

CINEPLEX

MAGAZINE

FLYING SOLO

**Alden
Ehrenreich**

TALKS
**SOLO: A
STAR WARS
STORY**

Inside
**SAOIRSE
RONAN**
**CANDICE
BERGEN**



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Portraying a young Han Solo in *Solo: A Star Wars Story* is an intimidating prospect, but as **Alden Ehrenreich** tells us, you just have to “give yourself over to it and have fun.” In this exclusive interview the 28-year-old star talks about studying Harrison Ford’s performance, stepping into the Millennium Falcon and dealing with a much-discussed directing change
BY MARNI WEISZ

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BY BOB STRAUSS





IN HOLLYWOOD'S TRACTOR BEAM

Alden Ehrenreich is the Forrest Gump of actors. He always seems to be at the right place at the right time to brush up against Hollywood greatness. Talent and a beautiful face don't hurt, either.

With only 10 feature films under his belt, the 28-year-old who's about to become Han Solo for a new generation made six of those 10 movies for Hollywood icons. There was *Tetro* (his very first film) and *Twist* for Francis Ford Coppola, *Blue Jasmine* for Woody Allen, *Rules Don't Apply* for Warren Beatty, *Hail, Caesar!* for the Coen Brothers, and now *Solo: A Star Wars Story* for Ron Howard and Lucasfilm.

But that list of intimidating bosses isn't the most improbable thing about Ehrenreich's relatively brief career. The most improbable thing about his career is that he was discovered by yet another Hollywood icon, Steven Spielberg, at a bat mitzvah. Ehrenreich, then 14, had appeared in a silly, homemade short film for a friend's celebration of womanhood and that friend happened to be friends with Spielberg's daughter. Spielberg was there, liked what he saw, set Ehrenreich up with an agent and a few years later the young actor was working for Coppola.

Strangely, there's no trace of that short film anywhere online.

"I don't even have it. I don't know where it is," Ehrenreich insisted during our interview for this month's cover story. "It's around somewhere because it was shown to people at that time so it's somewhere. But I don't know, we're going to have to pull it out. It's also probably mortifying to watch, but I haven't seen it for 10 years."

While Ehrenreich may not be proud of that particular short film, he isn't done with the genre. In fact, during our interview he revealed that it was while he was editing a short film he wrote and directed called *Is This It?* that he found out he'd be the new Solo.

"I'd left for a break and I got a call and they told me you got the part, and that was it. I was, you know, blown away," he told me, typically cool. (Seriously, this guy is as cool as a barefoot stroll on Hoth.) He's been working on that short film between projects for years so who knows if it'll ever see the light of day. But when you've already made movies with a half-dozen of Hollywood's top filmmakers chances are something will have rubbed off, so I hope we do see it.

In the meantime we can enjoy Ehrenreich the actor in *Solo*, a deep dive into the younger years of one of the franchise's original heroes. Turn to "Launching a Legend," page 36, to find out what Ehrenreich thought of the film when he saw an early screening, all by himself, as he prefers.

Elsewhere in this issue, another huge franchise rolls forward with the release of *Avengers: Infinity War* and on page 32 we speak with several of its stars, including **Chris Hemsworth**, **Danai Gurira** and **Chris Evans**, about bringing everyone together for one mighty bash. On page 28 *Book Club* star **Candice Bergen** tells us why comedy is her favourite genre. And on page 22 we talk to **Saoirse Ronan**, star of this month's *The Seagull* and *On Chesil Beach*, about period pieces and growing up.

■ MARNI WEISZ, EDITOR

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SNAPS



DAPPER DAFOE

Recent Oscar nominee **Willem Dafoe** works on his next movie, the detective story *Motherless Brooklyn*, in New York. The film is directed by Edward Norton who also stars.

PHOTO BY PIERRE SUU/GETTY



STAR SHINE

Vox Lux star **Natalie Portman** (left) and her young co-star **Raffey Cassidy** positively glow while shooting a scene for the drama about the rise of a pop singer. We're guessing this scene takes place in the '80s.

PHOTO BY ALESSIO BOTTICELLI/GETTY



RUN, ROBERT, RUN

Robert Pattinson strides toward photographers at the Berlin International Film Festival where he was promoting his Old West period piece *Damsel*.

PHOTO BY PASCAL LE SEGRETAIN/GETTY



IT'S A SIGN

Drew Barrymore makes amends to actor Jake Gyllenhaal during the Hollywood premiere of *Santa Clarita Diet's* second season. She'd picked Gyllenhaal as the least talented of three of her past co-stars when forced to choose on *The Late Late Show With James Corden*.

PHOTO BY KEVIN WINTER/GETTY



LIEV SCHREIBER CAUGHT CHEATING

This is not the dog **Liev Schreiber** brought to the dog park. The star arrived to the New York park with a small, beige terrier. This is a hound dog. Perhaps a beagle. That is all we know.

PHOTO BY ELDER ORDONEZ/SPLASH NEWS



BILL READING

Bill Murray (left) reads a poem outside a hotel in Austin, Texas, before his film *Isle of Dogs* screens as part of SXSW. That's his director, **Wes Anderson**, on the far right, capturing the performance on his smartphone.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LOCCISANO/GETTY

IN BRIEF



THIRD WADE IN THE POOL

Ryan Reynolds as Wade Wilson in *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*

Ready for **Ryan Reynolds'** third big-screen turn as Marvel Comics' motor-mouthed superhero Wade Wilson, a.k.a. Deadpool?

Wait, what? *Deadpool 2* is just the second Deadpool movie. It's right there in the title, right?

Not really. While this month's sequel that sets Reynolds' Merc with a Mouth against John Broynin's Cable may be the second film headlined by the Canadian star's antihero, it's the third time Reynolds has played Wade Wilson on the big screen.

You're forgiven if you don't remember — or didn't see — Wilson's first film appearance as it came in the least popular X-Men movie, *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, which scored just 38% on *Rotten Tomatoes* and earned comments like "You're going to be really underwhelmed" and "I was really disappointed" from critics.

As you see in the movie still above, Reynolds played Wilson before the tight red suit, and before he'd fully become the crude superhero of today's movies, though the character did transform into a disfigured supervillain by the end of the film.

Even Gavin Hood, who directed that film, agrees his Wade Wilson missed the mark. When 2016's *Deadpool* became a huge hit Hood told *Cinemablend*, "I think the character works so well now because the character is allowed to be who the character really is, unencumbered by, you know, PG-13 requirements and a great deal of marketing debate." Hood also gave Reynolds credit for sticking with Deadpool and making a movie largely free of studio meddling.

So cover your children's ears as *Deadpool 2* hits theatres May 18th. —MW



PHOTO BY JON KOPALOFF/GETTY

Josh Hartnett

On Home Turf: Gut Instinct

Montrealers should look out for **Josh Hartnett** (*Black Hawk Down*, TV's *Penny Dreadful*) this month as he's in town to shoot an interesting movie and play an interesting Canadian.

Hartnett transforms into *Globe and Mail* and CTV journalist Victor Malarek for *Gut Instinct*, which recounts Malarek's investigation into Alain Olivier, a hapless drug addict who somehow landed in a Thai prison for heroin trafficking in a case with curious and confusing connections to the RCMP.

Antoine-Olivier Pilon (*Mommy*) plays a version of Alain Olivier renamed Daniel Léger for this drama written and directed by Quebec's **Daniel Roby** (*Funkytown*, *Louis Cyr*). —MW

THE ART OF FILM

We love Irish artist **Conor Langton's** digital illustrations; they look like 19th-century photography crossed with topographical maps. "I spent my whole college years researching artists and trying out different styles and mediums," he says. "College was perfect for this experimentation phase. I knew I was never going to stick with a style similar to another artist but I also knew it was something I needed to do to reach my own style," says Langton from his home in Kilkenny, Ireland. Here, from left, you see his portraits of **Willem Dafoe** in *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, **The Hateful Eight's** Kurt Russell and director **David Lynch**. See more at www.instagram.com/conorlangtonart. —MW



Chatterbox's Dink, February 1952





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NEW MODEL

Actor and unusually beautiful female Elle Fanning surprised no one by rocking the catwalk at Miu Miu's Fall/Winter show during Paris Fashion Week. The tall, willowy talent has earned a reputation as one of Hollywood's foremost fashion plates both on the red carpet and just wandering the streets of L.A.

