

NAUGHTY OR NICE, OUR **HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE** IS HERE! 🎁 PAGE 16

# CINEPLEX

MAGAZINE

# 2021

## MOVIE PREVIEW

PAGE 31





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# CONTENTS

HOLIDAY 2020  
VOLUME 21 #5



16

## HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Stressed about Holiday gift-giving? Relax, whether you're shopping online or in stores we've got you covered with an awesome collection of last-minute presents sure to please

BY MARNI WEISZ

20

## SPECIAL GUY

We catch up with Canada's most lovable action star **Ryan Reynolds** to find out how he's spending his downtime. Hint: It includes spreading goodwill and talking about next year's action-comedy *Free Guy*

BY INGRID RANDOJA

26

## ALL THE KING'S MEN

Writer-director **Matthew Vaughn** and star **Ralph Fiennes** tell us about making their action-packed spy pic *The King's Man*, a more dramatic prequel to the super-fun *Kingsman* films

BY MARNI WEISZ

31

## COVER STORY

### 2021 MOVIE PREVIEW

Bring on 2021! It's going to be an epic year of moviegoing jam-packed with 2020 holdovers and exciting new titles. Here we put the spotlight on must-see pics like *Top Gun: Maverick*, *F9*, *Black Widow* and *No Time to Die*, and chat with *Jungle Cruise* leads **Dwayne Johnson** and **Emily Blunt**, *Respect* star **Jennifer Hudson** and *A Quiet Place Part II* director **John Krasinski**

BY INGRID RANDOJA  
AND MARNI WEISZ

↑

2021 Movie Preview's  
*Ghostbusters: Afterlife*

## PLUS

04 EDITOR'S NOTE

06 CLICK!

12 SPOTLIGHT CANADA

42 IN THE WORKS

46 CINEPLEX STORE

49 SCREEN TEST

50 ART OF FILM

+08

## UP FRONT

Why *The Father* is such an immersive watch; three ways to celebrate Christmas in cinemas; and a look at Tom Hanks' Oscar bid, *News of the World*

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# Goodbye 2020, Bring on 2021!

## IF THIS PAST YEAR HAD BEEN A MOVIE...

It might have been a B-film written by some hack who doesn't know how to wrap up a script.

It might have been a heartbreaking drama about love and loss, separation and impossible choices.

It might have been a political thriller, with harried leaders forced to make life-or-death decisions that affect millions.

It might have been a medical drama about heroism and selflessness.

It might have been a sci-fi with a trailer that starts, "In a world where people have to stand six feet apart..."

It might have been a quirky indie pic about finding creative ways to pass time in small spaces.

It might have been a family flick about a parent and child who finally get to know each other when they're forced to spend time in the same house.

It might have been a romance about an online love that grows slowly, remotely, before a dramatic real-world meeting that probably utilizes a crane shot.

It might have been a zombie pic where scores of people escape the city by moving north to the country but forget that winter is coming and it's gonna snow up there...a lot.

We're movie people, so it's impossible not to look back at a year so strange, so extraordinary, so dramatic, and think of it in terms of how the movie version might play out. Someday, some of these movies might even get made.

But you know what I prefer to think about right now? All the films coming out in 2021 that will have absolutely *nothing* to do with the past year. Daniel Craig's 007 will not be wearing a mask when

*No Time to Die* hits theatres. Emily Blunt and Dwayne Johnson will not be quarantining during their cruise up the Amazon in *Jungle Cruise*. Vin Diesel will not sanitize the driver's seat with a Lysol wipe before racing off in *F9*. Yay!

Never have we needed escape more and it will arrive in abundance.

Turn to our **2021 Movie Preview**, page 31, and salivate over the buffet of films you can look forward to in the coming year. We've packed it with behind-the-scenes stories, insights and fun tidbits. There are even mini interviews with John Krasinski (*A Quiet Place Part II*), Jennifer Hudson (*Respect*) and the previously mentioned Blunt and Johnson (*Jungle Cruise*) to whet your appetite.

Elsewhere in this issue we talk with **Ryan Reynolds**, star of 2021's *Free Guy*, about the importance of owning your own story (page 20), and sit down for a Zoom chat with **Ralph Fiennes** and his director **Matthew Vaughn** about how the upcoming action pic *The King's Man* fits seamlessly into the *Kingsman* franchise (page 26).

Plus, on page 16 you'll find our annual **Holiday Gift Guide** filled with inspiring ideas. That's right, we've already done your shopping for you. You're welcome.

Thanks for spending this strangest of years with us. As we bring 2020 to a close I wish you a very happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

**MARNI WEISZ,**  
EDITOR







**AT HOME  
OR IN THE CINEMA  
POPCORN IS BETTER  
WITH BUTTER**

**IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR  
HIGH CANADIAN STANDARDS,  
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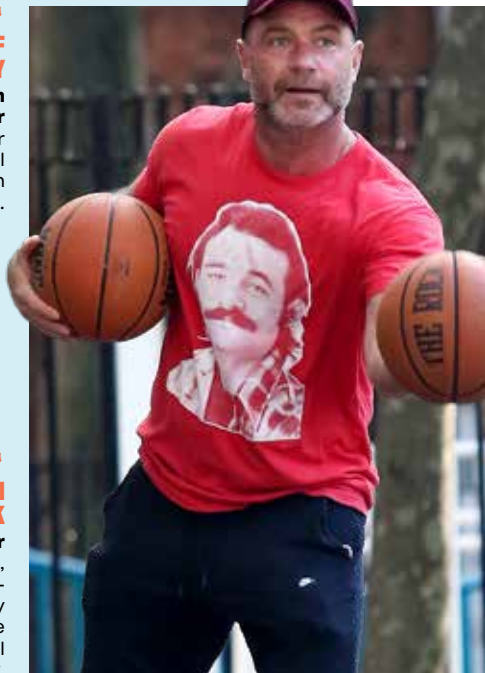


# CLICK!



## QUEEN OF PHILLY

Queen Latifah and Adam Sandler film a scene for their basketball pic *Hustle* in Philadelphia.



## LIEV FROM NEW YORK

Liev Schreiber sports a classic, *Saturday Night Live*-era Bill Murray T-shirt while playing basketball in New York City.



## TIGHT SPOT

A vintage Fiat 500 serves as Tom Cruise's unlikely ride on the set of *Mission: Impossible 7* in Rome, Italy.





## SHIELDS UP

The modern world invades 14th-century France as **Jodie Comer** wears a face shield on the County Tipperary, Ireland, set of Ridley Scott's *The Last Duel*.



## MEAL DEAL

**Kevin Smith** (right) and **Jason Mewes** man the counter at their Mooby's pop-up in Chicago. The fictional restaurant that appears in several of Smith's films was open for just one week.



## STEPPING OUT

**Ewan McGregor** and **Rebecca Dayan** look appropriately fabulous while shooting *Halston*, a bio-pic about the fashion icon, in New York City.



## IN FOCUS

# You Must Remember This...

Director Florian Zeller and stars Sir Anthony Hopkins and Olivia Colman make dementia real for *The Father*'s audience

**IF YOU FEEL A LITTLE BIT CONFUSED WHILE** watching *The Father*, director Florian Zeller and his stars, most notably Sir Anthony Hopkins and Olivia Colman, have done their jobs.

Hopkins plays Anthony, an 80-year-old with dementia, and Colman is his daughter Anne, who's trying to take care of her dad even as he refuses help.

The film has earned rave reviews, thanks in large part to first-time film director Zeller's use of multiple actors in the same role (for example, Olivia Williams also plays Anne at points) and

sets that change inexplicably, in order to illustrate Anthony's confusion.

"You do not understand exactly what is going on, but it was a way for me to make the audience experience what the main character was going through," said Zeller during a virtual Q&A session at this year's Toronto International Film Festival. The French filmmaker, best known as a playwright, based the film on his own stage play. "It's like a puzzle in a way, you can play with all the pieces, it will never work entirely, you know, as if a piece will always be missing."—MW

↑  
Olivia Colman and  
Anthony Hopkins  
in *The Father*

**POWER TEAM**  
Playwright  
Christopher Hampton  
(*Dangerous Liaisons*)  
co-wrote the script  
with Florian Zeller  
based on Zeller's play

**DREAM CASTING**  
The protagonist's  
name is Anthony  
because Zeller had  
Anthony Hopkins  
in mind when he  
wrote the play eight  
years ago

