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# Famous

april 2006 | volume 7 | number 4

**Roy Dupuis**  
TALKS  
THE ROCKET

**Gretchen Mol**  
ON BETTIE PAGE

**Mei!!!'s**  
**Philip Seymour Hoffman**

**DVD**  
SPOTLIGHT  
**INSIDE**  
**NARNIA**  
PAGE 46

**Anna**  
**FARRIS**

Straight talk from **Scary Movie 4**'s funny girl

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**PLUS MEG RYAN, GWYNETH PALTROW AND OTHER STARS SHARE THEIR POSITIONS ON YOGA**

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| BY BOB STRAUSS

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She scored critical points for her work in *Lost in Translation* and *Brokeback Mountain*, and now the suddenly hot **Anna Faris** reprises her signature role as Cindy Campbell in *Scary Movie 4*. Here the savvy actor talks about the art of making people laugh | BY EARL DITTMAN

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# WHO'S THE FARIS ONE OF ALL?



**D**id you recognize **Anna Faris** on the cover of this magazine? Chances are you *have* seen at least one of her films. With her *Scary Movie* franchise already past the \$640-million (U.S.) mark (the fourth one comes out this month) there aren't too many people who haven't watched at least one of her turns as the oft-frightened Cindy Campbell in the popular spoof series.

And those who wouldn't be caught dead at a *Scary Movie* are just the demographic that would have enjoyed Faris as a spoiled starlet in 2003's nuanced *Lost in Translation*, or in last year's tragic *Brokeback Mountain*. What? You didn't recognize her in *Brokeback Mountain*? Don't be embarrassed, neither did I until the credits rolled. She was the yappy housewife who danced with Jack Twist at the country club — stick a puffy bleached wig on her head and she's unrecognizable.

In "Anna Faris Just Won't Die," page 32, the actor says her chameleon-like abilities have helped her carve out a pretty interesting career — much more interesting than most of her blond-haired Hollywood peers anyway.

Speaking of chameleons, **Philip Seymour Hoffman**, who many consider to be the best character actor of his generation, made the somewhat surprising choice to play the villain in next month's blockbuster *Mission: Impossible III*. In "Big, Bad Hoffman," page 20, Hoffman admits that some of his actor friends have kidded him about going mainstream. No worries, the thrill of getting to beat up on Tom Cruise made it all worthwhile.

Would you believe that Quebec superstar **Roy Dupuis** has now played Maurice "Rocket" Richard three times? The latest is the first feature-length film of the trio. Titled simply *The Rocket*, the movie comes after Dupuis played the iconic Montreal Canadien in a Heritage Minute and a TV series. In "Hat Trick," page 26, Dupuis tries to explain why Richard was so important to Quebecers.

*The Notorious Bettie Page* isn't likely to play in every theatre across the country, but if it comes to yours check it out just to witness **Gretchen Mol**'s transformation from fair-haired, girl-next-door type to the originator of the smoldering, brunette pin-up — Bettie Page. Mol shares her makeover secrets in "Paging Gretchen Mol," page 28. —**MARNI WEISZ**



# Famous

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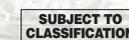


The funniest thing you ever sawed.

# SCARY MOVIE 4

APRIL 14

SAW HERE



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# CAUGHT ON FILM

KERI RUSSELL, MILLA JOVOVICH, DUSTIN HOFFMAN, KATE WINSLET, JOAQUIN PHOENIX



PHOTO BY AARON ST. CLAIR/SPLASH NEWS

◀◀◀ On a snowy day, Kate Winslet gives her two-year-old son Joe a ride home after a trip to New York's Chelsea Market.

▼ Is that how a nice young lady excuses herself? Dustin Hoffman helps his daughter Ally get out of her seat by stepping over the table at New York restaurant Le Bilbouquet.



PHOTO BY LAWRENCE SCHWARTZ/ALD/SPLASH NEWS



PHOTO BY LAWRENCE SCHWARTZ/ALD/SPLASH-KEYSTONE

◀◀◀ Keri Russell adjusts her fake pregnant belly on the New York City set of *August Rush*. Russell's career seemed to be on pause after TV's *Felicity* was cancelled. But now she has roles in next month's *Mission: Impossible III* and this quirky drama about an orphaned music prodigy trying to find his parents (one of whom is played by Russell).

▶▶▶ Wow, and you thought Johnny Cash was dark. Joaquin Phoenix looks as if he's allergic to the light at a Hollywood luncheon to celebrate the Cash bio-pic *Walk the Line*.

▼ *Ultraviolet* heroine Milla Jovovich looks as though she's been plucked from a Renaissance painting as she dines at the Cinema for Peace Gala in Berlin.



PHOTO BY BRAD WASHBURN/FILMMAGIC



PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

## Canadian men: GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT

A few years ago it was The Barenaked Ladies, before that it was Roots. But if you wanna know what the hottest Canadian export is these days, look no further than the arms of some of celebritydom's charter members. It's younger men.

Elton John was the first star to scoop up a young Canuck mate — Scarborough, Ontario, born and bred David Furnish is 16 years his junior. But the two are now married, and therefore old news.

Sultry Kim Cattrall, 49, who played Samantha on *Sex and the City*, is dating chef Alan Wyse, 28, who hails from Toronto and is a dead ringer for Smith Jerrod, Samantha's boyfriend on the last season of *Sex*. They met while she was in Toronto shooting *Ice Princess* a couple of years ago.

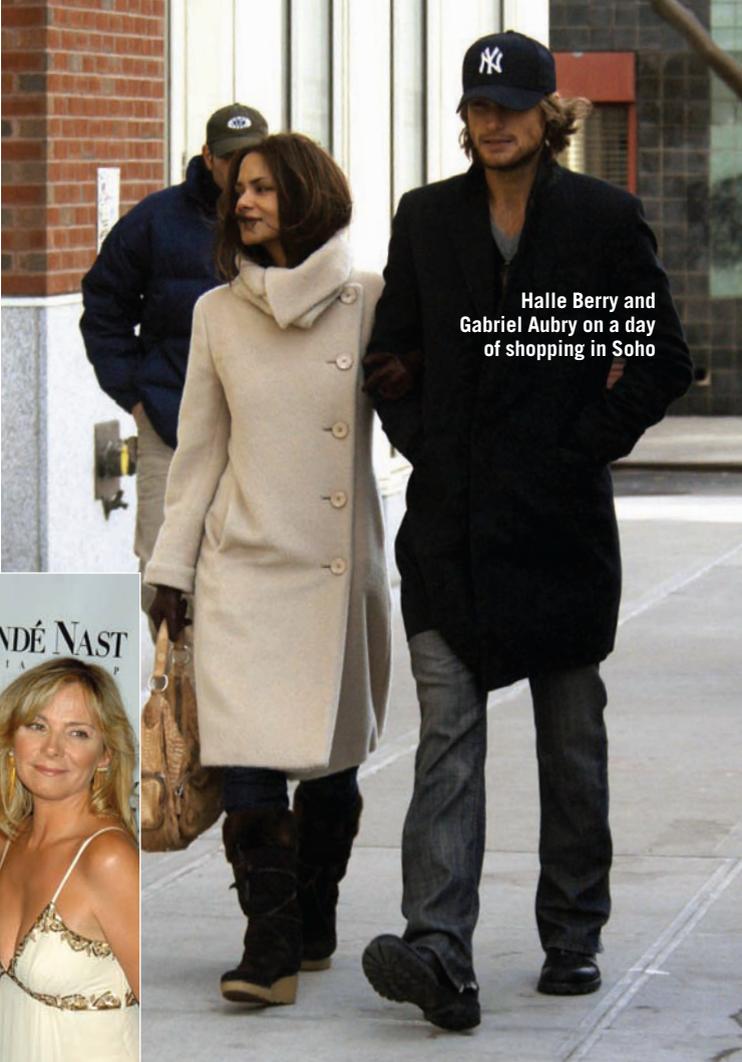
And 39-year-old Halle Berry hooked up with 30-year-old Montreal model Gabriel Aubry (who's done print for Calvin Klein and Hugo Boss, and walked the runway for Ralph Lauren and Gucci) on the set of a Versace ad campaign last November.

So if you happen to be an established celebrity in the market for a hot, young, Canadian man (Sharon Stone, we're looking at you) we humbly suggest 27-year-old Luke Kirby, the Hamilton-born star of *Mambo Italiano*; 26-year-old Montreal actor/director Jacob Tierney (directed *Twist*, appeared in *Blood*); or 22-year-old Montrealer Marc André Grondin, nominated for a Genie this year for *C.R.A.Z.Y.*

We have no idea whether they're single, but they're cute and could use the publicity. —MW



Alan Wyse and Kim Cattrall at Fashion Rocks



Halle Berry and Gabriel Aubry on a day of shopping in Soho

## HOME OF THE (NOT SO) FREE



As usual, this year's Oscar nominees were inundated with gift bags and baskets, including one from M&M's that contained personalized candies — the nominee's name and a congratulatory message were printed right onto the shells. Puh-lease.

So it's with a sense of poetic justice that we report American celebs have to claim their swag to the IRS, which treats the gifts as taxable items. Yes, the stars have to pay tax on their loot, which could turn out to be a sizeable sum.

In fact, the official gift baskets given out to Oscar-night presenters were worth about \$100,000, and included a \$7,000 Victoria's Secret outfit and a coupon for laser eye surgery. That translates to about \$30,000 in taxes.

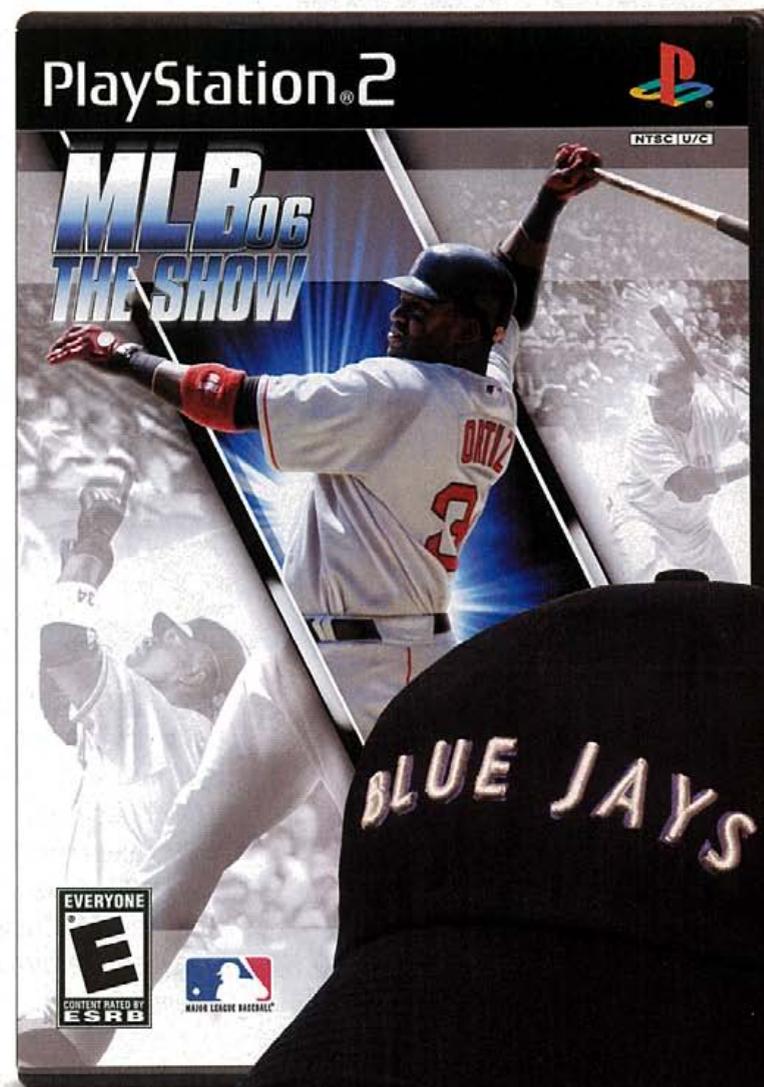
Here in Canada, at last month's Genie Awards, Canadian celebs were also presented with goodies backstage. Inside the Genies gift bags items such as Fossil watches and spa getaways were up for grabs. But do Canadian stars have to pay the taxman?

"We cannot provide information on specific cases," says Canada Revenue Agency spokesman Sam Papadopoulos. "However, in general, if gifts are provided as a form of compensation, then they are considered to be taxable."

In other words, the tax folks aren't quite sure what to make of the gift bag phenomenon. It took them a few days of digging around just to come up with their maybe/maybe not answer, which may make last month's Genie celebs a wee bit nervous. —IR

KIM CATTRALL PHOTO BY DAN HERRICK/KEYSTONE; HALLE BERRY PHOTO BY BRIAN PAHLUSPLASH-KEYSTONE

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# VANESSA LENGIES GOES TO THE MAT

**V**anessa Lengies must be wondering why she couldn't have landed a role in your average teen flick — the most strenuous thing she'd have to do is dial a cellphone.

No, the 20-year-old, Montreal-born actor had the good fortune to snag the part of Joanne in the gymnastics dramedy *Stick It*, which stars fellow Canadian Missy Peregrin as a rebellious teen whose disruptive presence affects team chemistry at an elite gymnastics academy run by coach Jeff Bridges.

"Joanne is quite the *be-atch*, as they say nowadays," remarks Lengies on the line from her home in L.A. "She's very angry and vulnerable at the same time, and you hate her at first but then you see she's more normal than you thought."

