

# CINEMAPLEX

MAGAZINE

Inside  
**JESSE  
EISENBERG**  
**JULIANNE  
MOORE**  
**KEVIN  
HART**

# REBEL WITH A CAUSE

**MATTHEW  
McCONAUGHEY**  
TALKS  
FREE STATE  
OF JONES

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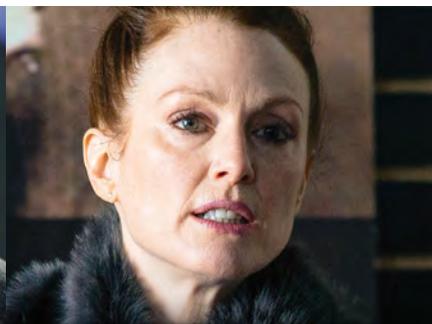
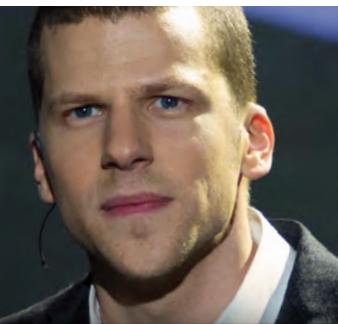
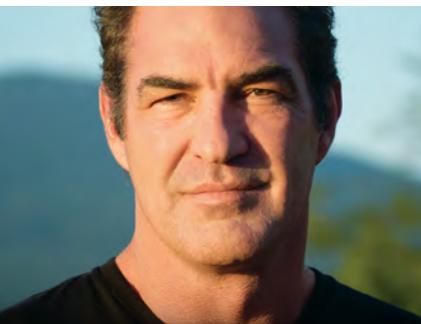
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COVER PHOTO BY ERIC RAY DAVIDSON/TRUNK ARCHIVE





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## GETTING REAL

**W**e are now into the fifth year of the McConaissance, that period of **Matthew McConaughey's** career in which the too-handsome actor has broken free from rom-coms to return to his roots as a serious actor. It was that wavy brown hair, those sculpted cheekbones and firm abdominal muscles that were the problem. They wrested control of McConaughey's career, forcing him to abandon films like *Amistad* and *A Time to Kill* to swagger through the likes of *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*, *Failure to Launch* and *Ghosts of Girlfriends Past*.

Once he realized how mediocre his filmography had become, McConaughey had to turn down every role he was offered for more than a year before casting directors accepted he was serious about being serious.

It's true, being beautiful is a disadvantage when you want to be taken seriously in Hollywood. Gorgeous Charlize Theron recently told *GQ*, "When meaty roles come through, I've been in the room and pretty people get turned away first."

Good, I say! Passing over unnaturally beautiful people for films that aren't about unnaturally beautiful people makes perfect sense, and should be done much more often.

Let's switch to TV as an example. I find myself watching British shows on Netflix almost exclusively these days — *Happy Valley*, about a middle-aged, slightly paunchy female cop; the family drama *Last Tango in Halifax* full of plain-faced people, the murder-mystery *Broadchurch* with its seaside town of pasty folk.

What attracts me to these shows is that the actors look like real people so I can concentrate on the story and performances rather than being distracted by how beautiful they are. With apologies to McConaughey, Theron, Amy Adams, Jennifer Lawrence, Chris Pine, Bradley Cooper, Scarlett Johansson, Angelina Jolie and the rest, when a spectacularly attractive person is on screen, no matter their talent, part of your brain is occupied by marveling at their spectacular attractiveness.

Staring at Emily Blunt's perfect skin and petal-pink lips while she went gun barrel to gun barrel with a Mexican drug cartel nearly ruined *Sicario* for me. On the other hand, there's a scene in *Happy Valley* where our cop (Sarah Lancashire) is standing on her porch at the end of a very bad day. You see her from the side and, like many of us, she has a double belly. You know, one belly below her belt and another one above. Beautiful. Real. It says this character has more important things to worry about than whether she should loosen her belt.

So, McConaughey and Theron have to work a little harder to be taken seriously. That's fine. They've both won Oscars for roles where they managed to look less-than beautiful. McConaughey's McConaissance peaked with his win for playing an emaciated AIDS activist in *Dallas Buyers Club*, Theron's came when she gained a bunch of weight to play *Monster's* serial murderer. Everyone gave them credit for having the courage to look unattractive on screen. But really, more than anything, didn't they just look real?

This month, McConaughey's handsome mug is hidden behind an unkempt beard for *Free State of Jones*. He plays real-life Southerner Newt Knight, who somehow built an interracial community in 1860s, slave-era Mississippi. Turn to page 34 to read "Knight's Tale," our Matthew McConaughey interview.

Elsewhere in this issue, *Now You See Me 2* star **Jesse Eisenberg** talks magic and Macau (page 26), we have **Kevin Hart** on playing the straight man for *Central Intelligence* (page 24) and **Julianne Moore** on becoming a Scandinavian intellectual for *Maggie's Plan* (page 30).

■ **MARNI WEISZ**, EDITOR

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# SNAPS



## STRANGE BATCH

We promise, it won't look as silly when they add the special effects. **Benedict Cumberbatch** bounds through *Doctor Strange's* New York City set.

PHOTO BY JACKSON LEE/SPLASH NEWS



## SO NEW YORK

British actor **Tilda Swinton** and her German boyfriend **Sandro Kopp** take a stroll through New York's Lower East Side.

PHOTO BY JANET MAYER/SPLASH NEWS



## GOOD ADVICE

**Susan Sarandon** gets into character at the L.A. premiere of *The Meddler*. She plays an overbearing mom in the film.

PHOTO BY RANDY SHROPSHIRE/GETTY



## SHINE ON

Jessica Chastain (left), Charlize Theron (centre) and a pregnant Emily Blunt are all glowing at the Westwood, California, premiere of *The Huntsman: Winter's War*.

PHOTO BY RUSS EINHORN/SPLASH NEWS



## POWER WOMEN

Elizabeth Banks (right) and her stunt double take a break on the Vancouver set of *Power Rangers*. Banks plays the villainous Rita Repulsa.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



## CARRIED AWAY

Carrie Fisher (left) clowns around with her *Catastrophe* co-star Sharon Horgan at the Tribeca Film Festival.

PHOTO BY MIKE PONT/GETTY

# IN BRIEF



## SAMBERG IN HIS WHEELHOUSE

**Y**ay. This month The Lonely Island — a comedy collective made up of junior high school buddies and (we're guessing) all-around nice guys Andy Samberg, Jorma Taccone and Akiva Schaffer — release its second feature film, *Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping*.

This one's set amid the music biz and zeroes in on the life and times of a Bieber-esque rapper named

Conner4Real (Samberg).

The music-industry milieu is no surprise since most of The Lonely Planet's work has come in the form of musical satires, including brilliant shorts for *Saturday Night Live*, like that infamous Samberg/Justin Timberlake duet with a title we can't print here. You know, the one with the box...

Other highlights from The Lonely Island's oeuvre include "Motherlover," in which

the same two skinny-bearded characters from the box song decide to bed each other's moms as a Mother's Day gift, "Lazy Sunday," a rap tune in which a slang term for marijuana is crossed with the title of a beloved C.S. Lewis children's novel to create the lyrics, "Pass the chronic (what?) cles of Narnia," and "Iran So Far," a love song for former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. —*MW*

Brie Larson

## On Home Turf: THE GLASS CASTLE

**Brie Larson** returns to Canada this month.

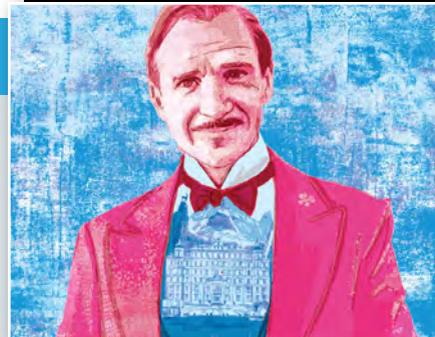
After shooting *Room* — which was based on Emma Donoghue's dark novel, and earned Larson a Best Actress Oscar — in Toronto in 2014, she's now in Montreal to shoot another movie based on a book, this time an autobiography.