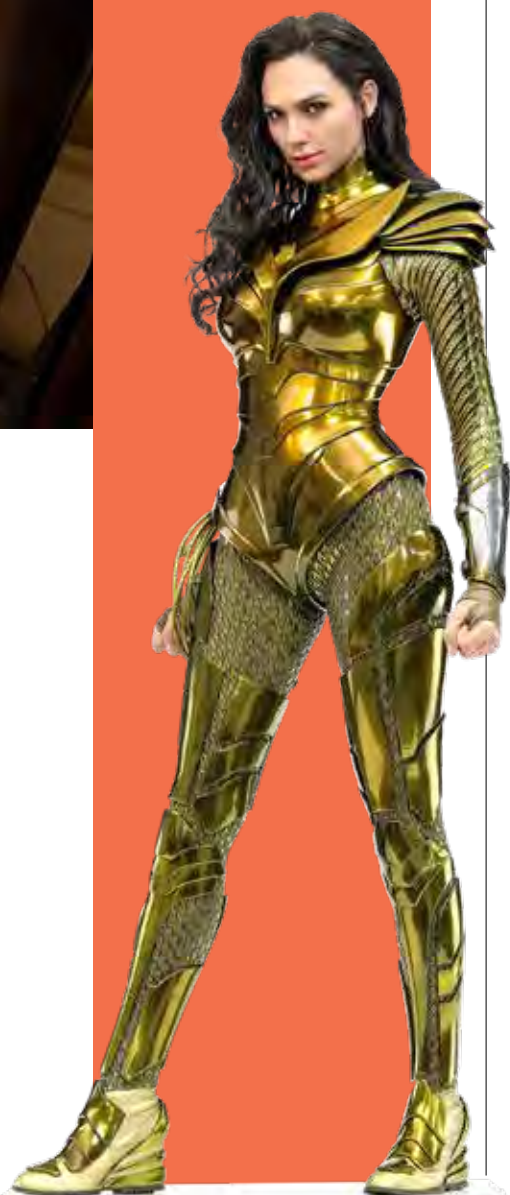
**#1 FATHER**  
*The Father* won  
the Audience Award  
for Best Film at  
Sundance



## COLLECTIBLES

# GOLDEN GAL

Check out this hyperreal statue of Gal Gadot in her *Wonder Woman* 1984 armour. Created by the relatively new Korean collectibles company JND Studios (it's only their second figure, after *Joker*'s Arthur Fleck), the statue was created by artist Soyoung Lee and stands 66 centimetres high. It was selling for \$1,899 (U.S.) via the company's website, but we're afraid all 700 pieces in the limited run sold out in a single day when pre-orders opened in late October.



## EVENT CINEMA

# Holidays on the Big Screen

Highbrow to low, sophisticated to sophomoric, heady to hilarious, Cineplex offers three ways to get out of the house and into the spirit in the runup to Christmas.

A classic 2008 staging of *The Nutcracker* from the National Ballet of Canada satisfies cravings not just for Tchaikovsky but for the grand Christmas parties of yesteryear, or just last year, now that holiday gatherings are more muted.



Beverly D'Angelo and Chevy Chase in *Christmas Vacation*

Missing your extended family? A repeat viewing of *Christmas Vacation* should cure that as Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase) and his family make room for obnoxious Cousin Eddie (Randy Quaid) and his motley clan.

And if an annual viewing of *It's a Wonderful Life* is required in your household

there's no better way to watch the Jimmy Stewart classic about despair and salvation than on the big screen, in the dark, where no one can see you cry.

FIND DATES, TIMES AND PARTICIPATING THEATRES AT [CINEPLEX.COM/EVENTS](http://CINEPLEX.COM/EVENTS).



## STILL FIGHTING EVIL

# MONSTER MOVIE

After six films, we're pretty sure writer-director Paul W.S. Anderson and his actor wife, Milla Jovovich, are done with the *Resident Evil* film franchise, especially because their last *Resident Evil* film was subtitled *The Final Chapter*. But that doesn't mean the couple is done making kick-ass monster-hunting movies based on videogames. Here you see Anderson (right) directing his beloved and her co-star Tony Jaa on the set of their latest post-apocalyptic survival pic, *Monster Hunter*. Based on the Capcom game, the film finds Jovovich's Captain Artemis and Jaa's Hunter banding together to, well, hunt monsters.

## OSCAR BAIT

# OH CAPTAIN! MY CAPTAIN!

Seven years after their acclaimed drama *Captain Phillips*, Tom Hanks and director Paul Greengrass reunite for *News of the World*.

The 1870s-set Western stars Hanks as a news reader (he travels Texas reading newspapers aloud to crowds) who decides to escort a 10-year-old girl named Johanna (Helena Zengel) back to her relatives several years after her parents and sister were killed in a battle with the Kiowa people.

As with *Captain Phillips*, this one stars Hanks as a Captain — Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd, a veteran of several wars — and the trailer seems to take advantage of the coincidence. When Kidd, teaching Johanna his name, points to his chest and says, “Captain. Make no mistake, Captain,” it’s hard not to think of

*Captain Phillips*’ famous scene in which Barkhad Abdi, as the pirate Muse, commandeers Phillips’ cargo ship and insists, “I am the captain now.”

Here’s hoping *News of the World* can come close to *Captain Phillips*’ impressive score of six Oscar nominations, including Best Picture. —MW

↑  
Tom Hanks and  
Helena Zengel in  
*News of the World*



## QUOTE UNQUOTE



“She’s going out at night, she’s pretending to be drunk, she’s alone and she’s allowing herself to be rescued by a man. She doesn’t ever advance a situation with men; she doesn’t give them any signals that she is trying to end up in any kind of sexual scenario with them. She waits until the moment when the man takes advantage of that, and then she immediately snaps out of it and reveals that she’s sober and teaches them a lesson.”

— CAREY MULLIGAN ON CASSIE, HER CHARACTER IN *PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN*





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# Niagara to New Mexico

Canadian director April Mullen enlists big talent for *Wander*

**A**PRIL MULLEN HAS DIRECTED EIGHT MOVIES — eight very different movies. The Niagara Falls native doesn't believe in sticking with one genre. Her versatility extends to comedy (*GravyTrain*), mockumentary (*Rock, Paper, Scissors: The Way of the Tosser*), a zombie pic (*Dead Before Dawn 3D*), and lesbian romance (*Below Her Mouth*). Her latest, *Wander*, is a conspiracy drama set in a tiny New Mexico town. It stars Aaron Eckhart as mentally unstable private detective Arthur Bretnik, who's hired to investigate the case of a murdered woman, and Tommy Lee Jones as a conspiracy nut who eggs Arthur on as he uncovers a possible plot involving missing illegal immigrants and nefarious technology.

We caught up with the bubbly filmmaker (she began her career as an actor) over the phone from the village of Ridgeway, Ontario, near Niagara Falls, where she's hunkering down with her family during the pandemic.

## SEEN ON SCREEN

Mullen has acted in five of her own films and played Kyra Sedgwick's daughter in 2004's *Cavedweller*

## FLOWER GIRL

Her family has operated Mullen Garden Market in Niagara Falls, the city's only flower market, for 37 years

**Why did you want to make *Wander*, which, no surprise, is very different from your other films?**

My partner Tim Doiron and I have been working on the concept of *Wander* for the past four years, so it was a subject matter that we felt really passionate about. We love the idea of conspiracy and being current, and we sort of made it about border control, stolen land and chip technology.

**Tell us about directing Aaron Eckhart and Tommy Lee Jones.**

Aaron Eckhart is an unbelievable talent and brought his entire being to the set every day, every second that he is in frame. He just took the role so personally and dove so deep into that character. And Tommy Lee Jones, a legend. He was a super-pro, he was in a great mood, loved New Mexico.... They're equally mesmerizing but on totally different spectrums.

**This is your first film shot outside of Canada. How was working in New Mexico?**

The town of *Wander* is a huge character in the film, and for us to get it right we went there five months before shooting and drove all over New Mexico in search of the little town that could be *Wander* and we found Carrizozo. Carrizozo is a forgotten about town that used to be on the railroad tracks, had a gold mine, and it couldn't be more perfect. The population is maybe 40 people, and the community was so open to us shooting there.

**Did growing up in Niagara Falls fuel your imagination?**

Very much so, Niagara Falls is inbred in me. I was always curious, inspired, and there are so many different little pockets. You can go into the tourist district, and then the downtown that has been closed since the 1920s, the casino district, the nature side with gorgeous vineyards. Niagara Falls has so many diverse little capsules that I felt like every door you opened was like a different type of movie.

**The pandemic has changed how we make and consume movies. What's your take on the future of filmmaking?**

It's tough to imagine how creating will morph, but it will, because you can't stop creation. Imagination and creating is what we do, and it'll find its new form and it'll survive as it always does. —INGRID RANDOJA

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PAUL GREENGRASS

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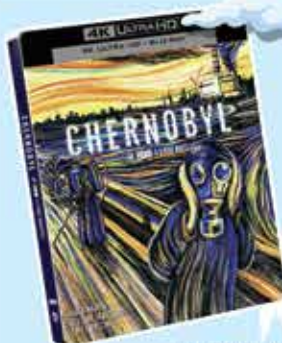


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REACTION FIGURE  
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## Safety First

It's the stocking stuffer of the season, but of all the styles out there we like the soothing saffron hues of the **Baggu Fabric Mask Set** best. Made from 100% organic cotton the three masks have adjustable nose wires and ear loops. **\$45, Indigo.ca**



## Cozy and Cute

There's nothing ugly about this **Christmas Sweater**, it'll make any pup feel festive and fabulous on those long holiday walks. **\$30, PetValu.com**

## Not Easy Being Green

Remember how the Grinch treated his poor doggie Max? Well, turnabout is fair play with this **Grinch Plush Dog Toy**. **\$10, PetSmart.ca**





**Tenet Tunes**  
 Swedish composer Ludwig Göransson picked up on Tenet's concept of inversion by having musicians play pieces backwards and then reversing them for the film's score. Cool. The **Tenet Original Motion Picture Soundtrack Deluxe Edition** is available as a three-disc vinyl or two-CD set. **\$21 for CD, \$46 for vinyl, music retailers**



