

CINEPLEX

MAGAZINE

CHRIS PINE

YOUR NEW

JACK

RYAN

TALKS

SHADOW RECRUIT



Inside
**AARON
ECKHART**
**COLIN
FIRTH**
**JULIA
ROBERTS**

SAY GOODBYE
TO
INNOCENCE

ENDLESS LOVE

IN THEATRES VALENTINE'S DAY

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Chris Pine — who plays Captain Kirk in the *Star Trek* films — adds another franchise to his résumé by stepping into the shoes of fabled CIA operative Jack Ryan in the series reboot *Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit*. Here, Pine tells us it's Ryan's brain, not brawn, that got his attention
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BY INGRID RANDOJA



PHOTO BY MARIANNA MASSEY/GETTY FOR IMAGENET





DO YOU KNOW JACK?

Jack Ryan, one of Hollywood's most popular intelligence agents, returns to theatres this month for his fifth movie, *Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit*. After James Bond, Jason Bourne and Ethan Hunt, Ryan — conceived in the popular books by the late Tom Clancy — may be the most recognizable name in movie espionage.

But what can you tell me about the guy? What is he known for, what's his shtick? Bond is the ladies man, Bourne has that whole identity issue, Hunt has his gadgets and disguises — but Ryan, he's a bit of a blank slate, especially if the films are your primary point of reference.

Perhaps that's because over those four films, three very different actors have played him. First a young Alec Baldwin in 1990's *The Hunt for Red October*, then a cranky Harrison Ford in *Patriot Games* (1992) and *Clear and Present Danger* (1994), and finally a nervous Ben Affleck in 2002's *The Sum of All Fears*. Now, after an 11-year hiatus, **Chris Pine** takes over for the fifth film (the first of the franchise based on an original screenplay, rather than a Clancy novel).

But James Bond has been played by eight different actors and still has a very distinct persona. More likely, it's that Ryan was simply written as an ordinary person — a smart guy who flies under the radar.

When Clancy first introduced his famous CIA agent in the 1984 book *The Hunt for Red October* he described him as follows: "He was physically unremarkable, an inch over six feet, and his average build suffered a little at the waist from a lack of exercise.... His blue eyes had a deceptively vacant look; he was often lost in thought, his face on autopilot as his mind puzzled through data or research material for his current book."

What makes Ryan unique in the world of movie heroes is that he's not all that unique. He can't take a villain down with a kick to the head, he doesn't bed hot vixens (he's either happily engaged or married depending on where a given story fits into the Ryan chronology) and he doesn't have access to the type of far-fetched technology that's conceived by filmmakers with big imaginations and budgets to match.

In fact, there's a point in almost every Jack Ryan movie where he's given an assignment and instead of grabbing the file with gusto or flashing a confident look he says something to the effect of, "What? Why me?"

But as Pine points out in our interview, "Jack's Back," page 36, Ryan's vulnerability is what makes him accessible. "You think, 'How would I handle that situation?'" explains Pine. "His wits are his weapon."

Elsewhere in this issue, **Aaron Eckhart** discusses his updated version of Frankenstein's monster in *I, Frankenstein* (page 32), **Colin Firth** talks about his friendship with Canadian director Atom Egoyan and how that bond brought them together for *Devil's Knot* (page 28), and **Julia Roberts** explains why acting opposite Meryl Streep in *August: Osage County* wasn't how she'd always pictured it (page 24).

Plus, on page 40, we have our **2014 Movie Preview**, your first look at some of the best films coming out this year.

■ MARNI WEISZ, EDITOR

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MATHIEU CHANTELOIS, ELLIS JACOB, PAT MARSHALL, DAN MCGRATH, EDITH VALLIÈRES, SARA YONIS

Cineplex Magazine™ is published 12 times a year by Cineplex Entertainment. Subscriptions are \$34.50 (\$30 + HST) a year in Canada, \$45 a year in the U.S. and \$55 a year overseas. Single copies are \$3. Back issues are \$6. All subscription inquiries, back issue requests and letters to the editor should be directed to *Cineplex Magazine* at 102 Atlantic Ave., Toronto, ON, M6K 1X9, or 416.539.8800, or cineplexmagazine@cineplex.com

Publications Mail Agreement No. 41619533. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: *Cineplex Magazine*, 102 Atlantic Ave., Toronto, ON, M6K 1X9

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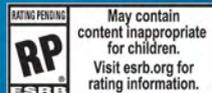
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HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM CINEPLEX ENTERTAINMENT

Welcome to the January issue of *Cineplex Magazine*.
With the holidays behind us, I'd like to reflect on the accomplishments of 2013, while also looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

The past year brought us a number of blockbusters, from *Iron Man 3* and *Despicable Me 2* to *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* and *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*. But that wasn't all. Our Front Row Centre Events filled the big screen with another year of great entertainment. The eighth season of *The Met: Live in HD* delighted opera fans and music lovers alike. We also saw highly acclaimed theatre, dance and concert performances, not to mention our Classic Film Series and Family Favourites.

In the fall, we completed our acquisition of 24 Atlantic Canadian theatres, realizing our dream of becoming a truly national company for the first time. Today, Cineplex operates 161 theatres and more than 1,600 screens from coast to coast, welcoming 77 million guests annually. That's more than double the population of Canada.

Our SCENE loyalty program continued its incredible growth in 2013, crossing the five-million-member milestone. This program continues to exceed our most lofty expectations — a testament to the fact that SCENE members really do get more. Join for free at SCENE.ca and earn and redeem points quickly for movies, concession combos and more.

The past year also saw the launch of SuperTicket — a first-ever bundled offering from multiple studios that enables moviegoers to purchase a movie admission ticket and pre-order the digital download of the movie at the same time. Guests who purchase a SuperTicket also get access to exclusive content, early viewing opportunities, bonus SCENE points and more. Learn more at CineplexStore.com.

Looking ahead to 2014, we will continue the expansion of premium offerings within our theatres, adding UltraAVX auditoriums and VIP Cinemas to new and existing theatres.

UltraAVX offers one of the most cutting-edge experiences in movie-going, with reserved seating, wall-to-wall screens, and Dolby® Atmos surround sound. Our VIP Cinemas provide unmatched luxury, from comfortable seats that you reserve in advance, to a VIP menu, licenced auditoriums and licenced lounge.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your entertainment experience. We look forward to welcoming you to our theatres and wish you a safe and prosperous 2014.

Sincerely,

ELLIS JACOB, President and CEO, Cineplex Entertainment

ICE CUBE

KEVIN HART

**Propose to this cop's sister?
Rookie mistake.**

Ride Along

JANUARY 17

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[f/ridealongthemovie](https://www.facebook.com/ridealongthemovie) #ridealong



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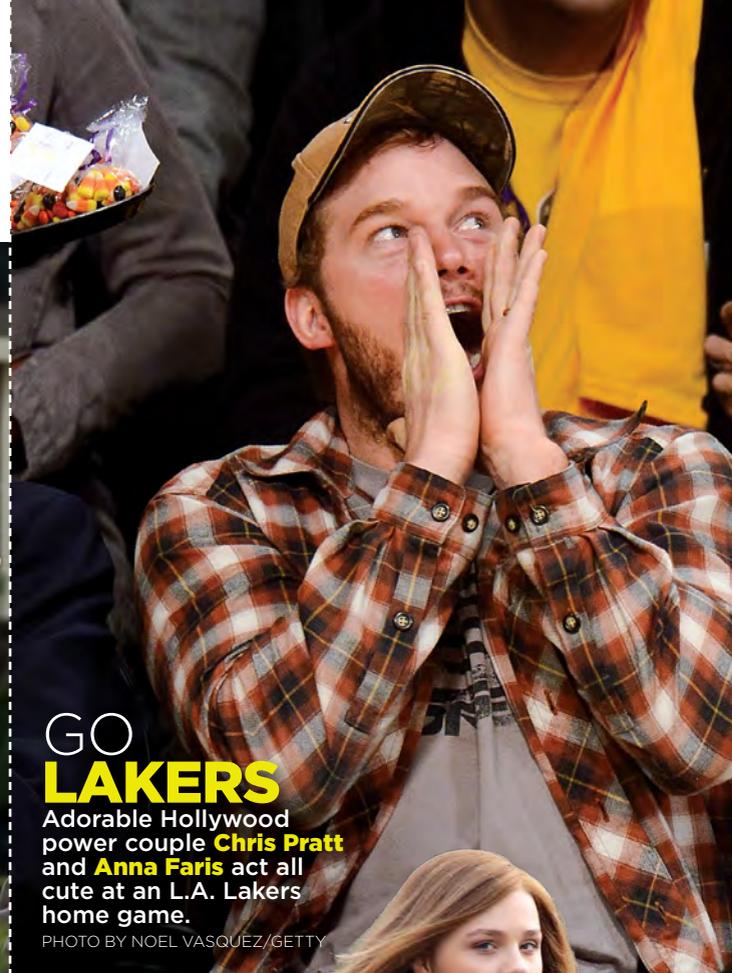
SNAPS



J.LO FINDS BALANCE

Jennifer Lopez entertains herself between takes on the L.A. set of *The Boy Next Door*.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



GO LAKERS

Adorable Hollywood power couple **Chris Pratt** and **Anna Faris** act all cute at an L.A. Lakers home game.