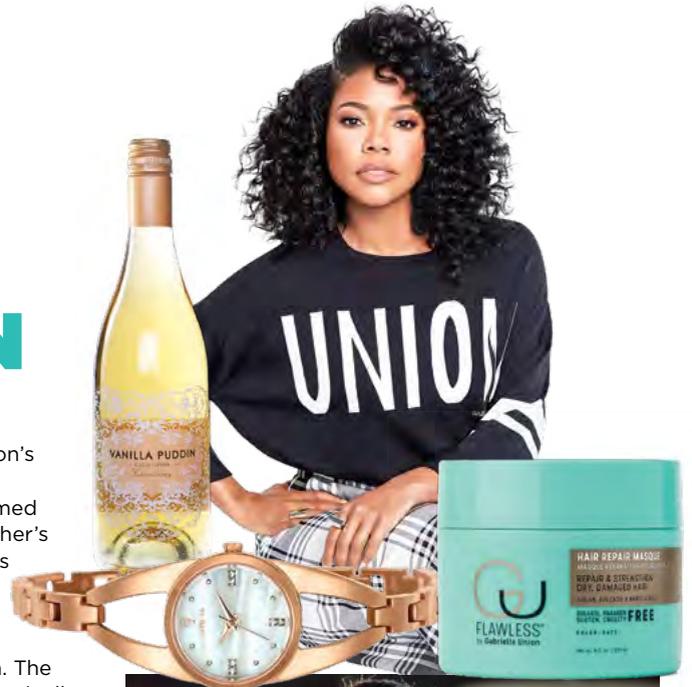
PHOTO BY PASCAL LE SEGRETAIN/GETTY

UNION SHOP

We hope Gabrielle Union's thriller *Breaking In*, in which she fights off armed intruders at her late father's home, is a huge success when it comes out May 11th.

But if not, Union has a lot to fall back on. The 45-year-old actor is practically her own corporation.

In the past four years alone Union has launched Flawless, her own hair care line, designed timepieces for Invicta watches, created a fashion line for New York & Company, and released a chardonnay called Vanilla Puddin' featuring the aromas of caramelized apple, pineapple and butterscotch. —MW



Gabrielle Union in *Breaking In*



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHE SIMON/GETTY

Cannes You Tell WHO This Is?

Do you recognize the young woman on the left of this photo with Rupert Everett and Julianne Moore taken during the 1999 Cannes Film Festival?

We'll give you a clue. She's serving as jury president at this year's Cannes Film Festival, which takes place from May 8th to 19th.

It's a young Cate Blanchett, enjoying her first trip to Cannes to promote *An Ideal Husband*.



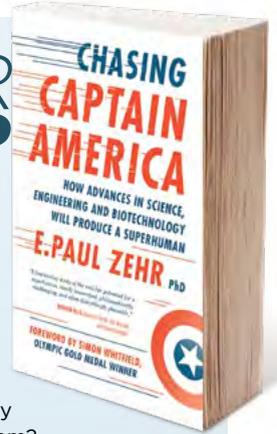
INSET PHOTO BY MATT MCCLAIN/GETTY

You Down With RBG?



You've seen Kate McKinnon impersonate her on *Saturday Night Live*. You know left-leaning humans around the world are pulling for her to live to 100, maintaining her seat on the U.S. Supreme Court every one of those years. But now you can really get to know U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg via *RBG*, a documentary which hits theatres May 18th and traces the now 84-year-old Brooklyn native's upbringing, marriage to her supportive husband Marty Ginsburg, and rise through the justice system, becoming only the second woman to serve on America's highest federal court. —MW

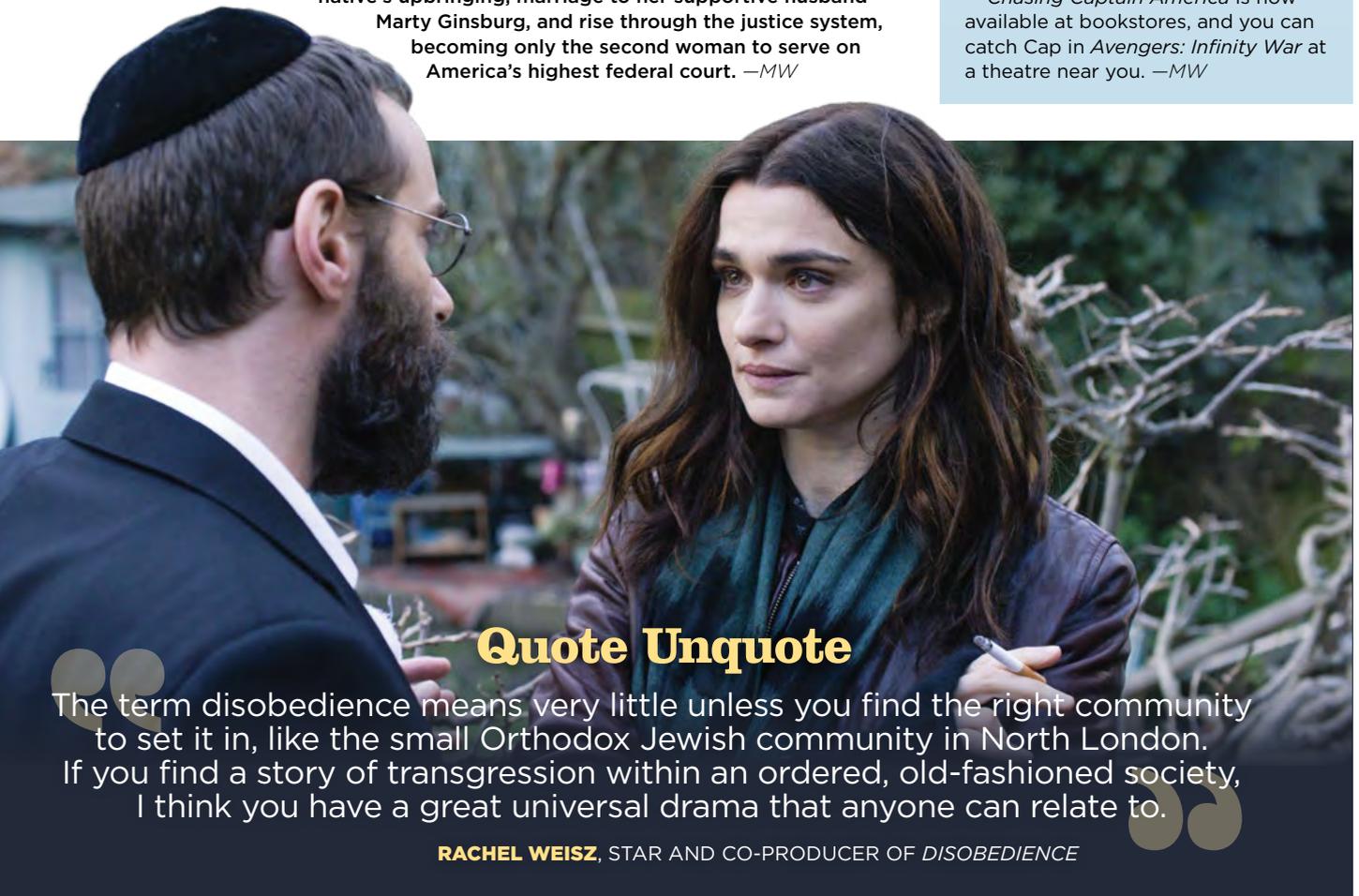
SUPER IDEA?



Is it scarier to think that we live in a world without superheroes like Captain America, or to think that in the near future we may live in one *with* them?

We'd argue the latter, but in *Chasing Captain America: How Advances in Science, Engineering and Biotechnology Will Produce a Superhuman*, Canadian neuroscience expert and director of the Centre for Biomedical Research at the University of Victoria, E. Paul Zehr says that thanks to advances in surgery, pharmaceuticals, genetic engineering and something called "technological fusion," we're not far from creating a superhuman like Cap. And, surprisingly, he thinks that's not such a bad thing.

Chasing Captain America is now available at bookstores, and you can catch Cap in *Avengers: Infinity War* at a theatre near you. —MW



Quote Unquote

The term disobedience means very little unless you find the right community to set it in, like the small Orthodox Jewish community in North London. If you find a story of transgression within an ordered, old-fashioned society, I think you have a great universal drama that anyone can relate to.

RACHEL WEISZ, STAR AND CO-PRODUCER OF *DISOBEDIENCE*



ALL DRESSED UP

JENNIFER LAWRENCE

At the European premiere of *Red Sparrow* in London.

PHOTO BY GETTY

DAVID OYELOWO

At the Los Angeles premiere of *Gringo*.

PHOTO BY JON KOPALOFF/GETTY

STORM REID

At the London premiere of *A Wrinkle in Time*.

PHOTO BY MIKE MARSLAND/GETTY



**ALICIA
VIKANDER**

In London for *Tomb Raider's* European premiere.

PHOTO BY MIKE MARSLAND/GETTY



**JOEL
EDGERTON**

At the European premiere of *Red Sparrow* in London.

PHOTO BY GETTY



**CHARLIZE
THERON**

In Los Angeles for *Gringo's* premiere.

PHOTO BY JON KOPALOFF/GETTY

IN THEATRES

MAY 4



TULLY

Charlize Theron reunites with her *Young Adult* writer **Diablo Cody** and director **Jason Reitman** for this dramedy about an overwhelmed mother (Theron) caring for three kids, including a newborn. But help is on the way when she welcomes a caring night nanny named Tully (**Mackenzie Davis**) into her home.