Lengies began her career at age six doing voice-overs, and worked steadily in Canadian TV (*Popular Mechanics for Kids*) until her breakthrough role in the acclaimed U.S. TV

series *American Dreams*. The series brought her movie work, you may have seen her in *The Perfect Man* and most recently the comedy *Waiting*. But nothing prepared her for the physical demands of *Stick It*.

"We trained every day for about five hours, for three months," she says. "We had 45 minutes of cardio, about an hour's worth of stretching for flexibility, then we had weight training for arms, legs and stomach, and then we'd work on our vault, bar and our beam skills. It was really about getting the right muscles to look like gymnasts and getting comfortable on the equipment so we didn't look like we were thrown up there for the first time, because if gymnasts are good they've been doing it since they were two."

Body doubles were used for the extended gymnastics sequences, and Lengies says audiences are going to love what first-time director Jessica Bendinger came up with.

"I think gymnastics is something that's really hard to portray in a way that kids will be interested in watching. But I was blown away when I saw the movie. It was so frickin' cool... the gymnastics scenes are totally inventive and fresh, something no one's ever done before."

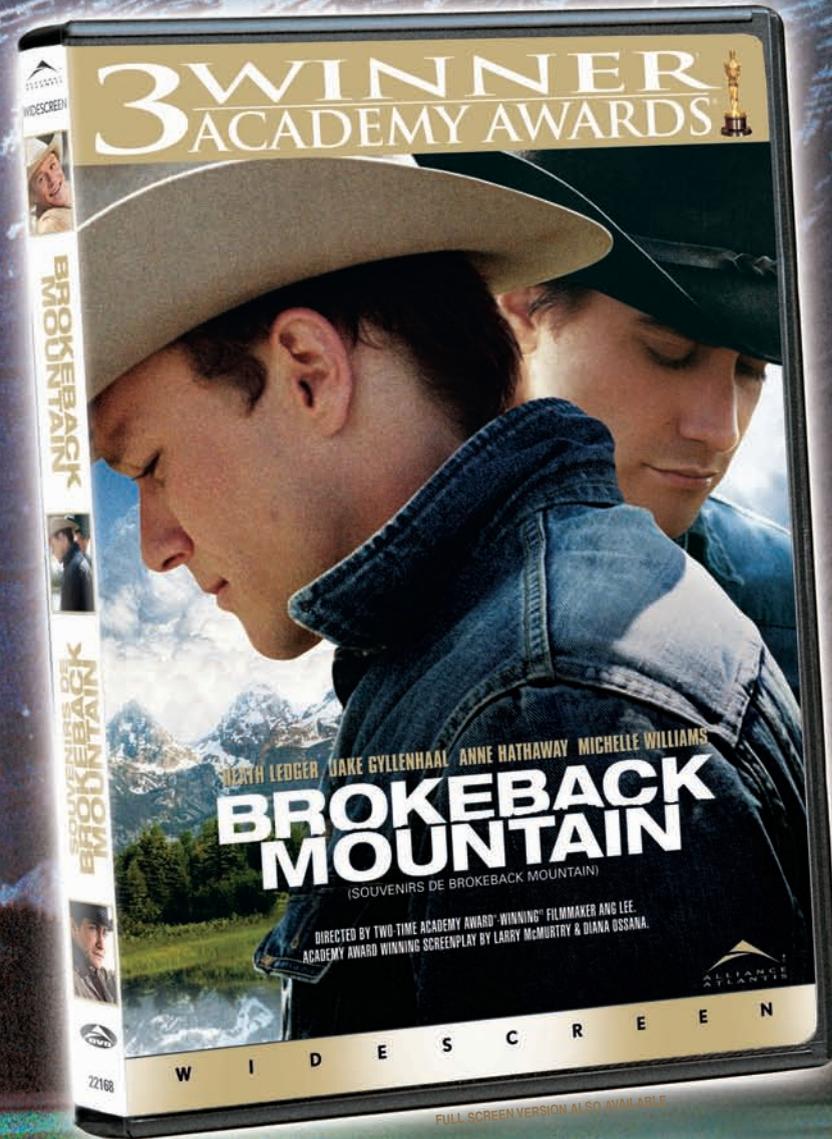
After surviving *Stick It*, Lengies is now busy auditioning for upcoming TV shows.

"It's pilot season and geez, it's crazy out here," she says with a laugh. "I'm looking at this big pile of scripts right now while I'm talking to you and it's absolutely insane. I have two auditions today, one that is nine pages long and one that is 11 pages long."

"But I like auditioning, people think I'm crazy 'cause I like it. I like it because I get to be someone new, even if I don't get the part. It's such great training. It's like, okay, in five minutes you have to be the shyest girl in school with a terrible secret that you're hiding... Go." —INGRID RANDOJA

HEATH LEDGER JAKE GYLLENHAAL ANNE HATHAWAY MICHELLE WILLIAMS

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- Peter Travers, *ROLLING STONE*

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- DIRECTING FROM THE HEART: ANG LEE
- FROM SCRIPT TO SCREEN: INTERVIEWS WITH LARRY McMURTRY & DIANA OSSANA
- SHARING THE STORY: THE MAKING OF *BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN*

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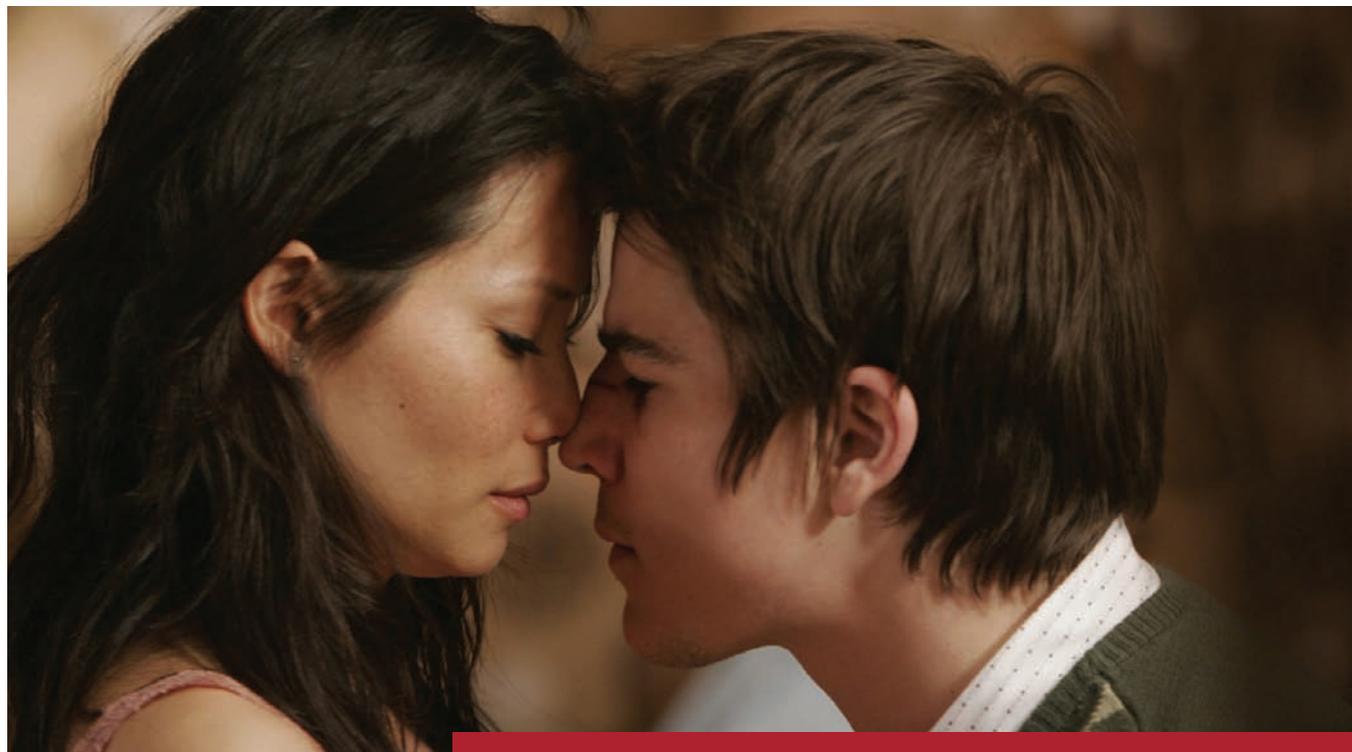


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| BY INGRID RANDOJA



## LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN

**WHO'S IN IT?** Josh Hartnett, Lucy Liu

**WHO DIRECTED?** Paul McGuigan (*Wicker Park*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** *Wicker Park's* director and star — McGuigan and Hartnett — reunite for this stylish thriller about an ordinary guy named Slevin (Hartnett) who is mistaken for a high-rolling gambler by two rival gangsters (Ben Kingsley and Morgan Freeman). The mobsters threaten to do very bad things to the mystified Slevin unless he agrees to act as a hitman for them both. Liu is the gambler's next-door neighbour.

• HITS THEATRES APRIL 7

## APRIL 2

### WWE-PAY-PER-VIEW WRESTLEMANIA 22

Check [www.famousplayers.com](http://www.famousplayers.com) or [www.cineplex.com](http://www.cineplex.com) for a list of theatres where you can watch it live, and to buy tickets.

## APRIL 7

### PHAT GIRLZ

**WHO'S IN IT?** Mo'Nique, Jimmy Jean-Louis

**WHO DIRECTED?** Nnegest Likké (debut)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** A plus-size woman and aspiring fashion designer (Mo'Nique) finds love in the form of an African man (Haitian model Jean-Louis) who reveres the large female form.

### TAKE THE LEAD

**WHO'S IN IT?** Antonio Banderas, Alfre Woodard

**WHO DIRECTED?** Liz Friedlander (debut)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Professional dancer Pierre Dulaine (Banderas) volunteers to teach troubled New York City high schoolers the art of ballroom dancing. Look for these badass kids with hearts of gold to give the elegant endeavour an urban edge. Filmed in Toronto.

### THE BENCHWARMERS

**WHO'S IN IT?** David Spade, Rob Schneider

**WHO DIRECTED?** Dennis Dugan

(*National Security*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** This comedy is aimed at all those whose memories of playing sports as a kid bring on post-traumatic stress syndrome rather than reverie. Spade, Schneider and Jon Heder star as three grown nerds who decide to reclaim their childhood by playing baseball against little league teams. The problem is, they still suck.

## APRIL 14

### SCARY MOVIE 4

**WHO'S IN IT?** Anna Faris, Craig Bierko

**WHO DIRECTED?** David Zucker (*Scary Movie 3*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** The continued box-office

success of horror films means the *Scary Movie* franchise has fresh fodder to feed on. Flicks such as *The Village*, *Saw*, *The Grudge* and *War of the Worlds* are lampooned, as is Tom Cruise's now legendary *Oprah* couch-jumping episode.

See Anna Faris interview, page TK.

### THE NOTORIOUS BETTIE PAGE

**WHO'S IN IT?** Gretchen Mol, David Strathairn

**WHO DIRECTED?** Mary Harron

(*American Psycho*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Sweet-natured Bettie Page (Mol) made the most of her silky black hair, curvy figure and playful spirit to become the 1950s most famous pin-up model. She was known for posing in skimpy tiger-print outfits and two-piece bathing suits, but it was her bondage pics



(somewhat tame by today's standards) that made her "notorious" and caught the attention of the U.S. government.

See Gretchen Mol interview, page TK.

## APRIL 21

### HOOT

**WHO'S IN IT?** Logan Lerman, Luke Wilson

**WHO DIRECTED?** Wil Shriner (debut)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Best-selling author Carl Hiaasen (*Striptease*, *Sick Puppy*) surprised some of his fans when he penned the young-adult novel *Hoot*, which focuses on teenager Roy Eberhardt, who moves from Montana to the Florida Everglades and becomes involved in a plot to save an owl habitat from developers. This movie version stars Lerman (TV's *Jack and Bobby*) as Roy, Wilson as a bumbling cop, and singer Jimmy Buffett as a high school science teacher.

### SILENT HILL

**WHO'S IN IT?** Radha Mitchell, Sean Bean

**WHO DIRECTED?** Christophe Gans

(*Brotherhood of the Wolf*)



## THE SENTINEL

**WHO'S IN IT?** Michael Douglas, Kiefer Sutherland

**WHO DIRECTED?** Clark Johnson (*S.W.A.T.*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** A veteran Secret Service agent (Douglas) is accused of conspiring to assassinate the American President. Now he has to find out who framed him before the real killer strikes. Filmed in Hogtown, Torontonians will get a kick out of seeing landmarks such as Nathan Phillips Square figure prominently in the action.

• HITS THEATRES APRIL 21



## THE WILD

**VOICES?** Kiefer Sutherland, James Belushi

**WHO DIRECTED?** Steven "Spaz" Williams (debut)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** When a young zoo lion (Sutherland) is mistakenly shipped to the wilds of Africa, his dad, a giraffe, squirrel, koala bear and snake join forces to rescue him.

• HITS THEATRES APRIL 21

Richard, one of hockey's greatest players. Dupuis stars as the fiercely competitive Richard, who, during the '40s and up until the mid-'50s, rewrote the NHL record book despite the fact his beloved Montreal Canadiens organization treated him, and all the francophone players, shabbily (they weren't allowed to speak French on the bench or in the dressing room). Look for present-day NHL stars Vincent Lecavalier as the gentlemanly Jean Béliveau and Colorado Avalanche's Ian Laperrière as Bernie "Boom Boom" Geoffrion.

