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MAGAZINE



Inside

**JAMIE
FOXX**

**EWAN
McGREGOR**

**BILL
MURRAY**

IT'S
FINALLY
HIS
TIME.

**THE
HOBBIT
ARRIVES**

THE SORT-OF SEQUEL TO 'KNOCKED UP'



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HAPPY HOBBITDAYS!

Nine years have passed since we last spent a holiday season in Peter Jackson's Middle-earth. Heading back feels like reuniting with a part of the family we'd lost touch with for nearly a decade. Not all of the guests are the same, but they're all related, all part of the clan, and they all love to eat. Plus, this year, some of those family members are a lot more fun.

Let's be honest, the *Lord of the Rings* guys (Elijah Wood, Viggo Mortensen, Ian McKellen, Hugo Weaving) were a pretty serious bunch. It's hard to blame them, what with their good-vs.-evil battle and all. But go back and watch the trailer for *The Fellowship of the Ring* and Wood's Frodo seems like he's made of nothing but fear and watery blue eyes.

Aside from the fact that *The Hobbit* has a slightly lighter tone than *The Lord of the Rings* (both based on books by J.R.R. Tolkien), this time we have a comic actor, the very funny **Martin Freeman**, in the lead role of hobbit Bilbo Baggins. Prior to *The Lord of the Rings*, Wood was best known as the kid who was electrocuted at the end of Ang Lee's *The Ice Storm*.

Unless you've spent time across the pond, you may not be very familiar with Freeman. The English actor got his big break playing the deadpan Tim on Ricky Gervais' original version of TV's *The Office*. (Tim became Jim, John Krasinski's character, when *The Office* made the leap to America.) Or, you may have seen Freeman as regular British bloke Arthur Dent, who's forced to flee Earth with his alien buddy in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

Here's one thing I've noticed about Freeman: read an interview with him and he doesn't seem all that compelling, but watch an interview with him and he's charming, hilarious even. It's all about the timing, deadpan delivery and mugging for the camera. There's definitely some Monty Python influence in there. Freeman was on an episode of *The Graham Norton Show* to plug his popular BBC show *Sherlock* — he plays Watson — and when Norton pointed out that he doesn't have a lot of dialogue on the show, Freeman bit back, "F-ck you, I won a BAFTA." If it doesn't seem funny in print, you had to see it.

Freeman's likeability and on-camera appeal should make *The Hobbit* a ton of fun, even with its many scary moments (there is a dragon, after all). So pass the stuffing, a cup of ale, and a copy of our own epic story, "Return to Middle-earth," page 40, which traces the project's journey from muddled mess to the season's most anticipated film.

Elsewhere in this issue, we're on the set of *Django Unchained* to talk to Django himself **Jamie Foxx** (page 24), *Hyde Park on Hudson* star **Bill Murray** reveals his secret to acting (page 28), *Rust and Bone*'s **Marion Cotillard** opens up about why she doesn't like to open up (page 35) and **Ewan McGregor** talks about making *The Impossible* (page 36). Plus, on page 47 you'll find our **Holiday Gift Guide**, filled with unique ideas for everyone on your list.

Happy Holidays everyone.

■ MARNI WEISZ, EDITOR

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SNAPS



ROLLING STONE

Emma Stone looks très chic as she strolls through Paris during Fashion Week.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



FINGER LICKING GOOD

Ryan Gosling shoots a scene for Terrence Malick's next movie in Austin, Texas.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



CUTE OVERLOAD

Anne Hathaway, her new hubby **Adam Shulman**, and their dog **Esmeralda**, out for a coffee run in Brooklyn.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



FURRY CROWE

Russell Crowe in New York City with his *Noah* beard. He was there to shoot scenes for the big-screen bible tale from director Darren Aronofsky.

PHOTO BY JUSTIN STEFFMAN/SPLASH NEWS



LIEV STRONG

Liev Schreiber and his two young sons ride a bicycle built for three through New York City.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



IN BRIEF



CHILD ACTOR

Of course we recognize Tom Cruise (left) in this still from the new thriller *Jack Reacher*, and his co-star Rosamund Pike. But who's that in the middle, playing the desk sergeant? Why it's Jim Grant — better known by his pen name, Lee Child — the author of the

Reacher books on which the film is based. Reacher (played by Cruise in the film) is a former military police officer, now wandering the States and solving crimes. But how he got his name is a bit less exciting.

In an interview with the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Child explained that, during a period of unemployment he often

found himself at the grocery store where little old ladies would ask him to reach for items on the upper shelves. When he told his wife about his new sideline, she remarked, "If this writing gig doesn't work out, you could get a job as a reacher in a super-market." And Jack Reacher was named. —*MW*



HOLIDAY TREAT

No holiday season is complete without *The Nutcracker* — whether you watch the Tchaikovsky ballet live, on TV or the new way, on the big screen.

Straight from London's Royal Opera House, and performed by The Royal Ballet, the production follows young Clara, who receives a nutcracker doll at a Christmas party. The real magic begins when the nutcracker comes to life and accompanies Clara through a chain of adventures involving dancing mice, flowers and candies, and one very famous Sugar Plum Fairy.

Catch the live performance on December 13th or the encore performance on December 22nd. Go to Cineplex.com/events for times and locations. ▶

THE ART OF FILM

Australian artist Guy Whitby, who creates under the pseudonym WorkByKnight, has constructed almost 1,000 of these portraits using buttons from computer keyboards as his mosaic pieces. Seen here, from left, are Whitby's representations of Paul Giamatti, Sophia Loren and Johnny Depp. But if you're imagining a studio filled with a mountain of keyboard buttons, that's not what's going on here. These portraits exist only in the digital realm; Whitby's job as the artist is to arrange digital images of keyboard buttons to create the works of art. —*MW*





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PAINFULLY HANDSOME ROBERT PATTINSON PHOTO OF THE MONTH...

Robert Pattinson looks painfully handsome during a photo call for *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2* in Sydney, Australia.



PHOTO BY LISA MAREE WILLIAMS/GETTY



CUTEST WOODY ALLEN PICTURE EVER

Woody Allen holds his clarinet outside New York's Café Carlyle. Whenever Allen's in town he and his band play a weekly gig at the swank café located inside The Carlyle hotel. If you're in New York this month, and can afford the \$135 cover charge, you can catch Allen every Monday until December 17th. —MW



PHOTO BY RON ASADORIAN/SPALSH NEWS

Did You Know?

The Pixar classic *Monsters, Inc.* (2001) returns to screens in 3D this month. One of the film's many claims to fame is that singer-songwriter Randy Newman finally won his first Oscar for the film's original song "If I Didn't Have You." It was his 16th nomination.

BABS VS. BETTE

It's December 25th, you're in the mood for a film starring a funny, mature, actor-singer playing an overbearing mother with a heart of gold. Well, that's a very specific yearning you have, but fortunately there are two such movies in theatres on Christmas Day — **The Guilt Trip**, starring Barbra Streisand as Seth Rogen's mother and **Parental Guidance**, with Bette Midler as Marisa Tomei's hands-on mom. So which one to see first? Ah, let's just tally up the hardware.



Streisand vs. Midler

ACADEMY AWARDS

Two Best Actress wins, for *Funny Girl* (1968) and *Hello, Dolly!* (1969)

Two Best Actress nominations, for *The Rose* (1979) and *For the Boys* (1991)

GRAMMYS

Four wins, including two for 1963's *The Barbra Streisand Album*, Album of the Year and Best Female Vocal Performance

Three wins, including Best New Artist for 1974's *The Divine Miss M*

EMMYS

Five wins, including Outstanding Individual Performance in a Variety or Music Program for 1965's *My Name is Barbra*

Three wins, including Outstanding Individual Performance in a Variety or Music Program for 1997's *Diva Las Vegas*

TONYS

Awarded a Special Tony Award (non-competitive) in 1970

Awarded a Special Tony Award (non-competitive) in 1974

Streisand wins by a hair, and, by the way, is one of only 11 EGOT performers — meaning they've won an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony. Midler's just an Oscar win away. —MW

Quote Unquote

“Peter Jackson, who likes a laugh, suggested I take up residence as a tour guide in my blue pointy hat. I'm thinking about it.”

—IAN MCKELLEN ON RETURNING TO THE LORD OF THE RINGS' BAG END SET (NOW A TOURIST DESTINATION) IN MATAMATA, NEW ZEALAND, TO SHOOT SCENES FOR THE HOBBIT

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SPOTLIGHT

IT'S NOT EASY BEING HANDSOME

Playing For Keeps star James Tupper says vanity is the reason he's calling an hour late for his interview.

"I am so sorry for keeping you waiting," he says on the line from his hotel room in New York City. "I have an excellent excuse, I was pumping iron. I have a love scene to do tomorrow and there's nothing more frightening for an actor [laughs] so I've been hitting the gym and lifting weights like crazy."

The amiable 47-year-old who was born and raised in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, is in The Big Apple shooting the TV pilot *Secret Lives of Husbands and Wives* for producer Jerry Bruckheimer. But this month you can catch him as Jessica Biel's fiancé in *Playing for Keeps*, which stars Gerard Butler as a former professional soccer player and Biel's ex-husband who volunteers to coach his son's soccer team — and who wants Biel back.

The notion of a soccer great hanging around a kids' team is nothing new to Tupper, who lives in Los Angeles with partner Anne Heche and their two sons, 10-year-old Homer and Atlas, who's almost three. "One of David Beckham's kids goes to the same school as Homer and he comes to the kids' soccer games sometimes. He's a very sweet guy," says the actor.

Tupper made a name for himself on TV shows such as *Men in Trees* (where he met partner Heche), *Mercy* and now the hit series *Revenge* on which he plays Emily VanCamp's father.

"I've been getting a lot of dad roles lately," he says, "which I think makes my dad proud." However, getting his stoic family to show their pride, or to stop worrying about his career choice even after decades in show business, is tough.

