

COMPLEX

MAGAZINE

Smart
Meets
Sexy

BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH TALKS

THE IMITATION GAME

Inside
**HUGH
BONNEVILLE**
**LIAM
NEESON**

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Benedict Cumberbatch's fervent fans won't be disappointed with his latest role. *The Imitation Game* casts the 38-year-old Brit as Alan Turing, a gay, mathematical genius who helped hasten the end of WWII. Here he talks about bringing Turing to life and his various other talents
BY INGRID RANDOJA

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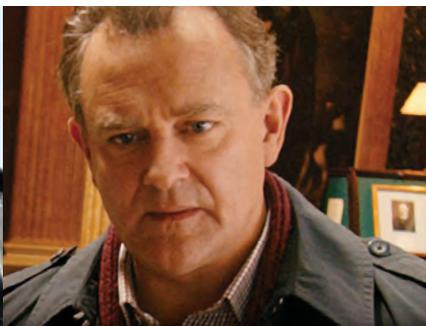
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BY INGRID RANDOJA



COVER PHOTO BY AUSTIN HARGRAVE/AUGUST IMAGE





WHAT'S IN A NAME?

I want to give **Benedict Cumberbatch** props for keeping his mouthful of a birth name. I want to, but unfortunately I can't.

Recently satirized as **Bodysnatch Cumberbund**, **Buffalo Custardbath** and **Bumblesnuff Crimpysnitch** in a single two-inch article in the University of Sheffield's student newspaper *Forge Press*, it's a name that begs to be messed with.

So I really *want* to give Cumberbatch credit for having the guts to keep it as he clawed his way into professional acting. I can't, because he wanted to change it.

In a surprising twist of film-world lore, it was Cumberbatch's agents who convinced the lad to keep it — the same breed that counselled Norma Jeane Baker to become Marilyn Monroe and Archibald Leach to turn into Cary Grant.

Cumberbatch began his career with the pseudonym Ben Carlton, but wasn't getting work. His agents thought at least people would take notice of his birth name, and might even remember it. They were right.

Now there's an entire fan movement based around Cumberbatch's surname. With apologies to the one reader from the East Coast who complained the last time we printed that group's name, the Cumberbitches are a rabid group whose members are known to travel long distances for the chance to see their man on a red carpet, at a film festival or on a TV talk show.

When Cumberbatch appeared on *The Tonight Show*, host Jimmy Fallon showed a throng of young, female fans standing outside the theatre and explained they had more people on the stand-by list that night than for any other show that year.

When he appeared on *The Daily Show*, Jon Stewart said, "I see a lot of guests on this show, high profile, presidents, you're the first guest, I want to rip your clothes [off] and sell it on eBay."

All this for a man who, quite honestly, has yet to have a lead role in a hit film on this side of the pond. Playing baddie Khan in 2013's *Star Trek Into Darkness* is the closest he's come.

So, would Ben Carlton have eventually garnered the same following as Benedict Cumberbatch? There's no doubt he is a massively talented actor whose British accent, odd good looks (he's been compared to an otter and an alien) and quick wit combine to make him irresistible to a certain class of smart ladies, and men.

Yet Patrick Stewart, Michael Fassbender and even Cumberbatch's co-star on BBC TV's *Sherlock*, Martin Freeman, possess those qualities and there are no Stewartesses, Fasseners or Martinizers breaking down Jimmy Fallon's stage door.

And for our East Coast reader who doesn't like to see that word in print, take heart in the fact that Cumberbatch doesn't like it much either. He has campaigned fans to change the name to the Cumberbabes, Cumberbuddies or Cumber Collective in the name of feminism. Good luck with that.

Turn to page 40 for "Cracking the Code," our interview with Cumberbatch — who, by the way, has described his surname as "stupid" and compared it to the sound a fart makes in a bath — about the role that will likely earn him his first Oscar nomination, Alan Turing in *The Imitation Game*.

Elsewhere in this issue another English actor, **Hugh Bonneville**, talks *Paddington* (page 38) and Irishman **Liam Neeson** talks *Taken 3* (page 34). Plus, starting on page 26 we bring you our **2015 Movie Preview**, the 10 films we can't wait to see this year.

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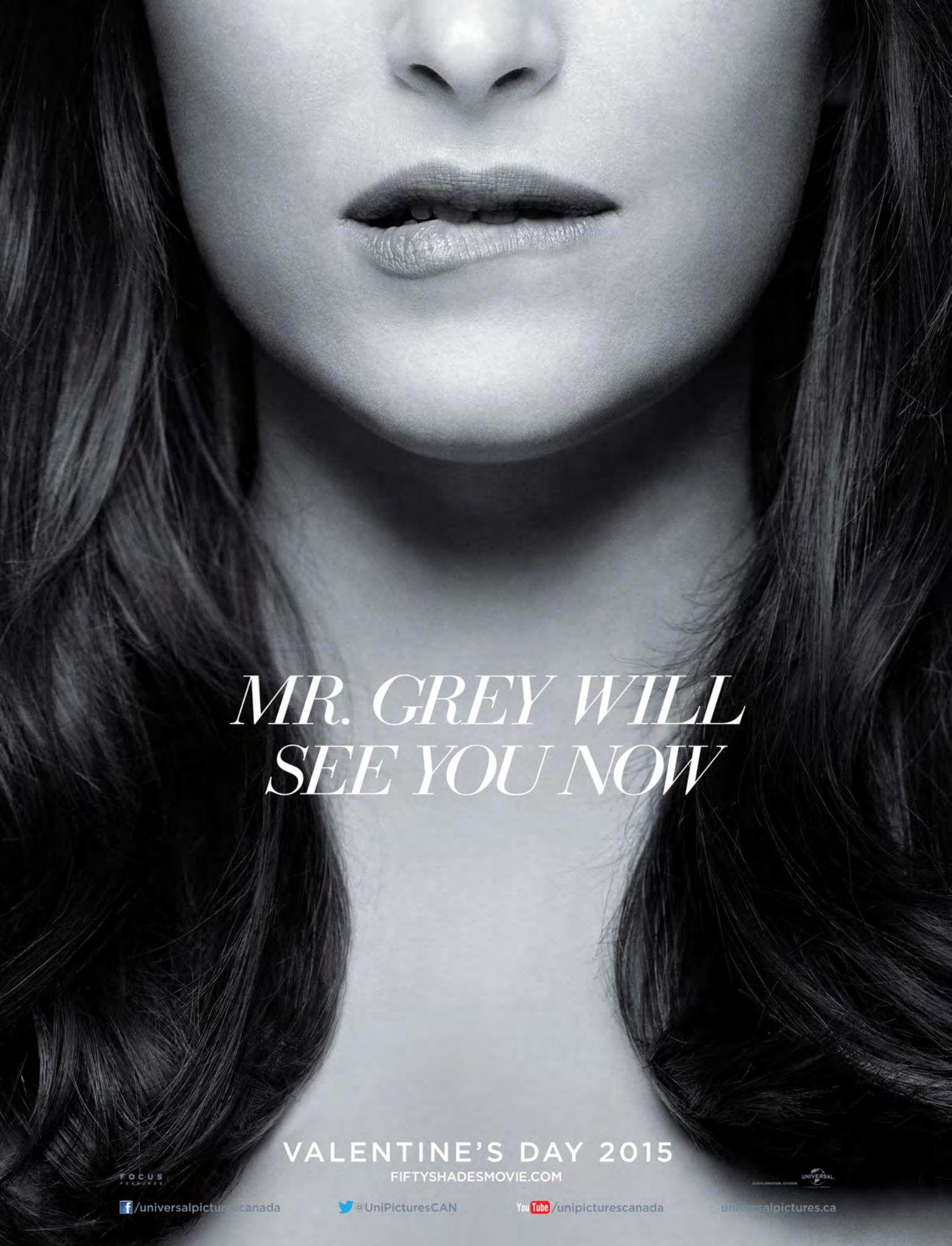
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■ MARNI WEISZ, EDITOR



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Cineplex Entertainment
President and CEO, Ellis Jacob

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM CINEPLEX ENTERTAINMENT

Welcome to the January issue of *Cineplex Magazine*, an opportunity to look back at the year that was, and also to look forward to 2015, a year that promises to offer one of the most exciting film slates in history.

The past year saw a number of blockbusters in Cineplex theatres from coast to coast, including our top five films of the year: *Guardians of the Galaxy*, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1*, *The LEGO Movie*, *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* and *X-Men: Days of Future Past*.

For the ninth consecutive season, Cineplex delighted opera and music fans with screenings of *The Met: Live in HD*.

The *National Theatre Live* was back with another season of incredible theatre performances, while our new *In the Gallery* series took guests on expertly guided tours of art exhibitions and museums from around the world. These performances just scratch the surface of big-screen programming offered by Cineplex's *Front Row Centre Events*.

The SCENE loyalty program continued its incredible growth in 2014, surpassing six-million members. An amazing one in six Canadians now counts themselves a SCENE member. Today, in addition to the program's long-standing benefits at Cineplex and Scotiabank, members are able to earn and redeem points at SportChek — the largest national retailer of sporting goods, footwear and apparel in Canada. SCENE really lives up to its motto: members get more.

In 2014, we completed a total redesign of CineplexStore.com — vastly improving the user experience and adding new titles to our increasingly popular mobile and home entertainment offering. With CineplexStore.com, you can rent or buy movies from one of Canada's largest online catalogues, store them in the cloud, and watch them on nearly any device. Don't forget, you'll earn SCENE points with every purchase.

Looking ahead to 2015, we will continue the expansion of Cineplex's premium offerings — bringing 3D capability, UltraAVX auditoriums, VIP Cinemas and D-BOX motion seats to new and existing locations. We'll also open new theatres in several communities and renovate others, as we continue to invest in providing you with exceptional entertainment experiences across Canada.