See Roy Dupuis interview, page TK.

## STICK IT

**WHO'S IN IT?** Jeff Bridges, Missy Peregrym

**WHO DIRECTED?** Jessica Bendinger (debut)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Teenage rebel Haley

Graham (Peregrym) is forced to return to her former school — an elite gymnastics academy — and it doesn't take long before she infuriates her by-the-book coach (Bridges) and alienates her uptight teammates, including the catty Joanne played by Montreal's own Vanessa Lengies.

See Vanessa Lengies interview, page TK.



## AMERICAN DREAMZ

**WHO'S IN IT?** Hugh Grant, Dennis Quaid

**WHO DIRECTED?** Paul Weitz (*In Good Company*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Paul Weitz (*About a Boy*, *In Good Company*) should solidify his place as Hollywood's sharpest satirical writer/director with this comedy starring Grant as the bored and self-loathing host of an *American Idol*-type TV show who manages to get the mentally fragile U.S. President (Quaid) to act as one of the show's judges. Arab terrorists get wind of the gig and send in the singing/dancing Omer to try to make it to the finale where he's to blow things up real good.

• **HITS THEATRES APRIL 21**

## APRIL 28

### RV

**WHO'S IN IT?** Robin Williams, Cheryl Hines

**WHO DIRECTED?** Barry Sonnenfeld (*Men in Black II*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** In an effort to reconnect with his wife and two kids, Bob Munro (Williams) rents a monster RV and takes his family on a road trip through the Rockies.

### UNITED 93

**WHO'S IN IT?** David Rasche, Chip Zien

**WHO DIRECTED?** Paul Greengrass (*The Bourne Supremacy*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Relying on 30 minutes of cockpit voice recordings and the two-dozen

phone calls from trapped passengers, this real-time drama recounts the fatal journey of United's Flight 93, the final plane hijacked on 9/11, which crashed in a Pennsylvania field after the passengers confronted their hijackers. The film was made with the blessing of the victims' families and with a mostly British cast.

### AKEELAH AND THE BEE

**WHO'S IN IT?** Keke Palmer, Angela Bassett

**WHO DIRECTED?** Doug Atchison (*The Pornographer*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Eleven-year-old Akeelah (Palmer) discovers she has a knack for spelling, and with the help of a no-nonsense teacher (Laurence Fishburne) has the

chance to reach the National Spelling Bee. But will her protective mom (Bassett) allow Akeelah to compete?

## APRIL 30

### WWE-PAY-PER-VIEW

#### WWE BACKLASH

Check [www.famousplayers.com](http://www.famousplayers.com) or [www.cineplex.com](http://www.cineplex.com) for a list of theatres where you can watch it live, and to buy tickets.

## MAY 5

### MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III

**WHO'S IN IT?** Tom Cruise,

Philip Seymour Hoffman

**WHO DIRECTED?** J.J. Abrams (debut)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** We don't know much about the third *Mission: Impossible* flick except superagent Ethan Hunt (Cruise) does something to really p-o the film's villain, played by the gleefully nasty Hoffman. Up-and-coming beauty Michelle Monaghan (*The Bourne Supremacy*, *Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang*) checks in as Hunt's special lady.

**See Philip Seymour Hoffman interview, page 20.**

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# I THE PURIFICATION

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# Nerds SCORE

[ at least on the field ]

*The Benchwarmers* opens this month, and it isn't just another sports movie — it's a nerd sports movie! **David Spade**, **Jon Heder** and **Rob Schneider** star as three grown losers who take on arrogant, and often downright mean, little league squads to prove nerds have got game too. Hollywood loves a misfits vs. jocks sports flick, and if you consider that a lot of Hollywood types were probably geeky kids, well, you can understand why these movies keep getting made. So, to celebrate the uncoordinated spaz in all of us, we break down Hollywood's best-known nerd sports flicks | **BY INGRID RANDOJA**



*The Benchwarmers*

### THE BAD NEWS BEARS (1976)

**PREMISE:** A washed-up, beer-guzzling ex-baseball player (Walter Matthau) takes over a team of misfit little leaguers.

#### TEAM NERD INCLUDES:

a nose-pickin' outfielder, a short-sighted pitcher, a racist shortstop, an overweight catcher and a juvenile delinquent

**OBNOXIOUS OPPONENTS:** the dreaded Yankees, a team just as arrogant as their professional namesakes

#### FAVOURITE NERD QUOTE:

Tanner Boyle (the mouthy shortstop): "Hey Yankees...you can take your apology and your trophy and shove 'em straight up your a--!"

#### FINAL SCORE: 8 out of 10.

Foul-mouthed children, morally questionable parents who abuse their offspring and a cranky coach who actually splashes beer in a kid's face — a rough gem hiding in a PC world.

### THE MIGHTY DUCKS (1992)

**PREMISE:** A disgraced Minnesota lawyer (Emilio Estevez) is court-ordered to coach a losing pee-wee hockey team.

#### TEAM NERD INCLUDES:

a scaredy-cat goalie, a figure-skating princess, a silent winger and an ankle-skating forward with a wicked shot

#### OBNOXIOUS OPPONENTS:

The Hawks, coached by the evil Jack Reilly, and we know he's a jerk since he runs up scores and calls his players "ladies." Boo-hiss

**FAVOURITE NERD QUOTE:** The Mighty Ducks: "Quack! Quack! Quack! Quack! GOOOOOO DUCKS!" (It doesn't get any nerdier than that.)

#### FINAL SCORE: 5 out of 10.

Hockey is a sacred sport here in Canada, so to see a movie screw up basic stuff such as, um, the rules (!) doesn't score the filmmakers many points.

### LITTLE GIANTS (1994)

**PREMISE:** The younger brother (Rick Moranis) of a football star decides to coach a team of also-ran pee-wee players, taking on his brother's all-star team in the process.

**TEAM NERD INCLUDES:** a fat kid with a gas problem, a clumsy wide receiver and a math nerd who designs the plays

#### OBNOXIOUS OPPONENTS:

the smartly attired Cowboys, led by the helmet-smashing linebacker Spike

#### FAVOURITE NERD QUOTE:

Hanson (the pathetic receiver talking to his hands): "Why do you do this to me, fellas? I cut your nails, wash you, put gloves on you when you're cold..."

#### FINAL SCORE: 6 out of 10.

While the plot is ho-hum, the relationship between Moranis and his older brother (Ed O'Neill) is surprisingly complex and overshadows the misfits' on-field heroics.

### DODGEBALL: A TRUE UNDERDOG STORY (2005)

**PREMISE:** To save their rundown gym a bunch of non-jocks, led by Vince Vaughn, enter a dodge ball tournament.

#### TEAM NERD INCLUDES:

a lackadaisical gym owner, a failed male high school cheerleader, a slob and a pirate

#### OBNOXIOUS OPPONENTS:

Team Globo Gym, which includes pumped-up jocks and a woman with a unibrow

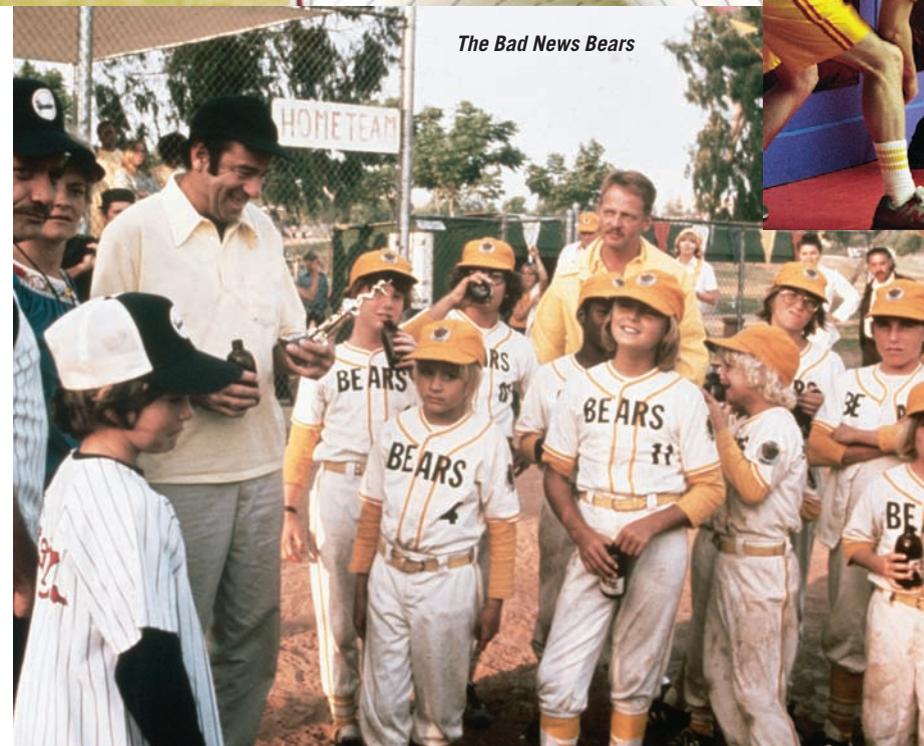
**FAVOURITE NERD QUOTE:** Peter La Fleur (Vince Vaughn): "I found that if you have a goal, that you might not reach it. But if you do not have one you are never disappointed. And I gotta tell you, it feels phenomenal!"

#### FINAL SCORE: 9 out of 10.

Straight man Vaughn and Ben Stiller (in full 'roid rage) lovingly lampoon sports clichés, and what's not to love about a movie that sees guys getting smacked in the groin with big rubber balls?



*DodgeBall*



*The Bad News Bears*

**"I found that if you have a goal, that you might not reach it. But if you do not have one you are never disappointed. And I gotta tell you, it feels phenomenal!"**

—Vince Vaughn, *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story*



# BIG BAD HOFFMAN

If you're surprised to see **Philip Seymour Hoffman** as the villain in *Mission: Impossible III*, don't be. The Oscar-winning actor has nothing against blockbusters...and admits the opportunity to beat up on Tom Cruise made the role "that much sweeter" | BY EARL DITTMAN



*M:i:III*'s Tom Cruise (left) and Philip Seymour Hoffman

**B**efore this year, Philip Seymour Hoffman was highly regarded by film aficionados and his peers as "an actor's actor" thanks to nuanced, and incredibly varied, performances in films like *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (upper-crust cad), *Happiness* (socially inept stalker), *Flawless* (drag queen) and *Boogie Nights* (porn film crew member) — yet the 38-year-old from Fairport, New York, wasn't exactly a household name.

But with his Academy Award-winning performance as the late, openly gay writer/celeb-at-large Truman Capote in *Capote* (which also earned him statues from the Screen Actors Guild, Golden Globes and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts) Hoffman should now be recognizable. If not, his role opposite Tom Cruise in next month's *Mission: Impossible III* (a.k.a. *M:i:III*) will certainly pick up any lost sections of the population.

Decked out in a baggy, light brown suit, T-shirt and sneakers at a New York City hotel, Hoffman admits he's been razzed by some of his acting friends for taking a role in *M:i:III*. "I've done a number of big studio films, but my heart really lies in the independent filmmaking world, and most people know it, so doing a film like *Mission: Impossible* gets me a few 'sell-out' jokes from some of my buddies — but they're just jealous," Hoffman says with a laugh. The real draw, he explains, was the chance to play the archenemy of Cruise's segret agent Ethan Hunt.

"I love playing bad guys, and when I know I'm out to kill somebody like Tom Cruise, it makes it that much sweeter," Hoffman jokes.

His character's plot to find and kill Hunt is practically the only story element that has leaked from writer/director J.J. Abrams' (creator of *Lost* and *Alias*) top-

secret set. Much like its two predecessors, *M:i:III*'s plot has been shrouded in mystery, with a copy of the screenplay as impossible to find as the Holy Grail. "It's more exciting when you sit in your theatre seat and don't know everything about the movie before it even starts," says Hoffman. "It's like acting, the less you know about the actors playing the part, the easier it is to believe the performances."

**You've played some nasty bad guys, but never an action villain. How do you avoid turning him into just a caricature?**

"You are right, they can be. I mean, this is a different thing than that, but ultimately if you are doing *Mission: Impossible*, whatever you are doing, you want to find some moment, something that, in the end, the audience — hopefully — will buy you. Then that just sucks a person more into the film. And, even though he's a villain in

an action film, you still have to do your homework. You have to get into this guy's head. You have to ask questions like, 'What is it that makes this guy tick and what is the interesting thing about this guy?'"

**You worked with Tom Cruise on *Magnolia*, one of his most-acclaimed roles. How would you compare the performances?**

"In both films, he worked his butt off. In *Magnolia*, he had a tough part. He had to go in there and do all this emotional purging. If there were a title for his scene, it would be 'The Emotional Purge.' And he did it, time and time again. It was amazing. With *Mission: Impossible*, not only does he have tough emotional scenes, but he's got these crazy, wild, physical stunts that he always wants to perform himself. With me, if it even looks a tiny bit dangerous, I'm screaming for my stunt double [laughs]."

**"I love playing bad guys, and when I know I'm out to kill someone like Tom Cruise, it makes it that much sweeter," jokes Hoffman**

**Most people don't know you have a child, Cooper Alexander [with girlfriend Mimi O'Donnell], and you kicked a substance-abuse problem when you were around 22. Are you a private person by nature, or do you just hate seeing your name in the tabloids?**

"Well, I certainly don't believe in the old saying that 'all publicity is good publicity.' I'm pretty private, and I don't believe that

just because you make movies and obtain a certain amount of success that your private life is automatically an open book of any kind. I mean, there are things I don't want anyone to know, much less some person on the west coast, reading it in a tabloid, who I don't even know.... I know some actors think there's a trade-off, but I refuse to let the fact that I make movies rule what I will or won't say to promote those movies. So, yeah, I guess you could call me private."

