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MAGAZINE



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2014 AWARDS RACE



JARED LETO



SANDRA BULLOCK



LUPITA NYONG'O



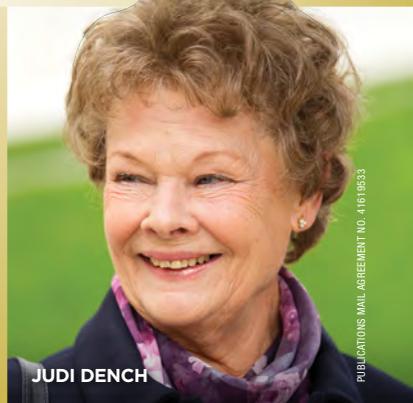
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Get ready for Hollywood's biggest night with our Awards Race guide, which includes a shout-out to all the major Academy Awards nominees, a salute to Oscar's returning host **Ellen DeGeneres**, a look at the red-carpet fashions from other 2014 award shows, critics' picks and your very own Oscar ballot

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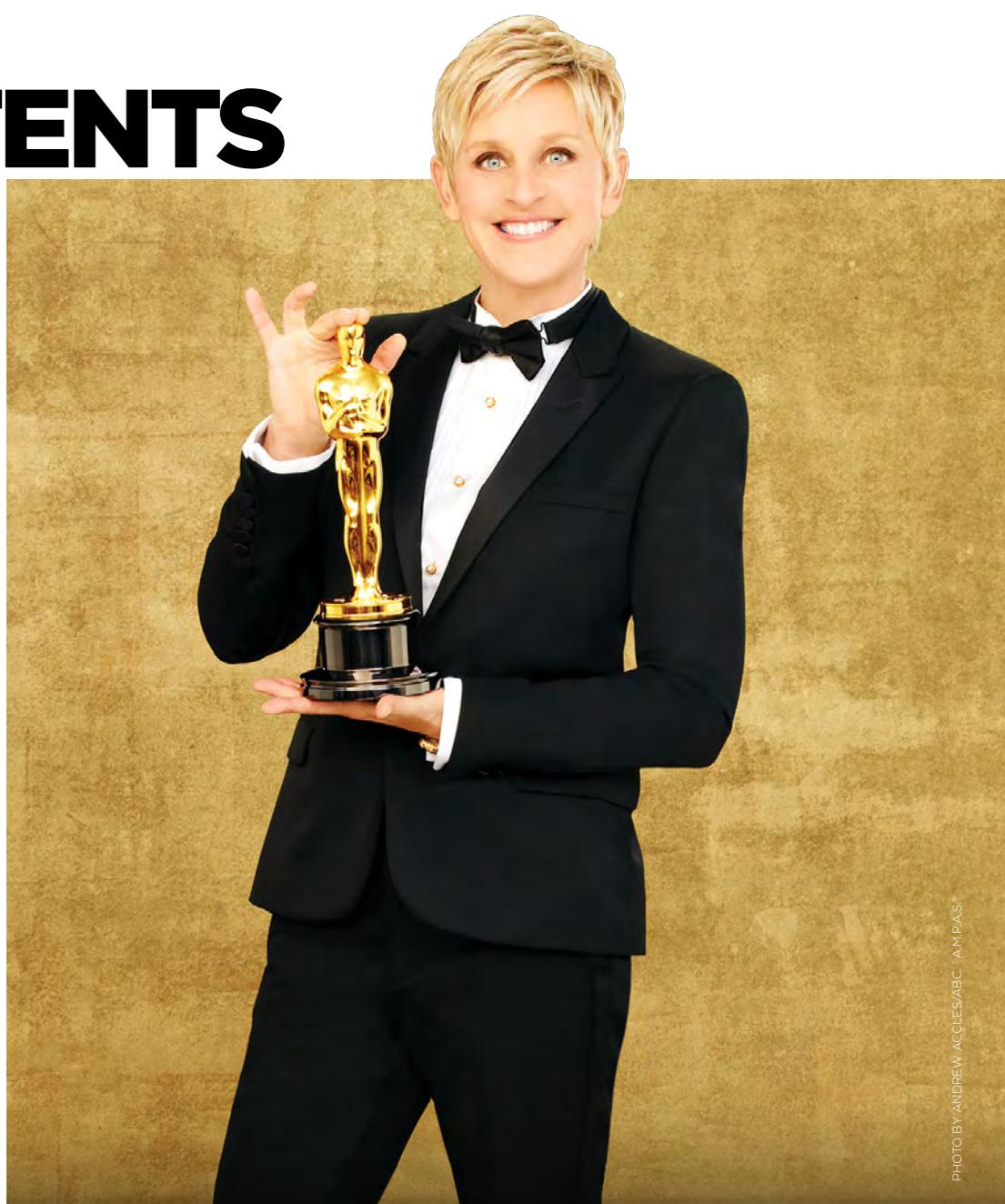


PHOTO BY ANDREW ACCLES/ABC (A.M.P.A.S.®)



PICK THE WINNERS CONTEST!



WIN AN EXOTIC VACATION PAGE 45



MAKING OSCARS LOOK EASY

By now you may have heard first-time actor Barkhad Abdi tell the story of how he met Tom Hanks, his larger-than-life co-star in *Captain Phillips*. It happened in the same frightening instant that — with cameras rolling — their characters met on the bridge of the Maersk Alabama.

Director Paul Greengrass wanted the moment when the captain of the hijacked freighter (Hanks) first lays eyes on the attacking Somali pirates (Abdi plays their leader) to be as authentic as possible. Imagine that. Your first line uttered as a professional actor occurs at the same nanosecond you meet Tom Hanks. The Somalia-born Minneapolis resident was a limo driver until he got the *Captain Phillips* gig.

What makes the story even more incredible is that we now know that of those two men, Abdi was the one who was about to give an Academy Award-nominated performance.

Abdi isn't the only actor nominated for his or her first film role this year. Lupita Nyong'o also earned an Oscar nomination for her first movie — she plays the pitiable slave Patsey in *12 Years a Slave*. But unlike Abdi, Nyong'o is a trained thespian, having studied her craft at Yale.

Earning an Oscar nomination for your first movie role isn't as unusual as you may think. Dozens of people have done it, ranging from actors who are now household names like Anna Paquin (*The Piano*), Lily Tomlin (*Nashville*), Edward Norton (*Primal Fear*) and Glenn Close (*The World According to Garp*), to those who drifted from our collective consciousness soon after they left the awards show, such as ummm, who was that actor, uhhh, with the hair and the thing?

The question is, how does it happen? How does someone stepping onto a film set for the first time achieve a level of artistry that most actors spend decades trying to achieve, rarely ever earning Oscar's approval? Sometimes, as with Abdi and last year's first-time acting nominee Quvenzhané Wallis (just six years old when she shot *Beasts of the Southern Wild*), the answer may be that they're barely acting at all, which brings a refreshing sense of naturalism to the part.

But it's the non-actors, the ones who didn't come from Yale or Juilliard or a stage background, who have the toughest time hanging on. As for Abdi, he's going to give it a shot. He recently told *The Wall Street Journal* that he's moving to L.A. "to keep acting and see where it goes from there."

Abdi and Nyong'o are just a couple of the reasons we're excited about the 86th Academy Awards. Turn to our **Awards Race Section**, page 31, for a look at the nominees, awards season fashion, host Ellen DeGeneres and more.

Also in this issue, on page 24 **Morgan Freeman**, star of *The LEGO Movie*, talks about taking a break from gravitas, on page 20 **John Goodman** explains why *The Monuments Men's* director George Clooney is so easy to work for, and on page 28 we're on the Toronto set of *Pompeii* with star **Kit Harington**.

■ MARNI WEISZ, EDITOR

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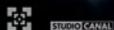
LIAM NEESON



NON-STOP

THE HIJACKING WAS JUST THE BEGINNING

FEBRUARY 28



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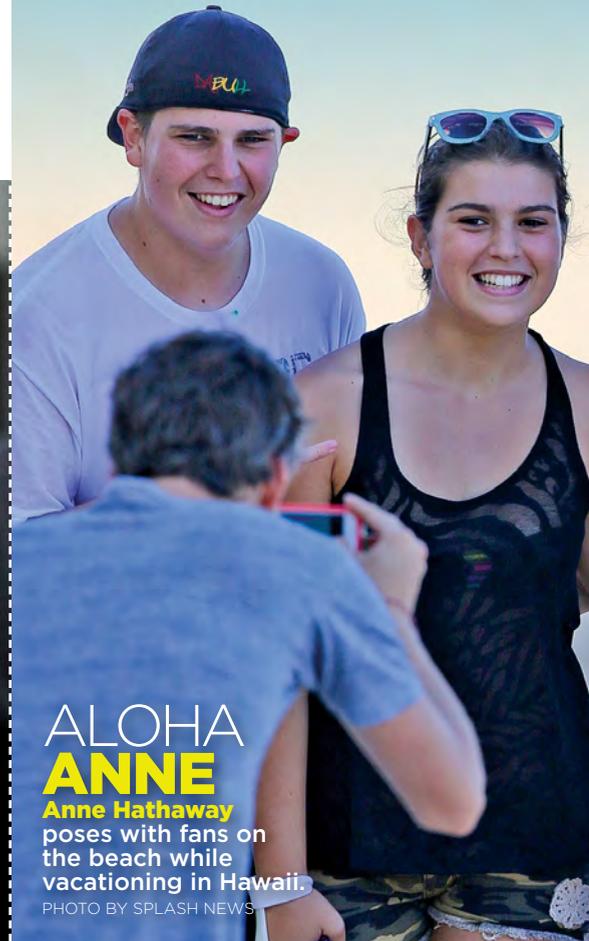
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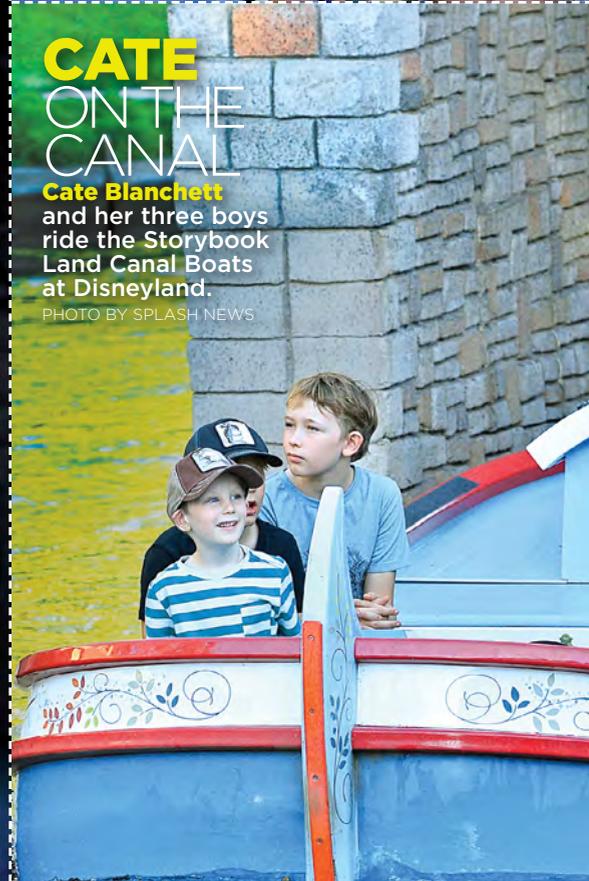
SNAPS



**RETRO
SCAR-JO**
Scarlett Johansson goes 1940s glam for a taping of the *Late Show With David Letterman* in New York.
PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



**ALOHA
ANNE**
Anne Hathaway poses with fans on the beach while vacationing in Hawaii.
PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



**CATE
ON THE
CANAL**
Cate Blanchett and her three boys ride the Storybook Land Canal Boats at Disneyland.
PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



CELEBRITY SELFIE

Vanessa Hudgens and her boyfriend **Austin Butler** (star of *The Carrie Diaries*) mess around in Venice, California.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



PETER PIPER

Peter Dinklage walks New York's cobblestone streets with daughter **Zelig** in tow.

