016 horror The Boy finds a mom (Katie Homes) and her two kids moving into the Heelshire Mansion where her young son (Christopher Convery) finds a porcelain doll named Brahms. It isn't long before strange things start happening in the house, with signs pointing to the doll.

Come to Daddy

Elijah Wood plays Norval, an insecure man struggling with alcohol dependence who hopes a reunion with his estranged father (Stephen McHattie) in a secluded cabin might help him figure things out. Unfortunately, when he meets dear old dad, he realizes that's not going to happen.

FEBRUARY 28

Wendy

Writer-director Benh Zeitlin (Beasts of the Southern Wild) dives into the Peter Pan mythos with his dreamlike

tale about a little girl named Wendy (Devin France) who escapes with a gaggle of children to a mysterious island where they can play at will and aging and time move in strange ways.

The Invisible Man

H.G. Wells' iconic novel serves as the base material for this psychological thriller starring Elisabeth Moss as a woman whose abusive ex (Oliver Jackson-Cohen) commits suicide. However, she begins to suspect he is actually alive - but invisible and dedicated to driving her mad.

Disappearance at Clifton Hill

After her mother dies. Abby (Tuppence Middleton) returns home to Niagara Falls where she grew up with her sister Laure (Hannah Gross) in the tacky motel owned by their family. She's there to settle her mom's will but becomes preoccupied by a childhood memory of seeing a boy kidnapped and thrown in the trunk of a car.

SEE HANNAH GROSS **INTERVIEW, PAGE 14.**



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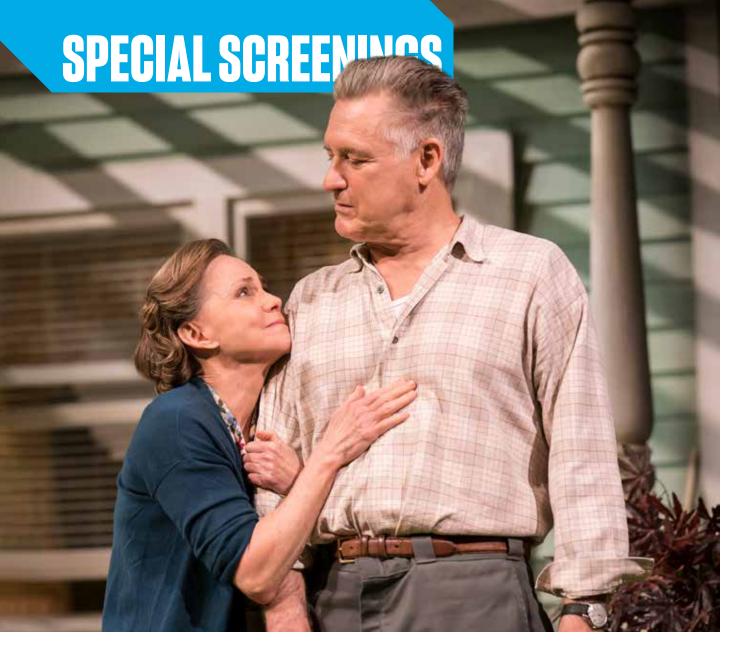
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NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE

Miller's Masterpiece

Sally Field and Bill Pullman give powerful performances in Arthur Miller's classic play All My Sons

IT'S 1947 AND PLAYWRIGHT ARTHUR MILLER

is just about ready to call it quits. His first play, The Man Who Had All the Luck, closed on Broadway after just four performances. He vowed if his second effort, All My Sons, failed he would stop writing. However, the play was a success and continues to be remounted, including this acclaimed 2019 production starring Bill Pullman and Sally Field. The story revolves around Joe Keller (Pullman), whose company knowingly shipped defective airplane parts to the military during World War II causing the death of 21 pilots. His wife, Kate (Field), knows Joe is guilty but is in denial and their secrets are exposed one summer's day when family and friends come to visit. The play is strikingly relevant 72 years after it debuted as corporations and individuals continue to value profit over human life. -IR

ALL MY SONS SCREENS ON JANUARY 18TH, 23RD, FEBRUARY 2ND AND 5TH.

Sally Field and Bill Pullman in All Mv Sons

INSPIRING MUSIC

Grammy-winning rap-rock duo 21 Pilots took its name from All My Sons

MORE NATIONAL THEATRE

Look for three more **National Theatre** productions in the next two months -Present Laughter, Hansard and Cyrano de Bergerac

January/February Screenings

CONCERTS & MUSIC

André Rieu: **70 Years Young**

FRI JAN 10 SUN JAN 12 **TUE JAN 14** WED JAN 22

FLASHBACK FILM SERIES

The Dark Knight

FRI JAN 10 TO **THURS JAN 23**

The Karate Kid FRI JAN 24

Airplane! (40th Anniversary)

FRI FEB 7 TO **THURS FEB 13**

12 Monkeys (25th Anniversary)

FRI FEB 21 TO THURS FEB 27

THE MET **OPERA**

Wozzeck (Berg)

Live: SAT JAN 11

Manon (Massenet)

Encores: MON JAN 13 WED JAN 15 SUN JAN 19

Madama Butterfly (Puccini)

Encores: SAT JAN 25 MON JAN 27 WED JAN 29 SUN FEB 9

The Gershwins' **Porgy and Bess**

Live: SAT FEB 1

Akhnaten (Glass)

Encores: SAT FFR 15 MON FEB 17 WED FEB 19 SUN FEB 23

Agrippina (Handel)