PHOTO BY NOEL VASQUEZ/GETTY





SUCH GRACE

Chloë Grace Moretz shoots *If I Stay* at the Steveston Marina in Richmond, B.C.

PHOTO BY PUNKD IMAGES



DIAZ TRASHES SET

Cameron Diaz dumps a garbage pail onto the street while filming a scene for *Annie* in New York City.

PHOTO BY KRISTIN CALLAHAN/
KEYSTONE PRESS

SAM'S SPECS

Samuel L. Jackson wears novelty Atlanta Falcons glasses in support of his favourite NFL team as they take on the New Orleans Saints.

PHOTO BY CURTIS COMPTON/
KEYSTONE PRESS



IN BRIEF



GOOD CANADIAN FILMS, EH

The F Word



Tom à la ferme



Enemy

As we mentally prepare for awards season with its avalanche of praise for the best Hollywood and international (mostly Hollywood) films of 2013 let's not forget the year's best Canadian films.

The Toronto International Film Festival Group recently chose its Top Ten Canadian Films of 2013. After screenings in Toronto early this month the movies will tour select Canadian cities including Vancouver, Edmonton and Montreal. Go to tiff.net/top10 for more info.

If you can't make it to the TIFF Group screenings, the

two films that have the best chance of coming to a theatre near you are *The F Word*, director Michael Dowse's rom-com starring Daniel Radcliffe and Zoe Kazan, and *Enemy*, director Denis Villeneuve's second film in a row starring Jake Gyllenhaal. Both films should be released within the next few months.

There are two documentaries on the list — *Watermark*, the collaboration between director Jennifer Baichwal and photographer Edward Burtynsky, and *When Jews Were Funny* from filmmaker Alan Zweig.

Director/star Xavier Dolan's

celebrated *Tom à la ferme*, about a gay man who travels to his deceased lover's rural home, is on there, as are three more French films, Louise Archambault's *Gabrielle*, Chloé Robichaud's *Sarah préfère la course* and Denis Côté's *Vic et Flo ont vu un ours*.

Rounding out the Top Ten are director Jeff Barnaby's drama *Rhymes for Young Ghouls*, set on the tough Red Crow reservation, and *Asphalt Watches*, a surreal animated feature about hitchhiking across Canada from filmmakers Shayne Ehman and Seth Scriver. —MW

James Franco

On Home Turf: EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE

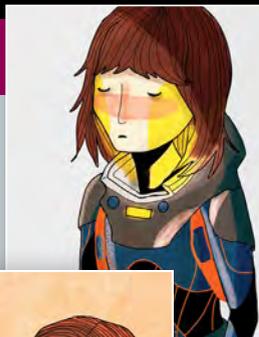
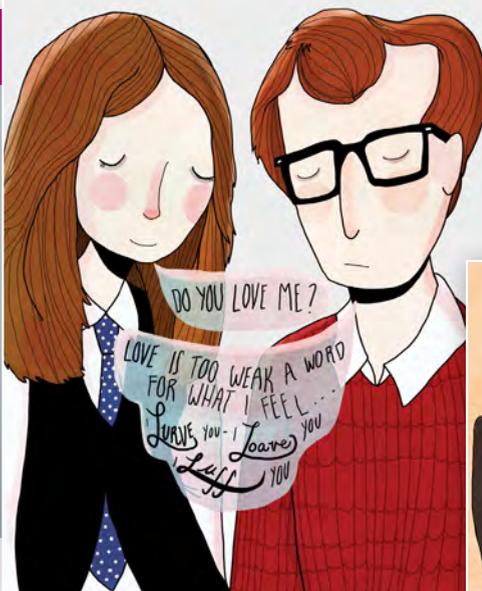
James Franco has called Canada home for the past six months. In August, Franco travelled to Montreal to shoot *Wim Wenders' Every Thing Will Be Fine*, about a writer still reeling from a long-ago accident that killed a young boy.

Then in October he moved to Vancouver to shoot *The Interview* with buddy **Seth Rogen**. Franco plays a talk-show host asked to interview North Korea's leader, Rogen plays his producer.

But this month he's back in Montreal to shoot winter scenes for *Every Thing Will Be Fine*. If you're in Montreal, keep your eyes peeled for **Rachel McAdams** too, she plays Franco's girlfriend. ▶

THE ART OF FILM

A couple of years ago L.A. illustrator Nan Lawson started a blog to post sketches she'd done just for fun. "Most of the time they ended up being fan art over whatever film or television show I was geeking out about at the time," she says. "My followers really responded to them." Her pieces — like these three (from left) inspired by *Annie Hall*, *Once* and *Prometheus* — are digitally created, "but I try to make it look as though it was painted," she says. "I love the texture of a watercolour wash, but not as much as I love being able to hit undo!" See more at Nanlawson.com. —MW



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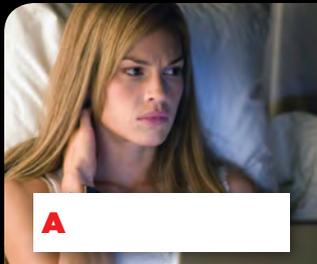


Entries close January 31, 2014. ©Sony is a registered trademark of Sony Corporation. Screen image is simulated. A.E. & O.E.



▶ EXPECTING TROUBLE

In this month's *Devil's Due*, Allison Miller (pictured above) suspects the baby she's carrying may be the devil's spawn. She's not alone — some great actors have played women impregnated with little devils. Can you name the actor, and the film, in which they appeared?



ANSWERS:
The Devil's Advocate
(C) Charlize Theron in
Rosemary's Baby
(B) Mia Farrow in
The Reaping
(A) Hilary Swank in



ALDERAANDACK CHAIR

With R2-D2 being the first *Star Wars* character confirmed for *Star Wars Episode VII*, you can start girding yourself for a new deluge of official R2 merch. But we're sure none of it will have the charm of this very unofficial "R2-D2 Alderaandack Chair," created not in a galaxy far, far away, but in Ottawa, by woodworker Paul Ryan of Xtinct 3D Design. Made from sturdy cedar, the chair goes for \$300. —MW

Quote Unquote

I can't help thinking Dickens was looking for a real connection with a woman, which he hadn't found with his wife. I think he saw Ellen Ternan and she was the ideal he had always written about. **There she was, and that was that. He had to have her.**

—RALPH FIENNES ON *THE INVISIBLE WOMAN*, ABOUT CHARLES DICKENS AND HIS MISTRESS





GREAT DIGITAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Great Digital Film Festival returns to select Cineplex theatres January 31st to February 6th, your chance to see crisp digital prints of memorable Hollywood blockbusters and cult classics on the big screen. Here's the lineup, go to Cineplex.com/Events for dates, times, locations and ticket info. —IR

- ◆ AKIRA
- ◆ THE AVENGERS
- ◆ BATMAN
- ◆ BATTLESTAR GALACTICA
- ◆ BILL & TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE
- ◆ BRAZIL
- ◆ THE DARK KNIGHT
- ◆ THE FISHER KING
- ◆ FLASH GORDON
- ◆ GHOST IN THE SHELL
- ◆ IRON MAN
- ◆ LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS
- ◆ LOGAN'S RUN
- ◆ MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL
- ◆ ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE
- ◆ PLANET OF THE APES (1968)
- ◆ SNATCH
- ◆ SPIDER-MAN
- ◆ SUPERMAN: THE MOVIE
- ◆ THUNDERBALL
- ◆ TRON



COSPLAY À PARIS!

If you think of fantasy conventions as a strictly North American phenomenon, think again. Here French cosplay fans prepare for a contest at the Paris Comics Expo. Somehow they just seem more...*dramatique!* —MW



THE VOICE

Will Arnett puts his wonderful, deep, gravelly pipes to good use this month voicing Surly the squirrel in the Canadian-created animated feature *The Nut Job*, and next month you can hear him as a clueless Batman in *The LEGO Movie*, his eighth animated film. Here's a look at the wide variety of pixelated characters to which Arnett has given voice. —IR

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

When did Alexander Ludwig — the star of such films as *The Seeker: The Dark is Rising* and *Race to Witch Mountain* — morph into such a muscle man?

“I was this really skinny kid, then I did *The Hunger Games*, playing Cato, and I put on lots of muscle,” says the 21-year-old Vancouver native on the line from his home in Santa Monica. “And then I did *Grown Ups 2*, and I played this big moose of a man, so I kept putting on weight and a little fat. And then when I got *Lone Survivor*, I just turned all the fat into muscle.”

Lone Survivor casts Ludwig as Navy SEAL Shane Patton, a member of the force sent to rescue SEAL Team 10 (Mark Wahlberg, Taylor Kitsch, Emile Hirsch and Ben Foster) who’ve come under attack during a mission in Afghanistan. The film is based on real-life Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell’s (Wahlberg) account of 2005’s failed “Operation Red Wings.”