**Just Drive**  
 Still a few more months until F9, the next *Fast & Furious* movie, hits theatres, but you can play the newest videogame installment, **Fast & Furious Crossroads**, right now! **\$55, EBGames.ca**



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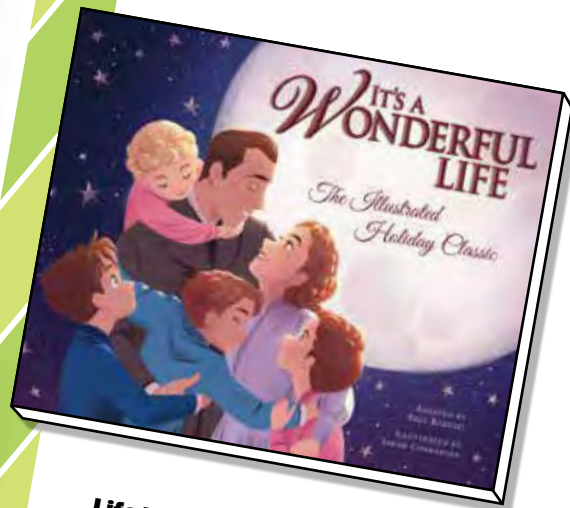
**Perk Up**  
 Who knows if or when we'll ever get a *Friends* movie, but you can satisfy cravings for the classic show with this *Friends* "Central Perk" Percolator Coffee Maker Set. **\$50, Walmart.ca**

# HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



## Painting the Deck

No matter your game it's a lot more fun with a good, fresh deck. Movie and art lovers alike will appreciate **Movie Genius: Playing Cards** illustrated by artist Bijou Karman. **\$16.50, select bookstores or Amazon.ca**



## Life Lessons

Delightful illustrations by Sarah Conradsen accompany Paul Ruditis' text in **It's a Wonderful Life: The Illustrated Holiday Classic**, an adaptation of the beloved Jimmy Stewart movie. **\$26, bookstores**



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We've got both Spider-Man and Venom movies slated for 2021, but you can make the old foes battle right now with **LEGO's Spider Mech vs. Venom** set, complete with 604 pieces and four minifigs — Spider-Man, Venom, Aunt May and Ghost Spider. **\$60, toy stores**

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GUY



# WHAT A GUY

He's generous, funny, talented and handsome,  
so the fact that **Ryan Reynolds** is also a nice  
Canadian boy is just a bonus. Here we chat with the pride  
of Vancouver about inspiring change in difficult times,  
why childlike innocence is the best, and **Free Guy**,  
the 2021 action-comedy in which he plays a suddenly  
sentient videogame character named Guy

BY INGRID RANDOJA

# WE DEMAND A LOT

from our movie stars, asking that they be attractive, talented, make great films and shine as morally upright citizens. It's a ridiculous standard to set, but then along comes Ryan Reynolds.

Maybe it's because he's Canadian (born and raised in Vancouver), self-deprecating, devastatingly funny and married to the equally talented and striking Blake Lively that he gets top marks, or it could be that in the past few months the 44-year-old star has shown the world how to wield celebrity clout for good.

In March, as COVID-19 took hold, he and Lively stepped up and donated \$1-million (U.S.) to Food Banks Canada and Feeding America. "COVID-19 has brutally impacted older adults and low-income families," he wrote on Twitter, adding, "If you can give, these orgs need our help. Take care of your bodies and hearts. Leave room for joy. Call someone who's isolated and might need connection."

In June, the couple donated \$200,000 to Nova Scotia's St. Francis Xavier University to help fund an Indigenous women's leadership program and just a few months ago he helped kickstart the Group Effort Initiative, which focuses on housing and training diverse young filmmakers to work on his next movie to be shot in Canada. Reynolds is funding the program, and in a video explaining the initiative he says, "Making a film is a group effort but for entirely too long that group has systematically excluded Black, Indigenous, people of colour and several other marginalized communities. This is a global problem which will

not be fixed overnight, but change can start locally and immediately."

He's had missteps — his wedding took place on a plantation in South Carolina, a choice he deeply regrets, but he and Lively apologized for the choice earlier this year while lending their support to the Black Lives Matter movement.

Since we haven't seen Reynolds on the big screen since 2018's *Deadpool 2* (though he did voice the lead CGI character in 2019's *Detective Pikachu*), we'll be more than ready when his action-packed comedy *Free Guy* finally comes out next year after several COVID-related delays. Reynolds plays Guy (also known as Blue Shirt Guy), a background character in the videogame *Free City* who realizes he could be so much more.



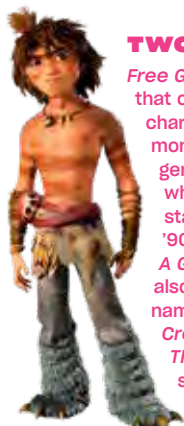
↑  
Ryan Reynolds (left) and Lil Rey Howery in *Free Guy*

"Guy is sort of inspired by Elf, the Will Ferrell character," explains Reynolds during a recent Zoom interview from his home in upstate New York where he's hunkering down with his wife and three young daughters, six-year-old James, four-year-old Inez and one-year-old Betty. "It instantly creates vulnerability when you have a protagonist that is not sure of his surroundings or situation or how to handle them."

Attracted to a kick-ass character named Molotov Girl (Jodie Comer), Guy emerges from the background to become the game's hero, growing more self-aware and stunning the game developers, led by the obnoxious Antoine (Taika Waititi), who are planning to shut the game down after releasing a subpar sequel.

Reynolds thinks the fast-paced, feel-good flick is exactly the kind of film the world needs now.

"These are some challenging and pretty frightening times and the movie spoke to me about authorship and how each of us can really own our story and create real change. I don't mean to be too esoteric about it, and it also just felt like an absolute fastball of joy."



## TWO GUYS

*Free Guy* isn't the only film that casts Reynolds as a character named Guy, a moniker selected for its generic nature. The actor who, coincidentally, starred in the late-'90s series *Two Guys, A Girl and a Pizza Place* also voices a caveman named Guy in the *Croods* movies, 2013's *The Croods* and the new sequel, *The Croods: A New Age*.





Directed by fellow Canadian Shawn Levy (*Night at the Museum* trilogy), *Free Guy* capitalizes on the attributes we love most about Reynolds — his quick-witted humour, physicality and a wonderful earnestness. Even when playing his most popular film character, the potty-mouthed Deadpool, Reynolds makes us believe that he'll always do what's right.

"If you look at Blue Shirt Guy or Deadpool, most people might say these are very different, disparate kind of characters," says Reynolds,

"but actually both of them have a childlike innocence to them, which is their premier redeeming quality. I love looking at the world through childlike innocence and, in doing that, it actually inspires a ton of comedy, a ton of romance, all of those sorts of things.

"And I also love laughing at myself," he continues. "My whole life I've found that's been my greatest creative goldmine, looking inward and finding aspects of my own personality and life to laugh at. That's kept me sane and it's something that I hope I never lose."

In a May 2018 *New York Times* profile Reynolds revealed that he suffers from severe anxiety, and only feels completely at ease when he performs. He attributes that anxiety to growing up the youngest of four boys in a house dominated by his volatile father, James (Reynolds' oldest daughter is named after him), a former police officer who the actor called "the stress dispensary in our house."

Learning to laugh at himself, and make others laugh, was the tonic Reynolds needed and what helped kickstart his career as a young actor in the Canadian teen TV drama *Hillside*. It wasn't long before he was



*Free Guy's* Ryan Reynolds and Jodie Comer

## FUNNY BUSINESS

When he's not making movies, Ryan Reynolds is busy overseeing his growing business empire. In 2018 he bought a stake in Aviation Gin, and thanks to the clever and funny ads he helps create it has become the fastest growing gin brand in the world. Last year he invested in Mint Mobile and again, thanks to his creative panache, has helped the discount wireless operation soar.




In an interview with *Fast Company* magazine earlier this year Reynolds spoke about his attraction to marketing. "There's something fascinating to me about creating a piece of content that's shareable and acknowledges quite nakedly that it's an ad. And it's certainly more honest." —**IR**

working non-stop, appearing in films such as *National Lampoon's Van Wilder*, *Blade: Trinity*, *Just Friends* and *Smokin' Aces*.

Mostly forgettable stuff, but that changed with 2011's superhero pic *Green Lantern*. Although a critical dud, the film raised Reynolds' profile and made him realize he was better suited to poking fun at superheroes than playing them straight, which, of course, paved the way for the *Deadpool* pics.

*Free Guy* shows us Reynolds at his childlike best, an innocent who sees the world as a strange and wonderful place. He admits the world isn't so wonderful at the moment but believes our current feelings of uncertainty can be a catalyst for good.

"One of the great gifts that the world is offering us right now — and I say this understanding that it's easy for me to say it from where I sit — is that the world is uncomfortable right now. People are uncomfortable. And that is a real impetus to growing and changing and pushing forward and drawing people from rest to effort. That can create new and better worlds.

"I'm never going to be the guy that's unwelcoming of change. I love change. I want change for my kids, I want the world to be more equitable. I want all of those things." 