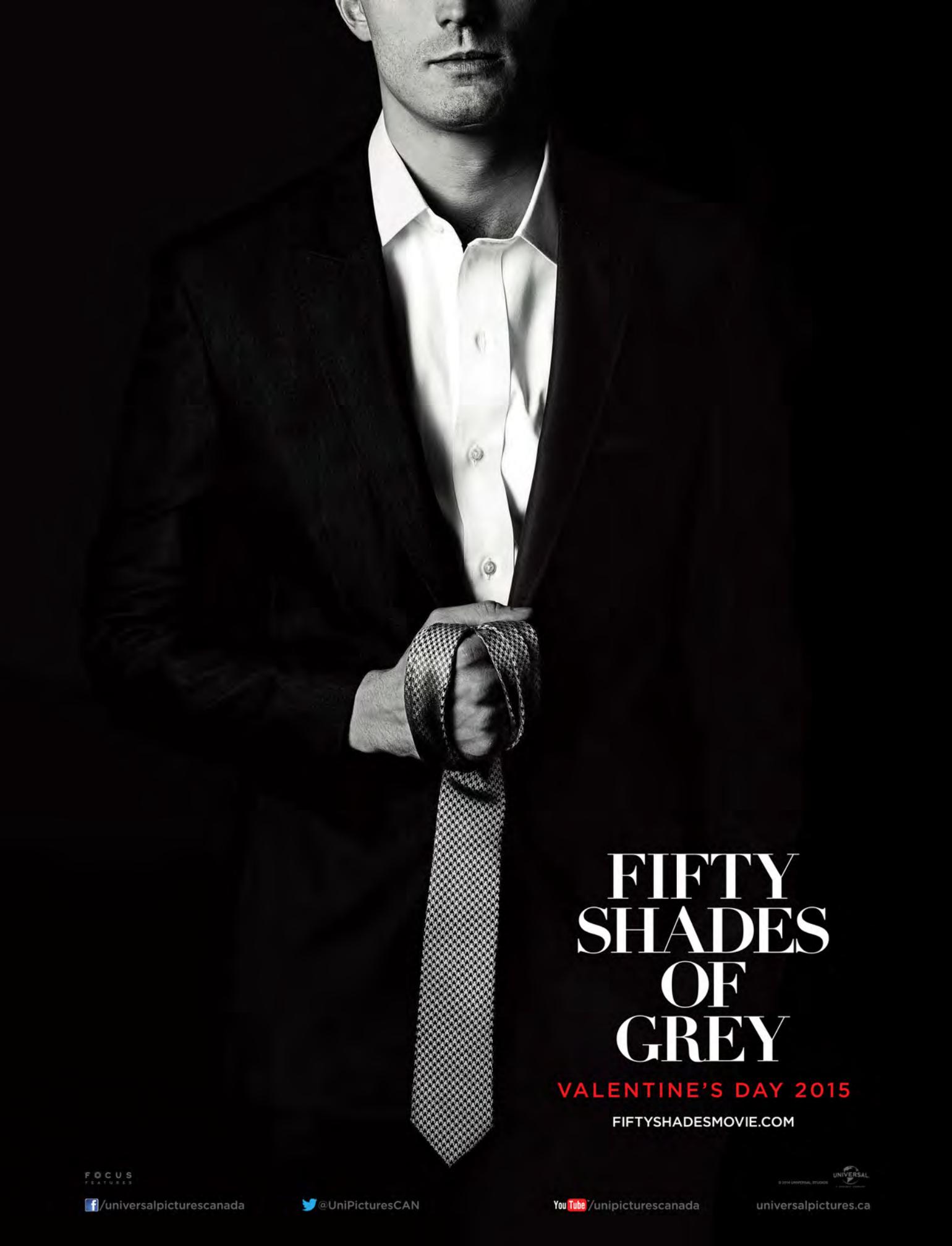
The year ahead offers a number of great titles to get excited about. You'll learn about some of them in this issue's 2015 Movie Preview.

On behalf of all of us at Cineplex, I wish you a safe and prosperous 2015. Enjoy the show.

Sincerely,

■ **ELLIS JACOB,**

PRESIDENT AND CEO, CINEPLEX ENTERTAINMENT



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SNAPS



THE McCONAUGHEY-HOP

Matthew McConaughey seems to levitate during his star ceremony at the Hollywood Walk of Fame. We are, however, guessing he'd just jumped off that riser.

PHOTO BY JASON MERRITT/GETTY



ELLE TO IL

Elle Fanning is unrecognizable on the Brooklyn set of *Three Generations*. She plays Ray, a teen who transitions from female to male.

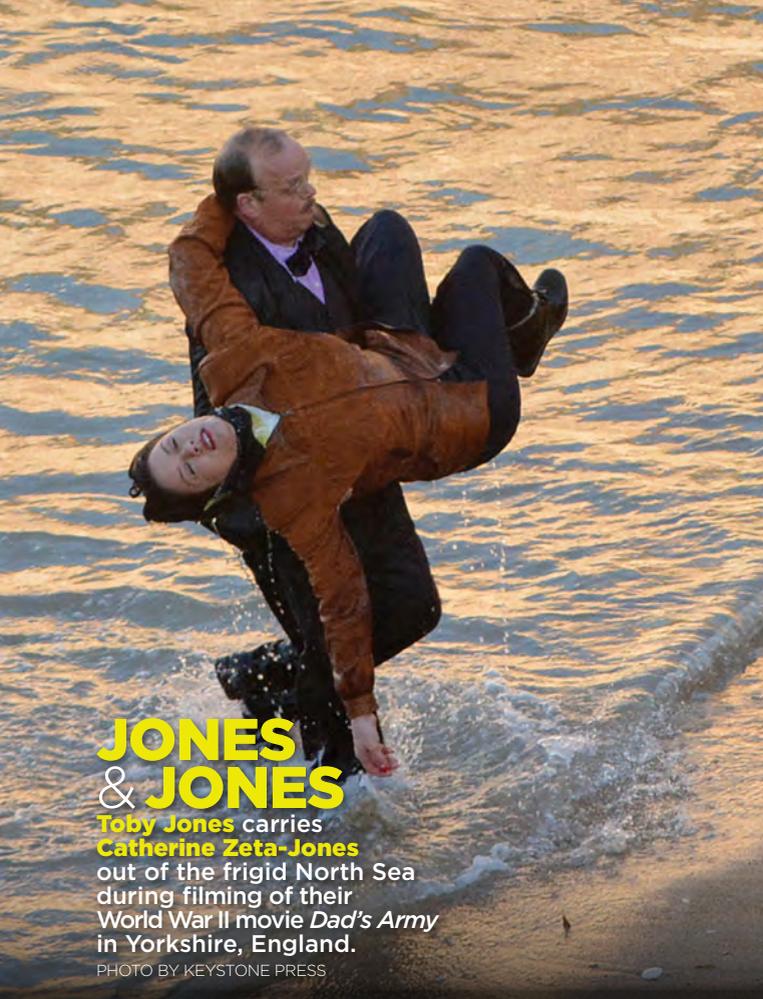
PHOTO BY JOSE PEREZ/SPLASH NEWS



FRANCO IN ZEROVILLE

Is he acting or directing here? **James Franco** pulls double-duty on the Hollywood set of *Zeroville*, about a film fanatic who moves to L.A. in the 1970s.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



JONES & JONES

Toby Jones carries **Catherine Zeta-Jones** out of the frigid North Sea during filming of their World War II movie *Dad's Army* in Yorkshire, England.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



ROBBIE IN A RUSH

Margot Robbie scoots past photographers outside the Harpers Bazaar Women of the Year Awards in London, England.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS



CUTEST SPIELBERG FAN EVER

Steven Spielberg takes a picture with a fan on the Wroclaw, Poland, set of his spy thriller *St. James Place*.

PHOTO BY ADAM JAGIELAK/GETTY

IN BRIEF



HEMSWORTH FEELING VULNERABLE

Blackhat stars Chris Hemsworth as a brilliant, beefy computer hacker sprung from prison so he can help nab a much more dangerous hacker wreaking havoc on the world's financial systems and threatening to do much worse.

Until joining the film, Hemsworth's real-life interaction with computers involved avoiding Twitter like the plague and typing with two fingers. That changed when he underwent two

months of tutelage from mathematician Chris McKinlay before reporting to director Michael Mann's set.

"And now it's like this," Hemsworth told a Comic-Con crowd of his typing prowess, his fingers flying above an imaginary keyboard.

More importantly, McKinlay gave Hemsworth a taste of the hacker's world. "And all of a sudden you realize how vulnerable we are in this age and the possibilities of what you think is safe, and the information that you

think is a secret, isn't," said Hemsworth.

"I was talking to this guy about what's possible and he said, 'Yeah, I could just hack into your computer through this network and pull out all your photos if I wanted, or I could switch on your camera into your computer or your phone and look at what's going on.'"

How did the celebrity respond to such knowledge? "I'm like, 'That's it, I'm getting rid of my computer and I'm turning my phone off.'" —*MW*

Susan Sarandon

On Home Turf: MARILYN

Susan Sarandon, Kelli Garner and Emily Watson are in Toronto this month to shoot the Lifetime miniseries *Marilyn*, based on author J. Randy Taraborrelli's book *The Secret Life of Marilyn Monroe*.

While Garner nabbed the role of Norma Jeane/Marilyn Monroe, it's Sarandon's part as the starlet's mother Gladys that intrigues us. Gladys suffered from paranoid schizophrenia and was institutionalized several times.

Watson plays Grace McKee, Gladys' best friend who becomes Norma Jeane's legal guardian when Gladys can no longer take care of her. —*MW*

THE ART OF FILM

Few artists do a better job of capturing not just an actor, but the essence of a performance than British illustrator Sam Gilbey. *Amélie* (pictured bottom right), for instance, is one of his favourite movies and the scene where Amélie turns to water one of his favourite parts. "[It's a] poignant illustration of her emotional despair," says Gilbey. "I thought it would be interesting to apply that approach to a straight portrait." The two other images depict Bill Murray in *The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou* and the blended triptych of Naomi Watts, Laura Haring and Melissa George from *Mulholland Dr.* See more at samgilbeyillustrates.com. —*MW*



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PHOTOS COURTESY GEORGIAN HOUSE HOTEL



Johnny Depp

THE MAN BEHIND MORTDECAI

The Johnny Depp comedy *Mortdecai* is based on a trilogy of books written in the 1970s by English author Kyril Bonfiglioli. Like the character of Charlie Mortdecai, Bonfiglioli was an art dealer, a bon vivant and a bit of a rogue with a pretty good moustache. He died in 1985, after which time a fourth Mortdecai book, *The Great Mortdecai Moustache Mystery*, was published posthumously.



