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MAGAZINE



Inside
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KENDRICK
MICHAEL
CERA

Keanu REEVES

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JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2

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Enigmatic **Keanu Reeves** landed the perfect role a couple years back — the titular, steely assassin in 2014's surprise hit *John Wick*, and now he's back for the sequel, *John Wick: Chapter 2*. Here he talks about the film's stylish violence, his childhood in Toronto and hustling to find work after all these years
BY INGRID RANDOJA

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BY BOB STRAUSS



COVER PHOTO BY TIM PALEN





THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT

If people want to judge Canadians by our celebrities, I'm okay with that. Looking at our lot, I think on the whole they're a pretty good group of folks — well-meaning, polite, relatively grounded. We have never created a Kardashians, and I hope we never will. Look at the two big Canadian stars we interviewed for this issue — **Keanu Reeves** and **Michael Cera**.

The most famous image taken of Reeves in the past 10 years is of the actor sitting on a New York City bench eating a sandwich. It was quickly turned into the "Sad Keanu" meme because Reeves looked a bit downcast, but I wonder if people weren't really reacting to the incongruity of a wealthy star eating a bagged lunch on a bench, instead of dining with the rest of his tribe at Nobu. More recently, a surreptitiously taken video of Reeves on a New York subway, in which the star gives up his seat for another passenger, went viral. She wasn't elderly or in distress. Reeves just looked up, saw her standing next to him and offered her his seat.

And Cera, well, I swear he's been wearing those same brown cords for years, God love him. It could be that his faded T-shirts are couture and cost more than my dining room set, but I kind of doubt it.

I'm not saying Reeves doesn't own a nice house in the Hollywood Hills. He does. And he's got a Porsche and a bunch of custom motorcycles parked in the garage. But calling it a mansion would be a stretch, and Reeves could certainly afford one with all that *Matrix* money. And while Michael Cera has seemingly gone "full celeb" by becoming part owner of a restaurant in Brooklyn, that restaurant is actually a dive bar crossed with a Mexican food truck where you can get a chicken taco for \$3, \$4.50 if you want the shrimp.

So what does it all mean? Not much, really. It just feels good, especially at a time when we're at risk of being swallowed up by reality-TV stars and runaway consumerism.

Now, I know what you're thinking: "What about Justin Bieber?" And to that I say, "Look, over there. That thing, it's, umm, just look at it!"

Turn to page 40 to read "Killer Role," our chat with Reeves about growing up in Toronto, working on an art book (of all things), and bringing his extremely productive assassin John Wick back to the big screen for *John Wick: Chapter 2*.

On page 34 you'll find that interview with Brampton, Ontario's Michael Cera about voicing Robin in *The Lego Batman Movie* (page 34), and on page 38 we have **Anna Kendrick** on how making *Table 19* allowed for a meaningful reunion.

Plus, starting on page 28 we take you for a tour through Awards Season, including lots of great pics, a survey of honours already doled out and a look at Academy Awards host Jimmy Kimmel.

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SNAPS



PRETTY AS A PICTURE

At the Seoul premiere of *Passengers*, **Jennifer Lawrence** holds what we think is a fan-art depiction of herself. Or it could be a drawing of Amber Heard that she just likes to carry around.

PHOTO BY HAN MYUNG-GU/GETTY



PRATT TAKES PASSENGERS

Chris Pratt strikes a pose at San Diego's Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. He took a copy of his new film *Passengers* to the base to screen for the troops.

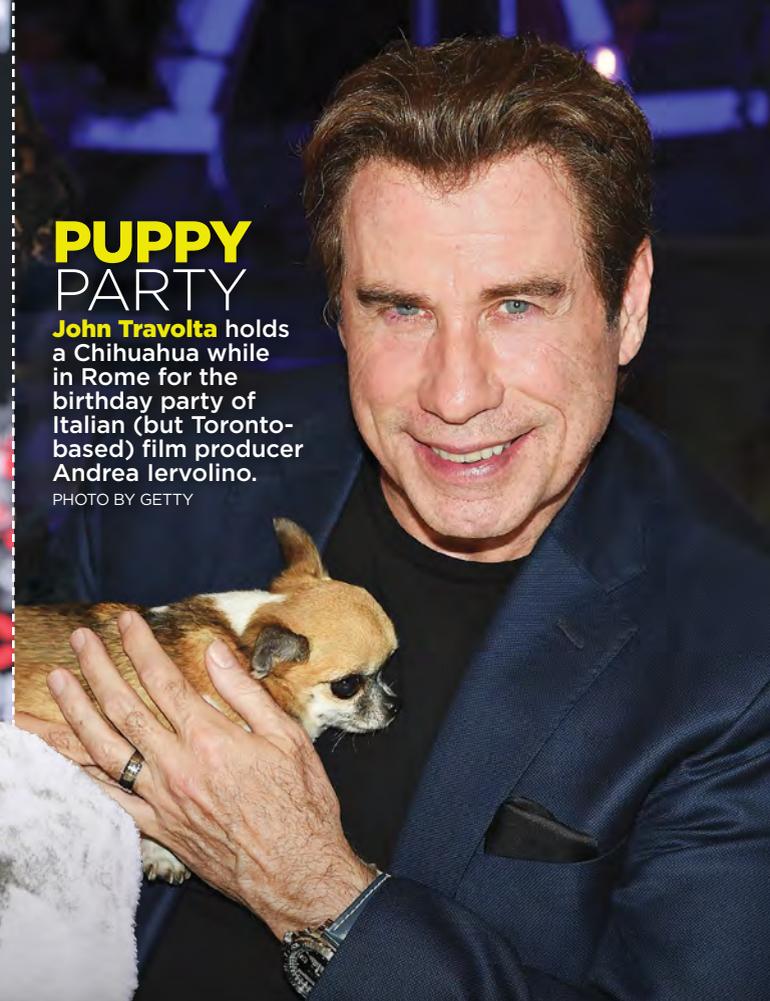
PHOTO BY RICH POLK/GETTY



REESE PONIES UP

Reese Witherspoon cuddles an adorable pony at The Baby2Baby Snow Day in Los Angeles. Baby2Baby is a charity that gives diapers, clothes and other necessities to children in need.

PHOTO BY STEFANIE KEENAN/GETTY



PUPPY PARTY

John Travolta holds a Chihuahua while in Rome for the birthday party of Italian (but Toronto-based) film producer Andrea Iervolino.

PHOTO BY GETTY

STONE MEETS CEMENT

Emma Stone wipes the cement from her hands after having her handprints immortalized at Hollywood's TCL Chinese Theatre.

PHOTO BY GREGG DEGUIRE/GETTY



BULLOCK, BLANCHETT RIDE THE RAILS

Oceans Eight co-stars **Sandra Bullock** (left) and **Cate Blanchett** shoot a scene on a New York City subway car.

PHOTO BY ALESSIO BOTTICELLI/GETTY

IN BRIEF



WALL OF THE WORDS

The greatest challenge in shooting the American-Chinese co-production *The Great Wall* may not have been recreating the wall itself, portions of which were built in the Chinese village of Huangdao while other parts were erected on a soundstage at Beijing's China Film Group Studios.

It may have been making sure the film's massive cast and crew could understand one another.

From Mandarin-speaking director Zhang Yimou (*House of Flying Daggers*) to English-speaking star Matt Damon (*The Martian*) to the extras, gaffers and special-effects technicians, more than 1,300 people needed the assistance of a translator at some point. So it's no surprise that a small army of more than 100 interpreters was brought in to make sure everyone was on the same page.

The head of that army was a Taiwanese born filmmaker named Frank Lin, who started acting in his native country when he was eight, but then moved to Los Angeles with his family when he was 10.

Since then Lin has carved out a career as an independent filmmaker in Hollywood, which helped because it meant he knew the lingo in both languages. —MW



Casey Affleck

On Home Turf: LIGHT OF MY LIFE

Fresh off his celebrated performance in last year's *Manchester by the Sea*, **Casey Affleck** is scheduled to spend much of the winter in Vancouver shooting *Light of My Life*.

Affleck wrote and stars in the drama about a father and daughter who become trapped in the woods. Filming should already be underway and could stretch into March.

Light of My Life is expected to hit theatres in 2018. —MW ▶

THE ART OF FILM

Salt Lake City, Utah, artist Blake Loosli says it's okay to call his stylized illustrations of movie scenes and characters caricature. And the one thing we know about caricature is that it's important to pick one feature that typifies a person and play it up. So what does Loosli think is the most important thing to get right when capturing someone's personality? "I think most people have their own iconic expression," he says. "A smirk, or a particular way their lip curls when they smile. I try to depict those idiosyncratic traits." Here you see Loosli's takes, clockwise from top left, on the stars of *Stand By Me*, *Drive* and *No Country for Old Men*. See more at www.blakeloosli.com. —MW



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**WILL ARNETT TALKS
LEGO BATMAN**



Quote Unquote

He's a little different. He's a little funnier and he's weirdly darker 'cause he seems like he's a little unhinged, you know? A lot of the other Batmen weren't nearly as potentially borderline psychotic.... He's not, but you have moments where you're like, **'What's his deal?'**

—THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE'S
WILL ARNETT ON HOW
HIS BATMAN COMPARES
TO THE REST



PHOTO BY GETTY

Rah Rah, Sis Boom Bah, GO EMPIRE!