"My family is real 'Nova Scotia,' if you know what I mean, they keep me humble. Every time I see my uncle it's like, 'Save your money, Jimmy.' I'm like, 'Will you stop it?'" —INGRID RANDOJA



PHOTO BY JEFF BERLIN

PLAYING FOR KEEPS
HITS THEATRES DECEMBER 7TH

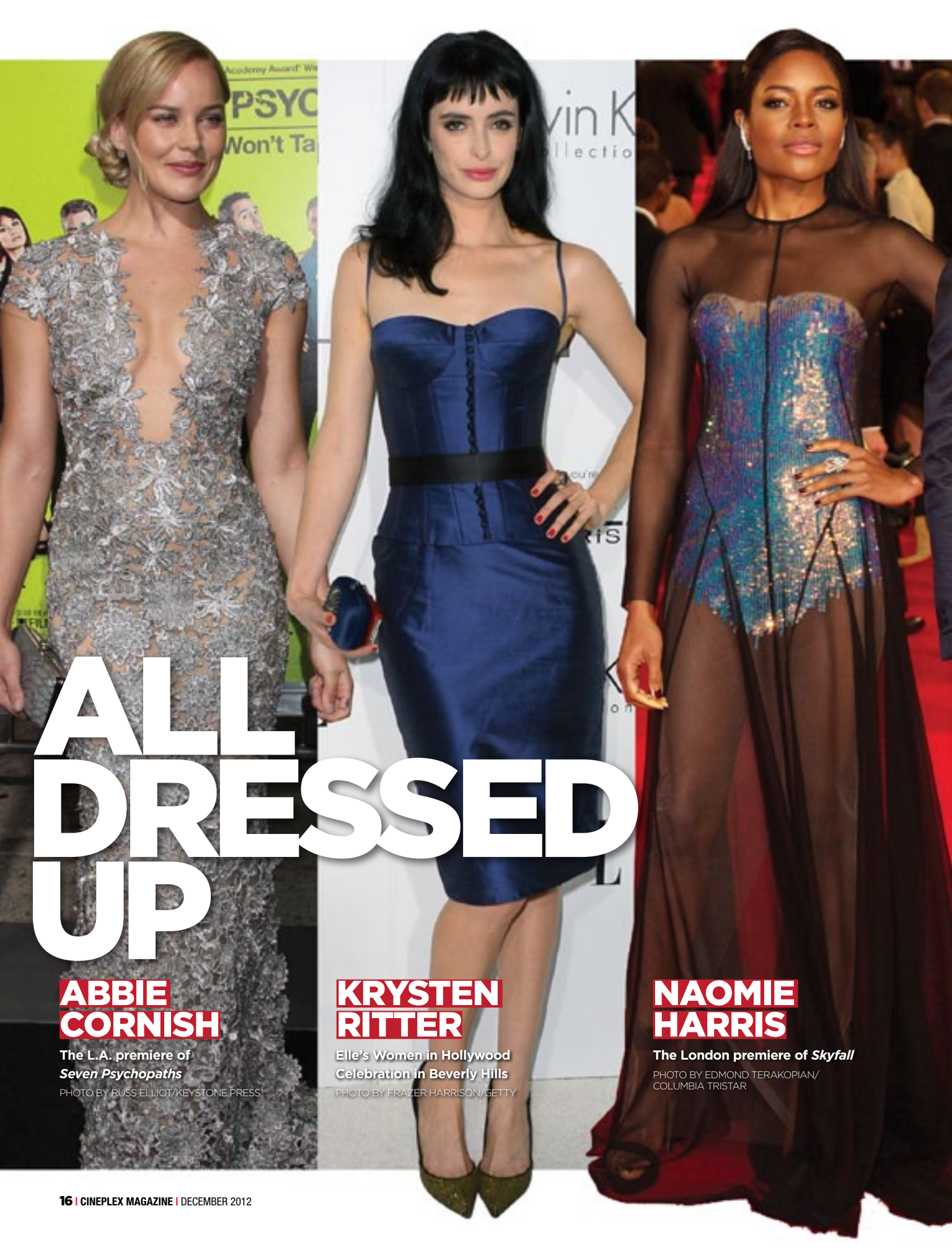
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ALL DRESSED UP

ABBIE CORNISH

The L.A. premiere of *Seven Psychopaths*

PHOTO BY RUSS ELLIOT/KEYSTONE PRESS

KRYSTEN RITTER

Elle's Women in Hollywood Celebration in Beverly Hills

PHOTO BY FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY

NAOMIE HARRIS

The London premiere of *Skyfall*

PHOTO BY EDMOND TERAKOPIAN/
COLUMBIA TRISTAR



**DANIEL
CRAIG**

The London premiere of *Skyfall*

PHOTO BY EDMOND TERA KOPIAN/
COLUMBIA TRISTAR



**HALLE
BERRY**

The L.A. premiere of *Cloud Atlas*

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



**BEN
AFFLECK**

The 16th Annual Hollywood Film
Awards Gala in Beverly Hills

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

IN THEATRES

DECEMBER 7



PLAYING FOR KEEPS

Former soccer great George Dryer (**Gerard Butler**) is divorced, out of work and looking to reconnect with his son (**Noah Lomax**). So, he starts coaching his kid's soccer team, which draws the attention of some very attractive soccer moms (**Uma Thurman**, **Catherine Zeta-Jones**), and his soon-to-be-married ex-wife (**Jessica Biel**).

DECEMBER 14



THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

Fans of **J.R.R. Tolkien's** *The Hobbit* can raise a cup of mead as the first film of director **Peter Jackson's** *Hobbit* trilogy finally hits theatres after years in development. **Martin Freeman** dons the big furry feet to play hobbit Bilbo Baggins, who, with wizard Gandalf (**Ian McKellen**) and 13 dwarves, sets out on a quest to The Lonely Mountain to recover stolen gold guarded by the dragon Smaug (**Benedict Cumberbatch** in a motion-capture performance). **See the making of *The Hobbit* feature, page 40.**



From left: Olivia Williams, Laura Linney and Bill Murray in *Hyde Park on Hudson*

HYDE PARK ON HUDSON

With little more than a cigarette holder and pince-nez glasses to work with, **Bill Murray** transforms into U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in this historical pic in which FDR welcomes King George VI

(**Samuel West**) and Queen Elizabeth (**Olivia Colman**) to his summer home before the outbreak of World War II. Although busy with foreign diplomacy, FDR also finds time to woo his distant cousin, Margaret Suckley (**Laura Linney**). **See Bill Murray interview, page 28.**

DECEMBER 19



ZERO DARK THIRTY

Director **Kathryn Bigelow** (*The Hurt Locker*) and writer **Mark Boal** were just about to start shooting a movie about the U.S. government's hunt for Osama bin Laden when the terrorist leader

was assassinated. So, they reworked their movie to focus on the decade-long search by the CIA, military operatives and Navy SEALs to find, and ultimately take down, bin Laden. Starring **Jessica Chastain, Joel Edgerton, Kyle Chandler** and **Chris Pratt**.



Monsters, Inc. 3D

MONSTERS, INC. 3D

Walt Disney's rollout of 3D versions of hit Pixar films (*The Lion King*, *Finding Nemo*) continues with this 3D version of 2001's *Monsters, Inc.* The

story is set in a parallel world of monsters — including sweet-natured Sulley (**John Goodman**) and motor-mouthed Mike (**Billy Crystal**) — who enter the human world to scare kids.

DECEMBER 21



THIS IS 40

Writer-director **Judd Apatow**'s comedy calls itself “the sort-of sequel to *Knocked Up*,” and brings back that film's married couple, Debbie (**Leslie Mann**) and Pete (**Paul Rudd**), who are struggling to keep their relationship fresh, raise their two girls the right way and fulfill their own individual dreams.



JACK REACHER

Author **Lee Child** has penned 17 novels about ex-military drifter Jack Reacher, who uses his fighting and weapons skills to right wrongs. In the books he's a six-foot-five behemoth, but in this movie directed by **Christopher McQuarrie**, he's played by the much less physically imposing **Tom Cruise**. The story, based on the novel *One Shot*, has an arrested sniper asking to have Reacher investigate the case against him.

CONTINUED ►

DECEMBER 21



▶ **CIRQUE DU SOLEIL WORLDS AWAY**

The amazing physical artistry of Cirque du Soleil's live performances is brought to life in 3D as writer-director **Andrew Adamson** (*Shrek*) incorporates memorable set pieces from seven different Cirque shows into a tale of a man and woman crossing into another dimension.

THE IMPOSSIBLE

Spanish director **Juan Antonio Bayona** turns the real-life story of a family (**Ewan McGregor** and **Naomi Watts** play the parents) torn apart when the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami destroyed their resort in Thailand into a devastating drama. It was one of the big hits at this year's Toronto International Film Festival. **See Ewan McGregor interview, page 36.**

RUST AND BONE

This critically acclaimed French film stars Oscar winner **Marion Cotillard** as Stéphanie, a trainer at an aquarium who loses her legs in a terrible accident. However, her depression is eased by her relationship with Ali (**Matthias Schoenaerts**), a homeless single dad. **See Marion Cotillard interview, page 35.**

DECEMBER 25



DJANGO UNCHAINED

Jamie Foxx boldly steps back into the acting spotlight, teaming with writer-director **Quentin Tarantino** for this Spaghetti Western set in the American South during the slavery era. Foxx plays slave Django, who joins with a bounty hunter (**Christoph Waltz**) to free his wife (**Kerry Washington**) from the clutches of an evil plantation owner (**Leonardo DiCaprio**). **See Jamie Foxx interview, page 24.**

DECEMBER 25



Kyle Harrison Breitkopf (left) torments Bette Midler and Billy Crystal in *Parental Guidance*

PARENTAL GUIDANCE

It's time for some old-school parenting when Alice (Marisa Tomei) calls on her folks (Billy Crystal, Bette Midler) to take care of her three over-scheduled kids while she and her hubby (Tom Everett Scott) go out of town.

DECEMBER 28



NOT FADE AWAY

David Chase, the creator of TV's *The Sopranos*, makes his film directing debut with this nostalgic look at four friends from suburban New Jersey who, in the early 1960s, are inspired by the Rolling Stones to start a rock group. Former *Sopranos* star James Gandolfini pops up as lead singer Douglas' (John Magaro) no-nonsense father.

THE GUILT TRIP

It's an on-screen pairing we never imagined — Barbra Streisand and Seth Rogen. Rogen plays an inventor who invites his meddling mom (Streisand) on an eight-day road trip during which he stops along the way to try to sell his invention. His ultimate goal, though, is to reunite mom with a long-lost love.