▶ HOGWARTS HOTEL

How about **Hogwarts for March Break?** Not the Universal theme park, but one of the Georgian House Hotel's Wizard's Chambers. Two rooms in the 164-year-old London, England, B&B have been overhauled to look just like dorm rooms at

Harry Potter's school of witchcraft and wizardry. They feature four-poster beds, potion bottles, cauldrons and worn-out trunks, and are within walking distance of Victoria Station where you can hop aboard the Warner Bros. Studio Tour that will take you to the site of filming. —*MW*

Quote Unquote

People have been attracted to characters that go against the law since the beginning of film.... I think part of it has to do with the fact that **we get to experience vertigo without really standing on the edge of a building.**

—**BENICIO DEL TORO** ON PLAYING PABLO ESCOBAR IN *ESCOBAR: PARADISE LOST*



PHOTO BY PETER BREGGS/GETTY



Wash Westmoreland (left) and Richard Glatzer

ALS CHALLENGE

Still Alice, this month's drama about a linguistics professor (Julianne Moore) diagnosed with Alzheimer's, is the latest movie from filmmaking partners (and partners in life, they recently married) Wash Westmoreland and Richard Glatzer (*The Last of Robin Hood*, *Quinceañera*).

The film earned strong reviews when it premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival, being called "engrossing" and "a deep, human movie" by critics.

And some, including Westmoreland, have attributed the film's success to the on-set presence of Glatzer, who was diagnosed with ALS in 2011, just a few months before the pair received this script. By the time shooting started in February 2014, Glatzer could no longer feed or dress himself and communicated by typing with one finger.

"Undaunted by this, he was on set every day, directing the movie, despite incredible physical difficulties. This silently infused the whole production with a sense of deeper purpose," recalls Westmoreland. —MW



PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

RED-CARPET MOMENT OF THE MONTH

Elizabeth Banks grapples with her dress as a sullen portrait of Katniss Everdeen looks on at the London premiere of *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1*.



Al Pacino in *The Humbling*

DID YOU KNOW?

The Al Pacino movie *The Humbling* had such a low budget that it was partly shot inside director Barry Levinson's house. Pacino plays a washed-up stage actor who has an affair with a lesbian woman (Greta Gerwig) half his age.



**FIFTY SHADES
OF GREY**
HITS THEATRES
FEBRUARY 13TH

SKARSTEN TALKS 50 SHADES... AND HOCKEY

“Mr. Grey will see you now,” announces Rachel Skarsten as she leads our doe-eyed protagonist into Christian Grey’s office in next month’s *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

Skarsten plays Andrea, Grey’s personal assistant, in the movie based on the salacious, best-selling novel about submission, domination and kinky sex.

With perfect posture, a grey power suit and a platinum-blond bun Andrea looks pretty sexy to us, but Skarsten — who was born and bred in Toronto and now lives in L.A. — says she’s anything but.

“She’s an interesting role in the book and movie because she’s completely unsexualized,” says Skarsten. “That provided me with a unique opportunity in Hollywood to play a woman in such a sexual film who derives absolutely none of her character or power from her sexuality.”

Skarsten, who’s had roles on TV’s *Lost Girl*, *Flashpoint* and *Birds of Prey*, has a very Canadian way of dealing with the pressures of being a woman in the film and television industry. Since she was a teen she’s played hockey, and is a goalie no less — a position she held with the 2002 Toronto City Champion Leaside Wildcats.

“I always have a million thoughts in my mind. Hockey provided me with the opportunity to have a singular focus, to be completely in the moment when I was playing.

“Hockey also saved me,” she adds. “Coming from an industry that promotes being skinny and pits women against each other, hockey was the opposite. It’s about being strong and working towards winning together. I’m so grateful to the game, to my coaches, to my teammates.”

She still plays, although the opportunities are easier to find when she’s back home in Canada.

“In Toronto, where my shows *Transporter* and *Lost Girl* filmed, all the crews of different shows play each other. For the first season I was the only girl who played. It’s difficult to convince men you can play with them, but after the first few saves they were good.”

She says most people are surprised when she tells them she’s a goalie, but that’s okay, she likes surprising people.

And while the lead characters in *Fifty Shades* are finding all sorts of dangerous and titillating ways to derive pleasure, for Skarsten pleasure’s a lot easier to find — though sometimes no less dangerous.

“I still have yet to find many feelings sweeter than making a glove save,” she says. —MARNI WEISZ

Did your date just move in closer?

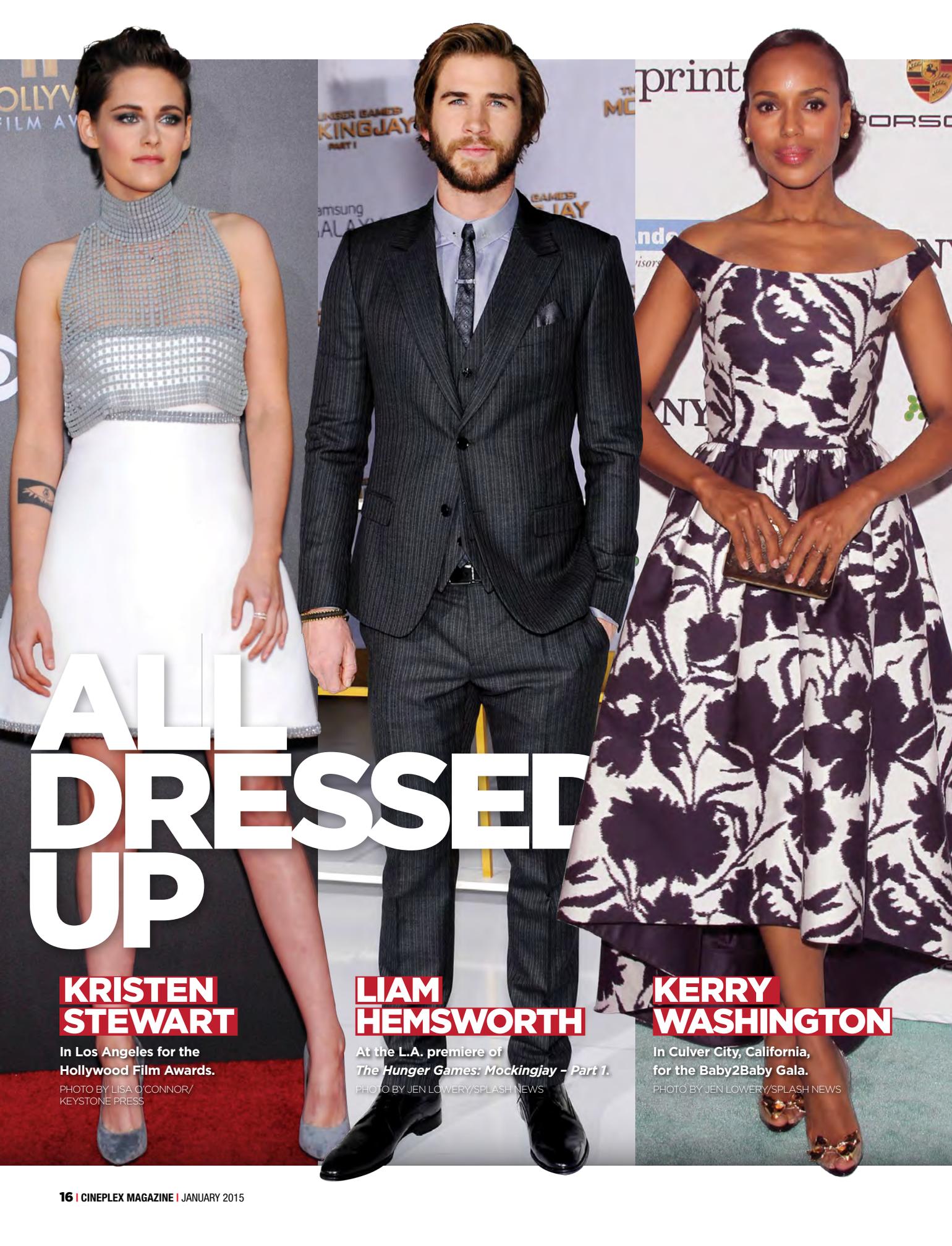


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ALL DRESSED UP

KRISTEN STEWART

In Los Angeles for the Hollywood Film Awards.

PHOTO BY LISA O'CONNOR/KEYSTONE PRESS

LIAM HEMSWORTH

At the L.A. premiere of *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1*.

PHOTO BY JEN LOWERY/SPLASH NEWS

KERRY WASHINGTON

In Culver City, California, for the Baby2Baby Gala.

PHOTO BY JEN LOWERY/SPLASH NEWS



**ANNE
HATHAWAY**

In New York for *Interstellar*'s premiere.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



**CHANNING
TATUM**

In Los Angeles for the
Hollywood Film Awards.

PHOTO BY JASON MERRITT/GETTY



**JENA
MALONE**

At the L.A. premiere of
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1.

PHOTO BY PAUL A. HEBERT/SPLASH NEWS

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▶ EMILY BLUNT

In Hollywood for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Governors Awards.

