

CINEPLEX

MAGAZINE



GAL GADOT

TALKS
WONDER
WOMAN

Inside

- MARK WAHLBERG**
- ANTHONY HOPKINS**
- SOFIA BOUTELLA**
- KUMAIL NANJANI**
- JON HAMM**

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COVER PHOTO BY CLAY ENOS





WAITING FOR GADOT

It's finally time. **Gal Gadot** headlines the *Wonder Woman* movie this month, a project that's been in some stage of production since I was in my 20s. I'm now 47.

Here's another example of how long it's taken to get the Amazon princess-turned-superhero to the big screen. When we started this magazine 18 years ago we spent a lot of time brainstorming content ideas, including one that was an attempt to be "interactive" with our readership. Remember, this thing they call the World Wide Web was just gaining traction back then — Google had launched, but most were still using Yahoo or AltaVista. And there was no such thing as social media; Facebook wouldn't exist for years.

So we considered doing a section where we'd ask readers a question, they'd write in with their answers and we'd print the best responses in an upcoming issue — a process that would take well over three months to play out. Cutting edge! And the question we always used as our example was, "Who should play *Wonder Woman* in the movie?"

It was 1999 and the idea of a *Wonder Woman* movie had been floating around Hollywood for three years, but interest was building and it was now one of the hottest topics in the biz. And the name offered forth to the casting gods more often than any other? Sandra Bullock. Not in our magazine, mind you, that particular feature never did make it to print, but on nascent message boards and budding film websites.

Over the next several years Angelina Jolie, Beyoncé, Megan Fox, Eliza Dushku, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Lucy Lawless were all mentioned as possibilities. Even the wrestler Chyna campaigned hard for the role.

The time seemed right for a *Wonder Woman* movie. Thanks to the success of Tim Burton's *Batman* flicks the studios were eager to mine the genre. Films based on more niche comic books like *Men in Black* and *Blade* had just come out, *X-Men* was about to be released and a few years later the first round of modern *Spider-Man* movies, with Tobey Maguire in the spider suit, hit theatres, solidifying the power of franchises, sequels and superheroes.

But *Wonder Woman* never got off the ground. Not then, anyway. It took the current wave of massively popular superhero movies along with an increasingly loud lament about the lack of women-centred movies to finally make *Wonder Woman* soar.

That, and exotic Israeli actor Gal Gadot whose casting as the DC hero from the mysterious island of Themyscira seemed to please most fans, which is a rarity in the nit-picky world of casting comic-book movies.

As the groovy theme song for the 1970s *Wonder Woman* TV series that starred Lynda Carter says, "Wonder Woman, Wonder Woman. All the world is waiting for you, and the power you possess.... Wonder Woman, Wonder Woman. Now the world is ready for you, and the wonders you can do."

Okay, the music really helps. Look it up on that World Wide Web. And after returning safely home from that nostalgia trip, turn to "Wonder Struck," page 40, and read our interview with Gadot about finally bringing *Wonder Woman* to the big screen.

Elsewhere in this issue, **Mark Wahlberg** and **Sir Anthony Hopkins** talk *Transformers: The Last Knight* (page 36), we've got **Jon Hamm** on going bad for *Baby Driver* (page 32), *The Mummy's Sofia Boutella* tells us about acting like a monster opposite **Tom Cruise** (page 24) and **Kumail Nanjiani** describes turning one of the scariest experiences of his life into the hit movie *The Big Sick* (page 28).

■ **MARNI WEISZ**, EDITOR

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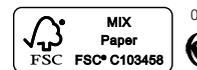
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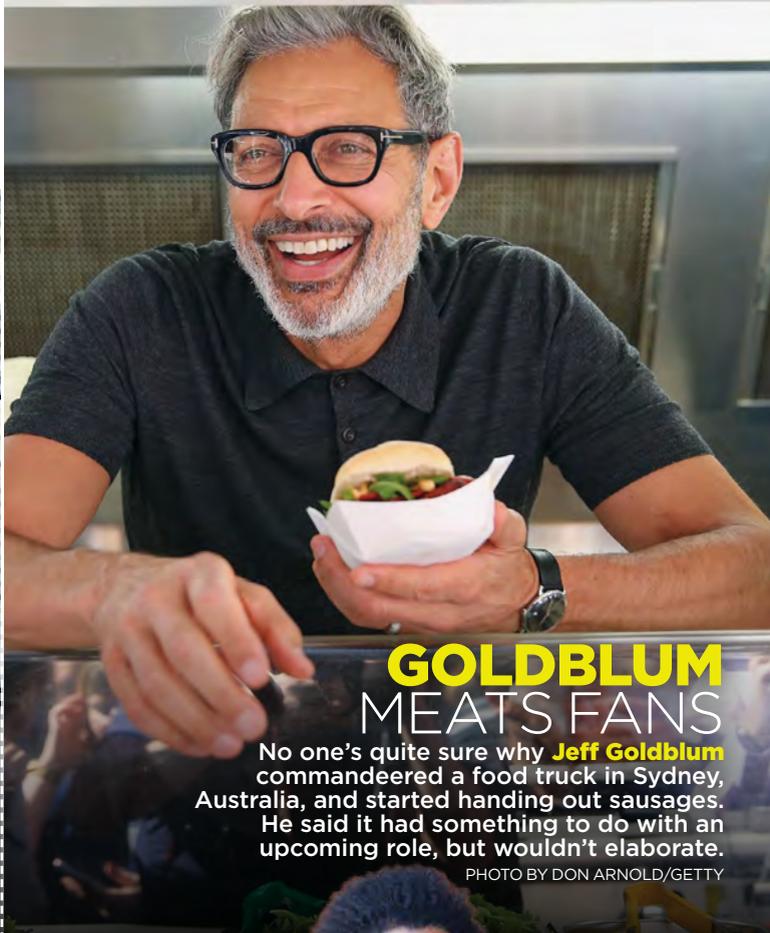
SNAPS



J.LO'S RAIN DATE

Jennifer Lopez arrives at New York's Marea restaurant on a rainy spring day.

PHOTO BY JAMES DEVANEY/GETTY



GOLDBLUM MEATS FANS

No one's quite sure why **Jeff Goldblum** commandeered a food truck in Sydney, Australia, and started handing out sausages. He said it had something to do with an upcoming role, but wouldn't elaborate.

PHOTO BY DON ARNOLD/GETTY



WASHINGTON'S STATE

That's **Denzel Washington**, with fake teeth and a few extra pounds, playing idealistic defense attorney Roman Israel on the L.A. set of the crime drama *Inner City*.

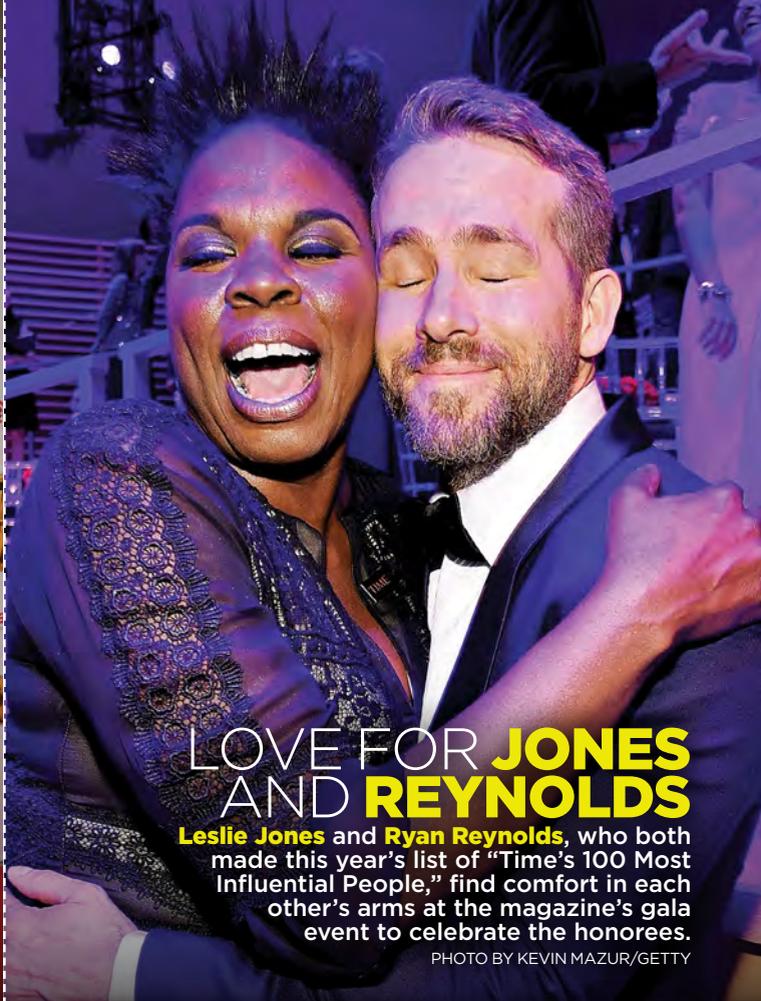
PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



MILLER TIME

Actor **Ezra Miller** leaps onto CinemaCon's red carpet in Las Vegas. He was there to promote November's *Justice League*, in which he'll play The Flash.

PHOTO BY JEFFREY MAYER/GETTY



LOVE FOR JONES AND REYNOLDS

Leslie Jones and **Ryan Reynolds**, who both made this year's list of "Time's 100 Most Influential People," find comfort in each other's arms at the magazine's gala event to celebrate the honorees.

PHOTO BY KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY



BIG SEAT TO FILL

Actor **Freida Pinto** (left) and actor-model **Emily Ratajkowski** find the most comfortable chair at the Coachella music festival. It was in the H&M tent.