*The Glass Castle* tells the story of gossip columnist and New York socialite Jeannette Walls (Larson's role), who wrote of her nomadic, eccentric and often homeless family in her 2005 memoir of the same name.

**Woody Harrelson** plays Walls' father and **Naomi Watts** is expected to play her mom. —*MW*

## THE ART OF FILM

British illustrator Matthew Brazier is fascinated by the dynamic camera angles, lighting and cinematography of movies. "I love pausing films and sketching these moments," he says. "I think people really relate to pop culture in the age of the internet." After sketching an idea, he scans the page and colours it in digitally. "I create a lot of textures through handmade print processes like monoprinting, to give a bit of a grittier feel to my images," he says. The result is pieces like the ones you see here, inspired by (clockwise from left) *The Martian*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel* and *Mad Max: Fury Road*. See more at [www.brazierillustration.co.uk](http://www.brazierillustration.co.uk). —*MW*



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## WILL HE EVER RETURN?

► Depending on who you believe, Will Smith did not return for this month's *Independence Day* sequel, *Resurgence*, either because his financial demands were not met or because he didn't want to do another big-budget sci-fi following *After Earth*'s disastrous reception in 2013.

But that doesn't mean we won't see him in subsequent *Independence Day* movies, right?

Wrong. The sequel's scribes have taken Smith's character, Colonel Steven Hiller, out of the picture entirely, killing him off in a 2007 aircraft accident. He was testing a new fighter plane made with alien technology harvested from the ruins of the 1996 battle when a mysterious malfunction took the plane down.

R.I.P. Colonel Hiller. —MW



## BIRD WATCHING

Hello little sandpiper! You're adorable. Not that your cute quotient was ever in question, considering you're the star of Pixar's next short film, *Piper*, which screens prior to *Finding Dory*.

But did you know that, although you were born at Pixar's California studios, you're at least partly Canadian? You were conceived and directed by Canadian Alan Barillaro, who's from Niagara Falls (the Canadian side, also known as the good side), studied at Ontario's famed Sheridan College and has worked on almost every Pixar movie going back to 1998's *A Bug's Life*. —MW

## Quote Unquote

It's a big movie, a big spectacle, a lot bigger than the first one and tons of new characters. It almost seems like overload except I've seen the movie and it works really well. But if I was a fan I'd be like, **'How are they going to fit all of those people into this movie?'**

—MEGAN FOX ON *TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS*





PHOTO BY GUISBERT HANEKROOT/REDFERNS/GETTY

## GOLDEN YEARS

That little kid sitting between Angie and David Bowie at Amsterdam's Amstel Hotel in February 1974 is Duncan Jones, director of this month's videogame-inspired fantasy film *Warcraft*. Jones — who was known as Zowie Bowie at the time — is the son of the late rock star and his first wife.

*Warcraft* is Jones' third feature film as director, after the two critically acclaimed offerings *Moon* (2009) and *Source Code* (2011). He's spent the past four years on *Warcraft*.



PHOTO BY NINA BOUSSOLARY/FOLIOSCOPE/IMAGENET

## DID YOU KNOW?

In Germany, *Captain America: Civil War* was released as *The First Avenger: Civil War*. Feel free to draw your own conclusions.

Here's Cap's adversary Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.) pointing firmly in your direction at the film's Berlin premiere.



## LET THE GAMES CONTINUE!

Ready for some instant videogame gratification on the big screen?

So far, the Cineplex WorldGaming Canadian Championships have attracted gamers willing to put in the time to first qualify online, then get through regional in-theatre championships before, with luck, earning an all-expenses-paid trip to compete in the finals at Toronto's Scotiabank Theatre.

But how about those who prefer a single-day competition?

Later this month Cineplex introduces its first single-day tournament. The tourney, which will be held at 10 Cineplex theatres across the country, is open to everyone for a \$10 per player entry fee. Tickets to either play or watch will be available in advance and on the day of the event pending availability, and there will be lots of prizes for both players and those in the audience.

And don't forget the third round of the Cineplex WorldGaming Canadian Championships also gets underway this month.

For more information about Cineplex's single-day tournament and the next round of the WorldGaming Championships — including game titles! — go to [Cineplex.com/GameOn](http://Cineplex.com/GameOn). —IR

## TAKING THE FALL

**I**t took stepping into a giant motion-capture suit for Glenn Ennis to earn some love. Ennis is the Vancouver stuntman who donned a puffy blue suit to portray the bear that famously attacks Leonardo DiCaprio in *The Revenant*. The scene garnered such interest that newspapers, magazines and TV shows wanted to interview the veteran stunt performer.

"We don't often get publicity in the stunt biz, that's for sure," says the 51-year-old, "but it really became an iconic scene — and I didn't know it was going to be one when I was doing it. Looking back it's so cool to say I was a little part, a microcosm, of cinema history."

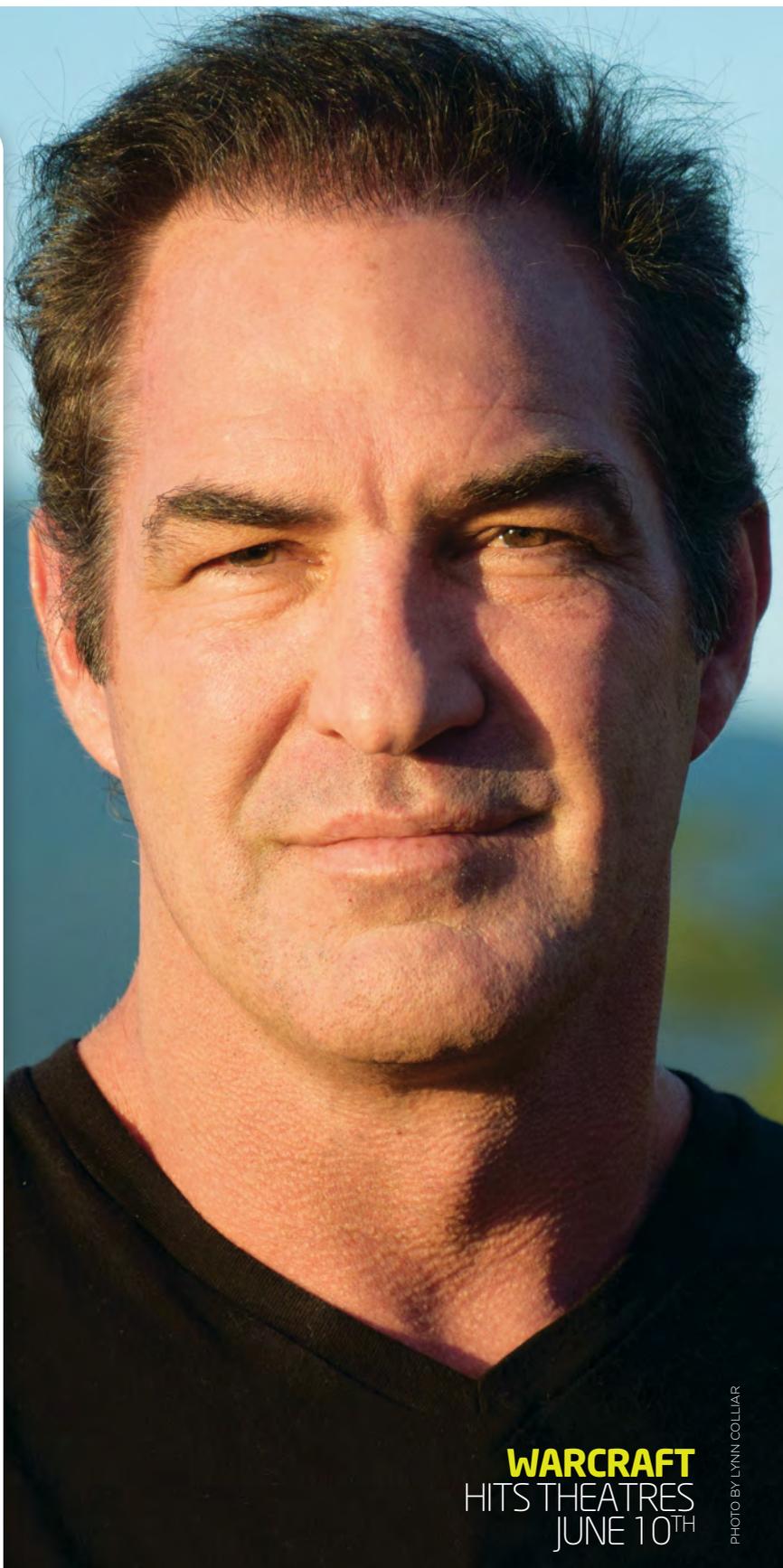
Ennis is on the phone, driving to the Kamloops set of *The Power Rangers*, where he'll work for a few days before heading to London to work as Jason Momoa's (Aquaman) stunt double in *The Justice League Part One*.

