

CINEPLEX

MAGAZINE

Inside

**MARK
WAHLBERG**
**MELISSA
MCCARTHY**
**CHRIS
O'DOWD**
**SPIKE
LEE**

DANGEROUSLY FUNNY

**MILA KUNIS &
KATE MCKINNON TALK
THE SPY WHO DUMPED ME**

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How do you make a comedy that combines terrifying scenarios, violent deaths and absolute hilarity? You cast two of today's best comic actors, **Mila Kunis** and **Kate McKinnon**, and let them do their thing. We talk to the stars of *The Spy Who Dumped Me* about being so darn funny

BY MARNI WEISZ

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BY INGRID RANDOJA

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Spike Lee didn't hold back at Cannes when talking about *BlacKkKlansman* and its relationship to today's issues. Are you ready for his rage?

BY MARNI WEISZ



EDITOR'S NOTE



SPY VS. SPY (VS. SPY)

Q uestion: When you see the title of this month's Mila Kunis, Kate McKinnon comedy, *The Spy Who Dumped Me*, which film do you think of first — *The Spy Who Loved Me* or *The Spy Who Shagged Me*?

It's a bit of a Rorschach test, isn't it, but a Rorschach test that reveals what — age, genre preference, maturity level? *The Spy Who Loved Me*, of course, is the 1977 James Bond thriller starring Roger Moore as agent 007, and *The Spy Who Shagged Me* is the crude but lovable 1999 spoof starring Mike Myers as goofy British spy Austin Powers.

Regardless, *The Spy Who Dumped Me* may be the first time that a film has chosen to go with a second riff off an older movie title.

And it gets more complicated.

The Spy Who Loved Me's title was lifted from a 1962 James Bond novel that had absolutely nothing to do with the film. Ian Fleming's book centred on a Canadian woman named Vivienne Michel who fell into bed with Bond after he saved her from mobsters who were trying to burn down her hotel, with her inside. The movie, on the other hand, was about Bond's relationship with KGB agent Anya Amasova who couldn't resist his charms as they battled a villain planning to destroy the world and reboot civilization from his underwater base, Atlantis.

Whew.

It's also interesting that the film titles have gotten progressively sadder in terms of the relationships they reference — from loved, to shagged to dumped. Sigh. (The new film starts with Kunis's character being dumped by her beau, who was secretly CIA and ended the relationship to protect her.)

But with sadness can come hilarity. Myers' Austin Powers pic was certainly full o' laughs, and that seems to be the case again with the new film, which stars two of comedy's hottest actors in a story that makes the most of the classic fish out of water scenario. Not only do these two average L.A. gals have to contend with assassins, CIA operatives and terrorists, they have to do it in Europe where everything is just a little bit different.

The fact that it's a comedy is kind of a given. I can't think of a single drama that plays off another movie's title. It's always a spoof of a more serious film — *Shaun of the Dead* for *Dawn of the Dead*, *Spy Hard* for *Die Hard*, *Fifty Shades of Black* for *Fifty Shades of Grey*, though you could argue that both those *Fifty Shades* films are laughable in their own ways.

And yet in an interview at CinemaCon earlier this year, Kunis made a point of saying *The Spy Who Dumped Me* isn't poking fun at the secret-agent genre but instead is "an homage to spy movies." When I spoke with her for this month's cover story she told me she saw it as "just a fun story."

Either way, it looks like any allusions to James Bond or Austin Powers may start and stop with the title. And, you know what? There's probably a good portion of the population that won't make the connection to either old movie, and for whom this new pic will become the standard for all other *The Spy Who...* films.

Turn to page 38 to read, "Double Trouble," my interview with Kunis and McKinnon about shooting the film in beautiful Budapest, being funny and the idea of two women headlining an action-comedy.

Elsewhere in this issue, **Mark Wahlberg** tells us he's already working on a sequel to this month's *Mile 22* (page 32), we've got the charming **Chris O'Dowd** on why he decided to play the odd man out in *Juliet, Naked* (page 28), **Melissa McCarthy**, **Elizabeth Banks** and **Maya Rudolph** describe working with puppets for *The Happytime Murders* (page 22), and **Spike Lee** explains why he tacked a very modern ending onto his period piece *BlacKkKlansman* (page 36).

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MAGAZINE

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MARNI WEISZ, EDITOR

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SNAPS



DEVINE SWING

Actor **Adam Devine** takes his best swing during the Big Slick Celebrity Weekend softball game to benefit Children's Mercy hospital in Kansas City, Missouri.

PHOTO BY KYLE RIVAS/GETTY



BEAUTY AND THE BOOTS

Sorry to Bother You director **Boots Riley** and actor **Rosario Dawson** ham it up at the Sundance Institute at Sundown's summer fundraiser.
PHOTO BY FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY



BRINGING THE MAGIC

Channing Tatum is spotted in London, England, during a trip to announce that the musical version of his movie *Magic Mike*, which is based on his own life as a stripper, is coming to the U.K.

PHOTO BY NEIL MOCKFORD/GETTY

DAMON DOWN UNDER

We're not going to pretend we understand the intricacies, and rivalries, of Australian rugby. But it looks like **Matt Damon** agreed to support the blue team, for a few moments anyway, on a beach near Brisbane during a recent vacation.

PHOTO BY ANNETTE DEW/GETTY



JOHNNY BE GOOD

Johnny Depp performs with his band the Hollywood Vampires (Alice Cooper is a fellow band mate) at London's Wembley Arena.

PHOTO BY JIM DYSON/GETTY



LUNCHAZOIC TIME PERIOD

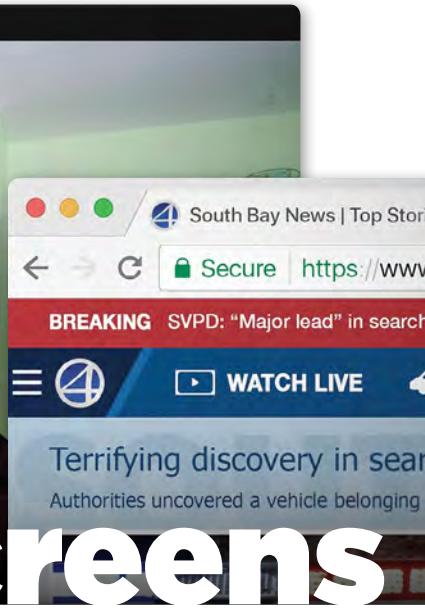
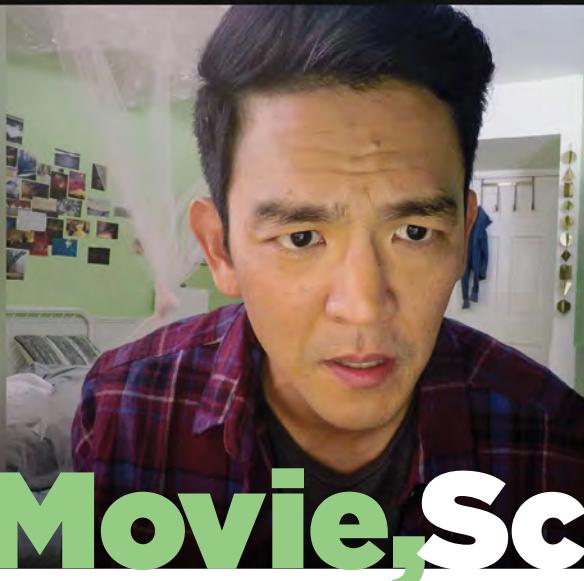
Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom stars **Bryce Dallas Howard** and **Chris Pratt** are oblivious to the fact that they're about to be eaten by a, let's say, Tyrannosaurus, while doing an interview in L.A.

PHOTO BY DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY



IN BRIEF

FaceTime



Movie Screens

Searching is the story of distraught father David Kim (John Cho) whose daughter Margot (Michelle La) is missing, and his efforts to find her.

But it's not so much what happens in the film that's interesting; it's how the story is told by co-writer and director Aneesh Chaganty.

The evolution of found-footage films like *The Blair Witch Project* and *Paranormal Activity* for our decade, *Searching* uses only digital screens — computer screens, phone screens, text screens, Facebook screens, FaceTime screens, search-engine screens — to tell the story as David “searches” for his daughter.

“You know, it was the weirdest acting experience of my life, I never met anyone in the eyes so that was strange and difficult,” explained Cho during a Q&A session at the Sundance Film Festival.

Debra Messing, who plays an investigator

on the case, admitted that she needed some convincing at first.

“The script was sent to me, and as soon as I started reading it I knew it was uncharted territory,” she told the crowd. “It did not read like a regular screenplay. It was, ‘The cursor moves from left to right,’ and it read dry. And then I was directed to look at Aneesh’s work that he did at Google.”

Chaganty was hired by Google to make ads after he submitted a beautiful short film on spec that he’d shot entirely using Google Glass. The short showed — in first-person view — a man travelling from the States to India to deliver a special package to his mom. Chaganty’s subsequent films for Google were just as creative.

“He was able to make them emotional and have a narrative and I thought, ‘Wow, this guy really is talented,’” said Messing. —MW

James Marsden

On Home Turf: *Sonic the Hedgehog*

A new videogame-to-movie adaptation brings *X-Men* star **James Marsden** to B.C. this month.

It’s *Sonic the Hedgehog*, based on the Sega title that launched in 1991 and has since sold more than 360-million copies.

The live-action/CGI hybrid will co-star *Ride Along*’s **Tika Sumpter**, though we don’t yet know who either Marsden or Sumpter will play in this story we assume will see Sonic trying to stop the evil Doctor Eggman from taking over the world.

Jeff Fowler, who earned an Oscar nomination for his short film *Gopher Broke* way back in 2004, finally makes his feature film-directing debut. —MW

THE ART OF FILM

It takes anywhere from two days to a month for Danielle Clough to create one of her needlework portraits. “I use any type of stringy material, weaving and stitching it through fabrics and grids to create images,” says the artist from Cape Town, South Africa. “Sometimes I paint the reference first with ink, or digitally ‘paint’ it with a Wacom. With thread I colour in the lines, choosing the colours as I go.” She’s done projects for Gucci, Nike and even a commission for Drew Barrymore (a skull stitched onto a tennis racket). Here you see, from left, her renditions of Jeff Bridges in *The Big Lebowski*, Bill Murray in *The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou* and Uma Thurman in *Pulp Fiction*. To see more go to danielleclough.com. —MW



Sooner or later, your past catches up to you.