Don't they know the stormtroopers are the bad guys? Cheerleaders dressed as *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*-era stormtroopers bring a little fear to a game between the Chinese Basketball Association's Jiangsu Dragons and Xinjiang Flying Tigers in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province.

HORROR HITS CLOSE TO HOME



Writer-actor Jordan Peele (*Keanu*) is known for his comedic chops — he and partner Keegan-Michael Key earned two Emmy Awards for their sketch-comedy series *Key & Peele*.

So it's a bit of a surprise that his first film as director is the horror pic *Get Out*.

However, the 38-year-old native New Yorker is a huge horror fan going back to his childhood. Peele counts *The Stepford Wives* and *Rosemary's Baby* as influences for *Get Out*, and the latter holds a special place in his heart.

"I grew up actually a couple of blocks away from the building [where *Rosemary's Baby*] was shot," he told *Forbes.com* last October. "When I was younger, it was actually a little too close to home, so it really kind of freaked me out more than I could appreciate it. It's grown into possibly my favourite horror movie." —IR

PHOTO BY GABRIEL OLSEN/GETTY

K E A N U R E E V E S

CHAPTER
JOHN WICK 2



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Getting DARKER

“Thank God for ravenous fans, the internet, and my wife’s ability to retain information,” says Eric Johnson. The Edmonton native is talking about the lightning-fast prep he did before reporting to the Vancouver set of *Fifty Shades Darker* this past spring. It’s the second film in the continuing saga of Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson) and her kinky boyfriend Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan), and Eric Johnson had just gotten the role of editor Jack Hyde four days before. The third film — *Fifty Shades Freed*, in which Johnson also stars — was shot concurrently.

“There wasn’t time to read all the books,” says Johnson, who moved to Toronto to play detective Luke Callaghan on Global’s *Rookie Blue* six years ago and still calls the city home. “So I went to my wife. Fortunately, she had read all the books and she gave me the Coles Notes version of everything she could remember. And then I scanned through Wikipedia and there are these wonderful synopses, so I got the lay of the land.”

Like many of the characters Johnson has played, Hyde is not a good person. “Jack Hyde is chief commissioning editor at Seattle Independent Press, where Ana gets a job, and he’s very, very interested in this very interesting and beautiful young lady,” Johnson explains. Then he adds, “And he’s kind of a pervy boss.”

Johnson currently plays the conniving, racist surgeon Everett Gallinger on Steven Soderbergh’s award-winning 1900-set hospital drama, *The Knick*. “You know, I’ve decided to embrace it for the most part,” he says of landing unlikable roles. “I try not to take it personally when a casting director says, ‘Who’s a guy we hate?’ And they look at my headshot and think, ‘This guy. Let’s hate this guy. He’s got that kind of face you want to punch.’”

The face is one thing, but what other body parts did Johnson have to put out there for this film franchise about bondage and sadomasochism? When his mother heard her son had landed this job she wondered too. “She had people telling her before I told her, and I think she was a little nervous. So I was able to call my mom and say, ‘Mom, yes, those rumours are true, but I keep my pants on so don’t worry about it,’” says Johnson.

“I think she was a little relieved.” —MARNI WEISZ

PHOTO BY TIM LEYES

**FIFTY SHADES
DARKER**
HITS THEATRES
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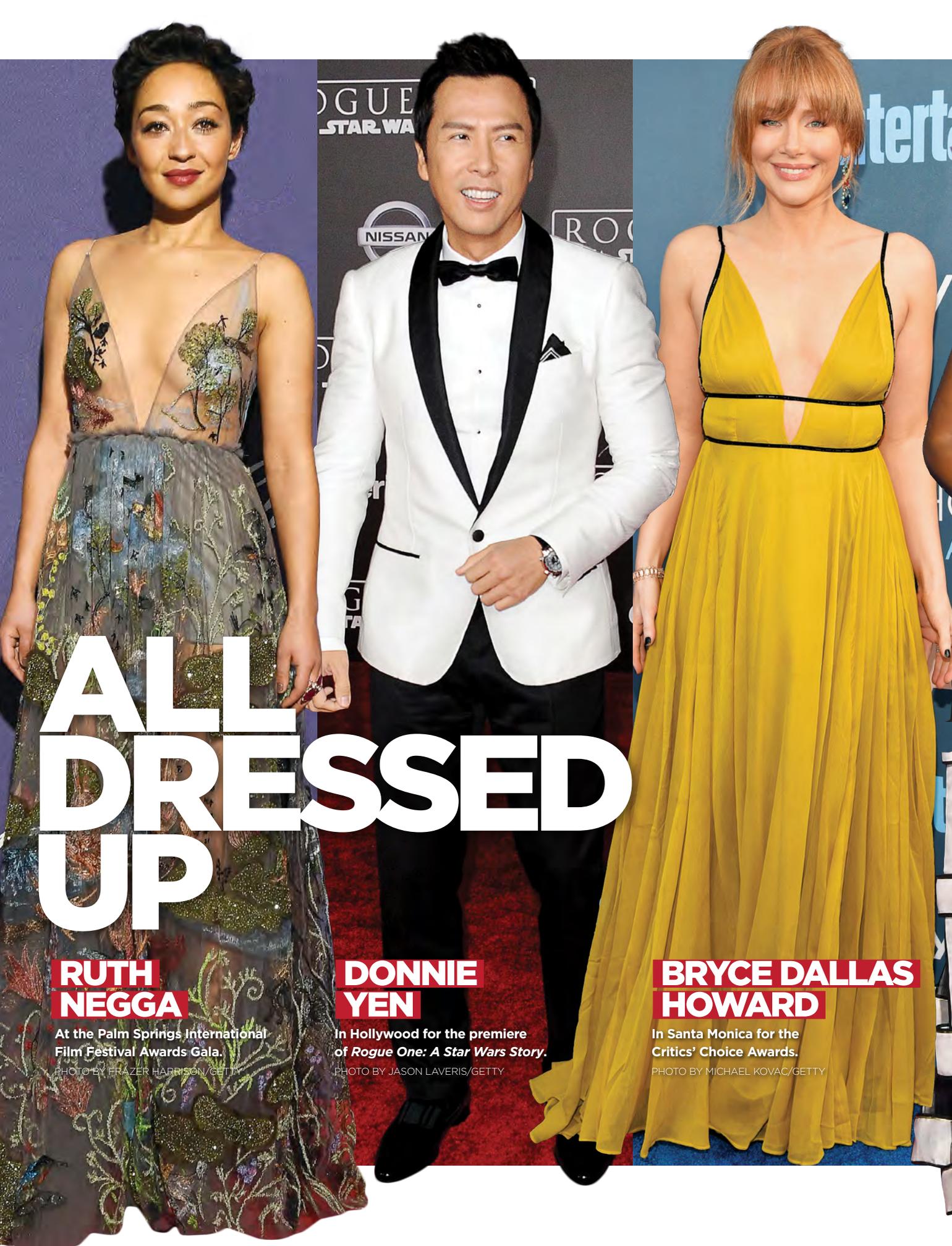
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ALL DRESSED UP

RUTH NEGGA

At the Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards Gala.

PHOTO BY FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY

DONNIE YEN

In Hollywood for the premiere of *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*.

PHOTO BY JASON LAVERIS/GETTY

BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD

In Santa Monica for the Critics' Choice Awards.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL KOVAC/GETTY



**JANELLE
MONAË**

At the Palm Springs International
Film Festival Awards Gala.

PHOTO BY FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY



**MICHAEL
FASSBENDER**

At The British Independent Film Awards
in London, England.

PHOTO BY DAVE BENETT/GETTY



**KATE
BECKINSALE**

In Mexico City for the premiere
of *Underworld: Blood Wars*.

PHOTO BY VICTOR CHAVEZ/GETTY

PS4™



TEEN	Alcohol Reference
T	Blood
ESRB	Mild Language
	Mild Sexual Themes
	Tobacco Reference
	Violence