MAY 11



Ajiona Alexus (left) and Gabrielle Union in *Breaking In*

KNOCK

This French comedy set in the 1950s stars **Omar Sy** (*The Intouchables*) as a former conman turned certified physician who becomes the lone doctor in a village. However, his criminal tendencies haven't vanished, and he tries to convince his patients they need special care that comes at a cost.

BREAKING IN

After Shaun's (**Gabrielle Union**) dad dies, she and her two kids clean out his house so it can be put up for sale. They realize the high-tech home must be hiding something valuable when three intruders storm the place while Shaun is outside. Now she has to figure out a way back inside to save her kids.



LIFE OF THE PARTY

When Deanna's (**Melissa McCarthy**) husband (**Matt Walsh**) dumps her, she decides to return to college to finish her degree. Suddenly liberated, Deanna lets loose and enjoys all that college has to offer, which proves embarrassing for her daughter Maddie (**Molly Gordon**), who goes to the same school.

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SAT., MAY 5

Jumanji
SAT., MAY 12

Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle
SAT., MAY 19

Peter Rabbit
SAT., MAY 26

MET OPERA

Così fan tutte (Mozart)
ENCORES: SAT., MAY 5;
MON., MAY 7; WED., MAY 9;
SUN., MAY 13

La Bohème (Puccini)
ENCORE: SAT., MAY 5

Luisa Miller (Verdi)
ENCORES: SAT., MAY 19;
MON., MAY 21;
WED., MAY 23; SUN., MAY 27

Semiramide (Rossini)
ENCORE: SAT., MAY 26

CLASSIC FILMS

All About Eve
SUN., MAY 6; MON., MAY 7;
TUES., MAY 8; WED., MAY 9

DOCUMENTARY

Scream for Me Sarajevo
THURS., MAY 10

Sunday Beauty Queen
MON., MAY 14

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE

Julius Caesar
SAT., MAY 12

COMÉDIE-FRANÇAISE

The Fop Reformed
WED., MAY 16

ANIME

Saint Snow Presents Lovelive! Sunshine!! Hakodate Unit Carnival
SUN., MAY 20

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DISOBEDIENCE

Rachel McAdams stars opposite Rachel Weisz in this love story based on Naomi Alderman's novel. Ronit (Weisz) returns to her Orthodox Jewish community in London after the death of her rabbi father and rekindles her love affair with childhood friend Esti (McAdams).

RBG

Directors Julie Cohen and Betsy West join forces for this documentary that takes an in-depth look at the personal life, career and legacy of 84-year-old U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

DEADPOOL 2

Ryan Reynolds reprises his role of physically scarred, impossible to kill Deadpool in this sequel that see our potty-mouthed antihero facing off against the cyber-enhanced mutant Cable (Josh Brolin), who has come from the future to stop certain events from happening. Also joining the fun is telekinetic mutant Domino (Zazie Beetz).

THE SEAGULL

Tony Award-winning playwright Stephen Karam (*The Humans*) adapts Anton Chekhov's 19th-century play set in the Russian countryside. Aging actress Irina Arkadina (Annette Bening) and her lover, the novelist Boris Trigorin (Corey Stoll), visit Irina's brother (Brian Dennehy). During their visit Nina (Saoirse Ronan), a neighbour and aspiring actor, arrives and falls in love with Boris. See Saoirse Ronan interview, page 22.



Book Club's Candice Bergen

BOOK CLUB

Four old friends — Diane (Diane Keaton), Vivian (Jane Fonda), Sharon (Candice Bergen) and Carol (Mary Steenburgen) — spice up their lives after reading *Fifty Shades of Grey*. See Candice Bergen interview, page 28.



Ryan Reynolds is back in *Deadpool 2*



SUIT UP.

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MAY 25



From left: Joonas Suotamo, Woody Harrelson and Alden Ehrenreich in *Solo: A Star Wars Story*

SOLO: A STAR WARS STORY

The second *Star Wars* anthology film following *Rogue One* focuses on the early days of space cowboy and rascal-in-training Han Solo (**Alden Ehrenreich**), who becomes involved with criminal Tobias Beckett (**Woody Harrelson**). Joining Han in his adventures are Wookiee Chewbacca (**Joonas Suotamo**), smuggler Lando Calrissian (**Donald Glover**) and pal Qi'ra (**Emilia Clarke**). See **Alden Ehrenreich** interview, **page 36**.

ON CHESIL BEACH

Ian McEwan's acclaimed novel set in 1962 Britain comes to the screen starring **Saoirse Ronan** as Florence and **Billy Howle** as Edward, a just-married couple set to spend their wedding night at an inn on Chesil Beach. However, as Florence has issues with sex, and Edward is impatient to consummate the marriage, conflicts arise. See **Saoirse Ronan** interview, **page 22**.



On *Chesil Beach's* Saoirse Ronan

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DEADPOOL 2

MAY 18



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& RYAN REYNOLDS DIRECTED BY DAVID LEITCH DEADPOOL.COM

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SEASON OF *Saoirse*

Hot off her Oscar nomination for *Lady Bird*, **Saoirse Ronan** stars in two cerebral May movies, an adaptation of Anton Chekhov's ***The Seagull*** and a big-screen version of Ian McEwan's beloved novel ***On Chesil Beach***. Here the 24-year-old talks about her love of period pieces, how she chooses roles and why growing up is a lot like acting

■ BY DEBRA WALLACE

Saoirse Ronan is a bit of a chameleon.

Off-screen the young actor comes across as soft-spoken, well-mannered, delicate and demure, but not on screen. For anyone who has seen her movies — many of them about a girl or young woman coming into her own — it is crystal clear that she is also an emotional powerhouse.

That power, in part, is why Saoirse (pronounced “Sir-sha”) Ronan is still coming down from a whirlwind awards season, during which she won a Golden Globe for her leading role in *Lady Bird*, a coming-of-age story about the complex mother-daughter dance and finding your true self amid teenage angst.

At the tender age of 24, Ronan has already been nominated for three Academy Awards: Best Actress for *Lady Bird* and *Brooklyn*, and Best Supporting Actress for *Atonement*. She has also been nominated for four BAFTA Awards (the British Academy of Film and Television Arts).

Admiring critics around the world have

called her performances graceful, playful, evocative, fragile, and wise beyond her years. Even she considers herself to be “an old soul” who feels more mature than her actual age.

And with her triumphant performance in *Lady Bird* still lingering, Ronan already has complex roles in two new movies opening this month — an adaptation of Russian playwright Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull* and then *On Chesil Beach*, a drama about the fragility of young love and marriage amid the sexual revolution of the 1960s.

First out is *The Seagull*. Directed by Michael Mayer (*A Home at the End of the World*), the film follows aging, aristocratic actor Irina Arkadina, played by Annette Bening, on a visit to her brother's Russian country estate.

Irina brings with her Boris (Corey Stoll), a famous novelist and ladies' man. Nina, played by Ronan, is a free-spirited, innocent girl from a neighbouring estate who falls in love with Boris. At the same time, Irina's playwright son Konstantin (Billy Howle) is head over heels in love with Nina, who is initially flattered when given a major role in his new play, but rejects him to pursue Boris and fantasizes about becoming an actress like Irina. **CONTINUED ▶**

The Seagull's
Saoirse Ronan
and Corey Stoll





Saoirse Ronan in *On Chesil Beach*

THE SEAGULL
HITS THEATRES
MAY 11TH

ON CHESIL BEACH
HITS THEATRES
MAY 25TH



NOVEL PERFORMANCES

Though five of English author Ian McEwan's novels have become films, *On Chesil Beach* is the first in more than a decade. In fact, it's the first since 2007's *Atonement*, which also starred Saoirse Ronan (seen above). She was just 13 years old when she played young Briony Tallis, an aspiring writer whose single, terrible lie has dire consequences for her sister (Keira Knightley) and her sister's lover (James McAvoy). And what a performance it was, earning Ronan an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actress, making her the 12th youngest nominee in Oscar history. —*MW*

▶ It's a timeless tale because of the range of human emotions portrayed — insecurity, fear, hope, longing and unrequited love.

"Nina is a bit of a dreamer," Ronan explains over the phone from New York.

"I believe that Nina is stuck in one place and desperately yearns for something new and different," she continues. "While she seems filled with love, she is also a sad girl who looks at her life and feels that something is sorely missing."

On Chesil Beach, Ronan's second movie this month, is based on an Ian McEwan novel. In 1962 England, Florence and Edward, played by Ronan and coincidentally Billy Howle again, are on their honeymoon at a sedate hotel near Chesil Beach. As the prospect of consummating their marriage approaches, their conversation becomes tense.

This insightful drama about two people, from two different worlds, shows us what happens when a seemingly idyllic romance collides with issues of sexual freedom and societal pressure, leading to an extremely awkward wedding night.