LES MISÉRABLES

The acclaimed Broadway play based on Victor Hugo's classic novel stars an all-star cast showing off their pipes. Hugh Jackman portrays Jean Valjean, a kind-hearted former convict chased by obsessive Inspector Javert (Russell Crowe), while Anne Hathaway appears as destitute Fantine, whose daughter Cosette (Amanda Seyfried) is rescued by Valjean. Set all this singing against the backdrop of revolutionary Paris and you have one stirring movie. See *Les Misérables* feature, page 22.

FRONT ROW CENTRE EVENTS

by CINEPLEX

FAMILY FAVOURITES

HOME ALONE

SAT., DEC. 1

A CHRISTMAS STORY

SAT., DEC. 8

JINGLE ALL THE WAY

SAT., DEC. 15

ELF

SAT., DEC. 22

EDWARD SCISSORHANDS

SAT., DEC. 29

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OTELLO (VERDI)

ENCORE: MON., DEC. 3

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LIVE: SAT., DEC. 8

AIDA (VERDI)

LIVE: SAT., DEC. 15

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ENCORE: SAT., DEC. 22

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The Showman

HUGH JACKMAN

CHARACTER: Jean Valjean, the thief with a heart of gold

VOCAL CRED: Before making it big in North America as Wolverine in the *X-Men* movies, Australian actor-singer Hugh Jackman had already starred in major stage musicals like *Beauty and the Beast* and *Oklahoma!*

In 2004 he won a Tony Award for his portrayal of singer-songwriter Peter Allen in the musical *The Boy from Oz*, and last year he brought his one-man song-and-dance show called "Hugh Jackman in Concert" to Toronto's Princess of Wales Theatre. It was a huge hit.

Misérable OR MAGNIFICENT?

Hollywood actors singing in a big-screen musical? Don't panic quite yet. We examine the vocal cred of *Les Misérables'* all-star cast

BY MARNI WEISZ

The Rocker

RUSSELL CROWE

CHARACTER: Inspector Javert, obsessed with catching Jean Valjean

VOCAL CRED: Russell Crowe entered showbiz in the mid-1980s as a musician, not an actor, performing under the pseudonym Russ Le Roq. He even released a single called "I Just Wanna Be Like Marlon Brando" in New Zealand.

After finding success in

movies, Crowe continued to pursue his rock-and-roll dreams with the Australian band 30 Odd Foot of Grunts; he sang and played guitar. In 2005, he joined forces with Canadian musician Alan Doyle of Great Big Sea and formed the band The Ordinary Fear of God. They released the album *My Hand, My Heart* the next year. They still appear live together from time to time.



The Soprano

ANNE HATHAWAY

CHARACTER: Fantine, a poor factory worker, and Cosette's unwed mother

VOCAL CRED: A singer since childhood, in high school Anne Hathaway performed at Carnegie Hall as part of the All-Eastern U.S. High School Honors Chorus. Then, while attending Vassar College, she sang with the a cappella group Measure 4 Measure.

Hathaway was all set to play Christine in Joel Schumacher's 2004 big-screen musical version of *The Phantom of the Opera*, but had to pull out because of a scheduling conflict with *The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement*. She did, however, sing a couple of songs in *Ella Enchanted*, which came out the same year.

LES MISÉRABLES
HITS THEATRES
DECEMBER 25TH



The Songwriter

AMANDA SEYFRIED

CHARACTER: Cosette, Fantine's illegitimate daughter

VOCAL CRED: As a teen, Amanda Seyfried took voice lessons ranging from show tunes to opera. She put those lessons to good use in the 2008 big-screen adaptation of the ABBA musical *Mamma Mia!* Seyfried has five songs on the film's soundtrack, including "Honey, Honey" and "Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!"

There are several videos of Seyfried singing and playing guitar on YouTube, including a version of "Li'l Red Riding Hood" by Sam the Sham & the Pharaohs, and an original tune billed as "Amanda's Love Tune" that she wrote for Channing Tatum's online project Post the Love.

The Newbie

EDDIE REDMAYNE

CHARACTER: Marius Pontmercy, a student revolutionary who falls for Cosette

VOCAL CRED: Best known as the protagonist in last year's indie hit *My Week With Marilyn*, Redmayne has the least amount of professional singing experience among the cast and even admitted to the *Belfast Telegraph*, "I used to sing at school but I don't know how good I am."



FIC

freedom GHTER

We're on the New Orleans set of *Django Unchained* to talk to star **Jamie Foxx** about playing a slave, getting support from Quentin Tarantino, and drawing on his own experiences for the biggest role he's had in years

■ BY LIANNE MACDOUGALL

It's almost midnight on the set of *Django Unchained*. I just landed in New Orleans a few hours ago and now I'm standing with a mix of firefighters and producers not far from a mansion that's about to be blown to smithereens. The rest of the crew is standing back in a field of sugar cane. As I make my way toward the safety of the field, director Quentin Tarantino stops me and, with a laugh, says, "No, stand over here with the producers, you *need* to see this!"

This isn't the first time I've met Tarantino. A year earlier, we developed a friendship over our mutual love for genre films, and he subscribes to three horror magazines for which I write. I'll admit, our relationship comes with perks and I'm getting better access to the *Django* set than your average journalist.

In his first film behind the camera since 2009's *Inglourious Basterds*, Tarantino once again explores the volatile combination of race, bigotry and revenge. Set two years before the American Civil War, the film tells of a slave named Django (Jamie Foxx) and the bounty hunter, Dr. King Schultz (Christoph Waltz), who purchases him with the promise that if they catch a few bad guys together, Django will go free. All Django wants is to rescue his enslaved wife, Broomhilda (Kerry Washington), and this deal may help. And that mansion? It belongs to the villainous Calvin Candie (Leonardo DiCaprio), a plantation owner who also owns Broomhilda.

Back on set the producers are worried because Tarantino and his Oscar-winning cinematographer, Robert Richardson, are standing under a small shelter just feet from the blast site, with a *very* expensive 35mm camera.

Then it happens — the explosion. I've never heard anything so

loud, or seen anything so bright. Nothing is left of the plantation, and everyone is on edge because a flaming piece of debris has landed on the shelter. A few minutes later Tarantino and Richardson walk out like characters from *The Wild Bunch*, it almost feels like slow motion — the plantation wildly ablaze behind them. The crowd goes wild. Playfully, Tarantino asks Richardson, "Did you fu-king flinch?"

The actors, however, are nowhere to be seen. They finished shooting their parts for this sequence hours ago and, with any luck, are fast asleep, recharging for the next day of filming.

It's on that next day that I sit down with the film's Oscar- and Grammy-winning leading man, Jamie Foxx, in his trailer.

Q:

Tarantino has said that when he met with you, he knew right away you were perfect for the role.

"Yeah, it was interesting because I first heard about the film on the internet. I heard that Will Smith was doing this great movie with

Tarantino called *Django Unchained*. My management had a relationship with Tarantino's producers, so they asked for the script. It is absolutely one of the best scripts I've read in 25 years. The excitement of Django, the hero, and the fact that Quentin Tarantino was directing it, I just knew I needed to be a part of this film."

Tell us about that meeting.

"He didn't even really talk about the script right away. I started telling him that he was one of the most incredible writers and directors in the world, and I shared with him my experiences growing up as a child. I faced racism as a kid and I felt like I knew the DNA of the script because I had lived it. I already had pieces of Django inside me and I could bring that to the character. I told Tarantino that the best projects I've done in my life, I've been able to parallel it to my real life."

CONTINUED ▶

► **So you bring a lot of yourself to the character?**

"Of course, absolutely. I grew up in the south and they've come a long way, but there is still a ways to go when it comes to connecting the racial tissue. But, by having some of those racial things happen to me, it thickened my skin. When I hear racially upsetting things, I don't jerk as much, because I've lived it. That doesn't mean that everyone in the south is racist by any means, it just means that changes are still needed. In the film, there is obviously a racial component, but I don't trip on the racial stuff. I get it. I don't trip on the word 'n-gger', I've heard it, it's been said. My life prepared me for this."

You've worked with Kerry Washington before. There is an upsetting whipping scene that takes place in the slave quarters. Did it help to have a pre-established relationship when shooting a scene like that?

"That was a very tough day, and we all knew that it was coming. It's part of our past, we knew that we had to tell that story in the film, and Quentin knew it was important. But no matter how much you prepare, you can't really prepare your emotions for that. Quentin allowed us to play music on the set that day in between takes; we played gospel music by Fred Hammond [he sings a bit of Hammond's 'No Weapon']. When that song started playing, everyone on set reacted. Quentin was shooting, and his eyepiece filled up with water because he started tearing up."

That does sound like a powerful moment.

"When you start the journey on a movie like this; that is the kind of step that you need to take for everything to make sense. Quentin took the right steps, he shot it eloquently, and with every take he stopped to make sure that Kerry and I were doing okay. It was really different because Hollywood is not like that, Hollywood is very much about getting the shot, getting it right, and moving on. He took care of us, and he even kept it fun."

What's the most interesting thing about working with Tarantino?

"He's always laughing [laughs]! But more importantly it has been the lesson that I learned on keeping art alive. Not allowing outside entities of the industry to dictate what he's supposed to do. That doesn't happen on Tarantino movies. He has a childlike approach to everything and the child in him is infectious. Even when we're shooting an incredibly difficult scene and we have to do a few takes, he's just like, 'That's alright man. All we need to do is get it right one time, and we have time. It'll work.' When you have a director like that, it speaks volumes and I know that it sounds cliché, but I thank him everyday for the opportunity."

There are still race issues in the U.S., as you mentioned. Do you think that because Tarantino is Caucasian, critics will complain that he's directing a movie about the black experience?

"I can understand why some people might want to get on the soapbox and talk and there was some controversy with the word 'n-gger' in *Pulp Fiction*. But Quentin successfully directed *Inglourious Basterds*, which was about a culture that he doesn't personally come from. Directors can tell stories about other cultures, absolutely, and when it comes to Quentin Tarantino, I think everyone needs to fall back because unless you're at the calibre of Tarantino, no one should be talking negatively or judging. I don't care if you're purple [laughs] you gotta let the big boys walk!"

You've said that *Django Unchained* is more of a love story.