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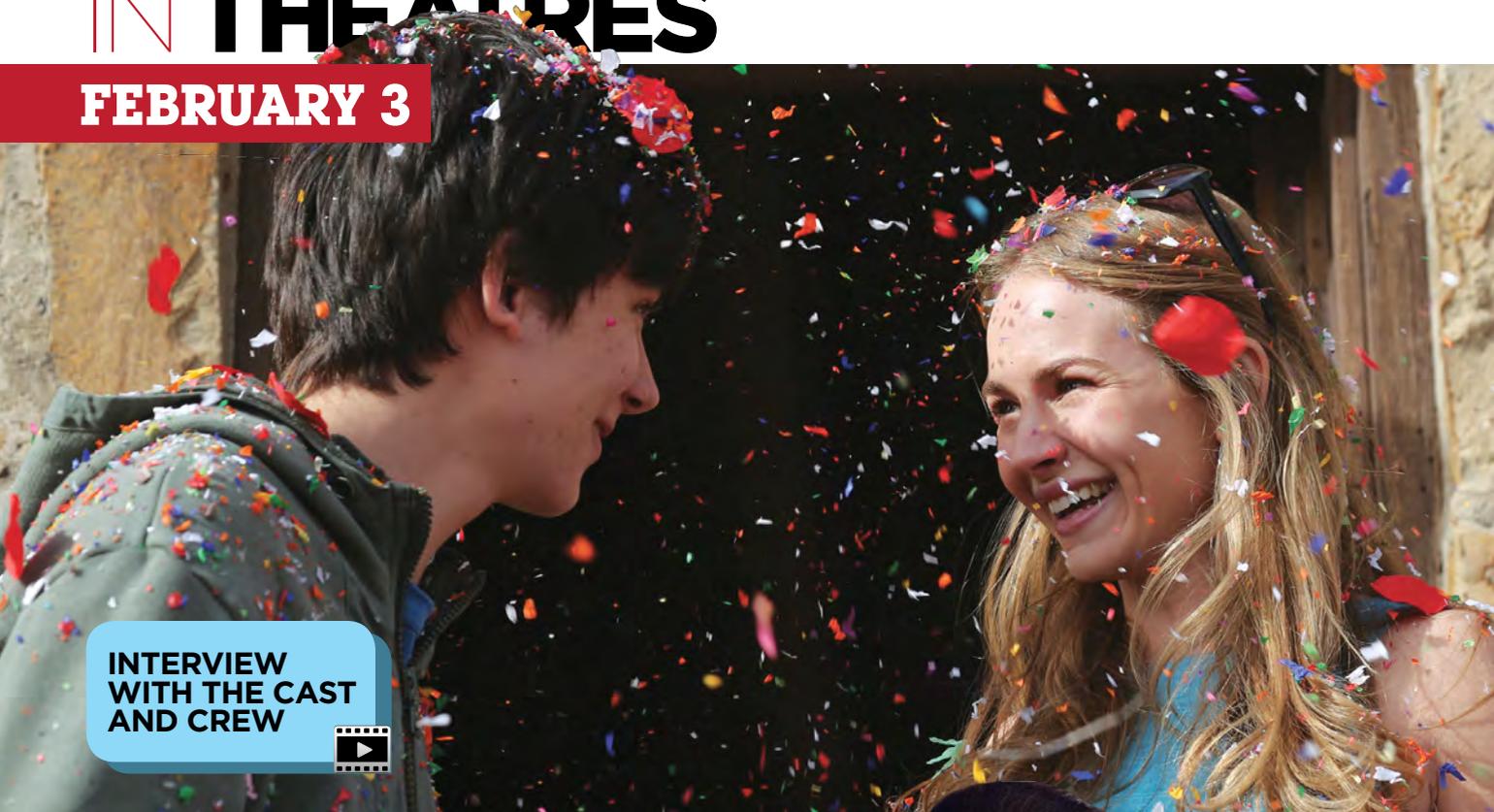


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**GREATNESS
AWAITS**

FEBRUARY 3

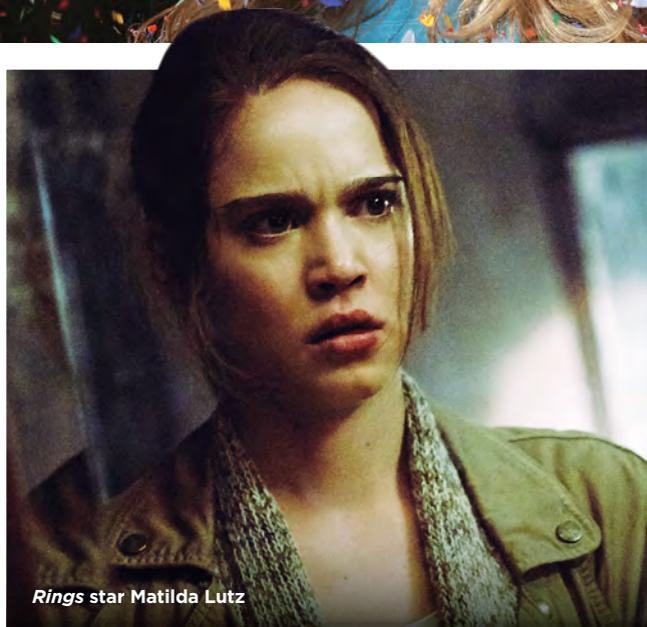


INTERVIEW WITH THE CAST AND CREW



THE SPACE BETWEEN US

This sci-fi romance stars **Asa Butterfield** as a teenager who was born and raised on the Mars space station. He's been communicating with a girl on Earth (**Britt Robertson**) and when he's brought to our planet he runs off to meet her, but Earth's gravity is doing a number on his heart, which turns his romantic rendezvous into a life-threatening adventure.



Rings star Matilda Lutz

PATERSON

Writer-director **Jim Jarmusch's** 13th film is a testament to the joy of making art for the sake of making art. **Adam Driver** gives a wonderful performance as a bus driver named Paterson who works in Paterson, New Jersey, and who writes poems based on his everyday experiences. The poems used in the film are the work of famed American poet **Ron Padgett**.



THE COMEDIAN

Robert De Niro plays aging stand-up comedian Jackie Burke, whose career gets a second wind when he meets a younger woman (**Leslie Mann**) and one of his comedic rants goes viral. Directed by **Taylor Hackford** and co-starring **Danny DeVito**, **Harvey Keitel**, **Billy Crystal** and **Edie Falco**.

RINGS

The third film in the horror series that started with 1998's *The Ring* finds Julia (**Matilda Lutz**) watching the video of evil entity Samara (**Bonnie Morgan**) online, which means she will die in seven days. **Vincent D'Onofrio** plays a blind man who may be able to help.

CONTINUED ▶

FAMILY NO MORE

**THE
FATE OF THE
FURIOUS**

APRIL 14

#F8

IN THEATRES AND **IMAX**

ORIGINAL FILM

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FEBRUARY 10

▶ **THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE**

The Lego Movie's biggest laughs came courtesy of **Will Arnett**, who brought a clueless arrogance to his take on The Dark Knight. Here he gets his own spinoff movie that sees Batman feeling underappreciated by the world and annoyed with butler Alfred (**Ralph Fiennes**), who forces the superhero to mentor young orphan Dick Grayson (**Michael Cera**). And thanks to inspired casting we get **Zach Galifianakis** voicing The Joker. See **Michael Cera** interview, **page 34**.



A UNITED KINGDOM

David Oyelowo and **Rosamund Pike** star in the real-life tale of Seretse Khama, the prince of Bechuanaland (known today as Botswana), who created an international scandal when he married white, British Ruth Williams in 1948.

FIFTY SHADES DARKER

In the second film in the erotic *Fifty Shades* series Anastasia (**Dakota Johnson**) is committed to creating a meaningful relationship with her BDSM-loving boyfriend Christian (**Jamie Dornan**). Meanwhile, Christian struggles with his jealousy issues and his complicated relationship with Elena Lincoln (**Kim Basinger**), his business partner and the older woman who introduced him to BDSM role-playing when he was just a teenager.

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2

Keanu Reeves re-energized his career in 2014 playing the titular assassin in the surprise hit *John Wick*. This sequel finds Wick heading to Rome to stop a former associate from taking over the assassin's guild. See **Keanu Reeves** interview, **page 40**.

CONTINUED ▶

BELOW HER MOUTH

Set in Toronto, this provocative drama finds the straight and soon-to-be-married Jasmine (**Natalie Krill**) sleeping with female roofer Dallas (**Erika Linder**), and what was meant to be a single night of passion turns into an unexpected relationship.



Below Her Mouth stars Erika Linder (left) and Natalie Krill



Keanu Reeves in *John Wick: Chapter 2*

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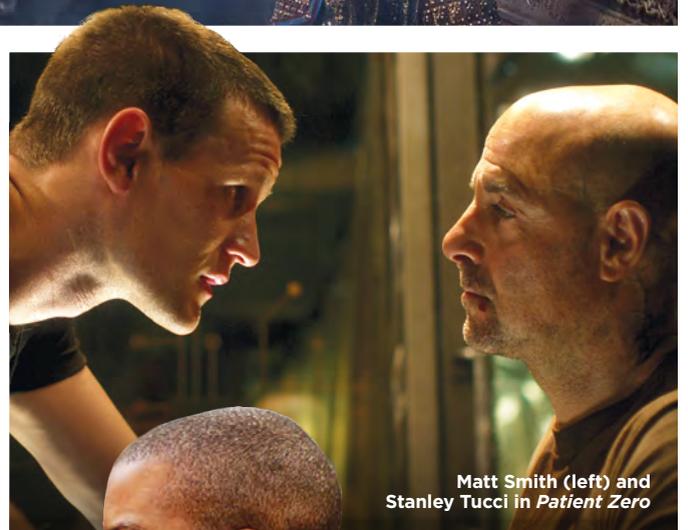
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▶ **THE GREAT WALL**

Zhang Yimou (*House of Flying Daggers*) directs this epic Chinese-Hollywood co-production that's set in medieval China and stars **Matt Damon** as a warrior who helps an army stationed at the Great Wall defend the nation from a deadly beast that attacks every 60 years.



Matt Smith (left) and Stanley Tucci in *Patient Zero*

A CURE FOR WELLNESS

Director **Gore Verbinski** (*The Lone Ranger*) helms this supernatural horror pic that stars **Dane DeHaan** as an employee sent to find his boss who's late returning from a jaunt to an exclusive European spa. Upon arrival he learns the spa is actually a super-creepy place where guests don't leave.