**When did you start to get your choice of projects?**

"I've been choosing scripts for a while, since I was like 30, maybe, and I'm 38 now. I don't know how many scripts are out there, and what kind of scripts I am getting comparatively to everybody else, but I've been basically trying to choose amongst offers."

**So, why *Capote*?**

"It was really the story that was the most attractive thing. The story of writing *In Cold Blood*, and his life story. The idea of the technical stuff of playing him, that wasn't the thing that attracted me to it.... What I was drawn to was the tragic tale. This classic, tragic tale. Something being inevitable, something playing itself out and no one could stop it. There was something about that which was very interesting to me and compelling."

***Capote* was filmed in Winnipeg. With the comparative isolation of Winnipeg in North America, was there a parallel to Capote's journey to a small Kansas community?**

"Actually, Winnipeg is fantastic. You see it in the film, it does capture the Midwest in that period very well, actually. I don't know if there were any other parallels.... If there was a sense of isolation it really was after the fact, looking back, it was during the cold season, it was very, very cold. It was isolated, I had never been there before and another thing that happened was that I slowly started becoming very friendly with the people in the town. On my days off I'd have to get out of where I was staying and I'd go to these same places... There was a similarity in that aspect of just kind of starting to live in the town and the people in it, like Capote did."

**Where did you go?**

"There is this place, this great German coffee shop/restaurant that I used ►►

►► to go to, I can't remember what street it was on. It was very much this Starbucks kind of area, with this wonderful German owner, I'd go there all the time. He was like selfless, I'd go and chat with him for two hours, and eat his pastries."

**You have no problem taking on gay roles, which still seems taboo for some actors. Are we at a point where actors can take on gay roles with no bad career aftereffects?**

"It's a tricky thing, isn't it? I still think it's tricky, I think it will always be a tricky thing. It's never been a tricky thing for me, and I don't think that makes me a better person or anything like that. I just think that, early on, I just kind of played characters that I've wanted to play and some of them have been gay and some not, some of them transsexuals. Again, the story is the thing that pulls you in, and I think that the biggest honour you can pay to playing a character whose sexual identity is in the minority is to not make it about that, to make it about them, their lives, the people, the fact they're struggling — obviously their struggles are going to pertain to that issue — but I really am wary of pointing out the fact of their sexuality in these films because it's more about, like everyone, the drama is in their lives."

**You've directed several stage plays. Do you want to direct films?**

"No, no. Maybe when I'm older."

**Why not?**

"Because I don't think I know how to do that. I mean, you have people directing films that are so God-awful that I know my little brother could have done that. There are a lot of people out there that should not be directing films. You have so many of these guys going around saying, 'I'm a film director.' I'm like, 'How can you call yourself a film director? You don't even know what a damn f-stop is!' And I know that I don't know how to see things visually through a camera. I'm not going to make one until I know I'm ready or I go to film school."

**Is this the best period of your career?**

"Is it the best period in my career? I don't know, I haven't lived any more of it, so maybe it might get better, hopefully. Or it might get worse, and that might be a good time, too." **F**

*Earl Dittman is a Houston-based entertainment writer.*

# MISSION CONTROL



Since plot details about the new *Mission: Impossible* movie seem to have been locked in a vault in some secret Swiss hideaway we thought we could at least remind you of what happened in the first two movies.

## MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE (1996)

**THE MISSION:** You'd think it would be against a spy agency's better judgment to put the real identities of all of America's double agents into one computer file, but darn it (!) that's what some pea brains decided to do and now a bad guy's trying to steal it. Secret agent Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) is brought in not only to stop the crook, but to take pictures of him nabbing the file, and then follow him until he hands it off to the Big Bad.

**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?** The plot had as many holes as a football jersey, but director Brian De Palma (*Scarface*, *The Untouchables*) used his own style of subterfuge — stunning stunt sequences, bullet-paced action and face-peeling special effects — to distract from the storyline's flaws.

**TRIVIA:** It was the first film to be shown in more than 3,000 U.S. cinemas.

**PAYOFF:** It has grossed \$456-million (U.S.) on an \$80-million budget.

## MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE II (2000)

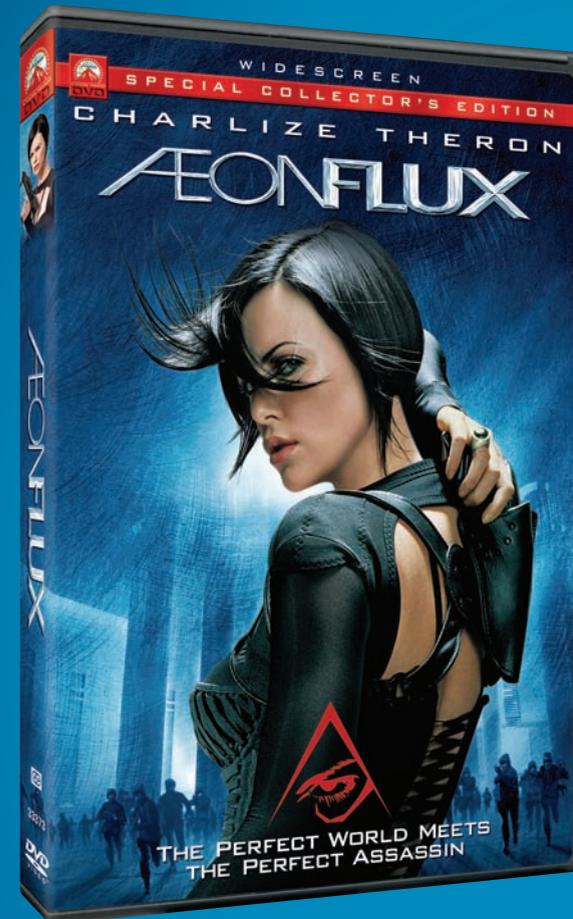
**THE MISSION:** It's the classic good-guy-turned-bad scenario, with former secret agent Sean Ambrose (Dougray Scott) plotting to steal samples of both a killer virus and its antidote. You see where this one is going... After Ambrose leaks the nasty bug on the streets of Sydney, Australia, he'll sell the cure to the highest bidder. And it's Ethan Hunt's job to stop the scoundrel! Thandie Newton plays Bond Girl to Cruise's hero, helping him to find her ex-boyfriend Ambrose and falling for Hunt amidst the action.

**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED?** A more streamlined plot is artfully directed by John Woo (*Face/Off*, *Once a Thief*), who uses many of his trademarks — flying doves, slow motion and double-handed gun action — to keep the viewer occupied.

**TRIVIA:** When he delivers the line, "Mr. Hunt, this isn't mission difficult, it's mission impossible. 'Difficult' should be a walk in the park for you," Anthony Hopkins (as Mission Commander Swanbeck) becomes the first person to utter the phrase "mission impossible" in any of the movies, or the TV series that inspired them.

**PAYOFF:** It has grossed \$546-million on a \$125-million budget. —MW

# SHE'S GRACEFUL, BEAUTIFUL AND DEADLY.



## LET'S HANG HER.

Four hundred years from now, humankind will be living in utopia. With just one secret. Join the rebellion and rent or buy 'Aeon Flux' starting April 25th and you'll receive this exclusive poster.



PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND LAKESHORE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT A VALHALLA MOTION PICTURES AND MTV FILMS PRODUCTION CHARLIZE THERON "AEON FLUX" MARTON CSOKAS JONNY LEE MILLER SOPHIE OKONEDO PETE POSTLETHWAITE AND FRANCES McDORMAND MUSIC BY GRAEME REVELL COSTUME DESIGNER BEATRIX ARUNA PASZTOR EDITED BY PETER HUNESS, A.C.E. PLUMMY TUCKER JEFF GULLO PRODUCTION DESIGNER ANDREW McALPINE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY STUART DRYBURGH EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TOM ROSENBERG VAN TOFFLER PRODUCED BY GALE ANNE HURD DAVID GALE GARY LUCCHESI GREGORY GOODMAN MARTHA GRIFFIN BASED UPON CHARACTERS CREATED BY PETER CHUNG WRITTEN BY PHIL HAY & MATT MANFREDI DIRECTED BY KARYN KUSAMA



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# MISSION BREAKDOWN

We chronicle the nearly impossible task of getting *M:i:III* to the big screen | BY MARTIN GRENIER

In an ideal world, *Mission: Impossible III* would already be ancient history.

After the astonishing success of the first two movies — \$456-million (U.S.) for 1996's *Mission: Impossible* and \$546-million for 2000's *Mission: Impossible II* — Paramount bigwigs were eager to get moving on the third installment.

## FINDING A DIRECTOR

As early as 2001, the production team starts their search for a new director. It's not that they don't like how Brian De Palma handled the first movie, or what John Woo has done with the sequel. They are simply looking for a change. In fact, it's star Tom Cruise, also one of the franchise's producers, who insists on having a new director for each movie so that each one will have a different atmosphere and tone.

At one point the buzz is that Oliver Stone will direct, at another the rumours are about Ang Lee. But the man who finally signs on is David Fincher, director of *Seven* and *Fight Club*. It's 2002 when Fincher agrees to shoot the film in 2003 with a 2004 release date in mind.

## LOSING A DIRECTOR

Months pass while Tom Cruise finishes shooting *The Last Samurai*. In the meantime, Fincher keeps busy by working on the skateboard flick *Lords of Dogtown*. But Fincher and Cruise's schedules become increasingly incompatible and eventually Fincher has to quit the mission. In the end Fincher doesn't even direct *Lords of Dogtown*. As soon as he quits *M:i:III*,

Catherine Hardwicke (*Thirteen*) is signed to direct *Dogtown* and Fincher merely ends up with an executive producer credit.

## FINDING A NEW DIRECTOR

Fincher's director's chair is still warm when Paramount signs Joe Carnahan to replace him. The little-known filmmaker wrote and directed *Narc*, a thriller about a narcotics officer investigating a cop killing, which just happened to be executive produced by Tom Cruise. After the quick switch, shooting is expected to start right away.

That's when *Collateral* comes along and messes everything up. Cruise decides to play the brutal hitman in Michael Mann's thriller (and rightly so, it earns him his best reviews since *Magnolia*), so *M:i:III*'s start date is once again in the air.

Carnahan is patient until the summer of 2004, but one month before shooting is to begin, another surprise. He dumps the project, claiming "artistic differences." As everything is put back on hold Cruise squeezes in Steven Spielberg's update of *War of the Worlds*.

## ANOTHER NEW DIRECTOR

J.J. Abrams, who created the groundbreaking TV shows *Lost* and *Alias*, is handed the reigns despite the fact he has never directed a feature. No matter. Tom Cruise is a big *Alias* fan, and that's enough.

## SIGNING THE ACTORS

If you think listing all of *M:i:III*'s directors is a big job, try cataloguing the stars who



Clockwise from left: Tom Cruise as secret agent Ethan Hunt; Cruise with co-star Michelle Monaghan; Tom "The Running Man" Cruise gets some exercise

were, at one point or another, associated with the film. Combine their busy skeds with each director's vision of who should be in the film and you end up with more turnover than a bad fast-food restaurant.

Take the star of *Lost in Translation*, Scarlett Johansson. In the beginning, the beautiful blonde is supposed to be *M:i:III*'s leading lady, but because of the many delays she can't do it. (There are also rumours Cruise tried to "educate" Johansson about Scientology — an education the sure-minded starlet reportedly did not appreciate.)

Shakespearean actor Kenneth Branagh was set to play the villain, but is dropped when one of the revolving directors decides Branagh doesn't have the right look for the part, which eventually goes to Philip Seymour Hoffman.

For Canadian Carrie-Anne Moss, getting cut is simply a case of bad luck, as Abrams and his new writers trim her

character from the script.

Then there's Lindsay Lohan. While reports that she was to replace Johansson zoom around the internet, in the end, the story is never confirmed and Lohan has no role. Instead, Abrams gives the part to one of his protégés, Keri Russell, the 30-year-old actor best-known as the angst-filled title character on TV's *Felicity*, yet another series created by Abrams.

## CAMERAS ROLL

July 2005: Two years after *M:i:III* was supposed to start shooting, the cameras finally roll. Cast and crew fly to Italy with a \$150-million budget that will also be spent on sets throughout the U.S. and China.