It's no secret that most of Ronan's movies have been period pieces; that's not about to change. After *The Seagull* and *On Chesil Beach*, her next movie is the 16th-century drama *Mary Queen of Scots*, which comes out in November and co-stars Margot Robbie as Queen Elizabeth I to Ronan's Mary Stuart. "I truly enjoy the chance to do a lot of research into a specific period in order to tell an inspiring story," says Ronan.

The only child of Irish parents, Monica and Paul, Saoirse was born in the Bronx, New York,

but her family moved to Dublin when she was three years old and she holds dual American and Irish citizenship. (In 2013, she purchased a home in the Dublin suburb and former fishing village of Howth.)

She made her acting debut in the Irish TV medical drama *The Clinic* in 2003, but her breakthrough came as a precocious 13-year-old in *Atonement* just four years later, followed by such noteworthy movies as *The Lovely Bones*, *Hanna*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, *Brooklyn* and of course *Lady Bird*.

When not immersed in a film role, Ronan says she likes to be "a regular girl," spending time with family and friends, and doing a bit of good, like her work as an ambassador for the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

When she started acting at age nine, she and her "wonderful, supportive mother" often stayed in hotels where they were pampered, but Ronan says she prefers homemade breakfasts and pouring her own tea.

"I like to stay in an apartment or a house when I am making a film, just to be able to do my own washing and go to the supermarket to get a pint of milk," she says. "Even though I am working long days; it's important that I look after myself."

So, what gets her excited about making a movie?

"If I have an impulse to kind of live through that character, and if I am still thinking about it, and starting to imagine that I'm that character, then I should probably do it," Ronan says. "But it all comes down to believing in

what you are doing; because if you don't, it can feel like torture."

The roles she does pick often epitomize a young woman finding her own footing and becoming comfortable in her own skin, something Ronan can connect with even as her career continues to soar.

"I believe that young people go through a whole process of practicing being a grown-up, and trying on different characters in order to figure out which one fits," she says, "and practicing that persona until it becomes you is definitely relatable." □

Debra Wallace lives in Philadelphia, where she writes about movies and pop culture.

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Back in the **G**amm

Candice Bergen is suddenly as hot as they come in Hollywood with TV's *Murphy Brown* about to be resurrected for CBS and a starring role in this month's big-screen comedy ***Book Club*** about four formidable seniors who get their groove back by reading *Fifty Shades of Grey* ■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

This month's comedy *Book Club* brings together big-screen legends Jane Fonda, Diane Keaton, Candice Bergen and Mary Steenburgen. The foursome accounts for a combined four Oscars, 13 Oscar nominations and has appeared in a total of 196 films. Incredibly, *Book Club* represents the first time *any* of them have worked together on the big screen.

"Yes, isn't that amazing," Candice Bergen says on the phone from her home in New York. "It was really a treat to work together, we all got along very well and I just saw the movie a few days ago and it works wonderfully."

Directed by screenwriter-turned-helmer Bill Holderman (*A Walk in the Woods*), the film finds four old friends choosing to read *Fifty Shades of Grey* for their book club.

"My character is a federal judge who's recently divorced and living alone," says Bergen. "Jane's character owns a hotel and is high up the corporate ladder. Diane's character is a retired teacher who has two daughters who think of her as older than she is. They've prepared for her to come live with them. And Mary Steenburgen's character is a chef and married, but she's struggling to reinvigorate her marriage."

As expected, the provocative book unleashes a variety of responses in the women, and for Bergen's character, Sharon, it's liberating.

"It just gives her permission to be re-awakened to her sexuality and it gives her permission to be sexual after having not had any sex in her life for years and years since her husband left.

"What I think is nice for women watching the movie is that it says that it's okay to basically be happy and to start over. It sort of talks about real things but in a way that's light. It's funny and it's touching, Diane's scenes brought me to tears a couple of times. I think it'll mean something to women."

Bergen, who turns 72 this month, is having a career reawakening of her own. She appeared in two films last year — *The Meyerowitz Stories* and *Home Again* — and will once again play the character with whom she is best known, TV newswoman *Murphy Brown*, in a reboot of the *Murphy Brown* TV series (1988-1998) set to air later this year. This all comes on the heels of releasing of her second memoir, *A Fine Romance* (2015), which chronicles her marriage to the late French film director Louis Malle, her time on *Murphy Brown* and her relationship with her daughter Chloe.

For Bergen, getting back in front of the camera means more than just keeping busy, it's a compulsion of sorts.

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Book Club's formidable foursome (from left), Diane Keaton, Candice Bergen, Jane Fonda and Mary Steenburgen



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM.COM/BERGENBAGS

► “It speaks to the fact that no matter how long you’ve done something those are the muscles that you’ve developed. I don’t work much, but when I don’t work for a while I miss it, and I don’t even find it that satisfying sometimes when I do it,” she says with a laugh, “but it’s like you start pawing the ground like a workhorse just wanting to go back out in the field.”

Bergen is the daughter of famed ventriloquist Edgar Bergen and model/actress Frances Bergen. She grew up a Hollywood golden child who remembers playing with Liza Minnelli at extravagant birthday parties and having Charlton Heston dress as Santa at her family Christmas gatherings. Her good looks led her to modelling and acting, and she made her big-screen debut at age 19 in director Sidney Lumet’s *The Group* (1966), portraying Lacey, an icy lesbian and the de facto leader of group of college friends.

Roles in dramas such as *Carnal Knowledge*, *The Wind and the Lion* and *Oliver’s Story* followed, but Bergen never felt all that comfortable playing heavy dramatic roles; it was comedy that saved her career, and which she made look easy. She earned a Best Supporting Actress Oscar nomination for her turn as Burt Reynolds’ wacky ex-wife in *Starting Over* (1979) and cemented her comedic legacy with her 10-year run on *Murphy Brown*, which aside from being very funny also touched on politics and world events thanks to Brown’s

career as a TV news reporter. And who can forget the time then-vice presidential candidate Dan Quayle criticized Brown for becoming a single mother, inviting the show to have all sorts of fun with the hapless politician.

“I just love doing comedy,” says Bergen. “To me getting a laugh is just a gift from the gods, I mean to me that’s what I really love to do. And you know, I don’t find it hard work. I thought, what’s wrong with me that I don’t find it hard? It’s my comfort zone.

“But really the writing is everything. It’s really hard to lift a script that is weak and that doesn’t have comedy and it’s very hard to make something funny. I think what I usually end up doing is just trying to make it honest if I can’t find the comedy.”

And she’ll be earning more laughs when *Murphy Brown* returns in the fall. The announcement of the show’s return came as a surprise to many as there were no rumours that a reboot was in the works.

“It came out of nowhere for us too,” she says. “But it’s been mentioned for a few years and [producer] Diane English and I both went, meh, but this year is not like the other years. It’s not like we see ourselves as the anti-Trump, but I think this year it makes sense to do the show. It would have been a squandered opportunity.”

Ingrid Randoja is deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

BERGEN BAGS

When Candice Bergen isn’t acting or writing you can find her with a brush in hand working on her latest art project. In 2016 her daughter Chloe, who works as a contributing editor at *Vogue* magazine, asked her mom to paint something on her Louis Vuitton travel bag. Bergen, who likes to doodle, adorned the bag with bunnies and Chloe’s initials. When Chloe posted the final product on Instagram, commissions starting rolling in for Bergen to paint people’s bags and luggage.

“I’m completely self-taught over the last two years and it gives me huge pleasure,” says Bergen. “I mean it doesn’t always give me pleasure because I’ve done so many white fluffy dogs, I’ve hit the limit on that, but I did a salad over the weekend and that was fun. I do it in the breakfast room. I just set up my paints on the breakfast table, put the music on and have a fine old time.”

Bergen charges up to \$1,000 (U.S.) for her Bergen Bags with the money going to animal-focused charities.

— IR



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COME TOGETHER, RIGHT

Calling all Marvel superheroes, at least one supervillain, a bunch of writers and directors and lots and lots of special-effects crew. You are needed on set. We talk to more than a half-dozen Avengers actors, including **Chris Hemsworth**, **Danaï Gurira**, **Chris Evans** and **Elizabeth Olsen**, about making the biggest Marvel movie yet, ***Avengers: Infinity War***

■ BY BOB STRAUSS

The culmination of a decade of Marvel Cinematic Universe-building, *Avengers: Infinity War* and its unnamed sequel next year are not just the most ambitious comic-book movies of all time.

Arguments can be made that they are the most ambitious Hollywood achievement ever.

“What’s about to happen, no one has ever faced anything quite like it. It’s going to blow people away,” claims Chris Hemsworth, who plays Thor in the MCU. “We shot *Avengers 3*

➔ Go to CINEPLEX.COM/NEWS/MARVELHEROES for a rundown of all the superheroes set to appear in *Infinity War*.