PHOTO BY RICH FURY/GETTY



Will Ferrell and Amy Poehler in *The House* INSET: Poehler on *Celebrity Poker Showdown*

Shuffle Up and DEAL

The House stars Amy Poehler and Will Ferrell as a clueless suburban husband and wife who open an illegal casino in their basement to raise money for their daughter's university tuition.

And it seems as though the former *Saturday Night Live* performers are well cast as gambling-world neophytes in way over their heads.

Neither has been known to frequent charity casino

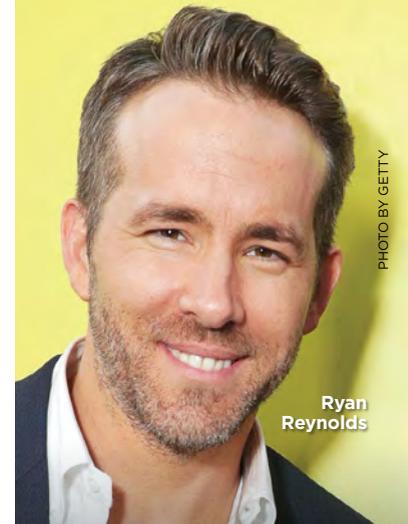
tournaments, or play in the sort of celebrity-riddled poker games that attract thespian card sharks like Tobey Maguire, Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon and Ben Affleck.

However, Poehler did make an appearance on the third season of TV's *Celebrity Poker Showdown* back in 2004. Unfortunately she made a few rookie mistakes, like folding out of turn, and ultimately lost to her *Saturday Night Live* cast mate Seth Meyers by



going all-in with a gut-shot straight draw when he'd made a pair of aces.

Poehler finished third of five players before Meyers took out insult comic Jeff Ross to win the tourney. —MW



Ryan Reynolds

On Home Turf: DEADPOOL 2

It's been months since the teaser trailer for *Deadpool 2* hit the web with Ryan Reynolds' potty-mouthed superhero trying — and failing — to save an old man from a mugging.

So it may be a surprise that the sequel doesn't actually start shooting in Vancouver until the middle of this month.

Reynolds is expected to be home in B.C. until September filming the follow-up to the R-rated superhero movie that revitalized an oversaturated genre.

We'll also see Josh Brolin in town; he's playing *Deadpool*'s fellow X-Men-aligned superhero, Cable. —MW ▶

THE ART OF FILM

Toronto artist Jacqueline Poirier painted her first plate at the suggestion of her manager at TOCA, the restaurant at Toronto's Ritz-Carlton Hotel, when she was a server. Now she's the hotel's "Resident Artist," which means her plates are on permanent display, she gives guests guided art tours of T.O. and even private painting lessons. While she also paints landscapes and still lifes, many of Poirier's plates feature movie stars. "I absolutely loves movies and filmmaking," she says. "Every year in September I look forward to the Toronto International Film Festival." Here you see her takes (clockwise from top) on Susan Sarandon in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, Stripes-era Bill Murray and Mike Myers as Austin Powers. See more at www.thecrazyplatelady.com. —MW





**IN THEATRES
JULY 16**
IN 3D AND REAL D 3D



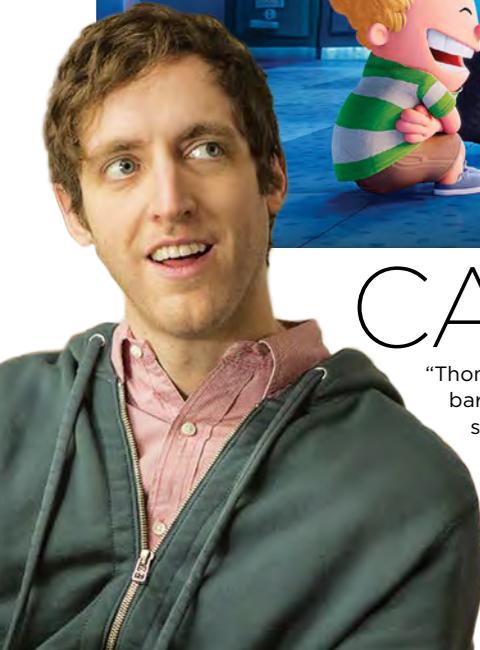
Page on Stage

Ellen Page gives the double thumbs up at a live L.A. reading of her 2007 indie hit *Juno*, in which she starred as a pregnant teen who gives her baby up for adoption. The film's director, Jason Reitman, organized the stripped-down event to celebrate the film's 10th anniversary and also raise funds for Planned Parenthood, whose future is in jeopardy under the current U.S. administration. Although some, including right-wing Breitbart News, have called *Juno* a pro-life film because Page's character decides to have the baby, both Reitman and Page have said it's very much pro-choice, because *Juno* had the opportunity to make that decision.



Rachel's RACHEL

Rachel Weisz's Victorian thriller *My Cousin Rachel*, in which she plays a widow named Rachel who may or may not have killed her husband, is based on a book by English author Daphne du Maurier, whose works were among Alfred Hitchcock's favourite source material. Hitchcock's movies *Jamaica Inn*, *Rebecca* and *The Birds* were all based on du Maurier stories.



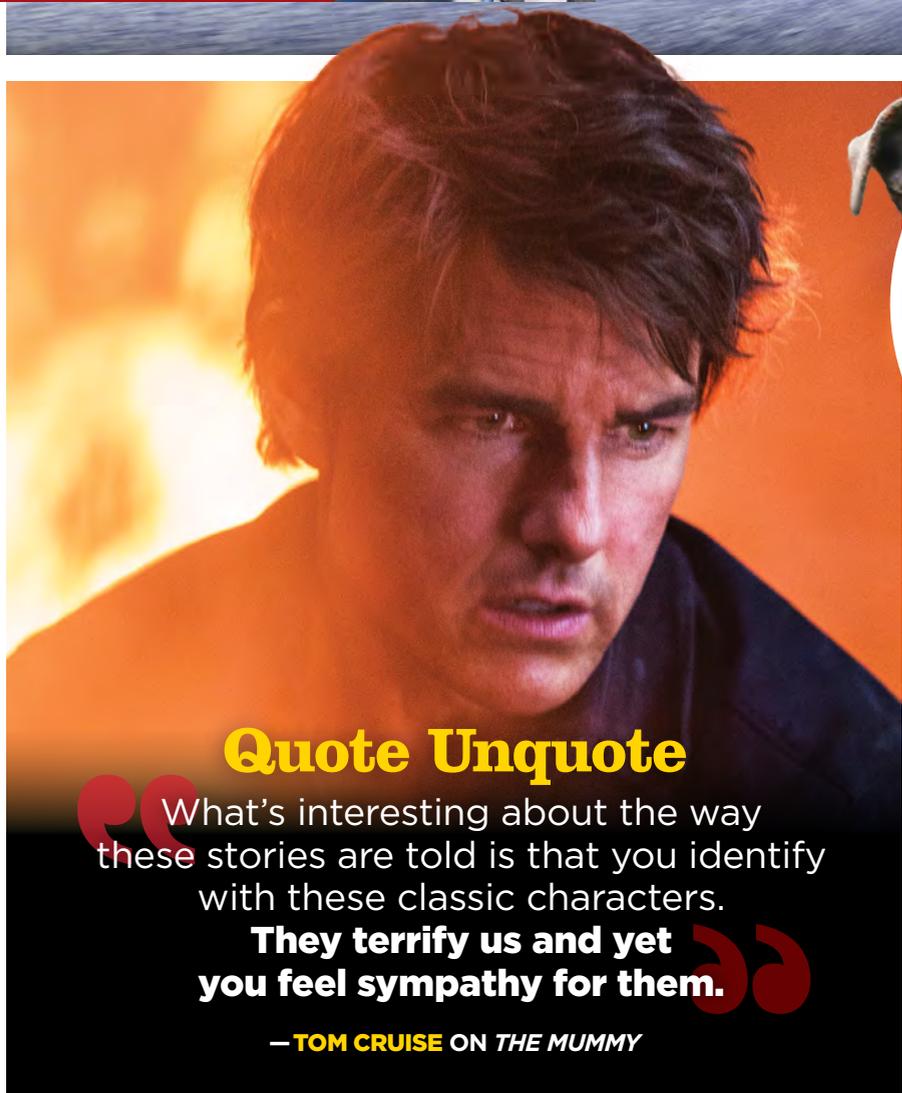
CAPTAIN'S CANUCK

"Thomas Middleditch" may sound like the name of a hoity-toity, bowler-wearing animated land baron but it's actually the handle of the Canadian actor (pictured left) who voices grade-school student Harold Hutchins (the blond) in this month's *Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie*. His co-stars include Ed Helms, Kevin Hart, Kristen Schaal, Nick Kroll and Jordan Peele. Though this isn't the Nelson, B.C., native's first time doing voice work, you probably recognize him from his live-action roles, most notably as Richard Hendricks, the tech genius at the centre of HBO's *Silicon Valley*. —MW



DID YOU KNOW?

Armie Hammer was cast as the voice of arrogant hotshot racecar Jackson Storm (top left) in *Cars 3* because the filmmakers thought he did such a great job playing the haughty, self-entitled Winklevoss twins in Aaron Sorkin's Facebook movie, *The Social Network*.



Quote Unquote

What's interesting about the way these stories are told is that you identify with these classic characters.

They terrify us and yet you feel sympathy for them.

— TOM CRUISE ON *THE MUMMY*



PHOTO: FRESHFIELDS ANIMAL RESCUE FACEBOOK PAGE

But Does She Transform?