## THE TOM CRUISE FACTOR

And, of course, there is the situation surrounding Tom Cruise. By the time *Mission: Impossible III* starts shooting, much of the world has tired of seeing his face. Just eight

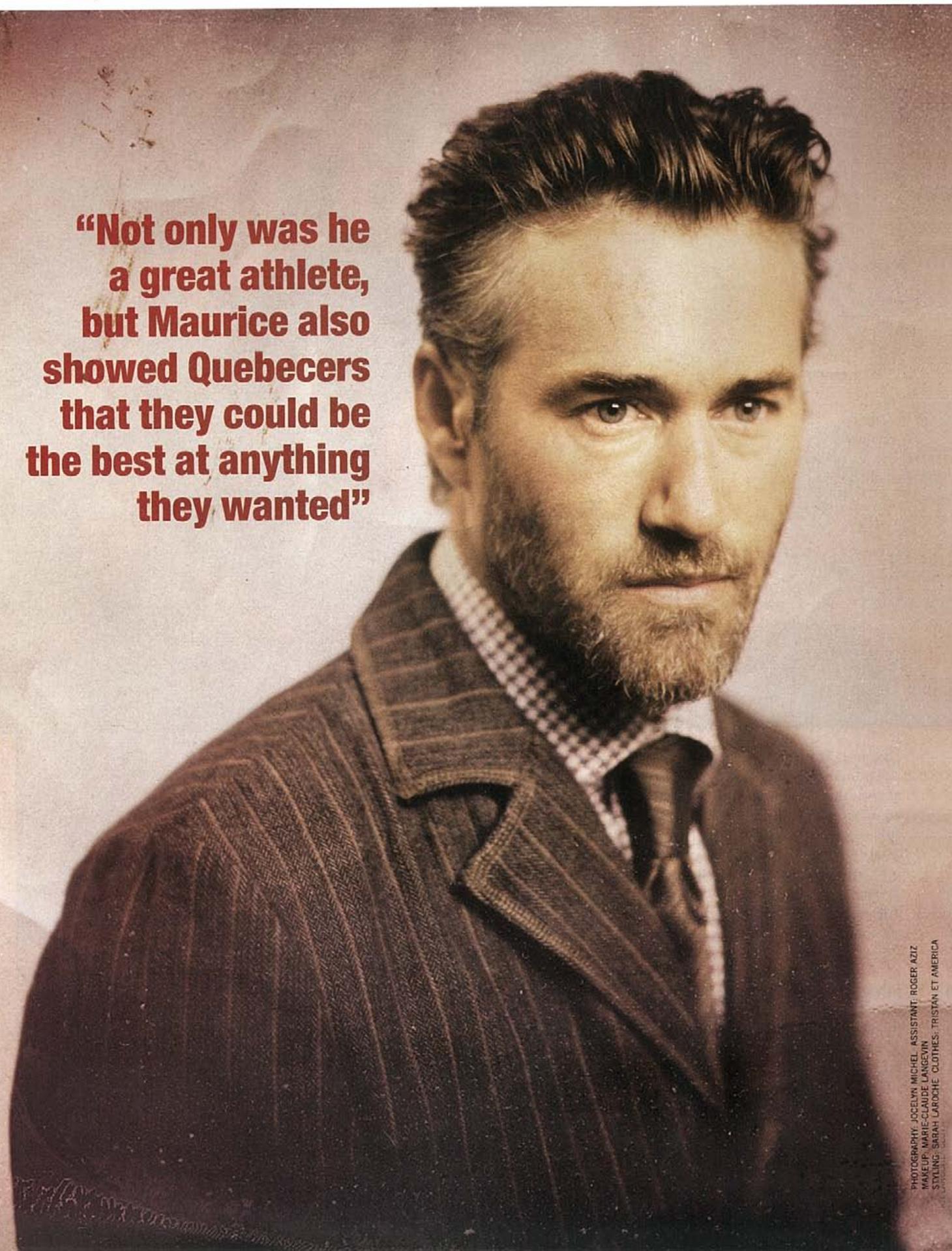
months before, he'd jumped the couch on Oprah and, after what seemed like an instant engagement to *Dawson's Creek* star Katie Holmes, used the presence of any camera (and there were many, as he was travelling the globe promoting *War of the Worlds*) as an opportunity to dip, and suck face with, his new leading lady.

Cruise had also angered a lot of people by bashing the entire field of psychiatry on *Today* with Matt Lauer, and by taking a shot at Brooke Shields after she talked about using antidepressants to deal with her post-partum depression.

Even today the 43-year-old actor's behaviour is watched with raised eyebrows. Despite the fact that Holmes is now pregnant, many still suspect their relationship is primarily a publicity stunt. The most cynical conspiracy theorists have even noticed that their baby is due in May, about the same time *M:i:III* will finally be released. **F**



“Not only was he a great athlete, but Maurice also showed Quebecers that they could be the best at anything they wanted”



PHOTOGRAPHY: JOCELYN MICHEL, ASSISTANT: ROGER AZIZ  
MAKEUP: MARIE-CLAUDE LANGEVIN  
STYLING: SARAH LAROCHE, CLOTHES: TRISTAN ET AMERICA

# HAT TRICK

Quebec superstar **Roy Dupuis** plays Maurice Richard for the third time in *The Rocket* | BY JEAN-FRANÇOIS LÉGARÉ

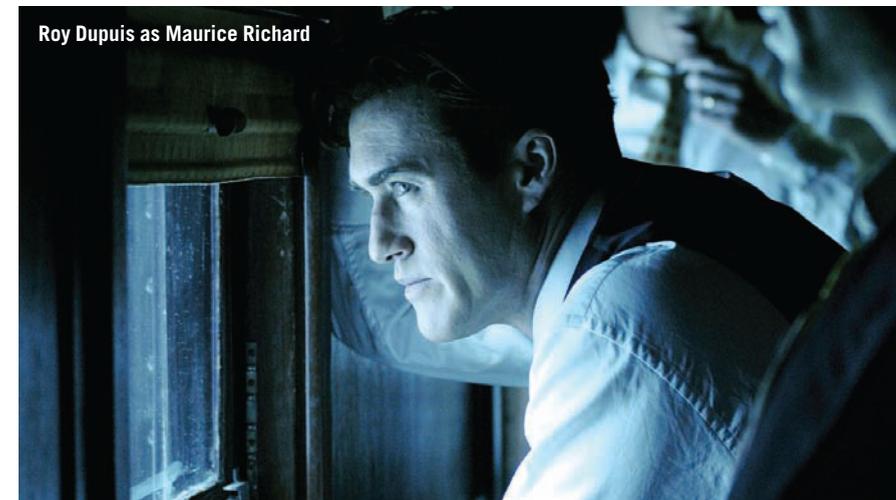
**W**hen it comes to Maurice “Rocket” Richard, Roy Dupuis knows what he’s talking about. For the third time in his career, the 42-year-old actor plays the French-Canadian hockey icon, this time in *The Rocket*, a feature-length bio-pic about the Montreal Canadiens’ legendary number nine.

The relationship between Dupuis and Richard began in 1997, when the actor played the Rocket in a *Heritage Minute*. Two years later, Dupuis was back on the ice starring in a TV series called *The Maurice Rocket Richard Story*.

“After I watched the TV show, I knew we had to make a movie out of it,” explains Dupuis, who met Richard several times before the hard-hitting right winger died in 2000.

In fact, Dupuis would even suggest changes to the TV series when he felt something wasn’t right. “But it only happened a few times,” says the Quebec-born actor, one of the most popular celebrities in his home province.

Written by Ken Scott (who directed *Seducing Doctor Lewis*) and directed by Charles Binamé (*Séraphin: Heart of Stone*), *The Rocket* opens with the infamous 1955 riots, when angry Richard supporters took to Montreal’s streets to protest the NHL’s decision to suspend the Rocket



for making contact with a referee. For many historians, the event is considered to be a key catalyst in Quebec’s imminent Quiet Revolution.

“Not only was he a great athlete, but Maurice also showed Quebecers that they could be the best at anything they wanted,” says Dupuis.

To bring the Rocket back to life, Oscar-winning producers Denise Robert and Daniel Louis (*The Barbarian Invasions*) raised \$8-million, the biggest budget ever for any entirely Quebec-made film. With that money, the production team was able to stage several on-ice

sequences, all based on archival footage from the ’40s and ’50s.

To add more credibility, filmmakers even cast a number of present-day NHL players in supporting roles, including Vincent Lecavalier, Sean Avery and the recently retired Stéphane Quintal.

Dupuis, himself a long-time hockey fan, says he wasn’t nervous about skating with real players. In fact, the professional athletes had more trouble on the ice than Dupuis. “I have been playing since I was three years old,” says the actor, “so it was easier for me to adapt to the old-style skates.” **E**



# PAGING

## GRETCHEN MOL

After being out of the limelight for years, fair-haired **Gretchen Mol** makes a surprising return as Bettie Page, the dark, smoldering pin-up girl of the 1950s | BY BOB STRAUSS

**H**aven't seen much of Gretchen Mol lately? Don't blame yourself. Or her. The actress has been doing noteworthy work, but much of it has been on the New York and London stage. She was Roxie Hart in the Broadway revival of *Chicago*, and appeared in productions of Neil LaBute's caustic *The Shape of Things* on both sides of the Atlantic, as well as the acclaimed, but spottily distributed, movie version. So don't feel too bad if you've lost track of her.

Yes, things have changed from 1998, when the then-25-year-old starlet was *Vanity Fair's* Next Big Thing cover girl and co-starring with the hottest screen hunks around — Matt Damon in *Rounders*, Jude Law in *Music from Another Room* and Leonardo DiCaprio in Woody Allen's *Celebrity*. But few went to those movies, and since then it's mainly been small indie flicks, interesting TV and live projects, with a little time off to marry director Tod Williams (*The Door in the Floor*).

Get ready, though, to see more of Mol than you ever have before. And, yes, we do mean that in a nudge-nudge way.

As *The Notorious Bettie Page*, the actor does bare all. Had to; Page was America's first nude supermodel, and her vintage 1950s glamour photos (and rougher stuff) still make hearts beat faster.

But it was capturing the sunny, playfully kinky spirit of the deeply religious and somehow kind-of-innocent Ms. Page that made the role a serious above-the-neck exercise as well.

"I had heard of her and seen photographs of her, but I didn't know much about her," Mol admits over the phone from New York. "I had sort of an image of the leopard bikini and the whip and the black bangs, and I had seen pieces of an



**"She was just so alive and unselfconscious in front of the camera," says Mol. "The way she kind of invited people in, without judgement"**

*E!* *True Hollywood Story* on her. At the very end of that, she was interviewed very briefly — all blacked out, she didn't want to be seen — and her voice had this very gritty, earthy, Southern country accent. So I set about trying to track that thing down.

"I didn't know if anyone would ever see me as this character, so I just gave it my all and had a good time. I did see something in her photographs, though, that I felt a sort of kinship with. She was just so alive and unselfconscious in front of the camera. The way she kind of invited

people in, without judgment, was to me the thing to capture. It just was so joyful. All those photographs, even when she was doing the dominatrix thing, she always had a little bit of a wink going on."

The film is directed by Canadian Mary Harron (the daughter of entertainer Don Harron, a.k.a. Charlie Farquharson), whose previous movies include *American Psycho* and *I Shot Andy Warhol*. Harron quickly understood that the slim, blond Mol could nail the essence of the curvaceous, jet-haired temptress. ▶▶



Gretchen Mol as Bettie Page  
Right: Mol "au naturel" at the  
2005 CFDA Awards



►► Money people, perhaps wary of Mol's former flavour-of-the-month status, were admittedly harder to convince.

"It was a long process, trying to get it going, trying to find people who would make it with me," Mol says. "But when we finally got to it, it ended up being a really wonderful, wonderful experience."

Even the scenes we're all nudge-nudge about?

"I felt safe with Mary, I believed in her take on Bettie and the film as a whole," Mol says. "Really, [the nudity] wasn't as difficult as some of the other scenes. In her younger days, there was some sexual abuse. It's very subtle in the movie, but just some of her psychology, I'd say, was the most difficult part."

The real test still lays ahead: convincing those Bettie fans out there, who — we'll make an educated guess — must be mighty particular about how their dream queen is presented.

"It was, maybe, a little bit easier than if I had been asked to portray, say, June Carter, somebody who people have a strong image of," Mol reckons. "But I think you'll just have to see the movie and decide for yourself. For me, look, I'm never going to have her exact figure. But not every curve has to be the exact same curve. Hopefully, we captured the essence of her, and that helps you see the full character rather than a carbon copy of someone who looks just like her."

"But I definitely studied her poses and worked on that as if it was choreography in a dance recital or something. And it's interesting what the undergarments of the '50s and a black wig can do!" **F**

Bob Strauss is an L.A. entertainment writer.

# WORKING titles

There are lots of reasons a movie may start its life with one title and end with another. Perhaps the tone of the movie changed during the course of production, and the old title just doesn't fit anymore. Maybe that original title just sucked to begin with. Or sometimes — especially when you're dealing with a high-profile project — a fake title is purposely used to throw off the paparazzi or curious fans.

**HERE ARE 15 RECENT FILMS THAT WERE CALLED SOMETHING ELSE BEFORE THEY WERE RELEASED. SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN FIGURE OUT.**

Working titles:	Final movie titles:
1. <i>Class Action</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> A. <i>Wallace &amp; Gromit in the Curse of the Were-Rabbit</i>
2. <i>Somebody Loves You</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> B. <i>Get Rich or Die Tryin'</i>
3. <i>El Maninator</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> C. <i>The Family Stone</i>
4. <i>If Only It Were True</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> D. <i>Hitch</i>
5. <i>Hating Her</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> E. <i>Kingdom of Heaven</i>
6. <i>The Last First Kiss</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> F. <i>March of the Penguins</i>
7. <i>The Crusades</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> G. <i>Rebound</i>
8. <i>Something Borrowed</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> H. <i>Rumor Has It...</i>
9. <i>The Great Vegetable Plot</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> I. <i>The Wedding Date</i>
10. <i>The Emperor's Journey</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> J. <i>Zathura</i>
11. <i>Rage Control</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> K. <i>The Man</i>
12. <i>Wild Life</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> L. <i>Just Like Heaven</i>
13. <i>Otherwise Engaged</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> M. <i>Where the Truth Lies</i>
14. <i>Jumanji 2</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> N. <i>North Country</i>
15. <i>Locked and Loaded</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> O. <i>Madagascar</i>

ANSWERS: 1. N; 2. M; 3. K; 4. L; 5. C; 6. D; 7. E; 8. I; 9. A; 10. F; 11. G; 12. O; 13. H; 14. J; 15. B



# ANNA FARIS JUST WON'T DIE

Back for her fourth turn as the unkillable Cindy Campbell in the *Scary Movie* franchise, the emerging actor says she's learned to appreciate her trademark role | BY EARL DITTMAN

“People are always a little shocked when they find out that I’ve been in other movies besides the *Scary Movie* films. I guess they think I come out of my cave every two or three years to star in them and then go back and hibernate,” jokes Anna Faris, star of *Scary Movie 1, 2, 3* and this month’s fourth edition of the horror/teen/action-spoof franchise.