“It’s such a gut-wrenching story,” says the young actor, “and it really shines a light on what these men do. And not only is this a movie about [Luttrell] overcoming unbelievable circumstances, but it’s a story about friendship and brotherhood.”

The film is earning strong reviews, and Ludwig saw it for the first time when it screened at L.A.’s AFI Festival.

“It was received so well,” he says. “We had an after party, and it’s so hard to go from a movie like that to a party where you’re socializing. I definitely wasn’t in the mood to go party, but Mark Wahlberg said something smart to me. He said, ‘Take a deep breath, let’s get a second wind and let’s go celebrate this story, ’cause that’s what really matters, celebrating this.’”

“And that’s the truth, you just can’t mourn this stuff, you have to celebrate the lives of these men.” —IR



PHOTO BY MARISA LEIGH

LONE SURVIVOR
HITS THEATRES
JANUARY 10TH



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ALL DRESSED UP

LUPITA NYONG'O

The *12 Years a Slave* star attends BAFTA's Britannia Awards in L.A.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

ELIZABETH BANKS

At the Berlin premiere of *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

ROONEY MARA

At a screening of *Her* during the Rome Film Festival.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



**JOAQUIN
PHOENIX**

At the Rome Film Festival
for a screening of *Her*.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



**JULIETTE
LEWIS**

In L.A. for a screening of
August: Osage County at AFI Fest.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



**TOM
HIDDLESTON**

In Berlin for the German premiere
of *Thor: The Dark World*.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



PARIS

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



BERLIN

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MADRID

PHOTO BY MICHAEL MURDOCK/SPLASH NEWS

ONE MOVIE, SIX LOOKS

Jennifer Lawrence rocks red carpets around the world in support of *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*

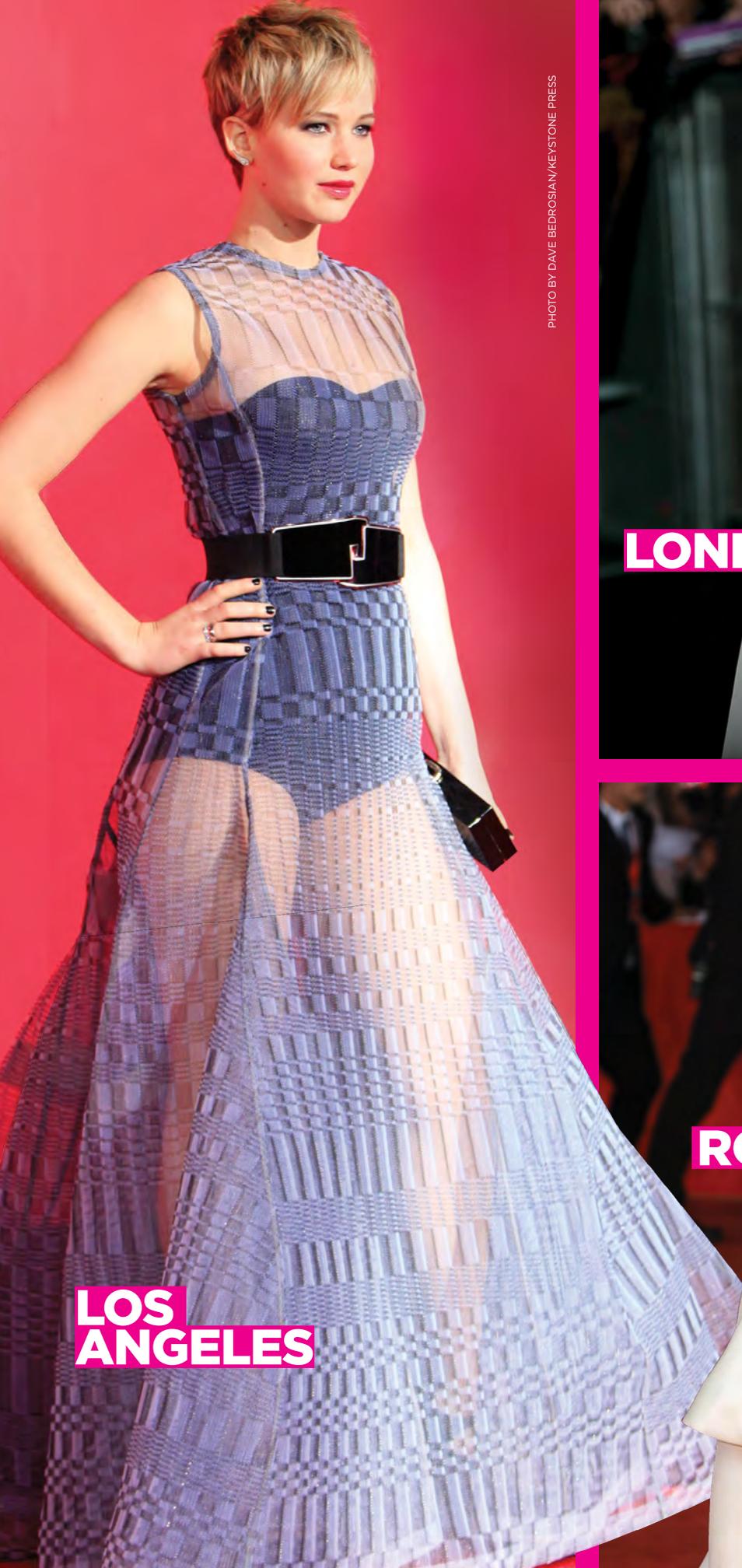


PHOTO BY DAVE BEDROSIAN/KEYSTONE PRESS

LOS ANGELES



LONDON

PHOTO BY JOHN PHILLIPS/GETTY



ROME

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

IN THEATRES

JANUARY 3



Molly Ephraim and Andrew Jacobs in *Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones*

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE MARKED ONES

This spinoff of the *Paranormal Activity* series stars **Andrew Jacobs** as Jesse, a young man whose investigation into the murder of his neighbour leaves him marked by black magic.

JANUARY 10



LONE SURVIVOR

This harrowing story of wartime survival is based on the true account of Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell (**Mark Wahlberg**), a member of a covert SEAL team (**Taylor Kitsch**, **Ben Foster** and **Emile Hirsch** play the other three) that's hunted down by the Taliban in a remote region of Afghanistan.

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

The big-screen adaptation of **Tracy Letts'** Pulitzer Prize-winning play stars **Meryl Streep** as the matriarch of a dysfunctional Oklahoma family brought together by the disappearance of their father (**Sam Shepard**). **Julia Roberts** steps in as the clan's eldest daughter. **See Julia Roberts interview, page 24.**

THE INVISIBLE WOMAN

Ralph Fiennes directs and stars in this romance about the real-life love affair between acclaimed writer Charles Dickens (Fiennes) and actress Nelly Ternan (**Felicity Jones**). Dickens was 45 and Ternan 18 when they first met, but Dickens was so taken by Ternan that he left his wife and family to carry on a secret affair with her.



August: Osage County's Meryl Streep (left) and Juliette Lewis



The Nut Job

THE NUT JOB

From Toronto animation studio ToonBox comes this tale of a park squirrel (**Will Arnett**) who masterminds a plot to break into a nut store and steal all the nuts the animals will need to survive the coming winter.

DEVIL'S DUE

Newlyweds Samantha (**Allison Miller**) and Zach McCall (**Zach Gilford**) are thrilled when she gets pregnant on their honeymoon. The couple's joy turns to horror when they suspect she may be carrying the devil's spawn.

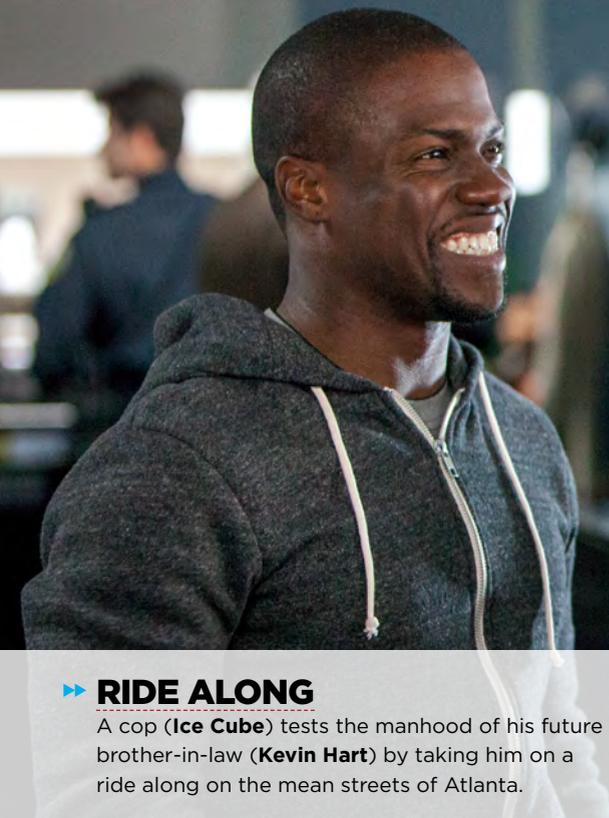


JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT

Chris Pine takes over the role of Jack Ryan in this fifth film featuring the smarty boots CIA analyst. Here, Ryan heads to Moscow to stop a Russian oligarch (**Kenneth Branagh**) from crashing the U.S. economy, and his fiancée (**Keira Knightley**) and CIA mentor (**Kevin Costner**) are along for the wild ride. See **Chris Pine** interview, [page 36](#).