This is Freya. Freya was dubbed "The Loneliest Dog in the World" by Britain's *Mirror* newspaper after spending all six years of her life at Freshfields Animal Rescue near Liverpool. During that time an estimated 18,000 people took a look, but passed on adopting the epileptic Staffordshire bull terrier.

Then director Michael Bay saw the story and decided to give her a part as Sir Anthony Hopkins' dog in *Transformers: The Last Knight*, which was shooting in England. Freya now lives with her new parents Ray and Jackie Collins in Cheadle Hume, Greater Manchester.

Good dog. Good humans. —*MW*

WONDER WOMAN
HITS THEATRES JUNE 2ND

PHOTO BY MADELINE MACHADO

Wonderful Role

Samantha Jo spent nearly a decade working as a stuntwoman and taking risks. However, the biggest risk the Barrie, Ontario, native has taken is giving up stunt work to become an actor.

"It was incredibly scary but I am so happy I did it," says Jo on the line from her home in Los Angeles. "I've had the pleasure of working with these amazing people, like Henry Cavill and Amy Adams, and it really inspired me, and I knew that I would kick myself if I didn't do what my heart was telling me."

The 26-year-old worked with Cavill

and Adams on *Man of Steel* when she had both a small acting role as one of General Zod's soldiers, Car-Vex, and was the stunt double for Antje Traue, who played baddie Faora-Ul.

Jo landed her biggest role to date in this month's *Wonder Woman*, portraying Amazon warrior Euboea, who fights alongside Gal Gadot's titular Amazon heroine.

"*Wonder Woman* is the first of its kind, it's a big-budget superhero film with a female lead and female director and an army of supporting female cast," notes Jo. "I've worked on films in the superhero genre before but it was mainly

with men and I didn't know how the two experiences would differ. But once I was on set it was this feeling of empowerment, and a kind of responsibility, everyone knew how important and special this would be for us and for our sons and daughters, and the next generation of young girls."

The irony is that the action-packed role meant a return to hardcore training.

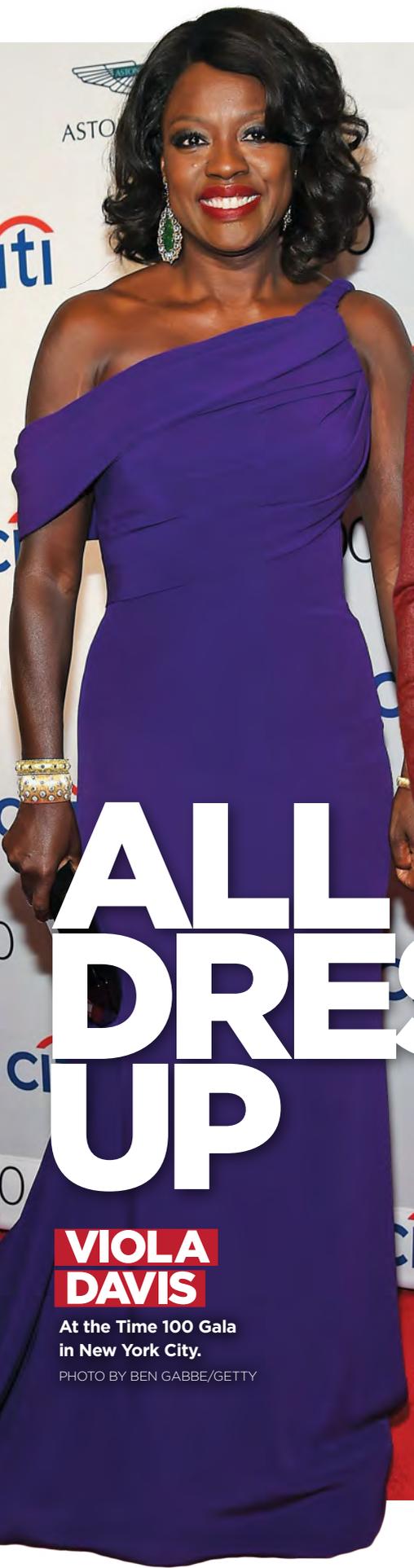
"So, I'm only going to focus on acting so my body can rest," she says, "and I'm ready to work out like a normal person now, just do it for fun, and then my first big film is *Wonder Woman* and I was in the gym even more than when I was doing stunts." —INGRID RANDOJA

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**VIOLA
DAVIS**

At the Time 100 Gala
in New York City.

PHOTO BY BEN GABBE/GETTY



**CHANNING
TATUM**

At the Las Vegas opening
of *Magic Mike Live Las Vegas*.

PHOTO BY MINDY SMALL/GETTY



**KIRSTEN
DUNST**

In Las Vegas for CinemaCon.

PHOTO BY ANGELA WEISS/GETTY



**ROSARIO
DAWSON**

In Hollywood for the premiere
of *Unforgettable*.

PHOTO BY DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY



**DAVE
BAUTISTA**

At the Hollywood premiere of
Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 2.

PHOTO BY JASON LAVERIS/GETTY



**CHARLIZE
THERON**

In Las Vegas for CinemaCon.

PHOTO BY ANGELA WEISS/GETTY



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IN THEATRES

JUNE 2

WONDER WOMAN

It's taken far too long but we finally get a big-budget, female superhero movie that's even directed by a woman (**Patty Jenkins**). Israeli actor **Gal Gadot** is Amazon princess Diana, who lives with her fellow Amazon warriors on the isolated island of Themyscira. After rescuing American World War I pilot Steve Trevor (**Chris Pine**), Diana learns the Great War is killing millions, so she breaks with tradition and leaves the island to help mankind. See **Gal Gadot** interview, [page 40](#).



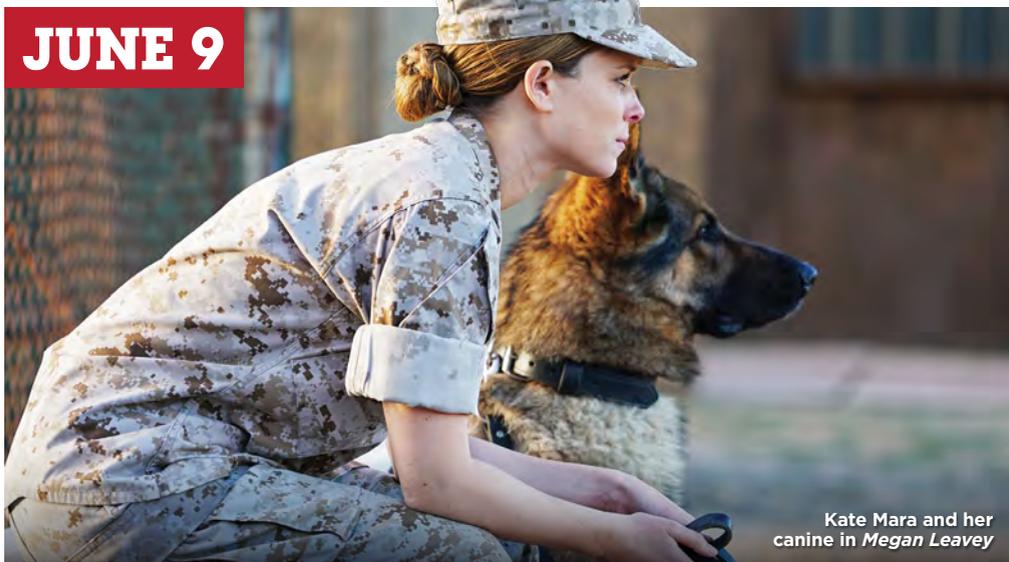
CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS: THE FIRST EPIC MOVIE

Author and illustrator **Dav Pilkey**'s award-winning *Captain Underpants* book series comes to the big screen in animated form. Troublemaking fourth graders George Beard (**Kevin Hart**) and Harold Hutchins (**Thomas Middleditch**) manage to hypnotize mean Principal Krupp (**Ed Helms**), who transforms into the not-so-super hero Captain Underpants.



Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie

JUNE 9



Kate Mara and her canine in *Megan Leavey*

MEGAN LEAVEY

Based on a true story, this drama casts **Kate Mara** as marine corporal Megan Leavey, who trains a German shepherd named Rex to become a top bomb-sniffing dog. However, when they are both injured in the line of duty, Megan must fight to reunite with her beloved canine.

CHURCHILL

Brian Cox portrays British Prime Minister Winston Churchill as he prepares for the D-Day invasion. **John Slattery** plays Dwight D. Eisenhower and **Miranda Richardson** stars as Churchill's devoted wife, Clementine.



The Mummy's Annabelle Wallis and Tom Cruise



It Comes at Night

IT COMES AT NIGHT

Up-and-coming director **Trey Edward Shults** (*Krishna*) helms this horror that stars **Joel Edgerton** and **Carmen Ejogo** as a couple trapped in an isolated home while a malevolent presence lurks outside. Tensions rise when they give shelter to another couple (**Riley Keough**, **Christopher Abbott**) fleeing the terror.

THE MUMMY

Special ops soldier Nick Morton (**Tom Cruise**) mistakenly awakens entombed mummy Ahmanet (**Sofia Boutella**). **Russell Crowe** plays Dr. Henry Jekyll, a member of a secret organization that deals with monster threats. This is the first of several Universal Studios monster movie reboots. **Johnny Depp** will star in *The Invisible Man* and Crowe will headline a *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* pic. See **Sofia Boutella** interview, **page 24**.