Disney

Christopher Robin



August 3

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Happy 50th, Gillian Anderson!

Catch fabulous 50-year-old Gillian Anderson as a CIA boss in this month's action-comedy *The Spy Who Dumped Me*. Okay, she was just 49 when the movie was filmed last summer, but close enough. Anderson reaches the half-century mark on August 9th.



close RELATIONSHIP

If you think Annie Starke's performance as the young version of Glenn Close's character, Joan Castleman, in next month's *The Wife* is uncanny, there's good reason. Starke is Close's real-life daughter with producer John H. Starke (*Sicario*, *Prisoners*).

Their character is the stoic wife of an arrogant, famous writer (Jonathan Pryce). Starke plays Joan when she's an aspiring writing student and Close plays Joan decades later as she comes to terms with how much she gave up to support her husband's career.

It's not the first time Starke has had a role in one of her mother's movies; that came in 2011's *Albert Nobbs* when she played "Chocolate Shop Waitress."

The Wife hits theatres September 21st. —MW



Quote Unquote

Everybody's got their special gift, I believe. And not everybody is fortunate enough to find it or to recognize it as a gift. Because it's a simple thing, jigsaw puzzling, it's not like the theory of everything or something that's going to change the world, but Agnes **certainly changes a few lives in the time that we see her in the film.**

PUZZLE STAR KELLY MACDONALD

Home GROWN

It's a good month to spot the fruits of the Canadian film industry on screen, with three movies shot in Canada making it to theatres. Here, from top down, you see Hayden Christensen and Emma Roberts in a scene from *Little Italy* that was shot in Toronto's Distillery District, Jack Reynor and Myles Truitt in a scene from *Kin* that was shot in a Scarborough, Ontario, warehouse, and Kodi Smit-McPhee in a scene from *Alpha* that was shot in either B.C. or Alberta — we're not sure which province this particular still comes from (the movie used both), but the story takes place 20,000 years ago, so before our borders were drawn anyway.



LIEV SCHREIBER DOG PIC OF THE MONTH

If you, like us, can't get enough candid, wistful shots of actor Liev Schreiber with dogs, here you go. You're welcome. Here the star of *Goon*, *Spotlight* and TV's *Ray Donovan* is seen with his wee terrier in New York's Soho neighbourhood.

PHOTO BY RAYMOND HALL/GETTY



ROBIN RETURNS

It was just last year that we saw nine-year-old Will Tilston play Christopher Robin Milne in *Goodbye Christopher Robin* (top left), about how the real-life son of author A.A. Milne (played by Domhnall Gleeson) inspired his father's Winnie the Pooh books.

Now, in a completely unrelated movie, the youngster is all grown up and being played by Ewan McGregor in *Christopher Robin* (top right), in which characters from the Hundred Acre Wood, including Pooh, Eeyore and Piglet, re-enter the adult, depressed Christopher Robin's life to bring some joy.



On the HUNT

It's not often you get the chance to play a female hunter who lived 20,000 years ago.

It happens so rarely, in fact, that when Canadian actor Mercedes de la Zerda was offered the opportunity to change roles from Nu, the only female hunter in the prehistoric adventure film *Alpha*, to a slightly more prominent part she was torn.

"I got a call from the director [Albert Hughes] and he was just being really kind and he said, 'Things with the script have changed and we want to offer you another part,' which was the original part that I auditioned for," de la Zerda recalls over the phone from her Toronto home. Born and raised in Vancouver, she and her husband moved to Toronto three years ago. "He said it's totally up to you, you can have this original [larger] part that you auditioned for but the catch is that the character of Nu will be written out of the script."

De la Zerda (who played Lang in *War for the Planet of the Apes* and Nadia on TV's *Designated Survivor*) was given a couple of days to think about it.

"I was struggling because I'd really attached myself to this character. And not only did I want to play this character but I didn't want this character to be gone from the script because I just thought, oh how wonderful is it that we're telling this story and they've decided to put a female within the hunter group?"

"I remember being a little girl and watching these great adventure movies and the girls never really got to go on the adventures so I was so excited that this female got to go on the adventure. She got to go out with the hunters and do something great. So I decided to stick with that role."

Nu appears at the beginning of the film when the protagonist, another young hunter played by Kodi Smit-McPhee, is still with his tribe, just before an accident pulls him away from everyone he knows.

Making the experience even better for de la Zerda is that her brother Nestor de la Zerda, also an actor, snagged a role too. "Yah! He got cast independently, and he also plays one of the hunters," de la Zerda exclaims.

"The majority of the movie was filmed in Alberta so we got to spend the whole time there and go on this big adventure together. It was just awesome because it was a lot of time to be away from home so it was really great to have a familiar face around." —MARNI WEISZ

ALPHA
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**ALISON
BRIE**

In Santa Monica for the
MTV Movie and TV Awards.

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**JON
HAMM**

In Los Angeles for
the premiere of *Tag*.

PHOTO BY JON KOPALOFF/GETTY

**SARAH
PAULSON**

In New York for the
premiere of *Ocean's 8*.

PHOTO BY DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY



JESSICA CHASTAIN

In Paris for a Piaget
jewellery collection party.

PHOTO BY STEPHANE CARDINALE/GETTY



LAKEITH STANFIELD

In New York for the
BAMcinemaFest's premiere
of *Sorry to Bother You*.

PHOTO BY YUCHEN LIAO/GETTY



RIHANNA

At the U.K. premiere
of *Ocean's 8* in London.

PHOTO BY DAVE BENETT/GETTY

IN THEATRES

AUGUST 3



THE DARKEST MINDS

This adaptation of **Alexandra Bracken's**

Young Adult novel is set in a world where a plague has wiped out almost all children and the ones who lived have manifested special powers that the government wants to control by locking them inside detention centres. Sixteen-year-old Ruby (**Amandla Stenberg**) escapes her prison and joins up with other teens who plan to overthrow the government.

SEARCHING

When David's (**John Cho**) 15-year-old daughter Margot (**Michelle La**) disappears he starts combing through her online life to find clues to her whereabouts. **Debra Messing** plays the detective assigned to the case. The cool thing about this thriller is that all the characters interact, and all the action occurs, via screens — computers, laptops and phones.

MCQUEEN

The turbulent life of British fashion designer **Alexander McQueen** is examined in this documentary that recounts his rise from awkward, fashion-loving teenager to fashion-design superstar who brought hidden parts of his personal life to his bold, breathtaking collections.

THE SPY WHO DUMPED ME

Mila Kunis and **Kate McKinnon** show off their formidable comedic talents playing pals Audrey (Kunis) and Morgan (McKinnon), who head to Europe when Audrey's ex-boyfriend, CIA agent Drew (**Justin Theroux**), drags them into a madcap spy caper. See **Mila Kunis and Kate McKinnon interview**, page 38.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

Little Christopher Robin (**Ewan McGregor**) is all grown up with a wife (**Hayley Atwell**) and daughter (**Bronte Carmichael**). But the once imaginative child is now an overworked businessman whose boss (**Mark Gatiss**) is making his life difficult. It takes a surprise visit from old friends Winnie the Pooh, Tigger, Eeyore and Piglet to renew his appreciation for life.



Ewan McGregor holds onto an old friend in *Christopher Robin*



Kate McKinnon (left) and Mila Kunis in *The Spy Who Dumped Me*

AUGUST 10



BLACKKKLANSMAN

Director Spike Lee brings his trademark rage, humour and cinematic style to this real-life tale set in 1970s Colorado that sees Black cop Ron Stallworth (**John David Washington**) posing as a white racist while talking with the leader of a newly formed branch of the KKK over the phone. However, to infiltrate the KKK he'll need white officer Flip Zimmerman (**Adam Driver**) to be his surrogate in person. See *BlacKkKlansman* feature, page 36.

DOG DAYS

The lives of various dog owners across Los Angeles interconnect in this ensemble comedy starring **Eva Longoria**, **Finn Wolfhard**, **Tig Notaro**, **Vanessa Hudgens**, **Nina Dobrev** and **Jon Bass**.

PUZZLE

Kelly Macdonald stars as Agnes, a bored suburban wife and mother whose knack for piecing together jigsaw puzzles leads her to partner with entrepreneur Robert (**Irrfan Khan**) in a puzzle-solving competition.



Puzzle's
Kelly Macdonald

THE MEG

Diver Jonas Taylor (**Jason Statham**) is the only human to have encountered a Megalodon — a 75-foot prehistoric shark. So when the giant creature attacks a submersible Taylor is called in to slay it.

CONTINUED ▶



The Meg's **Bingbing Li** and **Jason Statham**



Vanessa Hudgens and **Jon Bass** in *Dog Days*



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AUGUST 17



CRAZY RICH ASIANS

Kevin Kwan's bestselling novel comes to the screen starring Constance Wu as Rachel, an American professor who falls for Nick Young (Henry Golding). When Rachel accompanies Nick to his home in Singapore she discovers he's super wealthy, and that his domineering mother (Michelle Yeoh) disapproves of her. See *Crazy Rich Asians* feature, page 26.

MILE 22

James Silva (Mark Wahlberg) and his covert CIA team (**Ronda Rousey**, **Lauren Cohen** and **Carlo Alban**) head to Southeast Asia to escort a police officer (**Iko Uwais**) who says he has valuable information from the American Embassy to a waiting plane. The 22-mile trip is fraught with peril as bad guys attack the convoy along the way. See **Mark Wahlberg interview**, page 32.



Mark Wahlberg in *Mile 22*

SKATE KITCHEN

Director Crystal Moselle (*The Wolfpack*) came across female skateboarders **Rachelle Vinberg** and **Nina Moran** while riding the New York City subway. Intrigued, she discovered they belonged to a bigger group of girl skaters who called themselves Skate Kitchen. She cast the real girls as fictionalized versions of themselves in this drama that sees lonely Camille (Vinberg) going against her mother's wishes and joining an all-girl skate crew.