Live: SAT FEB 29

GALLERIES & **EXHIBITIONS**

FRIDA. Viva la Vida

Immerse yourself in the life and works of renowned Mexican

artist Frida Kahlo in director Giovanni Troilo's vivid documentary that recounts her life, which is marred by an accident that leaves her in constant pain, but also serves as the inspiration for her work as an artist and social revolutionary. → JANUARY 19, 22, 26, 28

ANIME SERIES

Weathering

with You

WED JAN 15

THURS JAN 16

FRI JAN 17 TO

THURS JAN 30

FRI FEB 14 TO

THURS FEB 27

NATIONAL

All My Sons

THURS JAN 23

SAT JAN 18

SUN FEB 2

WED FEB 5

WED FEB 12

SUN FEB 16

THEATRE LIVE

Present Laughter

CLASSIC FILMS

The Color Purple

On the Waterfront

FAMILY FAVOURITES

Abominable SAT JAN 11

Nanny McPhee

SAT JAN 18

Arctic Dogs SAT JAN 25

The Addams **Family**

SAT FEB 1

How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World

SAT FEB 8 **Playing with Fire**

SAT FFB 15

Land Before Time

SAT FEB 22

Trolls

SAT FEB 29

NATIONAL FRENCH THEATRE

A Flea in **Her Ear TUES JAN 14**

Scapin the Schemer

THU JAN 30

CINEPLEX Divisional

Round

NFL AT

SUN JAN 19

AFC & NFC Conference **Finals**

SUN JAN 26

Super Bowl LIV SUN FEB 2

GALLERIES & **EXHIBITIONS**

FRIDA. Viva la Vida

SUN JAN 19 WED JAN 22 SUN JAN 26 **TUES JAN 28**

Lucian Freud: A Self Portrait

SUN FEB 16 **TUES FEB 25** WED FEB 26

BOLSHOI BALLET

Giselle

Live: SUN JAN 26

Swan Lake

Live: SUN FEB 23

ONE NIGHTERS IN VIP

Pride and Preiudice (2005)

MON FEB 24

SCREEN **JAMS**

Popstar: **Never Stop Never Stopping** Singalong FRI FEB 28

SAT FEB 29



CLASSIC FILMS

The Color Purple

Steven Spielberg was a surprising choice to direct an adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel that's set in 1930s Georgia and focuses on the life of Celie (Whoopi Goldberg), an African-American woman who learns to love herself after a life of hardship. Spielberg can thank Goldberg and the film's entire cast, including Oprah Winfrey in her movie debut, for their stunning performances that bring the book's unforgettable characters to life.

→ FEBRUARY 14-27

Hansard

THURS FEB 6 WFD FFR 12 SUN FEB 16

Cyrano de **Bergerac**

Live: THURS FEB 20

Better With F

We know you loved the adorable, stammering **Hugh Grant** of such rom-coms as Notting Hill and Love, Actually. So did we. Hugh Grant, on the other hand? Well, he's much happier in his new role as a mature, well-worn character actor playing "weirdos, narcissists and freaks" in films like The Gentlemen

BY MARA REINSTEIN





T'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND

why Hugh Grant is in such an upbeat mood on this chilly New York City evening. He's just arrived from London to shoot the high-profile HBO thriller The Undoing with Nicole Kidman, and he's about to head out to have dinner with his older brother.

Oh, one more thing: At 59, he's thrilled to have finally become the character actor he always aspired to be.

"It's delightful to get older for me, personally," says Grant while sitting by the roaring fireplace of his hotel-apartment. "I don't get offered romantic leading men roles anymore. It's a relief."

This is not a knock against classics such as Four Weddings and a Funeral, Notting Hill and Love, Actually. Grant knows that playing a sweet and stammering love interest enabled him to go from struggling actor to matinee idol. He knows these films hold a special place in your heart, not to mention your Netflix queue. And he is appreciative. "It was lovely in the sense that I was lucky to be given great big, expensive films and be paid very well," he explains. "But it doesn't particularly suit me as an actor. What suits me better are weirdos and narcissists and freaks."

He gets to be all of the above in The Gentlemen.

The latest rollicking crime caper from director Guy Ritchie (Snatch, Sherlock Holmes), the film follows an American marijuana dealer, played by Matthew McConaughey, who's living large in London. But when he decides to cash out on his empire it triggers all sorts of dirty machinations from competing gangsters. In a stuffed ensemble that also includes Henry Golding, Charlie Hunnam, Michelle Dockery, Colin Farrell and Mark Strong, it's Grant who gets the poster's coveted "and..." billing status, and Grant who narrates the film's first trailer, tying the whole sordid story together.

"I play a sleazy private detective

working for a sleazy newspaper," Grant says of his character, Fletcher, who's digging deep into the gangster world. "It's quite an extreme characterization for me."

Indeed, even though Grant has been in the public eye for more than 25 years, he's almost unrecognizable in that trailer thanks to a goatee and high-pitched Cockney accent (sort of Michael Caine meets David Beckham). "It was a lot of fun," he says, then adds for emphasis, "Lot of fun."

Grant proudly notes he's been a team player dating back to his days at the prestigious Oxford University, where he spent his free time on the rugby field and performing in comedy theatre troupes. After graduation he tried his hand at writing commercial jingles and acted in a few British period dramas and American TV movies before breaking out as a sweet bachelor in 1994's Four Weddings and a Funeral. A long run as a Movie Star ensued during which, he says, "I probably did too many romantic comedies."

In recent years, Grant has earned accolades galore for disappearing into his characters in films such as Florence Foster Jenkins and Paddington 2. In 2019 he was nominated for an Emmy and a Golden Globe for playing the impish, murder-plotting politician Charles Thorpe in the fact-based BBC miniseries A Very English Scandal.