CONTINUED ►

JANUARY 17



▶ **RIDE ALONG**

A cop (**Ice Cube**) tests the manhood of his future brother-in-law (**Kevin Hart**) by taking him on a ride along on the mean streets of Atlanta.



JANUARY 24



Colin Firth (left) and James Hamrick in *Devil's Knot*

DEVIL'S KNOT

Director **Atom Egoyan** dramatizes the real-life case of the West Memphis Three. In 1993, three rebellious teenagers are convicted of binding and killing three young boys. An investigator (**Colin Firth**) discovers the evidence against the trio is questionable, which has some — including the mother of one of the victims (**Reese Witherspoon**) — wondering who really killed the kids. **See Colin Firth interview, page 28.**

I, FRANKENSTEIN

From the producers of the *Underworld* film franchise comes this supernatural action pic starring **Aaron Eckhart** as Frankenstein's monster, a sensitive soul with kickass fighting skills who gets involved in a war between demons and gargoyles. **See Aaron Eckhart interview, page 32.**

JANUARY 31



THAT AWKWARD MOMENT

This R-rated comedy finds three single guys — **Zac Efron, Michael B. Jordan** and **Miles Teller** — dealing with dating etiquette, relationship issues and sexual escapades.



LABOR DAY

A single mom (**Kate Winslet**) and her teenage son (**Gattlin Griffith**) bring an escaped prisoner (**Josh Brolin**) into their home. While waiting out the police search, the three form a family bond that proves dangerous to them all.

FRONT ROW CENTRE EVENTS™

by CINEPLEX

FAMILY FAVOURITES

YOGI BEAR

SAT., JAN. 4

PUSS IN BOOTS

SAT., JAN. 11

THE GOLDEN COMPASS

SAT., JAN. 18

THE SMURFS

SAT., JAN. 25

MOST WANTED MOVIES

V FOR VENDETTA

THURS., JAN. 9; MON., JAN. 13

ANIME

EVANGELION 3.0

SAT., JAN. 11; THURS., JAN. 16

CLASSIC FILM SERIES

AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

SUN., JAN. 12; WED., JAN. 15

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA

FALSTAFF (VERDI)

ENCORES: SAT., JAN. 18;
MON., JAN. 20

TOSCA (PUCCINI)

ENCORE: WED., JAN. 29

DANCE SERIES

BOLSHOI BALLET

JEWELS

LIVE: SUN., JAN 19

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

GISELLE

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Julia Roberts hug-strangles
Meryl Streep in
August: Osage County

August: Osage What?

Julia Roberts and Meryl Streep's first movie together is based on a Pulitzer Prize-winning play; no wonder the Oscar talk started before anyone had even seen *August: Osage County*. Here we shed light on the dysfunctional-family drama and the ensemble cast bringing it to the big screen ■ BY MARNI WEISZ

Julia Roberts has long dreamt of working with Meryl Streep. Her vision went something like this: "I thought we'd be together, and we'd be having tea, and speaking in fabulous accents, and dressed up, looking very chic," Roberts explains during a press conference at the Toronto International Film Festival.

"We would work all day and go home and shower and then all run to Meryl's house and start practicing for the next day," says Roberts

Instead, *August: Osage County* — a drama based on Tracy Letts' play, which he adapted for the screen — has the high-powered pair at each other's throats, portraying mother and daughter in a wildly dysfunctional family reunited by the disappearance of their patriarch. Throw in drug addictions, cheating spouses and unnatural family relationships and it's not exactly the erudite movie Roberts had in mind.

"Certainly to be in these scenes with [Meryl] and, you know, choking her — things like that are not how I pictured it going.... I'm sweating and have on this big [prosthetic] butt pad, so that's not how it was in my dream," recalls the 46-year-old actor.

Roberts plays Barbara, the oldest of the Weston clan's three daughters, and instead of chic ensembles she moves through most of the film in loose-fitting plaid or jean shirts that match the mindset of her character, a middle-aged mother whose husband has just left her for a younger woman and who has been forced back into a bad family situation by tragedy.

"However, it was amazing," she says of the experience. "I think that, you know, at the end of every day, coming out of the truth of the Weston family and into our own truths of who we are together, there was always a hug and a kiss and 'I love you.' And that was really the elixir that I needed to come in the next day and climb over the next table to choke [Meryl] in the next way."

It also helped that the entire cast — which includes Sam Shepard as Barbara's father, Ewan McGregor as her estranged husband, Abigail Breslin as her daughter and Juliette Lewis and Julianne Nicholson as her sisters — were given housing right next to each other in the real Osage County, in northeast Oklahoma.

"We were out in the middle of nowhere, and hotel accommodations were hard to come by," explains Roberts' co-star Chris Cooper, who plays Barbara's uncle. He, too, is at the Toronto fest for the film's world premiere. "So God bless them, they found these newly finished condos. And everybody was right next door to each other and running into each other every day and we'd have potluck dinners. People would bring things, primarily over to Meryl's apartment, she was such a sweetheart."

Roberts says the living arrangements helped them get to the roots of their characters. "We would work all day and go home and shower and then all run to Meryl's house and start practicing for the next day. Because you had to have that momentum going really about 19 or 20 hours of the day or else it would just leave you."

In the end, Roberts says the film was the best acting experience of her life.

"We worked our asses off because there was no other way to do it," she says. "I've never worked so hard in my life and I have given birth to three children. It was like a mountain to climb every single day and the only way to climb it, we discovered, was holding hands whether we liked it or not." ☑

**AUGUST:
OSAGE COUNTY**
HITS THEATRES
JANUARY 10TH



From left:
Julia Roberts,
Ewan McGregor
and Meryl Streep

WHO IS TRACY LETTS?

Letts is one of today's pre-eminent American playwrights. In 2008, he won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his stage version of *August: Osage County*. He has also adapted his plays *Killer Joe* and *Bug* for the big screen. Letts is an actor, too, and has had recurring roles on TV's *Prison Break* and *Homeland*.

WHAT DOES THE TITLE MEAN?

August: Osage County refers to the fact that the events take place in Osage County, Oklahoma, during the month of August, but also to the Howard Starks poem of the same name, which Tracy Letts says inspired his play.

WHO DIRECTED?

John Wells was behind the camera for only his second big-screen movie, after 2010's *The Company Men*. He's best known as a producer (and sometimes director) of quality TV shows like *ER*, *China Beach*, *The West Wing* and *Shameless*.



From left:
Julianne Nicholson,
Meryl Streep and
Margo Martindale

WHY DID I SEE GEORGE CLOONEY ON THE RED CARPET?

Clooney and his frequent collaborator Grant Heslov are producers on the film. Originally, they'd hoped to adapt the play themselves but Harvey Weinstein already held the rights so Clooney and Heslov joined as producers.

HAVEN'T STREEP AND ROBERTS BEEN IN SOMETHING ELSE TOGETHER?

You're probably thinking of *The Ant Bully*. Yes, they both did voice work for the 2006 animated feature, but that doesn't really count as working together on screen.



Benedict Cumberbatch
with Julianne Nicholson

YOU HAVEN'T MENTIONED BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH. WHO DOES HE PLAY?

Cumberbatch plays Little Charles Aiken, first cousin to the Weston girls. But there's more to it than that. You'll have to see the film.

Zac Efron (centre) in *That Awkward Moment*

THAT AWKWARD MOMENT
HITS THEATRES
JANUARY 31ST

That Was Awkward

Zac Efron's comedy *That Awkward Moment* features lots of cringe-worthy incidents. But how well do you remember the embarrassing episodes from movies past? ■ BY SARA YONIS



The 40-Year-Old Virgin

1 In *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, which pop star's name does Steve Carell's character yell out when he's getting his chest waxed?
A) Mariah Carey
B) Madonna
C) Kelly Clarkson
D) Beyoncé

2 In *Swingers*, Jon Favreau's character Mike repeatedly calls a girl he met at a club earlier that night. How many times does he call before she answers with "Don't ever call me again"?
A) 6 times
B) 10 times
C) 15 times
D) 22 times

3 In *Bridget Jones's Diary*, Bridget is the only one to show up in a costume for a "Tarts and Vicars" party. What is she dressed as?
A) Playboy bunny
B) Baywatch lifeguard
C) Old maid
D) French maid



Bridesmaids

6 In *Bridesmaids*, who was the only character not to suffer from food poisoning during the dress fittings?
A) Lillian (Maya Rudolph)
B) Helen (Rose Byrne)
C) Annie (Kristen Wiig)
D) Megan (Melissa McCarthy)

7 In *Meet the Parents* Ben Stiller tries to explain milking what animal to Robert De Niro during dinner?
A) Cat
B) Dog
C) Goat
D) Cow



Meet the Parents

ANSWERS: 1. C, 2. A, 3. A, 4. B, 5. D, 6. B, 7. A

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Southern



Atom Egoyan (left) directs
Colin Firth on the set of
Devil's Knot

Return Justice?