ALPHA

Kodi Smit-McPhee stars in this drama set 20,000 years ago that sees a young man separated from his hunting party. He finds an ally on his journey home when he saves an injured dire wolf, and the two form an unbreakable bond.

CONTINUED ▶



Skate Kitchen's Jaden Smith and Rachelle Vinberg

always

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AUGUST 24



SLENDER MAN

When one of their friends goes missing, a group of teenagers believes the Slender Man — a tall, featureless creature in a black suit — is to blame.

LITTLE ITALY

Set in Toronto's Little Italy neighbourhood, this pic sees rival pizza shop owners Sal (**Adam Ferrara**) and Vince (**Gary Basaraba**) waging a war over who makes the best pizza. That means Vince's son, Leo (**Hayden Christensen**), and Sal's daughter, Nikki (**Emma Roberts**), have to keep their love affair quiet.

SUPPORT THE GIRLS

Director **Andrew Bujalski**'s insightful comedy is set inside Double Whammies, a T&A restaurant located off a Texas highway where manager Lisa (**Regina Hall**) and her waitress staff — **Haley Lu Richardson**, **Shayna McHayle**, **Dylan Gelula**, **AJ Michalka** — deal with sexist customers and an overbearing boss (**James Le Gros**).

THE BOOKSHOP

In 1950s England, a war widow (**Emily Mortimer**) tries to open a bookshop in a small seaside town but gets pushback from a local conservative socialite (**Patricia Clarkson**).

► THE HAPPYTIME MURDERS

Children are definitely not the intended audience for this raunchy comedy set in a world populated by both humans and puppets. When a serial killer targets the puppets of the 1980s kids TV show *The Happytime Gang*, puppet private investigator Phil Phillips (**Bill Barretta**) teams with human detective Connie Edwards (**Melissa McCarthy**) to find the killer. Co-starring **Maya Rudolph**, **Elizabeth Banks** and **Joel McHale**. See interview with *The Happytime Murders* cast, page 22.

PAPILLON

In this remake of the 1973 film that starred **Steve McQueen** and **Dustin Hoffman** it's 1931 and Henri "Papillon" Charrière (**Charlie Hunnam**) is wrongly convicted of murder and sent to Devil's Island, a brutal penal colony in French Guiana. There he befriends counterfeiter Louis Degha (**Rami Malek**) and the pair hatches an escape plan. **Eve Hewson** (the daughter of U2's Bono) plays Henri's lover.



Rami Malek (left) with Charlie Hunnam in *Papillon*



Support the Girls' female servers have got each other's backs

AUGUST 31



THE LITTLE STRANGER

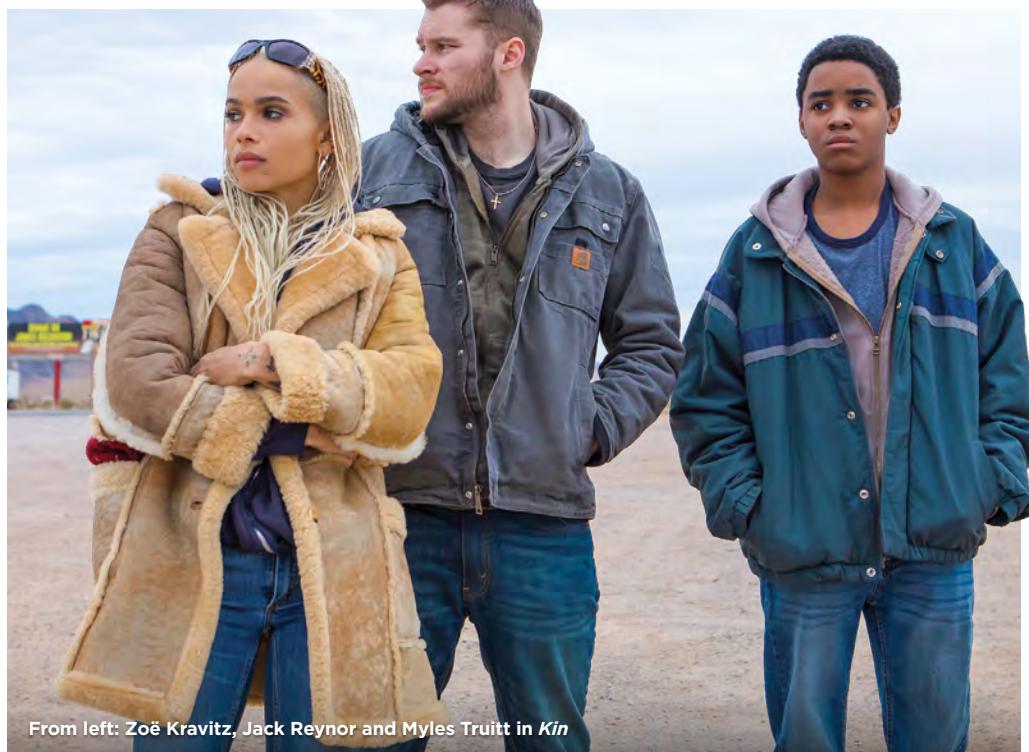
Lenny Abrahamson (*Room*) directs this adaptation of **Sarah Waters'** novel set in 1948 that finds Dr. Faraday (**Dominic Monaghan**) arriving at a gloomy country estate to treat disfigured war veteran Roddy Ayres (**Will Poulter**). Faraday soon realizes that a malevolent spirit is haunting Roddy, his mother (**Charlotte Rampling**) and sister (**Ruth Wilson**).

JULIET, NAKED

Nick Hornby's comedic novel hits the big screen with **Rose Byrne** starring as Annie, who is fed up with boyfriend Duncan's (**Chris O'Dowd**) obsession with 1990s singer Tucker Crowe (**Ethan Hawke**), who dropped out of the music scene at the height of his fame. When she writes a negative review of Crowe's album, *Juliet, Naked*, on Duncan's fansite, Crowe reaches out to her and they hit it off. See **Chris O'Dowd interview**, page 28.

KIN

Eli (**Myles Truitt**) discovers a strange, powerful weapon that he uses to protect his ex-con brother Jimmy (**Jack Reynor**) from a crime boss (**James Franco**). Once word gets out that Eli has the weapon, both bad guys and the government want to get their hands on it.



From left: Zoë Kravitz, Jack Reynor and Myles Truitt in *Kin*

CINEPLEX EVENTS

FAMILY FAVOURITES

The Princess Bride
WED., AUG. 1

Sherlock Gnomes
SAT., AUG. 4; WED., AUG. 8

Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle
SAT., AUG. 11; WED., AUG. 15

Peter Rabbit
SAT., AUG. 18; WED., AUG. 22
Paddington 2
SAT., AUG. 25;
WED., AUG. 29

CONCERT FILMS

André Rieu's 2018 Maastricht Concert: Amore, My Tribute to Love
WED., AUG. 1; SAT., AUG. 4;
WED., AUG. 8; SUN., AUG. 12

DOCUMENTARY

Rachel Hollis Presents: Made for More
THURS., AUG. 2; SUN., AUG. 5;
MON., AUG. 6; SUN., AUG. 12

MET OPERA

Madama Butterfly
(**Puccini**)
ENCORE: THURS., AUG. 9

Il Trovatore (**Verdi**)
ENCORE: THURS., AUG. 16

Eugene Onegin
(**Tchaikovsky**)
ENCORE: THURS., AUG. 23

Turandot (**Puccini**)
ENCORE: THURS., AUG. 30

SENSORY FRIENDLY SCREENINGS

Teen Titans Go! To the Movies
SAT., AUG. 11

NATIONAL THEATRE

Yerma
SAT., AUG. 11; WED., AUG. 22;
THURS., AUG. 30

VIP CINEMAS EVENT

Raiders of the Lost Ark
MON., AUG. 13
Superbad
MON., AUG. 27

CLASSIC FILMS

Planet of the Apes (1968)
WED., AUG. 15; FRI., AUG. 17;
SUN., AUG. 19; MON., AUG. 20;
TUES., AUG. 21

CONCERT FILM

Elvis '68 Comeback Special
THURS., AUG. 16;
MON., AUG. 20;
SAT., AUG. 25; SUN., AUG. 26

THE ROYAL BALLET

Swan Lake
ENCORES: SAT., AUG. 18;
SUN., AUG. 19; WED., AUG. 22

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Definitely not The Muppet Movie

What happens when the Henson Company grows up and gets naughty? You get *The Happytime Murders*

Do not take your kids to see *The Happytime Murders*.

Though the comedy takes place in a world where humans and felt puppets live together, even the official synopsis uses words like "filthy" and "underbelly."

Melissa McCarthy stars as LAPD officer Connie Edwards, a human who teams up with Phil, a puppet private investigator, to figure out who's murdering former members of the puppet-based kids show *The Happytime Gang*. Elizabeth Banks plays Jenny, a stripper who was the only human member of *The Happytime Gang*, while Maya Rudolph is Phil's human secretary, Bubbles. There's sex, cursing, addiction and more sex. The movie also depicts a society plagued by bigotry, with the puppets treated like second-class citizens.

Cineplex's Tanner Zipchen toured the film's Santa Clarita, California, set to see the kind of puppetry innovations necessary for a raunchy puppet movie, like how to make a puppet smoke. It involves a tube and a hand pump.

He also talked to cast members McCarthy, Banks and Rudolph, and their director Brian Henson, son of puppetry pioneer Jim Henson (creator of *The Muppet Show*). The younger Henson is a puppetry legend in his own right, working on TV's *Sesame Street*, films like *Labyrinth* and most of the *Muppet* oeuvre, as well as taking over The Jim Henson Company as chairman.



Brian Henson

Director

On making a raunchy puppet movie

"Why did we do it? I feel like we've always been a little bit naughty. The Henson Company is considered a very family-friendly brand, at the same time people go, yeah, but they're cool, they're a little bit naughty. We're not Disney. We're not wholesome in that sense. We are socially responsible, hopefully, but we're kind of the cool and weird ones, so this is us doing that. And I actually am deliberately rating it R because I actually want to make it clear, this is for adults. And if you do a PG-13 and just skate the edge, if I did it, I'd still have an audience full of five-year-olds and that would be a problem."