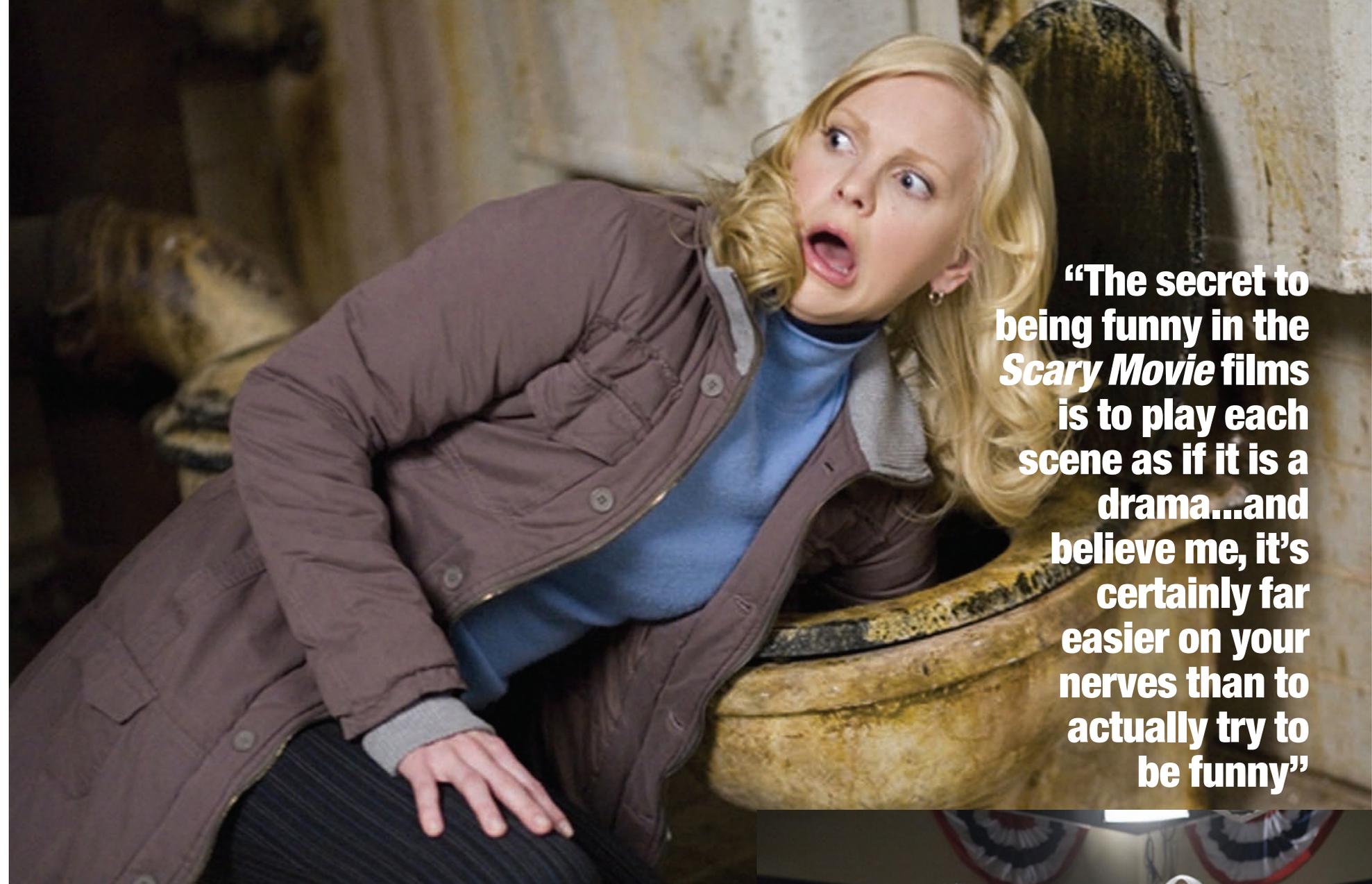
Truth is, the 30-year-old natural blonde (her hair was dyed black for *Scary Movie* and the first sequel) boasts a rather well-rounded résumé that not only includes the starring role in one of the highest-grossing film franchises on DVD (“With the fourth *Scary Movie*, I think we’ll even beat out *The Matrix* series,” she says with a laugh), but a recurring role on the last season of *Friends*, and supporting parts in such acclaimed films as *Lost in Translation* (the ditzy starlet staying at the hotel) and *Brokeback Mountain* (the chatterbox housewife at the country club).

“In a lot of ways, the *Scary Movie* films have been great for my career,” Faris insists in a recent interview at a Beverly Hills hotel. “Since I started out with dark hair in the *Scary Movie* series, I wasn’t typecast as a dumb blonde, which was a blessing at auditions. Automatically, the

casting agents realized I could look different, and once I’d read for them, they knew I could do more than just comedy.”

Each *Scary Movie* has followed pretty much the same conceit — scenes from popular movies of the day are aped in an over-the-top manner for comedic effect, with Faris’s Cindy Campbell character the butt of many of the jokes. In the first movie, the *Halloween* and *Scream* movies were the targets, the second branched out to lampoon teen movies like *Dude, Where’s My Car?* and *Save the Last Dance*, while the third took advantage of *Signs*, *The Sixth Sense*, *The Matrix* and *Eight Mile*. This time around it’s *War of the Worlds*, *Million Dollar Baby*, *The Village* and the *Saw* movies (in one very satisfying scene Dr. Phil McGraw saws off his foot, then realizes it was the wrong one) that seem to get it the worst. And Campbell — who has evolved from high school student in *1* to college student in *2* to young reporter in *3* — is now a caretaker for something called “Grudge House.” Oh yeah, add *The Grudge* to that list.

While Keenen Ivory Wayans directed and produced the first movie, since then the series has been helmed by a man with considerable spoof experience, David



“The secret to being funny in the *Scary Movie* films is to play each scene as if it is a drama...and believe me, it’s certainly far easier on your nerves than to actually try to be funny”

Zucker, director of *Airplane!*, *Top Secret!* and the *Naked Gun* movies.

Surprisingly, Faris never thought of herself as a comic actor before landing the part. “I didn’t think I could be funny — it was with the first *Scary Movie* that people started to consider me a comedienne,” she admits. She credits Wayans and Zucker with teaching her how to make an audience laugh without really trying.

“The secret to being funny in the *Scary Movie* films is to play each scene as if it is a drama, that’s what David Zucker told me, and believe me it’s certainly far easier on your nerves than to actually try to be funny,” says Faris.

“Keenen Ivory Wayans actually taught me the same thing, but without actually saying it. I was doing a scene in which the killer was in the house, and I was trying to be very scared. He started laughing out

loud. I was mortified because I thought I was really bad. When my friends saw the film they started laughing, and I was mortified all over again until they told me they never thought I could be so funny.”

Coincidentally, her first major gig after moving to Los Angeles in 1999 from her native Seattle, Washington, was also a horror film that got laughs, although Faris says it wasn’t supposed to.

“Right after graduation I was in this really awful, low-budget horror film called *Lover’s Lane*,” recalls Faris, who was a member of The Seattle Repertory Theatre, and a commercial spokeswoman before heading for Hollywood. “I played this cheerleader who gets gutted, and some people in the audience thought it was hilarious. I guess that’s part of the reason I have a soft spot for the *Scary Movie* movies. I kinda got ▶▶



►► my start in bad horror. But the absolute best part about doing that movie is that it's where I met my husband Ben Indra. He proposed to me on the set of *Lover's Lane*, we got married in 2004, and we're still in love."

The very next script Faris read was for *Scary Movie*. "The managers that I had met in Los Angeles gave me the sides [pages from the script] to audition for this movie called *Scream if You Know What I Did Last Halloween*, which ended up being *Scary Movie*," Faris recalls. "I made a tape in the basement of my house, in front of the fireplace, with my mom reading the other part. I was terrible. She was terrible. The tape was terrible. I hope they destroyed it. I hope it never appears in public to embarrass me. But Keenen and everyone else involved in *Scary Movie* said they saw something special in my audition. That made me realize that I could act, even under the worst conditions. I felt really, really confident when Keenen told me he had found a star."

When the movie was a hit, Faris was presented with a lucrative offer to head-up any future installments. How could she refuse? "I thought we'd probably do one sequel and that would be it," Faris remembers. "But that just wasn't the case, people loved every movie. There was a time while we were making the third movie where I felt grateful for being able to do the films and the profile they'd given me but, creatively, I felt like I was at a standstill with them. That's when I told myself, 'If you want to be doing different types of movies, get out there and start making it happen.'"

Faris began making the rounds in Hollywood, and soon landed a plum part as Kelly, a self-absorbed starlet, in writer/director Sofia Coppola's *Lost in Translation*. Best known for her spoofing abilities, many who saw the film thought Faris was doing a perfect parody of actor Cameron Diaz, a notion that still makes her laugh.

"I never thought of her a single time while I was filming the movie," she says. "When I first got the role, Sofia and I talked more about the kind of actress she wanted me to play rather than any specific actress. Honestly, there were some names that came up, but Cameron's was never one of them. I swear. My character is more of a combination of several 'it's all about me' kind of actresses. If you spend any time at all in L.A. you meet them. They live on a different plane than real people."

Her *Lost in Translation* performance caught the attention of *Friends* cast member Matthew Perry, who thought she was a good fit for a part in the last few episodes of that show's final season. And, before she knew it, Faris was playing the birth mom for Chandler and Monica's baby.

"I still feel like I dreamed that whole time on *Friends*," Faris says with a smile. "I'd never done a sitcom before and here I was being offered a part on one of the biggest shows on TV. It was an incredible time for me."

It also made her realize that doing the *Scary Movie* sequels wasn't a curse. "There's so many great actors out there who aren't working, and here I am whining," she says. "I would have never gotten a role in a film like *Brokeback Mountain* without having made a name

for myself with the *Scary Movie* series."

Next up for Faris is the "best-friend role" in the romantic comedy *My Super Ex-Girlfriend* with Luke Wilson and Uma Thurman. Wilson plays an everyday kind of guy who breaks up with his girlfriend (Thurman) because she's too clingy, only to discover she has superpowers and will use them to seek abnormally epic revenge on him.

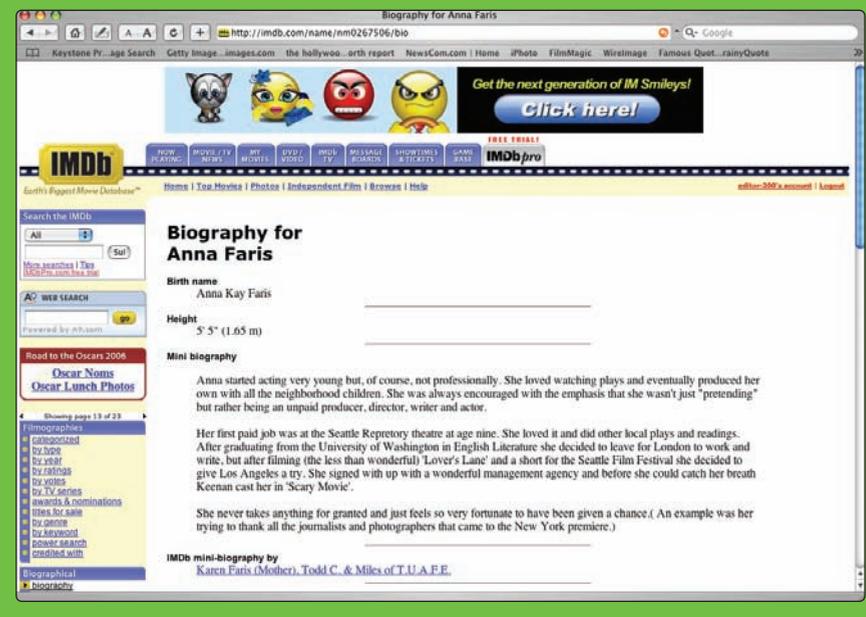
And then, can we expect to see Faris in a *Scary Movie 5* or *6*?

"You bet," she says enthusiastically. "Let me tell you, they're stuck with me now. And I would sign on for five or six or even 10 more sequels if audiences wanted them. I am Cindy Campbell!"

*Earl Dittman is a Houston-based entertainment writer.*

# BIOLOGICAL CONNECTION

If you've spent any time on the web's indispensable film portal, the Internet Movie Database (imdb.com), you're familiar with the "Mini Biographies" written about actors and directors. They're usually penned by semi-professional writers, writer wannabes or even fans. Anna Faris's biography, however, was the first time we noticed a bio co-written by a star's mom. But who else would know that when she put on neighbourhood plays, young Anna was "always encouraged with the emphasis that she wasn't just 'pretending' but rather being an unpaid producer, director, writer and actor"?