1. Chris Hemsworth as Thor 2. Rocket Raccoon (voiced by Bradley Cooper, body work by Sean Gunn) 3. Vin Diesel's Groot 4. Danai Gurira as Okoye 5. Chadwick Boseman as Black Panther 6. Chris Evans as Captain America 7. Scarlett Johansson as Black Widow 8. Sebastian Stan as Winter Soldier

IT NOW

and *Avengers 4* back to back, most of last year. The film is the biggest thing in film history. There are 70-something cast members that had to be wrangled together, and the inner workings and complexities of all of these stories coming together and these relationships...

"I said to Joe and Anthony Russo after we'd wrapped, 'I don't know how you've gotten this far and how you're now going to edit and put all these things together,'" Hemsworth continues, referring to the brothers who directed the last two Captain America movies, and now *Infinity War* and its follow-up. "But it has just been such a joy, and beyond impressive, to watch them orchestrate this thing together."

There was, as you might imagine, quite a bit to orchestrate. The broad plot of *Infinity War* finds the space villain Thanos — who's haunted the background of previous Avengers and Guardians of the Galaxy movies, and is now played by Josh Brolin — coming to Earth to gather more of the powerful Infinity Stones. Once he has the six stones known to exist in the universe Thanos will essentially have the power of God. And if past behaviour is any indication, he won't use that power benevolently.

Of course, the Avengers would be the perfect band of superheroes to foil Thanos and protect our planet. Trouble is, the group isn't

really around anymore. Following the schism of *Captain America: Civil War*, many members are at odds with each other. Some, like Chris Evans' Captain America, are essentially fugitives, and the fate of Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Thor and some of their potential allies are in question after they encountered Thanos's ship in the post-credits scene of last year's *Thor: Ragnarok*.

Fortunately, fellow do-gooding superheroes Spider-Man (Tom Holland), Doctor Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch), Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman) and all those Guardians join the fight. Although, as welcome as those newcomers are, they may have CONTINUED ▶



► created more headaches for the Russos, who had to finesse their characters and storylines into the film. But the Russos had a little expert help from James Gunn, who wrote and directed the two Guardians movies.

“It’s different, but it’s weird,” acknowledges Dave Bautista, who plays the comically

forthright Guardians strongman Drax the Destroyer. “My first day on set, I was really nervous and worried that the Russos were going to try to be controlling of our characters, which we had already established through two films. The one luxury that we had was that James did a lot of the writing for the Guardians for *Infinity War*. That was a huge relief, but also the Russos were very encouraging of letting us be ourselves. We knew who our characters were, we did business as usual, bounced off each other a lot and threw stuff out there to see if it’d stick. A lot of times it did, and the Russos were super-excited about it.”

Smoothly integrating elements from all of the Marvel movies is also the function of a higher power.

“I think that Kevin Feige keeps a pretty good eye over the whole mechanism, making sure that all of the wheels are turning properly and all of the pistons are firing,” says Sean Gunn of the Marvel Studios’ president and overall MCU mastermind. Gunn plays Kraglin, Yondu’s first mate in the Ravagers, and does the on-set body work for the animated Rocket Raccoon (voiced by Bradley Cooper) in his brother James’s Guardians movies. “So I think everything worked together. I didn’t notice any problems making *Infinity War*, I think it all fits together pretty well.”

Some returning Avengers even marvel about how well their characters’ personal stories are explored in the massive narrative.

“I get to have a great arc with Paul Bettany,” says Elizabeth Olsen, whose Scarlet Witch — if you know your comic books — ends up marrying the sentient android Vision played by Bettany. “There is a new storyline that I get to be invested in, a new relationship with a different character that we get to explore. I’ve always been grateful that the writers and Feige and whoever else is in control allow me to have interesting arcs in these movies. They continue to do that, so it really is a lot of fun to go back and do more of them. I just keep my fingers crossed that they will keep me on board!”

Others are simply thrilled to jump on the Avengers train.

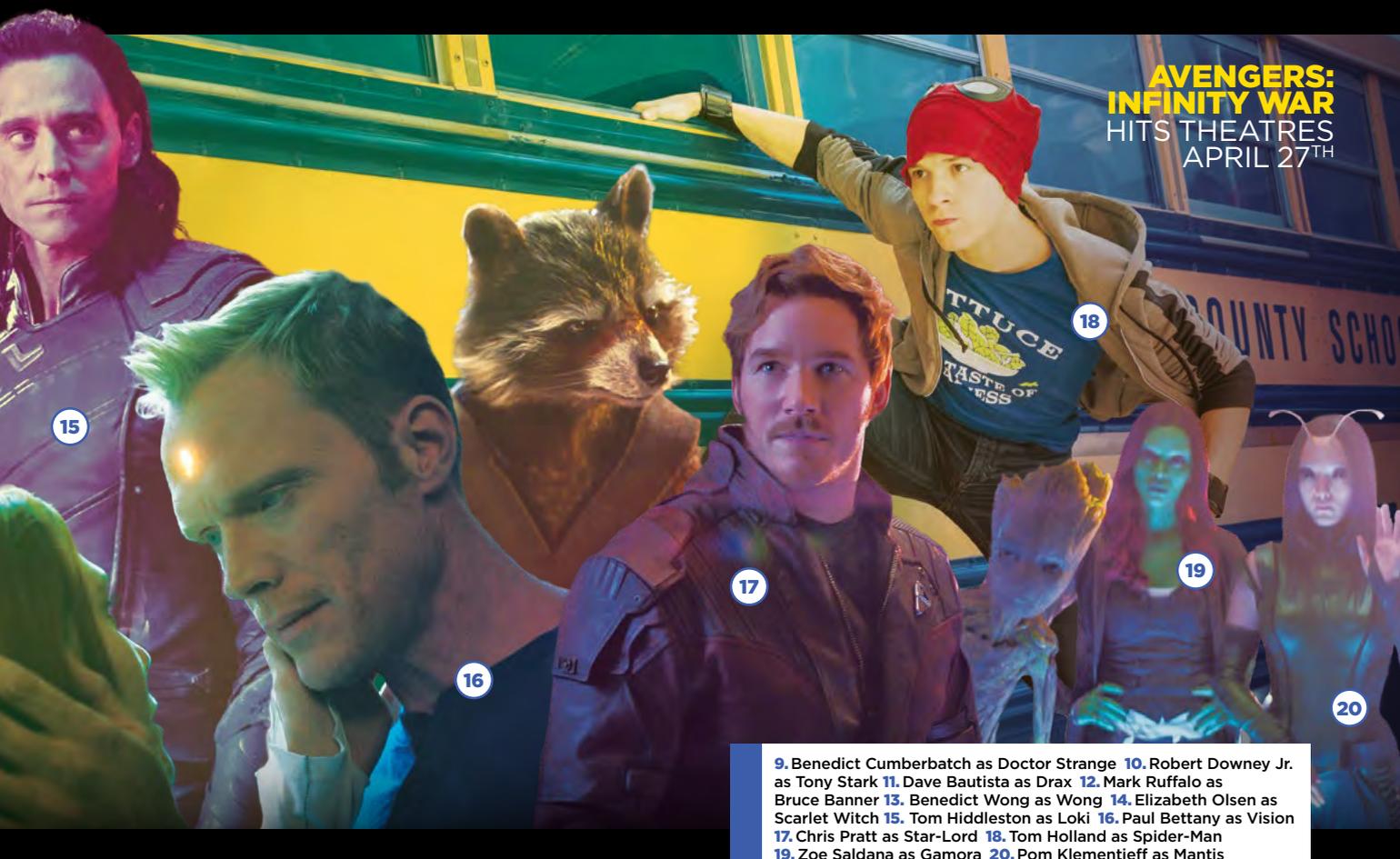
“It was definitely different from working on *Black Panther*, different directors and such,” notes Danai Gurira, who introduced her formidable Wakandan supersoldier Okoye in Marvel’s most recent box-office, and cultural, phenomenon. “But it was very cool. It’s like you really realize when you’re in it that the Marvel Universe is a real universe, and you’re stepping into a very new realm. It was like an expanded realm, like infinity! You’re on an Avengers set with all of these artists that you’ve seen on the big screen for a long time, and who have brought so many of these



DOUBLE TROUBLE

Strangely, Josh Brolin plays the baddie in two Marvel-based comic-book movies within a month, Thanos in *Avengers: Infinity War* (top left), which hits theatres April 27th, and Cable in *Deadpool 2* (right), out May 18th.

Brolin’s *Deadpool 2* co-star Ryan Reynolds poked fun at the anomaly, tweeting “The f--k, Fox! You can’t play 2 characters in the same universe!! Josh Brolin was in *Sicario* and I was in *Sabrina The Teenage Witch*.”



9. Benedict Cumberbatch as Doctor Strange 10. Robert Downey Jr. as Tony Stark 11. Dave Bautista as Drax 12. Mark Ruffalo as Bruce Banner 13. Benedict Wong as Wong 14. Elizabeth Olsen as Scarlet Witch 15. Tom Hiddleston as Loki 16. Paul Bettany as Vision 17. Chris Pratt as Star-Lord 18. Tom Holland as Spider-Man 19. Zoe Saldana as Gamora 20. Pom Klementieff as Mantis

stories to the world before. And now you're there with them, that was pretty surreal."