My Cousin Rachel's Sam Claflin and Rachel Weisz

MY COUSIN RACHEL

Rachel Weisz stars in this adaptation of British writer **Daphne du Maurier's** classic novel set in 19th-century England. The story revolves around Philip (**Sam Claflin**), who suspects his cousin Rachel (Weisz) may have poisoned her first husband (**Iain Glenn**), who was Philip's guardian. His suspicions will not rest even when he finds himself falling in love with her.

CONTINUED ▶

JUNE 16



ROUGH NIGHT

A girls' weekend takes a very dark (and comedic) turn when five college pals — **Scarlett Johansson**, **Kate McKinnon**, **Jillian Bell**, **Ilana Glazer** and **Zoë Kravitz** — accidentally kill a male stripper and work furiously to cover up the crime.

▶ **BEATRIZ AT DINNER**

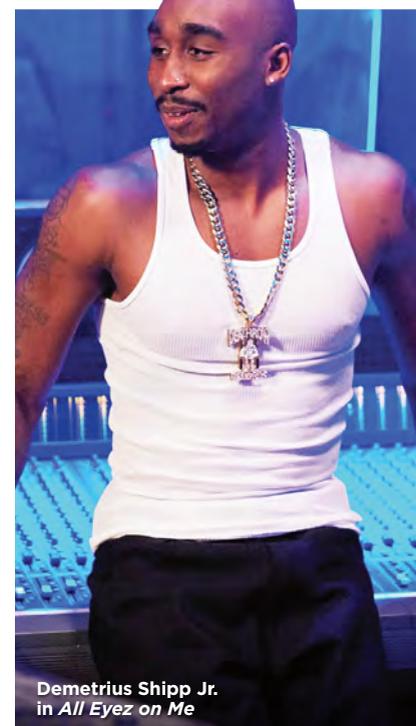
Trump's America gets skewered in director **Miguel Arteta** (*The Good Girl*) and writer **Mike White's** (*School of Rock*, *The Good Girl*) drama that finds healer Beatriz (**Salma Hayek**) forced to spend the night at the home of her wealthy clients, who just happen to be having a dinner party for their heartless billionaire buddy Doug (**John Lithgow**). It doesn't take long before Beatriz and Doug face off in a most uncomfortable way.

CARS 3

In this third *Cars* pic racecar Lightning McQueen (voiced again by **Owen Wilson**) suffers a horrible crash that threatens his racing career. He recovers, and returns to racing, but isn't as speedy as he used to be. Depressed that he's being outpaced by faster and more technologically advanced cars such as Jackson Storm (**Armie Hammer**), he teams with canny racing technician Cruz Ramirez (**Cristela Alonzo**) to get back into the game.

ALL EYEZ ON ME

Demetrius Shipp Jr. makes his big-screen debut portraying Tupac Shakur in this bio-pic that charts the rapper/actor's life growing up as the son of Black Panther activists to his hip-hop stardom and finally his murder at age 25 at the hands of still-unknown assailants. The film's title is taken from the last studio album released by Shakur before his death. It came out in February 1996; he was killed in September.



Demetrius Shipp Jr. in *All Eyez on Me*

JUNE 21



TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

Mark Wahlberg returns as inventor Cade Yeager, who helped the Autobots defeat the Decepticons for the umpteenth time in *Transformers: Age of Extinction*. In this fifth film in the series, Cade teams with a feisty orphan (**Isabela Moner**), an Oxford professor (**Laura Haddock**) and an English lord (**Anthony Hopkins**) to uncover why the Transformers continue to travel to Earth and figure out how to stop the carnage. See **Mark Wahlberg and Anthony Hopkins interview**, [page 36](#).

JUNE 28

BABY DRIVER

Director **Edgar Wright's** (*The World's End*, *Hot Fuzz*) pedal-to-the-metal action flick stars **Ansel Elgort** as superstar getaway driver Baby, who drowns out the incessant ringing in his ears by listening to an iPod at all times. Baby falls for Deborah (**Lily James**) and vows to get out of the heist game, but crime boss Doc (**Kevin Spacey**) and bank robbers Buddy (**Jon Hamm**), Griff (**Jon Berthal**) and Bats (**Jamie Foxx**) won't let him. See **Jon Hamm interview**, [page 32](#).

CONTINUED ▶

Oh brother.



ILLUMINATION PRESENTS
**DESPICABLE
ME 3**

JUNE 30

IN THEATRES AND REAL D 3D

ILLUMINATION
ENTERTAINMENT

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JUNE 30



DESPICABLE ME 3

In the third *Despicable Me* movie Gru (**Steve Carell**), who works for the Anti-Villain League with wife Lucy (**Kristen Wiig**), meets his long-lost, cheerful twin brother Dru (also Carell) while at the same time dealing with baddie Balthazar Bratt (**Trey Parker**), a former '80s child star who's still fuming at the cancellation of his TV show and plotting world domination.



Amityville: The Awakening's Bella Thorne

▶ THE BIG SICK

This heart-tugging rom-com — which wowed audiences at the Sundance Film Festival — stars comic actor **Kumail Nanjiani** (TV's *Portlandia*, *Silicon Valley*) and is based on his real-life relationship with now-wife Emily V. Gordon, played by **Zoe Kazan**. Just after the pair breaks up Emily is stricken with a mysterious illness, and it's Kumail who sticks by her and bonds with her parents (**Holly Hunter**, **Ray Romano**) as she battles back. See **Kumail Nanjiani interview**, page 28.



The Big Sick's Zoe Kazan and Kumail Nanjiani

AMITYVILLE: THE AWAKENING

This 18th installment of the *Amityville* film series finds a mom (**Jennifer Jason Leigh**) moving her incapacitated son (**Cameron Monaghan**) and daughters (**Bella Thorne**, **Mckenna Grace**) into the haunted Amityville house.

THE HOUSE

Scott Johansen (**Will Ferrell**) and his wife Kate (**Amy Poehler**) are well-intentioned parents who made the mistake of draining all the money from their daughter Alex's (**Ryan Simpkins**) college fund. To earn her tuition funds the pair opens an underground casino that becomes a neighbourhood hotspot.



The House's Will Ferrell

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FAMILY FAVOURITES

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SAT., JUNE 3

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Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
SAT., JUNE 17

The Muppet Movie
SAT., JUNE 24

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA

Eugene Onegin (Tchaikovsky)

ENCORES:
SAT., JUNE 3;
MON., JUNE 5; WED., JUNE 7

Der Rosenkavalier (R. Strauss)

ENCORES: SAT., JUNE 17;
MON., JUNE 19;
WED., JUNE 21

CLASSIC FILMS

The Godfather

SUN., JUNE 4;
WED., JUNE 7

NATIONAL THEATRE

Peter Pan

SAT., JUNE 10; SUN., JUNE 11;
THURS., JUNE 29

Salomé

LIVE: THURS., JUNE 22

Obsession

ENCORE: SAT., JUNE 24

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WED., JUNE 14;
SUN., JUNE 18

British Museum Presents: Hokusai

SUN., JUNE 25;
WED., JUNE 28

DOCUMENTARY

Names on the Cup

THURS., JUNE 15

American Valhalla

THURS., JUNE 29

ANIMATION

Resident Evil: Vendetta
MON., JUNE 19

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 DREAMWORKS

ONLY IN THEATERS JUNE 2

Yummy MUMMY

French-Algerian actor **Sofia Boutella** delivers a terrifying performance as *The Mummy*'s monster, a sexy female twist on the old guy wrapped in sheets. Here she talks about becoming evil, rebooting a classic and keeping up with Tom Cruise ■ BY MICHAEL KENNEDY

You should already recognize Sofia Boutella. If you don't, it doesn't mean she hasn't already wowed you on screen.

A few years ago the Algeria-born beauty parlayed her experience as a gymnast (she moved to France at age 10 and joined its national rhythmic gymnastics team) and hip-hop dancer (she's worked with Madonna and Rihanna) into a breathtaking turn as Gazelle, Samuel L. Jackson's balletic henchwoman with blades for feet in 2014's *Kingsman: The Secret Service*. Two years later she stole scenes as *Star Trek Beyond*'s Jaylah, an alien who helps the Enterprise crew escape a dangerous planet, but her performance was hidden behind a thick layer of prosthetic makeup.

Now, while Tom Cruise headlines Universal Pictures' monster-movie reboot *The Mummy*, it's Boutella who plays the title's reanimated undead princess. Again, for most of the movie Boutella's exotic features are obscured by thick white makeup.

We caught up with Boutella in Las Vegas to talk about her biggest role to date.

What can we expect from this reboot of *The Mummy*?

"To be terrified, extremely terrified. You can expect to have fun, to have a good time, to be entertained and to genuinely be terrified."

Tell us about your character.

"I play Ahmanet, a princess who's been promised to become pharaoh and then later on becomes deceived, and in order to get what was promised went and made a pact with the wrong god."

From what I've seen it looks like there's a fair amount of costume changes, of CGI, of stunts, it must have been a pretty harrowing movie to make.

"Yeah, it was quite a process and I think our director, Alex Kurtzman, didn't want to spend a lot of time with the CG, so the more realistic the look would be on set the better it would be."

So there's 5,000 years of pent-up evil in this character. Where do you, as an actress, go to find that?

"Yeah, I don't know what it's like to be 5,000 years old and to be stuck in a tomb for that long. Where did I go? You know, I did a lot of research, watching first of all the original, I really wanted to watch it. I know everybody



Sofia Boutella as *The Mummy*'s titular baddie



THE MUMMY
HITS THEATRES
JUNE 9TH

works differently but I think I wanted to see how the original came about and what's been done after compared to what we were trying to do.... I think the power of the mummy is that she gets into people's heads and she manipulates people in order to get what she wants."

You worked with this up-and-coming fellow by the name of Tom Cruise.