PHOTO BY ALO CEBALLOS/GETTY

IN BRIEF



TALENT SHOW

One Chance's James Corden

Tom Hiddleston

On Home Turf: CRIMSON PEAK

Director **Guillermo del Toro** is back in Toronto for the next couple of months and he's brought along a tantalizing cast.

Tom Hiddleston, **Jessica Chastain**, **Mia Wasikowska** and **Charlie Hunnam** will all be living in the city while they film *Crimson Peak*, a haunted-house horror pic that's expected to include some of del Toro's signature creepy creatures.

The movie will shoot at Pinewood Toronto Studios, the same location where del Toro spent much of 2011 and 2012 filming his monsters vs. machines thriller *Pacific Rim*. —MW ▶

Before there was Susan Boyle, there was Paul Potts, the unlikely winner of the first season of TV's *Britain's Got Talent* (2007). The amateur opera singer with a blue-collar background is played by English comic actor

James Corden (TV's *Gavin & Stacey*) in next month's bio-pic *One Chance*.

But did you know Corden has his own *Britain's Got Talent* success story?

Orchestrated by show creator Simon Cowell, Corden and rapper Dizzee Rascal debuted an updated version

of Tears for Fears' *Shout* on the final episode of the program's 2010 season. The song became the unofficial anthem for England's soccer team during that year's FIFA World Cup and debuted at number one on the U.K. Singles Chart based on downloads alone. —MW

THE ART OF FILM

Austin, Texas, artist Mike Mitchell has been inspired by pop culture since he can remember. "When I first started drawing it was all Mario Brothers, Looney Tunes and Ninja Turtles," he says. Mitchell created his series of movie character portraits — which includes, from left, Nicolas Cage (*Raising Arizona*), Jamie Foxx (*Django Unchained*) and Daniel Day-Lewis (*Gangs of New York*) — for Austin's Mondo Gallery. Why are they all in profile? "There's something about a portrait in profile that I've always been drawn to, and with fictional characters I think it helps humanize them a bit," says Mitchell. See more at sirmikeofmitchell.com. —MW



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EBGAMES





PAINT AND TELLER

▶ **H**e always seemed better at taking direction than giving it, but Teller — the mute, diminutive half of the Penn & Teller magic duo — has directed his first feature film.

It's a documentary called *Tim's Vermeer* about 17th-century Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer, one of the first masters to paint photo-real paintings, which he did long before photography had been invented.

The "Tim" in the title is inventor Tim Jenison who suggests that Vermeer may have used mirrors and rudimentary cameras to capture images, thus allowing him to more easily recreate those images in paint. The film, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival, gets a limited release this month.

Above, Teller wears a pair of Jenison's magnifying glasses to examine a Vermeer at the Rijksmuseum. —MW



PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

BABY ON BOARD

Matthew McConaughey takes baby Livingston for a walk through the city of Belo Horizonte, Brazil. They were there to visit his wife Camila Alves' family.

Quote Unquote

There are a lot of political dilemmas that we're talking about right now in the States, with drones and how our military's becoming automated.... In 1987, it felt very much science-fiction, **in 2013 it doesn't feel so much science-fiction anymore.**

—**JOEL KINNAMAN** ON
THE *ROBOCOP* REMAKE





Jake Gyllenhaal in *Enemy*

CANADIAN SCREEN AWARDS

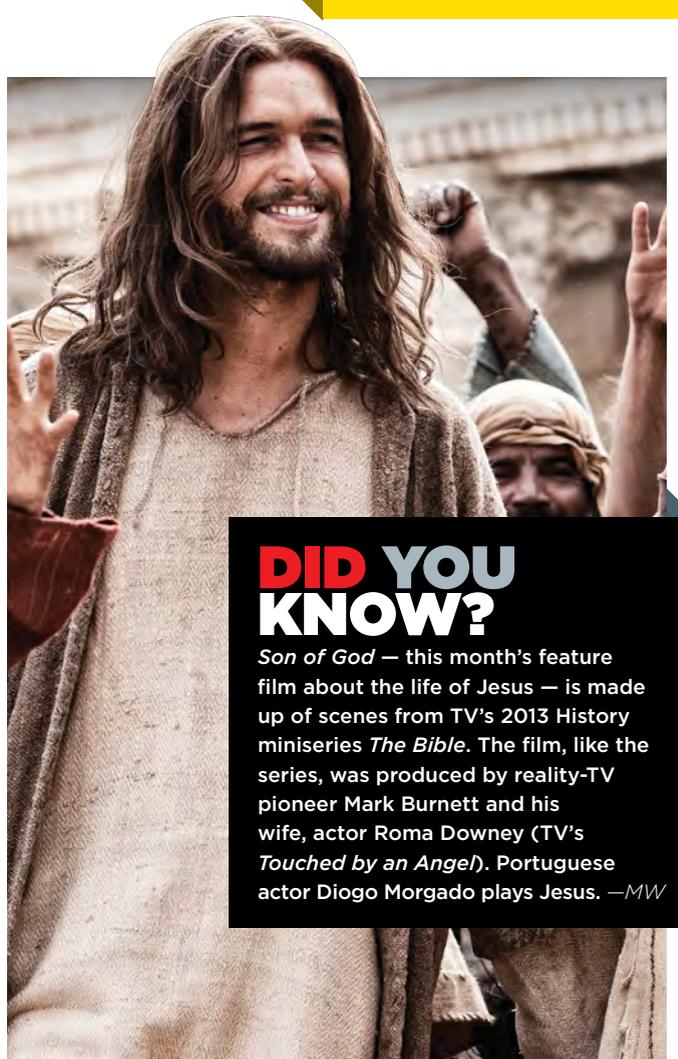
Congratulations to the 2014 Canadian Screen Awards nominees. The show takes place March 9th and honours our country's best in film and television (taking the place of the Genies and Geminis). For the full list of nominees go to www.academy.ca. Here are the eight films nominated for Best Motion Picture.

- *Le Démantèlement*
- *Empire of Dirt*
- *Enemy*
- *The F-Word*
- *Gabrielle*
- *The Grand Seduction*
- *Maina*
- *Tom à la ferme*



COME TO THE CABARET

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet's acclaimed production of *Moulin Rouge - The Ballet* comes to Cineplex theatres February 23rd, 26th and March 8th as a high-def feature film. Set at the famed Paris cabaret in the 1890s, the ballet follows two young lovers drawn to the city's vibrant, colourful milieu. Go to Cineplex.com/Events/DanceSeries for times and locations. —MW



DID YOU KNOW?

Son of God — this month's feature film about the life of Jesus — is made up of scenes from TV's 2013 History miniseries *The Bible*. The film, like the series, was produced by reality-TV pioneer Mark Burnett and his wife, actor Roma Downey (TV's *Touched by an Angel*). Portuguese actor Diogo Morgado plays Jesus. —MW

JESSICA LUCAS

FINDS HER VOICE

If they ever make a movie about Kate Winslet, casting directors may want to look at Jessica Lucas for the lead role. True, she doesn't look much like Winslet. But if you listen to the 28-year-old Vancouver native's British accent in *Pompeii*, you may notice a vocal resemblance.

"I'd never done a dialect of any kind and I was pretty nervous about it," says Lucas over the phone from New York where she's taking part in a photo shoot. Lucas plays Ariadne, slave/confidante to the film's female lead Cassia (Emily Browning), in the history-based disaster pic.

"I love listening to British actors talk on YouTube," she continues. "Kate Winslet, I used her a lot because I really like her in general. So I would watch her interviews, listen to her talk, and mimic that."

I know what you're thinking. Pompeii — the site of that devastating volcanic eruption in 79 AD — is in Italy, so why is Lucas speaking with a British accent? Truth is, when the story takes place the locals would have spoken Latin, rather than Italian, and a 1st-century Latin accent is hard to replicate what with our lack of audio files. Plus, most of Lucas's co-stars — like London-born Kit Harington and Jared Harris — have such great British accents.

In addition to absorbing dialect from Winslet and her co-stars, Lucas paid particular attention to the vocal stylings of her director, Newcastle, England, native Paul W. S. Anderson in their meetings leading up to the film's Toronto shoot. "I'm sure he knew I was picking up some eccentricities of his," she says.

Since making the move from Vancouver to Los Angeles five years ago Lucas hasn't lacked for work. Last month she was in theatres as Michael B. Jordan's difficult ex-wife in *That Awkward Moment*, she played Olivia in the *Evil Dead* remake and had roles on TV's *Cult*, *Friends With Benefits* and the reboots of *90210* and *Melrose Place*.

"I'm really enjoying living there and I never thought I would," Lucas says of L.A. "Being Canadian we're just a little bit more laidback and down to earth, and I had a really hard time adjusting to the people in L.A. And then I found a group of people that are just awesome [and are neither from L.A. nor in the industry] and that's helped me with the move." —MARNI WEISZ

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BUCKNER/GETTY

POMPEII
HITS THEATRES
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ALL DRESSED UP

KIM BASINGER

In New York for the premiere of *Grudge Match*.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

NAOMIE HARRIS

At the Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

CHRISTINA RICCI

At the UNICEF Snowflake Ball in New York.

PHOTO BY GREGORY PAGE/KEYSTONE PRESS



**WILL
FERRELL**

In Los Angeles for a screening of *The Spoils of Babylon*.

PHOTO BY LUKE VACHON/SPLASH NEWS



**MARGOT
ROBBIE**

At *The Wolf of Wall Street*'s New York premiere.