Big changes are expected in that MCU when *Infinity War* and its sequel are done.

"A lot of things get turned on their head in this one," promises Jeremy Renner, who plays Hawkeye. "There's a lot of stuff that people most likely won't see coming."

Whatever those changes are, everyone from Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.) to Ant-Man (Paul Rudd, who headlines his own sequel between the two Avengers films later this summer) will all have been part of a greater — some may say the greatest — cinematic endeavour.

"You know what they can do?" questions Chris Evans, who plays Captain America, of the groundbreaking studio. "They can do whatever they want. This is the beauty of Marvel, they've really been surfing this wave of knowing how to bring new people in but not put themselves in a box. No matter what they add on, they always have an escape plan. So however they want to push it, there's nothing they've tackled they haven't succeeded in. It really is unbelievable. They have somehow managed to do something that we've not seen in cinema, and they keep nailing it." □

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

WORKING TITLES

Most movies have working titles, or fake names, they use on sandwich boards and casting calls during filming to throw fans off their scent. Since the third film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, 2011's *Thor*, MCU working titles have become increasingly interesting. (*Iron Man* didn't have a working title back in 2008 and *The Incredible Hulk's* was simply "Hulk 2" that same year.) The meanings of some are easy to figure out, like *Black Panther's* "Motherland," others, like "Mary Lou" for *Avengers: Infinity War* not so much. Then there's the just plain wacky, like "Summer of George" for *Spider-Man: Homecoming*, an apparent homage to the 156th episode of TV's *Seinfeld*.

YEAR	WORKING TITLE	MOVIE
2010	"Rasputin"	<i>Iron Man 2</i>
2011	"Manhattan"	<i>Thor</i>
2011	"FrostBite"	<i>Captain America: The First Avenger</i>
2012	"Group Hug"	<i>The Avengers</i>
2013	"Caged Heat"	<i>Iron Man 3</i>
2013	"Thursday Mourning"	<i>Thor: The Dark World</i>
2014	"Freezer Burn"	<i>Captain America: The Winter Soldier</i>
2014	"Full Tilt"	<i>Guardians of the Galaxy</i>
2015	"After Party"	<i>Avengers: Age of Ultron</i>
2015	"Bigfoot"	<i>Ant-Man</i>
2016	"Sputnik"	<i>Captain America: Civil War</i>
2016	"Checkmate"	<i>Doctor Strange</i>
2017	"Level Up"	<i>Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 2</i>
2017	"Summer of George"	<i>Spider-Man: Homecoming</i>
2017	"Creature Report"	<i>Thor: Ragnarok</i>
2018	"Motherland"	<i>Black Panther</i>
2018	"Mary Lou"	<i>Avengers: Infinity War</i>

LAUNCHING A LEGEND

Look at that slick, shiny new Millennium Falcon. Not to mention the slick, shiny new Han Solo at its controls. We travel back to the snarky smuggler's early days with **Alden Ehrenreich**, who tells us what it was like to "absorb" one of cinema's most iconic characters and then make him his own for ***Solo: a Star Wars Story***

■ BY MARNI WEISZ

We already know how Han Solo dies — a senseless, quick death at the hands of his son, Kylo Ren, who has turned to the dark side.

Now it's time to go back almost 50 years and find out what Han was like when he was about Kylo Ren's age, long before he'd heard of the Force, or met Luke and his future wife Leia.

An orphan, life has never been easy for Han. Relationships are hard to build, but he tries, with Tobias Beckett (Woody Harrelson), a crook who ropes him into a dangerous plan, the smuggler Lando Calrissian (Donald Glover), his childhood friend Qi'ra (Emilia Clarke) and, of course, a Wookiee named Chewbacca (Joonas Suotamo). The genesis of that latter bond is the focus of much of this month's *Star Wars* prequel, *Solo: A Star Wars Story*.

"The main thing you get to see is how we meet, and our relationship, and how that begins and evolves," explains Alden Ehrenreich, the 28-year-old actor who, with this film, takes the Han Solo torch from Harrison Ford's outstretched hand.

Written by Lawrence Kasdan — his fourth *Star Wars* script after *The Empire Strikes Back*, *Return of the Jedi* and *The Force Awakens* — and Kasdan's son Jon Kasdan, *Solo: A Star Wars Story* did not have a smooth ride into the *Star Wars* Universe.

The film's producers took a risk, tasking relatively young directors Christopher Miller and Phil Lord (*The LEGO Movie*) with bringing the origins story to life, but with just a couple months to go in filming the producers decided they weren't getting the film they'd envisioned and replaced the pair with veteran helmer Ron Howard (*A Beautiful Mind*, *Apollo 13*).

That's a lot to deal with for the cast, especially its young star Ehrenreich, whose previous films were critically acclaimed, but smaller in scale (*Tetro*, *Stoker*, *Blue Jasmine*, *Hail, Caesar!*, *Rules Don't Apply*).

Two months before the film's release, Ehrenreich is on the phone in the back seat of a car in his native L.A., on his way to a Disney photo shoot, as the movie's massive marketing machine starts to gear up.

CONTINUED ►



Alden Ehrenreich's Han Solo (right) and Joonas Suotamo's Chewie take the new Millennium Falcon for a spin
INSET: From left, Chewie, C-3PO, Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) and an older Han Solo (Harrison Ford) in the hunk of junk decades later



► **Have you seen the film?**

Yeah, yeah. It was wonderful. I thought, you know, whenever you watch something [you're in] you can't enjoy it the same way an audience member can because you know everything and you have attachments. I've found I can be pretty objective about it and I thought it was pretty awesome. I really enjoyed it. It feels like a real adventure yarn, like a real fun adventure movie, and it has a lot of heart.

Did you see it with other people or were you alone?

Alone. I always try to see a movie by myself when I'm done because I find, especially the first time seeing it, it's a lot easier to be clear-headed about what you think if you're not in an audience full of people.

You're playing one of the most iconic characters in movie history. What's the relationship, for you, between performance and impression?

Well, I think in all camps of the film everyone was very clear about never wanting anything to feel like an impression. And really, at the end of the day, you're playing a part, and you want to do the same job you want to do on any other role and make something personal and do service to the character themselves and what their experience is and what's happening. So I think that's the most important thing, and then for there to be enough continuity that it feels like it flows into who the character becomes later.

I'm guessing that at some point you were staring at yourself in a mirror and practicing Harrison Ford's cockeyed smile. Am I right?

No [laughs]. For me, if you get too technical about that kind of thing it can be very inhibitive and it can make you self-conscious. You try to absorb it in a more general way and kind of take it on, spend enough time with it, and get it in your bones enough where you don't have to be thinking about it, where it can kind of be natural.

But I'm guessing you studied Ford's performance in some way.

I did that as early as I could. The directors and I sat down and watched something they have called the "supercut" where they've cut together every scene with him and we just talked about it. And then when I got the role I watched the whole series in order, so 1, 2, 3,



4, 5, 6, 7 was what was available at that time. This was before *Rogue One*. You just try to absorb it...and figure out if there's any little technical things you can do that might be fun, but that was basically it.

Is there one little technical thing that you can share?

Nah, 'cause then you'd see it and go, 'There's that thing,' and it takes you out of it. But the other thing too is that the way that the script was written, you know the Kasdans have such a great kind of feel for the role that there's a good amount of work done in terms of feeling that continuity. A great amount of that work is just done by the behaviour that's written for him, the way he talks, etcetera, etcetera. That was all so much a part of the script that I think some of the lifting they were doing for me.

Does the fact that you know everything that happens in Solo's future, including how he dies, inform your performance?

You try to block that out because you don't know that stuff yet, and especially in this movie he's in a very different place in his life. But I did find that when I'd be doing it and then it would be brought up, the way he died, it struck me as very sad. I found myself being affected by it much more so being that that was kind of my character's life.



Donald Glover as Lando Calrissian

You've mentioned that Han has different dreams at this point in his life. Any details?

Well, one of the things that you really learn quickly, that I think everyone knows on a certain level but you learn it in a much more vivid way when you get into working on one of these movies, is that the world of *Star Wars* is a very tough and very intense world. And so he comes from not a great upbringing, and from a very intense, dangerous underworld environment. And I think the idealism involves getting out of that environment and living a life of freedom. In the *Star Wars* Universe there's so much oppression, so many people are enslaved, so many planets are occupied by the Empire. The tone of the actual movies is fun and exciting...but if you think about it in a first-person way it's a lot darker than that.



Go to CINEPLEX.COM/STARWARSUNIVERSE for a chronological rundown of the films so far.

As the story goes, you were the first one who auditioned out of more than 3,000 actors all across the world. Is that true?

I've been told that. I was going to go do this film called *The Yellow Birds* in Morocco and they were going to start the audition process when I was in Morocco so I went in, I think, before they had really started.

And one of the auditions was done on the Millennium Falcon?