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







# ABOUT FACE

**Frances McDormand says that every line on her face, every crease of her skin, connects her to the landscape at the heart of *Nomadland***

**ONE OF THE MOST SATISFYING** things Frances McDormand's heard about her work in the past few years is that a closeup of her face is like visiting a national park. She *loves* that.

"There is something about an unaltered, aging face that [is] kind of like a landscape, it's like a natural landscape," McDormand enthused during a virtual Q&A session at this year's Toronto International Film Festival.

That "national park" comment was made about McDormand's Oscar-winning performance in 2017's *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, but she says it applies just as much to her new film *Nomadland*.

Directed by Chloé Zhao, the film is based on Jessica Bruder's non-fiction book about a community of American seniors who live out of trailers and RVs, not for the love of the lifestyle, but because poverty and circumstance have put them there.

"What I love about the faces in *Nomadland* is that we're all mature, so if you see a saguaro cactus it's almost the same as Swankie and Bob Wells and Linda May and me," said McDormand, referring to her *Nomadland* co-stars — non-actors who play versions of themselves in the film that won the People's Choice Award at the Toronto fest.

"As I get older, one of the most important things to me is I've got to be in the environment that my cellular structure is going to go back in and feed, and that's not concrete and brick, that's dirt," McDormand continued.

"I think that Chloé has a real connection to the cycle of human life, and that the exploration of a group of older people — of elders, of seniors, of seasoned people — is a part of that landscape too, and so the desert landscape is the perfect place to put us." —MARNI WEISZ



# TAILOR-MADE PREQUEL

Although he didn't know he was going to make a prequel at the time, the story for **Matthew Vaughn's** *Kingsman* origins story, *The King's Man*, was all there in the first movie — in one three-minute scene.

Here the writer-director and his franchise's new star, **Ralph Fiennes**, banter about making this third film, which is slated to hit theatres in February, and come up with an idea for the fourth

× BY MARNI WEISZ ×





Director Matthew Vaughn (left) on  
*The King's Man* set with actors  
Robert Aramayo (centre) and Ralph Fiennes

A

**AFTER MAKING HIS** first two *Kingsman* films — slick, fun and decidedly violent spy movies set in the present day and starring Colin Firth and Taron Egerton —

writer-director Matthew Vaughn was itching to do something a little different. He wanted to make a period piece, something like *Lawrence of Arabia* or *The Man Who Would Be King*, the rousing, history-based movies he remembered from his childhood.

So, it seems, he had two choices. Either start from scratch and come up with something new, or find a way to make that period film work within the confines of his *Kingsman* series. He chose the latter.

“First, I thought, how am I going to raise a lot of money to make the film that’s in my head and then tell everyone it’s an epic adventure movie? Hollywood would have questioned it more,” says Vaughn during a Zoom interview alongside the star of his new movie, Ralph Fiennes. “Put *Kingsman* in the title, they didn’t question it for a second.

“But also,” he continues, “I was trying to come up with what my epic adventure would be, and I had the story in my mind that I’d already created, the story was already there from the first *Kingsman* film.”

You may remember a scene in 2014’s *Kingsman: The Secret Service* in which Firth’s spy Harry Hart explains to his young, rough-around-the-edges recruit Eggsy (Egerton) the origins of the shadowy spy agency named after a tailor shop.

“Since 1849 the Kingsman tailors have clothed the world’s most powerful individuals,” Firth began. “By 1919 a great number of them had lost their heirs to World War I. That meant a lot of money going uninherited and a lot of powerful men with a desire to preserve peace and protect life. Our founders realized they could channel that wealth and influence for the greater good. And so began our other venture, an independent, international intelligence agency operating at the highest level of discretion.”

It was in that scene, one he’d written years ago, that Vaughn found the story for *The King’s Man*, the prequel to



Ralph Fiennes (left) and Harris Dickinson in *The King’s Man*  
Inset: Director Matthew Vaughn



*Kingsman: The Secret Service* and its 2017 follow-up *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*. After a couple of delays the film is now scheduled to hit theatres in February.

XXX

**FIENNES PLAYS THE DUKE OF OXFORD**, one of those powerful individuals who, having previously fought in a war is now a pacifist...of sorts. He sees a group of tyrants and criminal masterminds, including the Russian mystic Rasputin (Rhys Ifans), joining up to push humanity toward the First World War and, along with his butler Shola (Djimon Hounsou), a warrior from Africa, and his son’s nanny Polly (Gemma Arterton), a skilled codebreaker, tries to correct the course of history.

While just as slick as its predecessors, this third film is more dramatic according to Fiennes, whose Duke of Oxford has a vested interest in keeping his boy Conrad



#### ROLE MODEL

Djimon Hounsou, who plays the Duke of Oxford’s righthand man, Shola, started his career as a model after being encouraged to do so by fashion designer Thierry Mugler.





## CLEVER CASTING

Look for Tom Hollander in the triple role of King George V (bottom left), Kaiser Wilhelm II (centre) and Tsar Nicholas II (right), the real-life cousins who ruled England, Germany and Russia respectively.



(Harris Dickinson) from going off to fight in the war.

"Its emotional centre is a father/son relationship," says Fiennes. "I would say to Matthew that everything is anchored off that. Within the first 10 minutes of the film you understand why that particular father/son relationship is so defined in a very specific way."

XXX

**BOTH MEN ARE, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN** their lives, doing interviews via Zoom instead of in person.

Vaughn — who, prior to the *Kingsman* films was best known for directing *Layer Cake*, *Kick-Ass* and *X-Men: First Class* — is in Suffolk, England, where he lives with his wife, model Claudia Schiffer, and their three children, and Fiennes is in a hotel room in Rome, where he's been staying for a few weeks — not working, just living.

"He's disappearing," jokes Vaughn.

Vaughn's own life reads like a movie. Aside from the whole being married to Claudia Schiffer thing the 49-year-old director was raised believing American actor Robert Vaughn (TV's *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*) was his father. It wasn't until 2002 that he found out his real dad was an English aristocrat by the name of George De Vere Drummond, the godson of King George VI.

While the idea for the *Kingsman* movies came to him as he was sitting, bored, in a tailor shop, the tone of the films — upper-crust meets shocking but often funny cartoon violence — well, that came from his frustration with how serious the James Bond movies had become.

Vaughn says it's a bit awkward bringing it up in front of Fiennes, who currently plays M in the storied 007 franchise that's set to continue with *No Time to Die*, but that he and his friend comic-book writer Mark Millar were getting smashed in a pub when the topic came up.

"We were just drinking and saying, like, what's happened to Bond? Where's the humour, where's this, where's that?"

Asked to respond to Vaughn's assessment of the Bond films Fiennes barely has a word out before his director shouts, "No comment!"

XXX

**IT'S A BIT OF A SURPRISE THAT** Fiennes hasn't worked with the *Kingsman* franchise's original star, Colin Firth, since 1996's *The English Patient*. They are, after all, two of Britain's foremost dramatic

actors. And yet they do keep in touch.

"I had lunch with Colin only two weeks ago or three weeks ago," says Fiennes.

Did they speak about the *Kingsman* films?

"They got a little doll of me and they were both ripping it apart," jokes Vaughn.

"No, no, no," says Fiennes, who claims to be having trouble remembering the details of the conversation thanks to large amounts of pasta and wine. "It's all a happy blur."

"I think we did talk about making films for Matthew," he finally recalls. "But it was all very positive. I would love to work with Colin. I mean, I know him socially of course and I have a very high regard for him as an actor."

Vaughn pipes up. "It would be great Ralph, we should do *The Godfather II* of the *Kingsman* world," he says, evoking the middle *Godfather* film which weaves together the 1917 story of a young Don Corleone (Robert De Niro) with the 1958 story of his son Michael (Al Pacino), though the two actors never share the screen.

It could happen. Vaughn has expressed interest in doing more *Kingsman* movies, each one exploring a different decade of the spy agency's history.

"Matthew, you have to find a way to bring us together," says Fiennes.

"I'd love to. You know what, that would be fun," says Vaughn. "That really would be fun." ☐

Marni Weisz is the editor of *Cineplex Magazine*.

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# MOVIE PREVIEW

WE CAN'T SAY GOODBYE TO 2020 FAST ENOUGH. AFTER SUFFERING THROUGH DELAY AFTER DELAY WE'RE SO EXCITED TO WELCOME THE BOUNTY THAT IS EXPECTED TO COME WITH THE YEAR 2021. A COMBINATION OF 2020 HOLDOVERS AND FLICKS THAT WERE ALWAYS SLATED FOR THE COMING YEAR, THE NEXT 12 MONTHS PROMISE A VERITABLE BUFFET OF THEATRICAL DELIGHTS. BRING. IT. ON.

BY INGRID RANDOJA  
& MARNI WEISZ





## INTERVIEW

# QUIET PLEASE

DIRECTOR JOHN KRASINSKI REVISITS THE SILENT WORLD HE CREATED THREE YEARS AGO FOR THE SCARY SEQUEL, *A QUIET PLACE PART II*

**WE'VE BEEN NERVOUSLY WAIT-**ing to see how *A Quiet Place's* resilient Abbott family — mom Evelyn (Emily Blunt), deaf daughter Regan (Millicent Simmonds), son Marcus (Noah Jupe) and the new baby — are faring in a world full of monsters who use sound

to hunt humans. The sequel, *A Quiet Place Part II*, continues their terrifying journey and for writer-director John Krasinski the follow-up film is all about dealing with new monsters — other humans. “Now you get to see how other people have survived,

but I don't think anybody did it as well as our family, so that's what's so scary,” Krasinski told us in an interview earlier this year.