A gruesome crime, a horrified community, and a questionable verdict that landed three teens in jail. **Colin Firth** talks about *Devil's Knot*, and reuniting with friend Atom Egoyan to re-examine the complicated case of the West Memphis Three ■ BY MARNI WEISZ

After years of searching for a second project to do together, the film that finally reunites English actor Colin Firth and Canadian director Atom Egoyan is a bit of a surprise.

Devil's Knot is, after all, the very American story of the West Memphis Three, three Tennessee teens — Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jessie Misskelley Jr. — convicted in the bizarre, 1993 murders of three eight-year-old boys. Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley spent nearly two decades in prison before a decision by the Arkansas Supreme Court led to their release in 2010.

The film was shot over 26 days in Georgia in the summer of 2012 with Firth playing Ron Lax, the real-life private investigator who turned up piece after piece of evidence that raised doubts about the teens' guilt. Reese Witherspoon (who co-starred with Firth in 2002's *The Importance of Being Earnest*) plays Pam Hobbs, the mother of one of the slain boys.

In an interview at the Toronto International Film Festival, Firth doesn't point to the compelling story as his reason for signing up, instead saying, "It was Atom Egoyan and Reese, both of whom I have a history with." A bit sheepishly he admits he wasn't even aware of the famous case, despite the fact it had already spawned four well-known documentaries, and that numerous celebrities, including Eddie Vedder, Henry Rollins, Johnny Depp and Natalie Maines, were instrumental in the movement to reopen the case.

"Atom is a good friend and I continually admire his work," Firth says, sharply dressed in a black blazer and sporting oversized, black-rimmed glasses. "It's wonderful to have someone you regard so highly but who is also a friend with whom you have a great rapport, so I'm always looking for an opportunity to work with him."

It's been almost a decade since Firth and Egoyan collaborated for the 2005 murder mystery *Where the Truth Lies*. While not one of the better-known movies on either's filmography, that drama sparked a friendship that has had the pair looking for another project to do together ever since.

"We talk regularly, not every week, but we live in different places," says Firth. "We run into each other and he's always very enthusiastic and we make each other laugh and know about each other's personal lives, and we take great pleasure in each other's company."

Firth says he and Egoyan have considered, but passed on, two or three projects in the intervening years — time during which Firth was off making films like *A Single Man*, for which he earned a Best Actor Oscar nomination, and *The King's Speech*, for which he finally won that trophy.

And although Firth wasn't familiar with the West Memphis Three when he first read the script (he does spend most of his time in England), he soon found there was no lack of research material available, including the book by Mara Leveritt on which the film is based, HBO's celebrated *Paradise Lost* doc trilogy and that fourth documentary, *West of Memphis*, produced by Peter Jackson.

The story they all tell, in slightly different ways, is of three eight-year-old boys who went into a West Memphis ravine one spring day in 1993 and never came out. The next afternoon they were found naked, hog-tied, beaten and dead in a stream. Because of the grotesque nature of the murders local law enforcement decided that Echols (18), Baldwin (16) and Misskelley Jr. (17) — known for their love of Metallica, Goth culture and Anne Rice novels — killed them as part of a satanic ritual. But much of the case rested on the testimony of a fourth eight-year-old boy who claimed he witnessed the murders, but probably didn't.

CONTINUED ▶



DEVIL'S KNOT
HITS THEATRES
JANUARY 24TH

“Your emotional investment grows as you get involved. You come in for **professional reasons and find yourself drawn in**”

happened in that ravine or who is responsible.

If critics had one concern about the movie after its Toronto screening, it was that it covered the same ground that has already been worn bare by those four excellent documentaries, not to mention multiple books, magazine articles and in-depth TV reports.

“I don’t think [Atom’s] doing the same thing the documentaries are, for a start. That’s a long conversation about what a film and documentary is,” Firth says, adding that, in some ways, a dramatization can be more accurate than a documentary. “The makers of the HBO docs are about storytelling. You have to stand somewhere, and where you put your camera changes things.”

When asked whether this character stayed with him after filming had wrapped, Firth says not really. “The nature of the case has stayed with me. It’s an active case, it hasn’t been solved and the

three boys who went to prison are still young.

“You become part of the story by taking part in the storytelling process,” he adds. “That stays very much alive and my relationships and personal investment in that has not gone away.”

Marni Weisz is the editor of Cineplex Magazine.

► Canadian actors Bruce Greenwood, Elias Koteas and Kevin Durand step in as a judge, occult expert and the father of another slain boy respectively.

As for Firth’s character, Ron Lax volunteered to investigate the case even before he was convinced the teens were innocent. Vehemently anti-death penalty, Lax feared the inflamed emotions surrounding the case would lead to the ultimate punishment, whether deserved or not.

“I spoke to him, but I didn’t meet him in person,” Firth says of Lax, who is still an investigator in Tennessee. “What was his opinion on making a Hollywood movie? He’s not a man with loudmouth opinions. He listens. He wouldn’t be drawn in on it. I wrote to him to tell him my view and expressed my respect for him and what he did for the case and got a brief reply back to the effect that, ‘I’m sure it will be fine.’”

While the resulting film pulls Egoyan away from his Canadian roots, it also brings him back to his most famous movie, *The Sweet Hereafter*, for which he earned two Oscar nominations, for Best Director and Best Adapted Screenplay. Like that film, *Devil’s Knot* concerns a small community devastated by the death of children.

“Your emotional investment grows as you get involved,” says Firth. “You come in for professional reasons and find yourself drawn in, and asking a lot of questions.”

To this day, although many theories abound, it’s not known what



Reese Witherspoon and Alessandro Nivola in *Devil’s Knot*

DID YOU KNOW?

Reese Witherspoon was pregnant with her third child while shooting *Devil’s Knot*. He was born shortly after filming wrapped, and she named him Tennessee.

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Can He Be Frank?

Over his career, **Aaron Eckhart** has tackled a tremendous range of roles, and turned in many masterful performances. But playing an updated version of Frankenstein's monster isn't one we saw coming, and neither did he

■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

I, FRANKENSTEIN

HITS THEATRES JANUARY 24TH

Aaron Eckhart is the acting version

of a Swiss Army knife. Whatever the role — military man (*Battle Los Angeles*), rom-com lover (*Love Happens*) Western hero (*The Missing*), comic book bad guy (*The Dark Knight*), sleazy executive (*Thank You For Smoking*) — Eckhart has the tools to get the job done.

His latest incarnation is as Frankenstein's monster in the supernatural action pic *I, Frankenstein*, based on the graphic novel of the same name. In the film, the 200-year-old monster — named Adam — leads a solitary life, painfully aware his scarred face and unnatural origins make him a pariah among humans. However, when he's drawn into the war between demons and gargoyles, Adam finds himself fighting for the survival of humanity.

"I never thought I would play the monster Frankenstein," Eckhart admits. "I'm very happy I did."

The 45-year-old actor was in Beverly Hills when we spoke by phone about getting into shape for the role, why he really wanted to be a songwriter, and what he believes is on Frankenstein's iPod.

Q:

Tell us about this film's take on the Frankenstein monster.

"Well, if you go back to Mary Shelley's book, the monster is really a sensitive creature. Yes, his father ostracized him and told him that he was an aberration, but inside he's always been interested in getting along with others, learning language, learning how to love. We

stayed with that, the movie is all about finding your purpose in life and finding love. And that's basically what Frankenstein represents — he has his scars on the outside and he feels unworthy and unwanted, and yet life ultimately gives him what he wants."

The film is produced by the same team that made the *Underworld* movies, so I'm assuming there's also a lot of action.

"Yeah, not only can people expect the evolution of the monster Frankenstein, but they get this other world that contains gargoyles and demons and the battle for immortality. There's fighting, and beautifully designed demons and gargoyles. It's a fun story, but it's also a mature story — it's not just actors flying around, the film has substance."

Were you involved with creating the look of the character?

"Yeah, obviously there's a precedent with Frankenstein from the old films, with the scarring, but we made a much more human, accessible Frankenstein for sure, both mentally and physically. I mean we're not going to have any bolts on Frankenstein, he's going to be very athletic, on the run all the time. I felt like he should be in very good shape."

You look like you got in great shape for this film. What was your workout regimen like?

"Well, the director, Stuart Beattie, included the Filipino martial art of stick fighting, so I learned Kali stick fighting."

CONTINUED ►



Aaron Eckhart and Yvonne Strahovski in *I, Frankenstein*

► **Had you even heard of that before you started?**

"No, I never heard of it. I mean, I heard of beating somebody with a stick, but nothing like this. I worked really hard every single day for six months, and by the end you're doing it unconsciously, which is quite an accomplishment actually. And then, physically, I would go from sticks everyday and then go do a body workout. So I really got in shape."