"The whole film is this: back then, a slave was not allowed to have a wife, a slave was not allowed to be in love, and a slave wasn't allowed to have feelings and emotions. *Django Unchained* changes all of that. Django isn't out to cure slavery, and he's not out to stop people from using the word 'n-gger', but what he does is he finds his wife, and anybody that touches her, he takes care of their business! That is what the movie is about. *Django Unchained* is a Western; a black Western set inside slavery *and* there is a love story. There are so many layers to this film. I think people will be very pleasantly surprised about how dynamic it is, and I think everyone is really going to appreciate the performances that Quentin got out of Leonardo DiCaprio and Samuel L. Jackson and everyone on set, really. We had an amazing cast, it was like playing in an all-star game." ❏

Lianne MacDougall is a Toronto-born writer and web-host who specializes in covering horror and genre films under her pseudonym "Lianne Spiderbaby." She is currently working on her first book, Grindhouse Girls: Cinema's Hardest Working Women.

FOXX & HORSE

If it seems like Jamie Foxx and the horse he rides in *Django Unchained* have a special relationship, they do. It's his horse.

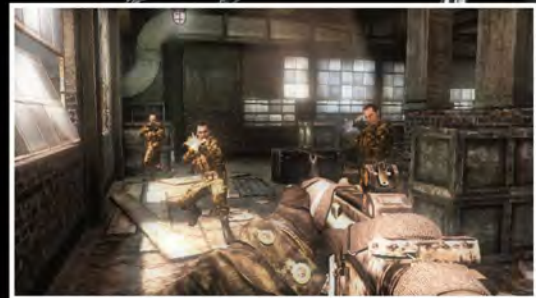
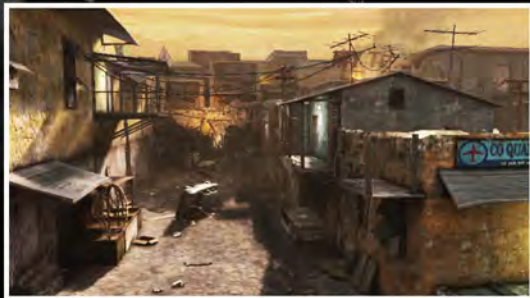
"Yeah! I had my own horse, Cheetah, on set the whole film. It's her first feature film," says Foxx. "I told [Tarantino] that I wanted to ride my own horse because I thought it would add to my character. Originally, I just wanted to use her as practice for rehearsals, but then the horse ended up being so good that she ended up in the movie! I actually ride my own horse the entire film. Cheetah started out exactly like my character, Django, started out. She was afraid, scared, unsure of the movie lights and sets, running from things in fear, but now Cheetah will ride up like a star, she'll do tricks, she'll show off — bombs exploding, guns blasting, and she is just so cool." —LM



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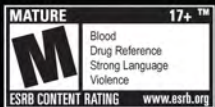
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President **PERFORM**





ntial ANCE

When was the last time **Bill Murray** took on a role that wasn't a little bit surprising? His latest film, **Hyde Park on Hudson**, is no different. He plays American President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in this fascinating true story

■ BY COLIN COVERT

The next big United States presidential contest will play out in Hollywood rather than Washington. It's Abraham Lincoln vs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt for Best Actor.

Steven Spielberg made a safe artistic choice in tapping Oscar-winning actor Daniel Day-Lewis to star in *Lincoln*. He's a performer of dignity and stature. *Hyde Park on Hudson* director/producer

Roger Michell chose a much riskier path asking Bill Murray — not exactly Mr. Gravitas — to play FDR. Then again, the versatile, ever-unpredictable Murray is the only actor to have starred in *Charlie's Angels* and *Hamlet* back to back.

Early reviews for the period drama praise Murray for an Oscar-calibre performance. Unlike Day-Lewis, who employs radical makeup and wigs as Lincoln, Murray goes directly for the inner man, relying on no external markers but pince-nez glasses and a jaunty cigarette holder. He successfully evades the dissonance of one icon doing an impression of another. When Murray flashes FDR's familiar headcocked-back grin, he dissolves into the part.

"I remember reading the script and thinking this was a chance for me to play a very big, important person," Murray says during an interview at the Toronto International Film Festival. Yet the laconically witty actor insists his preparation for the role was "not much," adding, "I hate to give away my secrets but I do almost nothing. Being slightly lazy works well for me."

Tall, energetic and fit at 62, Murray never entirely drops his ironic persona in conversation. But on his best behaviour for the benefit of a film that clearly delights him, he seems willing to give sincerity a half-hearted hug.

Having been a 2004 Best Actor nominee for combining personal drama and touching comedy in *Lost in Translation*, Murray greets the awards buzz surrounding his latest performance with his trademark lethargic skepticism.

"I went through it once before. It's nice to get nominated and win some prizes. You get to go to dinners and tell little stories and so forth. You get dressed up in a tux a couple of times and you get to go on TV, which is sweet. I later realized I had gotten a

CONTINUED ▶

Laura Linney and Bill Murray
in *Hyde Park on Hudson*

HYDE PARK ON HUDSON HITS THEATRES DECEMBER 14TH



Hyde Park on Hudson's
Daisy (Laura Linney) and
FDR (Bill Murray)

▶ little caught up in the possibility of winning, so I was ashamed of myself for getting caught in it. When I didn't get it, I thought, 'That's not so hot.'

"The wonderful thing is, an extraordinary number of people actually think I won," he continues. "So I never try to say, 'No, that's not true.' I say, 'You're so kind.' The important thing about awards and nominations is that they draw attention to the project and maybe more people will see it."

Murray's longtime interest in dramatic roles hasn't always served him well. Remember his early, ill-fated *The Razor's Edge*? But here, his years of underplaying for art-house existentialists Wes Anderson (*The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Moonrise Kingdom*), Jim Jarmusch (*Broken Flowers*) and Sofia Coppola (*Lost in Translation*) have clearly paid off. Michell (*Notting Hill*) says he would not have considered making *Hyde Park on Hudson* without Murray, and that tracking down the notoriously elusive star, who doesn't employ a publicist or agent, was the biggest hurdle of his production.

The finely crafted period piece from Tony-winning screenwriter Richard Nelson balances domestic drama, international politics and a touch of ribald comedy. The frame for the story is Roosevelt's affair with his distant cousin and neighbor Margaret "Daisy" Suckley (Laura Linney), whose diaries, discovered after her death, provided much of the story material.

Murray's *Rushmore* co-star Olivia Williams plays Roosevelt's wife Eleanor, who used their retreats at the family estate in Hyde Park, N.Y., to visit a circle of friends FDR genially calls "she-men." While Eleanor was otherwise occupied, Daisy was the president's loyal mistress and confidante. As she demurely puts it in the film, "I helped him forget the weight of the world."

Daisy is our narrator and guide through the unprecedented 1939 royal visit by England's young King George VI (Samuel West) and Queen Elizabeth (Olivia Colman). To the monarchs' dismay, Roosevelt contrives a hot dog-eating photo op at a just-folks picnic to humanize them in his isolationist countrymen's eyes. The publicity stunt lays the emotional foundation for Anglo-American unity in the coming world war.

In one of the film's turning points, polio-stricken President Roosevelt

and the stuttering King George forge a friendship over the need to conceal their afflictions from the public. (Roosevelt, paralyzed from the waist down, never appeared publicly in his wheelchair.) Murray and West so enjoyed the scene of great men addressing each other with rare honesty that they wanted to keep going at it even after Michell got his shot. "We could have played it for hours," Murray says, eyes crinkling in happy crow's feet at the memory.

The role offered Murray a chance to paint a full-length portrait of America's only four-term president. His performance captures the man's cheeky humour, personal warmth, penetrating intelligence, philandering and manipulative prowess.

Murray says he knew Roosevelt mostly as a working class champion praised in his family's dinner table conversations. To capture the man's distinctive, clipped speech he "studied the accent of the area" with a voice specialist and listened to speeches. He practiced hauling himself out of a wheelchair by balancing against desks and tables, but the physical preparations were nothing compared to the stresses of working in England — where this New York State-set story was shot — with a mostly English crew.

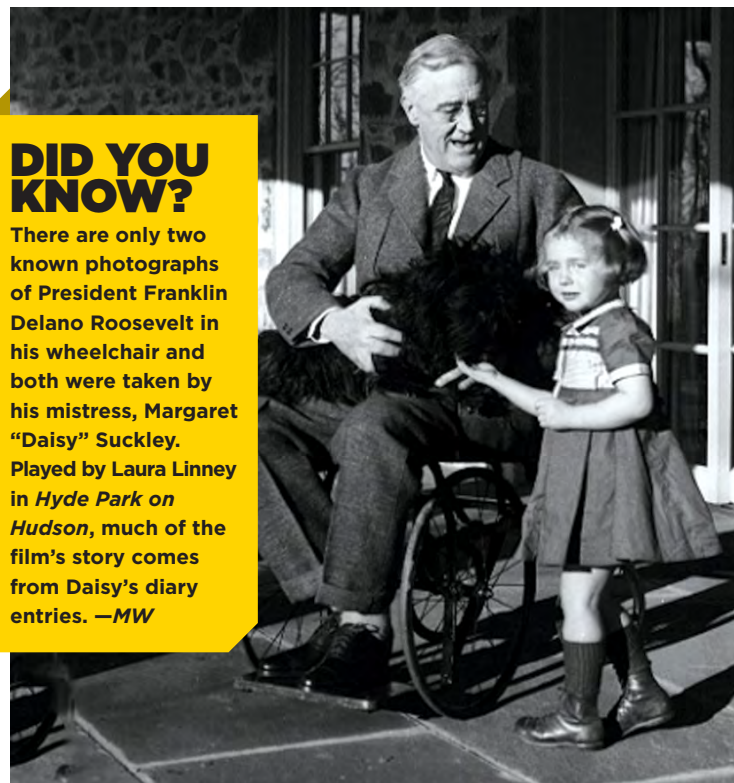
"I had to behave myself," Murray says, dry and deadpan. "I just tried to keep it together. I still have a lot of revolutionary rage. I tried to put a damper on that." They did not appreciate his habit of bringing a boom box on the set to liven things up. "Unless it's fife and drum, they don't like it," he says, and he didn't enjoy the English food. "It was a difficult time for me, let's say."