PHOTO BY MATT BARON/KEYSTONE PRESS



**JEREMY
RENNER**

At the Los Angeles premiere of *American Hustle*.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

IN THEATRES

FEBRUARY 7



THE MONUMENTS MEN

George Clooney directs, co-writes and stars in this fact-based World War II drama about an Allied team of museum directors, curators and art historians sent to the front lines to save cultural treasures stolen by the Nazis. The top-notch cast includes **Matt Damon, Cate Blanchett, Bill Murray, John Goodman** and **Jean Dujardin**. See **John Goodman** interview, [page 20](#).



The LEGO Movie

THE LEGO MOVIE

This animated/stop-motion pic finds ordinary LEGO building block Emmet (voiced by **Chris Pratt**) joining forces with LEGO's master builders — including wizard Vitruvius (**Morgan Freeman**), Superman (**Channing Tatum**), Batman (**Will Arnett**) and Wonder Woman (**Cobie Smulders**) — to help stop President Business (**Will Ferrell**) from destroying the LEGO universe. See **Morgan Freeman** interview, [page 24](#).

VAMPIRE ACADEMY

The first book in author **Richelle Mead**'s bestselling Young Adult series hits screens with **Zoey Deutch** playing Rose Hathaway, a half-human, half-vampire who's training to become the bodyguard of her best friend, the vampire princess Lissa (**Lucy Fry**). The supernatural babes attend St. Vladimir's Academy, a supposed safe haven for vamps that's actually teeming with danger.

FEBRUARY 12



ROBOCOP

It's the year 2028, and a critically wounded Detroit police officer (**Joel Kinnaman**) is harvested by the evil OmniCorp to become the world's first cyborg cop. Unfortunately, OmniCorp doesn't realize their robotic cop has retained his human feelings and can't be controlled.



ABOUT LAST NIGHT

David Mamet's 1974 play *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* became the 1986 film *About Last Night*, which is now remade starring **Kevin Hart** and **Regina Hall** as Bernie and Joan, a combustible couple whose relationship is based on great sex. However, they are forced to re-evaluate their relationship when friends Danny (**Michael Ealy**) and Debbie (**Joy Bryant**) fall in love.

WINTER'S TALE

Based on author **Mark Helprin's** lauded novel comes this love story set in 1906 New York that sees a thief (**Colin Farrell**) on the run from an Irish gangster (**Russell Crowe**). He breaks into the home of a dying woman (*Downton Abbey's* **Jessica Brown Findlay**), falls in love with her and is ultimately transported to the present day, where he searches for answers to how he got there.

ENDLESS LOVE

Endless Love (the month's third remake of a 1980s film, after *RoboCop* and *About Last Night*) recounts the love affair between naïve, upper-class Jade (**Gabriella Wilde**) and blue-collar hunk David (**Alex Pettyfer**), a match that doesn't sit well with Jade's class-conscious father (**Bruce Greenwood**). CONTINUED ►



Colin Farrell falls for Jessica Brown Findlay in *Winter's Tale*



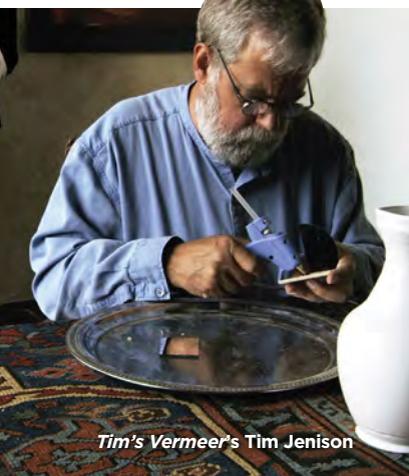
Pompeii's Kit Harington

▶ POMPEII

It's a gladiator pic/disaster movie/love story all rolled up into a 3D ball of excitement. *Game of Thrones* hottie **Kit Harington** plays slave-turned-gladiator Milo, who falls in love with the beautiful Cassia (**Emily Browning**) and sets out to save her when the volcanic Mount Vesuvius explodes. **See Kit Harington interview, page 28.**

THE WIND RISES

Legendary Japanese animator **Hayao Miyazaki** announced that he's retiring, and that *The Wind Rises* is his final film. It's a lyrical retelling of the life of Jiro Horikoshi, a young boy who grows up to marry the woman of his dreams and design fighter planes used by the Japanese during World War II.



Tim's Vermeer's Tim Jenison

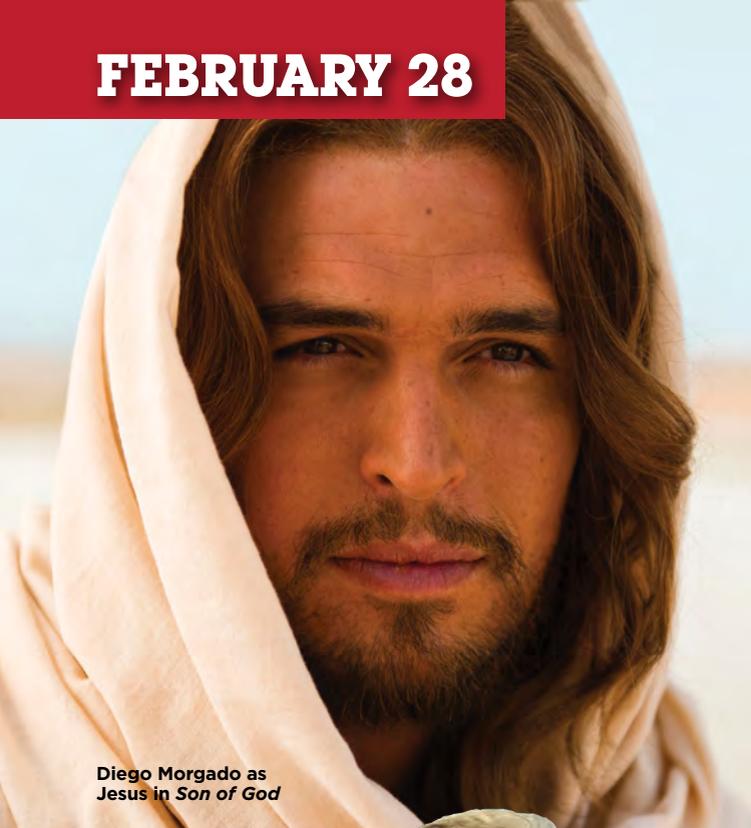
TIM'S VERMEER

Teller, of Penn & Teller fame, directs this little documentary about **Tim Jenison**, a Texas inventor obsessed with figuring out how the great Dutch Master Johannes Vermeer painted photo-real works of art 150 years before photography was invented.



3 DAYS TO KILL

Kevin Costner continues his torrid acting pace with this action/spy pic that seems like a mash-up of every other recent action/spy pic. Costner plays a government agent injected with a drug by his associate (**Amber Heard**). He now has three days to carry out a dangerous mission or he'll die. Meanwhile, he also has to look after his teenage daughter (**Hailee Steinfeld**), who has no idea her dad is a lethal spy.



Diego Morgado as Jesus in *Son of God*

SON OF GOD

The producers of the popular TV series *The Bible* have taken the sections recounting the life of Jesus (played by Portuguese actor **Diego Morgado**) and assembled them for this cinematic release.

WELCOME TO YESTERDAY

Michael Bay produces this found footage film about a group of high school teens who repair a broken time travel machine, thus enabling them to go back in time. They have a blast until it becomes apparent their jaunts into the past have changed the future — and not in a good way.



NON-STOP

Liam Neeson reteams with his *Unknown* director **Jaume Collet-Serra** for this action/thriller set on a transatlantic flight heading from New York to London. Neeson plays a U.S. air marshal who receives texts stating that one passenger will be killed every 20 minutes unless \$150-million is transferred into an untraceable bank account.

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SAT., FEB. 15
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SAT., FEB. 22

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THURS., FEB. 13

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The Monuments Men,
from left: John Goodman,
Matt Damon, George Clooney,
Bob Balaban and Bill Murray



THE GREAT JOHN GOODMAN

THE MONUMENTS MEN HITS THEATRES FEBRUARY 7TH



Adding veteran actor **John Goodman** to your cast is almost guaranteed to make your movie better — a fact not lost on director George Clooney who cast Goodman as a sculptor-turned-soldier in *The Monuments Men* ■ BY BOB STRAUSS

John Goodman is the type of guy that you can't miss, but he still sneaks up on you. The big guy has been a ubiquitous figure on TV since he first appeared on *Roseanne* in 1988, and he's popped up in several movies each year since then, too. His is always a welcome, efficient presence, whether going for laughs or menace (or, as is often the case in his parallel stage career, song and dance). Goodman has been such a reliable pro that we've often taken his work for granted. If he stands out, it's usually as an eccentric Coen brothers character such as *The Big Lebowski*'s unhinged but well-groomed Walter Sobchak, or in drag during one of his many memorable *Saturday Night Live* hosting gigs.

But something's changed in the past few years. People started realizing that Goodman isn't just always good, but is more often than not pretty great.

"I'll spread my legs for just about anybody," the 61-year-old, Missouri-born Goodman jokes during an interview in Los Angeles after having been read a list of movies and TV shows he's appeared in since 2010. That list includes his outstanding work in *Flight*, *Treme*, *The Hangover Part III*, *Damages*, the Coens' *Inside Llewyn Davis*, Amazon's original series *Alpha House* and, oh yeah, the past two Best Picture Oscar winners, *The Artist* and *Argo*.

In his latest movie role, Goodman finally gets to play someone much like himself: an artist.

The Monuments Men is based on the true-life story of mostly American creative types and art historians who were tasked with saving Europe's rich heritage in the last year of World War II.

"I play a sculptor," Goodman explains. "They track down stolen art that the Nazis looted...and try to prevent our side from blowing treasures to kingdom come."

CONTINUED ►

AN



From left: Dimitri Leonidas, John Goodman, George Clooney and Matt Damon in *The Monuments Men*

► Directed by George Clooney in Germany last year, *The Monuments Men*'s all-star cast includes Clooney himself, Matt Damon, Bill Murray, Cate Blanchett and Goodman's co-star from *The Artist*, Jean Dujardin. Although the film ran into some post-production snafus — it had originally been scheduled to open in December of last year for awards consideration — Goodman says it ranks among the smoothest productions he's made. There are well over 100 of those.

"George is one of the best directors that I've ever worked for because he knows what he wants, doesn't waste time and he's so much goddamn fun," the actor says. "It is a lot of laughs. It's relaxed, and because he's prepared, because he knows what he wants, if something goes wrong he can improvise his way around it. If there are hardships, he doesn't let anybody know it."

"From the top down, it was a great crew and a great set, and it was a lot of fun."

It hasn't always been fun for Goodman. Raised by a widowed mom (his father died when John was two) in St. Louis, the husky, working-class kid was big enough to dream, with some justification, of a football career.

Once he got into Southwest Missouri State University, though, his interest in sports was sidetracked by a new passion.

"I felt out of place and was trying to find my way in life, but I didn't really have a clue," Goodman recalls. "When I found acting, it all started to make sense and I dove completely into it."