What was it like working with him?

"[Laughs.] It was pretty phenomenal, to be honest. I wasn't sure what to expect at all before I met him but I just found myself being with someone who's truly inspired by movies, still. He has such a genuine love for filmmaking. If you ask him he'll say all he loves to do is being on set and figuring out how to make a movie work. He knows so well about lenses and angles and how to tell a story with cameras and he's such a great actor. I felt at school with him every day on set."

Now, of course, he's known for doing his own stunts. Does he then expect you to do your own stunts?

"Oh yeah, absolutely. But he also provides you everything you need to be prepared once you're on set and filming. We're well looked after, we have an amount of training that is pretty intense.... I remember doing a stunt with him, we did wire work, and I've done that in the past but only to travel for distance or to go through something, but this time it was wire work with impact. He did all his stunts before me and I remember coming the next day and doing my own and when you do impact your whole body at once just squeezes super-hard in order to protect itself. The next day I came on set, I felt like a rock, I felt like a stone. But that's what he does all the time and I have a lot of respect for him."

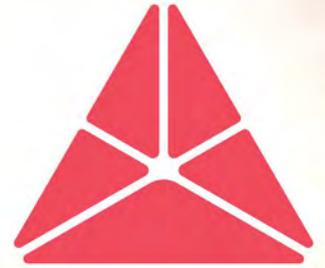
It sounds like it was incredibly hard work, but did you have some fun playing this character?

"Yes, I did. I genuinely did. It was a lot of work but I did have a lot of fun. And when I say I was in school — a school with Tom and everybody I was working with — I'm still fairly new to this world and am learning all the time but I think Tom just brought me super-quickly to another place and I learned super-fast. That was a lot of fun to me." ☑

Michael Kennedy is Cineplex's executive vice president of filmed entertainment.

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GREATNESS AWAITS

TRUE Romance

Kumail Nanjani and his wife Emily V. Gordon took a scary episode from their real lives and turned it into ***The Big Sick***, a sweet and funny movie that was the hit of Sundance. Here Nanjani explains how his wife's coma went all the way from a hospital room to Hollywood

■ BY MARNI WEISZ

Instead of being called *The Big Sick*, and telling the touching true story of how Kumail Nanjani's future wife Emily V. Gordon was put into a coma and almost died, Nanjani's first attempt to spearhead his own movie could have been called *The Big Stick* — that stick being a witch's broom, and the movie being, as Nanjani explains it, "a weird buddy comedy between this guy and a ghost witch."

Let's go back five years to when the stand-up comedian turned star of hit TV shows like *Silicon Valley* (programmer Dinesh) and *Portlandia* (a variety of long-winded sales and service people) was on a South by Southwest festival panel with powerhouse producer Judd Apatow. They hit it off and Apatow asked him to pitch a few projects.

"So I went in with a bunch of ideas and one of them was a movie; I knew that [Emily and I had] gone through something that was a good story," Nanjani says of his now-wife's mystery illness. "I sort of went into it with all the other ideas knowing that this was the one that he was going to relate to, that he was going to connect with."

But Nanjani's second favourite idea was

that buddy comedy with the guy and the dead witch. "It sounds so goofy now," he recalls, "but he's haunted by a ghost witch — so a witch who is now a ghost, so only he can see her."

Apatow made the right choice. *The Big Sick* was the darling of this year's Sundance film festival earning almost unanimously rave reviews. "A film that's by turns romantic, rueful and hilarious," wrote *Variety* critic Geoff Berkshire. "An instantly winning heart-stealer," said *Vulture's* Tomris Laffly. "It's the best romantic comedy in years," came from [RogerEbert.com's](http://RogerEbert.com) Brian Tallerico.

"The good critical response so far, I mean, it's amazing, it's better than we could have imagined or hoped for. The fact that people are connecting to the movie is really, really exciting," says Nanjani.

He and Gordon co-wrote the film with editing help from Apatow. "He really guided us through the whole process. Focus on this, take this out, heighten the stakes on this," says Nanjani over the phone from his L.A. home where the 39-year-old is sitting on his couch, still in pyjamas and playing videogames, at 11:30 a.m. local time.

"The most important thing he taught me was that stories can be messy, you don't have to resolve everything. It just has

CONTINUED ►



Kumail Nanjani and his real-life wife Emily V. Gordon, who bring their own love story to the big screen in *The Big Sick*

THE BIG SICK
HITS THEATRES
JUNE 30TH



Nanjiani alongside Zoe Kazan, who plays the on-screen version of his wife, Emily

Go to CINEPLEX.COM/AUTOBIOGRAPHICALMOVIES for a look at films based on true stories written by those who lived them

► to feel real, and as long as you're bringing up stuff that's all that matters, you don't have to have answers."

As those critics pointed out, the result is a humorous and highly relatable story about a Pakistani-American boy (Nanjiani plays himself) who falls for an all-American girl (Zoe Kazan as the quirky and likeable Emily), which would kill his traditional Pakistani parents (Zenobia Shroff, Anupam Kher) if they found out. Kumail and Emily date for a while, but when she realizes he'll never be serious about her because of his parents she breaks it off.

Shortly after their relationship ends Kumail gets a call from one of Emily's friends saying Emily is at the hospital, and asking if he'll go down and make sure she's okay because everyone else is busy. She's not, and is soon put into a medically induced coma while doctors try to figure out what's wrong. Her parents (Holly Hunter and Ray Romano) arrive to take care of their baby and can't quite figure out why her ex-boyfriend keeps hanging around.

It's the details that make the movie special, like the time just after Kumail and Emily have their first romantic encounter and she calls for an Uber. Lying next to her in bed, Kumail's phone rings. He's the closest Uber driver.

Was that true?

"So, trick question," says Nanjiani. "I was not an Uber driver then. I had a day job [in an office] and for many drafts of the script my work was part of the storyline because that was suffering too. But then at some point we made the decision that the work was never

going to be as interesting as the rest of it, because the other stuff is life and death and religion and culture clash and generational differences, and then having an office storyline felt pretty small, so we changed it to Uber to answer the question of how does he make money."

However, many of the film's details are true.

For example, "In the movie you see it very briefly, Emily wears a red sweater that has an anatomical drawing of the brain on it, and then later in the movie I'm in her apartment and I see that shirt and I connect it back to our relationship when I saw her wearing that shirt," says Nanjiani. "That's based on a real shirt when Emily and I were first dating. I remember really loving that shirt."

In case you hadn't already figured it out, Emily lives. But her illness was most definitely one of the "real" things depicted in the movie. It's called adult-onset Still's disease.

"It's something that she's going to have

her whole life but now that they know what it is they can control it and she's doing totally great," says Nanjiani.

Another thing that's totally great now is Nanjiani's relationship with his parents. While the bond is depicted as loving and full of humour in the film, it is his folks' insistence that he marry a Pakistani woman that is the wedge that forces Kumail and Emily apart.

"Our relationship has evolved significantly, directly as a result of making the movie," Nanjiani says of his parents. "They visited me on set, which was the first time they ever visited me during shooting."

However, Mr. and Mrs. Nanjiani have yet to see the finished film. That will probably happen at the New York premiere says Kumail, adding the thought of it is "uh, terrifying."

As for *Ghost Witch*, "I still like that idea and I want to do it," he says, "but it's obviously a very different tone from *The Big Sick*." □

Marni Weisz is the editor of Cineplex Magazine.

TOTAL COINCIDENCE

The Big Sick is opening on June 30th in a few major markets including Toronto, and then the rest of the country — and across the United States — on July 14th, which is 10 years to the day that Kumail Nanjiani and Emily V. Gordon got married.

"Total coincidence! They told us the day and we were like 'Hey, could you make a little image that has an image of the movie and the release date that we can post on Twitter,'" recalls Nanjiani. "And Emily and I were looking at it and she was like, 'Hey, look at this date, what's weird about this date?' And I was like, 'Oh my god, 10 years exactly to the day that we walked into Chicago City Hall and got married.' Total coincidence." —MW

**“IT TAKES COURAGE TO BE A PAINTER. I ALWAYS FELT
I WALKED ON THE **EDGE OF A KNIFE.**”**



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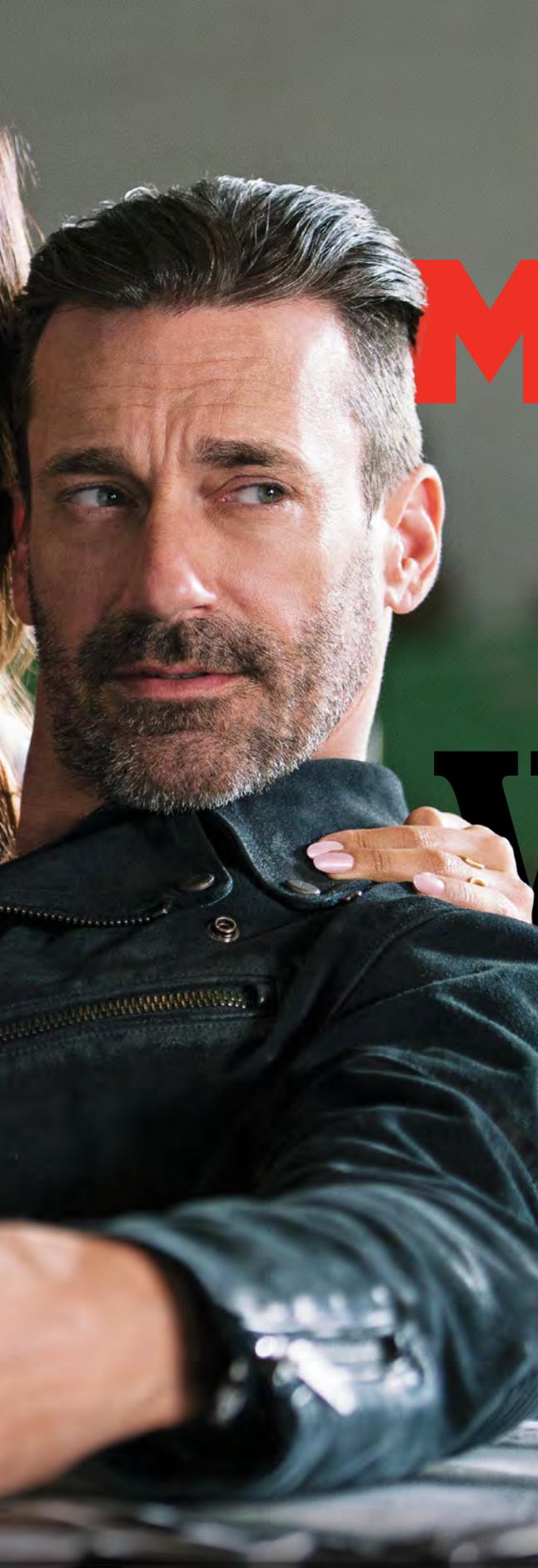
THE GLOBE AND MAIL*