If the film generates a nominee for Best Supporting Actor, it might go to the virtually silent Martin McDougall, playing the aide who carries FDR in his arms when he leaves his wheelchair. "I believe he's changed his name since he was asked to carry me around the set," Murray says. "I tried to just have salad at lunch but it really didn't help." □

Colin Covert is a film journalist based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are only two known photographs of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in his wheelchair and both were taken by his mistress, Margaret "Daisy" Suckley. Played by Laura Linney in *Hyde Park on Hudson*, much of the film's story comes from Daisy's diary entries. —MW





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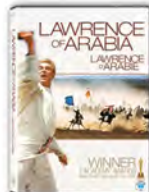
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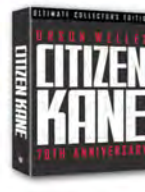
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COTILLARD'S SECRET



Marion Cotillard and
Matthias Schoenaerts
in *Rust and Bone*

Marion Cotillard has had a great year, first playing a do-gooder with something to hide in *The Dark Knight Rises*, and now as a whale trainer in the acclaimed French film *Rust and Bone*. So why did she have to lie about one of those films to keep her role in the other?

■ BY MATHIEU CHANTELOIS

Marion Cotillard has been keeping a terrible secret. The producers at Warner Brothers were quite clear, and her contract spelled it out: for five months, she would be the exclusive property of *The Dark Knight Rises*. While shooting the role of Miranda, a do-gooding philanthropist with a dark secret, she could not work on any other movies, even during her many weeks off.

"I didn't have a major part in the Batman movie, but I had to be available for it at all times. The script changed constantly, and I needed to be ready to get on the next plane and be on set as soon as they needed me," Cotillard explains during an interview, in French, at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Then it happened: filmmaker Jacques Audiard (*A Prophet*) offered her the starring role in *Rust and Bone* (*De rouille et d'os*). He wanted her to play Stéphanie, an orca whale trainer at Marineland where, one day, the aquatic circus turns into a danse macabre as a whale attacks Stéphanie, robbing her of her legs, and her will to live. She grows bitter, tormented and disillusioned.

It was the kind of challenge Cotillard couldn't refuse.

"I had to lie. I told the media I was taking a bit part in Jacques' film, and that we were going to shoot after Batman wrapped. I was terrified that somebody would find out," she recalls.

Cotillard admits that she always has butterflies before a shoot, secret or not. "I remember being so nervous on set! I never know if my performance will be any good. I get very anxious."

And her Oscar for *La vie en rose* didn't change that? "Nope!"

There must be a good reason she stays in a profession that torments her so. "I'm not somebody who opens up to people very easily," she says. "With this form of expression, I think I've found a way to speak to a lot of people and share something of myself, while still keeping my distance."

She certainly does keep her distance. Even though the American press has dubbed Cotillard "France's answer to Angelina Jolie" (her partner is actor Guillaume Canet, who happens to be "the Brad Pitt of Paris"), she rarely reveals much about herself in interviews.

"I don't have anything against people who bare their soul to the media. I just know I can't do it. I want to share things that seem practical to me. It's the same if I go to a dinner party with guests I don't know; I'm not going to share my life story with them. It's exactly the same with the press — you're not going to hear my life story either, because we've just met. That's how it works. We talk, and I tell you about the movie. Getting into private matters is actually very intense. And, well, I don't know how to do that."

However, Cotillard is willing to reveal herself in a way that few in Hollywood dare — she goes without makeup in *Rust and Bone*. Was it a humbling experience? "Not at all! I really appreciated not spending two hours in hair and makeup every morning."

Her nude scenes weren't any tougher, apparently. "A big part of my profession has to do with representation," she says. "It's something I like doing. So being almost completely nude was a real pleasure." ■

Mathieu Chantelois is the editor of Le magazine Cineplex.



MAKING
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THE IMPOSSIBLE Men

How do you make a movie about one of the most devastating real-life tragedies of the past decade, make it compelling, make it realistic, make it watchable and — most importantly — make it respectful of those who died, and survived, that horrible day? We talk to *The Impossible* star **Ewan McGregor** about reliving the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami on the big screen ■ BY MARNI WEISZ

Ewan McGregor decided to make

The Impossible as soon as he read the script. Still, there was that nagging feeling that this project — the true story of one family torn apart when the 2004 tsunami hit Thailand — could go terribly wrong.

“The nature of putting a movie camera on something is that it turns it into a cinematic thing,” says McGregor during an interview at the Toronto International Film Festival this past September, “and if you’re making a cinematic statement about a terrible tragedy like this you have to be doing it for the right reasons.”

Helmed by Spanish director Juan Antonio Bayona (*The Orphanage*), the film turned out to be one of the big hits at the Toronto festival. Anything but exploitive, it’s a powerful drama that brings images of a catastrophe that’s already fading from memory rushing back.

McGregor and Naomi Watts star as English tourists Henry and Maria (changed from a Spanish family, the Alvarez Belons, in real life) who, with their three young boys, travel to a coastal resort in Thailand for a relaxing beach vacation over the Christmas holidays. Instead, a colossal wall of water washes their hotel away and rips their family in two, leaving Henry and their two youngest boys searching for critically injured Maria and their oldest son.

A few hours before the film had its world premiere in Toronto, we sat down with McGregor to discuss the joys and stresses of bringing this real-life drama to the screen.



How do you feel about seeing the film with an audience tonight?

“I’m quite nervous about it in a way that I’m not normally so nervous about a film screening, and it’s not because I have doubts about it, but because I think it’s so sensitive... We’re making a movie about something that really happened and many

people lost their lives, and many people lost their loved ones. The responsibility to those people who died and who survived is huge.”

Why was this one family’s story chosen among all the stories that came out of that day?

“Three years after the tsunami, Maria [Alvarez Belon] was on a radio program in Spain talking about her experience. She hadn’t talked about it at all publicly so she was sharing her experience on the radio and our producer, Belén [Atienza], was driving in a car and listening to it and she was incredibly moved by Maria’s story and went straight to Bayona and told him the story. And he was very moved by her telling of the story. They got in touch with Maria and the family and Bayona said he just became obsessed with their story and had to make it into a film.”

CONTINUED ▶

The Impossible’s Ewan McGregor with his boys, played by Samuel Joslin (left) and Oaklee Pendergast

► **Did you spend much time with the Alvarez Belon family?**

“Not very much. No, they came out to visit us on set and I hadn’t met Henry yet. I’d spoken to him, but I hadn’t met him, and also, because we changed the nationality, I didn’t feel the need to play him physically. But when they came out I got very nervous in case he didn’t think what I was doing was right or didn’t like it. But I feel like his character is imprinted somewhat in the writing, because our writers spent such a lot of time with them, that I picked up a bit of him anyway, really.”



McGregor holds onto his kids
INSET: Naomi Watts and Tom Holland



Why did they change it from a Spanish family?

“Well, I don’t know, you’d have to ask them. I think to have a bigger audience I’m going to assume.”

The film was shot in late 2010 but it’s just coming out now.

Why the lag?

“[Bayona] wanted a year on post-production of the film. There was model shooting, he wanted only real water in the film. Naomi and Tom [Holland, who plays the oldest son] started the shooting in a tank in Alicante [Spain] where they were hurled around this enormous tank, had things thrown at them, and dragged underneath, for five or six weeks. Then we shot for four months [in Thailand], then [Bayona] shot for another month or two on models...so that took a long time.”

Does the finished film look much different than you’d imagined?

“I couldn’t imagine it would be so well done, the sets and the devastated area was as far as you could see 360 degrees, it was unbelievably realistic.”

So the majority of the effects weren’t created with models?

“No, no, no. [Bayona] created the actual tsunami with a model set, so he had many miniature sets of the bungalows.... But, no, the devastated areas, we were driven into them and had to walk for 20 minutes to get into the middle, and it would look like the tsunami happened yesterday, it was incredible. They put in boats and cars and sh-t everywhere, it was unbelievable. It was really breathtaking. It made our job very easy because it was so believable.”

With the film concentrating on one Western family when so many Thai people had their lives devastated, was there a conscious effort to include as many Thai people as possible in the hospital scenes and surrounding story?

“No, the truth of the matter is everyone ended up together. All the people were in the hospitals, Thai people were there, tourists were

there. A lot of the Thai people were instrumental in saving people, getting people out, and we see that. I don’t think it was an effort that was made. I think the effort that was made was to be as accurate as possible to this family’s story and the Thai people are totally involved in that.”

Have you kept on top of the recovery efforts in that part of the world?

“Well, we saw a lot of it when we were there. We saw a lot of charity workers there, orphanages for children who survived whose parents didn’t. But the actual Thai perspective on the tsunami I thought was quite a healthy one; they’re very straightforward and honest about it, and very much in the present in terms of moving forward. I only saw a little bit of the coastline where we were, but it seemed like it was all rebuilt, there was very little of it that hadn’t been and it was thriving again. There were tourists everywhere, the beaches were full, it didn’t look like a place in recovery, it looked like a place that had recovered.”

Marni Weisz is the editor of Cineplex Magazine.



RETURN TO THE ORCHID

Much of *The Impossible* was shot in Thailand at the actual locations where events took place, including The Orchid Resort where the Alvarez Belon family was vacationing when the tsunami hit. “It was a very peculiar feeling to be standing exactly where the family had been standing, or sitting, when the water came in,” says star Ewan McGregor. He adds that most of the film’s crew was made up of of Thai people, many of whom survived the events of that day. —MW

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(1) Comparing the shared HSPA+ network coverage available from Koodo Mobile to the public disclosure of 4G network coverage of other national service providers for October 7, 2012. Compatible phone required. (2) Based on the results of a survey conducted by a nationally recognized polling firm.

A photograph of director Peter Jackson and actor Martin Freeman on the set of the movie 'The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey'. Peter Jackson is on the left, leaning over a wooden table, looking at a script. Martin Freeman is on the right, sitting at the table and looking towards Jackson. The setting is a rustic, stone-walled room with arched doorways and a window in the background. The lighting is warm and golden.

Return to Middle-earth

A decade ago, the big screen was dominated by orcs and elves and hobbits. Then, just as we were learning to live without our forest-dwelling friends from *The Lord of the Rings*, word came that *The Hobbit*, a prequel to their story, would get the movie treatment. But getting from there to here was as challenging as any Tolkien quest

■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

Director Peter Jackson (left) confers with Martin Freeman on the set of *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*



THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

HITS THEATRES
DECEMBER 14TH

Gandalf (Ian McKellen)
and the dwarves
BELOW Martin Freeman
as Bilbo Baggins

THE HISTORY

Books will surely be written about the complicated journey to bring J.R.R. Tolkien's classic novel to the big screen.