Must be something in the water down there. Goodman's drama classmates included Kathleen Turner and Tess Harper. Like any serious actor he headed east upon graduation, and was first noticed in the Broadway production of *Big River*. New York City was also where alcohol became a problem.

Goodman has said he's been sober since 2006, and although it may not be that discernible from the prolific workload he did before then, that period of sobriety coincides with a career renaissance.



Goodman (left) on set with George Clooney

"I was able to be more picky — last year," Goodman says, downplaying any suggestion that he's reached some Olympian height. "It takes a long time to get there. I've just been lucky, and it's all cyclical. Next year at this time, I might be pacing my living room, wondering why nobody loves me anymore. Or maybe I'll just be tired and grumble, 'I'm all right, I hope no one calls.'"

"All I've ever wanted to do was make a living as an actor. If I was ambitious, I'd have wanted more!" he adds with a laugh. "No, it's turned out very well." □

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

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THE LEGO MOVIE
HITS THEATRES
FEBRUARY 7TH

FREEMAN CLICKS WITH LEGO MOVIE

Playing a benevolent sage who offers advice to a nascent hero? Yup, that's a **Morgan Freeman** role. Playing a small, plastic LEGO figurine? That one's a bit of a surprise. Here the Oscar-winning actor talks about LEGO, staying busy and the blues ■ BY COLIN COVERT

When you've played God Almighty (twice), the President of the United States, the President of South Africa, a CIA director, a general, Batman's armourer and Miss Daisy's driver, what new acting challenge could you seek?

For Morgan Freeman, the answer is clear. Playing a LEGO figurine. *The LEGO Movie* features Freeman's rich baritone in a major vocal role. And with a vast filmography spread across diverse genres, the 76-year-old has never done anything this flat-out silly.

"Do I enjoy doing things off the beaten path from that gravitas thing? Yes," he says with a chuckle during a recent phone interview.

Freeman says he found the LEGO script funny enough to make a mini-fig laugh its head clean off its neck plug. "It's hilarious." And the studio behind the film has the clout to spin it into a substantial hit. "It's Warner Bros.," he says.

The computer-animated comedy is one of those "fellowship of strangers on an epic quest to stop an evil tyrant" sagas, he explains. The filmmakers assembled a mad-talented vocal cast that includes Chris Pratt, Will Ferrell, Liam Neeson, Nick Offerman, Elizabeth Banks, Will Arnett and Jonah Hill.

Pratt plays an average LEGO figurine in a rigid construction-toy world where everything clicks together a bit too neatly. Recruited by underground rebels, he is hopelessly unprepared for his mission to save the world from the greedy President Business (Ferrell). Freeman plays a white-haired, incandescent-eyed Yoda-meets-Gandalf mystic named Vitruvius. He does his patented melodious-dispenser-of-wisdom thing, with a side order of exasperation.

It's been a busy, globe-hopping, boundary-stretching year for Freeman, who works incessantly, yet never seems to be spreading himself thin.

"Last January I was in Prague, shooting a very interesting movie with Clive Owen," he says of Japanese director Kazuaki Kiriya's fantasy epic *The Last Knights*. Freeman's nobleman and Owen's general seek revenge against a corrupt emperor.

He went to Paris to shoot Luc Besson's sci-fi *Lucy*. "It's about a woman who is able to use the entire potential of her brain," says Freeman. Scarlett Johansson plays a drug mule smuggling an experimental drug in her system. When she accidentally absorbs the drug, she acquires transhuman powers. Freeman plays an academic who can explain all this in reassuring, resonant tones.

Freeman also reunited with *The Dark Knight* cinematographer Wally Pfister for the camera ace's directorial debut *Transcendence*, a techno-thriller co-starring Johnny Depp. "Oh, yeah, I forgot about that one," he says. "That's another science-fiction...about uploading the brain into a computer." He plays a security expert guarding artificial-intelligence pioneer Depp.

Freeman has appeared in or narrated more than 90 feature films, but isn't planning a celebration for when he does his 100th. "It's no big thing," he says with a shrug. With a résumé stretching back a half century, it's hard to imagine a time when Freeman wasn't film royalty. He can remember, though.

Freeman was born in Memphis in 1937. When he was just six, his family moved to Chicago's tough South Side. He ran to school and back home every day through a gauntlet of gang fights. An impulsive preteen, he'd leap rooftop to rooftop across alleys on a dare. "I'm surprised I survived," he says.

He entered the Air Force in 1955 with his sights set on becoming a fighter pilot, but the nearer he got to the goal, the more he realized



The LEGO Movie's
wise sage, Vitruvius

"Do I enjoy doing things off the beaten path from the gravitas thing," asks Freeman. **"Yes"**

it was wrong for him. When his enlistment ended four years later, he drove from his Southern California base to Los Angeles and enrolled in acting, voice and dance classes. He landed his breakthrough role in 1971, playing Easy Reader (among other characters) on the PBS kids' show *The Electric Company*. His first Oscar nomination came in 1987 for his hair-raising turn as a Harlem pimp in *Street Smart*. His first win was as Clint Eastwood's corner man in 2005's *Million Dollar Baby*.

Now, when he's not on set, Freeman kicks back on his farm in tiny Charleston, Mississippi. In the mid-nineties he built a vast, seven-gabled house on land originally owned by his grandparents, where his mother and stepfather are buried, the place where he says he's happiest. The area is a tourist destination for music fans. Freeman discusses movies with polite engagement, but talks about Delta blues with real enthusiasm. In honour of his hometown's rich musical history, he built the fabled Ground Zero Blues Club in sleepy nearby Clarksdale.

"Clarksdale is the storied home of the great-great-grandfather of the blues, of American music, Robert Johnson," he said. "People like Muddy Waters, B. B. King, Lightnin' Hopkins, all those old blues guys, came out of that very area. People were walking the streets of Clarksdale looking for somewhere they could hear this blues. And so my partner Bill Lockett and I decided, 'Let's build one.' Our club is pretty well world renowned now."

If you're lucky you might find Freeman there on a Saturday night. He doesn't hold court, simply occupies a barstool, mingles with the patrons. If the music is hot, he's been known to accept a lady's invitation to dance.

"There are not that many people that know I have great dance moves," he says. ☑

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

Joel Kinnaman as the rebooted RoboCop

By the Numbers: ROBOCOP

Joel Kinnaman takes over the character Peter Weller made famous in the 1987 film about a half-man/half-cyborg law-enforcement officer

2029: The year the original, 1987 film takes place

2028: The year the new film takes place

13-million: Budget of the 1987 movie

120-million: Budget of the new movie

67,436: Dollars raised by fans to support the creation of a RoboCop statue in Detroit. It should be unveiled later this year

40: Peter Weller's age when the first *RoboCop* movie came out

34: Joel Kinnaman's age as the new *RoboCop* movie comes out

0: Number of major Hollywood films Dutch director Paul Verhoeven had made before 1987's *RoboCop*

0: Number of major Hollywood films Brazilian director José Padilha had made before this year's *RoboCop*

4: Number of *RoboCop* movies, including this month's

21: Years since the last *RoboCop* movie was in theatres

3: Pounds per day Peter Weller lost because the suit was so hot and heavy

88: The approval rating of the original film on Rottentomatoes.com

3: Number of Oscar nominations for the first film, for Best Sound, Film Editing and Sounds Effects Editing. It won the latter

3: Number of RoboCop's known Prime Directives: serve the public trust; protect the innocent; uphold the law. A fourth is classified



ROBOCOP
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FEBRUARY 12TH

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LO

Among the Ruins

Pompeii's Kit Harington
and Emily Browning

POMPEII
HITS THEATRES
FEBRUARY 21ST

We're on the Toronto set of *Pompeii* to talk to **Kit Harington** about making a love/disaster/gladiator pic set against one of the greatest tragedies the world has ever seen ■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

Kit Harington is dreaming of a nice pair of slacks.

The 27-year-old English actor is best known for playing Jon Snow on HBO TV's popular fantasy series *Game of Thrones*. Fans of the show will tell you noble-hearted Snow wears nothing but black robes and heavy furs, making him appear more like a muskox than a man.

And today, on the Toronto set of the historical action pic *Pompeii*, Harington sports a dark leather skirt that hikes up well above his knees when he sits down for an interview. "I'm used to it now," he says, lifting the edge of his skirt. "It's actually very airy."

"My agent said recently, 'We need to get you in a suit,' and I agreed with that," says the actor. "But I love the fight stuff and I love the period stuff, otherwise I wouldn't be doing it. I took *Pompeii* because I like sword fighting; I like the activeness, I have a lot of fun with it."

Directed by Paul W. S. Anderson (the producer/director behind the *Resident Evil* franchise), *Pompeii* is a triple-decker genre film — a love story, gladiator pic and disaster film — set against the events surrounding the eruption of Italy's Mount Vesuvius that destroyed the ancient cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in 79 AD.

Harington plays slave-turned-gladiator Milo, who is in love with Cassia (Emily Browning), the daughter of a Roman aristocrat (Jared Harris). However, Cassia is betrothed to a nefarious Roman senator (Kiefer Sutherland), who despises Milo. When Mount Vesuvius erupts, Milo sets out to rescue Cassia amid the devastation.

Harington admits one of the biggest hurdles he faces with *Pompeii* is convincing audiences he's not simply playing a skimpier dressed version of his TV alter ego Jon Snow.

"I look exactly like Jon Snow in this movie, and the problem is trying to differ between the two," he says. "But I think they're different enough in that Milo is far more aggressive, less emotional and less introverted than Jon Snow. The thing I enjoyed with Milo is that he really loves fighting. I mean he loves taking his rage out on the world."

Another challenge is that any film featuring gladiators is going to be compared to Russell Crowe's *Gladiator*, the gold standard of gladiator movies.

"I've grown up with that film like everyone has," says Harington. "It's one of those films that you can watch again and again and again. You can say, 'We want to separate ourselves from that film so they're not compared,' but essentially they're based in the

CONTINUED ►



Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje (left) with Harington

(he made his feature debut in *Silent Hill: Revelation 3D*), to carry the action on his sculpted shoulders.

It seems the filmmakers made the right choice, as taking charge runs in the family — Christopher Catesby “Kit” Harington is a descendant of British monarch Charles II, and his family line includes noblemen, barons and



WALK AND TALK

If you thought you saw Kiefer Sutherland (above) — who plays baddie *Corvus* in *Pompeii* — strolling around Toronto last summer muttering to himself, you were right.

“I had quite a lot of dialogue in this movie,” says Sutherland during a break in shooting. “And on a film, I try to learn everything like a play, so I learn it before I go to work. I spent a lot of time walking from [the set] to Ossington and Queen Street doing the dialogue in my head. People would walk by and see me talking to myself, so I tried to walk as late as possible.” —*IR*

▶ same period, and there are a lot of similarities between the two stories.

“I love what Russell Crowe did with that part, you’ve got that living in your head so you don’t want to copy that, but you can’t get away from it. I’m a gladiator, I’m meant to be tough, hard and brutal.”