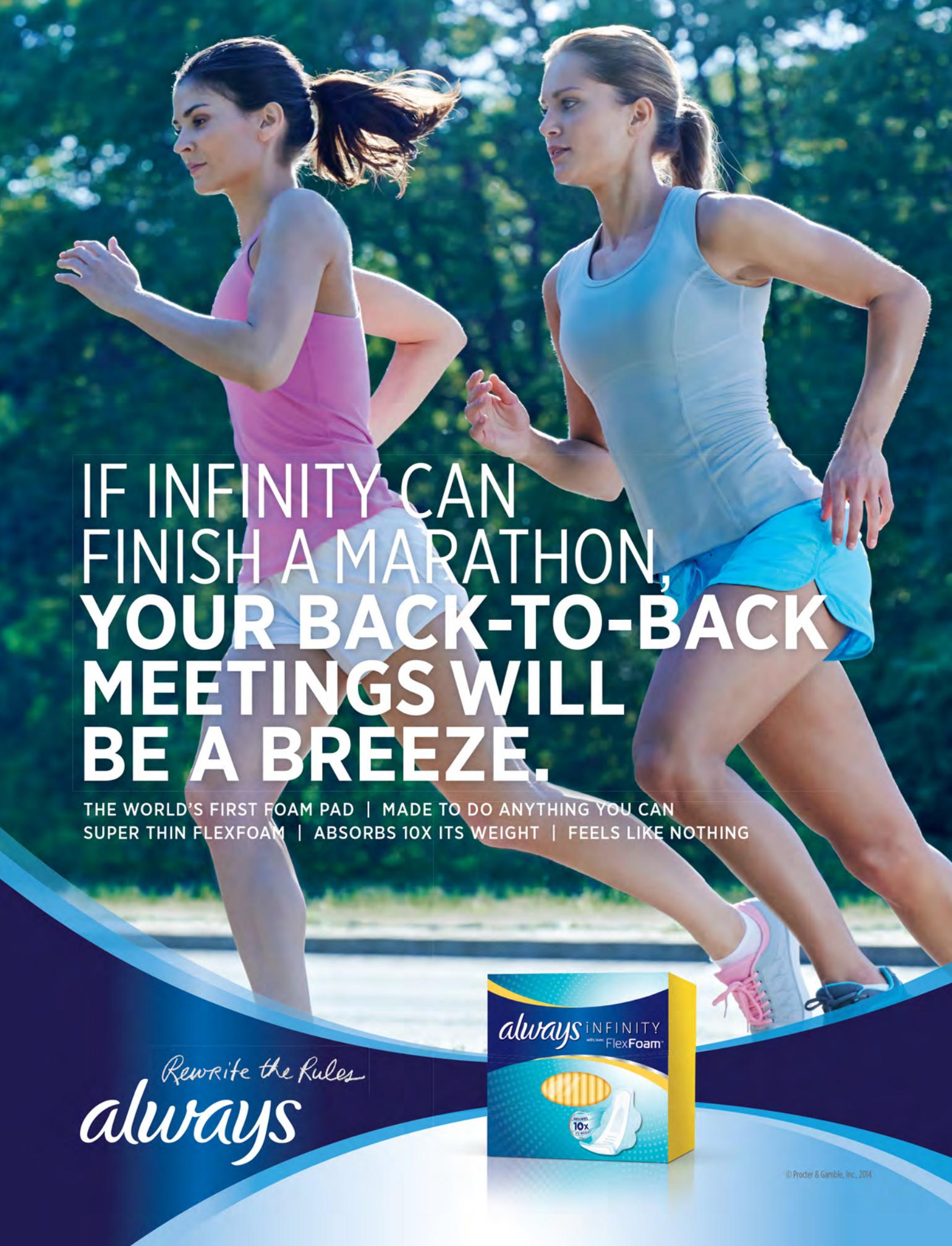
PHOTO BY FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY



CHRISTINA HENDRICKS

In New York for CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute.

PHOTO BY SONIA MOSKOWITZ/KEYSTONE PRESS



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IN THEATRES

JANUARY 2



THE WOMAN IN BLACK 2: ANGEL OF DEATH

Set during World War II and 40 years after *The Woman in Black*, this sequel finds a young woman (**Helen McCrory**) leading a group of evacuated children out of London and settling them in the deserted — and very creepy — Eel Marsh House.

JANUARY 16



Benicio Del Toro (right) and Josh Hutcherson (second from left) in *Escobar: Paradise Lost*

ESCOBAR: PARADISE LOST

Josh Hutcherson takes a break from *Hunger Games* to play Canadian surfer Nick, who falls for Maria (**Claudia Traisac**), the niece of Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar (**Benicio Del Toro**). As Pablo's drug empire begins to crumble, the nice Canadian kid is drawn into the criminal's inner circle.

THE WEDDING RINGER

A friendless bridegroom (**Josh Gad**) calls on a best-man-for-hire (**Kevin Hart**) to pose as his friend and round up a crew of groomsmen. **Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting** (*The Big Bang Theory*) stars as the not so lucky bride in this comedy from first-time director **Jeremy Garelick**.

JANUARY 9



Taken 3's Liam Neeson and Maggie Grace

TAKEN 3

Star **Liam Neeson** agreed to come back for the third film in the *Taken* series only if the kidnapping plotline used in the first two movies was dropped. So in this reportedly final installment, Bryan Mills (Neeson) goes on the run after being framed for the murder of his wife (**Famke Janssen**). See **Liam Neeson interview**, page 34.



Paddington

PADDINGTON

Cute bear **Paddington** jumps from page to screen in this CGI-live action film. **Paddington** leaves his home in Peru only to be stranded in London, where the kind Brown family — headed by no-nonsense father Mr. Brown (**Hugh Bonneville**) — takes him home. The accident-prone bear gets into all sorts of trouble, but his biggest problem is avoiding a nasty taxidermist (**Nicole Kidman**) who wants to add him to her collection. See **Hugh Bonneville interview**, page 38. CONTINUED ▶

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▶ **BLACK SEA**

A submarine captain (**Jude Law**) leads a rogue crew of Russian and British sailors to the bottom of the Black Sea to recover a sunken Nazi sub filled with gold.

THE HUMBLING

Al Pacino stars as a famous actor who begins a relationship with a fanatic admirer who also happens to be a lesbian (**Greta Gerwig**).

STILL ALICE

Julianne Moore plays Harvard professor Alice Howland, who is diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Her grown daughter, Lydia (**Kristen Stewart**), returns home to help care for her. The film is based on the debut novel by **Lisa Genova**, who earned a PhD in neuroscience at Harvard before taking up writing.

STRANGE MAGIC

This animated musical is based on a story by **George Lucas**, who himself was inspired by Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Goblins, elves and fairies search a forest for a magical potion. The impressive voice cast includes **Alan Cumming**, **Evan Rachel Wood**, **Kristin Chenoweth** and **Alfred Molina**.



Strange Magic



Ryan Guzman is obsessed with Jennifer Lopez in *The Boy Next Door*

THE BOY NEXT DOOR

Divorced teacher Claire (**Jennifer Lopez**) has a momentary lapse of judgment that leads her to sleep with Noah (**Ryan Guzman**), the mysterious hunk who lives next door. It's a mistake that costs her dearly when Noah's obsession with her turns violent.

MORTDECAI

Debonair art dealer Lord Charlie Mortdecai (**Johnny Depp**) is recruited by MI5 to go to America and steal back a stolen painting that contains a clue to finding a stash of Nazi gold. Depp's playmates in this caper comedy include **Gwyneth Paltrow** as Charlie's wife, **Paul Bettany** as his right-hand man, and **Ewan McGregor** as an MI5 agent. CONTINUED ▶



Paul Bettany gives Johnny Depp a lift in *Mortdecai*



▶ **A MOST VIOLENT YEAR**

It's the winter of 1981 and New Yorker Abel Morales (**Oscar Isaac**) and his wife Anna (**Jessica Chastain**) are reaping the rewards of the company they built together. Yet all that hard work, as well as their marriage, unravels when the government investigates them for fraud and tax evasion.

PROJECT ALMANAC

Michael Bay produces this sci-fi 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 doing so until it becomes apparent their jaunts into the past have changed the future — and not in a good way.

WILD CARD

Writer **William Goldman's** 1986 screenplay finally makes its way to the screen with **Jason Statham** starring as Nick Wild, a recovering gambler who earns a living protecting high-stakes gamblers. However, when one of his pals is beaten by a mobster, Nick transforms from protector to avenger.

MAX

Max, a military dog who helps American soldiers in Afghanistan, is traumatized after witnessing his handler's death. He returns home and is adopted by his handler's family, who make it their job to rehabilitate the pup. The cast includes **Lauren Graham**, **Thomas Haden Church** and Toronto-born **Robbie Amell**.



From left: Jonny Weston, Sam Lerner and Allen Evangelista in *Project Almanac*

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-Kenneth Turan, LOS ANGELES TIMES

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2015 MOVIE PREVIEW

The 10 Movies You Must See This Year

■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

1

STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS

Okay, *The Force Awakens* isn't the most inspiring title. But neither was *Star Trek Into Darkness* and look how well that **J.J. Abrams**-directed sci-fi turned out. Our point is that the most influential franchise in movie history appears to be in good hands, which is a relief since what little we know of the plot seems quite complicated. You've got your old guys — **Harrison Ford**, **Mark Hamill**, **Carrie Fisher** — and you've got your young punks — **Adam Driver**, **Lupita Nyong'o**, **Domhnall Gleeson** — and then you have to fit R2-D2, C-3PO, and whatever **Andy Serkis** is going to be into the narrative. And. Not. Screw. It. Up.

OPENS DECEMBER 18

C-3PO (left) and R2-D2, seen here in 1977's *Star Wars*, are expected to return for *The Force Awakens*



**Why We're
Excited**
IT'S FREAKIN'
STAR WARS!



AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON

The first *Avengers* film proved **Joss Whedon's** chops as a feature-film director. Most impressive, he managed to give each of his six superheroes distinct storylines while keeping an action-packed plot moving in one direction. The stakes are even higher in the sequel that adds new Marvel characters Quicksilver (**Aaron Taylor-Johnson**), Scarlet Witch (**Elizabeth Olsen**) and the villainous Ultron (voiced by **James Spader**), a robot originally created by Iron Man (**Robert Downey Jr.**) as a peacekeeper, but that has now gone rogue.