The abridged version runs something like this: After Peter Jackson completed the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy in 2003 with New Line, director and studio were keen to make *The Hobbit*. New Line would co-produce the film with MGM, which held the film rights. However, Jackson and New Line got into a legal battle over royalties, finally settling the matter in the fall of 2007. It was then announced Jackson would executive produce *The Hobbit* and its sequel.

In 2008, Guillermo del Toro (*Hellboy*) was brought in to direct, but script delays and the fact MGM had fallen into bankruptcy held up production, forcing him to abandon the project in May 2010. This past October, del Toro told *The Hollywood Reporter* that leaving *The Hobbit* was "the most difficult professional decision I've ever had to make."

The obvious choice to take over directing duties was Jackson. In the same *Hollywood Reporter* story

New Line president Toby Emmerich said, "It wasn't clear the movies would survive if he didn't step in."

Yet Jackson hesitated. He told website Crave Online, "I was reluctant to direct it because I felt I would arrive at work every day and I would be thinking about, 'Now, how did I direct this 12 years ago?' And I would be competing against myself. But, if we were going to get this film made I should just do it, it was a sense of responsibility."

And despite suffering a perforated ulcer that required surgery before shooting began, Jackson has no regrets about taking the job. "The surprise for me was how much I loved it," he told Crave Online. "I walked on the set the first day and I just thought I am so pleased that it worked out this way. And my worry about repeating myself never happened."

THE STORY

Set 60 years before the events written about in *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit* introduces us to a young Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman), a respectable hobbit who enjoys a quiet life.

His world is turned upside down when the wizard Gandalf the Grey (Ian McKellen) and 13 dwarves, led by Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage), drop by for tea. The dwarves — having been led to believe by Gandalf that Bilbo is a burglar in search of a job — ask the hobbit to join them on a quest to steal back treasure stolen from their kin by the dragon Smaug (Benedict Cumberbatch via motion capture). Smaug lives inside The Lonely Mountain, once a dwarf stronghold, and the dwarves not only want the treasure but to reclaim their home, meaning they must kill the seemingly invincible Smaug.

Mustering courage he never knew he had, Bilbo agrees to join the quest that will take the band to the elven outpost of Rivendell, into the forests of Mirkwood and deep inside goblin lairs where Bilbo encounters a strange creature named Gollum (Andy Serkis) who possesses a powerful ring. **CONTINUED ▶**





THE MAIN CAST

▶ MARTIN FREEMAN AS BILBO

As *The Hobbit's* protagonist Bilbo Baggins is featured in nearly every scene of the book, it was crucial that Peter Jackson find the perfect actor to portray the small hero. His first — and only — choice was British actor Martin Freeman, best known for his turn in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and now BBC TV's series *Sherlock*, playing Watson to Benedict Cumberbatch's Holmes.

"He is very hobbit-y in real life," Jackson told *The Hollywood Reporter*. "I am, too. I'm proud of it. You do not stray too far from your home, do not get involved in anything too adventurous or dangerous. I largely like to stay at home with my feet up, and Martin has a lot of those qualities."

IAN MCKELLEN AS GANDALF

Bringing Ian McKellen back to play Gandalf was crucial. And for the 71-year-old McKellen the chance to portray the more jovial Gandalf the Grey, versus the more serious Gandalf the White (whom he transforms into in the second half of *The Lord of the Rings*) was a bonus.

"Peter and I were just so thrilled that Gandalf the White wasn't in *The Hobbit*," McKellen revealed at



Andy Serkis dons the motion-capture suit again to play Gollum

Comic-Con earlier this year. "We prefer Gandalf the Grey.... He can have a smoke and a drink and a chat, and do a few little tricks. It was a great relief!"

ANDY SERKIS AS GOLLUM

And, of course, no one but Andy Serkis could bring the pitiful Gollum to life. Yet reprising the role via motion capture after such a long layoff wasn't so easy. During one of Peter Jackson's video blogs shot during the making of *The Hobbit*, Serkis told Jackson that, "Trying to get back into the head of Gollum...I don't know if I ever told you, but it felt like kinda doing an impersonation of a character I played. It was weird, 'cause it was like having to re-own it again."

In addition, knowing that Serkis has directing aspirations, Jackson asked the actor to serve as the director of the film's second unit. Serkis was thrilled.

CONTINUED ▶



THREE'S A CHARM

The *Lord of the Rings* film trilogy is based on the three *Lord of the Rings* books totalling 1,008 pages. Yet *The Hobbit*, a single book that tops out at only 310 pages, is also being split into three films. How can Peter Jackson stretch the material so far?

The answer lies with Gandalf.

"In *The Hobbit* novel Gandalf disappears for long periods of time, you never know where," said Jackson in an interview with website IGN. "But in the appendices Tolkien explains exactly what he was doing and where he was going. So we're able to incorporate all of that together."

The three *Hobbit* films are:

○ *The Hobbit:*

An Unexpected Journey (December 14, 2012)

○ *The Hobbit:*

The Desolation of Smaug (December 13, 2013)

○ *The Hobbit: There and*

Back Again (July 18, 2014)

FAMILIAR FACES

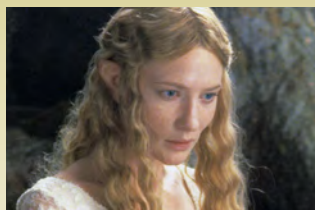
Fans of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy will recognize some familiar faces popping up in *The Hobbit*. However, not all of these old friends actually appear in the pages of *The Hobbit*. So, which *LotR* characters are back, and how do they fit into this tale?



OLD BILBO BAGGINS (Ian Holm) and **FRODO** (Elijah Wood): To include the older Bilbo in the story, Jackson frames the film with Bilbo recounting his adventures, which are written in the Red Book of Westmarch, to Frodo.



ELROND (Hugo Weaving): Elrond does appear in *The Hobbit*, hosting Bilbo and the dwarves in Rivendell in the early part of their journey.



GALADRIEL (Cate Blanchett): The elven co-ruler of Lothlórien, Galadriel does not appear in *The Hobbit*, but will be included in the Rivendell scenes.



LEGOLAS (Orlando Bloom): The elf prince does not appear in the book but will appear, likely in the second film, when the elf army joins the epic Battle of Five Armies that anchors the final section of the story.



THE HOBBIT

AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK
COMPOSED BY HOWARD SHORE

DECEMBER 11, 2012





Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage) leads his dwarves

► THE DWARVES

Perhaps Jackson's greatest challenge was finding 13 actors to play the dwarves, who must resemble one another, but have distinct personalities so that the audience can relate to them each individually.

"Thirteen dwarves was one of the reasons why I dreaded *The Hobbit*," said Jackson in one of his video blogs, "and why I really didn't think I was going to make [the film] for such a long time. The irony is that it's turned out to be one of the joys of the film."

None of the actors playing dwarves are household names, but look for British actor Richard Armitage as the brave leader Thorin, and Kiwi performer Stephen Hunter as the rotund Bombur, to breakout.

PRODUCTION

Shooting the first two *Hobbit* films back-to-back — the third film will be comprised of unused footage from the first two films, plus additional shooting reportedly to take place next summer — proved a mammoth task.

To make 266 days of shooting tolerable Jackson split the filming into three blocks allowing for a respite in between. Studio work took place in New Zealand in Jackson's Stone Street Studios, located in the Wellington suburb of Miramar. More than 115 sets were created, and a trailer park consisting of 21 trailers was needed to house the actors.

The cast and crew also spent nearly seven weeks travelling across New Zealand shooting in remote and magnificent locations.

Jackson documented the long shoot with eight video blogs hosted on The Hobbit Blog (www.thehobbitblog.com) which is must-see viewing for *Hobbit* fans.

HIGH-TECH MIDDLE-EARTH

All three *Hobbit* films were shot in digital 3D using RED Epic cameras. Jackson was the first filmmaker to get his hands on the brand new cameras (49 in total).

But the big news is that Jackson shot the film using 48 frames per second, twice the normal 24 fps. The human eye actually sees the world in 60 fps, which means 48 fps comes closer to recreating the world as humans see it.

When Jackson showed his 48 fps footage at CinemaCon in April, the reviews were mixed. Many found it too real, resembling the flatness you see on a TV soap opera. Jackson defends the technology, saying it will take some getting used to. "At first it's unusual because you've never seen a movie like this before," the director told *Entertainment Weekly*.

To help ease viewers toward the new tech-



From left: Richard Armitage, Hugo Weaving and Ian McKellen

nology, Warner Brothers — which merged with New Line — will be showing the 48 fps in approximately 10 percent of theatres, with the rest of the theatres presenting the film in regular 24 fps.

One fun fact, if *The Hobbit* had been shot on 35mm film instead of digitally, it would have used 22,817,520 feet of film. ☑

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.



Bilbo (Martin Freeman) visits the beautiful Rivendell

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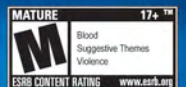
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There are 652 pieces and six mini-figures, including Bilbo and Gandalf, in LEGO's **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Gathering** set (\$85, major retailers).



Our favourite movie-related videogame of 2012 isn't a movie tie-in at all, it's **Dishonored** (\$60, major retailers), a first-person stealth action title that features the voice talents of A-list actors like Susan Sarandon, Carrie Fisher, Chloë Grace Moretz and John Slattery.



Bond 50 (\$300, major retailers) has all 22 James Bond films together in one set for the first time ever — plus 122 hours of bonus features and commentaries, of course.

Who knows if it'll happen in real life, but with these **Twilight Breaking Dawn Bella and Edward Barbies** (\$33 U.S. each, www.entertainmentearth.com) you can play out matrimonial dramas at home.