The exhibition is organized by Tate Modern in collaboration with the Art Gallery of Ontario and Bank Austria Kunstforum.
Alfred Stieglitz. *Georgia O'Keeffe*, 1918. Gelatin silver print, 11.4 x 9.1 cm. Art Institute of Chicago, Alfred Stieglitz Collection, 1949.742. Image © Art Institute of Chicago/ Art Resource, NY.

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Eiza González and Jon Hamm in *Baby Driver*



MADDER THAN EVER

Sure, **Jon Hamm**'s most famous character, *Mad Men*'s Don Draper, had his dark side. Really dark. But he was nothing compared to the twisted criminal Hamm plays in *Baby Driver*, a stylish heist pic that has critics gushing

■ BY CHRISTIAN AUST

When Jon Hamm landed his breakthrough role as *Mad Men*'s suave ad man Don Draper he was already 36 years old, making him one of the best examples that hard work and talent don't always lead to immediate success in Hollywood.

With the looks of a Golden Age movie star he struggled to find jobs in an industry where, at the time, leading men looked more boyish than manly. But *Mad Men*, which debuted in 2007, was set in the early 1960s. Draper and Hamm were the perfect match, and the Missouri-born actor played the part so convincingly, that it was hard to separate him from the chain-smoking, alcoholic womanizer.

Since the award-winning TV series ended two years ago Hamm has been trying to prove he has more range.

In this month's heist movie *Baby Driver* he plays Buddy, a sadistic bank robber. Edgar Wright (*Shaun of the Dead*) wrote and directed the film that stars Ansel Elgort as an unusually talented getaway driver for a gang of crooks that includes Hamm's Buddy, Doc (Kevin Spacey) and Bats (Jamie Foxx). The film debuted at the South by Southwest Film Festival in March to unanimously glowing reviews.

Hamm was on the phone from L.A. when we chatted about the movie and his life before stardom.

You play a criminal, right?

"Correct. I play someone who is on the wrong side of the right side of the law. And it was kind of fun honestly."

Do you have any criminal experience to draw on?

"Not so much. I did not use my vast murdering, bank-robbing skills that I have in real life. I wish I could have used them. But I never murdered or bank robbed. I had a wonderful time

portraying it on screen, because it was a world I didn't know and that's what we get to do as actors."

But you were arrested for a hazing ritual that got out of hand when you were at university. Or is that an internet myth?

"There's a lot of internet myths in the world these days. I probably won't get too deep into my particular, specific history with the law. But let's say, I've not gone down the road CONTINUED ▶



Baby Driver's criminal element, from left: Ansel Elgort, Jamie Foxx, Eiza González and Jon Hamm

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In your 20s you went back to your old high school to teach acting. Would teaching have been a “Plan B”?

“I come from that and that’s why I thought that’s something I could go back to, use the experience and pass it along to other kids. And some of the kids I have taught have gone on to great success. It’s a nice thing. And I think teachers are among the most underappreciated and underpaid people in our society. They are a hundred percent value added to a civilized society. And our education system needs a lot of work. I hope we are going to fix it.”

It looks like teaching was not only a job but a personal mission for you.

“I became a daycare teacher first, because I felt I had a lot to offer the kids, because I was one of them essentially. Because when I was a little kid I was raised by a single mom and I was in daycare every day in my life. And I recognized that there weren’t a lot of men in this endeavour. Not a lot of guys teach daycare for whatever reason. It’s not considered manly or whatever it is. Who cares? But it’s important to have a guy there, who has something to offer if you are a little boy. It’s nice to have a masculine figure that you can wrestle around with, bump into or climb on. The kids loved me.”

You did “Ask a Grown Man” on YouTube, where you gave advice to mostly teenage girls. Your main advice was always be yourself. Who taught you that?

“I was taught that by most of my teachers. It wasn’t ever implicit in their counselling. But it was always like, ‘You guys have to bring some version of yourself to this.’ And that’s a really important lesson to learn, especially if you are an actor. Because anybody can read lines or memorize them, show up on a set and say the words in the way they are meant to be said. But what separates you is that you have to bring something else. You have to bring yourself to the part. Learning that lesson early in my life has been tremendously helpful. And I think so many kids today are desperately chasing some weird ‘other,’ and it’s not getting any better with Instagram and other social media because every kid is immediately compared to a global standard that’s impossible to reach. They forget what’s important: Be yourself.”

Christian Aust is an entertainment writer based in Hamburg, Germany.

▶ as much as my character had. Otherwise I wouldn’t be talking to you right now. [Laughing.] We would be talking in a different venue about a different subject.”

So when you arrived in Los Angeles, with no money at all, you never thought about robbing a bank?

“No, I never thought about that. I’m a big believer — and I know it’s not popular anymore, at least in the public American consciousness — but I actually believe that laws and society and government work. I actually enjoy them and I think they make our life better. I know most people in our day think the opposite is true. But I’m always on the side of order and laws, not so much on the side of lawlessness. But here we are in this wonderful time in history, where it seems that the other end of it is getting celebrated. It’s a strange time.”

Is it true that when you started working in Los Angeles you had no money to buy a car and were rollerblading to your auditions?

“You probably have similar stories from being young. And that’s how it works. You try hard and hopefully it turns upward. Growing up is a challenging thing. And I wouldn’t trade my early years in L.A. for anything. I had to eat potatoes and rice five times a week because that was all I could afford. I had no car and took the L.A. bus, rollerblading wherever I could. But I have many friends who are famous now

who experienced a different kind of hardship on their way up. That was my way to do it... It was my journey and I’m glad I got to do it.”

Why?

“I feel like I’m incredibly fortunate in my life, to get through it. I’ve made it to where I am now. And a big part of that is because I’ve been able to navigate whatever crazy, choppy waters life has thrown at me. I’ve had my share. It sounds simple, but life is life. And at a certain point you have to understand that, sink into it and except it. And that’s the most interesting part for me. Being mature and aware enough to say, ‘Look, it’s life, man.’ Sometimes it sucks and sometimes it’s great. But you have to make the best of it.”

Why did you never give up?

“Why? I don’t know, honestly. I could lie and say it was because I had an incredible fortitude. I think I was very pragmatic about what this life I’ve chosen was meant to be and what it would look like in a number of possible scenarios. In the best case I would get a job immediately when I got to L.A. and I’ll have a career. But that didn’t happen. But I was always aware of this option, that it’s not going to work. And I thought, ‘Let’s not keep banging our heads against the wall here. Find something else to do and a proper way to experience life. This was another legitimate option and I didn’t see it as a failure, because at least I tried.’”

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Battle of BRITAIN

The Transformers are back and this time the answer to why the giant alien robots are so obsessed with Earth may lie across the pond. ***Transformers: The Last Knight*** stars **Mark Wahlberg** and **Sir Anthony Hopkins** talk about taking the action to the U.K., admiring each other's cultures and blowing stuff up

■ BY MELISSA SHEASGREEN

Mark Wahlberg and Sir Anthony Hopkins are backstage at Caesars Palace's Colosseum theatre in Las Vegas to talk about *Transformers: The Last Knight*. Wahlberg (*Boogie Nights*, *The Fighter*, *Lone Survivor*) arrives first, very casual, to what's essentially a converted dressing room, and Hopkins (*Silence of the Lambs*, *Thor*, TV's *Westworld*) follows. The two joke around as they set up for the interview.

Sir Anthony is new to the film franchise based on the Hasbro/Tomy toys that convert from cars to alien robots and back again. He plays Sir Edmund Burton, a historian with important information about the Transformers' time on Earth, while Wahlberg reprises his role of Cade Yeager, the mechanic who came to the aid of the Autobots (the good robots) in 2014's *Transformers: Age of Extinction*. Michael Bay is once again at the helm.

This time, Yeager leaves his family to search for information that will save the relationship between humans and Autobots and, in turn, save the world.

Where do we pick up?