All that testosterone is balanced out by a love story, a romance played out against impending disaster, which explains why *Pompeii* is being referred to as “*Gladiator* meets *Titanic*,” a description Harington can get behind.

“What’s interesting about *Titanic* is you know the ship is going to sink,” he says. “You know that’s coming and you’re waiting for that. With this, you know the volcano is going to go off so you’re waiting for that.”

“What I’m hoping with this film is that people will find the journey interesting and get hooked while they are waiting to get to that huge CGI explosion — which will hopefully look really impressive.”

While our set visit doesn’t include a sneak peek at the CGI effects, we do get to stroll along Pompeii’s faux-cobblestone streets littered with small pieces of fake volcanic lava, remnants from the eruption scenes filmed weeks ago. Outside, there’s an amphitheatre where the gladiator action take place, and the unmistakable smell of dirty straw and horses permeates the air.

Pompeii is a large-scale production, and one that’s relying on Harington, in just his second film

politicians. Harington’s mother is a playwright, and although he was attracted to acting as a youngster, it was just one of his many interests.

“When I was growing up I wanted to be a war correspondent,” he remembers. “And then I wanted to be a cameraman, and then I wanted to be a photographer, and I was going to drama school. It got to the point where I had to pick something, and because I was doing so much theatre, I realized that this must be the thing I love.”

He was still in drama school when he landed the role of Albert in the play *War Horse*, and shortly thereafter was cast in *Thrones*. Suddenly, the soft-spoken Harington was dealing with newfound fame, fans and the media.

“I’m getting more used to it, I was very bad at it at first, I was so naïve,” he says smiling. “As narcissistic as I am as an actor, I never realized the whole publicity thing was coming.”

“It’s a real skill to be able to be interviewed, and you get better at it. I really respect actors like George Clooney, who’ve got that natural charm, who can just switch it on and be very good with their answers.”

“But I didn’t really get into [acting] for the fame. It’s a nice thing — I like that people love the TV show and will hopefully love this film. And I’m enjoying it, I’d be stupid to say I wasn’t.”

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

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Inside

HOST ELLEN
DEGENERES
CRITICS' PICKS
2014 AWARDS
SEASON FASHION
YOUR
NOMINEES
OSCAR BALLOT



WELCOME BACK, ELLEN!

“I am so excited to be hosting the Oscars for the second time. You know what they say — the third time’s the charm.”

— **Ellen DeGeneres**
on hosting the
86th Academy Awards

It’s exactly that kind of folksy, self-deprecating humour that makes the beloved comedian, TV talk show host and sometime actor the perfect choice to host the planet’s most self-important awards show.

DeGeneres first hosted the Oscars in 2007 (becoming the telecast’s first openly gay host) and immediately won over the crowd and viewers at home with jokes and gags — vacuuming the carpet, going into the crowd to take pictures with celebs — that gently poked fun at the event without demeaning it.

That’s a skill last year’s host Seth MacFarlane could have used. His envelope-pushing jokes about domestic violence, ageism and slavery offended many, as did the childish (some even said misogynistic) musical number, “We Saw Your Boobs.”

Bringing Ellen back feels so right, and only in Hollywood would the notion of choosing a 56-year-old, vegan, married lesbian to host its biggest gig feel like a safe bet. —INGRID RANDOJA



AWARDS RACE

CRITICS' PICKS

In case those final moments before making your Oscar picks are fraught with indecision we've compiled a handy list of the year's best actors, directors and movies as chosen by film critics from across North America

TORONTO FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION

BEST PICTURE:

Inside Llewyn Davis

BEST DIRECTOR:

Alfonso Cuarón, *Gravity*

BEST ACTOR: Oscar Isaac,

Inside Llewyn Davis

BEST ACTRESS:

Cate Blanchett, *Blue Jasmine*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR:

Jared Leto, *Dallas Buyers Club*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:

Jennifer Lawrence,

American Hustle

VANCOUVER FILM CRITICS CIRCLE

BEST PICTURE:

12 Years a Slave

BEST DIRECTOR:

Alfonso Cuarón, *Gravity*

BEST ACTOR: Oscar Isaac,

Inside Llewyn Davis

BEST ACTRESS:

Cate Blanchett, *Blue Jasmine*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR:

Jared Leto, *Dallas Buyers Club*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:

Jennifer Lawrence,

American Hustle

NEW YORK FILM CRITICS CIRCLE

BEST PICTURE: *American Hustle*

BEST DIRECTOR:

Steve McQueen, *12 Years a Slave*

BEST ACTOR: Robert Redford,

All is Lost

BEST ACTRESS:

Cate Blanchett, *Blue Jasmine*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR:

Jared Leto, *Dallas Buyers Club*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:

Jennifer Lawrence,

American Hustle

LOS ANGELES FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION

BEST PICTURE (tie):

Gravity and *Her*

BEST DIRECTOR:

Alfonso Cuarón, *Gravity*

BEST ACTOR:

Bruce Dern, *Nebraska*

BEST ACTRESS (tie):

Cate Blanchett, *Blue Jasmine*

and Adèle Exarchopoulos,

Blue is the Warmest Color

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR (tie):

Jared Leto, *Dallas Buyers Club*

and James Franco,

Spring Breakers

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:

Lupita Nyong'o, *12 Years a Slave*



12 Years a Slave's Michael Fassbender (left) and Chiwetel Ejiofor

NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW

BEST PICTURE: *Her*

BEST DIRECTOR:

Spike Jonze, *Her*

BEST ACTOR:

Bruce Dern, *Nebraska*

BEST ACTRESS:

Emma Thompson,

Saving Mr. Banks

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR:

Will Forte, *Nebraska*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:

Octavia Spencer,

Fruitvale Station

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF FILM CRITICS

BEST PICTURE:

Inside Llewyn Davis

BEST DIRECTOR:

Joel and Ethan Coen,

Inside Llewyn Davis

BEST ACTOR: Oscar Isaac,

Inside Llewyn Davis

BEST ACTRESS:

Cate Blanchett, *Blue Jasmine*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR:

James Franco,

Spring Breakers

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:

Jennifer Lawrence,

American Hustle

CHICAGO FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION

BEST PICTURE:

12 Years a Slave

BEST DIRECTOR:

Steve McQueen,

12 Years a Slave

BEST ACTOR: Chiwetel Ejiofor,

12 Years a Slave

BEST ACTRESS:

Cate Blanchett, *Blue Jasmine*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR:

Jared Leto, *Dallas Buyers Club*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:

Lupita Nyong'o,

12 Years a Slave

GOLDEN GLOBES

Chosen by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association — an eclectic organization of Los Angeles-based entertainment journalists who write for non-American publications — the Golden Globes are often an indication of who will walk away with Oscars

BEST PICTURE (Drama):

12 Years a Slave

BEST PICTURE (Comedy or Musical): *American Hustle*

BEST DIRECTOR:

Alfonso Cuarón, *Gravity*

BEST ACTOR (Drama):

Matthew McConaughey,

Dallas Buyers Club

BEST ACTOR (Comedy or Musical): Leonardo DiCaprio,

The Wolf of Wall Street

BEST ACTRESS (Drama):

Cate Blanchett, *Blue Jasmine*

BEST ACTRESS (Comedy or Musical): Amy Adams,

American Hustle

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR:

Jared Leto, *Dallas Buyers Club*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:

Jennifer Lawrence,

American Hustle



Sandra Bullock and George Clooney in *Gravity*

AWARDS RACE



2014 RED CARPET... SO FAR

Jennifer Lawrence

went with Dior for the Golden Globes.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



Lupita Nyong'o

made a splash at the Golden Globes in a caped Ralph Lauren gown.

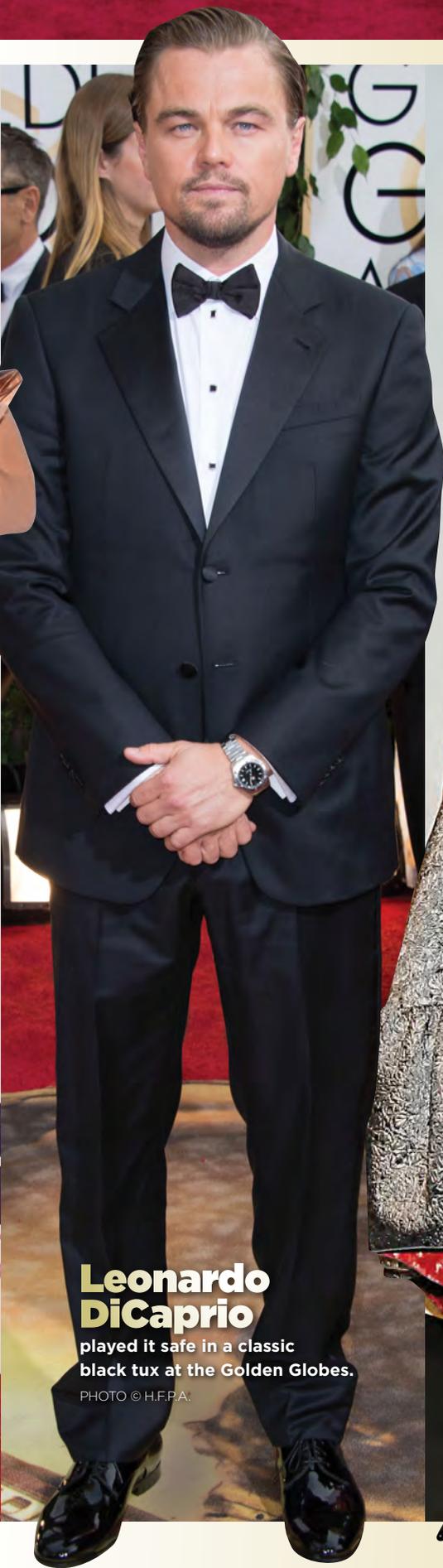
PHOTO © H.F.P.A.



Sandra Bullock

chose a Peter Pilotto dress for the People's Choice Awards.

PHOTO BY C. FLANIGAN/GETTY



Leonardo DiCaprio

played it safe in a classic black tux at the Golden Globes.

PHOTO © H.F.P.A.



Cate Blanchett

sparkled in a brocade gown from Antonio Berardi at the New York Film Critics Awards.

PHOTO BY JENNIFER MITCHELL/SPLASH NEWS



Matthew McConaughey

wore a Saint Laurent Smoking Jacket in Gold Tweed Lamé to the Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards Gala.

PHOTO BY JIM SMEAL/KEYSTONE PRESS

OSCAR NOMINEES

BEST PICTURE



AMERICAN HUSTLE

Over the past four years director David O. Russell has become an Oscar-making machine thanks to *The Fighter*, *Silver Linings Playbook*, and (quite possibly) this film. It's the slightly true story of an ambitious FBI Agent (Bradley Cooper) who pressures two con artists (Christian Bale, Amy Adams) into helping him prove politicians are on the take.