"I slightly regret that I didn't do more of [these parts] throughout my career because that's what I did as a kid in school," he says. "What I knew before was just doing silly voices, silly characters. I never really felt entirely comfortable just being a romantic leading man," he says.

Grant won't go so far as to say he's experiencing a renaissance but acknowledges that the best work of his career is probably yet to come.

"The last few years I've quite enjoyed acting," he says, "being able to look myself in the mirror as an actor."

Mara Reinstein is a freelance entertainment writer based in New York.





Michael B. Jordan is making a habit of choosing powerful movies with social-justice themes and Just Mercy is no different. Here he plays real-life lawyer Bryan Stevenson, who has made it his life's work to give wrongly incarcerated prisoners a second chance, including the subject of this film, Walter McMillian

BY INGRID RANDOJA

HE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE DRIVES

Michael B. Jordan. We saw it in 2013's Fruitvale Station, the true story of Oscar Grant III, a young Black man who died after being shot in the back by Oakland transit police. We saw it again in his performance as the socially conscious villain Erik Killmonger in 2018's Black Panther. Killmonger's radical sense of justice and effort to empower the disenfranchised made us question whether he was a villain at all.

In his latest film, Just Mercy, the 32-year-old actor tackles the issue of criminal injustice by playing reallife, Harvard-educated defense lawyer Bryan Stevenson, who moved to Alabama in the late 1980s and founded the Equal Justice Initiative, which provides legal counsel to death-row prisoners who may have been wrongly convicted.



With the help of prisoners' rights activist Eva Ansley (Brie Larson), Stevenson takes up the egregious case of Walter McMillian (Jamie Foxx), who was charged with the murder of a young white woman. Although McMillian was attending a church fish fry with his family at the time of the killing, the combination of a shoddy defense lawyer, a corrupt sheriff and a racist legal system led to his conviction and death sentence.

Jordan and Foxx give stellar performances in director Destin Daniel Cretton's (The Glass Castle) legal drama that is both infuriating and uplifting.

"I got a chance to watch Bryan Stevenson and listen to him talk, watch him speak and I was very, very moved," says Jordan on the line from Berlin where he's filming Without Remorse, a thriller based on the Tom Clancy novel.

"I didn't know that much about him and I was very curious about why he wasn't as popular as he

HARD WIRE

One of Michael B. Jordan's earliest roles was as Wallace, a young drug dealer, in season one of TV's The Wire. Wallace tried to quit selling drugs but was drawn back into street life only to be killed by his friends.

should be due to the work he was doing. After meeting with him I realized he was a very humble, very selfsacrificing man who didn't like the limelight. So I realized the more people who knew his story, knew what was going on, it would bring more attention to the cause for which he is fighting and could actually help."

In addition to starring in the movie Jordan served as one of its executive producers and was part of the filmmaking team that decided to hire formerly incarcerated people to work on the movie.

"A few were assistants, some of them were extras and some of them had speaking roles in the film," explains Jordan. "It was a very crazy thing for them to go from being on death row, to being incarcerated for life, to being exonerated, then to be on a movie about it. I can't put words in their mouths, I can't tell you exactly how it made them feel, but to hear them speak about it, it brought me to tears.



→ "A lot of these exonerated inmates need these opportunities; they need these chances to be able to acclimate themselves back into society and be productive. We felt very proud of that."

In talking about the film to the press, the real Bryan Stevenson has brought up an alarming statistic from the U.S. Bureau of Justice that shows one in three Black, male babies born in the United States is expected to go to jail or prison in his lifetime.

"Bryan is full of stats and numbers," says Jordan, "he switches them out effortlessly and some of them would blow your mind, how f--ked up things are, and it's shocking. In the movie, we try not to overload it with all these numbers and stats to tell someone how to feel. But in the process of talking about the film, these things do come up and it adds to the reason this movie is important; the world is like this, the system is like this and this is the reality."

Jordan was born in Santa Ana, California, but grew up in Newark, New Jersey. He was a child and teen model before getting into acting and landing jobs on the TV soap opera All My Children and shows like The Wire and Friday Night Lights. As his film career takes off Jordan finds himself travelling around the world, and spending time in other countries gives him a deeper insight into his own nation's struggles with social and racial inequity.

"Take Germany for example, I am here in Berlin right now and I can feel the difference," he says. "It owns its history, the good, the bad, the ugly. And they

THE REAL DEAL

The real **Bryan Stevenson** at Just Mercy's premiere during the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival.



go the extra mile to take that perspective that the world used to have on them, and they want to change that perspective.

"And I think that is a fundamental difference between them and the United States because for some people in the U.S., they act like there's a part of African-American history that doesn't exist and they don't own it, and they don't claim it and don't want to try to heal. And I think without that ownership it's really hard to begin a true healing process."

Jordan is just entering his career sweet spot and if Just Mercy is any indication, he's committed to making bold, interesting movies.

"As I get older and become more of a man and see the world differently I want different things. There's always going to be that inner child that loves superhero films and sci-fi and animation and all that good stuff, but then there's also the responsibilities I feel I have as a person of colour, as a man, as a filmmaker, to tell stories about people who don't have a voice, issues that won't see the light of day, or won't get as much attention as they need.

"It's that balance between smaller films and bigger blockbusters, and finding some that have that crossover and everything in between. I kinda want it all."

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.



Snacks for anytime, not just showtime!

Your Cineplex favourites are now on SkipTheDishes. Get popcorn, candy, and more delivered to your door!









BY INGRID RANDOJA & MARNI WEISZ



Disney's focus on making live-action versions of their animated films has not only proved profitable and entertaining for audiences, it's allowed the 96-year-old studio to redress cultural stereotypes found in their earlier films.