Newcomers Cillian Murphy and Djimon Hounsou play survivors the family meets when they leave their isolated farm and head out into the open. Apparently,

Murphy was so enamoured with 2018's *A Quiet Place* that he wrote Krasinski an email telling him how impressed he was, but then decided it was cheesy and never hit send. A year later Murphy got the call asking him to be in the sequel.

The first film was a huge hit, earning more than \$300-million (U.S.) worldwide and served as a coming-out party for Krasinski as a director. The boyish star from TV's *The Office* showed off a myriad of filmmaking skills — deftly crafting teeth-chattering tension, heart-wrenching drama and big action pieces.

The Boston native graduated from Brown University and then attended the National Theater Institute before making his way to New York where he waited tables until his acting career took off.

“I went to a theatre school whose whole tagline is ‘Risk. Fail. Risk Again,’ and I live my life by that, artistically at least,” he says.

So far, the risks are paying off. —IR

## A QUIET PLACE PART II

DIRECTOR  
**JOHN KRASINSKI**  
(*A QUIET PLACE*)

STARRING  
**EMILY BLUNT,**  
**MILLCENT**  
**SIMMONDS,**  
**CILLIAN MURPHY**



## WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

MURRAY, AYKROYD AND HUDSON RETURN, BUT THIS NEW *GHOSTBUSTERS* FILM FOCUSES ON A WHOLE NEW GENERATION

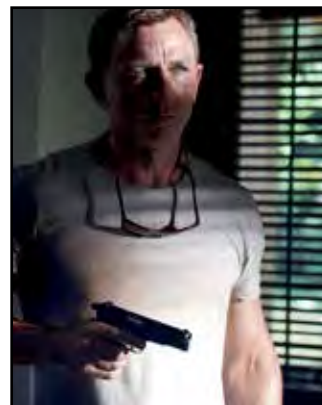
It took more than 30 years to find the right script and director, and to cajole a reluctant Bill Murray to return for a third film in the original series, following *Ghostbusters* (1984) and *Ghostbusters II* (1989). Ivan Reitman directed the first two films, but here he passes the torch to son Jason Reitman, who in turn passes the ghostbusting duties to a younger generation. McKenna Grace and Finn Wolfhard

play siblings living in a small town who discover their grandfather, Egon Spengler (the late Harold Ramis), was an original Ghostbuster and they'll need his assortment of ghostbusting tools to fight the supernatural forces haunting their town. They also get a helping hand from grandpa's former crew, including Venkman (Bill Murray), Stantz (Dan Aykroyd) and Zeddemore (Ernie Hudson).

### GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERLIFE

DIRECTOR  
JASON REITMAN  
(TULLY)

STARRING  
FINN WOLFHARD,  
MCKENNA GRACE,  
BILL MURRAY



## GOODBYE, MR. BOND

WE'RE EXCITED TO SEE HOW *NO TIME TO DIE* WRAPS UP DANIEL CRAIG'S 007 STORY ARC, AND TO MEET THE FRANCHISE'S NEW GOODIES AND BADDIES

### NO TIME TO DIE

DIRECTOR  
CARY JOJI FUKUNAGA  
(BEASTS OF NO NATION)

STARRING  
DANIEL CRAIG,  
RAMI MALIK,  
ANA DE ARMAS

**Call it the long goodbye.** *No Time to Die*, featuring Daniel Craig's (reportedly) final spin as 007, was one of the first films delayed by the pandemic,

which means we've been waiting a long time to see how his Bond will bow out. The film is rumoured to tie up loose ends and answer lingering questions that go all the way back to *Casino Royale*, Craig's first film as Bond. In this pic, the superspy faces off against a villain named Safin (Rami Malek), reunites with love interest Dr. Madeleine Swann (Léa Seydoux) and enlists the help of CIA operative Paloma (Ana de Armas) and new 00 agent Nomi (Lashana Lynch).

## TOM HOLLAND'S BIG YEAR

If all goes according to plan, we'll see Tom Holland in three films this year, beginning with *Chaos Walking*. The dystopian drama is set on a planet where a virus has seemingly killed all women, so Holland's character Todd Hewitt is astonished when he comes across a lady named Viola (Daisy Ridley). Holland keeps the action-adventure theme going with *Uncharted*, the adaptation of the popular

videogame series, and, finally, swings back into action as Peter Parker in *Spider-Man 3* (no official title as of yet) late in the year. Since Peter's mentor Tony Stark died in *Avengers: Endgame*, it's Doctor Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch) who'll guide the young superhero going forward.







## NEW BLOOD

JARED LETO ENTERS THE MARVEL UNIVERSE AS MORBIUS, AN ANTIHERO FIGHTING A RARE BLOOD DISEASE

**JARED LETO WAS SORELY DISAPPOINTED** when he lost the role of the Joker to Joaquin Phoenix for the standalone Joker pic. Yet, that meant he could star as antihero Morbius in Sony's adaptation of the Marvel comic-book series, a spinoff from the Spider-Man series where Morbius first appeared

as a villain. Leto plays biochemist Michael Morbius, who was born with a rare blood disease that is killing him. In a final attempt to stay alive he infects himself with bat's blood that transforms him into a superbeing with a taste for blood. Adria Arjona plays Morbius's love interest, Martine Bancroft.

### MORBIUS

DIRECTOR  
**DANIEL ESPINOSA**  
(*LIFE*)

STARRING  
**JARED LETO,**  
**ADRIA ARJONA,**  
**MATT SMITH**



### A SECOND DOSE OF VENOM

Another Spider-Man baddie returns to the big screen in *Venom: Let There Be Carnage*. The sequel to 2018's *Venom* is set to arrive next summer with the always watchable Tom Hardy returning as Eddie Brock, the human host to a violent alien being, and Woody Harrelson as a serial killer infected with a bad-tempered alien named Carnage.

## MARVEL'S NEXT PHASE: BLACK WIDOW AND BEYOND

Marvel's post-Avengers universe takes shape next year with the release of *Black Widow*, which is set before *Endgame* but feels more like a swan song for Natasha Romanoff (Scarlett Johansson) as she returns home to Russia after the events of *Captain America: Civil War* to confront her painful past.

The Phase Four movies continue with *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, which stars Canadian Simu Liu

as the titular martial-arts warrior who battles the nefarious Mandarin (Tony Leung).

And Marvel hopes to end the year strong with *Eternals*, directed by Chloé Zhao, which introduces us to a group of immortals living on Earth. Created by the Celestials, these gods are sworn to protect the planet from the evil Deviants. The film's stellar cast, including Richard Madden, Angelina Jolie, Gemma Chan,



Kumail Nanjiani, Salma Hayek, Kit Harington and Lauren Ridloff (who plays the MCU's first deaf superhero), won't

be enough to make us forget the Avengers but should deliver that shot of superhero star power we crave.

## INTERVIEW

# A LITTLE RESPECT

BEFORE HER DEATH, ARETHA FRANKLIN HANDPICKED JENNIFER HUDSON TO PLAY HER IN THE STORY OF HER LIFE. WELL, THAT'S QUITE AN ENDORSEMENT

**JENNIFER HUDSON WAS STILL** working on the big-screen adaptation of the musical *Cats* when she started prepping for a role she'd been circling for 15 years — the late R&B great Aretha Franklin in the bio-pic *Respect*.

Moving back and forth between productions wasn't easy considering she had to shift between radically different vocal styles on a dime. Think of "Memories," her dramatic ballad from *Cats* on the one hand, and Aretha's powerhouse anthems like "Think" and "Respect" on the other.

"I'm trying to figure out a balance between the two," she said over the phone at the time, while literally on the way from a *Cats* junket to the set of *Respect* at L.A.'s Universal Studios.

"Memory," the approach and music and the genre is more operatic and uses the softer sides and the lighter sides of my voice. And then there's 'Respect,' or Aretha's material, and it uses the chest."

While *Cats* was mercilessly panned (despite Hudson's impressive vocal contributions) when it came out in December 2019, *Respect* looks much more promising. It traces Aretha's life from her childhood singing gospel in Detroit to signing first with Columbia and then Atlantic Records where she became a star.

Hudson was hand-picked by Franklin (who passed away in 2018) shortly after she finished making her very first movie, 2006's *Dreamgirls*. She won a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for that performance, outshining even Beyoncé, who starred in the film.

"We would say, 'Okay, what are you going to do to top this?'" recalled Hudson. "The only thing I could imagine, a dream of mine would be to play Aretha Franklin. And I think that was the start of it all." —MW

## RESPECT

DIRECTOR  
**LIESL TOMMY**  
(DEBUT)

STARRING  
**JENNIFER HUDSON,**  
**MARY J. BLIGE,**  
**FOREST WHITAKER**







## NEW HEIGHTS

BASED ON THE LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA MUSICAL, *IN THE HEIGHTS* WILL BE A BIG DRAW FOR *HAMILTON* FANS

Before *Hamilton*, there was *In the Heights*, a musical written by Lin-Manuel Miranda in his freshman year of college and described, back then, as a hip-hop version of *Rent*.