Melissa McCarthy

Connie Edwards, a cop investigating puppet murders

On choosing this movie

"By page two, when I read this, and I'm not exaggerating, by page two I walked out and Ben [her husband, Ben Falcone] was outside and I was like, 'I think I'm in.' And he's like, 'You've been gone 13 seconds, what do you mean?' And I'm like, 'I know, but there's a big street scene of L.A. and they're playing 'I'm Your Puppet.' And he goes, 'Why don't you go read it.' And then I came back out, I'm on page four, I'm just saying I really think I'm already in."

On her chemistry read with puppet co-star Phil

"I was weirdly nervous. I was so nervous. At first he was on his stand, so it was just Phil, and I was like, 'This is going to be weird. I don't know how this is going to work.' And then I met Bill [puppeteer Bill Barretta] and Bill just immediately put him on and Bill was only talking to me as Phil and I kept trying to look at Bill and Bill just kept putting Phil in front of his face and then the next thing I knew I was having a full conversation with Phil. I was like, 'I think this is going to go great!'"

On doing improv with puppeteers

"They're crazy funny. All of them improvise. You can throw anything at them. Drew [Massey], who plays several things in this, it was like every time he did a take it was completely different, which both delighted and irritated me because I was like, 'Is this written down? 'Cause I really work on this and I think you might just be saying stuff off the top of your head.' And each one was like super-specific, really funny, completely different."



From left: Maya Rudolph, Melissa McCarthy and Phil Philips

CONTINUED ▶

THE HAPPYTIME MURDERS

HITS THEATRES AUGUST 24TH

Maya Rudolph

Bubbles, Phil's secretary

On the story

"It's clearly thought out from the world of someone who thinks like a puppet and thinks about puppets before they think about people, and that's Brian [Henson]. That's really him living the experience of working with puppets his whole career, seeing their ins and outs and their everyday. And it's really fascinating how it's translated in the human world."

On the dark side

"We all feel connected to these puppets. We want to see them in real-world circumstances. That's kind of like the payoff of all these years of having these puppets in our lives. It's kind of like, 'Oh my god, I'm getting to see them, you know, barf on the street, have sex and curse somebody out.'"

On getting attached

"One thing I didn't anticipate is that I really feel connected to Phil. And he's a puppet, so I don't get to see him all the time, and if I haven't been at work in almost two weeks I really miss him. You know, I work with Bill [Barretta], but I work with Phil too."



Elizabeth Banks

Jenny, a stripper and former cast member on *The Happytime Gang*

On the social commentary

"For me you're making a movie that's about something. We're not just here to entertain, we actually want to say something with everything that we do as artists. And I feel like the opportunity here was to talk about marginalized communities, and racism, and misogyny and how we approach marginalized communities generally as a society, and historically. There's a lot at work here, which is really interesting. But we're having fun at the same time."

On the puppeteers

"The amazing thing about working with puppets is you really feel connected to them. They're really actors. They're great performers. They are really and truly hilariously funny. They have great bits that they've all been perfecting over the many, many, many years that they've been doing this art form and they have a great rapport with each other."

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



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GET RICH QUICK

Wondering what the deal is with that movie with the provocative title, *Crazy Rich Asians*? We're here to explain ■ BY MARNI WEISZ

What's it about?

In New York City, Rachel Chu (Constance Wu) has been dating the mysterious Nick Young (Henry Golding) for over a year when he asks if she wants to accompany him to Singapore for his best friend's wedding and to meet his family. Why is Nick mysterious? Because he hasn't told Rachel anything about his relatives. It's not until she arrives in Singapore that Rachel discovers he comes from one of the country's richest families, which is saying a lot. But that, in and of itself, wouldn't be much of a story. So in steps Nick's mother (Michelle Yeoh), a controlling matriarch who doesn't think Rachel is worthy of her little prince. Let the battle begin.

Why is it important?

Crazy Rich Asians is the first mainstream, wide-release Hollywood movie in 25 years with a principal cast made up entirely of Asian actors. The last was 1993's *Joy Luck Club*, which was based on Amy Tan's novel about four sets of Chinese mothers and their Chinese-American daughters who try to understand each other while playing a lot of mahjong in San Francisco. While much attention has been paid to the lack of films revolving around African-American characters and stories over the past few years, the lack of Asian-centred movies in North America is even more extreme.



What's the source material?

Singapore-born Kevin Kwan released the novel *Crazy Rich Asians* in 2013 hoping to make North Americans more familiar with the culture of contemporary Asia. Kwan, who moved to the States with his family when he was 11, followed the book up with two sequels, 2015's *China Rich Girlfriend* and 2017's *Rich People Problems*, so if this movie does well don't be surprised to see more.



From left: Henry Golding, Constance Wu and Sonoya Mizuno in *Crazy Rich Asians*



Who is Awkwafina?

Other than playing Rachel's sassy friend Goh Peik Lin, Awkwafina's got a really cool name, so you feel like you should know who she is. But before her breakthrough role in this summer's *Ocean's 8*, did you? Really? Born Nora Lum into a Chinese-South Korean family in Queens, New York, Ling started rapping when she was just 13, releasing the album *Yellow Ranger* in 2014 and then *In Fina We Trust* on June 8th of this year, the same day *Ocean's 8* hit theatres. Um, what a coincidence! She is intensely funny — in her lyrics, on screen and in person — and collaborated with comedian Margaret Cho for the raunchy song *Green Tea*, which pokes fun at Asian stereotypes. She also has a half-hour scripted TV series in the works at Comedy Central, which will be inspired by her experiences living in Queens.



CRAZY RICH ASIANS
HITS THEATRES AUGUST 17TH



Where have I seen Constance Wu?

Richmond, Virginia, native Constance Wu moved to New York to study acting at the revered Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute when she was just 16 years old. She's had supporting roles in a bunch of smaller films that you probably haven't seen, so if she looks familiar it's likely that you caught her as the mom in the ABC comedy *Fresh Off the Boat* about a Taiwanese family that moves to Orlando to start a cowboy-themed restaurant.



How would you punctuate the title?

J

So, does the title refer to Asians who are both mentally unstable and rich, meaning it should really be "Crazy, Rich Asians" or to Asians who are wealthy beyond the scope of an average person's understanding, which would be "Crazy-Rich Asians"? According to a line about the Young family in the trailer, it's the latter: "These people aren't just rich, they're crazy-rich." Or at least that's how we interpret it. But we admit that the ambiguity may be intentional.

Is there some controversy?

Well, yeah. A little. John Lui, the film correspondent for Singapore's English daily *The Straits Times* criticized the casting of Eurasian actor Henry Golding (he is of Malaysian and English descent and has lived in Malaysia, England and Singapore) as the ethnically Chinese character Nick Young, writing, "Hollywood thinks that one drop of Asian blood makes a person 'Asian' or at least 'Asian enough.'" But Golding defended himself in an interview with *Entertainment Weekly*, saying "People were like, 'This guy's half-Asian, he's half-white, he's not even full Asian,' and it comes to, like, how Asian do you have to be to be considered Asian? I've lived 16, 17 years of my life in Asia, and that's most of my life. I was born in Asia, I've lived cultures that are synonymous with Asian culture, but it's still not Asian enough for some people."



Henry Golding



Chris O'Dowd in *Juliet, Naked*

BIZARRE LOVE TRIANGLE

Could **Chris O'Dowd** be any more charming? We chat with the funny Irish actor about his part in ***Juliet, Naked***, a three-hander in which his character finally meets the reclusive musician he's been obsessed with for years only to discover that the rock star is now dating his ex ■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

Chris O'Dowd can make you laugh in all sorts of ways. The 38-year-old Irish actor can do hapless and geeky (Roy in the British TV show *The IT Crowd*), sweet and charming (the cop who falls for Kristen Wiig in *Bridesmaids*) or wily and sarcastic (mobster Miles on TV's *Get Shorty*).

In this month's British comedy *Juliet, Naked* (based on the book by Nick Hornby), O'Dowd plays Duncan, an obsessive music fan who runs a blog about 1990s singer Tucker Crowe (Ethan Hawke), who dropped out of the music scene at the height of his fame. Annie (Rose Byrne) is Duncan's longtime girlfriend, and when Tucker contacts her after she writes something critical about his music on a blog, the pair starts courting.

O'Dowd was in L.A., walking to pick up his three-year-old son, Art, from daycare, when we spoke by phone. The actor also has a one-year-old son, Valentine, with his wife, writer and TV presenter Dawn O'Porter. She added the "O" after they got married.

You get a lot of scripts, why choose this one?

Well, I'd worked with some of the people before and I really enjoyed it. I had worked with the producer, Judd Apatow, and I had worked with the director Jesse Peretz on *Girls*, and I had a great time with Rose on *Bridesmaids*, so it was a bunch of people that I was very comfortable with. I had always been a fan of Nick Hornby's work and it felt like a good fit. And it's fun to play a guy who's an obsessive.

Do you share any similarities with Duncan?

I don't know that I am a music fanatic as much as that. I'm a bit of a sport nerd. He's got some arrested development, and he did strike me as kind of a 17-year-old version of myself, listening to Elliott Smith albums, or getting bootleg

Van Morrison tapes to show people where you can hear the synthesizer in the background on *Astral Weeks*.

What I really like about the movie is that everybody has their moment, the characters all have their own story arcs and get a chance to shine.

Yes, there's a fair distribution of wealth there. I haven't read the book in so long but I feel like when I read the book it felt like a proper three-person story, which is unusual. It's fun to do, and it means you're kinda doing three different movies, which means there are different things to explore. The challenge is trying to work out tonally where the film fits, but watching it I feel like it fits together quite well.

CONTINUED ▶

JULIET, NAKED

HITS THEATRES AUGUST 31ST



Duncan (Chris O'Dowd, right) meets his idol Tucker (Ethan Hawke) while Annie (Rose Byrne) looks on

► This really is a movie about parenting and what that means — Annie wants a child, Tucker is a mostly absent dad to his five kids and Duncan doesn't want children. You now have two kids, has that changed the way you approach acting?