PATIENT ZERO

A global pandemic has transformed most of mankind into zombie-like creatures, but one man (**Matt Smith**) who is immune to the virus and can communicate with the creatures leads the fight to find a cure and save humanity.

CONTINUED ▶



FIST FIGHT

When mild-mannered high school teacher Andy Campbell (**Charlie Day**) inadvertently gets fellow teacher Ron Strickland (**Ice Cube**) fired, Ron challenges Andy to an after-school fight in the playground.

**Debt? Where
we're going,
we don't
need debt.**

Choose your own money.



FEBRUARY 24



Daniel Kaluuya and Allison Williams in *Get Out*

► **GET OUT**

Funnyman **Jordan Peele** makes his directing debut with this satirical horror that finds African-American Chris (**Daniel Kaluuya**) heading to a wealthy bedroom community to meet his white girlfriend's (**Allison Williams**) parents (**Catherine Keener**, **Bradley Whitford**). He soon discovers there's something amiss about the community where black men and women act strangely.



TULIP FEVER

This heady love story was actually filmed more than two years ago and is only now hitting screens. Set in 17th-century Amsterdam, it stars **Alicia Vikander** as the unhappy wife of a wealthy merchant (**Christoph Waltz**) who falls in love with the artist (**Dane DeHaan**) who's been commissioned to paint the couple's portrait.

**CINEPLEX
EVENTS**

NATIONAL THEATRE

Saint Joan
THURS., FEB. 16

**FLASHBACK
FILM FESTIVAL**

FRI., FEB. 3 - THURS., FEB. 9

FAMILY FAVOURITES

Stand By Me
SAT., FEB. 4

Oddball
SAT., FEB. 11

*MVP: Most Valuable
Primate*
SAT., FEB. 18

*Teenage Mutant
Ninja Turtles:
Out of the Shadows*
SAT., FEB. 25

**THE METROPOLITAN
OPERA**

*L'Amour de Loin
(Saariaho)*
ENCORES: SAT., FEB. 4;
MON., FEB. 6; WED., FEB. 8

Nabucco (Verdi)
ENCORES: SAT., FEB. 11;
MON., FEB. 13; WED., FEB. 15

*Roméo et Juliette
(Gounod)*
ENCORES: SAT., FEB. 18;
MON., FEB. 27

Rusalka (Dvořák)
LIVE: SAT., FEB. 25

CLASSIC FILMS

Titanic 3D
SUN., FEB. 5; MON., FEB. 13

Titanic 2D
WED., FEB. 15

BOLSHOI BALLE

Swan Lake
SUN., FEB. 12

BROADWAY STAGE

*Disney's NEWSIES:
The Broadway Musical!*
SUN., FEB. 19;
THURS., FEB. 23; SAT., FEB. 25

IN THE GALLERY

I, Claude Monet
WED., FEB. 22; SUN., FEB. 26

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Disney
BEAUTY
AND THE
BEAST

IN THEATRES MARCH 17

DISNEY PRESENTS "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST" A MANDEVILLE FILMS PRODUCTION A BILL CONDON FILM EMMA WATSON DAN STEVENS LUKE EVANS KEVIN KLINE JOSH GAD EWAN MCGREGOR STANLEY TUCCI
WITH IAN MCKELLEN AND EMMA THOMPSON SONGS ARRANGED BY MICHAEL KOSARIN SCORE BY CHRISTOPHER BENSTEAD MUSIC BY MATT SULLIVAN SONGS BY ALAN MENKEN LYRICS BY HOWARD ASHMAN AND TIM RICE SCORE BY ALAN MENKEN
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SCREENPLAY BY EVAN SPILIOPOULOS AND STEPHEN CHBOSKY AND BILL CONDON PRODUCED BY DAVID HOBERMAN, p.g.a. AND TODD LIEBERMAN, p.g.a. DIRECTED BY BILL CONDON

IN 3D, REAL D 3D AND IMAX 3D



LET'S GET THIS **PARTY** STARTED

The Oscars (February 26th) are the showpiece of Awards Season, but dozens of statues have already been handed out in honour of last year's best movies and performances. Here are some of our favourite candid moments from the awards shows so far...



Go to CINEPLEX.COM/AWARDSRACE for up-to-date news and interviews before and after the Academy Awards!

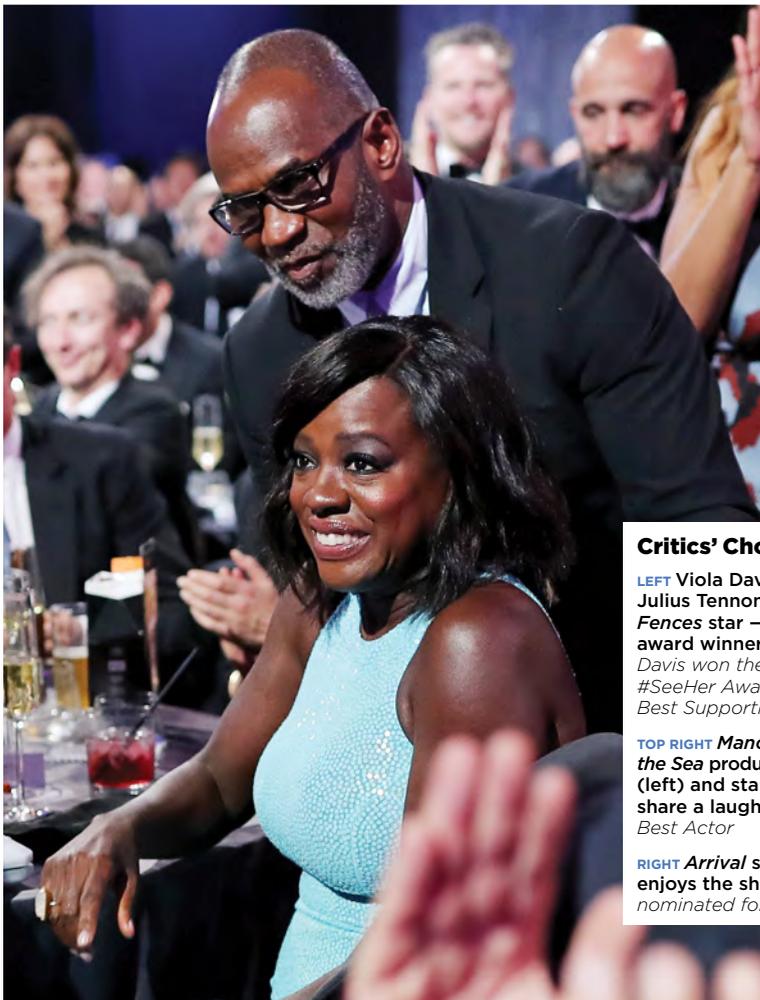


PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER POLK/GETTY



PHOTO BY KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY

Critics' Choice Awards

LEFT Viola Davis's husband, Julius Tennon, helps the *Fences* star — and double award winner — to her feet. Davis won the inaugural #SeeHer Award and Best Supporting Actress

TOP RIGHT *Manchester by the Sea* producer Matt Damon (left) and star Casey Affleck share a laugh. Affleck won Best Actor

RIGHT *Arrival* star Amy Adams enjoys the show. Adams was nominated for Best Actress



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER POLK/GETTY



Golden Globe Awards

LEFT *La La Land* co-stars Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone celebrate backstage. Gosling won Best Actor in a Musical or Comedy and Stone won Best Actress in a Musical or Comedy

TOP RIGHT *Manchester by the Sea* star Michelle Williams (left) hangs with *Florence Foster Jenkins* star Meryl Streep. Streep was nominated for Best Actress in a Musical or Comedy, and took home the Cecil B. DeMille Award; Williams was nominated for Best Supporting Actress

RIGHT *Moonlight*'s stars Ashton Sanders (left), Mahershala Ali (front) and Trevante Rhodes (right) surround their director Barry Jenkins. Ali and Jenkins were nominated for Best Supporting Actor and Best Director respectively



PHOTO BY MICHAEL KOVAC/GETTY



PHOTO BY MICHAEL KOVAC/GETTY

PHOTO BY ROBYN BECK/GETTY



Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards

LEFT *Jackie*'s very pregnant star Natalie Portman walks the red carpet. Portman won the Desert Palm Achievement Award



PHOTO BY GETTY

Hollywood Film Awards

TOP *Hacksaw Ridge* director Mel Gibson with his girlfriend Rosalind Ross. Gibson won the Hollywood Director Award

LEFT Nicole Kidman kids around with her *Lion* co-star Dev Patel. Kidman won the Hollywood Supporting Actress Award