But this month he's back on screen in *Warcraft*, albeit transformed via the magic of motion-capture into a giant orc. "There's a core group of six stunt guys who play the orcs and we trained and worked together for six months straight. I'm six-foot-four and 245 pounds, and I was the small guy of the bunch," he says.

"The technology is amazing in this movie, and the orcs are going to look amazing. There was a brain bar on set, which is about 25 guys on computers sitting beside the set doing real-time rendering. Like, they would be filming me in motion-capture but on the monitor I would look like a big orc, which was blowing my mind a little bit."

His main concern at the moment is making sure he keeps trim for his *Justice League* gig.

"Jason Momoa keeps me young because the guy's six-foot-four and 230 pounds, but he's got the waist of a 14-year-old girl, like it's 34 inches. So I've been struggling like crazy to drop weight and get shredded because Aquaman is bare-chested, no shirt, just tattoos. Jason's 16 years my junior so it's good motivation not to be the old guy who takes his shirt off and everyone goes, 'Oh jeez, this isn't going to work.'" —INGRID RANDOJA



**WARCRAFT**  
HITS THEATRES  
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PHOTO BY LYNN COLLIER

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GREATNESS  
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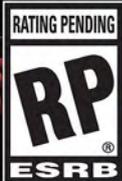
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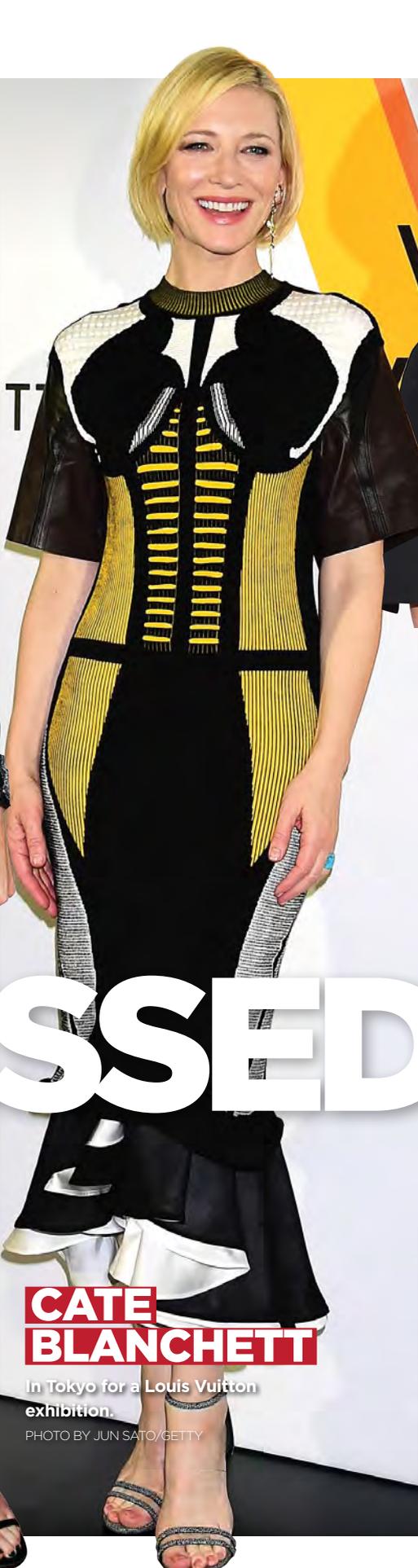
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**CHARLIZE  
THERON**

At the MTV Movie Awards  
in Burbank.

PHOTO BY JEAN BAPTISTE LACROIX/GETTY



**CATE  
BLANCHETT**

In Tokyo for a Louis Vuitton  
exhibition.

PHOTO BY JUN SATO/GETTY



**SELMA  
BLAIR**

At the Tribeca Film Festival's  
premiere of *Geezer*.

PHOTO BY THEO WARGO/GETTY

**ALL  
DRESSED  
UP**



**COMMON**

In Los Angeles for the premiere of *Barbershop: The Next Cut*.

PHOTO BY DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY



**ROSE BYRNE**

At the Tribeca Film Festival's screening of *The Meddler*.

PHOTO BY MARK SAGLIOCCO/GETTY



**COLIN FIRTH**

In London for the U.K. premiere of *Eye in the Sky*.

PHOTO BY ANTHONY HARVEY/GETTY

JUNE 3



## TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS

The sequel to 2014's *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* finds the crime-fighting reptiles facing off against mutant pig Bebop (**Gary Anthony Williams**) and mutant rhino Rocksteady (**Stephen Farrelly**) while also taking on new villain Krang (**Fred Armisen**). **Megan Fox** and **Will Arnett** return as the Turtles' human pals April O'Neil and Vernon Fenwick.

## ME BEFORE YOU

Author **JoJo Moyes'** bestselling romance novel hits the big screen with **Emilia Clarke** cast as Louisa, an energetic young woman hired to look after Will (**Sam Claflin**), a depressed quadriplegic who is contemplating suicide.

## MAGGIE'S PLAN

Writer/director **Rebecca Miller's** brainy rom-com stars **Greta Gerwig** as Maggie, a young woman who falls in love with John (**Ethan Hawke**), who's married. However, when Maggie realizes John isn't who she wants to spend her life with, she hatches a plan to get him back together with his brilliant and intimidating wife (**Julianne Moore**). See **Julianne Moore interview, page 30.**

## INTO THE FOREST

**Ellen Page** and **Evan Rachel Wood** play sisters left to fend for themselves in their remote home after an unexplained event destroys the world's infrastructure.

## POPSTAR: NEVER STOP NEVER STOPPING

Comedy brain trust **The Lonely Island** (**Andy Samberg, Akiva Schaffer, Jorma Taccone**) takes aim at self-aggrandizing pop stars with its faux documentary about the rise and fall of Connor4Real (Samberg), a Justin Bieber-ish star who surrounds himself with sycophants (played with relish by comic stars such as **Bill Hader, Sarah Silverman, Will Arnett** and **Maya Rudolph**).



## THE STEPS

**Jason Ritter** and **Emmanuelle Chriqui** star as siblings who head to their dad's (**James Brolin**) lake house to meet their stepmother (**Christine Lahti**) and her unruly brood of grown children. ▶

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# MENACE TO CONFORMITY.





▶ **WARCRAFT**

Boasting millions of players worldwide, the *Warcraft* videogame series was destined to hit the big screen. After more than a decade in development the epic fantasy adventure finally arrives with **Duncan Jones** (*Source Code*) behind the camera and **Travis Fimmel** (TV's *Vikings*) as Anduin Lothar, a knight who aligns with noble orc chieftain Durotan (**Toby Kebbell**) to stop the invasion of an evil orc horde.