WAHLBERG: "Well, for me, when you meet Cade at the beginning of this film I've had to make a big decision and, basically, in order to give my daughter an attempt at a normal life I have to go on the run. So I leave everything that I know as far as home and family, I'm kind of hiding out in the desert and I get summoned by this gentleman's character

[points at Hopkins] and I get thrust into this world of basically trying to pursue and find some information in order to save the world and our relationship with the Autobots. It's really a great kind of a fish out of water, me, thrust into this world in England with sophisticated, fancy-talking folks that like to make fun of me; Cade's from Texas. And Cade's a little taken by them as well." CONTINUED ▶



Mark Wahlberg returns to fight big robots
in *Transformers: The Last Knight*

**TRANSFORMERS:
THE LAST KNIGHT**
HITS THEATRES
JUNE 21ST



Anthony Hopkins with Autobot Hot Rod in *Transformers: The Last Knight*



Go to CINEPLEX.COM/ALLOUTTRANSFORMERS for a recap of the franchise so far

► **No pressure, just saving the world, right?**

WAHLBERG: "Well, this is what we do."

And what about your character, Anthony?

HOPKINS: "Well I play the kind of English lord, or knight, ancient family, that typical archetypal Englishman who sees Americans and is curious about them, never unfriendly."

WAHLBERG: "Kind of like a puppy."

HOPKINS: "Kind of like a puppy. Yes, these chaps, you know, very interesting these Americans. See, [in real life] I was raised with Americans as a kid during the war, because I'm that old, and so my dream was to come to America so I had an appreciation of that. So that's part of my personality, and my character's as well. I have the attention span of a gnat so I can't describe the total scheme of the script to you because it's so complicated to read."

WAHLBERG: "He's really educating us on the origins of the Transformers, when they're coming to our world, as well as the mythology, so it's amazing to see him rattling off these amounts of dialogue and monologues pretty much effortlessly, and then to say that he has the attention span of a gnat is just him being humble because it was impressive. I'm one who really prides myself on being prepared and to see him show up like that and make everyone's job a lot easier was impressive."

Yeah, but as actors you need to do this every day all the time, right?

HOPKINS: "Yeah, but you see, he [pointing at Wahlberg] does great stuff with improvising and I love that."

WAHLBERG: "Well, we had so much opportunity to really play around and there are so many laughs, and his character, I think what he brought to it too is he was just so excited to be there and his energy was really infectious and everybody kind of fed off of that and the humour and to see him say some of the things that he says are really going to get big, big laughs."

Really?

HOPKINS: "Sincerely, this sounds like such bull, but for me to be involved in an American movie, as I've been involved in many of them, especially in that ethos of English society and aristocracy and working with Michael Bay and Mark, it's a great feeling because you get so bored watching serious movies and everything's so boring and Michael Bay comes on set with Mark Wahlberg and you don't have a chance to be bored, you just don't have a chance, you have to keep up with it."

Give me an example.

HOPKINS: "There's a wonderful moment when we're at Stonehenge and Michael Bay comes into my trailer.... Five thousand years ago [Stonehenge] was established, and there's another Stonehenge that the art department had built down the road so they could blow up bombs and all that. So Michael comes into my trailer and says, 'So we're at the real Stonehenge, yeah?' And I said, 'Yeah, yeah.' And he said, 'Ours is much better than theirs.' [Laughs.] Only an American would say that.... That's what I love about America and working with Americans. You don't have

time to be precious and holier than thou, too thoughtful, because it's so boring, all that stuff [pretends to snore while Wahlberg laughs]. It's true, I was watching PBS, classic movies, after four minutes, that's it, bye."

Does this mean you're doing all your own stunts in this movie?

HOPKINS: "Oh, I did all of my own stunts, didn't I? [Turns to Wahlberg, joking.]"

WAHLBERG: "Yeah. And even all that you're saying is not deterring me from wanting to be English and be a knight."

HOPKINS: "He wants to be a knight. I'll see what I can do with the queen."

WAHLBERG: "Thank you."

What do you think will surprise audiences most about this movie?

WAHLBERG: "That Mike was still able to create new and exciting and fresh elements to this story, and new characters, and making it more exciting and more interesting than the last."

Bigger action and better stunts?

WAHLBERG: "Yup. And new characters, the whole thing."

HOPKINS: "It's a well-written script, isn't it?"

WAHLBERG: "Yeah, it's hard and frustrating not to give away the good bits of the story because there are so many twists and turns and things that people are really going to be surprised about." □

.....
Melissa Sheasgreen is a content producer for the Cineplex Pre-Show.

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WONDER STRUCK

It's finally her time. **Wonder Woman** makes **Gal Gadot's** Amazon warrior the star of a big-budget superhero movie; the first time a female character has been the lead in a comic-book film since 2005's *Elektra*. Here Gadot talks about her character's power, weapons and tiara but, most importantly, her compassion ■ BY BOB STRAUSS

You've already met the new Wonder Woman.

Gal Gadot was introduced as DC Comics' Amazon princess last year in *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, when the Israeli actor's sly portrayal of the third most enduring superhero in comic book history stole the show from her caped co-stars.

Only Supes and the Bat have been continuously published longer, having been around since the late 1930s.

Wonder Woman has been in print since late 1941, except for a few months during the 1980s.

There's much more to learn about the demigoddess, though, and this year moviegoers are going to get two big lessons. The standalone *Wonder Woman* movie opens this month, and in November she and Ben Affleck's Bruce Wayne will go about forming *Justice League's* titular gang of do-gooders. CONTINUED ►

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Gal Gadot (left) works with director Patty Jenkins on the set of *Wonder Woman*

► Both films will be key building blocks in the DC Extended Universe of superhero films, and although there have been female-centred superhero films before, like 2004's *Catwoman* and 2005's *Elektra*, *Wonder Woman* is arguably more of a milestone since it's based on the biggest female comic-book icon ever, and is the first of this size directed by a woman, Patty Jenkins (*Monster*).

"I think that Patty was the right person for this movie," enthuses Gadot, looking typically gorgeous in a tight crimson dress during a recent interview in Santa Monica. "She was very passionate about Wonder Woman her entire life. One of her favourite movies is *Superman*, she loves the genre and she's a really good storyteller.

"Both Patty and I cared a lot about the heart of this character, because obviously she is the greatest warrior, and she has the



"Wonder Woman, most of all, she stands for love and accepting all people for who they are....
If each of us had a little bit more of Wonder Woman, of these qualities, in us, we'd have a better world"

Lasso of Truth, and she has the shield, and the sword and the tiara and she can do all of these amazing things," adds Gadot, who knows something about doing it all. The mother of two is a former Miss Israel who did a stint in the Israel Defense Forces as a sports trainer and spent a year in law school before dropping out to become an actor.

"But because we finally got the opportunity to tell Wonder Woman's story — it's crazy that it's never been told in a movie — we wanted to inspire people," Gadot explains. "Especially now, with everything that's going on with the world, we just want to go back to basics and remind everyone what it's all about, what life is all about.

"Wonder Woman, most of all, she stands for love and accepting all people for who they are. I think that if each of us had a little bit more of Wonder Woman, of these qualities, in us, we'd have a better world."

That generous attitude has distinguished Wonder Woman from other super folk since she was created by psychologist William Moulton Marston during the dark days of World War II, which is also when those early comics were set. The movie shifts the character's emergence from her isolated, all-female island back 25 years to World War I. After American pilot Steve Trevor (Chris Pine) — the first man she's seen in her centuries-long existence — crashes into the ocean off Themyscira and informs Princess Diana/Wonder Woman of the slaughter taking place in Europe, she adopts the secret identity of Diana Prince and accompanies him back to London, hoping to help put an end to this horrible thing called war.

Of course, Diana has been trained to fight better than any male, and her goddess-like superpowers make her an even more formidable weapon, whether she wants to be or not.

Other changes from the original concept include a costume inspired by ancient warriors, not the stars-and-stripes motif Wonder Woman wore for decades following her introduction during a peak of U.S. patriotic fervour. And, of course, with Gadot's noticeable accent, this is not the all-American character fans of the old *Wonder Woman* TV series may remember.

"Wonder Woman comes from Themyscira, which is not in America," Gadot explains. "This character is different from the one that Lynda Carter portrayed

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► beautifully back in the 1970s on TV. So they were looking for someone international, and I happened to be this person.

"This has so much meaning for fans, for the world, for me too," adds Gadot, who after a little experience on Israeli TV earned international attention playing Gisele in several *Fast and Furious* movies. "It's amazing, it's a character that so many people care so much about. I do feel the responsibility of being the one to portray this character, and I do feel very privileged that I got this amazing opportunity to portray such an icon."

Warner Bros., which has long owned DC Comics and all its intellectual properties, has been trying to develop a Wonder Woman movie for more than two decades. By 2014 the studio decided the project needed to be made by a woman. Canadian director Michelle MacLaren, the Emmy-nominated helmer of such TV hits as *Breaking Bad*, *Game of Thrones* and *The Walking Dead*, was initially attached to write and direct the film. But after MacLaren bowed out due to "creative differences," Jenkins, who'd directed Charlize Theron to a Best Actress Oscar in the 2003 serial killer bio-pic *Monster*, came on board to guide Diana's sword.

Zack Snyder, who originally cast Gadot as Wonder Woman for *Batman v Superman*, is back at the helm for *Justice League*. That film will introduce new good guys Aquaman (Jason Momoa), The Flash (Ezra Miller) and Cyborg (Ray Fisher) to the DC Extended Universe. It will also, with luck, prove more entertaining than Snyder's last superhero outing, which was criticized for being joyless except when Wonder Woman was on screen.

"The cast is so big," Gadot says, turning to *Justice League*. "You have so many different personalities and each and every one of them need to get their moment. So it's different, yeah."

Asked if her own future holds anything beyond playing a warrior princess for a long time to come, Gadot grins.