OPENS MAY 1

CONTINUED ▶



Why We're Excited

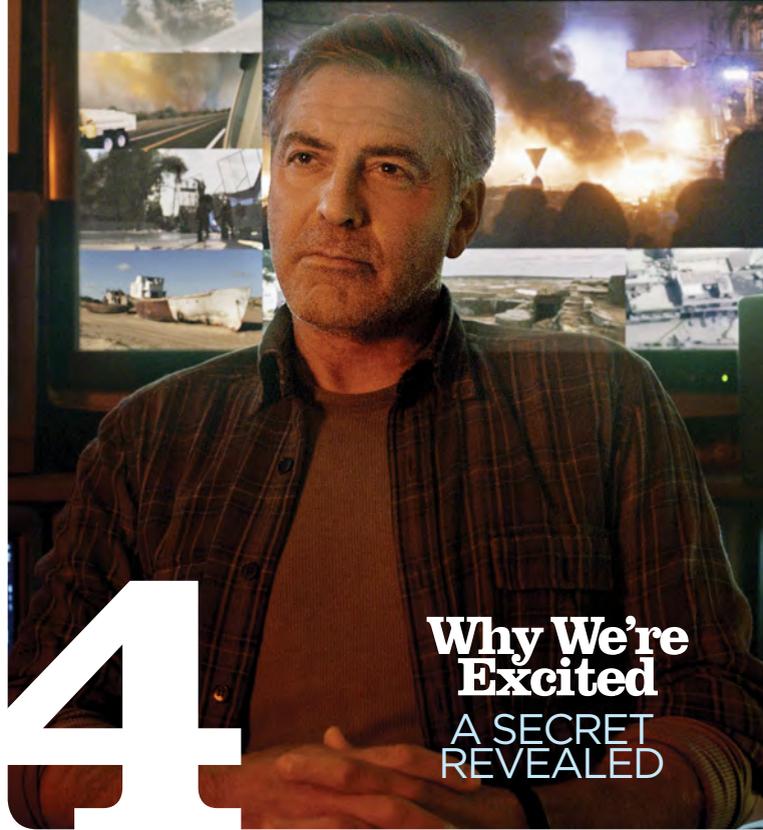
ONE LAST DATE WITH KATNISS

3

▶ THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY - PART 2

Katniss Everdeen (**Jennifer Lawrence**) finds peace, but at what cost? That's the question hanging over the final *Hunger Games* movie, which sees Katniss and her rebel compatriots engaging in an all-out attack on the Capitol. Thanks to Lawrence's compelling performance, this Young Adult-themed tale has been elevated to a complicated study of loss, love and female empowerment.

OPENS NOVEMBER 20



Why We're Excited

A SECRET REVEALED

4

TOMORROWLAND

The cloak of secrecy surrounding Disney's sci-fi adventure film will finally be lifted on May 22nd and we're primed for the payoff. The little we do know is that **George Clooney** plays a middle-aged inventor and **Britt Robinson** is a troubled teenager who comes across an object that transports her to Tomorrowland, a city in an alternate universe. Plus, we're expecting real-life Disney properties, people and movies to be woven into the elaborate story.

OPENS MAY 22



Why We're Excited

BOND, BABY!

BOND 24

What do we know? Director **Sam Mendes** has revealed that the new Bond film will feel like a continuation of *Skyfall*, with relatively fresh franchise characters Moneypenny (**Naomie Harris**), M (**Ralph Fiennes**) and Q (**Ben Whishaw**) deepening their relationships with the taciturn 007 (**Daniel Craig**). There is also word **Christoph Waltz** will play Bond nemesis Ernst Blofeld. Details regarding the plot, and the casting of the film's Bond Girl are still under wraps, though.

OPENS NOVEMBER 6

5

6

CHAPPIE

South African-Canadian director **Neill Blomkamp's** (*District 9*, *Elysium*) third feature marries two of his favourite themes — the mechanical and the plight of the outsider. **Dev Patel** plays a young genius who builds Chappie (voiced by **Sharlto Copley**), a robot that's able to think and learn. Essentially a machine-child, Chappie receives an education on the rough-and-tumble streets of Johannesburg, South Africa.

OPENS MARCH 6



Why We're Excited
BLOMKAMP
IN HIS
WHEELHOUSE

Why We're Excited

ORCHESTRATED
MAYHEM



7

MAD MAX: FURY ROAD

This is how post-apocalyptic anarchy should be done. Aussie director **George Miller** took a 30-year break between *Mad Max* films (the last was 1985's *Beyond Thunderdome*) but he's back with **Tom Hardy** as his new Max, a loner who joins with badass chick Furiosa (**Charlize Theron**) and her band of female survivors to cross a desert wasteland while being chased by deranged lunatics.

CONTINUED ►

OPENS MAY 15



Jennifer Lawrence (right) in her last David O. Russell pic, *American Hustle*, and the real Joy Mangano

Why We're Excited

LAWRENCE AND RUSSELL REUNITE

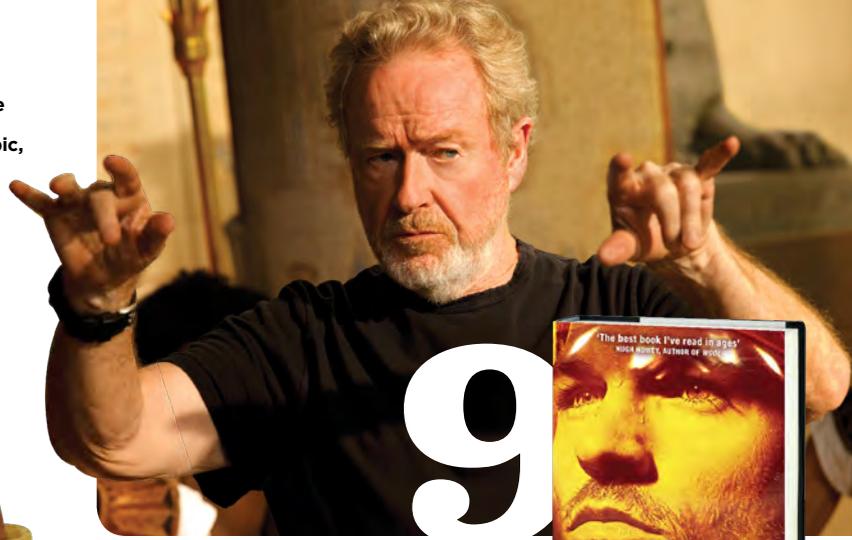
8

JOY

We'd usually find the relationship between a 56-year-old man and a 24-year-old woman high on the "Eew" scale, but not when it comes to the working relationship between director **David O. Russell** and his female muse **Jennifer Lawrence**. The two bring out the best in each other, as seen in *Silver Linings Playbook* and *American Hustle*. Now in their third film together they recount the rags to riches tale of Joy Mangano, the woman who invented the Miracle Mop.

OPENS DECEMBER 25

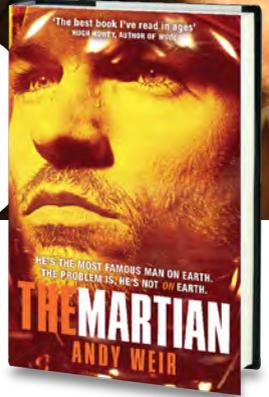
JOY MANGANO PHOTO BY DENISE TRUSCELLO/GETTY



THE MARTIAN

At 77 years old, director **Ridley Scott** is the father of the modern sci-fi film, so who better to take us on a do-or-die space journey? His latest is an adaptation of the **Andy Weir** novel of the same name and stars **Matt Damon** as Mark Watney, an astronaut who's stranded alone on a Mars station. Using his training he survives for years while preparing for a risky rescue. While Damon is the main attraction, the stellar supporting cast includes **Jessica Chastain**, **Kate Mara**, **Kristen Wiig** and **Chiwetel Ejiofor**.

OPENS NOVEMBER 20



Why We're Excited

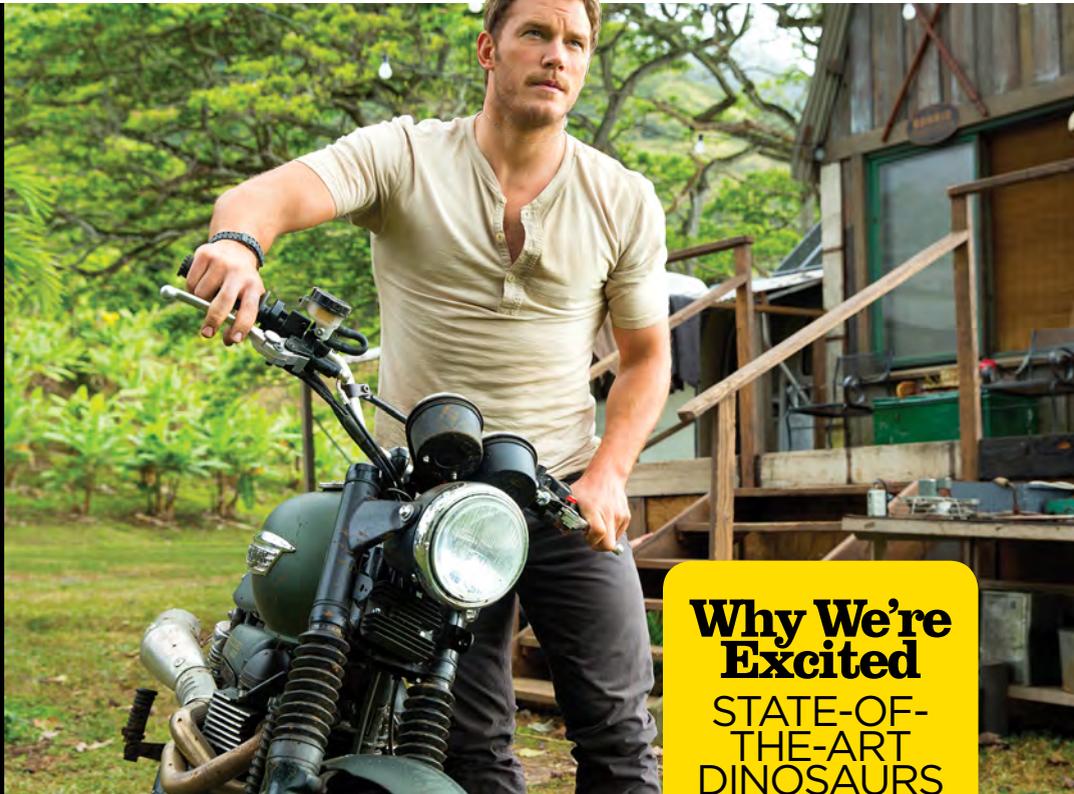
SCOTT'S BACK IN THE SPACE RACE

10

JURASSIC WORLD

If we were astounded by how cool the CGI dinosaurs looked in the first *Jurassic Park* film, imagine how amazing they'll be with today's computer technology. The film is set on Isla Nublar, the home to dinosaur theme park Jurassic World. When visitors get bored with the same old dinosaurs, some genius comes up with the idea to create genetically enhanced dinos. Starring **Chris Pratt**, **Bryce Dallas Howard** and **Vincent D'Onofrio**.