Here, an all-Asian lead cast assembles for a remake of the 1998 film that is being touted as a big-budget, martial arts epic that showcases female empowerment. Director Niki Caro (*The Zookeeper's Wife*) oversees the film that casts Liu Yifei





What will we do without those abs and piercing blue eyes? This 25th Bond film marks Daniel Craig's fifth and final outing as superspy 007 and we expect he'll go out with a bang rather than a whimper.

Cary Joji Fukunaga directs this film that finds the retired Bond living a quiet life in Jamaica when his old pal and CIA operative Felix Leiter (Jeffrey Wright) calls on him

to help locate a missing scientist, hurtling the former secret agent into the orbit of nasty villain Safin (Rami Malek).

Five different writers had a hand in penning the script, including Fleabag and Killing Eve creator Phoebe Waller-Bridge, who was enlisted by Craig to inject more humour into the story and make the characters more believable. Returning cast members include Ralph Fiennes as M, Naomie Harris as Moneypenny and Ben Whishaw as Q.

STARRING

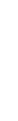
Daniel Craig, Rami Malek, Ana de Armas

DIRECTED BY

Carv Joii Fukunaga (Beasts of No Nation)

RELEASE DATE **APRIL 8TH**

No Time to Die pays homage to the first Bond film, 1962's Dr. No, by setting a portion of the . film in Jamaica, the same location used in the inaugural Bond pic.



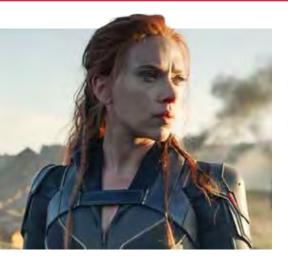
Scarlett Johansson, Florence Pugh, David Harbour

DIRECTED BY

STARRING

Cate Shortland (Berlin Syndrome)

RELEASE DATE **MAY 1ST**



BLACK WIDOW

Before the big bang that created the Marvel Cinematic Universe took place in 2004, there were plans to make a standalone Black Widow film. That deal with Lions Gate Entertainment never came to fruition and the character reverted back to Marvel Studios. Scarlett Johansson debuted the role of Natasha Romanoff, the former KGB assassin turned S.H.I.E.L.D. operative, in 2010's Iron Man 2 and established herself as the sole female member of the original Avengers.

She finally gets her own pic, a midsequel set just after the events of 2016's Captain America: Civil War that finds Romanoff devasted after the Avengers rift and grappling with her dark past. David Harbour portrays Russian supersoldier Red Guardian, Rachel Weisz stars as seasoned spy Malina and Florence Pugh is Yelena, who is like a sister to the emotionally fragile Natasha. WONDER WOMAN 1984

Count on Gal Gadot to look gorgeous in whatever sorry '80s fashion choices - parachute pants, down vests, fanny packs - writer/director Patty Jenkins includes in her sequel to 2017's blockbuster Wonder Woman.

The new film is set during the Cold War and Diana Prince, a.k.a. Wonder Woman, is reportedly working as an American spy against the Soviet Union. And, surprise, Steve Trevor (Chris Pine), a World War I pilot and her love interest from the first film, seems to be alive and well despite the fact he was killed at the end of the first film.

Could it be that Max Lord (Pedro Pascal), a metahuman with the ability to

control minds, is fooling Diana into seeing him?

Kristen Wiig plays the villain Cheetah. There have been different versions of the Cheetah character in the Wonder Woman canon, and this one is heiress and archaeologist Barbara Ann Minerva, who transforms into Cheetah after undergoing a tribal ritual.





to 1986's iconic Top Gun, which starred a then 24-year-old Tom Cruise as cocky naval pilot Peter "Maverick" Mitchell, who feels the need... the need for speed.

Now in his fifties and still cocky, Maverick works as a flight instructor and is tasked with training the son (Miles Teller) of his late pal Goose, who died

> while flying with Maverick all those years ago. Val Kilmer returns as Maverick's rival-turned-friend Iceman — he is now a vice-admiral — and Jennifer Connolly appears as Maverick's love interest, a single mom and bar owner. At last year's Comic-Con Cruise said the film is "a love letter to aviation.... I really wanted to give you all an experience of what it's like to be in that aircraft."

TENET

One of Tenet's stars, Robert Pattinson, had to be locked alone in a room before he was allowed to see the script, so do you really think you're going to get a rich and

pithy plot synopsis here, six months before the film hits theatres? Nope.

What we can tell vou is that director Christopher Nolan shot his espionage thriller all over

the world - India, Estonia, Denmark, Italy, Norway, the U.S. and U.K. — using a combination of 70mm and IMAX film, and with a formidable cast that includes Michael Caine. John David Washington, Kenneth Branagh, Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Elizabeth Debicki.

A trailer that was shown only in theatres (Nolan is big on his movies being seen in cinemas) focused on Washington's character as he examined a series of bullet holes in a wall of glass and the lines of text, "Time has come for a new protagonist" and "Time has come for a new mission."

That time can't come soon enough for us.

STARRING John David Washington, Robert Pattinson, Michael Caine

DIRECTED BY

JUNE 26TH

Christopher

Christopher Nolan (Dunkirk)

RELEASE DATE JULY 17TH

The original Top Gun (1986) is preserved in the United **States Library** of Congress for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant.'