*Now You See Me 2's* magicians

**NOW YOU SEE ME 2**

*Now You See Me's* four magicians — **Jesse Eisenberg**, **Woody Harrelson**, **Dave Franco** and **Lizzy Caplan** (in place of Isla Fisher who was pregnant during filming) — are kidnapped by a tech magnate (**Daniel Radcliffe**) and forced to steal a highly guarded computer chip. **See Jesse Eisenberg interview, page 26.**

**THE CONJURING 2**

**Vera Farmiga** and **Patrick Wilson** reprise their roles as demonologists Lorraine and Ed Warren, who head to London, England, to help two sisters who are haunted by an evil spirit. As with the first *Conjuring* film, this sequel is based on a real-life event — the Enfield Poltergeist case — that rocked England in the late 1970s and which the Warrens investigated.

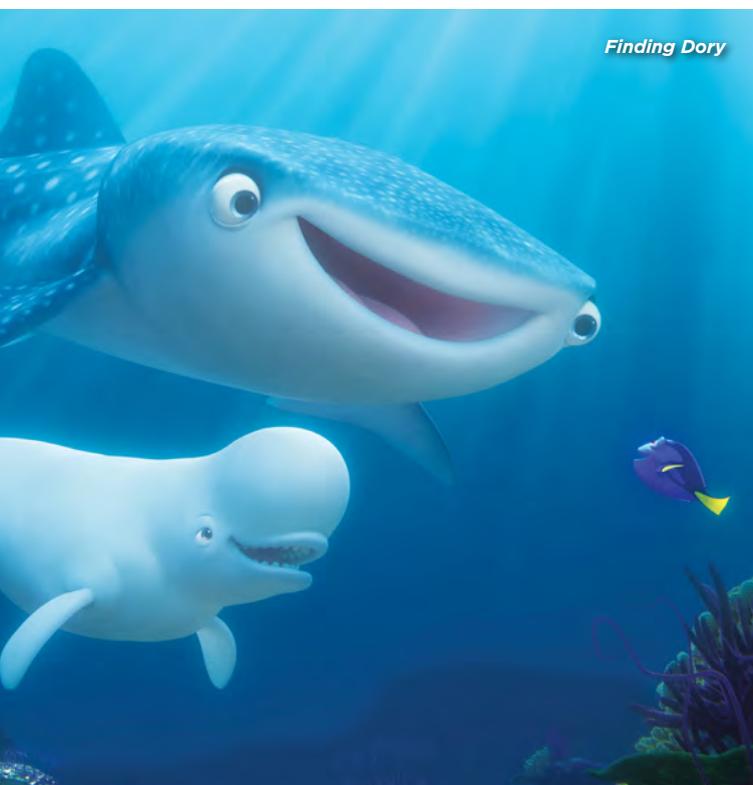


*The Conjuring 2's* Madison Wolfe



## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

The diminutive **Kevin Hart** teams with oversized **Dwayne Johnson** for this buddy action pic that casts Hart as accountant Calvin, who's amazed to discover his bullied high school mate Bob (Johnson) has not only become a brawny CIA agent, but needs Calvin's help in saving the world. See **Kevin Hart interview, page 24.**



Finding Dory

## FINDING DORY

Pixar's long-awaited sequel to its 2003 blockbuster *Finding Nemo* is set one year after the events of the first film and finds forgetful Dory (**Ellen DeGeneres**), young Nemo (**Hayden Rolence**) and Nemo's dad Marlin (**Albert Brooks**) heading out in search of Dory's family. The stellar voice talent includes **Diane Keaton** and **Eugene Levy** as Dory's parents, **Idris Elba** as a laidback sea lion and **Ed O'Neill** as an escape artist octopus.

## GENIUS

**Jude Law** and **Colin Firth** headline this drama recounting the difficult but fruitful relationship between American writer Thomas Wolfe (Law) and his book editor Max Perkins (Firth). Perkins helped wrangle the tortured Wolfe's brilliant, meandering work into the acclaimed novels *Look Homeward*, *Angel and Of Time and the River*. Co-starring **Nicole Kidman**, **Laura Linney** and **Guy Pearce**. ▶

**▶ INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE**

It's been 20 years since **Will Smith** played a fighter pilot who stops aliens from annihilating Earth in the 1996 blockbuster *Independence Day*. This similarly gung-ho sequel is missing Smith, but original cast members **Jeff Goldblum**, **Bill Paxton** and **Judd Hirsch** are back and join newbies **Liam Hemsworth** and **Jessie Usher** in defending humanity from an even greater alien onslaught.



**FREE STATE OF JONES**

A little-known piece of American Civil War history comes to life with **Matthew McConaughey** playing Southern farmer and Confederate Army deserter Newton Knight, whose disgust with Confederate politics leads him to set up his own free state in an area around Jones County, Mississippi. Knight also shocked his neighbours by living common-law with a former slave (**Gugu Mbatha-Raw**). See **Matthew McConaughey interview**, page 34.

**THE DAUGHTER**

This modern-day reworking of **Henrik Ibsen's** play *The Wild Duck* stars **Paul Schneider** as the estranged son of Australian mill owner Henry (**Geoffrey Rush**), who returns home for his father's wedding to a much younger woman (**Anna Torv**) and uncovers a family secret.

**JUNE 29**



**THE SHALLOWS**

**Blake Lively** shows off her figure and her resolve playing a wounded surfer who survives a great white shark attack only to find herself stranded on a rock 200 yards from shore with the shark still waiting around to finish its meal.

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# WARCRAFT

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Dwayne Johnson (top)  
takes Kevin Hart for a ride  
in *Central Intelligence*

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**HART**

Go to [CINEPLEX.COM/BUDDYCOPSPERCUT](http://CINEPLEX.COM/BUDDYCOPSPERCUT) for a video of the best buddy cop duos on film

You're making a buddy pic and you need a star people love, who makes them laugh, who's one of the hardest working guys in show business? Well then, you gotta have **Kevin Hart**. The funnyman talks about teaming with Dwayne Johnson for **Central Intelligence** ■ BY BOB STRAUSS

**I**n *Central Intelligence*, comic superstar Kevin Hart talks fast, screams, pulls silly faces and engages in acts of ridiculous physical slapstick, much like he's done in the *Ride Along* and *Think Like a Man* franchises.

The difference this time is he's playing the straight man.

"Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson and I teamed up to do [this movie] that's got a different vibe, a different feel," Hart says on the phone from Miami. "I'm an accountant and he's a CIA agent

who gets me involved in all kinds of crazy, dangerous stuff. I do not like that — at first."

It's a little more complicated than that. Back in high school, Hart's popular kid Calvin was a basketball star (insert short joke here) and Johnson's Bob, through the magic of special effects, was a chubby, bullied nerd. Calvin was the only one who showed Bob kindness, even during his most humiliating moments, and Bob never forgot.

Twenty years later, Calvin's settled into a quiet office job, and the now towering, muscular Bob re-enters his life, asking his "only friend" for help — this time in cracking a spy-satellite hacking case. The pair is soon dodging bullets and falling out of skyscraper windows together.

Only — unlike in, say, the *Ride Along* movies — it's the other guy who's driving Hart nuts.

"I wanted to do something separate from what *Ride Along* does," Hart says. "You don't want to do the same character over and over again. So in *Central Intelligence* I decided to take on a different role and carry more of the straight man duties and let Dwayne Johnson do more of the comedy."

Otherwise, *Central Intelligence* fits into Hart's wheelhouse — the mismatched-buddy genre of films, which also includes *Get Hard* and *The Wedding Ringer*. He hopes to reunite with Johnson in the future, and as of this writing the two were circling a *Jumanji* reboot.

"People love the action/comedy/buddy type film, but for our generation there weren't a lot of them," he says. "I think *21 Jump Street* did a great job, but outside of that one and Ice Cube and me in *Ride Along* they were kind of hit and miss."

To be fair, *Ride Along* earned only an 18 percent approval rating on [Rottentomatoes.com](http://Rottentomatoes.com), but fans didn't seem to mind. It grossed \$154-million (U.S.) worldwide, sparking the sequel.

But there's more than commercial considerations to Hart's teaming with tough-guy co-stars.

"They're both amazing guys. I'm a lucky guy to work with two amazing stars, Cube and Dwayne," he says with noticeable sincerity. "They're not only good guys but they respect and appreciate the business, understand the importance of building a fan base and also taking the craft very seriously. I think professionalism should always be first, and those are two guys that do and work as hard as I do. We get along well."