Except for portraying Two-Face in *The Dark Knight* and now this role, you've stayed away from playing comic book characters. I'm guessing you've been offered those roles. Why have you declined them?

"Well you know it's interesting, earlier on in my career I sort of stayed away from that kind of thing. I always liked more of the smaller films or character stuff. I never looked at myself as a superhero. Course, when I was coming up the superhero films weren't what they are today."

Yes, that's true.

"Now it's taking over the industry, they're resurrecting every superhero and every historical character of literature. But when I think of *Superman* and *Spider-Man*, I never really think of myself. I always wanted to do *The Godfather* or *Raging Bull*, I wanted to do *Papillon*, the more damaged characters."

I read somewhere that you said if you weren't an actor you'd be a songwriter.

"Yeah, I would have rather, much rather, been a songwriter. That was my first love."

Who are some of your favourite artists?

"I listen to everything, from heavy metal to folk, but I am much more interested in listening to singer-songwriters like Steve Earle or Sheryl Crow. I think people who can put words together, poetry, that's art. My mother is a poet and a writer, and her mother was as well, and I think that I sort of got that bug."

Who would be on *Frankenstein's* iPod?

"Well, there would be Metallica, Danzig, that sort of thing. But then also maybe softer music, a little R&B, a little Barry White [laughs]."

"We made a much more human, accessible *Frankenstein*," says Eckhart. **"We're not going to have any bolts on *Frankenstein*, he's going to be very athletic"**

You moved to England when you were 13 with your family. What was that like for you?

"Well, going to London every weekend, going to the National Theatre, you know I probably forgot everything I've learned, but just being over there as a young kid and experiencing architecture, literature and all that sort of stuff, it soaked into me. I'm very comfortable there."

Would you ever want to live there?

"No, I would move to Paris if anywhere. I've always wanted to move to Paris. My family is all here, that's the reason why I'm in Los Angeles."

You began in theatre, do you ever think of getting back on stage?

"Yeah, it's been a while, but you know I'm almost gonna retire, I'm looking into that in the next couple of years [laughs]."

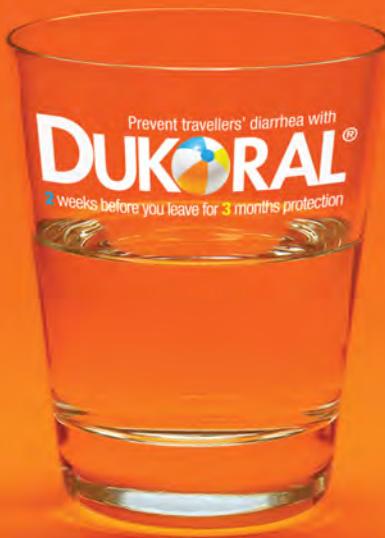
Perhaps you're saying that because you need a break, need to recharge your batteries.

"Amen brother, that's right. But I am having thoughts of becoming a farmer or something, you know? My agent doesn't want me to [laughs]. It's interesting being my age in this industry, to see me with my shirt off in *I, Frankenstein*, I'm 45 years old you know, but it's cool. It's good because you're mature, and you've gone through lots and have had experiences, and now you can have fun with your career." ☑

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.



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JACK BACK

This time, he's not exactly going where no man has gone before. But as **Chris Pine** follows Alec Baldwin, Harrison Ford and Ben Affleck into CIA operative Jack Ryan's well-worn shoes for ***Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit*** he compares playing this brainy action hero to his other franchise hero, Captain Kirk ■ BY COLIN COVERT



JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT HITS THEATRES JANUARY 17TH

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call him The Saviour of Stalled Franchises. First Chris Pine rejuvenated *Star Trek* with two voyages as the iconic Captain Kirk. Now he's the new incarnation of Tom Clancy's popular CIA analyst-turned-action hero in *Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit*. Paramount, the home of both series, clearly wants to be in the Chris Pine business for years to come.

In a recent interview, Pine graciously shared the credit. "I've just been really lucky in that I've been offered these great stories to tell, and to be surrounded by people I respect. That's really all you can hope for in this medium, good collaborators, because it really is a team effort. It's a privilege to be teamed with [directors] like Kenneth Branagh for *Ryan* and J.J. Abrams for *Star Trek*." Pine sees his contribution as bringing "whatever new colours I have to these franchises."

He's got hues, all right. In the 2006 TV movie *Surrender, Dorothy* he donned a pageboy wig and Chinese brocade dress to play Tom Everett Scott's cross-dressing gay lover. He was a tattooed, chop-haired, psychotic neo-Nazi surfer/assassin in *Smokin' Aces*. In the California wine country saga *Bottle Shock*, he played a hick vintner whose Chardonnay wins France's most prestigious wine competition. And in the Disney comedy *Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement*, he schemed as an arrogant nobleman wooing Anne Hathaway to steal her kingdom.

Pine grew up in Los Angeles in a family with deep roots in Hollywood. Both his parents were television actors. His maternal grandmother was B-movie star Anne Gwynne, a favourite screamer in 1940s Universal horror films, and his grandfather was a well-connected entertainment lawyer. Writer-director Alex Kurtzman, who co-wrote the 2009 *Star Trek* reboot, sees Pine as an actor with surprising range who doesn't need robots or explosions as a backdrop. On the *Trek* set he appreciated the understated way Pine drew on Kirk's established traits without verging on a William Shatner impersonation. The next year he saw Pine on stage in one of the funniest and most outrageous plays of the last decade, Martin McDonagh's *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*.

The gruesomely absurd comedy starred Pine as Irish terrorist Mad Padriac, a ruthless sadist who is in love with his cat Wee Thomas. It was a wild, broad role 180 degrees from his film work, and it earned him the 2010 L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award.

Impressed by his versatility and his ability to make challenging characters feel truthful, Kurtzman cast Pine as the flawed hero of his family drama *People Like Us*. In an interview with Movies.com the director said of Pine, "There are very few American actors who are real men. Chris is a guy. He's a guy's guy. But when you look in his eyes, there's a 10-year-old boy." That blend of machismo and youthful liveliness may explain why Pine, now 33, attracts high-profile boy's adventure roles.

CONTINUED ►



Chris Pine (left) and Kevin Costner in *Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit*

► Case in point: the Jack Ryan spy series, dormant for more than a decade. *Shadow Recruit* is the fifth film inspired by Clancy's wildly popular espionage novels, and Pine is the fourth star to play Ryan. Alec Baldwin originated the role in 1990's *The Hunt for Red October*, playing Ryan as a brilliantly intuitive young hotshot. Harrison Ford offered a starchy, don't-make-me-mad interpretation in *Patriot Games* (1992) and *Clear and Present Danger* (1994). Reversing the aging process, Ben Affleck inherited the part in 2002's *The Sum of All Fears*, making Ryan a flippant info-geek who seems to have wandered into the CIA war room from a Georgetown frat house.

Shadow Recruit is an original story not based on a Clancy novel. A veteran agent (Kevin Costner) enlists Pine's reluctant, report-reading rookie to monitor a Russian billionaire (Branagh, with a nefarious accent, pulling double duty as the film's helmer and villain.) The suave oligarch plots to wreck Ryan's relationship with his fiancée (Keira Knightley, who knows nothing of his spy work) and devastate the U.S. economy (not the achievement that once was, admittedly). Cue the car chases and careening helicopters. Can an untested desk-jockey save the day? Does James T. Kirk have a thing for green girls?

The latest iteration of Ryan, a clever everyman type, is a more thoughtful character than the brash starship commander. Pine, who studied English Literature at the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Leeds in the U.K., calls his new role as "a thinking man's spy" a closer fit to his own personality. "I do find more resonance with a guy like him, who's more comfortable behind a book." He means it. Pine reads more than screenplays. He has high praise for Jennifer Egan's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *A Visit From the Goon Squad* ("It blew my mind") and the short stories of T.C. Boyle ("His imagination is stunning").

While Tom Clancy's techno-thrillers might not top Pine's literary hit parade, he offers, "I enjoyed playing Jack Ryan after having played Kirk, who leads with his gut, with his impulsiveness, with his passion.

Playing Ryan, who is almost the opposite end of that spectrum, someone more like Spock, was a great amount of fun."

Without Jason Bourne's battle-hardened prowess or James Bond's arsenal of gadgets, Ryan has to rely on his brains. "You think, 'How would I handle that situation?'" Pine says. "I like that he's accessible in that way, that in a tight spot he has to think his way out of it. His wits are his weapon. More than Bond, more than Bourne, I can find myself right there. That, I think, is what's going to grab the audience."

Working with Branagh, a celebrated actor with a vast theatrical résumé and a five-time Oscar nominee, was an irresistible selling point, Pine says. Whereas Abrams was deeply engaged with "the visual component, the gadgets, the costumes, the look, even the colour palette" of the *Star Trek* films, "there's something to be said for a director like Kenneth who was a workaday actor like most of us.

There's a different connection. There's a shorthand speak between actors that I think is very helpful."

Pine will soon be seen in another iconic role, playing Cinderella's Prince Charming in the upcoming adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's musical fable *Into the Woods*. But the role he'd covet if he could step into any literary work is a surprise.