It's been more than three decades since we met Bill S. Preston, Esq. (Alex Winter) and "Ted" Theodore Logan (Keanu Reeves), two clueless high school students failing history class who get the opportunity to travel through time, meeting historical figures

Joan of Arc, with the help of a time-travelling phone booth and a guide named Rufus (the late George Carlin). They ace their history presentation and are told that their terrible band,

like Lincoln, Napoleon and

Wyld Stallyns, is fated to write a song so great it saves the world. Well, Bill and Ted are now

middle-aged and that worldsaving song has yet to be written.

This threequel — following 1989's Bill & Ted's Excellent

Adventure (pictured above) and 1991's Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey — has long been in the works and a couple of years ago

Other cast members returning include William Sadler as Death and Amy Stoch as first Bill's, and then Ted's, hot stepmother Missy.

co-writer Ed Solomon said the script had the older Bill and Ted going back in time to meet their younger versions via footage from the old movies. We don't know if that idea stuck, but we sure hope so!

STARRING

Keanu Reeves. Alex Winter, William Sadler

DIRECTED BY

Dean Parisot (Galaxy Quest)

RELEASE DATE **AUGUST 21ST**





ETERNALS

We're loving the eclectic cast of Marvel's universe-expanding, late-2020 entry Eternals, which is based on a series of Jack Kirby comic books about an immortal alien race created to protect humanity from the evil Deviants.

Aside from Kit Harrington, who plays a non-Eternal named Dane Whitman, and headliner Angelina Jolie as the warrior Thena, we've got Atlanta's Brian Tyree

> Henry as Phastos, who can project

cosmic energy, The Big Sick's Kumail Nanjiani as the swordsman Kingo, Richard Madden of Rocketman fame as Ikaris, Salma Hayek as their leader Ajak and, perhaps most exciting, Lauren Ridloff as Makkari, the first deaf Marvel superhero (Ridloff is also deaf). Chinese-American director Chloé Zhao has the honour of wrangling this diverse lot.

STARRING

Angelina Jolie, Kumail Nanjiani, Brian Tyree Henry

DIRECTED BY Chloé Zhao

RELEASE DATE **NOVEMBER 6TH**





Director Steven Spielberg decided to call on Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner (Angels in America) to pen the script for his new iteration of West Side Story. Kushner has said their version will pull from the 1957 Broadway musical more than the phenomenal 1961 film that won 10 Oscars. Thankfully, this production will also stay true to composer Leonard Bernstein's score, and those timeless lyrics from Stephen Sondheim.

Of course, all versions are just a (relatively) modern-day riff on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet with Polish Tony (played here by Ansel Elgort) and Puerto Rican Maria (newcomer Rachel Zegler) falling in love despite hailing from rival communities in 1950s New York.

Rita Moreno, who won Best Supporting Actress for her portrayal of **Puerto Rican** den mother Anita in the 1961 film, serves as executive producer and plays Valentina, a retooling of

Doc, Tony's

boss at the

corner store.

DUNE

The tagline for director Denis Villeneuve's Dune could be, "Let's try this again." Frank Herbert's beloved 1965 sci-fi novel about a family that



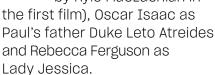
moves to the inhospitable planet of Arrakis (also known as Dune) to manage harvesting of "the spice," the most valuable substance in the universe. was first made into a movie by

director David Lynch in 1984. It bombed so bad it's now

a punchline.



But the book has topped many lists of all-time great sci-fi novels, and it has long been Canadian director Villeneuve's dream to give it another shot. Here he casts Timothée Chalamet as that intrepid family's son Paul Atreides (played by Kyle MacLachlan in

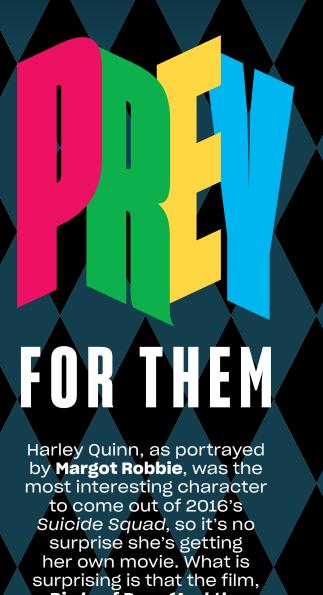


We're rooting for them!

STARRING Timothée Chalamet, Oscar Isaac, Rebecca Ferguson

DIRECTED BY Denis Villeneuve (Blade Runner 2049)

RELEASE DATE DECEMBER 18TH



Birds of Prey (And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn), doesn't rely on Robbie's star power, instead focusing on a gaggle of female superheroes. Here Robbie and her co-stars tell us about building their girl gang

BY MARA REINSTEIN





ARGOT ROBBIE HAS AN IMPORTANT

update on Harley Quinn, her perky, psycho, clown-faced villain from Suicide Squad. Remember how she was last seen being sprung from jail by her boyfriend, the Joker? Remember her gleeful reaction? Well, nearly four years have passed. She's back in a new movie. And that woman no longer needs to be rescued.

"Harley and Joker have broken up. Obviously, it's not amicable," Robbie explains during a recent New York interview. "And she is, for the rest of the movie, convincing herself that she's okay with it, and happy to be out on her own. And I think for the most part that's a lie, and probably if he called her she'd go running back to him."

But, says Robbie, things change over the course of the film as Harley finds her feet with help from some newfound friends.

In Birds of Prey (And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn), the onetime psychiatrist (née Harleen Quinzel) teams up with three DC Comics heroines — Gotham City police officer Renee Montoya (Rosie Perez), a streetfighter named Black Canary (Jurnee Smollett-Bell) and the assassin Huntress (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) — to save young Cassandra Cain (Ella Jay Basco) from evil crime lord Roman Sionis, a.k.a. Black Mask (Ewan McGregor).