OPENS JUNE 12



Why We're Excited

STATE-OF-THE-ART DINOSAURS

"GRADE A. BENNETT MILLER HAS OUTDONE HIMSELF. AN ENORMOUS FILM. STEVE CARELL IS THE REVELATION AND THEN SOME: VOCALLY, PHYSICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY HE IS NOT JUST UNRECOGNIZABLE, HE SIMPLY IS A DIFFERENT MAN. IT'S SELDOM WE'VE EVER WITNESSED SUCH A TOTAL ERASURE OF SELF IN A ROLE."

-Jessica Kiang, INDIEWIRE/THE PLAYLIST

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Woodsy Charm

BY INGRID RANDOJA

In talking with *The New York Times* about the original 1987 Broadway production of *Into the Woods*, the musical's legendary composer, Stephen Sondheim stated "All fairy tales are parables about steps to maturity. The final step is when you become responsible for the people around you, when you feel connected to the rest of the world."

The big-screen version of Sondheim's musical sees fairy tale characters, each engaged in his or her own quest, interacting and, ultimately, joining forces to fend off an attack that threatens them all. Here's a look at the fabled characters and the actors who play them.

The Baker and his Wife

British actors James Corden and Emily Blunt play the childless couple sent into the woods by a witch to collect items to reverse a family curse.



Cinderella

Anna Kendrick is Cinderella, who leaves her slipper as a clue to her identity for an amorous Prince to find.



Cinderella's Prince

Chris Pine plays Cinderella's Prince, who also has eyes for The Baker's Wife.





The Witch

Meryl Streep won the coveted role of the Witch, who may be conniving, but is also the play's voice of reason.



Cinderella's Stepmother and Stepsisters

Christine Baranski (centre), flanked by Lucy Punch (left) and Tammy Blanchard (right) are Cinderella's cruel Stepmother and Stepsisters, who do their best to make sure Cinderella's dreams never come true.



Little Red Riding Hood

Thirteen-year-old Lilla Crawford wowed Broadway audiences playing the lead role in the 2013 revival of *Annie*. Here she's Little Red Riding Hood, who gets treats from the Baker and his Wife before heading to visit her granny.



Rapunzel

Former TV soap opera star Mackenzie Mauzy is the long-haired beauty trapped in a tower that has no doors.



Jack and his Mother

Daniel Huttlestone and Tracey Ullman are Jack and his Mother, who are so poor they must sell Milky White, their only cow. But Jack is seemingly duped when he trades Milky White for a handful of magic beans.



The Wolf

Johnny Depp indulges his love of makeup and costumes to play the Wolf, who encounters Little Red Riding Hood in the deep, dark forest.



**THE
RIGHT
TURN**

As ***Taken 3*** hits theatres, **Liam Neeson** reflects on the franchise that drove his career in a new direction ■ BY BOB STRAUSS

The easy take on Liam Neeson's career over the past seven years is that the classy Irish actor turned into an action star when he should have been concentrating on Shakespeare or something. But, truth is, Neeson's attraction to action is nothing new.

"I always liked the older action-movie stars like Robert Mitchum and Charles Bronson when I was growing up in Northern Ireland," he explains during an interview at a Hollywood hotel. "When the first *Taken* movie became a hit, all of these other action scripts started coming my way — which was flattering — and they were good, so I did them and had a great time at it."

And the 62-year-old, New York-based thesp isn't easing up on action anytime soon. A few months from now *Run All Night* will hit theatres with Neeson as an aging hitman, and this month we have the release of *Taken 3*, the second sequel to 2008's French-produced, wrong-dad-to-mess-with movie that changed Neeson's late-career trajectory.

That surprise 2008 hit ("I thought it would only be another European thriller that went straight to video," its star admits) not only spawned the two sequels, but a number of similar action pics with the burly Irishman in the lead role, like 2011's *Unknown* and 2014's *Non-Stop*.

But *Taken*'s Bryan Mills, an ex-CIA agent who breaks out his "very particular set of skills" whenever a loved one is threatened, is the granddaddy of 'em all.

In *Taken 3*, Mills has just reconciled with his ex (Famke Janssen) when she is murdered. Of course, Mills is the prime suspect, so he goes on the run, creating trouble for the real culprits he's tracking and for the Los Angeles Police Department, which is tasked with trying to catch him.

Tall and trim in a gray, tailored suit, Neeson is evasive about *Taken 3*'s plot particulars. Asked if he cut back on the action this time around, Neeson plays coy with a naughty kid's grin.

"Are you asking if Bryan is secondary in this one?" Neeson asks. "Well, there's a few of us, let's put it that way. We've got Forest Whitaker, who brings a terrific bit of gravitas to it. But I wouldn't underestimate Bryan."

CONTINUED ►



Taken 3's Liam Neeson (left) and Forest Whitaker

"I always liked the older action-movie stars like Robert Mitchum and Charles Bronson when I was growing up in Northern Ireland"

► Gravitas used to be Neeson's stock-in-trade when he starred in such important historical pictures as *Schindler's List* and *Michael Collins*. Over the past seven years, some critics have expressed concern that he works too much in formulaic action vehicles and third-rate *Clash of the Titans* fantasies. And as popular as the Bryan Mills character is, he's also a big target of pop-culture parody.

But Neeson doesn't care. He's even participated in some of that parody, like the *Saturday Night Live* sketch where, standing alongside President Obama (Jay Pharoah) in the Oval Office, Neeson talked about "getting a very disturbing call...Crimea had been taken. I hate it when things are taken." He then threatened to use his "very particular set of skills" to take down Russian President Vladimir Putin if Putin didn't listen to reason.

Clearly, even at his age, he's still having a blast with the action stuff. But Neeson has as long, and in its way as distinguished, a CV of seminal action roles as he does of prestige pictures.

He starred, for example, as Darkman, way back in 1990. Written and directed by Sam Raimi, *Darkman* was an original superhero whose story and style set templates for the blockbuster genre that bloomed a decade later and now dominates Hollywood.

"It kind of did start that ball rolling, I say with pride," Neeson muses on *Darkman*. "After that, Sam Raimi did the first three Spider-Mans. I have great fondness for *Darkman* in my heart. We shot it in just horrendous hours, the makeup and all the rest of it was trying. But it was a work of joy, and it was a good, fun film.

"Now there are just so many of them, superhero movies. But a lot of them are good."

Neeson has played a part in those "good" new superhero movies too; he was the villain and, yes, expert fighter Ra's al Ghul in Christopher Nolan's genre-changing *Batman Begins* (2005).

And then there's this little sci-fi series called *Star Wars*. Neeson portrayed the Jedi knight Qui-Gon Jinn in George Lucas' 1999 prequel *Episode I - The Phantom Menace*, and still voices the character on the animated series *The Clone Wars*.

He sounds a bit disappointed that he wasn't asked to appear in J.J. Abrams' *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, which is scheduled for release later this year. Of course, there's a good reason for that.

"My character's dead," he says of Qui-Gon's place in the *The Force Awakens*' timeline. "Way, way dead. But I think they're making another three films, aren't they? Listen, if they ask me, I would love to do it."

Far from being stereotyped, Neeson seems up for anything at an age when most people are irrevocably set in their routines. Life forced some of that willingness to change on him, tragically, with the death of his wife, actor Natasha Richardson, after a Quebec skiing accident in 2009.

Some of it, though, comes from a common sense place within.

"I stopped drinking a year and a half ago," Neeson reveals. "Not for any alcoholic reasons; I just wanted to clean myself out. I was reared a Catholic, and I used to go on retreats and stuff like that, and it felt right. I just wanted to clean up my life, change my routine.

"And it's good," he says, I'm enjoying it." ☑

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

HE'S A FIGHTER

Liam Neeson has been a man of action since long before he was an actor — since long before he was a man, in fact. He recently told *The Huffington Post* how he got into boxing at a very young age.

"I was nine and was at mass one Sunday morning and our parish priest Father Darragh announced from the pulpit, 'Listen, I am starting a boxing club on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 7:30 pm, or something like that. 'Send your boys up!' And I was sent. There were about 10 or 12 of us. Father Darragh was there. He had two rosy pairs of ratty, old, ancient boxing gloves and a book on how to box." —*MW*

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AND THEN THERE ARE GREAT MOVIES THAT TAKE AMERICA AS THEIR VERY SUBJECT,
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-Scott Foundas, VARIETY

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NO DOWNTIME FOR DOWNTON STAR



What does **Hugh Bonneville** do when not presiding over Downton Abbey as the elegant Lord Grantham? Why, he gets in touch with his inner child to star in another very British tale, ***Paddington***

■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

Hugh Bonneville celebrated his 51st birthday recently, but he hasn't lost touch with the little boy he once was.

It explains why the British actor known the world over as the sensible Lord Grantham from TV's *Downton Abbey* jumped at the chance to play the human father to a CGI

bear in the family-friendly *Paddington*.

"Paddington the bear was very much a part of my childhood," says Bonneville on the line from London, England. "The character emerged from the books of Michael Bond, first written in 1958, so they've been around a long time and as I say have formed part of the tapestry of my childhood."

Blessed with a melodious voice that manages to sound both comforting and slightly stern, Bonneville began his career in theatre and then found success in British television where he's appeared in more than 60 shows and small-screen films.

It was the wholly unexpected success of *Downton Abbey* that brought him to the attention of directors such as George Clooney, who cast him in last year's World War II drama *The Monuments Men*, and *Paddington* helmer Paul King, who believed Bonneville would

PADDINGTON
HITS THEATRES
JANUARY 16TH



Hugh Bonneville with
Paddington's titular bear

“All the elements that I loved as a child, the characters I loved, and the spirit of **Paddington in particular, have survived**”

fond memories were going to be beaten up and shattered in some horrible, big-screen adaptation,” he says with a laugh. “So I was incredibly relieved when I realized after about one page that the spirit of Paddington was shining through, albeit in a modernized context.