"I would love to continue telling strong, inspiring women's stories," she says. "I would like to continue to experience different genres. I'm a very curious person and I like to try different things." ■

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



Chris Pine and Gal Gadot team up in *Wonder Woman*

REBEL WITH A CAUSE

In *Wonder Woman*, Gal Gadot's titular superhero shows off a rebellious streak, leaving the safe confines of her Amazon home on the island of Themyscira to fight in World War I. Gadot seems to share that trait. At age 18 she entered the Miss Israel beauty pageant and won, something she never thought would happen.

That meant taking part in the Miss Universe pageant (pictured left), which Gadot had no interest in doing. In the March 2016 issue of *Glamour* Gadot said, "When I went to Miss Universe, I rebelled. I was afraid I might get picked again. I showed up late. I came without gowns. They tell you to come to breakfast in a gown. I was like, 'No way am I having breakfast in a gown!' Who needs to wear an evening gown at 10:30 a.m.?" —JR



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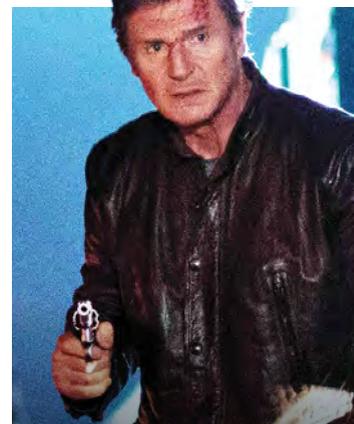
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CASTING CALL

BY INGRID RANDOJA

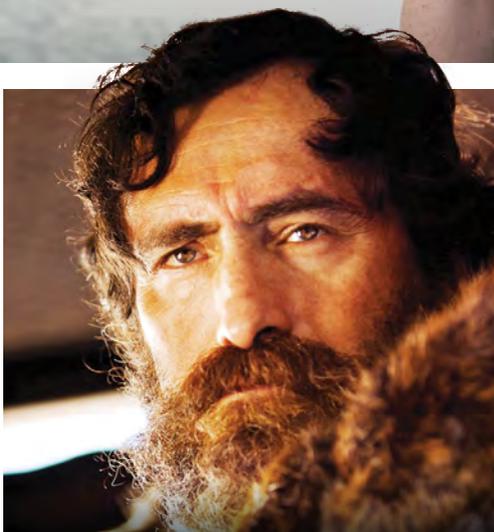
BALE RUNS FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Director **Adam McKay** (*The Big Short*) is putting together an all-star cast for his political drama about former American Vice President Dick Cheney. He's just waiting for Paramount to greenlight the film that would cast **Christian Bale** as Cheney, **Steve Carell** as Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and **Amy Adams** as Cheney's wife, Lynne. The movie would examine Cheney's rise to power and his controversial policy decisions that made him arguably the most powerful VP in history.



NEESON IS ON THE CASE

Liam Neeson will join **Humphrey Bogart**, **Robert Mitchum** and **Elliot Gould** on the list of actors who've played fictional private eye Philip Marlow. He'll play the tough guy P.I. in *Marlowe*, which sees the detective hired by a mysterious blonde to find her missing ex-lover. **William Monahan** (*The Departed*) pens the script.



BICHIR SEEKS SCARES

Demián Bichir suffered his share of frights in *Alien: Covenant*, which was good practice for *The Nun*, which features the demonic nun who stole the show in *The Conjuring 2*. In this origins tale, Bichir will play Father Burke, who is sent to investigate the mysterious death of a nun. **Corin Hardy** helms the film that starts shooting this summer in Romania.



WHAT'S GOING ON WITH...

The Lion King

Director **Jon Favreau** scored a huge hit with the CGI remake of Disney's *The Jungle Book*, which makes him the perfect choice to helm the similar CGI reimagining of another Disney classic, *The Lion King*. **Donald Glover** will voice Simba, 86-year-old **James Earl Jones** will reprise the role of Mufasa (Simba's father) and word is Favreau is courting Beyoncé to voice Nala, Simba's wife. *The Lion King* will land in theatres July 19th, 2019.



VIKANDER GETS FREAKY

Alicia Vikander teams with director **Ben Wheatley** (*Free Fire*) for the thriller *Freakshift*, which finds a group of misfit cops going out at night to hunt monsters that come up from their underground lairs. Vikander plays the lead and **Armie Hammer** is set to play her love interest. Wheatley describes it as “*Hill Street Blues* with monsters and women cops.”



FRESH FACE DEMETRIUS SHIPP JR.

His co-workers at a Los Angeles Target store used to call **Demetrius Shipp Jr.** “Pac” due to his resemblance to Tupac Shakur. Now the first-time actor is portraying the deceased rapper in this month’s bio-pic *All Eyez on Me*. Shipp had never acted before landing the role of Shakur, but his father was a producer at Death Row Records and worked on some of the rapper’s albums.



KUNIS GETS DUMPED

Bad Moms star **Mila Kunis** is sticking to comedy by starring in director **Susanna Fogel**’s *The Spy Who Dumped Me*. The lighthearted pic finds Kunis and her best friend (**Kate McKinnon**) getting tangled up in an international espionage ring after discovering Kunis’s ex-boyfriend is a spy.

ALSO IN THE WORKS ▶ **Thomas Haden Church** plays a sad loner mistaken for a reclusive author in *Shriver*. ▶ **Jeffrey Dean Morgan** (*The Walking Dead*’s baddie Negan) joins **Dwayne Johnson** in the remake of 1980s monster pic *Rampage*. ▶ **Gina Rodriguez** is circling the remake of the Mexican pic *Miss Bala*, about a beauty pageant contestant who witnesses a drug deal gone bad and is forced to work for a violent gang. ▶ *Lost Transmissions* casts **Simon Pegg** as a schizophrenic L.A. music producer who goes off his meds.



LIFE

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Jake Gyllenhaal, Ryan Reynolds and **Rebecca Ferguson** headline this sci-fi horror that sees a cell-sized extraterrestrial organism grow into an imposing creature that attacks members of the International Space Station.

POWER RANGERS

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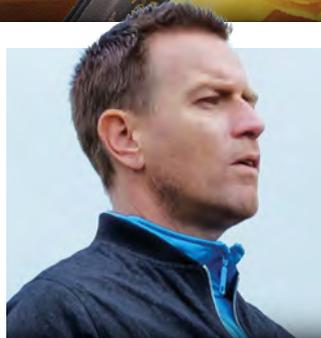
The Power Rangers franchise reboots with five teenaged outsiders finding Power Coins that grant each of them superpowers, which they'll need to defeat Rita Repulsa (**Elizabeth Banks**), a former Power Ranger who wants to destroy life on Earth.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

BUY IT JUNE 6

RENT IT JUNE 6

Disney gets high marks for turning its beloved animated film into an engaging live-action pic that gives us a more spirited and independent Belle (**Emma Watson**) and puts high-end special effects to great use in creating an intimidating, yet charming, Beast (**Dan Stevens**).



T2: TRAINSPOTTING

BUY IT JUNE 13

RENT IT JUNE 27

Twenty years after Renton (**Ewan McGregor**) ran away from Edinburgh with a stash of drug money he returns home and reunites with pals Sick Boy (**Jonny Lee Miller**), Spud (**Ewen Bremner**) and Begbie (**Robert Carlyle**), who draw him back into a world of dodgy schemes.



JOHN WICK: CHAPTER TWO

BUY IT JUNE 13

RENT IT JUNE 27

Keanu Reeves returns as well-dressed assassin John Wick in this sequel that sends Wick to Rome where he must kill the sister of an Italian crime boss (**Riccardo Scamarcio**). Bullets fly and the bodies pile up as Wick realizes he's been set up and seeks refuge at the assassin's hotel of choice, The Continental.



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The *Godfather* is an undisputed classic, a film so well crafted that you find more to marvel at with each viewing.

So much of the credit lies with the director, 32-year-old Francis Ford Coppola, who battled with Paramount Studios and his own self-doubt while making the 1972 film.

Set in 1940s New York, the film finds Mafia boss Don Corleone (Marlon Brando) and his three sons — the hot-headed Sonny (James Caan), ineffectual Fredo (John Cazale) and war hero Michael (Al Pacino) — fending off attacks from rival mafia families. Ultimately, it is Michael, the son the Don didn't want to have a part in his criminal enterprise, who becomes a cold-blooded killer and the new face of the family.

It was Coppola who fought to cast Brando (who the studio thought was washed up) and Pacino (who the studio thought was too short), and it was Coppola who demanded a bigger budget and made sure the film was shot on location in New York and Sicily.

We can thank his stubborn genius for turning *The Godfather* into a cinematic masterpiece.

—INGRID RANDOJA

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Godfather**
screens as part of
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FINALLY...



THE Winston Churchill REVIVAL

He's been dead since 1965, but two-time British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill is experiencing a revival.

First, American John Lithgow earned a Screen Actors Guild Award and was nominated for a Golden Globe for his scene-stealing performance as an elderly, headstrong Churchill mentoring the young Queen Elizabeth on Netflix' 2016 hit series *The Crown*.

In November we'll see English actor Gary Oldman portray Churchill in *Darkest Hour*, which takes place in the early days of World War II as the nascent Prime Minister is deciding whether to negotiate a peace treaty with Nazi Germany or stand up to Hitler's evil empire.

And this month Scottish actor Brian Cox plays Churchill in *Churchill*, set in the days leading up to the 1944 D-Day invasion of northern France by Allied Forces aiming to liberate Western Europe. —*MW*

CHURCHILL
HITS THEATRES
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Top: The real Winston Churchill.
Bottom row, from left: John Lithgow,
Gary Oldman and Brian Cox do their
best Churchill impressions

WINSTON CHURCHILL PHOTO BY GETTY



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