It seems Cassandra has stolen a very valuable diamond from the man.

"There's a bounty on her head and everyone in Gotham, really Gotham's underbelly, is turned upside down trying to get their hands on the kid and the diamond. Every one of us, the key members of the soon-to-be Birds of Prey, have their own reasons for fighting for the kid or against Roman. And that's how we all kind of collide."

On an overcast Sunday afternoon it's fitting that Robbie is sandwiched on a couch between Perez and Smollett-Bell in a downtown New York City hotel room. (Winstead and Basco will get in touch in later.) Robbie doesn't want to be the focal point of the movie, much less the interview. As she puts it, "I really, really wanted to make a girl gang film."

BACK IN 2016, SUICIDE SQUAD ALSO FEATURED

an impressive ensemble, including Jared Leto, Will Smith and Viola Davis. Robbie, who notes that she read Cineplex magazine "all the time" while filming Suicide Squad in Toronto, stood out from the pack thanks to her crazed-yet-loveable interpretation of





RESPECT

Director and comic book fanatic **Kevin Smith named** his daughter Harley Quinn Smith after the DC Comics character. His Harley Quinn is an actor, and most recently played Milly in October's Jay and Silent Bob Reboot.

Harley. In the aftermath of its international box-office success — mixed reviews be damned! — the Aussie native's star went from bright to supernova.

Indeed, it's a special actor who can make both Tonya Harding and Queen Elizabeth I sympathetic (in 2017's I, Tonya and 2018's Mary Queen of Scots, respectively, earning an Oscar nomination for the former, and SAG and BAFTA nominations for both). She radiated glamour and kindness as Sharon Tate in Quentin Tarantino's Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood and brings the heat along with Nicole Kidman and Charlize Theron in Bombshell, about the women who accused Fox News CEO Roger Ailes of sexual harassment.

And yet she always had her eye on a return trip to Gotham City.

Taking on a producer role, Robbie personally developed the idea of an all-grrrl spinoff and pitched it to executives. They didn't love it at first, they wanted to focus on Harley. Robbie disagreed. "It'd be like putting a kid in an empty playground," she says. "Where's the fun in that?"

Instead, she wanted to pull inspiration from the Birds of Prey series of DC comic books.

"The Birds of Prey comics are a great opportunity because they involve so many different kinds of characters. It wasn't completely outside the realm of possibility for Harley to weave in and out. She's not an official member of the Birds of Prey but there are comics where she kind of like dips in and out and messes things up a little bit for them."



ROBBIE FINALLY GOT THE GREENLIGHT AND

found her writer in Christina Hodson (Bumblebee) and director in DC newbie Cathy Yan (Dead Pigs). Then she went Birds-watching. Smollett-Bell (True Blood) was mid-production on the new HBO series Lovecraft Country but submitted an audition tape just in case she could fit it into her schedule. Winstead (10 Cloverfield Lane) met with Yan. "She sent me home with a stack of comics. I tried to familiarize myself with that as much as I could," says Winstead. "But I also felt really free to bring my own spin to it."

Perez, meanwhile, was lured in after reading the script. "The film world is catching up to who women are," she notes, adding that her character is "just a beautiful mess of strength and vulnerability and selfrighteousness and yet she makes mistakes and is very empathetic."

Basco jumped at the chance to play Cain, a 12-yearold street kid who "knows her way around Gotham City too well," according to the young actor. "She is mischievous and misguided because she's never had an actual family...until she encounters Harley Quinn, who takes her under her wing."

The actors, along with about 15 other hopefuls, also had to endure a full day of mix-and-match screen tests at Warner Bros. headquarters. "A bunch of us all kind of came together and when we found that group that just kind of clicked it was amazing," says Robbie.

Smollett-Bell says that day was "crazy-nutso," hitting Robbie's arm for good measure. "Like running a marathon!"



UNDER THE GUNN

Harley Quinn's not done with her old friends yet. She'll appear in a second Suicide Squad movie, titled simply The Suicide Sauad. that's currently in production with Guardians of the Galaxy director James Gunn behind the camera It's scheduled to come out in August of 2021.

studio would allow. Each bird has a distinctive fighting style, so, as Smollett-Bell explains, "Margot is bouncing off the walls crazy and [Rosie's character] is like grounded and boxing full-on and practical, and then I'm more like a street

fighter or martial-artist kickboxer and Huntress is this dark crossbow assassin."

The training required sweaty sessions inside a warehouse where the actors practiced choreography and worked on general muscle-building and flexibility for up to five days a week. "You can understand technically what you're meant to do," Robbie says, "but if you can't physically do it, it doesn't happen."

They were in constant pain but Winstead, at least, had a ball. "Just learning how to wrestle someone to the ground and throw them over my shoulder...and, you know, shoot a crossbow," she says. "But it was so much fun. It was like being in a circus."

The array of fierce new female characters isn't the only difference between this film and Suicide Squad. Gone is the grim-as-a-funeral tone, and there's no cameo from the Dark Knight this time around. It's Harley's world, and we're playing in it.

"I mean, the tone reflects Harley's personality," says Robbie. "It's fun. It's bold. It's unpredictable. It's irreverent. It's colourful. It's violent. It's funny. It's definitely a heightened version of reality. Anything too serious couldn't possibly come from Harley's brain."

Robbie, however, is serious about one thing. She'd be thrilled with more Birds movies. "My wish is that this can kick off an arm of the DC Universe," she says. "By the end of the film you see the Birds come together. I hope they can continue on from this point."

Mara Reinstein is a freelancer entertainment writer based in New York.