CAPTAIN PHILLIPS

This true story of an American freighter captured by Somali pirates works because Tom Hanks plays the ship's captain, Richard Phillips, as a flawed man who acts heroically without being a typical Hollywood hero. Director Paul Greengrass also deserves kudos for retaining some of the story's more complex angles.



12 YEARS A SLAVE

A year after Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained* was nominated in this category, British director Steve McQueen's very different perspective on African-American slavery earns a nod. A difficult, superbly acted drama, *12 Years* was inspired by the real story of Solomon Northup (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a free black man kidnapped and sold into slavery.



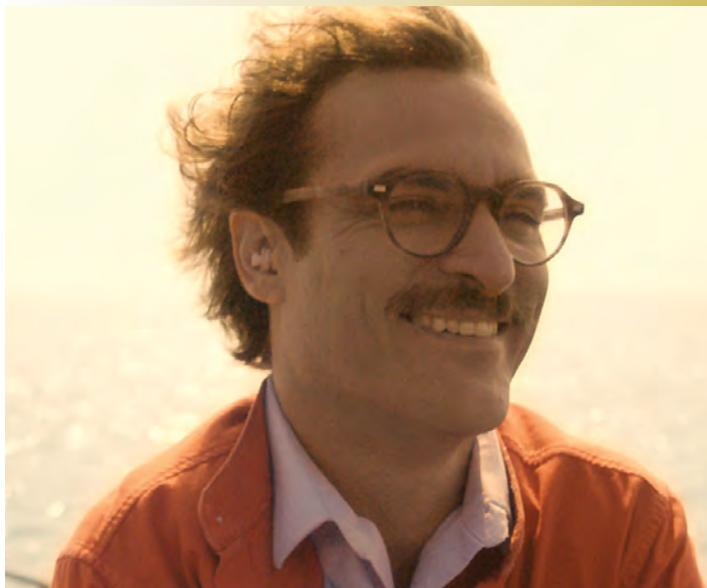
DALLAS BUYERS CLUB

The AIDS scourge affected us all, but Hollywood lost so very many of their own, which is why this tale of two AIDS patients — a homophobic Texan (Matthew McConaughey) and a transgendered woman (Jared Leto) — teaming up to save the lives of other AIDS patients hit home in La-La Land, and is a dark horse come Oscar night.



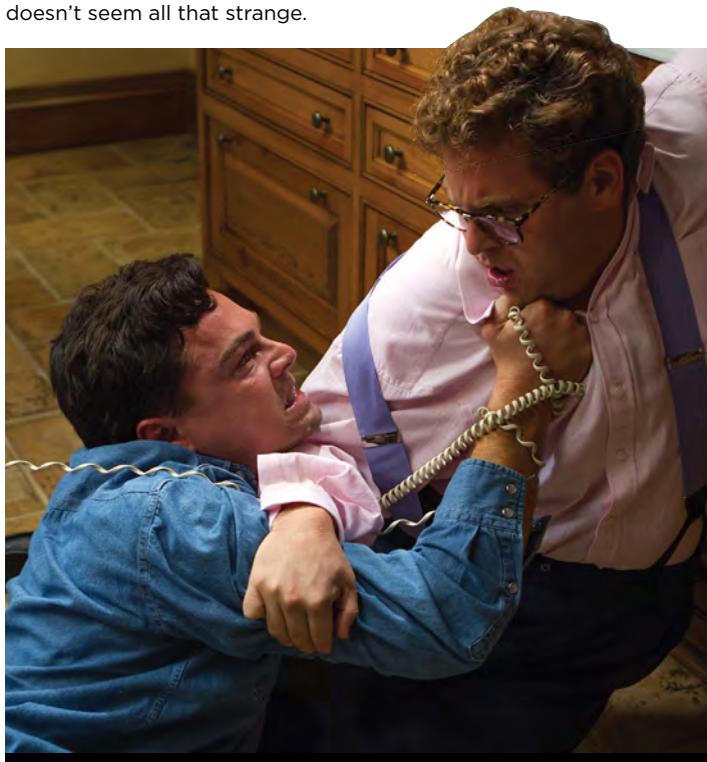
GRAVITY

Critics loved to love this unique sci-fi; don't be surprised if the Academy feels the same. Sandra Bullock and George Clooney star as astronauts sent hurtling through space after their shuttle is hit by debris, but director Alfonso Cuarón is the real star for making viewers feel as if they're the ones floating beyond Earth's grasp.



HER

Is it only a matter of time? Writer-director Spike Jonze creates a disquieting world where humans rarely interact and a sad man (Joaquin Phoenix) falls in love with a computer operating system (voiced by Scarlett Johansson). And for some reason, it doesn't seem all that strange.



THE WOLF OF WALL STREET

What part does likeability play in the whole Oscar race? *The Wolf of Wall Street* is a largely unapologetic true-life drama about a greedy, unlikeable 1980s stockbroker, made by the very likeable Hollywood duo of Leonardo DiCaprio and his five-time director Martin Scorsese.

CONTINUED ▶



NEBRASKA

As of press time, director Alexander Payne's black-and-white drama had yet to break \$10-million at the box office, but those who did see it rave about its depiction of a taciturn father (Bruce Dern) and his sympathetic son (*Saturday Night Live*'s Will Forte) on a road trip to claim the million-dollar prize dad thinks he won in a contest.



PHILOMENA

Philomena wouldn't have had a chance back when there were only five Best Picture nominees. But now that we can have up to 10 films vying for the top prize this small tale of an Irish senior (Judi Dench) searching for the child she was forced to give up for adoption proudly takes its spot aside the year's better-known fare.



► CHRISTIAN BALE, **AMERICAN HUSTLE**

American Hustle is a movie of great performances delivered by a mouth-watering cast, and yet whenever Bale is on screen the entire film is elevated. More important than the obvious hair loss and weight gain, Bale crafts a character who defies categorization — simultaneously despicable and lovable, immoral and noble, selfish and self-sacrificing.



LEONARDO DICAPRIO, **THE WOLF OF WALL STREET**

It's not a matter of "if" but rather "when" DiCaprio will take home his first Oscar, and after his Golden Globe win there's a definite buzz surrounding his over-the-top turn as *Wolf's* bad boy stockbroker Jordan Belfort. The actor lets loose with a tour-de-force performance that the Academy may not be able to ignore.

BEST ACTOR



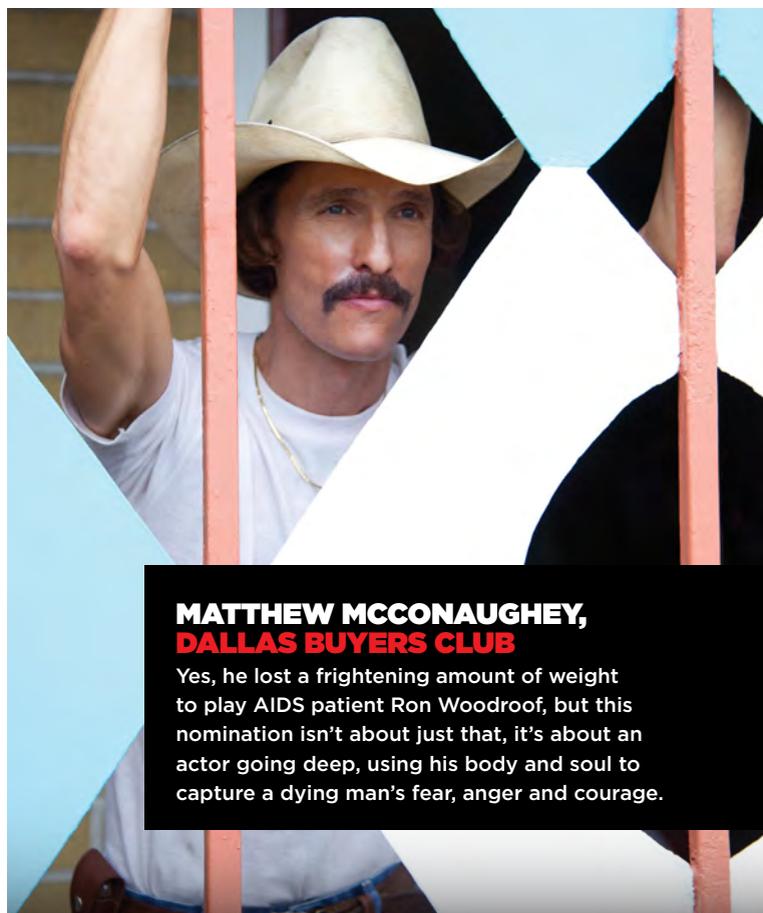
BRUCE DERN, **NEBRASKA**

The 77-year-old acting legend boldly bares his soul playing the cantankerous Woody Grant, who's looking to cash in on a fictional windfall in director Alexander Payne's wonderfully low-key dramedy. His much-deserved nomination comes an astounding 35 years after his only other Oscar nod — for Best Supporting Actor in 1978's *Coming Home*.



CHIWETEL EJIOFOR, **12 YEARS A SLAVE**

As Solomon Northup, a free man kidnapped and sold into slavery, Ejiofor channels disbelief, fear, anguish, anger, but above all, dignity. It's Ejiofor's inherent dignity that *12 Years a Slave* director Steve McQueen says made him the only choice to play Northup, dignity that could be on display if Ejiofor wins the coveted statue.



MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY, **DALLAS BUYERS CLUB**

Yes, he lost a frightening amount of weight to play AIDS patient Ron Woodroof, but this nomination isn't about just that, it's about an actor going deep, using his body and soul to capture a dying man's fear, anger and courage.



AMY ADAMS, AMERICAN HUSTLE

The four-time Best Supporting Actress nominee lands her first Best Actress nod, making her rise into Hollywood's top acting echelon complete. Playing a sultry, conniving con artist with such conviction Adams marries sex appeal with acting artistry.



SANDRA BULLOCK, GRAVITY

Not only does Bullock display her fit 49-year-old body floating aboard a space capsule in nothing but a tank top and underwear in director Alfonso Cuarón's taut space odyssey, she exposes the soul of a wounded woman whose heart-stopping race to stave off death reignites her passion for life.



MERYL STREEP, AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

By age 64, most actors are basking in the glory of past work, but not Streep. Arguably the planet's best actor, Streep once again delivers a stellar turn as the pill-popping, larger-than-life matriarch of a southern family, who can't help but hurt the ones she loves.

BEST ACTRESS



CATE BLANCHETT, BLUE JASMINE

In the hands of anyone other than the masterful Blanchett, Jasmine — a deluded, bitter, self-medicating Manhattan socialite brought to ruin in director Woody Allen's tragicomedy — could have been unwatchable. Yet Blanchett's ability to make us care about a woman who is her own worst enemy simply astounds.