Like the play, the film is set in the largely Hispanic-American New York neighbourhood of Washington Heights and revolves around bodega owner Usnavi (played by Miranda in the Broadway version that won four Tonys and by Anthony Ramos, also from the cast of *Hamilton*, here). As on Broadway, Usnavi

loves hairdresser Vanessa (Melissa Barrera), is devoted to neighbourhood matriarch Abuela Claudia (Olga Merediz) and hangs with friends Benny (Corey Hawkins) and Nina (Leslie Grace) while dreaming of his ancestral home, the Dominican Republic.

Expect the story's politics to be juiced up with references to Dreamers and the current state of race relations in America, and look for Miranda in the small role of the Piragua Guy, who sells frozen treats.



### SPIELBERG GOES WEST

Race relations also take centre stage in Steven Spielberg's remake of 1961's *West Side Story*, the musical set in 1950s New York about a Polish boy named Tony (Ansel Elgort) who falls in love with a Puerto Rican girl named Maria (Rachel Zegler).

## DIESEL FUMES

VIN DIESEL'S FOE IN THE NEW *FAST & FURIOUS* PIC, *F9*, IS HIS OWN LITTLE BROTHER. WHO'S BIG AND BAD ENOUGH TO PLAY SAID BRO? JOHN CENA, OF COURSE

There are two things the *Fast & Furious* franchise does really well — showcase outrageous car stunts and cast big, muscular men in starring roles. Cue John Cena, the latest strongman to join the cast. He plays Dom's (Vin Diesel) younger brother Jakob, a thief, assassin and high-performance driver who teams with the villain Cipher (Charlize Theron) to take down Dom. The film was shot in London, Scotland, Los Angeles, Thailand and

the Republic of Georgia, and a few cast members let it slip that some scenes will take place in space. That's right, the *F&F* producers have upped their game to a whole new level, providing us with out-of-this-world escapism.

### F9

DIRECTOR  
JUSTIN LIN  
(*FAST & FURIOUS 6*)

STARRING  
JOHN CENA,  
VIN DIESEL,  
MICHELLE  
RODRIGUEZ







## TOP GUN: MAVERICK

DIRECTOR  
**JOSEPH KOSINSKI**  
(*OBLIVION*)

STARRING  
**TOM CRUISE,**  
**JENNIFER CONNELLY,**  
**MILES TELLER**

# NEED FOR SPEED

AFTER MORE THAN 30 YEARS, TOM CRUISE CLIMBS BACK INTO THE COCKPIT FOR THE *TOP GUN* SEQUEL, *MAVERICK*

Feeling cooped up? It's time to fly the skies with Tom Cruise in this long-awaited sequel to 1986's *Top Gun*. Cruise reprises his role as navy pilot Pete "Maverick" Mitchell, who is now a veteran flight instructor charged with training his

cadets for a dangerous mission. One of his pupils is the feisty son (Miles Teller) of his late pal Goose. Jennifer Connelly plays Cruise's love interest, and Val Kilmer is back as Iceman, who is now a four-star admiral and chief of naval operations.



## ON A MISSION

Even a pandemic can't keep adrenaline junkie Tom Cruise from the action. The 58-year-old is currently shooting *Mission: Impossible 7* and has been spotted filming on top of a moving train. Look for *Mission: Impossible 7* to hit theatres toward the end of the year.



## MEDIEVAL MULLET?

Matt Damon is spotted on the set of *The Last Duel* in Cahir, County Tipperary, Ireland, with what looks to us like a decidedly 1980s haircut. The film, which is being directed by Ridley Scott and co-stars Jodie Comer, Adam Driver and Matt's friend Ben Affleck, is based on the Eric Jager book about besties in 14th-century France who are ordered to fight to the death after one accuses the other of raping his wife. Look for it on screens in late 2021.

# DENIS' DUNE

DENIS VILLENEUVE GETS HIS SHOT AT ADAPTING *DUNE*

Sometimes the stars align, and the perfect director finds the perfect project. That's the case with Canadian filmmaker Denis Villeneuve, who has always wanted to adapt author Frank Herbert's classic sci-fi novel *Dune* and is on a sci-fi roll having recently helmed the acclaimed *Blade Runner 2049* and *Arrival*. Timothée Chalamet plays Paul Atreides, who arrives on the desert planet Arrakis only to discover it's his destiny to



lead a rebellion and upend the universe. We can't wait to see Chalamet's take on the complicated Atreides and Villeneuve's version of the planet's giant sandworms.

## DUNE

DIRECTOR  
**DENIS VILLENEUVE**  
(*BLADE RUNNER 2049*)

STARRING  
**TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET,**  
**ZENDAYA,**  
**OSCAR ISAAC**

## INTERVIEW

## UP THE RIVER

INSPIRED BY THE CLASSIC DISNEY THEME PARK RIDE, *JUNGLE CRUISE* PROMISES BAD JOKES, GOOD FUN AND SOME SERIOUS CHEMISTRY BETWEEN STARS DWAYNE JOHNSON AND EMILY BLUNT

**DWAYNE JOHNSON GREW UP** largely in Tampa, Florida, as a self-proclaimed “Disney kid,” so when he was asked to star in *Jungle Cruise* — the adventure pic based on the original Disneyland ride that’s since been replicated at Disney parks around the world — it was a pretty big deal for the big man who already had a pretty big career.

“We have enjoyed the parks and the movies and the brand that Disney brings, and being parents of little children, too... so cut to *Jungle Cruise* and this opportunity that we had, it was pretty overwhelming,” Johnson enthused during an interview in Atlanta this past February,

The ride has always owed some of its inspiration to the movies as Imagineer Harper Goff had the 1951 Humphrey Bogart/Katharine Hepburn adventure pic *The African Queen* in mind when he designed the attraction’s riverboats.

Johnson’s co-star Emily Blunt

watched *The African Queen* right before they went into production and sees the connection. “The idea of a journey together and the adventure and the unknown and travel and people being in a fish out of water situation,” she says.

Though, where Hepburn played a missionary being transported to safety by Bogart’s riverboat captain, here it’s Blunt’s scientist who commissions Johnson’s captain to take her deeper into the jungle to find the Tree of Life, which she thinks has healing powers.

“I really was taken by the spirit of the character because, to be honest, when I got offered it...I was like, ‘Oh, I’m going to play the girlfriend role,’” she said, “and then I read it and I was like, ‘Wow, he’s the girlfriend!’”

“I’m the girlfriend,” confirmed Johnson. “She’s the Indiana Jones.”

—MW

## JUNGLE CRUISE

DIRECTOR  
**JAUME COLLET-SERRA**  
(*THE SHALLOWS*)

STARRING  
**DWAYNE JOHNSON,**  
**EMILY BLUNT**









## INTERVIEW

# UP THE RIVER

INSPIRED BY THE CLASSIC DISNEY THEME PARK RIDE, *JUNGLE CRUISE* PROMISES BAD JOKES, GOOD FUN AND SOME SERIOUS CHEMISTRY BETWEEN STARS DWAYNE JOHNSON AND EMILY BLUNT

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**DWAYNE JOHNSON GREW UP LARGELY** in Tampa, Florida, as a self-proclaimed “Disney kid,” so when he was asked to star in *Jungle Cruise* — the adventure pic based on the original Disneyland ride that’s since been replicated at Disney parks around the world — it was a pretty big deal for the big man who already had a pretty big career.

“We have enjoyed the parks and the movies and the brand that Disney brings, and being parents of little children, too...so cut to *Jungle Cruise* and this opportunity that we had, it was pretty overwhelming,” Johnson

enthused during an interview in Atlanta this past February.

The ride has always owed some of its inspiration to the movies as Imagineer Harper Goff had the 1951 Humphrey Bogart/Katharine Hepburn film *The African Queen* in mind when he designed the attraction’s riverboats.

Johnson’s co-star Emily Blunt watched *The African Queen* right before they went into production and sees the connection. “The idea of a journey together and the adventure and the unknown and travel and people being in a fish out of water situation,” she says.

Though, where Hepburn played a missionary being transported to safety by Bogart’s riverboat captain, here it’s Blunt’s scientist who commissions Johnson’s captain to take her deeper into the jungle to find the Tree of Life, which she thinks has healing powers.

“I really was taken by the spirit of the character because, to be honest, when I got offered it...I was like, ‘Oh, I’m going to play the girlfriend role,’” she said, “and then I read it and I was like, ‘Wow, he’s the girlfriend!’”

“I’m the girlfriend,” confirmed Johnson. “She’s the Indiana Jones.”

—MW





## NEED FOR SPEED

AFTER MORE THAN 30 YEARS, TOM CRUISE CLIMBS BACK INTO THE COCKPIT FOR THE *TOP GUN* SEQUEL, *MAVERICK*

Feeling cooped up? It's time to fly the skies with Tom Cruise in this long-awaited sequel to 1986's *Top Gun*. Cruise reprises his role as navy pilot Pete "Maverick" Mitchell, who is now a veteran flight instructor charged with training his

cadets for a dangerous mission. One of his pupils is the feisty son (Miles Teller) of his late pal Goose. Jennifer Connelly plays Cruise's love interest, and Val Kilmer is back as Iceman, who is now a four-star admiral and chief of naval operations.