Right. It was an older version from another movie. I went and read for the casting director, and then I read for the directors, and then after that for the proper screen test I went to England and did it on the Falcon. I think it was the Falcon built for *Last Jedi* so it was a different version of the Falcon than you see in our film.

How did it feel when you first stepped onto that set?

It's so familiar because you know it so well from the movies, so it was actually a lot less overwhelming, it was more just fun, kind of got you in the feeling of it, and was just pretty cool, you know, working on something this enormous and big. You kind of just have to give yourself over to it and have fun as much as possible.

Were you reading with anyone at that particular audition?

They had someone reading with me who wasn't actually going to end up in the movie and then I did one scene with Chewie in full Chewie makeup. He's a lot taller in person than you realize [laughs].

Donald Glover is fascinating. He's an actor, musician, writer and now he's created this award-winning show, *Atlanta*. Yet this is his first blockbuster. Enlighten us about who he really is.

He has such a fascinating mind. He's so intelligent about culture trends and the way that culture works. He has a very particular point of view on all that, and he's also just a really sweet guy, he's really funny and really sweet. You know, he started as a writer for *30 Rock*. Him and I, just from the very beginning, when he was testing for the movie, we got along so well and just had a lot of fun.

Wookiees live about 400 years, and Chewie is about 190 when this movie takes place. Will we notice anything younger about him?

That's a good question. I think not necessarily physically, 'cause I don't know how much aging you do from 190 to 200, but certainly you get way more into what's going on in his head and his heart in this movie than you ever get a chance to in other movies because he's such a prominent part of the movie.

As an actor, tell me what's it like to start making a movie for one director, or directors, and finish for another.

Well, I think one thing that was really important to Ron was the way he transitioned during that process. He spent time with Phil and Chris and he was really supportive and encouraging of everybody and really made that transition really good. And in a way he was very respectful and appreciative of the work that had come before him, and figuring out how he was going to incorporate that into his own work and make the movie his own.

When you write a book about this experience 20 years from now what will the title be?

Oh my god, I think that's something I won't know for a few months [laughs]. Ahhh, *My Life With Wookiee*. ☐

Marni Weisz is the editor of Cineplex Magazine.



CRIMINAL MIND

Woody Harrelson sounded upbeat, if a bit worn out, last summer in England, where he was shooting — or was it reshooting? — *Solo: A Star Wars Story*. It was a few months after Lucasfilm replaced the film's original directors, the *LEGO Movie* team of Phil Lord and Chris Miller, with veteran Ron Howard more than halfway into filming.

"Things are going great, absolutely," Harrelson says. "It's been a long job but I'm feeling great about it. Ron's really into it and knows what he's doing."

Harrelson's Tobias Beckett, the mastermind behind the film's heist, has been described as a mentor to young Han (Alden Ehrenreich).

Harrelson says, not so fast. "I don't know if mentor is the right word, but I'm definitely a criminal who becomes involved with young Han and works with him," he explains. "I guess there are some ways I really do influence him, but I wouldn't say mentor is the right word."

Bad example, maybe?
"That's better," Harrelson says, laughing.

—BOB STRAUSS

AND THE PLOT



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NYONG'O COMMITTS TO CRIME

Late-night TV host **Trevor Noah's** memoir *Born a Crime: Stories From a South African Childhood* comes to the screen with **Lupita Nyong'o** as Noah's mother, Patricia Nombuyiselo. Noah calls his mother "the hero of his life," as she not only went to jail for her relationship with Noah's white, Swiss father during the apartheid era, she later survived a shooting by her abusive husband.



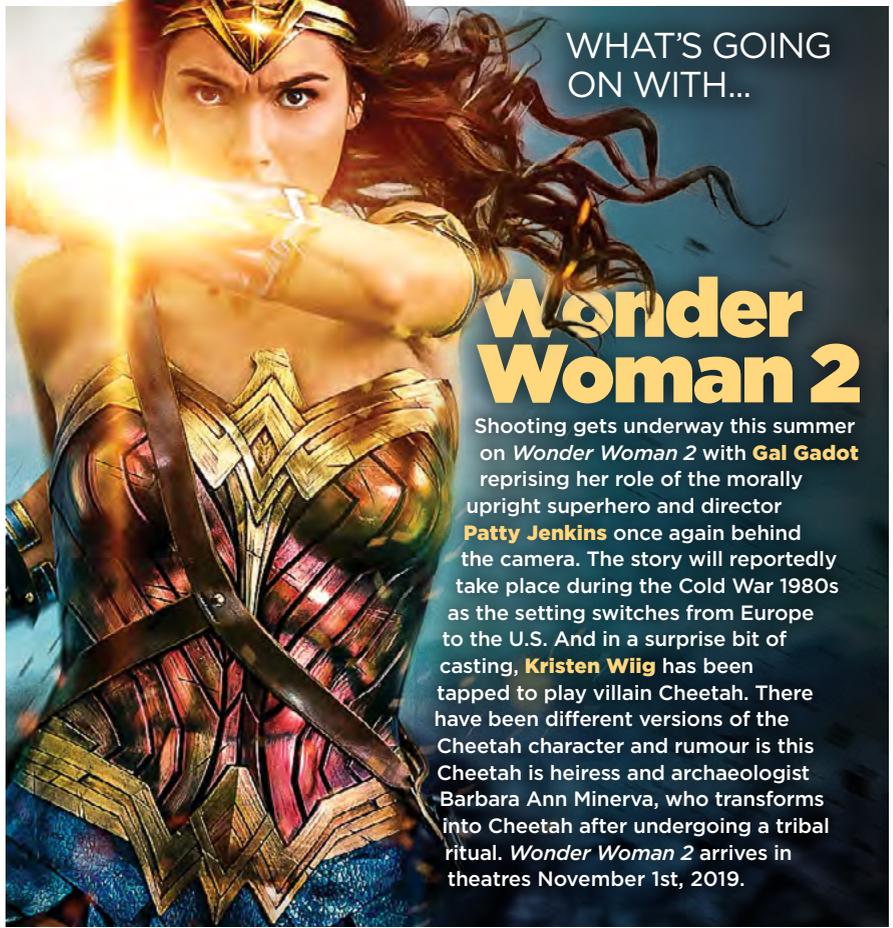
Diesel EYES BLOODSHOT

Vin Diesel is juggling an armload of movie franchises — *Guardians of the Galaxy*, *Fast and Furious*, *xxX* — and could add another to the list with the news he'll play Bloodshot, a superhero from the Valiant Comics Universe, for newbie director **Dave Wilson**. Bloodshot is former soldier Ray Garrison, who is brought back to life using nanocomputers injected into his bloodstream that give him superhuman strength, allow him to shapeshift and heal quickly. Filming is set to begin in July in Budapest.



Rockwell GOES APE

Oscar winner **Sam Rockwell** will voice Ivan the silverback gorilla in Disney's live action/animated family film *The One and Only Ivan*, based on **Katherine Applegate's** award-winning children's book. The story finds the art-loving Ivan living in captivity at a shopping mall/circus with his friend Stella the elephant (**Angelina Jolie**). When orphaned baby elephant Ruby (*The Florida Project's* **Brooklyn Prince**) comes to live with the pair, Ivan begins to realize his home really is a cage and he longs for freedom. **Thea Sharrock** (*Me Before You*) directs.



WHAT'S GOING ON WITH...

Wonder Woman 2

Shooting gets underway this summer on *Wonder Woman 2* with **Gal Gadot** reprising her role of the morally upright superhero and director **Patty Jenkins** once again behind the camera. The story will reportedly take place during the Cold War 1980s as the setting switches from Europe to the U.S. And in a surprise bit of casting, **Kristen Wiig** has been tapped to play villain Cheetah. There have been different versions of the Cheetah character and rumour is this Cheetah is heiress and archaeologist Barbara Ann Minerva, who transforms into Cheetah after undergoing a tribal ritual. *Wonder Woman 2* arrives in theatres November 1st, 2019.