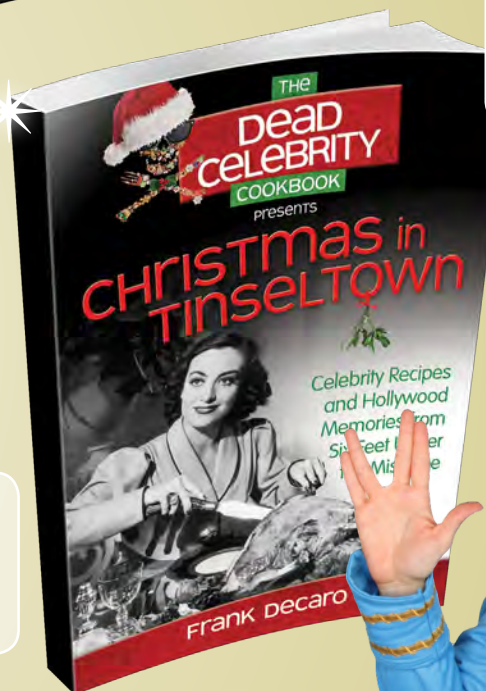


Cineplex Magazine photographer Jocelyn Michel releases **Admissions** (\$45, major book stores), featuring snaps of Quebec actors and filmmakers taken over the past nine years, including this one of Jay Baruchel (left) and Kevin Tierney.

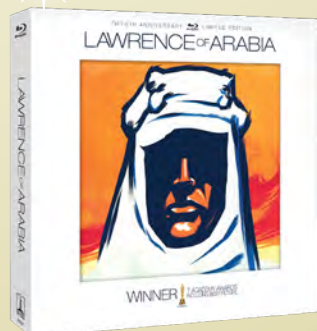


If they love movies and music...Tom Cruise, Julianne Hough, Malin Akerman, Alec Baldwin and Russell Brand all lend their pipes to the **Rock of Ages Soundtrack** (\$13, major retailers).

The Dead Celebrity Cookbook Presents: Christmas in Tinseltown (\$13, www.amazon.ca) features such recipes as Robert Mitchum's Eggnog and Rosemary Clooney's Viennese Goulash...because those Golden Age stars really knew how to entertain.



The Fiftieth Anniversary Lawrence of Arabia Box Set (\$96, major retailers) includes three Blu-ray discs containing the director's cut of the film and special features. You also get the soundtrack on CD.



Live long and prosper in this so-geeky-it's-cool **Star Trek Hoodie** (\$60 U.S., www.heruniverse.com).

KIDS' STUFF



Kids (and adults) will go nuts for **4D Cityscape Time Puzzles** (\$40, Mastermind Toys). The fourth dimension is time — you build the puzzles (this one's of Toronto) chronologically, and it's as if history unfolds before your eyes.

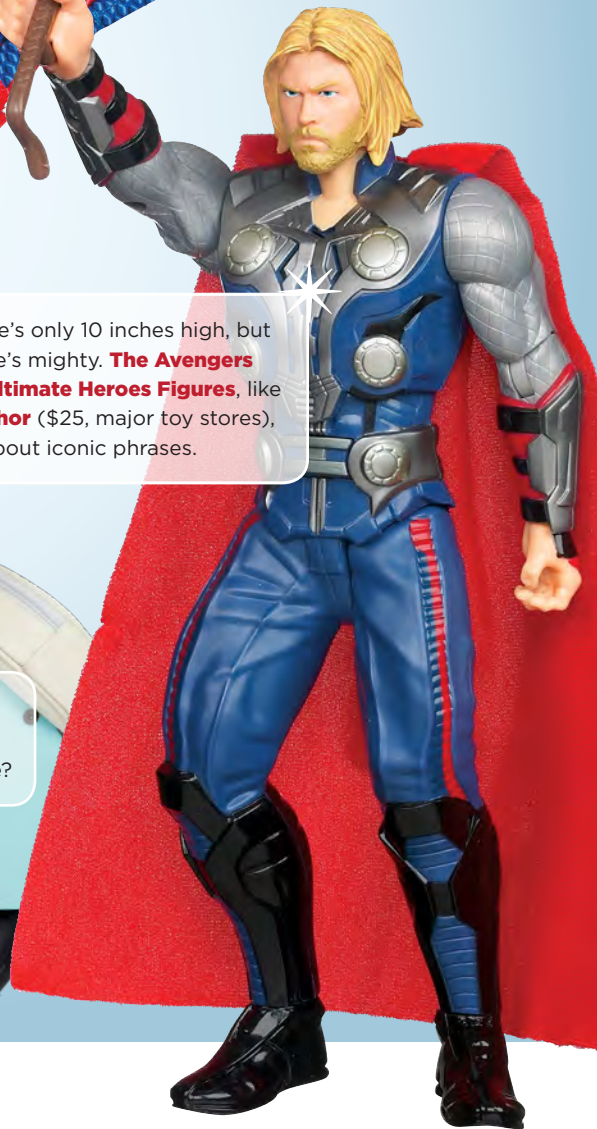


The adorable **Sheep Rocker** (\$160, Pottery Barn Kids) is covered in fleecy fur, ensuring the softest of rides.

Sensors in **The Amazing Spider-Man Hero FX Glove** (\$20, major toy stores) respond to motion with web-shooting sound effects.



He's only 10 inches high, but he's mighty. **The Avengers Ultimate Heroes Figures**, like **Thor** (\$25, major toy stores), spout iconic phrases.



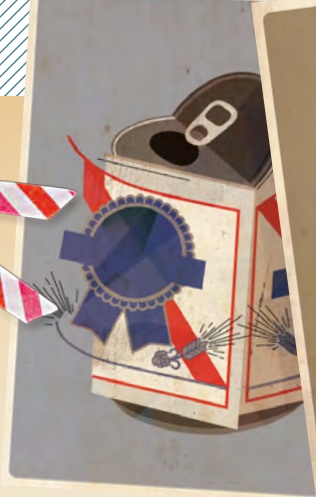
Wish they made the **Wooden Vespa Scooter** (\$100, Indigo) in your size?



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



The **Kaitlyn Yarn-Dyed Apron** (\$58, Williams-Sonoma) makes us want to bake.



Finding the perfect artwork for the man cave can be hard. We recommend Toronto artist Dave Murray's **Beer Series** (\$40 each, davemurrayillustration.com).



We love the whimsy of Montreal-based artist Sabine Alpers' **Fauxfauna Animal Heads** (\$50 to \$65, www.feltfactory.com).

A portion of proceeds from **Sir Elton John & David Furnish Designed Candles** (\$50, Holt Renfrew) goes to the Elton John AIDS Foundation. Choose between the floral Jardin de Fleurs and citrusy L'Orangerie.



Be prepared for winter with Montreal artist Janice Yan-Yan Wu's **Hotties** (\$60, www.fromtofrom.com), monstrously fun hot-water bottles.



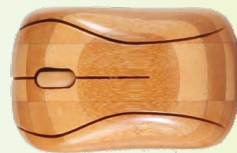
TECH TOYS



It's a tablet, it's an Ultrabook. If you can't decide between the two, Toshiba's **Satellite U920t Ultrabook Convertible** (\$1,150, major retailers) gives you the best of both thanks to a sliding, hinged keyboard.



We miss holding photos in our hands! That's why we love **Fujifilm's Instax Mini 7S** (\$99 for Fun Pack including film, major retailers), which takes, develops and instantly delivers miniature photographs (about the size of a credit card).



We feel Zen just looking at Impecca's **Bamboo Wireless Keyboard and Mouse** (\$100 U.S., www.impeccausa.com). Each one is hand-carved from biodegradable bamboo.



The iPad's great, but it does weigh down your bag. Now everything you love about the iPad is available in the smaller (7.9-inch screen) and lighter **iPad mini** (\$329 for 16GB, Apple Stores).

It's the technology used to create stop-motion animated movies, and now you can have it at home. The **MakerBot Replicator 2 Desktop 3D Printer** (\$2200, www.robotshop.com) uses renewable bioplastic to print models in 3D.



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Korres' **Lip Butter** in **Plum** (\$16, Sephora) has a shiny, tinted finish.

How does James Bond smell? Like geranium, lavender and sandalwood. The **James Bond 007 Fragrance** (\$35 for 30ml, Shoppers Drug Mart) celebrates the secret agent's 50th anniversary on screen.



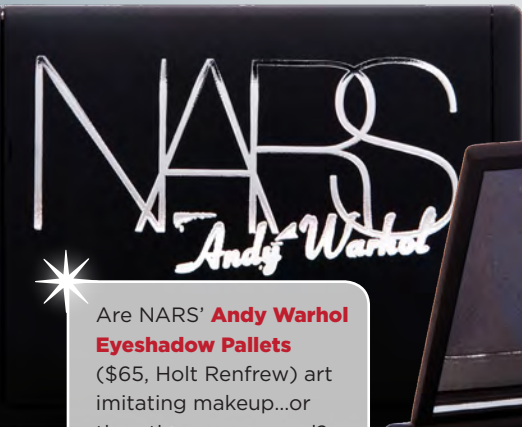
Nail polish makes a great stocking stuffer. We like Maybelline New York's **Color Show** in **Pedal to the Metal** (\$3, Walmart).



L'Oréal Paris' **Magic Smooth Souffle Blush** (\$17, drug stores) melts on the skin for a natural-looking flush.



Old Spice Danger Zone Body Spray (\$7, drug stores) promises to improve handsomeness.



Are NARS' **Andy Warhol Eyeshadow Pallets** (\$65, Holt Renfrew) art imitating makeup...or the other way around?



Halle Berry's latest fragrance is **Closer** (\$35 for 30ml, drug stores), a fresh floral fragrance.



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CASTING CALL

BY INGRID RANDOJA



STALLONE VS. DE NIRO

It's Rocky Balboa vs. Jake LaMotta as **Sylvester Stallone** and **Robert De Niro** play past-their-prime boxing rivals who step into the ring one last time in *Grudge Match*. Helmed by **Peter Segal** (*Anger Management*), and co-starring **Kevin Hart** as the promoter who arranges the fight, the pugilistic comedy starts shooting early next year.



WOODLEY AS MARY JANE WATSON?

Work on *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* is underway and *The Descendants'* breakout star **Shailene Woodley** is in talks to play **Mary Jane Watson** (portrayed by **Kirsten Dunst** in the previous *Spider-Man* series). It'll be interesting to see if the sequel allows both MJ and **Gwen Stacy** (**Emma Stone**) to pine over **Spidey** (**Andrew Garfield**) at the same time. *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* swings into theatres May 2, 2014.



DUJARDIN'S MONUMENTAL DECISION

Hollywood's elite come calling when you win a Best Actor Oscar. *The Artist's* **Jean Dujardin**, who just finished *The Wolf of Wall Street* with **Leonardo DiCaprio** and **Martin Scorsese**, has been cast in *The Monuments Men* opposite **George Clooney**. Clooney is also writing and directing the historical drama based on a group of real-life art experts, curators and soldiers sent to locate works of art stolen by the Nazis during World War II. Clooney is also courting **Paul Giamatti** for the pic.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH...