A little. It means, in a very practical sense, I don't like being away from home. So I take jobs that are in L.A. or London or Ireland. The one thing that has happened is that I don't want to embarrass my kids. Not necessarily with cursing or nudity, but with sh-t work. I genuinely don't want to leave behind a legacy of paycheques for bad movies. So I am definitely going to treat the rest of my career with more integrity than I've treated the first half.

You said you're a sports nerd. Weren't you a Gaelic football goalie when you were younger?

I was, yeah. If you Google it, it will come up, it's kind of funny. I did love it. Like acting it's a collaborative pursuit. As an actor we're just playing the triangle in an orchestra, and in many ways the goalkeeper is the same.

You should make a movie about that.

I am actually talking to this guy about a movie idea about the world's most famous streaker, a guy called Mark Roberts, who has streaked at every sporting event that you can imagine. He streaked the Super Bowl, World Cup and all that kind of stuff. Eventually he was about to be put in jail for it and I'd been talking to him about doing a film and I ended up doing



Annie and Duncan listen to Tucker perform

quite a long written testimony defending the art of streaking that was read in court, which was an interesting turn of events.

You are full of surprises.

That was a surprise to me too if I am honest.

You are also doing more dramatic work. You were great as journalist David Walsh in the Lance Armstrong bio-pic, The Program.

Thanks very much.

Are you looking for more dramatic roles?

I think I just find things less funny now. As times goes on I feel like I am drawn to more dramatic stuff. I just want to do a bit of everything because when a good project comes along I don't really care what the genre is. But as time goes on you find that better roles for guys in their 30s and 40s are more dramatic roles.

You're one actor who constantly makes me laugh. Which actors make you laugh?

Oh god, there are so many. Richard Ayoade, who I did *The IT Crowd* with, is one of the funniest people I have ever met. Melissa McCarthy and Kristen Wiig I think are so funny, and Rose Byrne, and Zach Galifianakis makes me laugh a lot.

Do you laugh on the set a lot? Are you one of those people guilty of breaking up during a scene?

Very much so! Yeah, I am the worst. Generally I can keep it together for a take because I do know the frustration of really nailing a line and then it not being able to be used because there is laughter over it. So I do try and bite my tongue as often as I can. □

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

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JACK IN ACTION

After the drama *All the Money in the World* and the comedy *Daddy's Home 2*, **Mark Wahlberg** returns to his bread-and-butter genre, action films, for **Mile 22**. We talk to the intense star about working with director Peter Berg for the fourth time, and why this movie will probably be the first of several about CIA agent Jimmy Silva ■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

It's a sunny winter's day on the outskirts of Atlanta, Georgia, and Mark Wahlberg is on a mission. We're on the set of Wahlberg's latest action opus *Mile 22*, which casts the 47-year-old star as Jimmy Silva, the smart and intense leader of the CIA team Overwatch, which carries out secret government missions around the world.

"Jimmy Silva is the kind of guy who doesn't like to answer to anybody," says Wahlberg on the line from Atlanta after production on the film has wrapped.

"He lost his entire family when he was very young. He doesn't have a wife, no kids, and his entire life is his job. He's been operating within these Third World countries and he becomes the law. He decides who's in, who's out."

"He's a very unapologetic character, very vocal, very articulate," he continues. "Unlike other characters like Jason Bourne or John Wick, who have very little to say, he's colourful and very talkative."

In the film, directed by Peter Berg, Silva and his team — Sam (Ronda Rousey), Alice (Lauren Cohan) and Douglas (Carlo Alban) — head to an unnamed Southeast Asian country to make contact

with police officer Li Noor (*The Raid*'s Iko Uwais), who claims to know where the team can find nine pounds of stolen radioactive isotope.

However, Noor won't reveal what he knows until he gets on a plane out of the country, and it's the team's job to drive him 22 miles from the U.S. Embassy to the plane. Of course the journey is fraught with peril as bad guys want Noor dead and attempt to take him out along the way.

Today Wahlberg is shooting a scene inside a bakery where his team has stopped to change cars. Dressed in a red and blue plaid shirt, Wahlberg's Silva looks around suspiciously, worrying that he may have stepped into a trap. Wahlberg says very little, but his face is surprisingly expressive — his eyebrows moving up and down as he reacts to what's going on.

Wahlberg's performance is guided by the voice he hears over the "God Mic." That would be director Peter Berg yelling out specific instructions — "Stop there! Wait for an extra beat," or "Go to the window, now look at Carlo. Carlo, you nod, yes, excellent."

Mile 22 is Wahlberg and Berg's fourth film together after *Lone Survivor* (2013), *Deepwater Horizon* (2016) and *Patriots Day* (2016).

"*Mile 22* was fun because for the first time we're not making a movie about a real story or a real situation where a tragedy has taken place," explains Wahlberg. Instead, Berg and Wahlberg invented a character and story that allowed ▶ CONTINUED

MILE 22
HITS THEATRES
AUGUST 17TH



Mark Wahlberg takes Iko Uwais for a walk in *Mile 22*

▶ them the freedom to play around within the action genre.

"There is excitement," says Wahlberg. "I'm loving the movie and Pete's style of directing, which is so fast and everything is so loose with handheld shots compared to a more traditional film with dollies and cameras positioned for specific shots. It's a different style."

Berg and Wahlberg truly work hand in glove. They have an on-set rhythm, like teammates who pass the ball back and forth quickly.

"We have a shorthand but we also really push each other most of the time," notes Wahlberg.

They are both decidedly macho types, and one wonders if they ever get into disagreements while filming.

"Never on the set. Obviously, on *Patriot's Day* there were things that I was adamant about when dealing with the story or the sensitivity in the community and the authenticity of Boston, which is my hometown."

"But no, we have a wonderful personal and professional relationship. *Lone Survivor* was the honeymoon period, we were still getting to know each other, it was a very difficult movie to make, but now we know each other's strengths and weaknesses and have long, long conversations about anything and everything."

Wahlberg also acts as one of *Mile 22*'s producers, which marks the 28th time he's served as a producer, including all the films he's made with Berg, and TV shows, including *Ballers*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *Entourage* and *In Treatment*.

At age 47 Wahlberg is still in top-notch shape; he worked out intensely and was on a strict diet for five months in preparation to play Jimmy Silva. And he firmly believes that

producing his own work means keeping the final product in check. "It's control," he says with authority. "So many things can happen when making a movie so you'd rather be in control."

While starring in the *Daddy's Home* and *Ted* comedy franchises Wahlberg has mostly stayed away from superhero or action franchises, with the exception of two *Transformers* movies, but that changes with *Mile 22*.

"They're developing the second [*Mile 22*] movie now," he reveals. "I couldn't see myself doing more than three of them, but who knows? If people want to see this character and this world again then we can revisit it then. But that is the plan, for multiple movies and a spin-off television series, so we'll see."

As the day winds down on set, Wahlberg and Berg huddle together and discuss one of the day's final shots, an explosion that will destroy the bakery set.

There's a nervous energy as the special-effects crew places the explosive charges and packets of foam debris that will scatter around the set. When they are done, Berg prepares the cast and crew and shouts, "Fire in the hole!" There's a loud bang, people go flying and smoke rises all around. It's choreographed mayhem that works perfectly.

Wahlberg looks tired after a day's shooting but also completely at ease. His co-stars reveal he's an intense actor, but always professional.

"I try to keep it loose when we're not working," he admits, "but when we're shooting and that's the kind of character I'm playing, then I get in that headspace. And Jimmy Silva is an intense guy." □

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

TEAMWORK

They may not be Scorsese and De Niro, yet, but director Peter Berg and star Mark Wahlberg have teamed up for three great films based on real-life events.



Lone Survivor
2013
Wahlberg portrays Marcus Luttrell, one of four Navy SEALs who fight for their lives when ambushed by the Taliban in Afghanistan.



Deepwater Horizon
2016
The dramatic re-enactment of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil rig disaster casts Wahlberg as electrician Mike Williams, who helps his crewmates while the rig burns.



Patriots Day
2016
Wahlberg plays Boston cop Tommy Saunders (an amalgamation of various real-life people) who helps search for the 2013 Boston Marathon bombers.

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AUGUST 3

NOW AND THEN

How Spike Lee changed the ending to *BlacKkKlansman*, and why the critically acclaimed movie is coming out this month ■ BY MARNI WEISZ

It's no coincidence that Spike Lee's *BlacKkKlansman* is coming out exactly one year to the weekend after Charlottesville. The 2017 rallies-turned-riots that pitted white supremacists against those who oppose white supremacists, resulted in the murder of peaceful protestor Heather Heyer, and gave U.S. President Donald Trump the opportunity to declare that there were "very fine people on both sides," was very much on Lee's mind as he was finishing up the film. It even compelled him to change the ending.

"That mother---er was given a chance to say we're about love and not hate," Lee said of Trump during an expletive-laden press conference at the Cannes Film Festival where *BlacKkKlansman* earned rave reviews and won the festival's second-highest award, the Grand Prize. Instead, a furious Lee pointed out, Trump didn't even denounce the Klan, the alt-right and Neo-Nazis. The director later added, "Please excuse me for some profane words, but the sh-t going on makes you want to curse."

Watching events unfold from the resort island of Martha's Vineyard, Lee immediately knew he needed to end *BlacKkKlansman* with video of that Dodge Challenger speeding

down a Charlottesville street and ramming into the crowd of anti-white nationalist protesters that included Heyer. So he called Heyer's mother, Susan Bro, to ask permission.

"I was not going to put that murder scene in the film without her blessing," Lee said.

He got it.

Although we're talking about the end of a movie this isn't really a spoiler since the rest of *BlacKkKlansman* has nothing to do with Charlottesville, except in theme. Instead it takes place in the early 1970s when a Black rookie cop named Ron Stallworth (played by John David Washington) infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan by answering a classified ad looking for Klan members and pretending to be a white racist. When it came time to actually meet the Klan he had to enlist a white officer (Adam Driver) to pretend to be Ron Stallworth. It's a true story.