PHOTO BY JEFFREY MAYER/GETTY

PHOTO BY STEVE GRANITZ/GETTY

THE **WINNERS** SO FAR

BEST PICTURE

Moonlight



La La Land



Manchester by the Sea



BEST ACTOR

Casey Affleck
Manchester by the Sea



Adam Driver
Paterson



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CRITICS'
CHOICE
AWARDS



Mahershala Ali
Moonlight



Jeff Bridges
Hell or High Water



Aaron Taylor-Johnson
Nocturnal Animals

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR



Michelle Williams
Manchester by the Sea



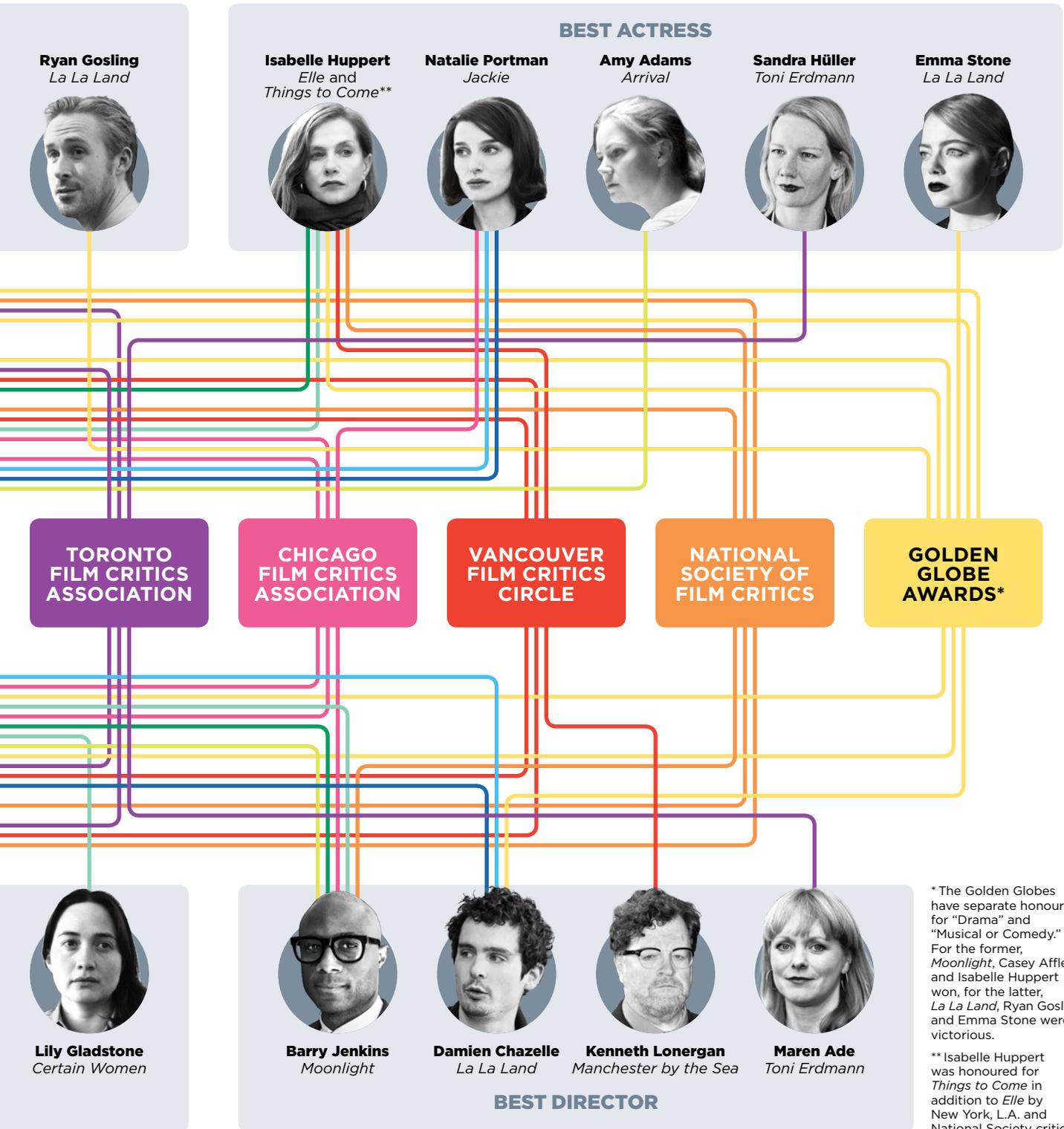
Viola Davis
Fences



Naomie Harris
Moonlight

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

From critics' picks to the Golden Globes, a survey of the films and performers already honoured yields clues to who may go home with a shiny new Oscar



* The Golden Globes have separate honours for "Drama" and "Musical or Comedy." For the former, *Moonlight*, Casey Affleck and Isabelle Huppert won, for the latter, *La La Land*, Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone were victorious.

** Isabelle Huppert was honoured for *Things to Come* in addition to *Elle* by New York, L.A. and National Society critics

JIMMY GOT THE JOB

Awards Season culminates with the **89th Academy Awards** on Sunday, February 26th. Tune in to ABC to watch the big show and see **Jimmy Kimmel** lead the festivities. How will he do? Who knows. But here we take a look at how and why he got the gig

BY MARNI WEISZ

Kimmel's Oscars Experience

It may be Jimmy Kimmel's first year hosting the Oscars, but he's no stranger to the show.

Since 2006, Kimmel has hosted *Jimmy Kimmel Live! After the Oscars*, a live broadcast featuring Oscar attendees who cross Hollywood Boulevard to appear in the *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* studio right after the awards. When he got this year's hosting gig, Kimmel joked it was because his studio is literally across the street from the Dolby Theatre. The fact that both shows are on ABC didn't hurt either.

Plus, for years, Kimmel has sent his sidekick Guillermo to the Oscars to man the red carpet and offer the stars tequila shots. Michael Fassbender and Bryan Cranston have been among the most enthusiastic drinkers.

And in 2015 Channing Tatum announced "Team Oscar" — contest winners who get to hand the Oscar statues to presenters during the ceremony — in an appearance on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*

Awards Show Cred

Although Kimmel's never hosted the Oscars, he's no newcomer to the format. He's hosted the American Music Awards five times (2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008), ESPN's ESPY Awards once (2007) and the Primetime Emmy Awards twice (2012, 2016).

Late-Night Legacy

Prior to Kimmel, three late-night TV talk show hosts have helmed the ceremonies, starting with beloved *Tonight Show* host Johnny Carson, who was MC from 1979 to 1982 and then again in 1984. Since Carson vacated the post, two of his successors have given it a shot — *Late Night*'s David Letterman, who bombed in 1995 thanks in part to jokes that appealed to few but himself ("Oprah. Uma. Uma, Oprah.") and then *The Daily Show*'s Jon Stewart, who took two turns (2006 and 2008) and earned mixed reviews.

Willing to Work For Peanuts

While on the *Kevin & Bean* morning radio show on L.A.'s KROQ, Kimmel revealed he's being paid \$15,000 (U.S.) to host the show. "I think it's illegal to pay nothing," he said. "I'm not sure I was supposed to reveal this. But nobody told me not to. I consider this their fault."

Jimmy Kimmel, seen here hosting the 2016 Emmys, transitions to Oscar host this year



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IN THEATRES MARCH 3



Super SIDEKICK!

Cute? Check. Funny? Check. Works well with Will Arnett? Check. **Michael Cera** is the perfect choice to play Lego Robin opposite Arnett's Lego Batman in *The LEGO Batman Movie*. We talk to the Canadian actor about voicing the enthusiastic mini-fig, growing up in Brampton, and why he can't say anything about *Twin Peaks* ■ BY MARNI WEISZ

Michael Cera is walking around his Brooklyn neighbourhood on a chilly December day. "It's a little cold, but it's a nice kind of cold," says the amiable 28-year-old. He still gets up to his suburban hometown of Brampton, Ontario — a short ride up the 410 from Toronto — as often he can, where he stays with his mom and dad and visits with his sisters and old friends who remained in the area.

His ultimate destination today is lunch with a writer friend, but on the way he's squeezing in a chat about *The LEGO Batman Movie*. He voices little plastic Robin to Will Arnett's braggadocious (yes, it's a word now) Batman.

Cera is probably best known for his role as Arnett's nephew George-Michael Bluth on TV's *Arrested Development* and as part of Seth Rogen's crew in movies like *Superbad*, *This is the End* and *Sausage Party*. But over the past few years he's drifted from the spotlight to try his hand at creative pursuits aside from movies, like starring in a Broadway production of *This is Our Youth*, releasing the delightful lo-fi folk album *true that* (he wrote the songs, sings, plays all the instruments and produced it himself), and even joining the writing team for the fifth (bonus!) season of *Arrested Development*.

In *LEGO Batman*, Cera's Robin is a little younger than most in the DC canon. He's just a kid, an orphan in fact, who manages to wheedle his way into Bruce Wayne's life and become the superhero's adopted son. And, as Cera will explain, the little guy's really, really, really happy about it.

But first, we get in the Can-Con.

What's the best thing about Brampton?