“All the elements that I loved as a child, the characters I loved, and the spirit of Paddington in particular, have survived. And above anything else, it made me laugh out loud, and I have to admit in having a lump in my throat as well.”

However, bringing the beloved character to the big screen wasn't without its travails. Colin Firth was originally cast as the voice of Paddington, but it was agreed — in a most civil, exceedingly British manner — that his voice wasn't quite right. Firth left the project to be replaced by Ben Whishaw.

“It was fascinating,” says Bonneville about the situation. “It's a very good example of how a film takes on a new life at its various stages — from the script stage to the shooting stage to the edit.

“During the editing process, as the creature came to life, Colin was one of the first to say, ‘I'm getting further away from it, it's taking on a new life of its own.’ So with great dignity, grace and good humour, he handed the mantle to Ben. I'm sure Colin won't mind me saying Ben's voice has a younger timbre, and you feel that Ben's voice hasn't seen the world and is there to explore the world.”

With *Paddington* in the can, Bonneville is awaiting word as to whether there will be a sixth season of *Downton Abbey* (the series is renewed on a year-by-year basis). He once compared the addictive nature of *Downton* to “*Breaking Bad* with tea, instead of meth.” Bonneville simply can't explain why the show has become a worldwide sensation.

“It's the age-old thing,” he says, “if everyone knew we'd all bottle it and become millionaires. But, if you build it, they will come. If you put money in drama production and quality of writing, people will watch. I feel very blessed and realize that perhaps this wave of activity will come to an end at some point and I could fade back into obscurity and happily do a one-man play in a beach house in the north of Scotland.”

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

make the perfect Mr. Brown.

It's the Brown family, including Mrs. Brown (Sally Hawkins), and children Jonathan (Samuel Joslin) and Judy (Madeleine Harris), who find the bear alone inside London's Paddington railway station.

Originally from Peru, the little bear is sent by his Aunt Lucy to live in London. Wearing a tag that reads, “Please look after this bear. Thank you,” the cuddly fella is named Paddington and taken home by the kindhearted Browns. However, Paddington has a knack for getting into trouble, and attracts the attention of a nasty taxidermist (Nicole Kidman) who wants to have him stuffed.

Bonneville, who lives in Sussex with wife Lulu Williams and 12-year-old son Felix, remembers the moment he received the *Paddington* script.

“I was very nervous when I opened the script to see whether my



THE

THE IMITATION GAME
IS NOW IN THEATRES

Inscrutable in his own way, **Benedict Cumberbatch** takes on the role of Alan Turing, the complicated mathematical genius who cracked the Enigma code, hastening the end of World War II ■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

A Twitter-friendly review of *The Imitation Game* would simply read: "Genius plays genius." That first genius would be English acting prodigy Benedict Cumberbatch, who portrays real-life mathematical mastermind and war hero Alan Turing in the critically acclaimed drama.

Taking on genius roles is nothing new for the 38-year-old actor — he's played Stephen Hawking, Vincent Van Gogh and he continues to astound as fictional smarty-pants Sherlock Holmes in the hit BBC show *Sherlock*.

Credit Cumberbatch's oddly handsome looks — set off by those angular blue-green eyes — soothing voice and magnetic screen presence for drawing us into his performances, making us lean in just a little bit more to decipher the meaning behind a raised eyebrow or pained look.

Directed by Norwegian filmmaker Morten Tyldum (*Headhunters*), *The Imitation Game* recounts Alan Turing's accomplishments during World War II; chiefly his creation of a computing machine that he and a team of fellow code-breakers — played by Keira Knightley, Matthew Goode, Allen Leech and Matthew Beard — use to unlock the German Enigma code. It's estimated Turing's achievements helped shorten the war by at least two years.

Yet Turing was beset by social awkwardness and stammered. He was also gay, a fact he was forced to hide, as homosexuals were considered deviants under the law. After the war, Turing was arrested and found guilty of indecent acts, which ultimately led to his suicide in 1954.

"He was an extraordinary hero who was wronged," says Cumberbatch during an interview at this past September's Toronto International Film Festival. *The Imitation Game* earned the festival's prestigious People's Choice Award, setting off Oscar buzz as five out of the last six TIFF People's Choice Award winners have picked up multiple Oscar nominations, including 2013's *12 Years a Slave*, which went on to win Best Picture.

Wearing a suit jacket and dress pants, Cumberbatch cuts an elegant figure. He crosses and uncrosses his long legs and leans back in his chair, answering each question with focused intensity. It's that kind of intensity he brought to researching the role of Alan Turing.

"I did forensic scavenging — biographies, any kind of anecdote from anyone who was still alive who knew Alan," says [CONTINUED ▶](#)

**CRACKING
THE
ENIGMA
CODE**



Alan Turing (Benedict Cumberbatch) struggles to protect his computing machine in *The Imitation Game*

► the actor. “Any kind of footage, archive recordings. From that you build an understanding of what the stammer was, tone of voice, his physicality.”

Cumberbatch’s Turing is both exceedingly arrogant and fitfully shy, sometimes unable to look at people.

“This thing about him not looking at people, I think he found communication and contact very difficult at times, but we all do. When I first met my agent, we talked a lot like this,” Cumberbatch turns his head sideways. “We all do it and I’m doing it now, I cast away my gaze to actually concentrate what I’m thinking of, and then look back to you. Let’s not unpack this too much or it’ll get really awkward,” he says with a gentle laugh. “But you know what I mean; it is a natural thing.”

The cast members spent time reading math and cryptology books to help get a better understanding of their characters, and Cumberbatch did have a tiny bit of computer knowledge on which to draw.

“The first contact I had with a computer was in school where we learned to program very basic stuff, make a little worm go around the screen,” he remembers. “But one bit of wrong coding and that worm didn’t go around the screen and it was very upsetting, frustrating,” he says laughing.

“I was pretty decent at math at school, but I was good at geometry, good at shapes, good at spatial awareness and angles and figurative stuff. And I am an artist and I sculpt and paint and draw. Now I just draw because I don’t have time, or the space, to do the other two.”

If you gather that the actor is a busy, multi-talented man, you’re

right. His *Imitation Game* co-star and friend Keira Knightley, also interviewed at TIFF, sheds light on Cumberbatch’s legendary work habits.

“Benedict doesn’t take time off, ever,” she says. “I’ve known him eight or nine years and he goes from job to job to job. Even if he has one day off he’ll be doing a radio play, or a voice-over, or a reading, or something. He’s got that kind of energy. I’ve never had that, I’d love a bit of it.”

Cumberbatch is the son of character actors Wanda Ventham and Timothy Carlton, who incidentally play Cumberbatch’s on-screen parents in *Sherlock*. While Carlton abandoned the Cumberbatch surname to make his professional acting life easier, son Benedict kept the name — although the British press has dubbed him “Ben Batch” to cut down on the character count.

He focused on painting and the arts while attending boarding school, and then spent a year teaching English at a Tibetan monastery before deciding he was meant to act. His brilliant theatre work led to a myriad of TV roles and films such as *Atonement*, *War Horse*, *Star Trek Into Darkness*, *12 Years a Slave* and the *Hobbit* trilogy in which he voiced dragon Smaug and the Necromancer.

And he’s primed to join the superhero ranks; rumours swirl that he’s been cast as Doctor Strange in the upcoming Marvel film.

Yet Cumberbatch repeats it is Turing who’s a real hero, a man who he says, “should be on the cover of textbooks.” It was when he interacted with the massive replica of Turing’s machine that was built for the film that Cumberbatch truly appreciated Turing’s genius.

“It’s like conducting a symphony. It’s incredible, you become physically engaged with [the machine], you literally go up to it, touch it and try and make it work.

“The real machine is still in the museum at Bletchley Park. This poor guy, I asked, ‘How does its work?’ and he’s looking at me like I’m a dumb tourist, and bless him, he’s so thorough in his explanation, but it goes out of my head after about the fifth minute because there is just too much information.”

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.



OFF THE MARKET

In November, this small announcement in the “Forthcoming Marriages” section of *The Times* newspaper in London broke the hearts of ardent Benedict Cumberbatch fans. The lucky lady is 36-year-old actor and avant-garde theatre director Sophie Hunter. The pair met on the set of the 2009 film *Burlesque Fairytales*. Shortly thereafter Cumberbatch ended his 12-year relationship with actor Olivia Poulet. —IR

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CASTING CALL

BY INGRID RANDOJA



BASINGER & CROWE CONTEMPLATE REUNION

It's been almost 20 years since **Kim Basinger** and **Russell Crowe** heated up screens as *L.A. Confidential*'s captivating couple. Now the two are looking to reunite in director **Shane Black**'s 1970s crime drama *The Nice Guys*, which casts **Ryan Gosling** and **Crowe** as L.A. private eyes looking for a missing girl. Basinger would portray an unscrupulous judge in the film slated for release on June 17th, 2016.



AFFLECK IS THE ACCOUNTANT

With filming wrapped on *Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice*, **Ben Affleck** turns his attention to *The Accountant*, a thriller about a bland number cruncher (Affleck) who moonlights as an assassin. Affleck's co-stars include **Anna Kendrick** and **J.K. Simmons**.



WHAT'S GOING ON WITH...

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

A lot is riding on the film that kicks off Marvel's ambitious Civil War storyline. Captain America (**Chris Evans**) leads a superhero insurrection when he opposes the government's Superhero Registration Act, which is supported by Iron Man (**Robert Downey Jr.**). The movie starts shooting in the spring with **Chadwick Boseman** (42) playing Black Panther and German actor **Daniel Brühl** (*Rush*) cast as a bad guy, but no word on which other Marvel superheroes will be featured. *Captain America: Civil War* arrives in theatres May 16th, 2016.

WAHLBERG IS THE MAN

Chalk it up to the cost of inflation — the beloved 1970s TV show *The Six Million Dollar Man* becomes *The Six Billion Dollar Man* movie. **Mark Wahlberg** will star as former astronaut Steve Austin (played by **Lee Majors** on TV), who's fit with bionic limbs (and an eye) after an accident. Wahlberg re-teams with his *Lone Survivor* director **Peter Berg** for the pic that's set for release in 2016.