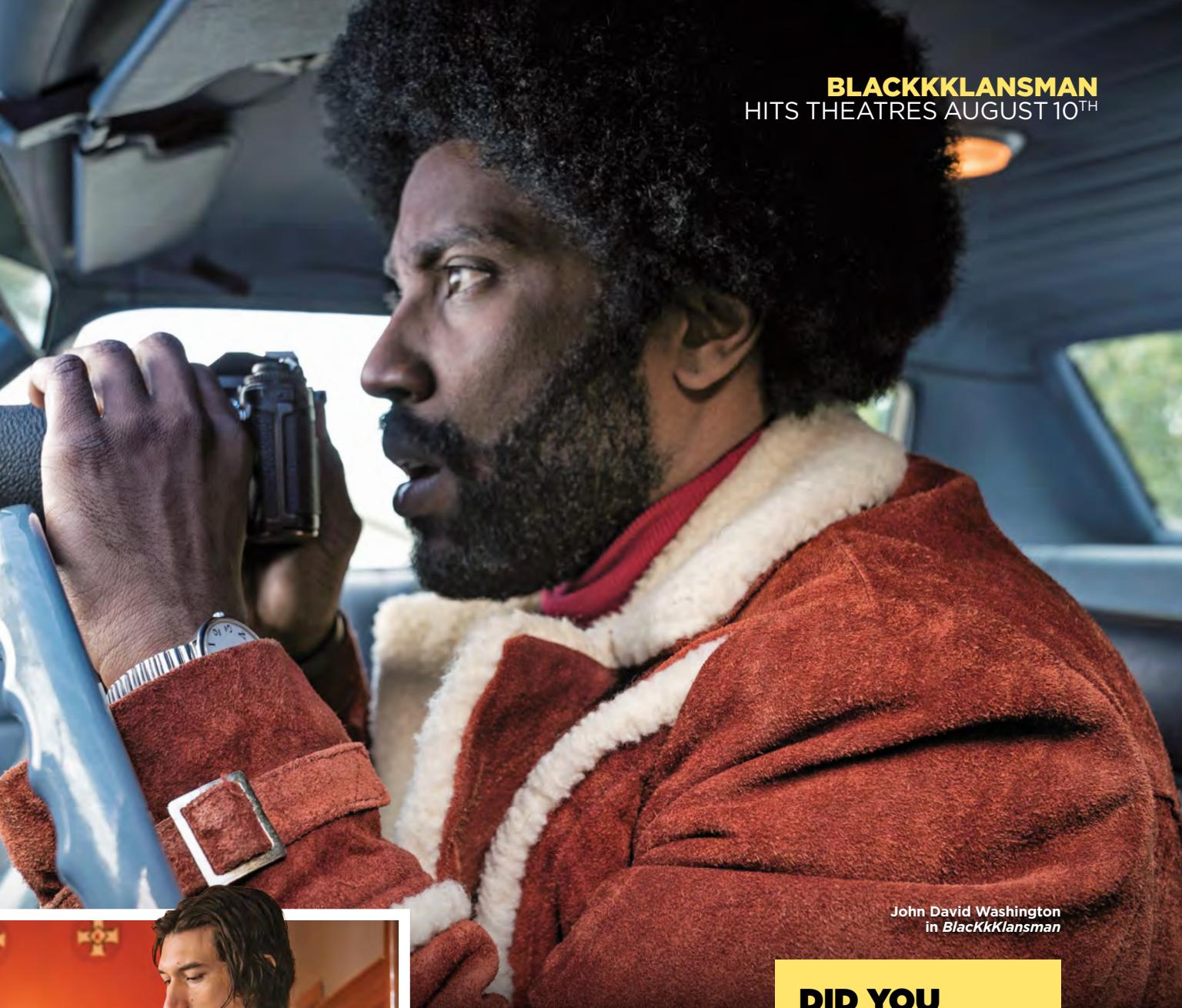
The footage of the car crashing into Heyer is a sort of epilogue. "Our job as filmmakers, as storytellers, was to connect this period piece to present day," explained Lee. "What's happening now did not just pop out of thin air."

Lee then explained how they got their footage of the crash. "We had to put together what you saw from many, many different angles," he said. "We put ads in papers and Facebook. People sent us stuff they filmed on their phones."



From left: Spike Lee directs Topher Grace and Adam Driver

BLACKKKLANSMAN
HITS THEATRES AUGUST 10TH



John David Washington
in *BlacKkKlansman*



"We wanted to, to the best of our abilities, show that Heather should be alive now. It was a murderous act, and when we look to our leaders for moral courage, and when they make the wrong choice, and give the thumbs up to the hate groups, they come out of the woodwork."

When asked how the film was originally going to end Lee said he couldn't even remember. "That ending was not written," he said of the Charlottesville footage, "but a Spike Lee Joint is, you gotta flow, you gotta flow. Can't be rigid, you gotta be with it, you gotta be hip, you gotta be on it. There's no way in the world I could not, once I got the blessing from Mrs. Bro, I could not make that the end of the film." □

Marni Weisz is the editor of Cineplex Magazine.

DID YOU KNOW?

John David Washington, who plays *BlacKkKlansman's* Ron Stallworth, is Denzel Washington's son. The younger Washington made his big-screen debut as "Student in Harlem Classroom" in his dad's 1992 movie *Malcolm X* and then didn't appear on screen again until 2015 when he nabbed the role of Ricky Jerrett on TV's *Ballers*.



Double Trouble

We can't tell you how much we'd like to go to Europe with **Mila Kunis** and **Kate McKinnon**. Even if we were being chased by bad guys, even if we felt death was waiting around every corner, even if we were in way over our heads. We'll have to settle for a virtual trip via their action-comedy ***The Spy Who Dumped Me***, which the two stars discuss here ■ BY MARNI WEISZ

We haven't seen as much of Mila Kunis as we're used to lately, and for good reason. Since 2014, she and her husband Ashton Kutcher have stretched their little family by two — a girl named Wyatt, now three, and Dimitri, just a year and a half.

"It's a conscious decision," says the 34-year-old star of an impressive list of funny movies (*Bad Moms*, *Ted*), dramas (*Black Swan*) and films that fall somewhere in between (*Forgetting Sarah Marshall*).

"When my husband and I decided to have children I knew that there was no way that I could work the same way that I used to. Nor did I want to.... It wasn't hard, I don't regret it."

Kunis is in her car driving to a meeting after a morning spent reorganizing the kitchen of her L.A. home. More specifically, clearing off an island.

"Everything lands on top of it, whether it's my kids' art projects or mail or just paperwork, it's a constant upkeep of getting rid of this trash. And so I went through that mess of items and then I realized that I was out of my labelling tape and so I reordered labelling tape, which was very satisfying to me 'cause I like to label everything. So you know, just a little Amazon purchase was to be had, which is always very good. Then I literally got in the car to go to The Westside.... So I organized,

I recycled a lot of paperwork, my kid was in My Gym, I worked out at 5:30 in the morning. It's been a fun day so far."

As you can see, Kunis talks as fast and with as much energy as the character that made her famous, *That '70s Show*'s Jackie Burkhart.

It's fun to imagine her bossing Kutcher around in real life the way Jackie took advantage of Kutcher's Michael Kelso on the show, but the truth is she is nothing but grateful when talking about her hubbie of three years. Like when the conversation turns to her new movie, *The Spy Who Dumped Me*, and moving the entire family to Europe for the shoot because she and Kutcher also made a decision never to separate the family.

"You miss home, you miss your friends, you miss certain aspects of life... [but] I have an incredible partner who's Mister Mom and does everything, and can drive in other countries and can pick up a language and is super-adaptable to anything. I'm very lucky," she says.

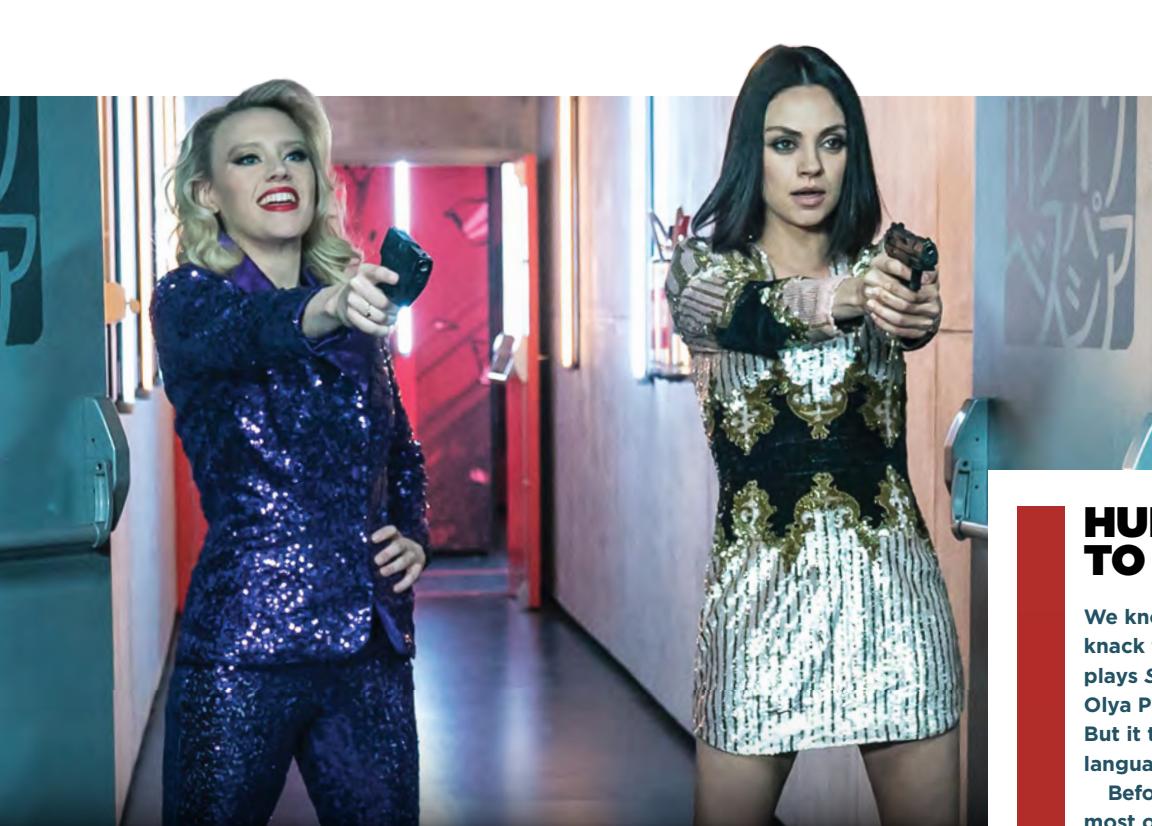
The Spy Who Dumped Me stars Kunis as Audrey, a server at a restaurant that "isn't Trader Joe's but could be Trader Joe's," Kunis says. Audrey has just been dumped by her boyfriend Drew (Justin Theroux) and has no idea why, until she discovers he's a CIA spy and his life is in danger. Now in possession of a crucial package, Audrey and her best friend Morgan (*Saturday Night Live* superstar Kate McKinnon) reluctantly

CONTINUED ▶



Mila Kunis (left) and Kate McKinnon in *The Spy Who Dumped Me*





THE SPY WHO DUMPED ME
HITS THEATRES AUGUST 3RD

HUNGARY TO LEARN

We know Kate McKinnon has a knack for accents, like when she plays *SNL*'s stoic Russian peasant Olya Povlatsky, who longs for death. But it turns out she has a thing for languages too.