"I do love Mark Twain. Actually there's probably a great bio-pic to be done on Twain himself," Pine says. "He was a hell of a character and a guy with a great sense of humour. I'd definitely take a look at that script." ☐

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

R.I.P. TOM CLANCY



Tom Clancy, who created the Jack Ryan character, passed away from apparent heart failure on October 1st of last year, just two days before the first trailer for *Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit* was released. The new movie is not based on a Clancy novel, but

instead has an original script written by Adam Cozad and David Koepp using Clancy's characters. But Clancy did have one last Jack Ryan story in the can before his death. *Command Authority*, which he wrote with fellow author Mark Greaney, came out last month. —MW

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* No purchase necessary. Contest entry window closes February 17, 2014, all bonus entries must be submitted by March 2, 2014. Contest is open to individuals who are SCENE members or become SCENE members during the Contest Period. To enter the contest, entrants must validate or update their email address and subscribe to receive communications from SCENE via email or subscribe to SCENE SMS alerts. SCENE members may receive 1 entry for updating or validating their email address, and 100 bonus entries for entering the PIN they receive by March 2, members may also receive 1 entry for opting-in to SMS alerts or validating or updating their cell phone number and opting-in to receive SMS alerts, and 100 bonus entries for replying with the correct keyword by March 2. Prizes consist of 1,000 prizes of one (1) free movie (ARV: \$10). The odds of winning depends on the total number of eligible entries received during the contest period. Correctly answered skill testing question required. Standard text messaging/SMS service charges may apply for SMS entries. For full rules and contest details visit scene.ca. SCENE is a registered trademark of SCENE IP LP.



A promotional image for the movie 'The Amazing Spider-Man 2'. On the left, Spider-Man is shown in his iconic red and blue suit, looking towards the right. On the right, Electro is shown in his blue, metallic, and glowing suit, looking towards Spider-Man. The background is dark. The text '2014 MOVIE PREVIEW!' is overlaid in large, white, 3D-style letters in the center. Below the title, there is a short paragraph of text and a small box with more details about the movie.

2014 MOVIE PREVIEW!

Want to laugh yourself silly?
Have your mind blown? Take the
kids to a great pic? Reunite with old
friends? Read on... ■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2 OPENS MAY 2

We think of 2012's *The Amazing Spider-Man* as a blind date that went really well, so we're excited about the second date. In that first film a relatively unknown **Andrew Garfield** nailed his turn as the boyish Peter Parker/Spider-Man, and **Emma Stone** was perfect as girlfriend Gwen Stacy. And while the sequel sees big names such as **Jamie Foxx** and **Paul Giamatti** play baddies Electro and The Rhino respectively, we can't wait to see how Peter and Gwen's relationship evolves.



PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

**THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY - PART 1
OPENS NOVEMBER 21**

Could **Jennifer Lawrence** win an Academy Award for playing Katniss Everdeen? It's not out of the question. The two-film *Hunger Games* finale, beginning with November's *Part 1*, finds Katniss leading the revolution against the Panem government, and her performance may just be good enough to earn more Oscar love.



**X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST
OPENS MAY 23**

The *X-Men* series has developed into Hollywood's savviest franchise by retaining a stable of top-notch actors who get to develop their characters across various retro-cool time periods. We're itching to see the old Magneto (**Ian McKellen**) and Professor X (**Patrick Stewart**) come face-to-face with their younger selves (**Michael Fassbender** and **James McAvoy** respectively).



Peter Jackson directs his cast on the set of *The Hobbit* trilogy

**THE HOBBIT: THERE AND BACK AGAIN
OPENS DECEMBER 17**

Director **Peter Jackson** has moved all his pieces into place, and now the board is set for the huge "Battle of the Five Armies" that sees dwarves, elves, humans, orcs, goblins, bats, eagles, a hobbit and a wizard duking it out. It's going to be epic.

**CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER
OPENS APRIL 4**

While **Chris Evans** gets attention for transforming his body into a work of brawny art, he doesn't get enough credit for creating Marvel's quietest and saddest superhero — a man adrift in the 21st-century. Here he joins forces with Black Widow (**Scarlett Johansson**) to take down Russian terrorists. CONTINUED ▶



Concept art from *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*

BEST Family Friendly



Ricky Gervais with his *Muppets Most Wanted* co-stars Miss Piggy and Kermit the frog



Quvenzhané Wallis and Jamie Foxx on *Annie's* New York set

PHOTO BY JACKSON LEE/SPLASH NEWS

► MUPPETS MOST WANTED OPENS MARCH 21

Admit it, you want to see the new Muppets movie even more than your kid does. The story of a criminal Kermit lookalike infiltrating the Muppets gang is buoyed by the inclusion of A-list human talent, including **Tina Fey**, **Tom Hiddleston**, **Christopher Waltz**, **Lady Gaga** and **Ricky Gervais**.

ANNIE OPENS DECEMBER 19

It's been ages since we've seen a feel-good, family musical, and this adaptation of the long-running Broadway show fits the bill, complete with high-wattage star **Jamie Foxx** as the benefactor who aids orphan Annie, played by up-and-coming star (and Oscar nominee for *Beasts of the Southern Wild*) **Quvenzhané Wallis**.

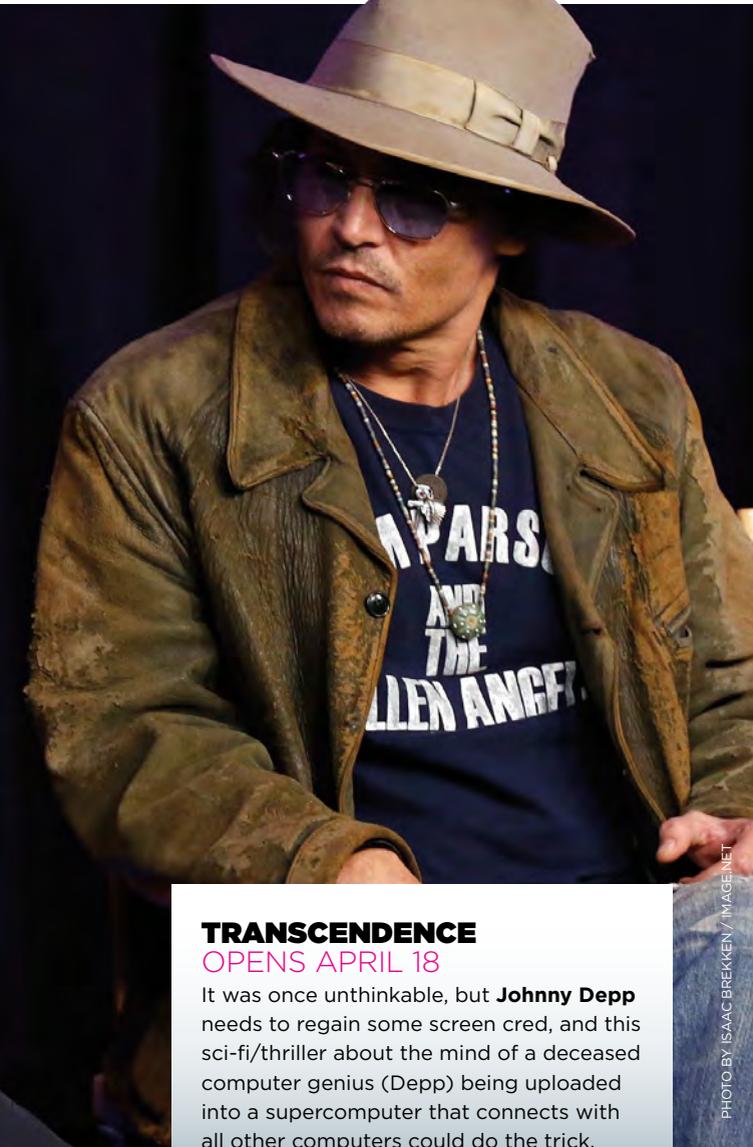
THE LEGO MOVIE OPENS FEBRUARY 7

Children will enjoy seeing their favourite LEGO characters come to life, but what'll save *The LEGO Movie* from becoming an extended commercial is its sly, wink-wink humour that not only takes a poke at commercialism — President Business (**Will Ferrell**) is the film's villain — but heroes such as Batman (**Will Arnett**) and Wonder Woman (**Cobie Smulders**).



The LEGO Movie

MOST Intriguing



TRANSCENDENCE OPENS APRIL 18

It was once unthinkable, but **Johnny Depp** needs to regain some screen cred, and this sci-fi/thriller about the mind of a deceased computer genius (Depp) being uploaded into a supercomputer that connects with all other computers could do the trick.

PHOTO BY ISAAC BREKKEN / IMAGENET



Edge of Tomorrow's futuristic soldiers Emily Blunt and Tom Cruise

EDGE OF TOMORROW OPENS JUNE 6

Oblivion, **Tom Cruise's** most recent foray into sci-fi, was meh, but this tale of a futuristic soldier who dies fighting aliens but awakens to relive the day over and over again looks like it'll deliver. It's based on a cool Japanese novel, co-stars **Emily Blunt** and is helmed by stellar action director **Doug Liman** (*Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, *The Bourne Identity*).