IN THE WORKS

BY INGRID RANDOJA

Cheadle **Breaks In**

It's a super reunion as Don Cheadle teams with his Marvel co-stars Josh Brolin and Sebastian Stan for director Steven Soderbergh's upcoming crime flick Kill Switch. Set in 1950s Detroit, the film finds three men hired to break into a home only to realize they have been doublecrossed. Ed Solomon (Men in Black) pens the script for the film that starts shooting later this summer.



A Special Relationship casts Rachel Weisz as Hollywood icon Elizabeth Taylor, whose personal assistant Roger Wall — a gay man who faced rampant homophobia growing up in the American South - inspires Taylor to become an HIV/AIDS activist in the 1980s. Taylor hosted her first AIDS fundraiser in 1984 at a time when AIDS was still a taboo subject and her involvement helped raise millions. Female directing duo Bert & Bertie (Troop Zero) helm the pic.





BROADBENT DUKES IT OUT

Oscar winner Jim Broadbent is in London shooting director Roger Michell's (My Cousin Rachel) art-heist drama The Duke. The pic is

based on the true story of 60-year-old London cab driver Kempton Bunton, who stole a Goya painting from the National Gallery in 1961. Bunton's grandson sent a one paragraph email to producer Nicky Bentham saying he had a great story to share, which kickstarted the project.



SALDANA **JOINS THE CIA**

Zoe Saldana will play a CIA officer in the fact-based thriller, Sabaya. Saldana's character befriends a 15-year-old Yazidi girl forced

to work as an ISIS sex slave or "sabaya." Saldana teams with the girl, who cannot read or write, to discover the whereabouts of an ISIS stronghold.



ECKHART RE-ENLISTS

Aaron Eckhart starred as a flight commander in last year's World War II drama Midway and now he returns to combat in Ambush, which takes place during the Vietnam War. Eckhart plays

Captain Drummond, who leads his commando team into the Cu Chi tunnels to fight the enemy. The Cu Chi tunnels are part of an immense tunnel system that runs underneath most of Vietnam and was used during the war as a hiding place, supply and communication route, and a trap for American soldiers who ventured into it.



COMER GETS MEDIEVAL

After winning an Emmy for playing an assassin in Killing Eve, Jodie Comer is making the move into films. She'll be seen in this summer's Ryan Reynolds comedy Free Guy, about

a man who's living in a videogame, and starts production shortly on director Ridley Scott's The Last Duel, in which she comes between two 14th-century knights (Ben Affleck and Matt Damon).



KIRBY & LABEOUF IN MONTREAL

Vanessa Kirby and Shia LaBeouf make an intriguing cinematic couple. The pair is currently in Montreal filming

Pieces of a Woman, which stars

Kirby as a woman whose home birth goes terribly wrong. The tragic event puts an emotional strain on her relationship with her partner (LaBeouf) and her mother. The film marks the English-language

debut from acclaimed Hungarian director Kornél Mundruczó (White Dog).



HARRY COLLETT

Harry Collett landed the coveted role of Robert Downey Jr.'s apprentice Tommy

in Dolittle, the biggest role in his young career. The British youngster started his career in children's TV (he voiced a bee on the show The Hive) and made his on-screen debut in 2017's Dunkirk as Mark Rylance's youngest son.



ROLE CALL

- Oscar Isaac plays a gambler who sets out to redeem an angry young man in The Card Counter.
- **Pom Klementieff** portrays a femme fatale in both Mission: Impossible 7 and 8.
- The horror Wally's Wonderland casts Nicolas Cage as a janitor who is trapped in a terrifying amusement park overnight.
- John Turturro will play crime boss **Carmine Falcone in** The Batman.



Terminator: Dark Fate

Arnold Schwarzenegger said he'd be back, and he is, along with **Linda Hamilton** as Sarah Connor in this sixth Terminator movie, which picks up after 1991's Terminator 2: Judgement Day. They're joined by Mackenzie Davis as Grace, a humancyborg soldier from the future, and Natalia Reyes as Dani, the one they're all protecting from a deadly Rev-9 advanced Terminator (Gabriel Luna).

- → BUY IT JANUARY 14
- → RENT IT JANUARY 28

Remember the movie Her, the near-future sci-fi where Joaquin Phoenix falls in love with his smartphone's goodnatured AI system? This is not that movie. Here Adam Devine plays Phil, a hack writer whose new smartphone comes with a virtual life coach named Jexi (voiced by Rose Byrne) who embarrasses, berates and humiliates him at every opportunity.

→ RENT IT JANUARY 14





Doctor Sleep

This sequel to both Stanley Kubrick's cinematic masterpiece The Shining and the book by Stephen King stars Ewan McGregor as the grown up Dan Torrance, who stills sees dead people, and has to protect a girl (Kyliegh Curran) with similar abilities from a cult that feeds off an essence emitted by the dying bodies of children with psychic abilities.

→ BUY IT JANUARY 21 → RENT IT FEBRUARY 11

Kristen Stewart. Naomi Scott and

Ella Balinska play three new investigators working for the mysterious Charles Townsend, or Charlie, whose business is growing at such a rate that he employs dozens of women and many handlers, all nicknamed Bosley. These three Angels go into action when, wait for it, a dangerous device falls into the wrong hands.

→ BUY IT FEBRUARY 18





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SCREEN TEST

Old Friends

As long dormant franchises return to the screen, we ask how well you remember the originals

It's a year to reunite with old friends at the movies as four iconic franchises pick up after long hiatuses. Best of all, the original actors are all returning to the roles they made famous — the buddy cops of Bad Boys (Will Smith and Martin Lawrence), Bill & Ted's timetravelling doofuses (Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter), *Top Gun*'s hotshot pilot (Tom Cruise) and Coming to America's African prince and his spoiled friend (Eddie Murphy and Arsenio Hall).