Before leaving for Budapest, where most of *The Spy Who Dumped Me* was filmed, McKinnon taught herself some basic Hungarian. "I was completely fascinated by how the language itself worked," she says.

Once in Hungary her education continued as she made new friends. "I wanted to show them that I was taking their culture seriously, and they were kind enough to try to teach me. I studied every day and I have barely scratched the surface. It's a tough one."

Tough as it is, when she returned home and re-watched her Hungarian language videos she found she knew all the words and could understand everything. "The sense of growth that comes with learning a new place is intoxicating," she says. "It opens up new parts of your brain." —MW

► travel to Europe — the film was mostly shot in Budapest — where they're on the run from the bad guys and trying to identify the good guys.

"They have no special skills, they aren't superheroes, they're just average awesome people who make the best out of a situation," explains Kunis.

Thanks in large part to McKinnon's work on *SNL* — a combination of biting impressions of real people like U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who she plays as part weasel, and eccentric oddballs like chain-smoking, manspreading Miss Rafferty who has repeatedly been abducted, and crudely abused, by aliens — she may be the hottest comedian working today.

But Kunis says she didn't feel any particular pressure to keep up.

"Um, no, I would say it's all the same," she says. "You just want to have fun, you just want to enjoy yourself and you want to do the best job you possibly can regardless of the outcome, and truly regardless of who you're with. You want to empower the person you're acting with and have fun with them, regardless if they're the number one at their job or if they're learning."

"Mila is really amazingly funny," says McKinnon by email. She's in England filming director Danny Boyle's mysterious and as yet untitled big-screen musical, and because of the time change and her shooting schedule is responding to questions online. "I couldn't have asked for a better comedy partner. She

is so relaxed in her skin in real life and so not out to prove anything that her performances are always completely natural and true and perfectly funny. She is one of the most chill, self-assured, joyful people I know, and this makes her a joy to watch, because you can see her real joy bubbling off the screen."

Aside from starring two powerful women, the film was directed and co-written by another woman, relative newcomer Susanna Fogel, and the teaser trailer takes advantage of the current female-forward climate in Hollywood with the statement, "In 2018, Women are Killing It."

But if you're thinking, "Yeah! A kickass action-comedy headlined by two incredibly funny female stars in an industry where female comedians have had a particularly tough time finding equal footing with men," you might not want to share those thoughts with Kunis.

"I've gotta be honest with you," she says. "I think that that's like a fabricated, sensationalized item that's being used for headlines."

She points to the success of Lucille Ball and Mary Tyler Moore as evidence that women have always been an important part of comedy. And while groundbreaking funny females like Tina Fey and Julia Louis-Dreyfus certainly have other stories to tell, Kunis's view of the industry is purely pragmatic.

"I think that this industry's based on money, it's not based on opinions," she says bluntly. "And so, so long as movies keep doing well, studios don't care, they'll make any

movie that makes them money. The weird misconception is that there's a big evil man being, like, 'I hate women!' The truth is if a lot of people are willing to pay money to see these movies, these movies will be made. Bottom line. The studios don't care."

McKinnon, on the other hand, acknowledges there's room for improvement when casting women. "My hope is that one day it will be so common that it will be unremarkable," she responds, "so hopefully this movie is helping to push the needle there." □

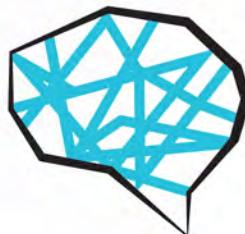
Marni Weisz is the editor of Cineplex Magazine.

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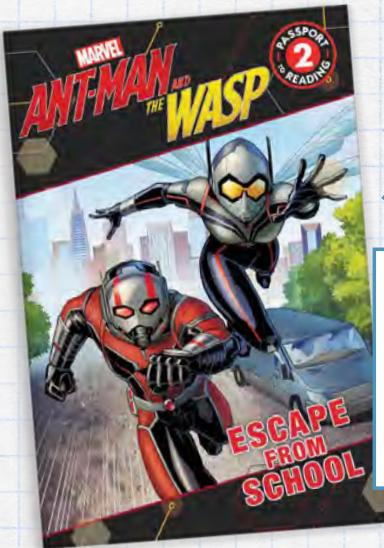
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You'll earn top marks for preparedness with these eight classy items



School Break

Ant-Man and the Wasp: Escape From School (\$7, book stores) continues the adventures of this summer's hottest Marvel superheroes. Why do they have to escape from school? You'll have to read the story to find out.

Dash to the Caf

A healthy lunch can make any kid feel like they've got superpowers. Even better if they get to carry it to school in this **Incredibles 2 Insulated Dash Lunch Bag** (\$15, kitchenstuffplus.com).

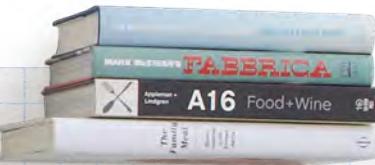


Spartan Tartan

We like the way **UNIQLO's 2way Stole** (\$30, uniqlo.ca) takes the school-uniform vibe and gives it a more mature polish. It can be worn as a poncho or wrapped as a large blanket scarf.

Easy Rider

If you need a bike to get to class and back, why not get one that can carry your laptop, books, lunch, jacket and science experiment with ease? Take a load off, with the **Schwinn Meridian Adult Comfort Trike** (\$480, canadiantire.ca).



Shelf-Contained

No room for a bookshelf in your bedroom or dorm? No problem. **Umbra's Conceal Shelf** (\$30 for a three-pack, umbra.com) takes up no more room than the books themselves. Just mount, and stack.



Wake-Up Call

Get up! Seriously, get up and go get yourself **iHome's Bluetooth Colour Changing Dual Alarm FM Clock Radio** (\$68, walmart.ca) or you're going to miss class. It has a speakerphone and USB charging so your phone will be ready to go as soon as you are.



Unicorns Give Back

Buy one **Yoobi** product, like this adorable **Unicorn Pencil Organizer** (\$12, indigo.ca), and Yoobi will supply a second Yoobi product to a child or classroom in need.

Change Up

There are three things we love about **ESPE's Queenie Bag** (\$86, espe.ca for retailers). First, it's designed in Canada. Second, it's vegan. Third, it can change from a tote to a cross-body bag to a fold-over messenger bag to a backpack. Because who has the cash for four bags?



CASTING CALL

BY INGRID RANDOJA

Affleck PLAYS BALL

Ben Affleck reteams with his *The Accountant* director **Gavin O'Connor** for the sports drama *The Has-Been*. Affleck will play a former basketball star whose addiction problems led to his downfall. Looking for redemption he steps in to coach a racially diverse high school basketball squad. No word when production will begin.



Jackman GETS AN Education

Bad Education casts **Hugh Jackman** as a high school superintendent who loves the kids but also embezzles public money to fund his lavish lifestyle. **Allison Janney** co-stars and **Cory Finley** (*Thoroughbreds*) directs.



NYONG'O IS ONE OF US

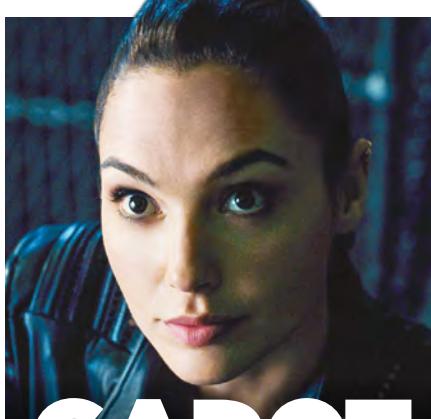
Writer-director **Jordan Peele's** follow-up to *Get Out* will be *Us*, a psychological thriller that centres around two couples — one black, one white — and stars **Lupita Nyong'o** and a rumoured **Elisabeth Moss** in the lead female roles. Peele says the film will have the same tone as *Get Out* and examine the “social demons” that haunt us all.



WHAT'S GOING ON WITH...

Maleficent III

Maleficent ranks as the highest-grossing film of **Angelina Jolie's** career so it's not surprising she's back for the sequel. This film, which is wrapping up production in London, is set several years after the first movie and sees Maleficent (Jolie) joining forces with Princess Aurora (**Elle Fanning**) to protect the moors and the magical creatures that live there. New cast members include **Michelle Pfeiffer**, **Chiwetel Ejiofor**, **Ed Skrein** and **Judith Shekoni**. **Joachim Rønning** (*Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales*) directs. No word on a release date.



GADOT SEES RED

Talk about star power — **Gal Gadot** and **Dwayne Johnson** are teaming up for the action-comedy *Red Notice* (the title refers to Interpol's highest alert setting). **Rawson Marshall Thurber** (*Skyscraper*, *Central Intelligence*) helms the pic that sees Johnson playing an Interpol agent with Gadot being the object of his search.