JUDI DENCH, PHILOMENA

Dench brings quiet dignity and strength to her turn as Philomena, a woman determined to find the son she was forced to give up decades earlier. Dench turns 80 this year, and it would not be out of the question for the Academy to honour her lifetime achievements with a second Oscar. [CONTINUED ▶](#)

AWARDS RACE



▶ **BRADLEY COOPER, AMERICAN HUSTLE**

It wasn't long ago that Cooper was simply the "cute guy from *The Hangover*," but that changed when he began to trust his own talent — and that of director David O. Russell. With Russell's guidance, Cooper earned his first Best Actor nomination for *Silver Linings Playbook*, and now a Supporting nod for his turn as an out-of-control FBI agent in *American Hustle*.



BARKHAD ABDI, CAPTAIN PHILLIPS

This year's Cinderella Story, Abdi was born in Somalia, raised in Yemen and has lived in Minneapolis since age 14. He was working as a limo driver when he was cast in this, his first, movie, and delivers a riveting, natural performance as the desperate and frightening Somali pirate leader.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR



JONAH HILL, THE WOLF OF WALL STREET

Two years ago he was nominated for *Moneyball*, this year for *The Wolf of Wall Street* — where did this guy come from? Taking his comedic talent and honing it to give a funny, brash and painfully real turn as Leonardo DiCaprio's money-loving sidekick, Hill is becoming his generation's Joe Pesci.



MICHAEL FASSBENDER, 12 YEARS A SLAVE

Is it strange to reward a performance that is at times unwatchable? As *12 Years a Slave*'s cruel, emotionally tortured plantation owner Edwin Epps, Fassbender must inflict unspeakable pain on others, and while we want to avert our gaze, his mesmerizing performance demands we look straight into the heart of darkness.



JARED LETO, DALLAS BUYERS CLUB

History tells us the Academy rewards actors who transform their physical appearance for a role, or who play characters who tackle social injustice, and Leto does *both*, losing more than 30 pounds to play an unapologetic, transgendered AIDS sufferer who fights to get the drugs needed to keep herself, and others, alive.



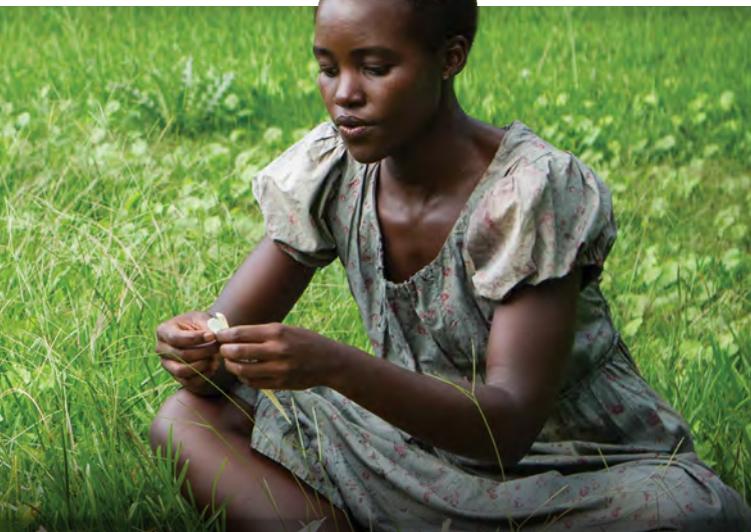
SALLY HAWKINS, BLUE JASMINE

Playing Ginger, the working-class sister of Cate Blanchett's snobbish Jasmine, is a tough job, but the British-born Hawkins proves up to the task, making sure we see — and feel — the damage inflicted on Ginger by her pernicious sibling.

JENNIFER LAWRENCE, AMERICAN HUSTLE

At age 23, Jennifer Lawrence could become the youngest two-time Oscar winner in history (the record currently belongs to Luise Rainer, who was 28 when she won her second statue). Playing Christian Bale's manipulative, firecracker of a wife, Lawrence explodes off the screen, leaving us wanting more.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS



LUPITA NYONG'O, 12 YEARS A SLAVE

In her first film role, the arresting Nyong'o breaks our hearts portraying the abused slave Patsey in director Steve McQueen's gut-wrenching film. It's the kind of mouth-dropping debut performance that may be rewarded with a little gold statue.

JUNE SQUIBB, NEBRASKA

What a treat to discover an 84-year-old actor. Though the long-time stage actor has been in her fair share of films, Squibb's performance as Bruce Dern's protective wife fore resonates because we all hope there'll be someone watching over us as we head into the sunset of our lives.

JULIA ROBERTS, AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

Roberts goes toe-to-toe with Meryl Streep and more than holds her own in this domestic dramedy, reminding us that this superstar is — first and foremost — a great actor, something that she has not demonstrated to us in a very long time.

CONTINUED ▶

AWARDS RACE



▶ ALFONSO CUARÓN, **GRAVITY**

With this poetic film, Mexican director Cuarón proves much to Hollywood — that today's technology is capable of replicating an outer-space experience, that two actors can hold an audience's attention for a full feature film and, perhaps most importantly, that a fantastic movie *can* last just 90 minutes.



ALEXANDER PAYNE, **NEBRASKA**

This is Payne's third Director nomination, after *Sideways* and *The Descendants* (he won Best Screenplay Oscars for both). This film about an angry old man (Bruce Dern) hoping to cash in on a fictional windfall is another uncompromising tale — filmed in black and white no less — that belongs with the year's more showy pics.



STEVE MCQUEEN, **12 YEARS A SLAVE**

Many felt McQueen was shafted two years ago when *Shame*, his titillating film about sex addiction, didn't receive a single Oscar nomination. This year, however, he's in the running — and perhaps a frontrunner — thanks to a film that's impossible to ignore.

BEST DIRECTOR



DAVID O. RUSSELL, **AMERICAN HUSTLE**

He may not be the easiest director to work with, but if you're an actor hungry for an Oscar you want Russell on speed dial. For this 1970s-set, who's-conning-who dramedy Russell directs formidable talents Christian Bale, Jennifer Lawrence and Amy Adams to some of the best performances of their careers.



MARTIN SCORSESE, **THE WOLF OF WALL STREET**

Some thought Scorsese's film about the perils of corporate greed was too entertaining, too racy and just too much for the Academy to stomach. They were wrong, and Scorsese is on a roll with his second nomination in two years.

CINEPLEX

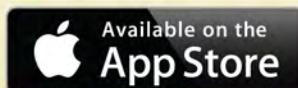
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*Print Measurement Bureau Fall 2013 Study.

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OSCAR BALLOT

Best Picture

- American Hustle*
- Captain Phillips*
- Dallas Buyers Club*
- Gravity*
- Her*
- Nebraska*
- Philomena*
- 12 Years a Slave*
- The Wolf of Wall Street*

Actor in a Leading Role

- Christian Bale, *American Hustle*
- Bruce Dern, *Nebraska*
- Leonardo DiCaprio, *The Wolf of Wall Street*
- Chiwetel Ejiofor, *12 Years a Slave*
- Matthew McConaughey, *Dallas Buyers Club*

Actress in a Leading Role

- Amy Adams, *American Hustle*
- Cate Blanchett, *Blue Jasmine*
- Sandra Bullock, *Gravity*
- Judi Dench, *Philomena*
- Meryl Streep, *August: Osage County*

Actor in a Supporting Role

- Barkhad Abdi, *Captain Phillips*
- Bradley Cooper, *American Hustle*
- Michael Fassbender, *12 Years a Slave*
- Jonah Hill, *The Wolf of Wall Street*
- Jared Leto, *Dallas Buyers Club*

Actress in a Supporting Role

- Sally Hawkins, *Blue Jasmine*
- Jennifer Lawrence, *American Hustle*
- Lupita Nyong'o, *12 Years a Slave*
- Julia Roberts, *August: Osage County*
- June Squibb, *Nebraska*

Directing

- Alfonso Cuarón, *Gravity*
- Steve McQueen, *12 Years a Slave*
- Alexander Payne, *Nebraska*
- David O. Russell, *American Hustle*
- Martin Scorsese, *The Wolf of Wall Street*

Animated Feature Film

- The Croods*
- Despicable Me 2*
- Ernest & Célestine*
- Frozen*
- The Wind Rises*

Adapted Screenplay

- Before Midnight*
- Captain Phillips*
- Philomena*
- 12 Years a Slave*
- The Wolf of Wall Street*

Original Screenplay

- American Hustle*
- Blue Jasmine*
- Dallas Buyers Club*
- Her*
- Nebraska*

Production Design

- American Hustle*
- Gravity*
- The Great Gatsby*
- Her*
- 12 Years a Slave*

Cinematography

- The Grandmaster*
- Gravity*
- Inside Llewyn Davis*
- Nebraska*
- Prisoners*

Costume Design

- American Hustle*
- The Grandmaster*
- The Great Gatsby*
- The Invisible Woman*
- 12 Years a Slave*

Documentary Feature

- The Act of Killing*
- Cutie and the Boxer*
- Dirty Wars*
- The Square*
- 20 Feet from Stardom*

Documentary Short Subject

- CaveDigger*
- Facing Fear*
- Karama Has No Walls*
- The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life*
- Prison Terminal: The Last Days of Private Jack Hall*

Film Editing

- American Hustle*
- Captain Phillips*
- Dallas Buyers Club*
- Gravity*
- 12 Years a Slave*

Foreign Language Film

- The Broken Circle Breakdown*, Belgium
- The Great Beauty*, Italy
- The Hunt*, Denmark
- The Missing Picture*, Cambodia
- Omar*, Palestine

Makeup and Hairstyling

- Dallas Buyers Club*
- Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa*
- The Lone Ranger*

Original Score

- The Book Thief*
- Gravity*
- Her*
- Philomena*
- Saving Mr. Banks*

Original Song

- "Alone Yet Not Alone," *Alone Yet Not Alone*
- "Happy," *Despicable Me 2*
- "Let it Go," *Frozen*
- "The Moon Song," *Her*
- "Ordinary Love," *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*

Short Film, Animated

- Feral*
- Get a Horse!*
- Mr. Hublot*
- Possessions*
- Room on the Broom*

Short Film, Live Action

- Do I Have to Take Care of Everything?*
- Helium*
- Just Before Losing Everything*
- That Wasn't Me*
- The Voorman Problem*

Sound Editing

- All is Lost*
- Captain Phillips*
- Gravity*
- The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*
- Lone Survivor*

Sound Mixing

- Captain Phillips*
- Gravity*
- The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*
- Inside Llewyn Davis*
- Lone Survivor*

Visual Effects

- Gravity*
- The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*
- Iron Man 3*
- The Lone Ranger*
- Star Trek Into Darkness*



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CASTING CALL ■ BY INGRID RANDOJA



WILL PITT & CRUISE CAR SHARE?

Tom Cruise and his *Oblivion* director **Joseph Kosinski** are reuniting for *Go Like Hell*, the story of how Henry Ford II (Cruise), businessman Lee Iacocca and engineer Carroll Shelby joined forces to reinvent the Ford car company. Word is **Brad Pitt** is circling the project and could play either Iacocca or Shelby, which would mark the first time Cruise and Pitt have worked together since 1994's *Interview With the Vampire*.