At 36, the former Philadelphia shoe salesman knows he's lucky to be one of Hollywood's top comic actors.

"I can't say enough that I don't take it for granted," he says. "At the end of the day, when it comes to comedy, yes, I am in demand. But it's not about being in demand, it's about staying in demand. So you constantly want to keep yourself fresh, you constantly want to reinvent yourself"

Does that mean dramatic roles, like the ones Cube and Johnson regularly take, might be in Hart's future?

"Of course," he says. "Right now it's about taking the things that are gonna come. I'm enjoying comedy, but there will be a point when drama comes into play. I'm not rushing that, I'm not in this business for the short term, I'm in it for the longevity. So, when that stuff comes, I think it's gonna be pretty amazing and I'll show the world that I can do that as well."

When it's time, though, when it's time. Hart's next two films are next month's animated *The Secret Life of Pets* (he voices a white bunny) and another animated comedy next year, *Captain Underpants*. He's also been tapped to co-star with Bryan Cranston in the U.S. remake of the French hit *Intouchables*, which, if it's anything like the original, will be a step toward a more sentimental kind of comedy.

Even as he carefully guides his career in new directions, Kevin Hart remains committed to what he knows works for him.

"I still want to do standup," he says. "That's what I am. I'm a comedian first, anything else is a bonus. Obviously I'm welcoming these acting jobs, but I wouldn't be getting them if I wasn't a comedy success." ■

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



# FOR HIS NEXT TRICK

Like a good illusion, there's more to **Jesse Eisenberg** than first meets the eye. Did you know he's a successful playwright? Stage actor? Humour writer? We talk to Eisenberg about all of that, plus his magic-meets-heist sequel, *Now You See Me 2* ■ BY MARNI WEISZ

**"I think it was some Polish psychologist** who said no one's happy when they achieve something. Everyone's only happy when they're achieving. When they're struggling," says Jesse Eisenberg over the phone from L.A. "People are happiest when they're in the midst of doing something they like, rather than having achieved something."

In that case, and despite appearances at times, Eisenberg must be a very happy man.

Aside from all those movies he makes — most recently *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, *Louder Than Bombs*, and Woody Allen's *Café Society*, which opened Cannes last month — the 32-year-old from Queens, New York, has written several plays that have been produced off-Broadway to positive reviews. He often casts himself in the lead role, which is appropriate, since his works hit close to home.

"I write fiction, but it's all derived from personal feelings or fictionalized experiences that I've had," Eisenberg explains.

He's also contributed pieces to *The New Yorker*, and in 2015 he published a collection of humour pieces called *Bream Gives Me Hiccups*.

This month, as *Now You See Me 2* — the sequel to his hit 2013

film about magicians who rob banks as part of their act — lands in theatres, Eisenberg will be in London reprising the lead role in his play *The Spoils*, about an unlikable rich jerk who loses it when he finds out his first crush is getting married.

It's still two months from *Now You See Me 2*'s June 10th release date when we speak, but Eisenberg is already working out how he'll be able to promote the film in the States while in the midst of *The Spoils*' London run.

"I have to miss a Sunday night show to fly to New York, do a full day of press all day Monday, which includes the six o'clock morning shows, *The Tonight Show*...a premiere during the day, and then get out and do a show on Tuesday night," he says. "Fortunately, a lot of the publicity we're doing is frontloaded and because the movie has such a wonderful ensemble it's not all falling on me."

That ensemble includes Woody Harrelson, Dave Franco and Lizzy Caplan (in place of the first movie's Isla Fisher, who bowed out of the sequel to have a baby) as Eisenberg's fellow magicians in the Vegas-style magic act *The Four Horsemen*. Morgan Freeman is back as the magic man who spills other magicians' secrets, and Mark Ruffalo returns as the FBI agent who — in the first movie — turned out to be behind the Horsemen's plan to steal first from a bank, and then an insurance company, handing the money over to its audience.

"Our characters are in hiding, awaiting orders from The Eye, the secret organization to which they were admitted at the end of the first movie," Eisenberg says of the sequel. "When the order comes they are tasked with performing this show, and at the show they are hijacked, kidnapped and mysteriously brought to China through this very unusual, but fully explained and practically applied labyrinth."

A young tech magnate played by Daniel Radcliffe is behind the very public abduction. He wants to steal a computer chip **CONTINUED ▶**



From left: Dave Franco, Jesse Eisenberg, Lizzy Caplan and Henry Lloyd-Hughes in *Now You See Me 2*

Go to [CINEPLEX.COM/TOPEISENBERG](http://CINEPLEX.COM/TOPEISENBERG) for a look at Jesse Eisenberg's top five film roles

he says. "It really is an unusual confluence of cultures. Ten years ago it was Portuguese and Chinese, now it is Portuguese, Chinese and Las Vegas. Macau looks like Vegas had a baby that outgrew Vegas."

On this visit to Macau, Eisenberg took in a glitzy production that involved "dancing waters" in order to get a taste of the kind of casino-town shows the Horsemen stage.

"It made me realize how much audiences appreciate this kind of stuff. I come from New York and I write and act in plays in New York that are these very intimate character dramas, and 200 people a night come, and I assume I'm like the centre of the universe," he says. "You know, when you see stuff like that, the shows in Macau or Vegas, you realize that the majority of audiences probably prefer this kind of thing."

▶ from the world's most secure lab, and believes the Horsemen are the only ones who can do it.

"So we are put in this precarious situation of not only having to steal the most secure thing in the world but give it to somebody who we hate," says Eisenberg. "We don't want to do either one but we are held hostage so we have to and that's the drama of the film."

One perk of making *Now You See Me 2* was that it gave Eisenberg the opportunity to return to Macau, where it was filmed. Formerly a Portuguese colony, Macau is now a "special administrative region" of the People's Republic of China and, in the past decade, has become a sparkly mecca for high-stakes gamblers.

Eisenberg first visited Macau as a tourist 10 years ago, around the time he was starting to get roles in indie fare like Noah Baumbach's *The Squid and the Whale*.

"I studied anthropology in school so when I heard about this island that was a Portuguese colony off the coast of China I was so fascinated,"

to choose between large- and small-scale entertainment, works with mass appeal and those written for niche audiences.

"I genuinely like the variety of what I get to do," he says. "When I was doing *Now You See Me 2*, as much as it's a big ensemble movie, there are also a lot of moving parts, and stunts and scenes that don't require my presence, so you have a lot of time off. On the one hand it's a nice relief to not be doing a taxing play every night, but on the other, after a while, I feel like I want to be exhausted again.

"And then conversely when I'm acting in a play I feel like I don't know how much longer I can do this without having a nervous breakdown 'cause it's so taxing and stressful and emotionally exhausting every night and I long for the days when I can act in front of a green screen. I think if I did just one I'd probably feel bored or frustrated or go crazy." □

Marni Weisz is the editor of Cineplex Magazine.



Woody Allen (centre) directs Kristen Stewart and Jesse Eisenberg on the set of *Café Society*

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

## WOODY OR WOULDN'T HE?

When Jesse Eisenberg was a teen he wrote a script about how his filmmaking idol, Allan Stewart Konigsberg, changed his name to Woody Allen. Somehow, he got the script to Allen's people, but instead of positive feedback he got a cease and desist letter from Allen's lawyers. Eisenberg has now made two movies with Allen, 2012's *To Rome With Love* and this year's *Café Society*. Has he ever brought up the incident?

"No, no, no," says Eisenberg. "And I saw him two days ago in New York. I see him and we speak but you know he's an unusual man who.... I feel like I would be bothering him by bringing up something he wouldn't have an immediately funny rejoinder for, so it just feels inappropriate. He's a nice guy but he's so myopically focused on his work, which is why he's so prolific, that I can't imagine he spends much time thinking about the petty things that I consume myself with." —MW

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# MARITAL MUCK-UP

**Julianne Moore** gets to be scary and funny as a European intellectual dealing with the breakdown, and possible reconstruction, of her marriage in the dark comedy *Maggie's Plan*

BY CHRISTIAN AUST

**Julianne Moore is one of the bravest women** in the business. And not only in front of the camera. On this day at the Berlin Film Festival she's doing interviews for two films at once — *Freeheld* and *Maggie's Plan*, and all of this with a cold.