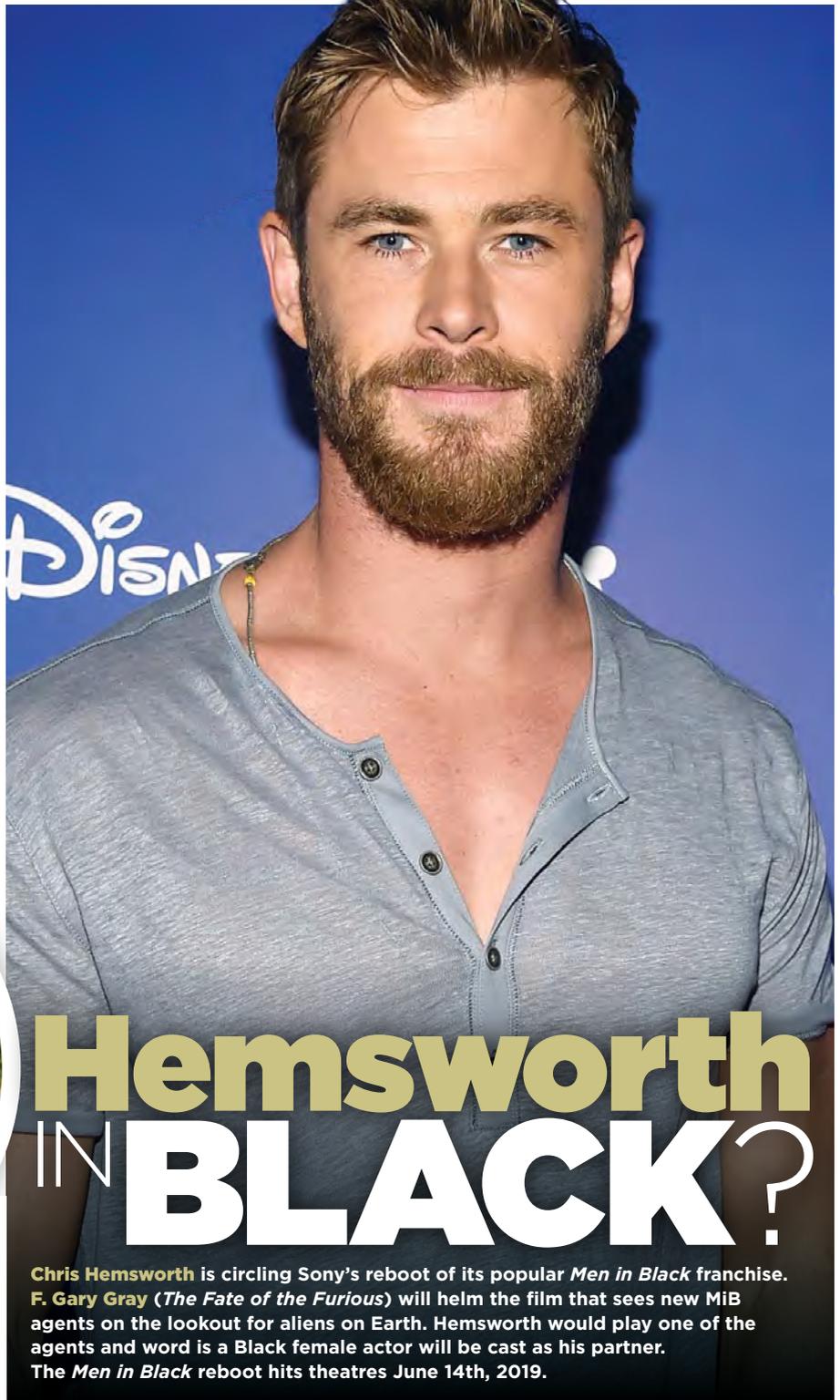
Robbie/DiCaprio REUNION?

It looks like **Margot Robbie** will reunite with her *Wolf of Wall Street* co-star **Leonardo DiCaprio** in director **Quentin Tarantino's** *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*. Set in 1969 Hollywood, the film weaves together a large cast of characters, and the murder of Sharon Tate plays a central role. Robbie would play Tate, DiCaprio is set to star as a washed-up star of a TV Western and **Brad Pitt** plays his stunt double.



FRESH FACE **Billy Howle**

We get a double dose of 28-year-old British actor **Billy Howle** this month as he appears opposite **Saoirse Ronan** in both *The Seagull* and *On Chesil Beach*. Howle, a graduate of Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, made his film debut as the young Jim Broadbent in 2017's *The Sense of an Ending* and was last seen in *Dunkirk* playing a petty officer. He's also set to appear as Edward, Prince of Wales, in the upcoming Netflix film *Outlaw King* about Scottish hero Robert The Bruce (**Chris Pine**).



Hemsworth IN BLACK?

Chris Hemsworth is circling Sony's reboot of its popular *Men in Black* franchise. **F. Gary Gray** (*The Fate of the Furious*) will helm the film that sees new MiB agents on the lookout for aliens on Earth. Hemsworth would play one of the agents and word is a Black female actor will be cast as his partner. *The Men in Black* reboot hits theatres June 14th, 2019.

ALSO IN THE WORKS ▶ *The Good Liar* casts **Ian McKellen** as a con artist who sets out to dupe widow **Helen Mirren**. ▶ **Mackenzie Davis** will play a soldier/assassin alongside **Arnold Schwarzenegger** and **Linda Hamilton** in *Terminator 6*, directed by **Tim Miller** (*Deadpool*). ▶ **Natalie Portman** portrays a mentally disturbed astronaut who pursues fellow astronaut **Jon Hamm** in *Pale Blue Dot*. ▶ *All the Money in the World* star **Charlie Plummer** plays a teenager suffering from schizophrenia in *Words on Bathroom Walls*.

RETURN ENGAGEMENT



Unforgettable **EVE**

It's 1950 and Bette Davis's life and career are in shambles.

The two-time Oscar winner had just starred in a string of flops, she was separated from husband William Sherry and was no longer employed at Warner Bros.

However, her fortunes changed when she was offered the leading role of Margo Channing in writer-director Joseph Mankiewicz's *All About Eve*. Although Davis was a last-minute replacement for injured Claudette Colbert, it was as if the role was written for her. Channing, an aging theatre star, asks an adoring fan and aspiring actress named Eve (Anne Baxter) to work as her assistant. It's soon revealed that Eve is a master manipulator intent on undermining the insecure Margo so she herself can become a star.

Boasting witty dialogue and razor-sharp performances, *All About Eve* examines what it means to be an actor and the ways in which the profession punishes women who yearn for success. The film not only earned a record 14 Oscar nominations it did what many thought impossible; it revitalized Davis's sagging career. —INGRID RANDOJA

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BLACK PANTHER

RENT IT MAY 15

Black Panther is more than just a superhero movie — it's a love letter to Black Pride, social justice and female empowerment. Wakandan king and superhero Black Panther (**Chadwick Boseman**) enlists the help of his tech-savvy sister (**Letitia Wright**), ex-girlfriend (**Lupita Nyong'o**) and fierce bodyguard (**Danai Gurira**) to battle his militant cousin, Erik Killmonger (**Michael B. Jordan**).



FIFTY SHADES FREED

RENT IT MAY 8

The series that brought bondage to a mainstream audience wraps up with this third film that finds newlyweds Anastasia (**Dakota Johnson**) and Christian (**Jamie Dornan**) dealing with a menacing stalker.



PETER RABBIT

RENT IT MAY 8

This live-action/CGI mash-up finds Peter Rabbit (**James Corden**) and his sisters Flopsy (**Margot Robbie**), Mopsy (**Elizabeth Debicki**) and Cotton-Tail (**Daisy Ridley**) tormenting mean Mr. McGregor (**Domhnall Gleeson**), who will do anything to keep them out of his home and garden.



GAME NIGHT

BUY IT MAY 15

Jason Bateman and **Rachel McAdams** exhibit considerable comedic chemistry playing a competitive, but likeable, married couple sucked into a real-life crime caper when their regular game night with friends turns deadly serious.



ANNIHILATION

RENT IT MAY 22

Critics loved this smart and creepy sci-fi that stars **Natalie Portman** as a biologist who joins an all-female team of scientists sent to explore an area encased in a shimmering electromagnetic field that appeared when an object from space crashed on Earth.

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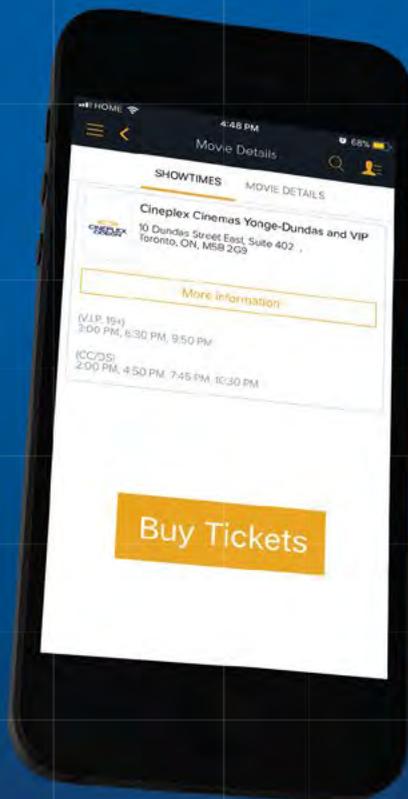
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FINALLY...



Happy **Mother's** Day!

In honour of all of the hard-working moms out there — whether that means working in an office, on a movie set or within the home — we wish you a very happy Mother's Day on May 13th. Please enjoy this 1968 photo of Barbra Streisand comforting her son Jason Gould on the set of *Hello, Dolly!* His father was Babs' then-husband, actor Elliott Gould. Fifty years later we hope Barbra has a very happy day celebrating with Jason and her three canine fur-babies, the two cloned ones and the third one, you know, the one that's not terrifying to contemplate. —*MW*

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