### TOP GUN: MAVERICK

DIRECTOR  
**JOSEPH KOSINSKI**  
(*OBLIVION*)

STARRING  
**TOM CRUISE,**  
**JENNIFER CONNELLY,**  
**MILES TELLER**



### ON A MISSION

Even a pandemic can't keep adrenaline junkie Tom Cruise from the action. The 58-year-old is currently shooting *Mission: Impossible 7* and has been spotted filming on top of a moving train. Look for *Mission: Impossible 7* to hit theatres toward the end of the year.



## MEDIEVAL MULLET?

Matt Damon is spotted on the set of *The Last Duel* in Cahir, County Tipperary, Ireland, with what looks to us like a decidedly 1980s haircut. The film, which is being directed by Ridley Scott and co-stars Jodie Comer, Adam Driver and Matt's friend Ben Affleck, is based on the Eric Jager book about besties in 14th-century France who are ordered to fight to the death after one accuses the other of raping his wife. Look for it on screens in late 2021.

## DENIS' DUNE

DENIS VILLENEUVE GETS HIS SHOT AT ADAPTING *DUNE*

Sometimes the stars align, and the perfect director finds the perfect project. That's the case with Canadian filmmaker Denis Villeneuve, who has always wanted to adapt author Frank Herbert's classic sci-fi novel *Dune* and is on a sci-fi roll having recently helmed the acclaimed *Blade Runner 2049* and *Arrival*. Timothée Chalamet plays Paul Atreides, who arrives on the desert planet Arrakis only to discover it's his destiny to



lead a rebellion and upend the universe. We can't wait to see Chalamet's take on the complicated Atreides and Villeneuve's version of the planet's giant sandworms.

### DUNE

DIRECTOR  
**DENIS VILLENEUVE**  
(*BLADE RUNNER 2049*)

STARRING  
**TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET,**  
**ZENDAYA,**  
**OSCAR ISAAC**

# IN THE WORKS

BY INGRID RANDOJA



## Phoenix Captures Napoleon

Back in 2000 **Joaquin Phoenix's** dazzling turn as vengeful Emperor Commodus in director **Ridley Scott's** *Gladiator* announced his arrival as a serious actor. Now, Phoenix and Scott are reuniting for the Napoleon Bonaparte bio-pic *Kitbag*, which casts Phoenix as the 19th-century French general turned emperor whose brilliant military mind and huge ego allowed him to conquer much of continental Europe. Writer **David Scarpa** (*All the Money in the World*) is handling script duties.

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## TAYLOR-JOY

IS YOUNG FURIOSA

**Charlize Theron's** turn as badass Furiosa was the highlight of 2015's *Mad Max: Fury Road* and set the table for a standalone Furiosa film. Theron was understandably disappointed when she learned the movie would be a prequel, which meant they'd need a younger actor for the role. Now we hear that **Anya Taylor-Joy** (*Emma*) has landed the coveted part. Aside from her physical resemblance to Theron, Taylor-Joy has the acting chops for the job. She'll be joined by **Chris Hemsworth** and **Yahya Abdul-Mateen II** in unspecified roles.







# ZENDAYA

## EYES SPECTOR

**Zendaya's** career is skyrocketing. The 24-year-old made history as the youngest woman to win a Lead Actress Emmy, which she did for *Euphoria*, and now she's eyeing her first lead role in a movie. She's in negotiations to play Ronnie Spector in the bio-pic *Be My Baby*, which chronicles Spector's rise as a member of the '60s R&B girl group The Ronettes and her abusive marriage to music producer Phil Spector, who stole the rights to her music and kept her a prisoner in their home.



# PATEL

## PLANS MURDERS

**Dev Patel** continues to choose interesting roles, having recently played a Dickens hero (*The Personal History of David Copperfield*) and medieval knight (*The Green Knight*). Now he takes on a seedier part in a still untitled film from *I, Tonya* director **Craig Gillespie** about the real-life Chippendale Murders. Patel will play Steve Banerjee, who co-founded the Chippendales dance troupe in 1979 and was jailed for orchestrating the murder of the troupe's choreographer and planning the murders of other dancers.



# MCAVOY

## IMPROVISES

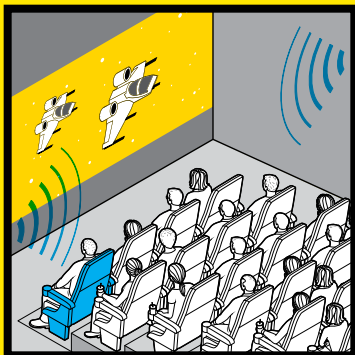
It's an acting challenge **James McAvoy** couldn't pass up. *My Son* — the English remake of the French film *Mon garçon* — casts McAvoy as a father looking for his missing boy. However, McAvoy isn't working from a script, he's improvising his scenes with the other actors, who do know what the scenes are about and guide the action. **Claire Foy** plays McAvoy's ex-wife, and **Christian Carion**, who directed the original French film, helms the remake.

# CHOOSE YOUR MOVIEGOING ADVENTURE

Seeing a movie in a “regular” Cineplex theatre is already so much better than the best home cinema — the sound, the picture, the size! But filmmakers are coming up with increasingly mind-blowing ways to tell their stories, whether those films take place in space, underwater or even on another world. Fortunately, innovative theatre formats are keeping pace to take you deeper than ever into the action. There’s UltraAVX, IMAX, ScreenX, D-BOX, 4DX and VIP. So what’s the difference?

BY GILLIAN BERNER

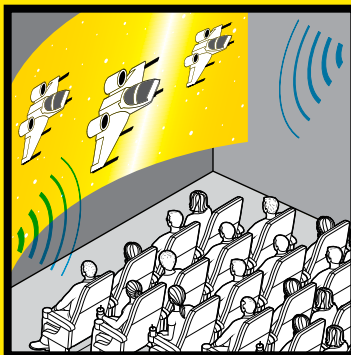
## UltraAVX



UltraAVX delivers the most powerful picture quality with stunningly crisp image detail. It also has the most impressive in-theatre sound system, so you feel totally surrounded by the soundtrack and sound-effects for maximum excitement. Plus, you can enjoy it all from comfortable reserved seats with extended leg room.

**BEST FOR:** Action, sci-fi and fantasy, where you want to lose yourself in the adventure.

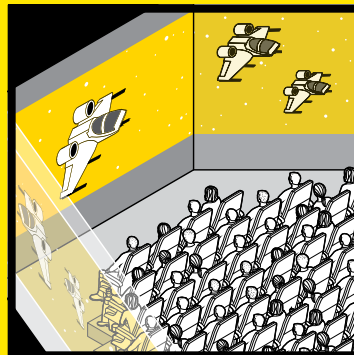
## IMAX



Experience a larger, curved screen with an expanded aspect ratio for select films, letting audiences see up to 26 percent more picture. With brighter projection and powerful sound systems, these auditoriums place you in the middle of every scene.

**BEST FOR:** Films that were shot with IMAX cameras — think of Christopher Nolan’s work, or any movie with a sweeping landscape.

## ScreenX



Wraparound screens cover three walls of the theatre creating an all-encompassing, 270-degree experience! Locations have recently expanded beyond Toronto to Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Ottawa and Halifax as well.

**BEST FOR:** Movies set in places you’d like to visit but probably never will. Think of deep space or an underwater world.





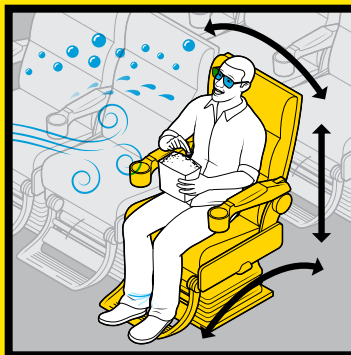
## D-BOX



Experience motion seats that move with the on-screen adventure. The best seats in the auditorium are reserved for D-BOX, so you're guaranteed a great view.

**BEST FOR:** When you want to actually feel the speed of a car chase, the shaking of an earthquake, the tilt of a quickly turning spacecraft or the rumble of a passing herd of dinosaurs.

## 4DX



4DX is a one-of-a-kind multisensory moviegoing experience. Expect full-motion seating, wind, rain, mist, snow, back and leg ticklers, fog, air jets, scents, lightning and bubbles, all timed with the movie for a seamless theatrical adventure.

**BEST FOR:** Thrill seekers wanting an all-around sensory experience. It's best enjoyed with action, superhero, horror and sci-fi films.

## VIP



Enjoy an indulgent night at the movies with food, from tacos to truffle fries, and drinks delivered right to your extra-comfy, wide leather seats in an intimate environment. Enhance your kid-free evening with a custom cocktail at Cineplex's licensed lounge before or after the movie.

**BEST FOR:** Treating yourself to a carefree date night or girls' night out when you want a break from the kids...and someone to serve you for a change.



SCI-FI

# TENET

**DEDICATED CHRISTOPHER NOLAN FANS** made the trek to cinemas to see the director's latest mind-bending epic, but for those who couldn't grab a socially distanced cinema seat the film arrives on the small screen with the same large expectations.