# can't wait for...

BY MARNI WEISZ

## X-Men: The Last Stand (May)

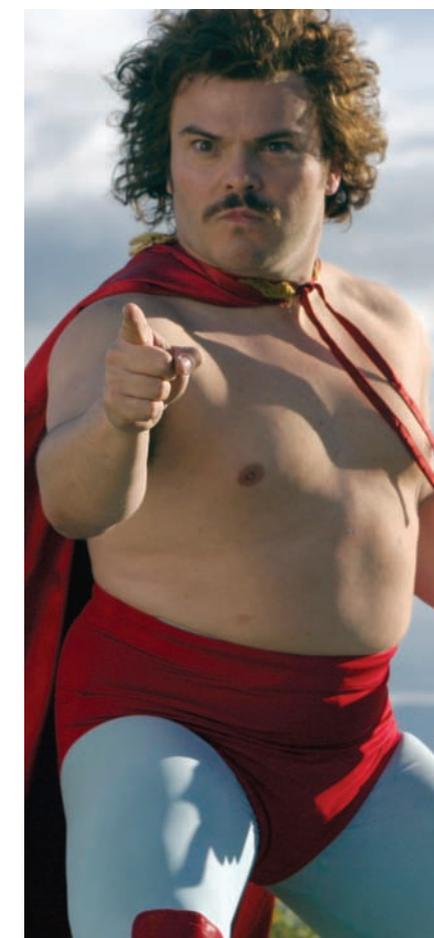
So far, the *X-Men* series has proved that casting great actors (**Patrick Stewart**, **Ian McKellen**, **Hugh Jackman**) can make a huge difference when trying to stay afloat in a sea of comic book adaptations. The first movie was good, the second even better, so what of the third?

One of the new additions to the cast is **Ben Foster**, who is best-known as Claire's friend and fellow art student Russell in *Six Feet Under*. Foster plays the new mutant Warren Worthington, a.k.a. Angel, thus named for reasons obvious in this picture. Another addition is *Frasier* star **Kelsey Grammer** as The Beast, a big, furry, blue guy with superhuman endurance, strength and speed.

Stewart, McKellen, Jackman, **Halle Berry**, **Anna Paquin**, **Famke Janssen** and **Rebecca Romijn** all reprise their roles for this third go-around in which a cure has been found for mutant-ism. But when you don't feel

like you have a disease, you're not likely to want to be cured.

One concern is that **Bryan Singer**, who directed not only the first two *X-Men* movies, but brilliant pics like *The Usual Suspects* and *Apt Pupil*, opted to do *Superman Returns* instead of this movie and was replaced by **Brett Ratner**, he of *After the Sunset* and the *Rush Hour* movies.



**Nacho Libre (June)** In all honesty, we have no idea whether this comedy starring **Jack Black** as a Mexican priest/wrestler will be any good, but we really wanted to show you this picture.

Black's clergyman, Nacho, moonlights as a luchador in the Lucha Libre — which basically means he's a wrestler in Mexico's version of the WWE — in order to raise money for an orphanage. **Jared Hess**, who directed 2004's nerdy cult fave *Napoleon Dynamite* is behind the camera and shares the writing credit with *School of Rock* scribe **Mike White**. That should give you an idea of the film's direction.

## BRIEFLY...

### JUNE

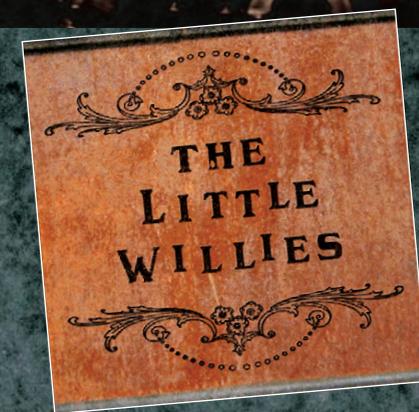
**The Lake House** — In this spooky story, a man living in a lake house (**Keanu Reeves**) and its former occupant (**Sandra Bullock**) become pen pals, only to realize that they're separated in time by two years.

### JUNE

**The Omen** — One of the creepiest movies of the 1970s gets a remake with **Liev Schreiber** and **Julia Stiles** as a young couple who adopt a boy who may just be the devil. Ooops.

# THE LITTLE WILLIES

Lee Alexander  
Jim Campilongo  
Norah Jones  
Richard Julian  
Dan Rieser



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# famous trivia

**1** In *Take the Lead*, Antonio Banderas plays a former professional dancer who teaches kids at a New York City public school how to ballroom dance. Name last year's surprise-hit documentary that told a similar story.



**2** Singer Jimmy Buffett plays a science teacher in the kids' movie *Hoot*. Can you name Buffett's most famous song? Clue: It's likely to make you thirsty.

**3** What is the new horror movie *Silent Hill* based upon — a 1970s John Carpenter film, a song by Metallica, a Konami videogame or a story by Edgar Allan Poe?

**4** Jeff Bridges plays a gymnastics coach in the comedy *Stick It*. On what 1950s TV show, which starred his father Lloyd, did Bridges make his screen-acting debut?

**5** For which movie did *The Sentinel* star Kim Basinger win an Oscar?

**6** Which star of the baseball comedy *The Benchwarmers* was attacked by his personal assistant with a stun gun and then robbed in 2000?

**7** Eric Bana, who plays a troubled poker player in this fall's *Lucky You*, was born in Australia, where he started his career in the early 1990s. Did he begin as a singer, comic, painter, playwright, magician or soap opera star?



Lucky You's Drew Barrymore and Eric Bana

## answers

1. Mad Hot Ballroom
2. "Margaretville"
3. a videogame
4. Sea Hunt
5. L.A. Confidential
6. David Spade
7. comic

## DESCHANEL GETS A TEACHING JOB, WILLIAMS PLAYS THE U.S. PRESIDENT, TWICE, AND GRANT FALLS FOR BARRYMORE | BY INGRID RANDOJA

### ZOOEY MOVES TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS

She's likable, she's got that slightly sultry, slightly kooky thing going for her, and she can act.

**Zoey Deschanel**, who appeared in last month's *Failure to Launch*, and who cranked heads with her charming turn as a sweet department store elf in *Elf*, is moving up the Hollywood ladder. The 26-year-old brunette just finished filming the much-hyped **Brad Pitt** western *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*, in which she plays Robert Ford's (**Casey Affleck**) love interest, and she's currently doing voice work for the animated penguin flick *Surf's Up* (penguins are sooo hot in Hollywood these days). Then she's off to New Zealand to start filming *Bridge to Terabithia*, the big-budget, Disney adventure based on the children's book about two misfit kids who create an imaginary kingdom in their minds. Deschanel plays the kids' sympathetic teacher.



### GRANT SNAGS SONGWRITER ROLE

**Hugh Grant** began his career as a dramatic actor in films such as *Maurice*, *White Mischief* and *Remains of the Day*. But it's romantic comedies that paved his road, and no one plays self-deprecating British gentleman in love better than Grant. He picks up the rom-com torch once again with *Music and Lyrics* **By**, in which he plays a songwriter who falls for his collaborator, the comely **Drew Barrymore**. The movie is being helmed by writer/director **Marc Lawrence**, who guided Grant through the 2002 hit *Two Weeks Notice*.

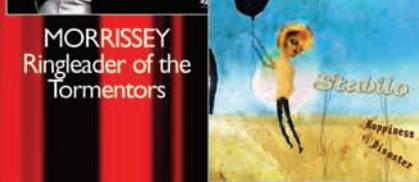
### BRIEFLY

- **David Strathairn** will play **Ryan Gosling's** boss in *Fracture*, a thriller that stars Gosling as a lawyer seeking vengeance against killer **Anthony Hopkins**, who is released on a legal technicality.
- **Mandy Moore** and **James McAvoy** star as a couple responsible for a deadly hit-and-run in *Twist of Fate*.
- **Will Ferrell** and **Jon Heder** (*Napoleon Dynamite*) team up for the comedic figure skating flick *Blades*.
- Look for **Chloë Sevigny** as Catherine the Great in an upcoming bio-pic about the ruler from Polish director **Agnieszka Holland**.

### WILLIAMS FOR PRESIDENT

In an odd bit of casting **Robin Williams** will play an American president in not one, but two, upcoming films. He's currently in Toronto making *Man of the Year*, the **Barry Levinson**-directed comedy in which he plays a late-night political talk show host who runs for president, and wins. He has also signed on to star in *Night at the Museum* as Teddy Roosevelt, the corpulent prez who founded New York's American Museum of Natural History. The comedy stars **Ben Stiller** as a night watchman at the museum who discovers that a spell on an ancient Egyptian tablet awakens many exotic exhibits at night, including the one featuring Roosevelt. Look for **Ricky Gervais** as an uptight museum director, and rare appearances from Hollywood veterans **Mickey Rooney** and **Dick Van Dyke** as Stiller's aged co-workers.

# What's on the Radio?



things |

# BRIGHT HERE, Bright Now

Layering is the key to wearing spring threads when it doesn't feel much like spring | BY LIZA HERZ

There's nothing like a little global warming to mess up your wardrobe plans. There used to be actual seasons in clothing. Spring/Summer ushered in light colours and light fabrics while Fall/Winter meant dark, fuzzy warm things.

But that was before we sucker-punched our climate, leaving a huge hole in the ozone layer and creating such havoc that predictable weather patterns became a thing of the past. Okay, okay, we realize most scientists feel this wonky weather is more of a short-term anomaly than the effects of actual global warming, but there's certainly something amiss.

Now, the climate's effects on fashion may be the last thing on the minds of environmental scientists, but there's no denying the sartorial fallout. What we're saying here is: You don't have to be a meteorological genius to know that checking the calendar is a faulty way of deciding what to wear.

Adding to this state of wardrobe flux is the profusion of grocery store tabloids showing skimpily dressed stars sipping their iced lattes in sunny L.A. while here in the north we face the horrors of another spring squall. Who can blame us for adopting a posture of denial? Or for

wanting to wear our summer clothes RIGHT NOW?

"We're in a buy now, wear now culture," retail analyst Marshal Cohen recently told the *New York Times*. In other words, if you've just bought a pair of strappy floral shoes (they are in-store after all) then dammit, you're going to wear them, stepping carefully to avoid the mud puddles, of course.

Besides, given how quickly fashion turns over, why would anyone want to wait? Today's store-window fetish item is tomorrow's sale rack has-been. Remember the poncho? The tiered skirt?

For those of us who insist on wearing our summer purchases before the weather has decided to cooperate, the obvious solution is layering.

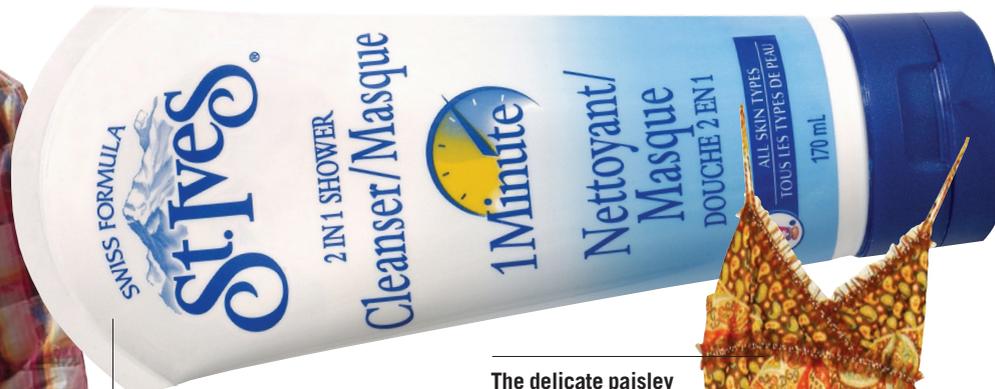
Cover that frothy summer dress with a cashmere cardigan or, better still, a trench coat. It's the perfect stylish shell, invoking Kate Moss at her most anonymous chic.

And if bare legs are too chill-inducing, make a practical solution chic by adding black opaque tights.

Any one of the bright elements in this ensemble from Canadian designer Cheri Milaney (Shawl, \$190, Two-Piece Outfit, \$400) will inject seasonal zip into your wardrobe. And together they make a citrusy, spring-like statement.



Men need colour too. The crisp pattern and cheery colour of this Ben Sherman Shirt (\$240, bensherman.com for stores) partners well with jeans, khakis and your overall optimism that spring is here.



Prep your skin for that pre-summer reveal. St. Ives 2 in 1 Shower Cleanser/Masque (\$6, drugstores) gives you the deep cleansing benefits of a clay mask with an invigorating citrus kick all in about a minute.

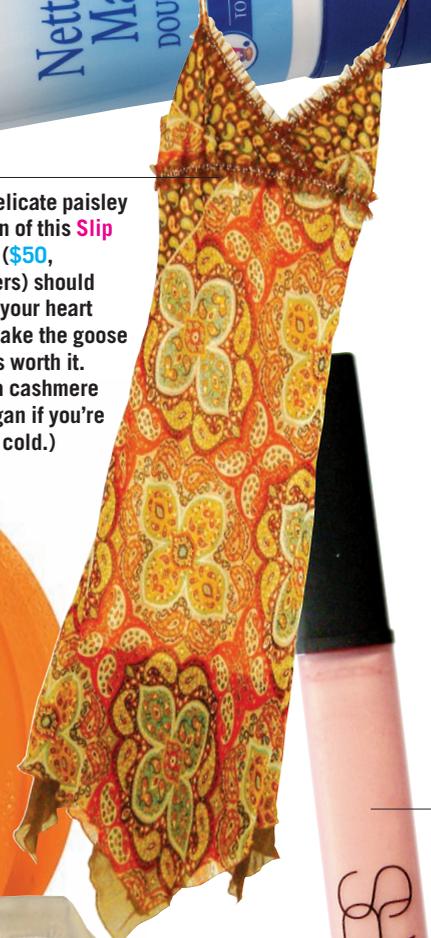
The delicate paisley pattern of this Slip Dress (\$50, Winners) should warm your heart and make the goose bumps worth it. (Add a cashmere cardigan if you're really cold.)