"I'm so embarrassed," she apologizes, as if it were her fault. "I never get sick on a junket." Her usually powerful voice sounds husky and soft.

The 55-year-old Academy Award-winner most often plays strong women in dramas. In *Maggie's Plan* she's still strong, but funny as well. Writer-director Rebecca Miller's dramedy casts Moore as Georgette, a dominant Scandinavian intellectual whose husband John (Ethan Hawke) leaves her for a younger woman named Maggie (Greta Gerwig). When Maggie falls out of love with John, she tries to reunite him with Georgette.

# Q:

**When you read the script, did you find something familiar in Georgette?**

"I didn't know her at all. And I was struck by how original she was, actually. For me the fact that she was European was really notable because Rebecca Miller and I had mothers from other countries. Her mother was from Austria and my mother was from Scotland. So I was very familiar with this idea, that you have this mother who the other kids think she's weird because they have an accent and they seem culturally different.... My character is like that for her children."

**How did you work on your Scandinavian accent?**

"I have a couple of Danish girlfriends. One of them I made come over and say all the lines, and I listened very carefully."

CONTINUED ▶



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“I don't know what I want to do next. I never know till it comes my way. Also, I can't **manifest my own work. In a way it's like waiting for a train to come by and hoping for a red one**”

watch her play, because it was a very challenging role.... She has to be someone who's smart but then also has a wilful naivety. But to come back to your question, I don't know what I want to do next. I never know till it comes my way. Also, I can't manifest my own work. In a way it's like waiting for the train to come by and hoping for a red one [laughs].”

**I think it's not too late to talk about your 2015 Academy Award for *Still Alice*. You've been nominated five times. How did it feel to finally get the Oscar?**

“It was crazy because you can't really believe it is happening. I was like, ‘Did they just say my name?’ And my husband was wonderful, so supportive and so present. He helped me to the steps and I just tried to walk straight. I couldn't even look at the audience because it was too overwhelming. I was so overwhelmed.”

**Rebecca Miller told me *Maggie's Plan* is a love letter to New York. Do you see it that way?**

“Yes. And I do love New York. And I feel very attached to it now. I lived my entire adult life in New York City, except for a few years when I was in Los Angeles. And the longer I live there, the more I feel attached to it, which is I guess how things are the longer you're with someone. There is a real sense of possibility and a feeling of community and they kind of make allowances for everything so you can be whoever you want to be, do whatever you want there.” ☑

*Christian Aust is an entertainment journalist based in Hamburg, Germany.*



Greta Gerwig (left) and Moore conspire in *Maggie's Plan*

Julianne Moore as Georgette

► **An interesting aspect of the film is how to find the balance between the one who nurtures and the one who receives the nurturing in a relationship — the give and take. Can you identify with that?**

“I think both people have to do that for each other. If you don't, then someone feels bad. I know there are roles people can take in relationships after a while. For example, I never drive.”

**But you have a driver's license?**

“Oh yes, I can drive. And I drive when I'm by myself. But my husband always says, ‘Do you want me to drive?’ And my answer is always, ‘Yes.’ But then there are things that I handle entirely. If you don't take care of each other equally, your relationship will suffer. Nobody wants to be a parent to their partner.”

**So what do you handle entirely?**

“I have to do the dishwasher. Always. I don't want anyone else to touch it. We trade off feeding the dogs, because we both hate that. It's disgusting [laughs].”

**Greta Gerwig said, “Julianne, she can play the whole piano,” meaning you have depth and range.**

“Oh, that's nice.”

**So, from your perspective, which parts of the piano haven't you played yet?**

“The black keys. I'm joking. I honestly don't know. Greta is so wildly creative. And she really looks at everything from a filmmaker's point of view, at the whole thing. She's endlessly curious and has this unique sense of comedy, a grounded emotional comedy. It was wonderful to

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# INDEPENDENCE DAY

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# Knight's TALE

**Matthew McConaughey** can't believe he'd never heard of Southern abolitionist Newton Knight before reading the script for *Free State of Jones*. Now he's bringing the Mississippi rebel's surprising story to the big screen so more people will know Knight's name ■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

## FREE STATE OF JONES HITS THEATRES JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup>

**MI** **attthew McConaughey** remembers tromping through the Mississippi woods to spend a moment in front of Newton Knight's grave.

"It was an extremely grounding and powerful moment that's for sure," he says in his distinctive Texas drawl that has a way of softening the edges of his words. "Mainly I was there to just listen, stand still, smell, feel, see how people spoke about Newt, the different ways people revered what he did," McConaughey continues on the line from Los Angeles.

The actor plays Newt Knight in this month's *Free State of Jones*, which recounts the real-life exploits of the Mississippi farmer who reluctantly joined the Confederate army during the U.S. Civil War.

However, fuelled by his belief that all people, regardless of colour, were created equal in the eyes of God, and angered by Confederate forces raiding and destroying local farms (including his own), Knight deserted and took up arms against the Confederacy. His "Knight Company" was a band of guerilla fighters made up of like-minded army deserters and escaped slaves who established the "Free State of Jones" in the area around Jones County, Mississippi.

If you've never heard of Newt Knight you are not alone. McConaughey had no idea who he was until director Gary Ross (*Seabiscuit*, *The Hunger Games*) gave him a script he'd spent years researching and writing.

"It's a heroic story lost in history, and I think 'How did I never hear about this? How did Newt Knight not go down in American history?'" asks the 46-year-old actor.

McConaughey was fascinated by Knight's heroics, and especially by what he called the man's "simple code of conduct."

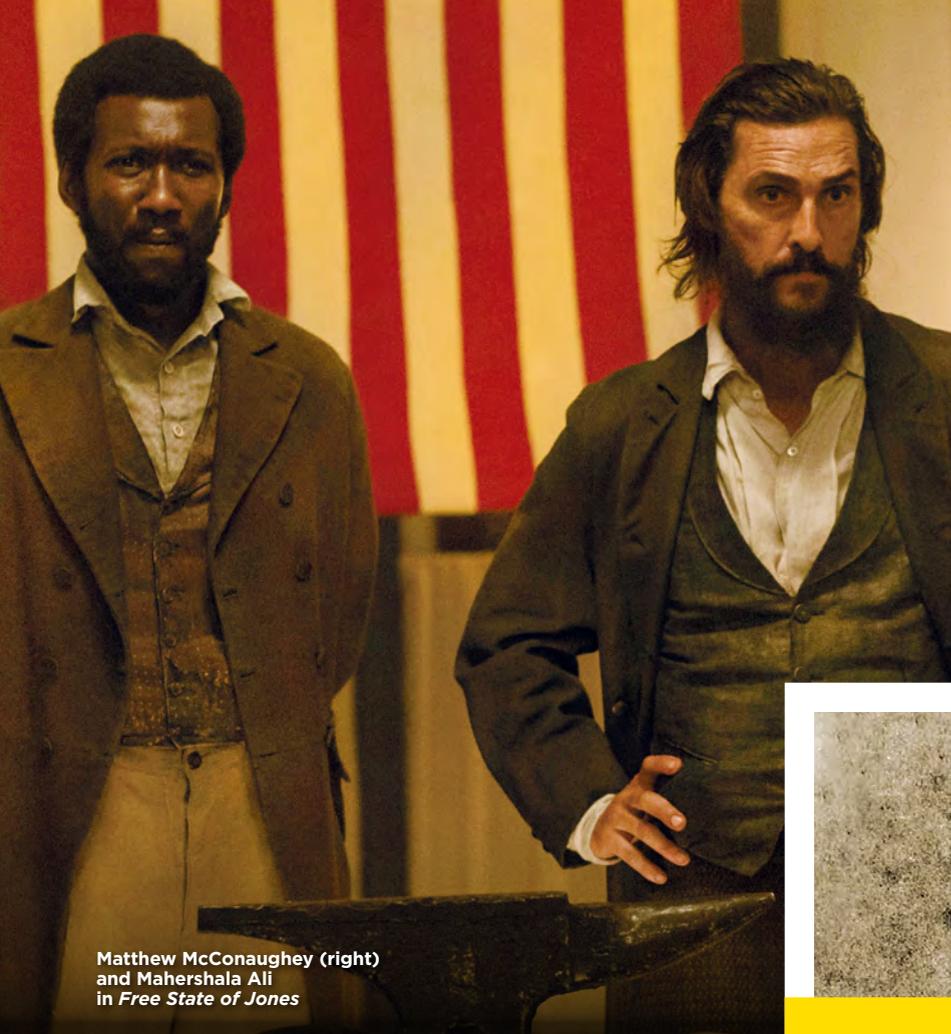
"Newt Knight was a man who once he decided something was wrong, he was unable to ignore it. This is a guy who lived by the bible and the barrel of a shotgun. He bowed to no one's authority but God's. He understood that he couldn't be free as long as anyone else was enslaved, whites, blacks, whatever. If he saw something wrong he had to make it right and damn the consequences."