Will McGregor Shine?

Stephen King famously dislikes the movie version of his masterpiece *The Shining*, so here's hoping he'll get behind the film version of *Doctor Sleep*, his sequel to *The Shining*. **Ewan McGregor** is circling the lead role of Danny Torrance, who's all grown up and working in a nursing home where he uses his "shining" powers to help the elderly die peacefully. His quiet life is turned upside down when he must protect a young girl with powerful shining abilities from a group of evildoers. **Mike Flanagan** (*Oculus*) directs the pic that hits theatres January 24th, 2020.

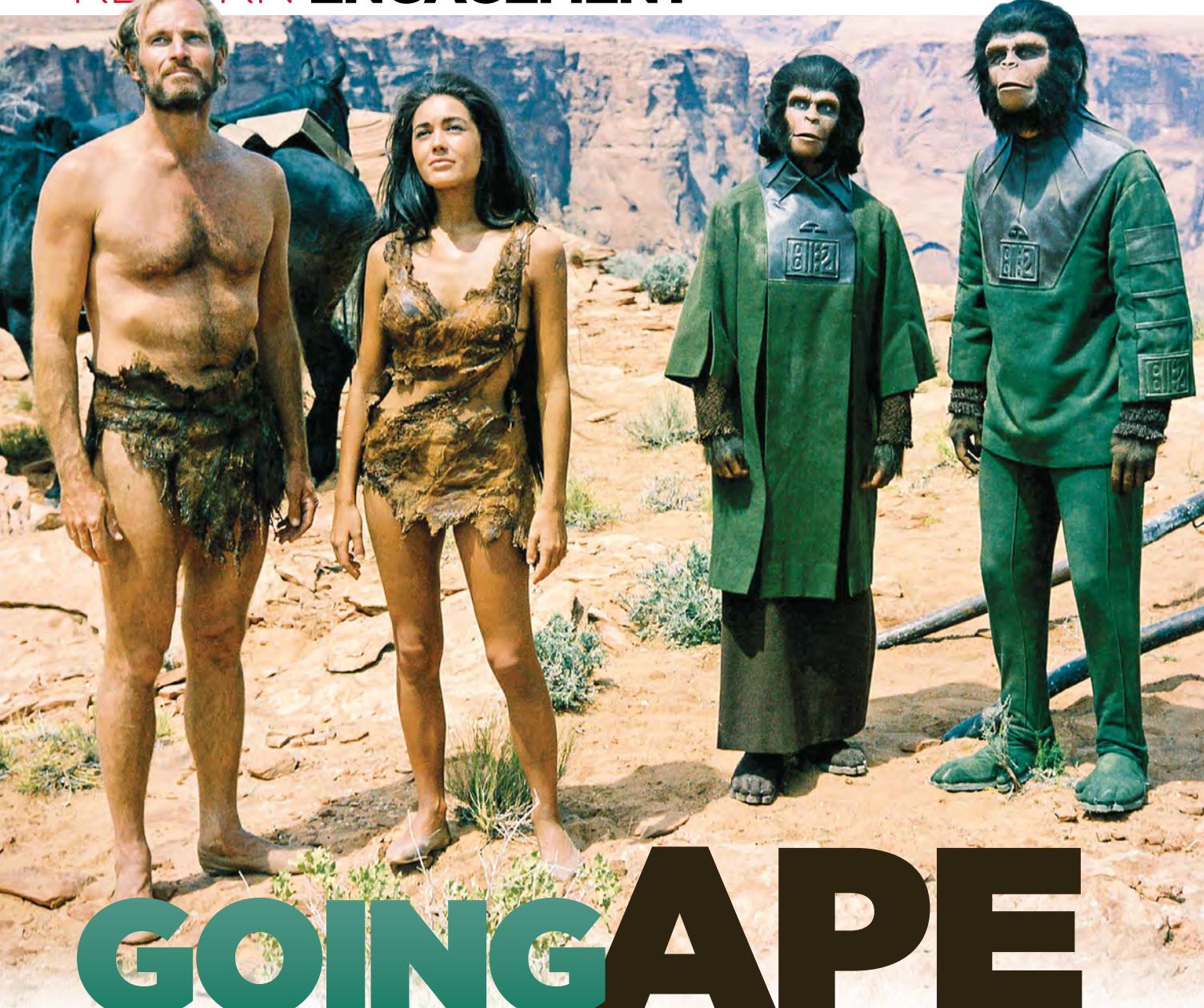


FRESH FACE Laura Harrier

You may recognize **Laura Harrier** as Peter Parker's love interest Liz Toomes in last year's *Spider-Man: Homecoming*. Harrier was 26 when she played high schooler Toomes, but this month she portrays the more age appropriate Patrice, a Black rights activist in director **Spike Lee**'s acclaimed *BlacKkKlansman*. Harrier also played **Michael B. Jordan**'s wife in the HBO movie *Fahrenheit 451*, but unfortunately her role was cut from the finished film.

ALSO IN THE WORKS ► **Al Pacino** plays the agent to Brad Pitt's washed-up actor in **Quentin Tarantino's** *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*. ► **Jennifer Garner** will star in *Yes Day*, a comedy in which parents say "yes" to their kids one day a year. ► **James Corden** voices the all-powerful computer in the **Melissa McCarthy** comedy *Super Intelligence*. ► **Rami Malek** plays a Muslim FBI agent who goes undercover to infiltrate a terror cell in *American Radical*.

RETURN ENGAGEMENT



GOINGAPE

Fifty years ago the release of *Planet of the Apes* (1968) astonished moviegoers with its portrayal of a group of astronauts, led by George Taylor (Charlton Heston), landing on a future Earth run by apes and where humans have devolved into mute slaves.

What really stood out was the then cutting-edge makeup used to create the various apes, including peace-loving chimpanzees Cornelius (Roddy McDowall) and Zira (Kim Hunter), orangutan scientist Dr. Zaius (Maurice Evans) and the belligerent gorilla General Ursus (James Gregory).

No film had ever attempted to transform actors into talking apes, and it was up to famed makeup artist John Chambers to make it work. He assembled more than 80 makeup artists, three

full-time wigmakers and demanded a budget big enough for the job (it eventually hit a then unheard of \$1-million).

Chambers created foam rubber components — cheeks, chins, muzzles, noses — that were applied, one by one, onto the actor's face to create the ape mask. Then a wig made of human hair was attached.

It sounds straightforward, but Chambers and his team actually invented new types of foam rubber, adhesive and paint to make their prosthetics durable, yet pliable enough so the actors' expressions could be seen under the makeup. His efforts paid off as he was awarded an honorary Oscar in 1969 for his groundbreaking makeup design. —INGRID RANDOJA

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DEADPOOL 2

BUY IT AUGUST 7

RENT IT AUGUST 21

Ryan Reynolds and director David Leitch up the action, violence and acerbic humour for this sequel that sees Deadpool battling — and then joining forces with — Cable (Josh Brolin), a mutant from the future who is determined to stop young mutant Firefist (Julian Dennison) from committing a murder.



BOOK CLUB

RENT IT AUGUST 7

Who says love and intimacy disappear after age 65? Four senior pals — Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda, Candice Bergen and Mary Steenburgen — read *Fifty Shades of Grey* and reinvigorate their dormant sex lives.



AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

RENT IT AUGUST 14

No spoilers here, but oh my, expect every Avenger and Guardian to sacrifice life and limb to stop alien Thanos (Josh Brolin) from collecting the six Infinity Stones that he will use to destroy half the universe.



OCEAN'S 8

BUY IT AUGUST 21

The con is on in this heist pic starring Sandra Bullock as Debbie Ocean, who assembles a team of eight women, including Cate Blanchett, Rihanna, Awkwafina and Helena Bonham Carter — to pull off a brazen jewel heist during the annual Met Ball.

JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM

BUY IT AUGUST 28

With Isla Nublar's dormant volcano spewing to life, Owen (Chris Pratt) and Claire (Bryce Dallas Howard) return to the destroyed dinosaur park to rescue as many creatures as they can before they are wiped out.



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TAG ALONG

Maybe it's because we're writers, but we find it fascinating that 45 years after 1973's *Papillon* hit screens with the tagline "The Greatest Adventure of Escape Ever Filmed!" this month's remake enters theatres with the ever-so-slightly updated "The Greatest Escape Adventure Ever Told."

What we would have given to be in the room while the studio's grammar nerds decided on that one!

Truth is, terms like "ever filmed" and "told on screen" were more common in Hollywood's yesteryear than they are today, maybe because the filming process itself was still a bit of a marvel. —MW

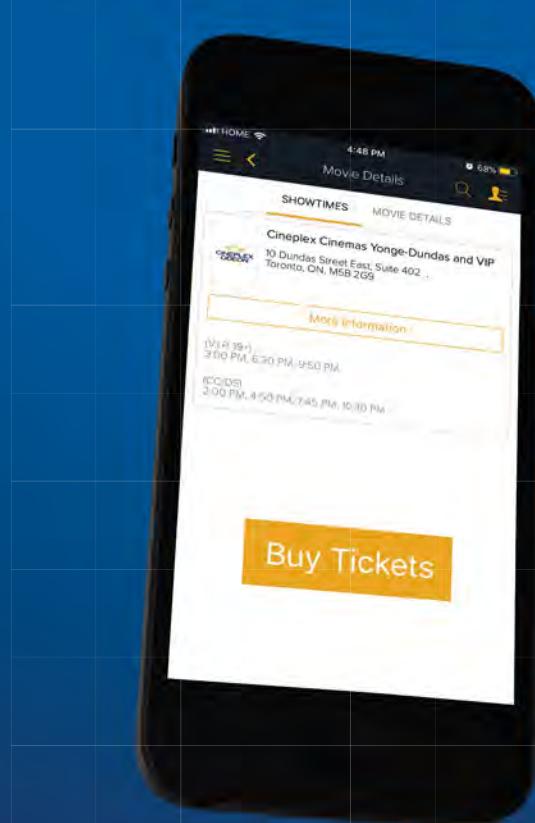
PAPILLON
HITS THEATRES
AUGUST 24TH





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