While the movie's plot is profoundly complex, the basic premise sees a CIA agent called Protagonist (John David Washington) and an operative from the secret Tenet organization (Robert Pattinson) teaming up to stop Russian oligarch Andrei Sator (Kenneth Branagh), who can communicate with the future, from assembling a device that will wipe out humanity. Jaw-dropping action scenes keep our heads spinning and no Nolan film is complete without a powerful score, this one courtesy of composer Ludwig Göransson (*Black Panther*), that adds a layer of emotional fervour to an already intense viewing experience.

John David Washington threw himself into

the role, and as he explained to *Cineplex Magazine* in an interview earlier this year, that meant training with Navy Seals. "I got to work with a lot of guys that served, and the mentality you have to have is in this character. To not just give his life for the mission, but more importantly for the people he's working with, that mentality stuck with me. It was a character I wish I could be in real life."

Another thrill for viewers is the film's far-flung locations. *Tenet* was filmed in the U.K., Norway, Denmark, Estonia, India, Italy and the U.S. What was Washington's favourite location?

"Mumbai was the place I connected to the most," he says. "I actually had planned on [returning] before this pandemic. I really wanted to get back to India and as soon as I can I plan on going back." —IR

BUY: **DECEMBER 15**

RENT: **JANUARY 5**

↑  
John David Washington  
(left) and Robert Pattinson  
in *Tenet*

**LUCKY SEVEN**  
Sir Michael Caine  
plays an intelligence  
officer in *Tenet*,  
making it the seventh  
time Caine has been  
seen in a Nolan film

**REAL DEAL**  
That Boeing 747 that  
crashes into a hangar  
in the film is real.  
It was cheaper to  
buy an old plane than  
create the crash with  
visual effects





## DRAMA

# THE NEST

Jude Law and Carrie Coon shine in this sharp drama set in the greed-soaked 1980s that finds desperate businessman Rory (Law) moving his family back to England after failing to make it big in New York. It's a delicate dance for Rory, who's struggling financially and alienated from his unhappy wife Allison (Coon) who sees through her husband's crumbling veneer. Director Sean Durkin (*Martha Marcy May Marlene*) slowly builds the tension, allowing his stars to expertly explore the nooks and crannies of their complicated characters.



## HORROR

# POSSESSOR

Back in 2012 it looked like Brandon Cronenberg was all set to follow in his father David's footsteps with his debut techno-horror film *Antiviral*, but the younger Cronenberg has been focusing on smaller projects since. Now he returns with *Possessor*, an unsettling drama starring Andrea Riseborough as Tasya Vos, who has been implanted with a device that enables her to take control of another person's body and use it to carry out assassinations. However, she breaks protocol when she takes control of a man named Colin Tate (Christopher Abbott), who fights back against the intruder inside him.



## HOLIDAY

# FATMAN

Take a break from sugary, feel-good Holiday films with this dark comedy starring Mel Gibson as bitter and disillusioned Chris (a.k.a. Santa Claus), who lives in Alaska and bemoans the state of the world. When he gives nasty rich kid Billy (Chance Hurstfield) a piece of coal for Christmas, the little ruffian sends a hitman (Walton Goggins) to take out the "Fatman."

## Watch Cineplex Store movies on a variety of devices

- Enjoy on your mobile device, tablet or Apple TV by downloading the Cineplex Store app on the App Store or Google Play.
- Stream on your computer (please use Chrome on Macs).
- Watch on your LG Smart TV (2012 model or later) or Samsung Smart TV (2013 or later with Smart Hub).
- Connect via your TV and a Roku device or Chromecast.

## PERIOD PIECE

# THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD

**SIMPLY DELIGHTFUL IS HOW WE** describe director Armando Iannucci's (*The Death of Stalin*, TV's *Veep*) take on Charles Dickens' classic 1850 novel *David Copperfield*.

Iannucci brings a light comedic touch to the story of Copperfield, who is shuffled off to boarding school as a boy and encounters a variety of fascinating folks as he grows up to become a writer. Dev Patel is wonderful as Copperfield, wide-eyed and energetic, and as the actor explained to Cineplex at the Toronto International Film Festival, the film is all about friendship.

"*David Copperfield* is a coming-of-age story about a young man trying to find his place in the world and owning who he really is," said Patel. "It's his journey to become a writer and it really is an ode to friendship and to the help of friends and family getting you somewhere in life and not forgetting that, and when you get up to the top floor, send the elevator back down for your friends."

Patel's supporting cast includes Tilda Swinton as his aunt Betsey Trotwood,



Hugh Laurie as her eccentric lodger Mr. Dick, Ben Whishaw as the smarmy Uriah Heep, Rosalind Eleazar as David's confidante Agnes and Peter Capaldi as the impoverished Mr. Micawber.

Iannucci breaks convention with his colour-blind casting, giving actors who

would normally never be cast in a Dickens pic the chance to shine. "I think that Armando's idea was I just want to cast whoever I want to cast because I want kids in school to watch that and relate to those people on screen," said Patel. "So, I'm just happy to be a part of it." —IR



## COMIC BOOK

## THE NEW MUTANTS

Instead of focusing on the X-Men characters we know and love, the 13th film in the X-Men franchise introduces us to a new, and younger, band of mutants. We meet the troubled Dani (Blu Hunt), Rahne (Maisie Williams), Sam (Charlie Heaton), Illyana (Anya Taylor-Joy) and Bobby (Henry Zaga), who are brought to an abandoned hospital where they can safely learn to control their powers. The real action starts, though, when they realize they're prisoners and must band together to escape. Filmed during the summer of 2017 and only recently released the film showcases a cast of emerging young actors and stars in the making.



**1.**

Which NHL player had a cameo as angry diner patron Seabass in *Dumb and Dumber*?

- a) Cam Neely
- b) Bob Probert
- c) Tie Domi
- d) Mark Messier

**2.**

Who played the Charlestown Chiefs' coach in the cult classic *Slap Shot*?

- a) Richard Dreyfuss
- b) Bill Murray
- c) Gene Hackman
- d) Paul Newman

**3.**

Which Canadian city did the Highlanders, *Goon's* minor league hockey team, call home?

- a) Saint John
- b) St. John's
- c) Halifax
- d) Hamilton

**4.**

Which real NHL franchise got its name from a 1992 Disney film about a Pee-Wee hockey team?

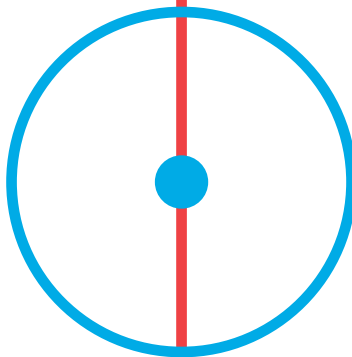
- a) Florida Panthers
- b) Tampa Bay Lightning
- c) Nashville Predators
- d) Anaheim Ducks

**5.**

Who played a minor league hockey enforcer turned tooth fairy in the kids' movie *Tooth Fairy*?

- a) Dwayne Johnson
- b) Liev Schreiber
- c) Ryan Reynolds
- d) Mike Myers

## LACE 'EM UP



Hockey movies don't come close to baseball or even football movies in the annals of film history. But if you're a real hockey fan you know there are a few that must be seen. How well do you know the movies about Canada's favourite winter sport and the actors who love it? Find out here.

**6.**

Name the Kurt Russell movie that told the true story of a ragtag U.S. team that beat the mighty Soviets at the 1980 Olympics.

- a) *Miracle*
- b) *Mighty*
- c) *Ice*
- d) *Overtime*

**7.**

Which NHL team flew north to take on a local pond-hockey team in the Russell Crowe movie *Mystery, Alaska*?

- a) Toronto Maple Leafs
- b) New York Rangers
- c) Vancouver Canucks
- d) L.A. Kings

**8.**

Name the popular French-Canadian film franchise about an amateur hockey league.

- a) *Les Sticks*
- b) *Les Boys*
- c) *Les Pucks*
- d) *Les Goals*

**9.**

Which of the following actors did not have a role in *Youngblood*, about minor league hockey team the Hamilton Mustangs?

- a) Rob Lowe
- b) Patrick Swayze
- c) C. Thomas Howell
- d) Keanu Reeves

**10.**

Which actor from the *Suicide Squad* movies used to play for a rec hockey team called the Assassins?

- a) Margot Robbie
- b) Jared Leto
- c) Will Smith
- d) Joel Kinnaman



## Portraits That Pop

Having worked as a scenic artist on films and TV shows, Orlando, Florida, painter Johannah O'Donnell appreciates the artistry of movies — “everything from set design to wardrobe to hair and makeup,” she says. So it’s no surprise that movie characters — usually female ones — are often the subjects of her acrylic portraits. “I tend to relate more to the female characters in films, and since all of my pieces contain an element of self-portrait, painting women just feels more natural to me.” Though her portraits are dead ringers for the actors they depict, O'Donnell explains that each one also contains part of her personality, “whether it’s in the choice of subject matter, the colour scheme, or even the background elements, who and what I choose to paint, that’s ultimately an expression of who I am.” —MW

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Clockwise from top, Saoirse Ronan (*The Grand Budapest Hotel*), Juliette Lewis (*Cape Fear*) and Uma Thurman (*Pulp Fiction*)



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