One of the most fascinating aspects of Knight's life is that he moved on from his first wife, Serena (Keri Russell) and lived common-law with his grandfather's former slave, Rachel (Gugu Mbatha-Raw).

The fact that Knight was such an outlier in his society makes him a compelling character on whom to build a movie. But one of the challenges facing the filmmakers was ensuring they didn't fall into the familiar Hollywood trap of putting a white face front and centre in a story that revolves around black lives and black suffering.

McConaughey believes the film avoids that trap.

"This is not some kind of white rescue fantasy movie," he says. "Newt is definitely a hero, but in the film you see Moses [Mahershala Ali] and the other African-Americans risk everything for their freedom, and many pay the ultimate price, death. But I am a **CONTINUED ►**



Matthew McConaughey (right) and Mahershala Ali in *Free State of Jones*

“Six, seven years ago I consciously backed up and looked at what I was doing, what I was being offered and what I was sort of branded as”

▶ Southerner, and to fellow Southerners like myself Newt repudiates the stereotype that all Southerners are, or were, racists.”

Born in Uvalde, Texas, to a kindergarten teacher mother and a father who supplied pipes to the oil industry, McConaughey got the acting bug while studying at the University of Texas in Austin.

It was in Austin in 1993 that director Richard Linklater cast McConaughey as *Dazed and Confused*'s creepy older dude who hangs with high school kids. Suddenly, the good-looking actor — who's still remembered for ad-libbing his character's catch phrase “Alright, alright, alright” — was on Hollywood's radar.

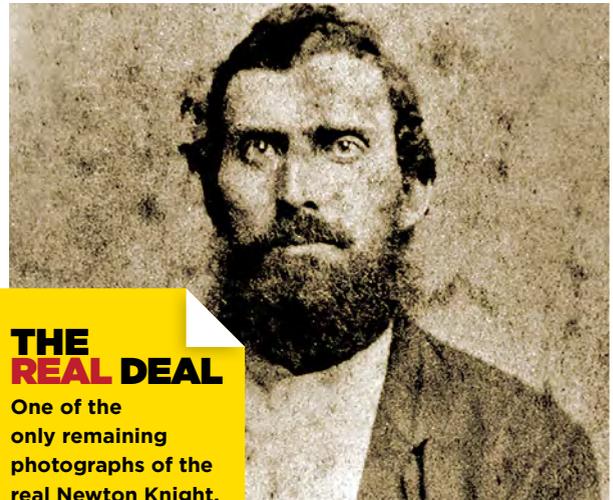
He landed big parts in big movies that, initially, were weighty enough — *Time to Kill*, *Contact*, *Amistad* — but eventually his career evolved into playing sexy hunks and action heroes in pics such as *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*, *Sahara*, *Failure to Launch* and *Fool's Gold*.

A decade of taking his shirt off and charming ladies took its toll on the actor.

“Six, seven years ago I consciously backed up and looked at what I was doing, what I was being offered and what I was sort of branded as,” explains McConaughey. “So I consciously made a change, I just stopped doing what I was doing and didn't really work for two years. I've said this before; I didn't re-brand, I un-branded.”

That un-branding meant only taking roles he was passionate about — a shady barrister in *The Lincoln Lawyer*, *Killer Joe*'s killer and *Mud*'s fugitive. This “McConnaissance” culminated in McConaughey winning a Best Actor Oscar in 2013 for his turn as the emaciated AIDS activist and Texas good ol' boy Ron Woodroof in *Dallas Buyers Club*.

Even over the phone you can hear the love of acting in his voice.



### THE REAL DEAL

One of the only remaining photographs of the real Newton Knight.

“That's part of what keeps me ticking, I am chasing the experience. I'm chasing finding a character that at some point of time I, Matthew, feel like there is nobody else that could play this character,” he says. “That feeling of original creation, or ownership of a character, is really freeing, it really gives me confidence, and it's just for me to know in my insides and think, ‘Hey, I'm the only guy who can do this.’”

Next up is the long-in-the-works Western-fantasy *The Dark Tower*, based on Stephen King's book series. Idris Elba is set to play gunslinger Roland Deschain, who travels through a fantastical land searching for McConaughey's mysterious “man in black.”

“I am two months into pre-production right now and this is when I have my sleepless nights,” he says excitedly. “It's the two months before production starts when I gather the ‘who am I,’ the ‘what am I going to do?’ It's when I really get to know my man, my character.

“It's sleepless nights because of being inspired, like my mind's got great ideas, or waking up in the middle of night and thinking, ‘Oh my gosh, I've got to write that down.’

“Once I start working I sleep like a baby and I can't wait to wake up Monday morning and go to work. It's so much fun.”

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

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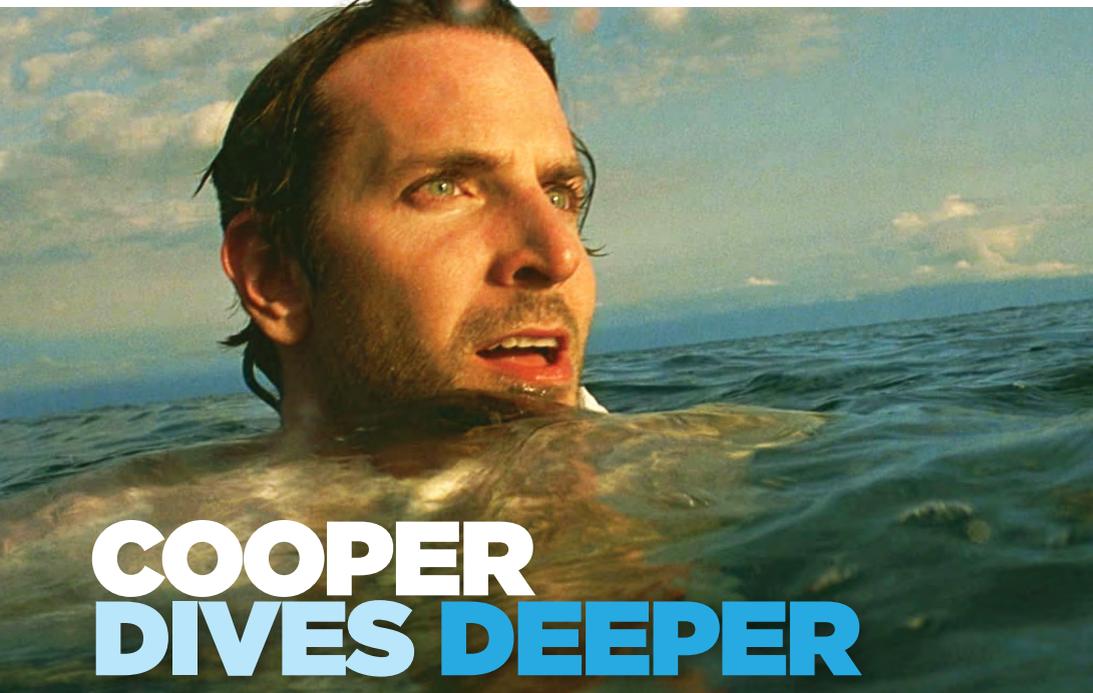
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# CASTING CALL

BY INGRID RANDOJA



## COOPER DIVES DEEPER

**Bradley Cooper** is attached to star in the thriller *Deeper*, about a disgraced astronaut who pilots a vessel into Earth's deepest ocean trench where he experiences strange and disturbing psychological effects. **Max Landis** (*Chronicle*, *Victor Frankenstein*) pens the script, no word on who will direct.