MCCONAUGHEY DECLARES INDEPENDENCE

Matthew McConaughey continues to choose fascinating projects, including the upcoming American Civil War drama *Free State of Jones*. McConaughey will play Newton Knight, a real-life Confederate soldier who deserted and set up his own free state in an area around Jones County, Mississippi. Knight also shocked his Southern neighbours by marrying a former slave. *Hunger Games* director **Gary Ross** helms the pic.



WOODLEY SUPPORTS SNOWDEN

Shailene Woodley is eyeing the role of Edward Snowden's (**Joseph Gordon-Levitt**) long-time girlfriend, Lindsay Mills, in director **Oliver Stone**'s untitled bio-pic of the NSA whistleblower. Mills, an acrobat and dancer, moved to Moscow to live with Snowden after the Russian government granted him asylum. The film starts shooting this month in Munich.



FRESH FACE RYAN GUZMAN

Ryan Guzman has been called the next **Channing Tatum** because of his good looks, buff body and the fact he, like Tatum, got his start in the *Step Up* film series. The 27-year-old lands his most prominent role yet playing the naughty neighbour obsessed with **Jennifer Lopez** in this month's thriller *The Boy Next Door*. He's also landed a part in the rock 'n' roll musical *Jem and the HoLograms*, which hits screens in October.

ALSO IN THE WORKS

► **Julia Roberts** joins pal **George Clooney** in the hostage drama *Money Monster*. ► *Creed* casts **Michael B. Jordan** as Apollo Creed's grandson, who's also a boxer and happens to be coached by Rocky Balboa (**Sylvester Stallone**). ► **Jason Statham** returns to play the fastidious assassin in the sequel *The Mechanic: Resurrection*. ► **Margot Robbie** will portray baddie Harley Quinn in *Suicide Squad*.

GREAT DIGITAL FILM FESTIVAL: THE INSIDE SCOOP

For the sixth year, Cineplex's Great Digital Film Festival (January 30th to February 5th) brings a bevy of fan favourites back to the big screen, and in crystal-clear digital, rather than the 35mm in which most were originally presented

We asked the series' organizers, Cineplex's director of Event Cinema Matt DeVuono and film critic and author Richard Crouse, to explain their lineup.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE MOVIES?

CROUSE "Matt and I put on our fanboy hats, had lunch and asked each other a simple question, 'What movies would you love to see again on the big screen?' The answer, of course, is just about everything, so we had to spend the entrée and dessert courses narrowing the field down to the movies we ended up programming." **DeVUONO** "Movies are selected using an elaborately placed dartboard with film titles pinned to it. Kidding, of course! Titles are chosen based on a variety of factors, but largely what is suggested by guests, what films are tied with current pop-culture film events, ie. sequels, anniversaries, etc., and, more importantly, what films are available digitally from the film studios."

WHY THESE MOVIES?

CROUSE "Once we had a rough list we looked for patterns, anniversaries and just plain cool titles. We both chose *Kill Bill*, but different volumes, so why not program both as one mammoth movie, the way Tarantino intended? *Dick Tracy* is 25 years old and there's a whole generation who have never seen it projected large. And *The Monster Squad* is, well, *The Monster Squad*. It's a supernatural superhero movie ...that literally defines the saying, 'They don't make 'em like that anymore.'"

DeVUONO "*X-Men* is experiencing a resurgence with the success of *Days of Future Past* and with the forthcoming *Apocalypse*, plus *X-Men* and *X2* were just recently made available in digital cinema so the timing is great to bring



these fan favourites back to the big screen."

WHICH ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT?

CROUSE "The word masterpiece is thrown around rather casually these days, but in the case of *Pan's Labyrinth* I think it applies. It's a dark adult fairy tale set against the backdrop of the Second World War, creating a contemporary fable that is emotionally complex and as satisfying as the age-old fairy tales that inspired it."

DeVUONO "I have tried for the past six years to show *Blade Runner*, and it just hasn't been available...until now. I was fortunate enough to see a 2K [2,000-pixel] version of it back in 2007 and it looks beautiful. I really can't wait for the fans that have been asking for it to see it in all its digital glory. Although I must admit, I'm most excited about seeing *Kill Bill*. I saw both multiple times when they were released over 10 years ago, but have never seen them back-to-back." ☐

THE FULL LINEUP

- Alien
- Aliens
- Blade Runner: The Final Cut
- Darkman (25th Anniversary)
- Dick Tracy (25th Anniversary)
- Hellboy
- Kill Bill: Vol. 1 & 2
- The Monster Squad
- Pan's Labyrinth
- The Rocketeer
- X-Men
- X2: X-Men United
- X-Men: The Last Stand
- X-Men: First Class
- X-Men: Days of Future Past

THE SERIES WILL UNSPOOL AT 25 THEATRES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. GO TO CINEPLEX.COM/EVENTS/DIGITALFILMFEST FOR TIMES, LOCATIONS AND TO BUY TICKETS.



BRILLIANT Lights

Charlie Chaplin would not be swayed. It's 1928 and the silent film star starts working on what would become his most loved film, *City Lights*. He's also directing the picture, and is adamant it must be a silent movie despite the fact Hollywood's first talking picture, *The Jazz Singer*, opened the year before to great acclaim, sounding the death knell for silent films.

It takes more than two years for Chaplin, a notorious perfectionist, to finish the comedic love story in which his trademark character, The Little Tramp, falls in love with a blind flower girl (Virginia Cherrill).

But Chaplin's faith that a silent film — an anomaly by the time the film finally opens in January 1931 — could still capture the imagination of moviegoers is rewarded when audiences flock to see his masterpiece, which speaks volumes about the power of love without a single line of spoken dialogue.

— INGRID RANDOJA

CITY LIGHTS screens as part of Cineplex's Classic Film Series on January 11th, 14th and 19th. Go to Cineplex.com/Events for times and locations.



JANUARY'S BEST DVD AND BLU-RAY

BOYHOOD JANUARY 6

Writer-director **Richard Linklater** delivers a modern American classic with his ambitious and experimental tale of a six-year-old boy's (**Ellar Coltrane**) climb toward adulthood. Filmed over a 12-year period with the same cast, the fictional time-lapse study follows the youngster as he copes with the ups and downs of life and his dysfunctional parents (**Ethan Hawke** and **Patricia Arquette**).



GET ON UP

JANUARY 6

Chadwick Boseman impresses as James Brown in this rags-to-riches bio-pic of the legendary singer. The film dramatizes Brown's bumpy life as he rises from an impoverished childhood to become the Godfather of Soul. Also starring **Dan Aykroyd** and **Viola Davis**.



THE GUEST

JANUARY 6

U.S. soldier David (*Downton Abbey*'s **Dan Stevens**) returns home from Afghanistan with a message for the family of a comrade killed in combat. The initially skeptical clan invites David to stay but after a string of sinister events they realize their alluring houseguest is not exactly who he seems.



THE BOOK OF LIFE

JANUARY 27

This beautifully animated tale produced by **Guillermo del Toro** explores love and loss as best friends Manolo (**Diego Luna**) and Joaquin (**Channing Tatum**) spend the Mexican Day of the Dead vying for the heart and soul of their childhood sweetheart, Maria (**Zoe Saldana**).

Something Special

SUPERMENSCH: THE LEGEND OF SHEP GORDON

JANUARY 6



First-time director **Mike Myers** shines his light on revered talent manager **Shep Gordon** in this entertaining doc. Myers tracks Gordon's fruitful career in showbiz, from hitting it big as **Alice Cooper**'s agent, to his position as an influential Hollywood insider, with superstar pals **Sylvester Stallone** and **Michael Douglas** on hand to pay tribute.

Games

Why We Love...



SAINTS ROW: GAT OUT OF HELL

PS4, PS3, XBOX ONE, XBOX 360, PC
JANUARY 20

The series that started out as a spoof of *GTA* is now in its fifth iteration. This time around Johnny Gat is back — and in Hell — where he must complete open-world missions to save the Saints' leader who's being held captive by Satan.

MORE MOVIES ▶ **HECTOR AND THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS** (JANUARY 6)

▶ **NO GOOD DEED** (JANUARY 6) ▶ **WALK AMONG THE TOMBSTONES** (JANUARY 13)

▶ **LOVE IS STRANGE** (JANUARY 13) ▶ **BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP** (JANUARY 13) ▶ **THE BOXTROLLS**

(JANUARY 20) ▶ **THE DROP** (JANUARY 20) ▶ **ANNABELLE** (JANUARY 20) ▶ **LUCY** (JANUARY 20)

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FINALLY...

They Wrote THAT?

With news that *Parks and Recreation* actor Rashida Jones (below) and her *Celeste & Jesse Forever* writing partner, Will McCormack, have been tapped to write the screenplay for *Toy Story 4*, we look at three other actors known primarily for their TV personas who have actually written some pretty good movies



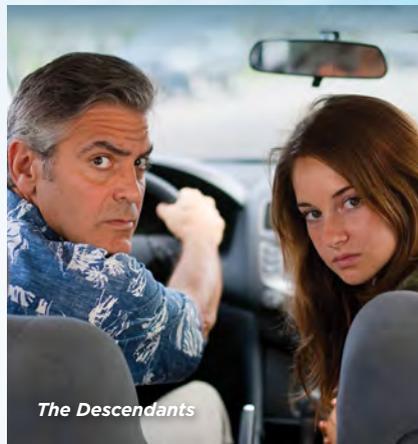
DAN FUTTERMAN

He played Vincent on *Judging Amy* and Barry on *Will & Grace*, but Futterman also wrote the screenplay for *Capote* and co-wrote last year's *Foxcatcher*.



JIM RASH

You know him as *Community*'s zany Dean Pelton, but Rash won an Oscar for co-writing *The Descendants* and also penned *The Way Way Back*.



DANNY STRONG

He was Paris Geller's nebbish boyfriend Doyle on *Gilmore Girls*, but did you know Strong penned the script for *Lee Daniels' The Butler*, co-wrote *The Hunger Games - Mockingjay* and is working on a script for the next Dan Brown film adaptation, *The Lost Symbol*?





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