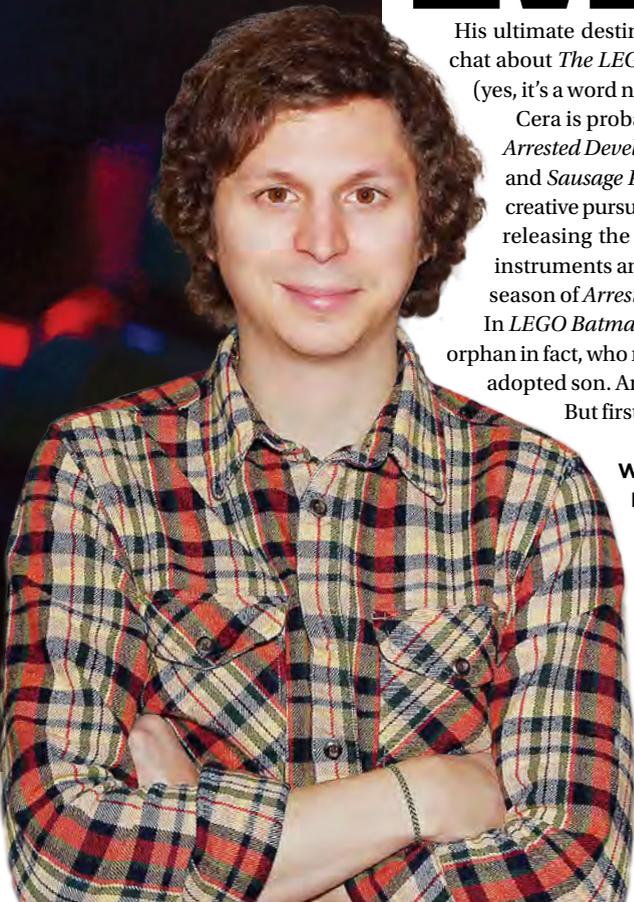
"I would say the people that I grew up with. I mean, I grew up in a really residential area, it seemed like it was really devoted to people having kids and putting them through school, so it was a lot of kids of all generations, like every year there was a new crop of kids born, and it really felt like a family-

oriented place when I think of it. And I feel like I had a really nice childhood there. I had really funny friends and we just had the run of this place. We'd ride our bikes around, and felt safe, yeah, I think it's a good place to grow up."

Are you still a Canadian citizen, or do you have dual citizenship now?

"I'm a Canadian citizen with a Green Card."

CONTINUED ▶



THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE
HITS THEATRES FEBRUARY 10TH

An ecstatic Robin (left, voiced by Michael Cera) gets in on the action with Batman (Will Arnett) in *The LEGO Batman Movie*

Go to CINEPLEX.COM/BESTVOICEWORK for a list of great voice performances in animated films

► **As we speak, it's still a month before Donald Trump becomes President of the United States. How does it feel to be a Canadian in a Trump America?**

"I don't think I have any specific feelings about that as a Canadian, to be honest. To me it more affects me as a person on the planet. I feel like there are specific groups of people who are affected more specifically by it. I feel like kind of a spectator watching a strange trajectory. It's a very vague feeling though, it's very vague, especially because he's not in office yet and nothing's really happened yet in a big way, and it's kind of just this general sense of, 'Okay, where are things going?'"

Will Arnett is from Toronto. Do you have a special bond with him because you're both from the GTA (Greater Toronto Area)?

"No, not really. Me and Will had very different upbringings. I mean, there's a big difference, I think, being from Toronto and being from Brampton, or being from Guelph or Mississauga. I don't think it's all one thing. If anything it would just be a very obscure Canadian joke that Will would make and maybe me and two other people who are from Canada would understand.... When I met Will I was a child and he was the funniest person I'd ever met in my life and it seemed like everyone that was working on the show shared that opinion of him."

Was he responsible for you getting the role of Robin, or was it just a coincidence that you were both on *Arrested Development*?

"I don't exactly know the answer to that, to be honest. I think maybe Will had mentioned me, or something, but all that I experienced

was that they invited me to come be a part of it. And I was a big fan of the first *LEGO Movie* so I was really glad to be asked."

Did you record in the same room with Will, or were you alone in a studio?

"Sadly I never did any work with any of the other actors. I always did it solo."

Is there any difference in voicing an animated Lego character and voicing a traditionally animated character, like you did for *Sausage Party*?

"No, I wouldn't say so. You're just kind of bringing whatever life you can to the character, all through the voice. I think different projects have different tones, and different kinds of levels that you play at, and this one is a very enthusiastic character and a very fast-paced kind of humour."

We know from the trailer that Robin is an orphan who forces himself into Batman's life. What else can you tell us?

"He's really just desperate to have a family. The main thing that he identifies with is being an orphan, so this is the opportunity to have a family and he's clinging to it.... He's very keen, and very enthusiastic. He's a big fan of Batman and of Bruce Wayne so he's just overwhelmed at all times by his overall view of what's going on."

Your self-produced album *true that* got some really great reviews. Are you planning to do another?

"No, not really in a focused way. The thing about that collection of songs is that it was this collection that I'd kind of piled up. I mean, I never planned on releasing or sharing it really,

but I suddenly had 15 songs that I liked and I thought were good enough for people to hear and then a friend of mine made me feel like I was a little cowardly for being so protective of it, so I thought 'Okay, I'll just put it out there.'"

You're moving in so many different directions right now — acting, music, theatre, writing. What do you hope to be doing 10 years from now?

"I don't know. I just hope I can provide for myself. Otherwise I'd be happy just as long as things in my real life are kind of level. And if I still have opportunities to work with good people then that's enough, I don't even care in what capacity. Really it's about who you can work with, I think."

Speaking of working with talented people, you snagged a role in David Lynch's upcoming revival of *Twin Peaks*. What can you tell us about that?

"Uh, I think I can't tell you anything actually because I signed a non-disclosure agreement [laughs]."

I can't wait to see who you're playing because, in all honesty, when I think of you in *Twin Peaks*, it seems like a *Saturday Night Live* spoof of *Twin Peaks* in that it doesn't quite fit, but it's really interesting.

"[Laughs.] Yeah, but that's part of what's great about David Lynch and his work in general. I don't know if there's anything consistent. It's totally alien to me. From one scene to the next you're amazed that it's the same person making all these choices." □

.....
Marni Weisz is the editor of Cineplex Magazine.



MATT DAMON

THE GREAT WALL

FEBRUARY 17

IN THEATRES, REALD 3D AND IMAX 3D



The Leftovers

Anna Kendrick leads a ragtag, and very funny, cast of comic actors in **Table 19**, a movie about making the most of being the least wanted guests at a wedding

BY BOB STRAUSS

Annie Kendrick has been on a nice roll recently. Starring opposite Ben Affleck in last fall's thriller *The Accountant*, providing the main speaking and singing voice for the surprisingly popular animated feature *Trolls*, getting her first book, *Scrappy Little Nobody*, published, preparing for a third movie in the blockbuster *Pitch Perfect* franchise she headlines...

So it feels particularly unjust that Kendrick is relegated to the losers section in her latest comedy, *Table 19*.

"There are always the people you don't want at your wedding but have to invite anyway," the sweetly snarky 31-year-old actor/singer from Portland, Maine, reckons during a phone conversation.

"This movie is about all of them at one table."

In the film, Kendrick's Eloise was supposed to have had better seating at her best friend's wedding. But she was banished to Table 19 — the group that should have known to send their regrets — after the bride-to-be's brother, and groom's best man, broke up with her a few weeks earlier. She attends anyway, and may just be able to have a good time despite the snub.

Making the movie was a much happier affair, as it reunited Kendrick with the filmmaker who helped her transition from young Broadway phenom (she earned a Tony nomination for a *High Society* revival) to viable movie player.

"*Table 19* is directed by Jeffrey Blitz, who put me in my first union movie, called *Rocket Science*," she says. "So, 10 years later we got to work together again. Even though a lot of people in the general public didn't see it, a lot of filmmakers saw *Rocket Science* and that's the reason that I have a career.

"Every director that I've worked with, particularly in the five years following that, they all referenced *Rocket Science* when they hired me. So to get to work with Jeff again was such a dream."

That career includes an Oscar-nominated performance (for *Up in the Air*), solid big studio (*Into the Woods*, the *Twilight* saga) and indie credits (she's a regular in mumblecore vet Joe Swanberg's down-to-earth dramadies, and *Table 19* was written by microbudget movie heroes Jay and Mark Duplass). Last year alone, Kendrick appeared in five theatrical releases, some of which were made long before. Because of that, she was ironically feeling a little bit like a nobody.

"It's funny, I sort of unwittingly became like



Table 19's unwelcome guests, clockwise from bottom left: Lisa Kudrow, Craig Robinson, June Squibb, Stephen Merchant, Tony Revolori and Anna Kendrick

a major workaholic in recent years," Kendrick acknowledges. "Last year I was writing my book and *Pitch Perfect 3* kept shifting around in its schedule, so I was on default hiatus. I was really worried that I was gonna go crazy, because usually I make like five movies a year. But it was actually great, so I'm really nervous that I'm going to turn into a hermit who just comes out when I need to pay the rent.

"I guess I've got the itch again," she admits.

TABLE 19
HITS THEATRES
MARCH 3RD



“There are always the people you don’t want at your wedding but you **have to invite anyway,”** says **Kendrick.** **“This movie is about all of them at one table”**

“It’s been fun, though, and I got to clean my house, which was great for that OCD part of your brain. So having some time off has been horrible and fun.”

Kendrick can take comfort in the fact that she’s once again on people’s radars in a big way. And she can also fret that some may still not think of her as much.

“The other day a friend of mine said to me, ‘Oh my God, you just pulled such a Poppy

face,” she says, referring to her *Trolls* cartoon princess. “I was like, okay, the universe is upside down. Poppy is like six inches high and she is pink and covered in felt, and you’re telling me that I look like Poppy? Not even that like, oh, Poppy looks like you. In real life, I’m doing a Poppy face.”