To get you ready for Bad Boys for Life (January 17th), Top Gun: Maverick (June 26th), Bill & Ted Face the Music (August 21st) and Coming 2 America (December 18th) we test how well you remember the original films.

- Which film includes the line, "No journey is too great when one finds what he seeks"?
 - a) Top Gun
 - b) Coming to America
 - c) Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure
 - d) Bad Boys II
- Which film features characters named Hollywood, Viper, Cougar and Merlin?
 - a) Top Gun
 - b) Coming to America
 - c) Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure
 - d) Bad Bovs
- Of which film did Robert Ebert write. "This is a movie that thrives on the dense-witted idiocy of its characters."
 - a) Top Gun
 - b) Coming to America
 - c) Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey
 - d) Bad Boys II



Which film casts Louie Anderson and Samuel L. Jackson in small roles?

- a) Top Gun
- b) Coming to America
- c) Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure
- d) Bad Boys II
- Which film features several key scenes at a Circle K convenience store?
 - a) Top Gun
 - b) Coming to America
 - c) Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure
 - d) Bad Boys
- Which film inspired two TV spinoffs, one animated and one live action?
 - a) Top Gun
 - b) Coming to America
 - c) Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure
 - d) Bad Boys
- Which film marked Michael Bay's feature film directing debut?
 - a) Top Gun
 - b) Coming to America
 - c) Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey
 - d) Bad Bovs

- Which film includes the line, "I feel the need... the need for speed"?
 - a) Top Gun
 - b) Coming to America
 - c) Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure

Clockwise from top: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989),

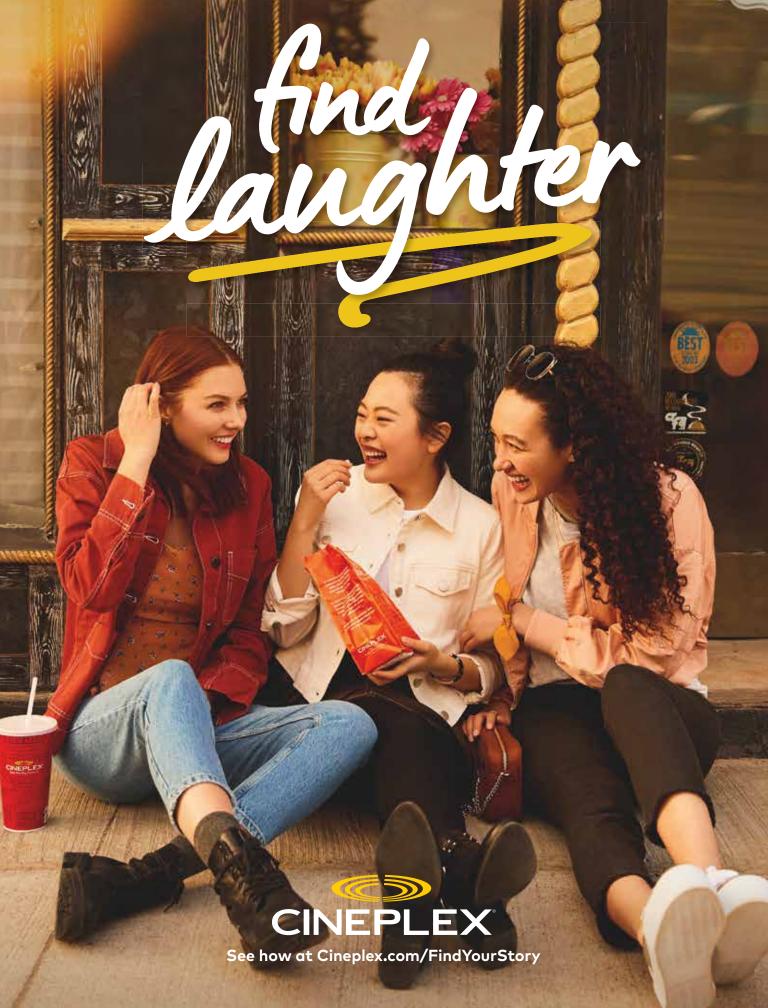
Bad Boys (1995), Top Gun (1986),

(1988)

Coming to America

- d) Bad Boys II
- Which film was originally developed for Dana Carvey and Jon Lovitz?
 - a) Top Gun
 - b) Coming to America
 - c) Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure
 - d) Bad Boys
- Which film has the highest rating on Rottentomatoes.com, at 79%?
 - a) Top Gun
 - b) Coming to America
 - c) Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure
 - d) Bad Bovs







Character Studies

Dolly Parton, Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda push back against their sexist boss in 9 to 5, Pam Grier is a gun-toting vigilante in Coffy, Jennifer Grey rages against a society that doesn't take her seriously in Ferris Bueller's Day Off. It's an eclectic group, which is the whole point of Vancouver artist Sherri Rogers' series of acrylic paintings, "Strong Female Character."

"'Strong Female Character' is a film and TV trope for women that are often represented in a literal or one-dimensional way, where a token woman is physically strong or powerful," explains Rogers who, by day, works in visual effects as a texture artist for films ranging from Wonder Woman to Angry Birds. "The women in this series of paintings are strongly written and represented as complex characters who have integral roles in the plot. They are self-actualized, independent and bonded in friendship with other women."

As for the unique style, Rogers says, "I wanted the paintings to look like they were VHS-quality renderings. I used square brushes and blocks of colour in a pixelated style of painting."

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↑ From top down: Ferris Bueller's Day Off, Coffy and 9 to 5

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