### WHAT'S GOING ON WITH...

## FURIOUS 8

Last year's *Furious 7* shocked Hollywood by earning more than \$1.5-billion worldwide, making it the sixth highest grossing film in history. *Fast 8* just started production and locations include New York City, Russia and Cuba, making it the first Hollywood feature to shoot on the island in more than 50 years. **Vin Diesel**, **Dwayne Johnson**, **Jason Statham**, **Kurt Russell** and **Michelle Rodriguez** return while **Charlize Theron** will play the film's villain and **F. Gary Gray** (*Straight Outta Compton*) directs. *Fast 8* rides into theatres April 14th, 2017.



## PAGE, LUNA BRING FLATLINERS BACK TO LIFE

Late last year it was announced that **Ellen Page** would headline the remake of the 1990 thriller *Flatliners*, which starred Julia Roberts, Kiefer Sutherland and Kevin Bacon as medical students who die and come back to life. The project is coming together nicely with **Diego Luna** and **Nina Dobrev** signing on to play the other med students. Danish filmmaker **Niels Arden Oplev** (*The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*) directs.



## PHOENIX EYES BROTHER ROLE

**Joaquin Phoenix** is in talks to join **John C. Reilly** in the adaptation of Canadian **Patrick deWitt's** award-winning novel *The Sisters Brothers*. Set in 1851, the story follows Eli and Charlie Sisters, brothers who are hired to kill a gold prospector. Reilly's production company bought the rights to the novel and brought on **Jacques Audiard** (*Dheepan*) to direct. ▶

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## ▶ OLDMAN PLAYS CHURCHILL

Filming begins next month on *Darkest Hour*, which casts **Gary Oldman** as Winston Churchill and covers 1940, the year he became Prime Minister and guided the nation through the Battle of Britain and the Dunkirk evacuation. **Joe Wright** (*Pan*, *Anna Karenina*) directs.



## FRESH FACE ANGELABABY

Born Yang Ying in Shanghai, China, the 27-year-old model/actor goes by the single name **Angelababy**, a combination of her English name “Angela” and her nickname “Baby.” She plays a Chinese pilot in this month’s *Independence Day: Resurgence*, only her second English-language film after *Hitman 47*, but she’s a huge star in Asia and has been referred to as China’s Kim Kardashian due to her lavish celebrity lifestyle — her 2015 wedding reportedly cost \$31-million (U.S.).



## STONE TAKES BUSINESS TRIP

**Emma Stone** will showcase her comedic flair in the just announced *Women in Business*. Directed by **Jake Szymanski** (*Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates*), the pic casts Stone as one of two female executives who head to Canada on business and hire a wacky woman from Craigslist as an intern. **Kate McKinnon** and **Jillian Bell** (*The Night Before*) co-star.

**ALSO IN THE WORKS** ▶ **Will Ferrell** and **Mark Wahlberg** reunite for *Daddy’s Home 2*. ▶ **Sidney Hall** casts **Logan Lerman** as a young writer who disappears after penning a bestseller. ▶ **Scarlett Johansson** portrays the troubled Zelda Fitzgerald in *The Beautiful and the Damned*, which chronicles Zelda’s marriage to iconic American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald. ▶ **Benedict Cumberbatch** will voice the Grinch in a new version of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

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# Forbidden Love

**S**ome of Hollywood's best love stories are the ones that never pan out. From *Casablanca* to *Titanic* to *Brokeback Mountain*, we can't get enough of lovers who are never meant to be together.

In director David Lean's 1945 masterpiece *Brief Encounter* it's placid housewife

Laura Jesson (Celia Johnson) and married doctor Alec Harvey (Trevor Howard) who spark up a romance in a dreary train station. Their chemistry is immediate, and we desperately want them to run off together, but their deep-rooted goodness and middle-class British morals hold them back.

*Brief Encounter* reminds us that love doesn't always lead to happiness and all we can do is cherish the heartbreak. —INGRID RANDOJA

## **BRIEF ENCOUNTER**

screens as part of Cineplex's Classic Film Series on June 19th, 22nd and 27th. Go to [Cineplex.com/Events](http://Cineplex.com/Events) for times and locations.

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## ZOOTOPIA

OWN IT JUNE 7

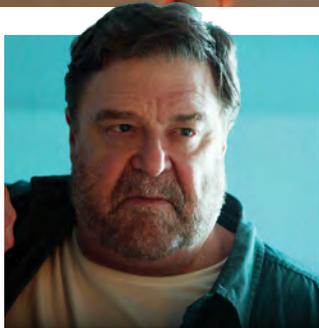
Disney's animated tale of a rabbit cop (**Ginnifer Goodwin**) and a con-artist fox (**Jason Bateman**) who team up to solve a "missing mammal" case gets high marks for entertaining audiences and championing a message of tolerance that resonates with both kids and adults.



## HAIL, CAESAR!

RENT IT JUNE 7

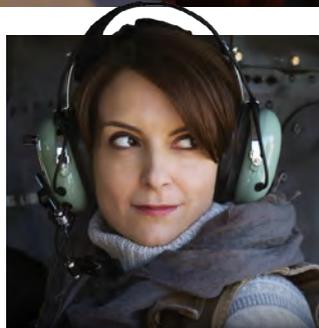
The **Coen Brothers** assemble a stellar cast — including **George Clooney**, **Scarlett Johansson**, **Channing Tatum** and **Tilda Swinton** — for this delightful homage to 1950s Hollywood that casts **Josh Brolin** as a movie studio "fixer" who spends one hectic day cleaning up after his troublesome actors.



## 10 CLOVERFIELD LANE

RENT IT JUNE 7

Director **Dan Trachtenberg's** claustrophobic thriller stars **Mary Elizabeth Winstead** and **John Gallagher Jr.** as strangers trapped in an underground bunker owned by a man (**John Goodman**) who claims a global catastrophe has left the outside world uninhabitable.



## WHISKEY TANGO FOXTROT

OWN IT JUNE 14

Based on a true story, **Tina Fey** plays dissatisfied TV reporter Kim Barker, who heads to war-torn Afghanistan where she meets thrill-seeking journalists (**Margot Robbie**, **Martin Freeman**) and discovers her own taste for dangerous assignments.

## BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE

OWN IT JUNE 28

Why so serious? DC Comics' biggest superheroes **Batman (Ben Affleck)** and **Superman (Henry Cavill)** face off in director **Zack Snyder's** somber blockbuster that succeeds in bringing **Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot)** to life and setting the table for the upcoming *Justice League* pic.



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# FINALLY...

# Fresh FISH

**I**n the world of animation technology, 13 years is an eternity.

So when Pixar's animators started working on *Finding Dory*, the sequel to the 2003 fish tale *Finding Nemo*, they had quite a challenge. How do you place this second fish tale in the same underwater world as the first while using more advanced tools?

"We had to sneak in the improvements. Our lighting is more complex. The flora and fauna have more detail," explains Andrew Stanton, the co-director of both films.

"Fortunately, we pulled off the look in the first film — even without all the technology we have today," continues the director. "Somehow we found that sweet spot of making the audience feel as if they were underwater and that's something we were happy to emulate."

So which image is from the new film, *Finding Dory*? The one on top; *Finding Nemo* is below. —MARNI WEISZ



# Girls' Night In



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