WHAT'S GOING ON WITH... WARCRAFT

Production is underway in Vancouver on director **Duncan Jones'** adaptation of *World of Warcraft*, the world's most popular online, role-playing game. Set in the *Warcraft* universe, the film focuses on the initial meeting between humans and orcs, and stars **Travis Fimmel** (TV's *Vikings*), **Ben Foster**, **Dominic Cooper** and **Paula Patton**. The movie was set to open December 18th, 2015, but when *Star Wars: Episode VII* also claimed the date, *Warcraft* wisely moved to March 11, 2016.



ROBBIE EYES JANE

Margot Robbie more than held her own opposite **Leonardo DiCaprio** in *The Wolf of Wall Street*, and now the Aussie actor is fielding a flurry of offers, including the role of Jane in the upcoming live-action *Tarzan* pic. *True Blood* star **Alexander Skarsgård** plays Tarzan, with **Christoph Waltz** set as the villain. Production should get underway in the summer with *Harry Potter* franchise veteran **David Yates** behind the camera.



FRESH FACE WILL POULTER

Don't be fooled by his dorky appearance, **Will Poulter** is a star in the making. The British actor who turned heads in *We're the Millers*, has just been cast as the lead in *iBoy*, the adaptation of the Young Adult novel about a teenager who develops amazing mental powers after fragments of a shattered iPhone get lodged in his brain. It may sound silly, but the dark novel earned strong reviews and could be just the project to catapult Poulter to stardom.

PHOTO BY GETTY FOR IMAGENET



LIVELY LOOKS GOOD FOR HER AGE

Blake Lively plays a woman who stops aging in *Adaline*. The story, set near the beginning of the 20th century, finds Adaline involved in an accident that halts her aging process. She spends the next century travelling the world, eventually meeting her daughter, played by **Ellen Burstyn**. Filming begins next month.

PHOTO BY TIM P. WHITBY/GETTY FOR IMAGE.NET

THE GREATEST ADVENTURES ON EARTH

Small-group adventure travel



ALSO IN THE WORKS ▶ **Ed Helms** takes on the role of oblivious, accident-prone detective Frank Drebin in the *Naked Gun* reboot. ▶ *Terminator: Genesis* casts *Games of Thrones* star **Emilia Clarke** as its Sarah Connor. ▶ **Hugh Jackman** is in negotiations to play pirate Blackbeard in *Pan*, the latest retelling of the Peter Pan tale. ▶ **Amanda Seyfried** finds love in the rom-com *He's F**king Perfect*.

AT HOME



FEBRUARY'S BEST DVD AND BLU-RAY

12 YEARS A SLAVE **FEBRUARY 18**

In 1841, Solomon Northup (**Chiwetel Ejiofor**) is a free black musician living in New York State with his wife and family. When two men hire Northup to perform, but instead kidnap him and sell him into slavery, his fight for survival begins. This brutal — and much lauded — drama from director **Steve McQueen** is inspired by the real Northup's incredible memoir, which was first published in 1853.



DALLAS BUYERS CLUB

FEBRUARY 4

Continuing his run of solid performances, a paper-thin **Matthew McConaughey** shines as HIV-positive electrician Ron Woodroof, who smuggles unapproved pharmaceuticals into Texas to help himself and hundreds of others like him.



THOR: THE DARK WORLD

FEBRUARY 4

Chris Hemsworth is back as the God of Thunder in this action-packed sequel to 2011's *Thor*. This time he and his dastardly brother Loki (**Tom Hiddleston**) must protect Thor's mortal love Jane Foster (**Natalie Portman**) from the Dark Elves.



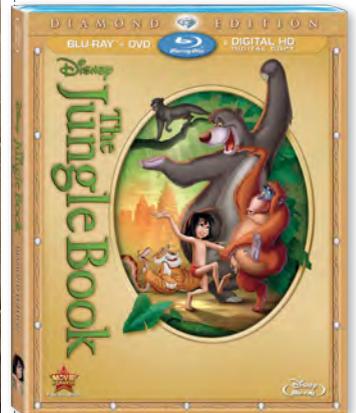
GRAVITY

FEBRUARY 25

Director **Alfonso Cuarón's** spectacular space thriller stars **Sandra Bullock** as a terrified medical engineer forced to take control if she's going to return home after a routine spacewalk goes awry leaving her stranded alone miles above Earth.

Something Special

THE JUNGLE BOOK **FEBRUARY 11**



Disney's 1967 animated adventure based on the **Rudyard Kipling** book finally comes to Blu-ray with an alternate ending and a karaoke feature. Sorry, that's Bear-E-Oke, hosted by Baloo.

Games

Why We Love...



THE LEGO MOVIE VIDEOGAME

FEBRUARY 4

MULTIPLE PLATFORMS

For the first time in a LEGO videogame, the entire environment will be made of LEGO pieces, which is pretty cool. More than 90 characters from the film make appearances including Vitruvius, Batman, Gandalf and of course our hero Emmet.

MORE MOVIES ▶ **ABOUT TIME** (FEBRUARY 4) ▶ **ESCAPE PLAN** (FEBRUARY 4)
▶ **FREE BIRDS** (FEBRUARY 4) ▶ **BAGGAGE CLAIM** (FEBRUARY 4) ▶ **ALL IS LOST** (FEBRUARY 11)
▶ **THE ART OF THE STEAL** (FEBRUARY 18) ▶ **NEBRASKA** (FEBRUARY 25)

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RETURN ENGAGEMENT



Just Chillin'

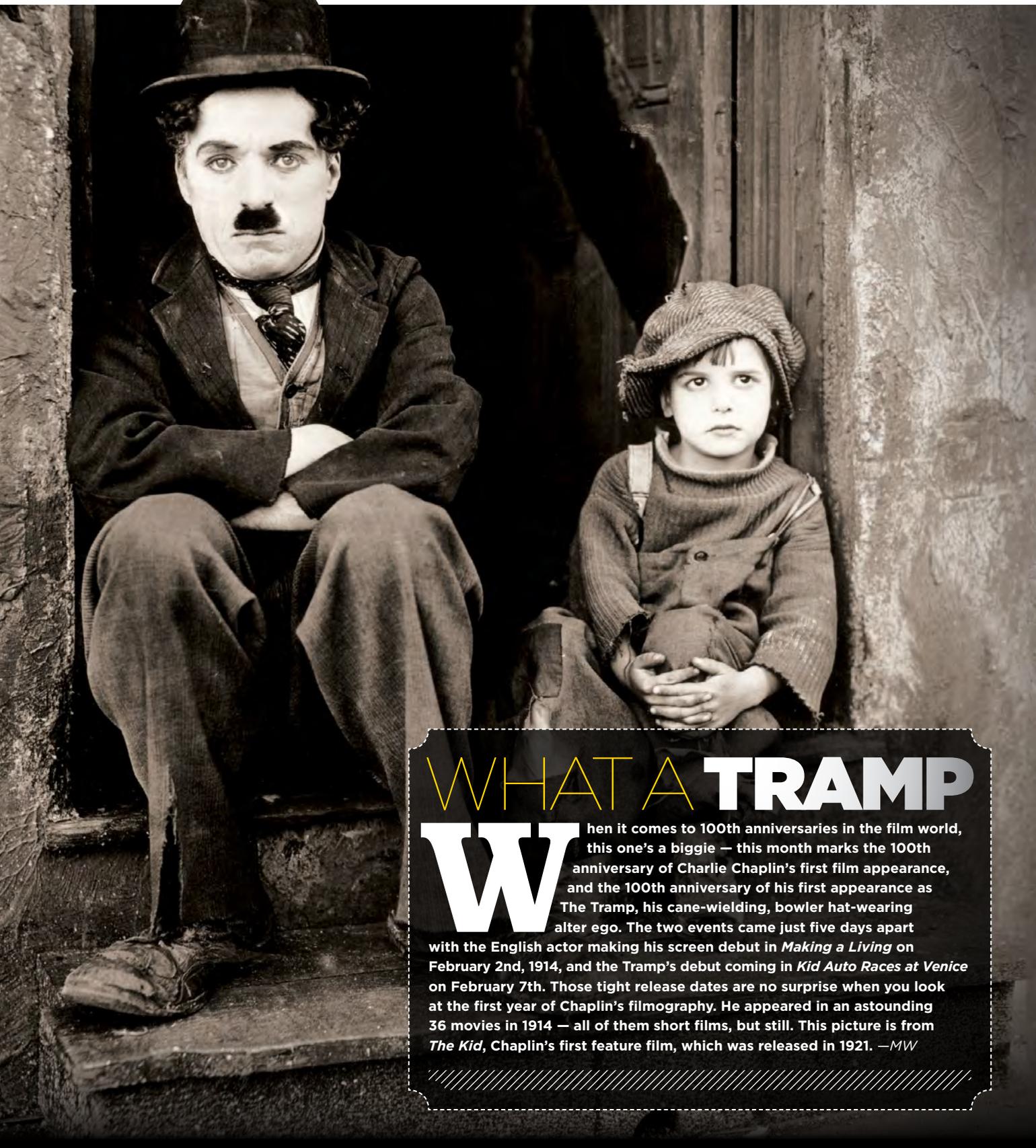
My goodness don't they look young. It's 1983, and a cast of up-and-coming actors — Kevin Kline, William Hurt, Glenn Close, Jeff Goldblum, Meg Tilly, Mary Kay Place, Tom Berenger and JoBeth Williams — assembles in Beaufort, South Carolina, to shoot *The Big Chill* for writer/director Lawrence Kasdan.

Something happens on that Beaufort set, a sort of acting alchemy that makes us believe these actors really are 1960s college pals who've reunited to bury a friend who's committed suicide. Each of them plays their role to perfection in a film that uses both comedy and dramatic angst to question the nature of friendship. Baby boomers claim the film for themselves, which, not surprisingly, is selfish. Let it go, the film belongs to all of us. —JR

THE BIG CHILL

screens as part of Cineplex's Classic Film Series on February 10th, 16th and 19th. Go to Cineplex.com/Events for times and locations.

FINALLY...



WHAT A TRAMP

When it comes to 100th anniversaries in the film world, this one's a biggie — this month marks the 100th anniversary of Charlie Chaplin's first film appearance, and the 100th anniversary of his first appearance as The Tramp, his cane-wielding, bowler hat-wearing alter ego. The two events came just five days apart with the English actor making his screen debut in *Making a Living* on February 2nd, 1914, and the Tramp's debut coming in *Kid Auto Races at Venice* on February 7th. Those tight release dates are no surprise when you look at the first year of Chaplin's filmography. He appeared in an astounding 36 movies in 1914 — all of them short films, but still. This picture is from *The Kid*, Chaplin's first feature film, which was released in 1921. —MW

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