Bob Strauss lives in L.A. where he writes about movies and filmmakers.

Go to CINEPLEX.COM/WEDDINGMOVIES for our favourite movies about weddings

WATCH A CLIP!



KILLER ROLE

Violent, stressful and cathartic, the first film about former hitman John Wick was a surprise hit and, just as importantly, a lot of fun for star **Keanu Reeves** to make. So Wick, and Reeves, are back for ***John Wick: Chapter 2***, a story that promises more fights, more bad guys, and a brand new dog

■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

Keanu Reeves' career has been defined by contradictions.

As a young actor he radiated an old soul, now as an older actor he embodies youth. He's a movie star despite a limited acting range, and he's a household name yet no one can tell you much about his personal life.

He's best known for playing Neo in the game-changing *Matrix* trilogy, a role that showcased his laconic coolness and martial-arts skills. But the last *Matrix* pic hit theatres in 2003 and since then Reeves has been content to keep busy on Hollywood's perimeter — appearing in small indie movies, directing his first film (the martial-arts movie *Man of Tai Chi*), and producing the documentary *Side by Side*, about Hollywood's move into digital filmmaking.

However, buried in that string of smaller films is 2014's low-budget action film *John Wick*, directed by former stuntmen Chad Stahelski and David Leitch. The script, originally written for an older actor, was brought to Reeves, who helped shape it to fit his persona. The story finds legendary hitman John Wick coming out of retirement to seek vengeance against the Russian mobster who killed his puppy (a gift from his late wife). Moviegoers responded well to Reeves' return to action-hero mode, turning the movie with a wee \$20-million budget into a hit with an ardent following.

This month the 52-year-old actor returns as the killer in tight suits in *John Wick: Chapter 2*. When we last saw Wick he had wiped out a multitude of Russian gangsters (77 in total) and adopted a stray dog. Animal lovers need to know if this dog, unlike pup Daisy in the first film, will survive the sequel.

"Yeah, in the first film he walks away with this other hound, and the hound is part of the story of the second film, but don't worry, he'll be okay," says Reeves on the line from New York where he's presenting a preview of the sequel at the city's Comic Con. "I feel like we found a really organic way to tell the second story and not really repeat ourselves," he continues. "*John Wick* has such a unique kind of hook, with the dog, and for the second film we couldn't say, 'Now they've killed his other dog.' You want to find something organic."

So what can we expect?

"*John Wick: Chapter 2* is a continuation of the story of John Wick's battle for independence. We kinda develop the action a little more, open up the world of the hotel, the Continental, run by Ian McShane. In this one, someone from John's past forces him to do something against his will and things go the way they usually go [laughs]."

CONTINUED ►



John Wick (Keanu Reeves) and his new dog in *John Wick: Chapter 2*

Go to CINEPLEX.COM/ALLABOUTKEANU for trivia about the actor's life and career

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2
HITS THEATRES
FEBRUARY 10TH

film followed until he made his movie debut playing a Québécois goalie in the hockey pic *Youngblood*. Soon after, he packed his bags and drove to Los Angeles where his career revved up with films such as *River's Edge*, *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*, *Point Break* and *Speed*.

It was the *Matrix* trilogy and its generous payday — Reeves negotiated a share of the films' profits — that gave the actor the financial freedom to chart his own path in Hollywood.

"Yeah, I don't mind [freedom]," he says, "but I'm not in a position where I can do anything I want. Once you finish working you're unemployed so you're always looking for the next project, developing stuff and taking meetings. That's the hustle."

One of his recent projects was writing the text for the photo book *Shadows*.

"Yeah, that was a really great experience; it was the second work I've done with artist Alexandra Grant after *Ode to Happiness*. She came to me with the idea, something about shadows, she took pictures of shadows and I wrote some text. It's about the nature of being. Check it out," he says in his typically laidback tone.

As for the future of John Wick, Reeves can see himself stepping back into the assassin's shoes for a third time, which would see Wick vying with cyber-hero Neo as his career-defining role.

"If people like the second film and we have the opportunity to do it again, I'd be happy to. I love playing the guy." □

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

▶ Reeves is referring to John Wick's propensity for violence, distinguished by fast-paced martial-arts moves and gunplay, all done without wires or camera tricks.

"I really enjoy *John Wick's* version of movie violence," notes Reeves. "I feel it's a combination of the real, because of the editing style there's not a lot of quick cutting so you are watching the action and hopefully it brings you into it. And at the same time it is highly stylized, just in terms of composition and what happens. It's a heightened reality."

At age 52, Reeves looks and moves like a much younger man, a testament to good genes and his dedication to keeping fit.

"There's the *John Wick* training, which is doing judo and jujitsu and a lot of the fitness comes from the training," says the actor, "and of course there's diet. The role is very athletic so you are training like an athlete for it. I

definitely don't have the same spring in my step, but I'm doing okay."

Reeves was born in Beirut, Lebanon, to an English costume-designer mother and a Hawaiian-American father. His father left when Keanu was three and he moved with his mother to Sydney, New York and finally Toronto where he spent his childhood.

"Yeah, I had my formative years in Toronto," he says. "I was there from 1971 and left in 1985, basically all my schooling, but I dropped out of high school. I grew up in the Annex for the most part and it was a really great place for a kid to grow up. You could move around the city. Basically you wake up and go out to play and come home at night."

It was in Toronto he discovered his love of acting, appearing in a stage production of *Damn Yankees* when he was just nine. Roles on stage, in kids' TV shows and an NFB

MATRIX REUNION

Morpheus and Neo are together again.

Matrix co-stars Laurence Fishburne and Keanu Reeves — who haven't been seen together on the big screen since 2003's *The Matrix Revolutions* — reunite this month in *John Wick: Chapter 2*.

Friends off-screen, the duo were both at a social event when Fishburne mentioned how much he enjoyed *John Wick* and asked whether *John Wick* director Chad Stahelski (who worked as

the martial-arts stunt coordinator on the last two *Matrix* movies) could find him a role in the upcoming sequel.

Stahelski jumped at the chance, and wrote an undisclosed part just for Fishburne. But don't expect Fishburne to dive into the fray. Asked by Collider.com how much action he sees, Fishburne responded, "A little bit, not a whole lot. Very, very little. Very little."

—IR



Laurence Fishburne in *John Wick: Chapter 2*



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HELMS GETS TAGGED

Ed Helms and **Tracy Morgan** headline the comedy *Tag*, based on the real-life story of a group of friends who played tag for 30 years. The 10 pals started the game while attending Gonzaga Preparatory School in Spokane, Washington, and after graduating and spreading out across the country they managed to keep the game going while seeing each other on vacation and surprise visits.



Forest Whitaker's busy 2017 just got busier. This year he plays Desmond Tutu in *The Forgiven*, a reverend in the KKK drama *Burden* and an FBI agent in the heist pic *Finding Steve McQueen*. He's just added another pic, *Labyrinth*, in which he'll portray a reporter who teams with a detective (**Johnny Depp**) to investigate the murders of rappers Tupac Shakur and Notorious B.I.G. **Brad Furman** (*The Lincoln Lawyer*) directs.



JAMES HEADS TO GUERNSEY

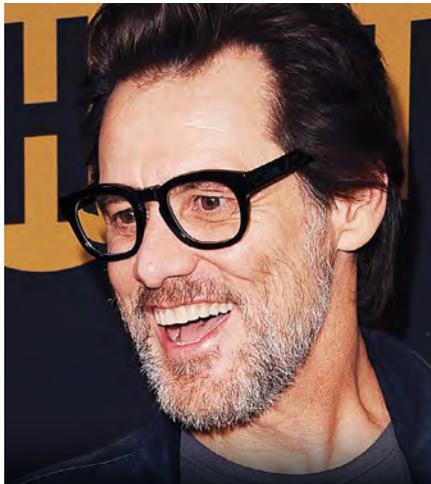
Cinderella star **Lily James** headlines *Guernsey*, the big-screen adaptation of **Mary Ann Shaffer** and **Annie Barrow's** bestseller *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*. Set on the English island of Guernsey during World War II, the tale finds a group of eccentric locals forming a book club as a way to survive the harsh German occupation. **Mike Newell** (*Mona Lisa Smile*, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*) directs the pic that hits screens next year.



What's Going On With...

TOMB RAIDER

A year after winning her Best Supporting Actress Oscar **Angelina Jolie** starred in *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* and shot to superstardom. Two years after winning her Best Supporting Actress Oscar, **Alicia Vikander** looks to do the same with *Tomb Raider*, the reboot of the Lara Croft series. *Tomb Raider* will be based on the 2013 reboot of the videogame, and will be an origin story that finds Lara going on a dangerous archaeological mission to clear her deceased father's name. **Walton Goggins** (*The Hateful Eight*) plays the bad guy while Norwegian filmmaker **Roar Uthaug** directs. *Tomb Raider* lands in theatres March 16th, 2018.



CARREY Plays With TOYS

Jim Carrey plays famed toy inventor Marvin Glass in the upcoming bio-pic *Mr. Toy*. Glass, who came up with classic games such as Operation, Lite Brite, Mouse Trap and Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots, was a troubled, paranoid, three-time divorced genius who felt his life was a failure despite the fact he is considered the father of modern toy design. No word on who will direct.