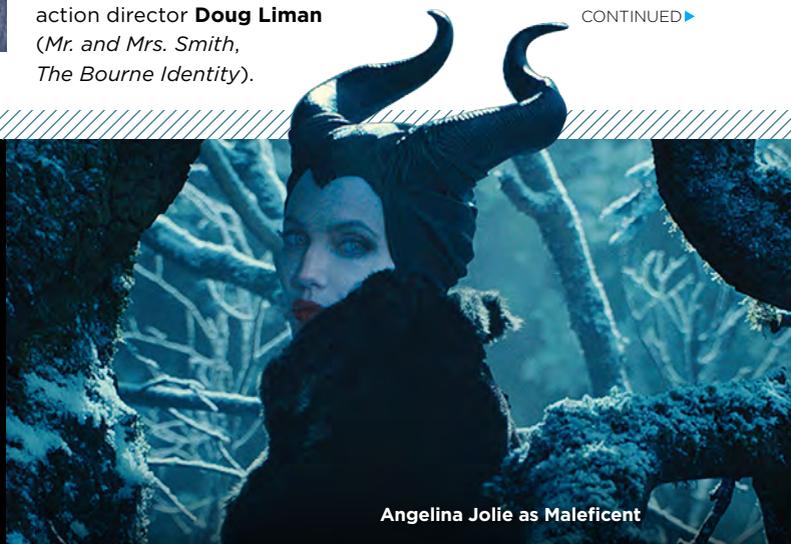
INTERSTELLAR OPENS NOVEMBER 7

Just hearing the name **Christopher Nolan** makes us tingle. What is the mad genius writer/director up to with this closely guarded sci-fi about a team of explorers, led by **Matthew McConaughey**, who discover a wormhole that allows them to jump across space and time? Does it matter? We are so there.

CONTINUED ▶

ANGELINA JOLIE'S BIG YEAR

When Disney's *Maleficent* opens May 30th, it will mark **Angelina Jolie's** first screen appearance since 2010's *The Tourist*. Jolie says she couldn't resist the chance to play *Sleeping Beauty's* baddie (a character she's loved since childhood) and make a movie for, and with, her kids — children **Vivienne**, **Zahara** and **Pax** all have small roles in the film. In addition, look for Jolie's sophomore directing effort *Unbroken* to hit screens December 25th. The drama recounts the life of American World War II airman **Louis Zamperini**, who survived months lost at sea and then years inside a Japanese POW camp.



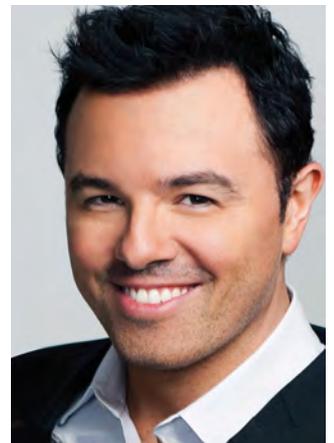
Angelina Jolie as Maleficent

FUNNIEST Comedies



▶ THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL OPENS MARCH 7

People love to mock writer/director **Wes Anderson's** oddball comedic style, but he remains a wonderfully original voice in today's cookie-cutter Hollywood. **Ralph Fiennes** stars as Gustave H., the famed concierge of the Grand Budapest Hotel who mentors an impressionable lobby boy (**Tony Revolori**). Expect wry turns from Anderson regulars such as **Tilda Swinton, Owen Wilson, Bill Murray, Willem Dafoe, Jason Schwartzman** and **Edward Norton**.



A MILLION WAYS TO DIE IN THE WEST OPENS MAY 30

Writer/actor/director **Seth MacFarlane's** follow up to his hugely successful *Ted* is a Western comedy, which is an unusual choice, but so was making a movie about a foul-mouthed toy bear. MacFarlane also acts in the pic, playing a cowardly farmer who runs away from a gunfight, but then falls for the wife (**Charlize Theron**) of a gunslinger (**Liam Neeson**).



NEIGHBORS OPENS MAY 9

A hipster couple (**Seth Rogen, Rose Byrne**) goes to war against the obnoxious fraternity dudes (led by **Zac Efron**) who've moved in next door. The trailer is laugh-out-loud funny, and anyone who has ever dealt with a less-than-gracious neighbour will enjoy the vengeful comedic carnage.

BEST Page-To-Screen

THE MAZE RUNNER OPENS SEPTEMBER 19

Move over girls and let the boys get in on the dystopian-inspired action. In *The Maze Runner* (based on **James Dashner's** Young Adult trilogy), a group of teenage boys are held prisoner in a giant maze. News that Fox pushed back the film's release date to ensure the special effects wouldn't be rushed bodes well for the pic.



The Maze Runner's
trapped young heroes

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
SHARP OBJECTS AND DARK PLACES

GILLIAN
FLYNN
GONE GIRL

GONE GIRL OPENS OCTOBER 3

Gillian Flynn's thriller ruled bestseller lists in 2012 and caught the attention of picky director **David Fincher**, who helps this adaptation starring **Ben Affleck** and **Rosamund Pike** as Nick and Amy Dunne, a married couple whose secrets catch up with them when Amy goes missing.

DIVERGENT OPENS MARCH 21

This adaptation of the first novel in **Veronica Roth's** popular Young Adult book series could very well catch fire with audiences due to one wise decision — casting talented young actor **Shailene Woodley** to play badass teen Tris Prior, who fights against a dystopian society that fears her individuality.





PATTINSON & CUMBERBATCH HEAD TO THE JUNGLE

Benedict Cumberbatch (right) and **Robert Pattinson** will head to the Amazon jungle for *The Lost City of Z*, based on the true story of English explorer Percy Fawcett and his son, Jack, who disappeared in Brazil in 1925 while searching for the ancient city of Z (also referred to as El Dorado). **Brad Pitt's** Plan B will produce the pic with **James Gray** (*Two Lovers*) directing.



PAGE GOES WILD

Two Canadians — director **Patricia Rozema** and actor **Ellen Page** — team up for the dystopian drama *Into the Forest*, based on the novel by **Jean Hegland**. Page and co-star **Evan Rachel Wood** play sisters living in the remote Northern California wilderness who slowly realize society has collapsed.



WHAT'S GOING ON WITH...

ENTOURAGE MOVIE

TV's *Entourage* posse will finally hit the big screen. Getting the movie adaptation off the ground was delayed as the cast — **Jeremy Piven**, **Adrian Grenier**, **Kevin Dillon**, **Jerry Ferrara** and **Kevin Connolly** — negotiated deals that would allow them a percentage of the profits. No word yet on plot details, but the movie is set to start shooting this month in California with director **Doug Ellin** behind the camera.

HIRSCH PLAYS BELUSHI

Lone Survivor star **Emile Hirsch** will play **John Belushi** in writer/director **Steve Conrad's** upcoming Belushi bio-pic. The movie follows Belushi's rise to fame on TV's *Saturday Night Live* in the 1970s and in films such as *Animal House* and *The Blues Brothers*, until his drug-induced death at age 33. The film starts shooting in New York this spring.



RETURN ENGAGEMENT



UNFORGETTABLE **Affair**

When it comes to old-school Hollywood love stories, it's tough to top *An Affair to Remember* (1957). It's the tale of renowned playboy Nickie Ferrante (Cary Grant) and former nightclub singer Terry McKay (Deborah Kerr) falling in love during a transatlantic ship voyage, despite the fact they are engaged to other people. Before disembarking, they agree to end their engagements and meet six months later at the top of the Empire State Building.

But as Shakespeare tells us, the course of true love never did run smooth, and a tragedy threatens the couple's best-laid plans. The film begins as a wonderfully sophisticated comedy, with Grant and Kerr trading witty banter and martini-dry quips, and evolves into a multi-hankie melodrama that'll melt your heart. —/R

**AN AFFAIR
TO REMEMBER**
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Go to
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for times and
locations.

The frost that stings
like fire upon my cheek,
The loneliness
of this forsaken ground,
The long white drift
upon whose powdered peak
I sit in the great silence
as one bound.

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FINALLY...

DO THE HUSTLE

Recognize these two lovely ladies? As if Amy Adams (left) and Jennifer Lawrence needed to be made even sexier, here they are as idealized through the creative lens of *American Hustle* costume designer Michael Wilkinson and illustrated by Warren Manser. Wilkinson, whose eclectic résumé stretches from the simple wardrobes of *Garden State* and *The Twilight Saga* to the sci-fi ensembles from *TRON: Legacy* and *Man of Steel*, says of this film, “There were a lot of opportunities to explore different social backgrounds, from the vibrant, racially diverse world of blue-collar New Jersey to ultra-fashionable Upper East Side Manhattan to the sprawling suburbs of Long Island; 1978 — the year the film takes place — is a fascinating year, because it marks the beginning of a transition away from the truly flamboyant, exaggerated lines of the 1970s and into a more streamlined, early ’80s vibe.” —MW

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AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

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