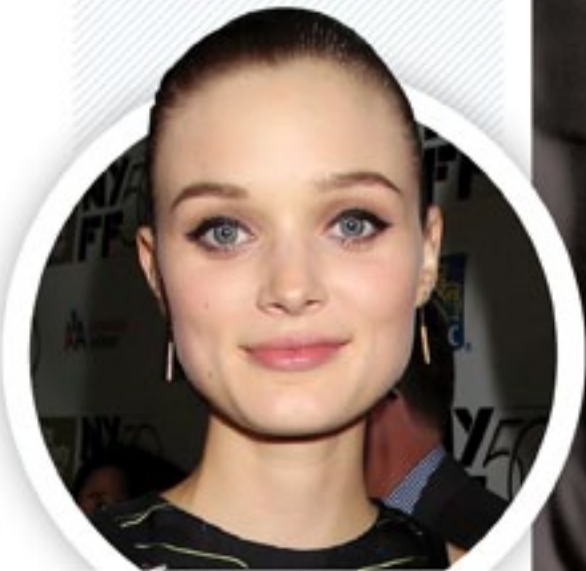
THOR: THE DARK WORLD

Filming has wrapped on *Thor: The Dark World*, with stars **Chris Hemsworth**, **Natalie Portman**, **Tom Hiddleston**, **Kat Dennings** and **Anthony Hopkins** all returning for the *Thor* sequel. However, director **Kenneth Branagh** has been replaced by TV's *Game of Thrones* director **Alan Taylor**, who will move the action deeper into the cosmos with a plot about ancient enemy **Malekith the Accursed** (**Christopher Eccleston**), who rules the Dark Elves. The film hits theatres on November 8, 2013 in 3D.



DOUGLAS DOES REAGAN

Talk about an attitude adjustment: **Michael Douglas** goes from playing Liberace in **Steven Soderbergh's** upcoming TV movie *Behind the Candelabra* to Ronald Reagan in director **Mike Newell's** *Reykjavik*, about the 1986 meeting in Iceland's capital between Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev (**Christoph Waltz**) that helped bring about the end of the Cold War. Filming gets underway this March in Iceland.



FRESH FACE BELLA HEATHCOTE

Look for Australian acting export **Bella Heathcote** to break big very soon. The doe-eyed actor has appeared in three films this year — *Dark Shadows*, *Killing Them Softly* and this month's nostalgic rock 'n' roll pic *Not Fade Away*. Like so many other Aussie actors she got her start on the country's popular soap opera *Neighbours* before winning the 2010 Heath Ledger Scholarship, an annual award that sends winners to the U.S. to meet with casting agents.



CRUZ TRIES ON GUCCI

Although she appears as a spokesperson for Lancôme fragrance, Spanish beauty **Penélope Cruz** is circling Gucci, which focuses on the 1995 murder of the fashion house's heir Maurizio Gucci. His wife, Patrizia Gucci (potentially Cruz), was jailed for ordering the hit on her husband. **Ridley Scott** was initially going to direct, but passed the job onto daughter **Jordan Scott**, whose lone feature film credit is the boarding school thriller *Cracks*.

ALSO IN THE WORKS ▶ The hilarious **Melissa McCarthy** makes a cameo appearance in *The Hangover Part III*. ▶ **Kevin Kline** will play a 50-year-old Errol Flynn, who seduces a teenager in the bio-pic *The Last of Robin Hood*. ▶ *The Last Drop* casts **Justin Timberlake** as an alcoholic food critic who goes on the wagon for the woman he loves. ▶ **Uma Thurman** joins director **Lars Von Trier's** sexually explicit *Nymphomaniac*.

RETURN ENGAGEMENT



Here Comes **Santa Claus**

When *Miracle on 34th Street* opened in 1947

moviegoers were surely surprised to see a film featuring Santa Claus. It was, after all, early May. But *Miracle* was a major release for 20th Century Fox, and studio mogul Darryl Zanuck wanted to capitalize on big summertime attendance.

Unseasonable storyline notwithstanding, *Miracle* was one of the year's biggest hits and went on to become a perennial Yuletide gem.

The story won Oscars for author Valentine Davies and screenwriter George Seaton (who also directed), and centres around a mysterious, white-bearded gentleman (Edmund Gwenn, another Oscar winner) who rescues Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade by filling in for an intoxicated Saint Nick.

Insisting he is the real Kris Kringle, he agrees to serve as Santa at Macy's flagship New York store (at 34th and Broadway) and proceeds to fill everyone with the true spirit of the season, including cynical Macy's executive Doris Walker (Maureen O'Hara) and her daughter Susan (Natalie Wood, age nine, in her first starring role).

Bold for its day in its condemnation of Christmas commercialism, *Miracle* was named one of the 10 greatest fantasy films of all time by the American Film Institute.

—CHRISTOPHER LOUDON

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET


screens as part of Cineplex's Classic Film Series on December 9th and 12th. Go to Cineplex.com/events for times and locations.


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AT HOME

December's BEST DVD AND BLU-RAY



THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

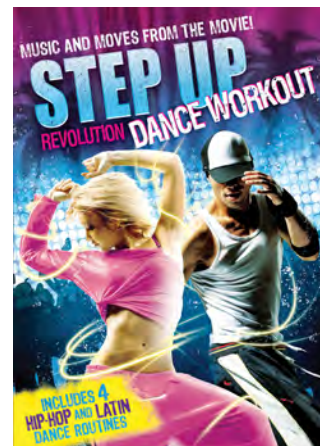
DECEMBER 4

After eight years of living as a hermit inside Wayne Manor, Bruce Wayne (**Christian Bale**) is coaxed back into the world by a new ally in a cop named Blake (**Joseph Gordon-Levitt**), a new frenemy in the complicated Catwoman (**Anne Hathaway**) and a new villain in the muscle-bound terrorist Bane (**Tom Hardy**). Question is, with a bomb about to blast Gotham into the netherworld, can Batman return to fighting form in time?

Something Special

STEP UP REVOLUTION DANCE WORKOUT

DECEMBER 4



Burn those holiday calories with this workout DVD that pulls tunes and dance moves from this year's *Step Up Revolution* — the fourth film in the *Step Up* franchise of street-dance movies.



HOPE SPRINGS

DECEMBER 4

Kay (**Meryl Streep**) and Arnold (**Tommy Lee Jones**) have lost their spark. Married for decades, their relationship is boring and robotic. They don't even sleep in the same room anymore. So Kay signs them up for a week-long retreat in Great Hope Springs, Maine, under the care of matrimonial specialist Dr. Feld (**Steve Carell**).



BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD

DECEMBER 4

A possible nominee for Best Picture at the Oscars (now that there can be up to 10 contenders), this indie follows a six-year-old girl named Hushpuppy (**Quvenzhané Wallis**) living on a tiny, dirt-poor, but unexpectedly beautiful, island in the Mississippi Delta, where she's raised by her alcoholic dad.



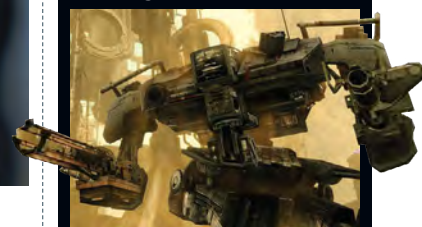
THE BOURNE LEGACY

DECEMBER 11

The movie may bear Bourne's name, but Jason Bourne (**Matt Damon**) is nowhere to be seen (except on a "Wanted" poster). Instead, it's fellow agent Aaron Cross (**Jeremy Renner**) who's running from The Program — the top-secret U.S. Intelligence project that created the super-agents, but now wants them dead.

Games

Why We Love...



HAWKEN

DECEMBER 12

PC

For a free-to-play title, we're pretty impressed with the look and feel of this first-person shooter. You're the pilot of a battle mech (a robot-like vehicle) blasting your way through a post-apocalyptic urban landscape.



TOTAL RECALL

DECEMBER 18

Bored factory worker Douglas Quaid (**Colin Farrell**) hopes to spice up his fantasy life by allowing the ReKall company to implant exciting fake memories of exploits as a secret agent into his brain. But, wait a minute. Such memories already exist in that noggin of his. Cue the action scenes.

ARBITRAGE

DECEMBER 21

Richard Gere plays Robert Miller, a hedge-fund magnate who is a cheat in every way. He's cooked his company's books, he has a wife (**Susan Sarandon**) and a mistress (**Laetitia Casta**), and he's trying to sell his company before anyone figures out how little it's worth. Then a terrible accident changes everything.

We've Gone Digital!

If you were reading this on *Cineplex Magazine's* new app or digital enhanced version, you could be watching trailers for these movies **RIGHT NOW!**



TED DECEMBER 11

Typical story. John's (**Mark Wahlberg**) fiancée Lori (**Mila Kunis**) isn't crazy about his best friend Ted and wants the boys to spend less time together. Not so typical is that Ted is a trash-talking teddy bear brought to life by a wish John made when he was just a child.

Seth MacFarlane writes, directs and also voices that naughty bear.



MORE MOVIES ▶ BUTTER (DECEMBER 4) ▶ ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT (DECEMBER 11) ▶ TROUBLE WITH THE CURVE (DECEMBER 18) ▶ DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: DOG DAYS (DECEMBER 18) ▶ KILLER JOE (DECEMBER 21) ▶ PREMIUM RUSH (DECEMBER 21) ▶ THE WORDS (DECEMBER 28)

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FINALLY...



Swing, Soar, Swim

If there's any live show that deserves the 3D movie treatment, it's Cirque du Soleil — with performers soaring, swinging and swimming from the screen. But which show to adapt? Writer-director Andrew Adamson (*Shrek*) couldn't choose just one, so incorporates scenes from seven Cirque shows — *O, KÀ*, *Mystère*, *Viva ELVIS*, *CRISS ANGEL Believe*, *Zumanity* and *The Beatles LOVE* — into this month's 3D theatrical release *Cirque du Soleil Worlds Away*. He ties it all together with a story about two young people (Erica Linz, Igor Zaripov) who meet at a circus and almost instantly fall into another dimension. James Cameron produced the film, which was shot during live Cirque performances and on the troupes' off days. —MW

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