PHOTO BY JASON LAVERIS/GETTY



FRESH FACE DANIEL KALUUYA

Daniel Kaluuya fights for his life in this month's comedic horror *Get Out*. A veteran of British TV shows such as *Skins* and *Babylon*, the 27-year-old actor made his Hollywood debut in *Kick-Ass 2*, and then starred as **Emily Blunt's** FBI partner in *Sicario*. Look for him in the upcoming *Black Panther* as W'Kabi, Black Panther's loyal second-in-command.

PHOTO BY MIKE MARSLAND/GETTY



MCKINNON'S LUNCH BREAK

So far **Kate McKinnon's** film career has been all about supporting roles, but she finally lands a starring role in *The Lunch Witch*. Directed by **Clay Kaytis** (*The Angry Birds Movie*), the comedy casts McKinnon as Grunhilda, a nasty witch left jobless in the modern world who finds work as a school lunch lady. Detested by the kids, Grunhilda is befriended by a timid little girl.

ALSO IN THE WORKS ▶ **Jodie Foster** searches for criminals in the near-future thriller *Hotel Artemis*. ▶ **Patrick Wilson** will play villain Orm Marius in *Aquaman*. ▶ **Paul Dano** portrays an East German Stasi officer hunting an assassin in *The Englishman*. ▶ *Penguin Bloom* casts **Naomi Watts** as a depressed quadriplegic wife and mother who finds hope when she takes in an injured magpie chick named Penguin.

WATCH THE ORIGINAL TRAILER



Titanic GAMBLE

It's 1996 and James Cameron is dancing on the head of a pin. The Canadian director's epic film *Titanic* is in turmoil. The original \$100-million (U.S.) budget has doubled to a record-breaking \$200-million. The initial shooting schedule of 138 days has stretched to a gruelling 168 days, and someone dropped the hallucinogenic PCP into a batch of lobster chowder during an on-set dinner break, sending a dozen cast and crew to the hospital.

Yet, Cameron will not yield to the pressure. He wants his movie starring Kate Winslet and

Leonardo DiCaprio as young lovers aboard the doomed ocean liner to be all things to all viewers — a poignant romance, special-effects extravaganza, action pic and historical document. And he does just that.

Opening in December 1997, *Titanic* went on to become the highest-grossing movie of all time earning \$1.84-billion worldwide (it held the record until 2009 when Cameron's *Avatar* took top spot) and went on to win an astounding 11 Oscars, including Best Picture. —INGRID RANDOJA

Cineplex's Classic Films series screens *Titanic 3D* on February 5th and 13th, and *Titanic 2D* on February 15th. Go to Cineplex.com/Events for times and locations.



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LOVING

RENT IT FEBRUARY 7

Joel Edgerton and co-star **Ruth Negga** shine as real-life couple Richard and Mildred Loving, who broke the law against interracial marriage when they wed in Virginia in 1958. Arrested and sent packing from their home the pair appeals the conviction, a battle that goes all the way to the Supreme Court.

MANCHESTER BY THE SEA

BUY IT FEBRUARY 7

RENT IT FEBRUARY 21

Casey Affleck gives a career-best performance as a melancholy janitor who is tasked with raising his teenage nephew (**Lucas Hedges**) after his brother's (**Kyle Chandler**) death in writer-director **Kenneth Lonergan's** heartbreaking drama.



DOCTOR STRANGE

BUY IT FEBRUARY 14

RENT IT FEBRUARY 28

Cultured **Benedict Cumberbatch** is the perfect fit for Marvel's Stephen Strange, an arrogant surgeon who, after an accident, trains with a Tibetan mystic (**Tilda Swinton**) to become a magical superhero anointed to save Earth from evil entities.



ARRIVAL

RENT IT FEBRUARY 14

Although Canadian director **Denis Villeneuve's** cerebral sci-fi favours brains over brawn, it still crackles with tension. **Amy Adams** plays a brilliant linguist who must find a way to communicate with an alien species that's taken up residence above the Earth.

ALLIED

BUY IT FEBRUARY 14

RENT IT FEBRUARY 28

Can two spies in love truly trust one another? That's the premise behind director **Robert Zemeckis'** stylish World War II thriller that finds a Canadian intelligence officer (**Brad Pitt**) falling in love with a French resistance fighter (**Marion Cotillard**). When he's told she's a double agent, he sets out to prove her loyalty.



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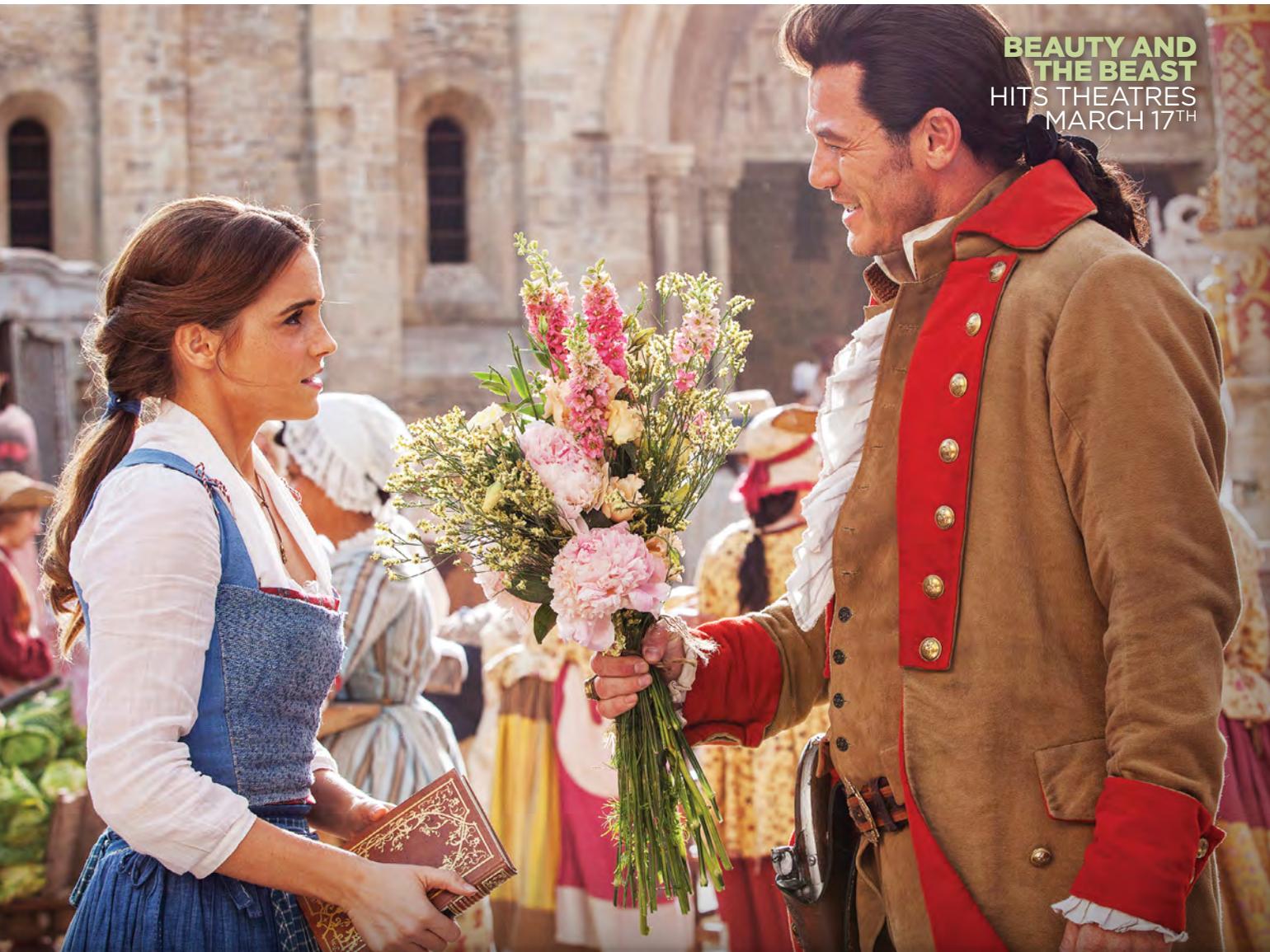
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FINALLY...

BEAUTY AND
THE BEAST
HITS THEATRES
MARCH 17TH



BEAUTY'S Looking a Little **GREEN**

More often than not, movie sets are places of expendable excess — entire towns built to be used for just a week or two, enough food to satisfy an army of actors, grips and gophers, and gorgeous outfits meant to be worn just once.

But the costume department for next month's lavish *Beauty and the Beast* made

at least a small dent in the damage done to our planet by challenging themselves to create ethical and sustainable costumes.

That means they used organic, fair-trade material from suppliers that pay their employees a living wage, the pieces were coloured with low-impact dyes, so the waste water is carefully disposed of,

and prints were created using traditional wood blocks.

It was a win-win situation, since creating fabrics in these sustainable ways not only helps the environment but creates garments that look more appropriate for the period, 18th-century France. —MARNI WEISZ

IN THE GALLERY

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN



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