Creamsicle-coloured with a zingy orange fragrance, Satsuma Body Butter (\$18, The Body Shop) hydrates normal skin and prevents dryness without ever feeling greasy.



The wicked stilettos keep these Strappy Sandals (\$100, Aldo) chic, not cloyingly sweet, while subtle floral accents add a cheering note to even the most neutral wardrobe.



Nars Orgasm Lip Gloss (\$28, Holt Renfrew) is a universally flattering, spring colour with subtle shimmer. And if the name makes you blush, well that will just put an attractive flush in your cheeks.



Think Catherine Deneuve in the film *Belle de Jour* (sexy, secret double-life) to keep your Trench Coat (\$375, RK) looking Parisian chic, not housewife frumpy.

style |

# THE TREND

Get to know these **seven hot runway looks**, you'll be seeing a lot of them this summer  
| BY JEAN-FRANÇOIS LÉGARÉ

## White Lace

Whether macramé, crochet, or out-and-out lace, frilly, white see-through pieces are the ultimate look this summer. At Fendi, Karl Lagerfeld used a laser to cut doilies right into his cotton dresses. Chloé and Emilio Pucci drew on little girls' confirmation dresses for inspiration, and **Diane Von Furstenberg** (seen here) matched eyelet shorts with an eyelet top for a sweet, oh-so young look.



## Turning Japanese

This season, everyone's crazy about the kimono. Paco Rabanne designer Patrick Robinson must have been thinking about *Memoirs of a Geisha* when he transformed vintage kimonos into beautiful, modern dresses that are both chic and sleek. And **Diesel's Renzo Rosso** (seen here) accentuates the waist of a white pencil skirt with a wide red sash and tops it all with a modern Asian blouse.

PHOTO: BIASION STUDIO / WIREIMAGE



## Sex Sells

A lot of designers seemed to be inspired by the "porno chic" style Tom Ford developed at Yves Saint-Laurent, and also by Gianni Versace, with many pieces sporting asymmetrical looks. **Alexander McQueen** (shown here) did a sensual dress that looks more like a robe — very sexy, and very simple. Marc Jacobs, on the other hand, offered a bright pink cocktail dress for Louis Vuitton that was completely unstructured and open at just the right places.

PHOTO: BIASION STUDIO / WIREIMAGE



## Popular Prints

Whether inspired by Bauhaus architecture or African themes, prints are bigger than ever, both in popularity and proportion. Christian Lacroix and Alberta Ferretti explored tribal prints, while Phi and Alexandre Herchcovitch went with psychedelic designs plucked from the 1960s. Green — especially in the form of leaves and flowers — are also huge. In Milan, Gucci, Valentino and **Versace** (seen here) were positively in bloom.

PHOTO: STUART GRIMWOOD / WIREIMAGE



## Dress Shirt

Forget the power suit, this summer a men's shirt is all you need to feel like a powerful woman. At Hermes, Jean Paul Gaultier made an asymmetrical shirt out of poplin, while Vivienne Westwood matched her model's top with a belt in the same shade to define the waist. **Stella McCartney** (seen here) simply took an oversized men's tuxedo dress shirt and put it on a woman, worn at the knee for a chic effect.

PHOTO: BIASION STUDIO / WIREIMAGE



### Men in White

What colour matches best with white? More white. Alessandro Dell'Acqua dressed models in white suits from head to toe evoking the 1930s, while Gucci came up with a great pair of white pants in a slightly glossy fabric that would look great paired with **Lacoste's** V-neck sweater (seen here).

### Surprising Suspenders

It's been a long time since your grandfather was as in as he is this season. That's right, suspenders are all the rage. The idea is to mix them with a very low-waisted pair of pants to create a little-boy look. You can either scrounge through grandpa's attic, or invest in a new pair, like these ones from **Diesel**.

PHOTO: BIASION STUDIO / WIREIMAGE



**GAMES OF THE MONTH**

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**NEOPETS: PETPET ADVENTURES: THE WAND OF WISHING**     
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**MLB 06 THE SHOW**     
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# LARA DIGS DEEP

The latest *Tomb Raider* title, *Legend*, promises to reveal much more of Lara Croft | BY SCOTT GARDNER



## TOMB RAIDER: LEGEND PC, PS2, PSP, XBOX, XBOX 360

In 1996 *Tomb Raider* debuted on PlayStation with a canny mix of exploring, action and adventure set in groundbreaking 3D environments. It also introduced the

world to the improbably proportioned Lara Croft, archeologist, treasure hunter and all-around butt-kicking babe. Lara would, of course, eventually go on to big-screen fame and be portrayed by the equally improbably proportioned Angelina Jolie.

The original *Tomb Raider* was a multimillion-selling global hit, but, perhaps taking a cue from Hollywood, it spawned half-a-dozen sequels of steadily deteriorating quality. The graphics may have improved over the years, but the storylines suffered and gameplay remained strangely unevolved. *Tomb Raider: Legend*, however, breathes new life into this once-tired franchise.

For starters, *Legend* takes the series back to its roots of actual tomb raiding. That means our buxom adventurer is once again exploring archeological sites in exotic jungles instead of skulking around cities and breaking into military bases. Expect lots of puzzles and gun action as Lara encounters mystical creatures and corrupt, competing raiders.

As for plot, Lara's search for a South American relic takes a

turn for the unexpected when she encounters a dangerous figure from her past. Her hunt leads to the Himalayas where a more personal part of Lara's story will be revealed — the circumstances that made her the tough-as-nails adventurer she is today.

Lara will have lots of toys — a grappling hook, binoculars, frag grenades and communications gear, plus her trademark pistols. But perhaps the best new toy of all is Lara's vastly improved physicality. Her range of movement has been increased, and she's now a nimbler, more athletic heroine.

That's all very well, say the fanboys, but what does the new Lara look like. Great. She's a lot more realistic and detailed, and that flawless face even shows expressions now, making her less of a pneumatic cartoon.

## BATTLESTATIONS: MIDWAY PC, PS2, XBOX

*Battlestations: Midway* has you playing an American naval officer battling through the Pacific theatre of the Second World War, starting with the chaos of Pearl Harbor and culminating at the decisive battle off the tiny atoll of Midway.

The game's claim to originality comes from mashing two of the most popular war-game genres — real-time strategy and third-person action — into a single experience. In each of the 11 ambitious missions you deploy your battleships, subs, carriers, fighters and bombers, chart courses



and select targets on an overview map. Once your basic strategy is outlined, you lead the assault against the Japanese by jumping into a plane for some fierce dogfighting or manning the big guns on one of your ships.

## BAD DAY L.A. PC, XBOX

From riots to earthquakes to Eddie Murphy's recent career, Los Angeles has seen its share of disasters, but it's never suffered through 24 hours like this.

A third-person action title, *Bad Day L.A.* takes a satirical jab at America's current culture of fear by unleashing every imaginable disaster — including a bioterrorist attack, meteor showers, a zombie infestation and what appears to be a very angry, six-storey tall walking hamburger — on the beleaguered city.

Through it all you play Anthony Williams, a crazy, cynical homeless man turned reluctant hero who uses his street smarts, combined with weapons like nail clippers and a fire extinguisher, to rescue his fellow Angelinos. The game also features a distinctive visual style reminiscent of a Saturday morning cartoon, but in full 3D.

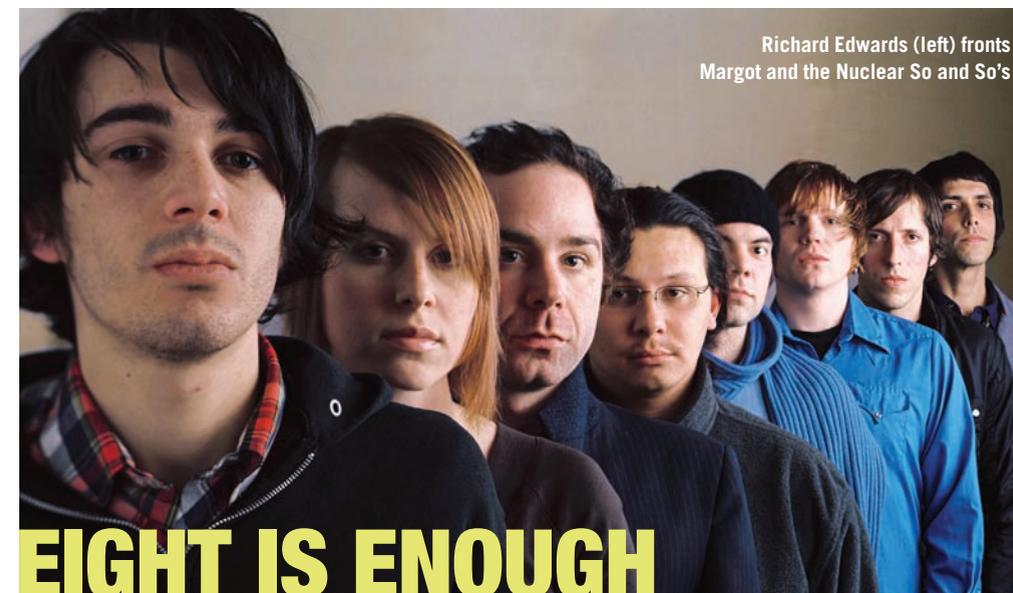


## ROGUE TROOPER PC, PS2, XBOX

He's big, bad and blue — he's the Rogue Trooper, a genetically altered supersoldier run amok in this third-person shooter. Based on a U.K. comic book series, the game takes place on Nu Earth, a post-apocalyptic landscape gripped by an endless war.

Aligned with neither side, Rogue Trooper pursues his own agenda: hunting down the military traitor who killed his entire regiment. Helping RT are a few bits of military hardware — his gun, helmet and backpack — that are actually sentient, having been implanted with bio-chips preserving the personalities of three of his fallen squadmates, and RT interacts with them as if they were alive.

# MARGOT AND THE NUCLEAR SO AND SO'S EXPLODE | BY INGRID RANDOJA



Richard Edwards (left) fronts Margot and the Nuclear So and So's

## EIGHT IS ENOUGH

If you are *so* over Arcade Fire, and have cooled on the Arctic Monkeys, then you're primed for Margot and the Nuclear So and So's, an eight-member outfit hailing from the rock 'n' roll hotspot of Indianapolis, Indiana.

On the band's just-released debut CD, *Dust of Regret* you'll hear the requisite guitars, bass and drums, but also a cello, melodeon, trumpet and a variety of household items, all working together to make mesmerizing

and aching pop tunes.

Margot's heart and soul resides within Richard Edwards, the band's 22-year-old lead vocalist and tunesmith. He's the one who named the band after Gwyneth Paltrow's character in director Wes Anderson's film *The Royal Tenenbaums*. Edwards' first band, which he started as a teenager, was named Archer Avenue, the fictional street on which the Tenenbaums live.

"I think me liking Wes Anderson comes from me liking Woody Allen when I was younger," says the very laid-back Edwards on his cellphone from Indianapolis. "Wes is our generation's Woody Allen."

Edwards was considered a sort of rock prodigy in Indianapolis, a kid who wrote tons of sad, complicated songs and who started a band before he could drive. When Archer Avenue disbanded there was a

slew of local musicians who wanted to work with Edwards, and thus Margot was born.

And it wasn't just that the band members — seven guys and one gal — wanted to play together, in 2004 they decided to dedicate themselves to the cause by moving into a house together. Bedrooms were split in two, drywall applied, and the musicians were stuffed into small rooms, some no bigger than closets. It's been intense.

"Yeah, we live together right now," explains Edwards, "but I think that'll probably change in the next few months. Personally, I'm leaving as soon as I can," he states without a hint of amusement.

The fact that Margot recently signed with a larger record label and has toured most of the last year should enable Edwards to make the move. And he needs to, 'cause it's hard to write great songs when you're living and working with the same eight people 24/7.

"I don't write very much on the road, I need to be alone and home," he says. "I have to have a very specific setting, and it has to be real quiet."

## VINES COME BACK TO LIFE



Many thought The Vines had withered; that their days as a powerhouse rock band — which exploded out of Australia in 2002 — were over. In 2004 lead singer and wild child Craig Nicholls, who had recently been charged with assault, discovered he suffered from Asperger's Syndrome, a mild form of autism. With the proper diagnosis and treatment Nicholls was saved from self-destruction, and now two years later the band's third CD, *Vision Valley*, hits shelves (April 4th). And what a comeback. Their garage-band sound is alive and well on tracks such as "Gross Out" and "F\*k Yeh," but they've also perfected the art of the Beach Boys-esque pop tune with "Candy Daze" and "Take Me Back."

## OUT THIS MONTH

### PINK

**I'm Not Dead >> April 4**

Pink returns to a-s-kicking form with her newest CD that includes the tee-hee send-up song "Stupid Girls" — are you listening Paris, Jessica?

### SOUL ASYLUM

**Crazy Mixed Up World >> April 4**

It's been eight years since the popular alt-band from Minneapolis released a studio CD, and almost one year since the death of bassist Karl Mueller from throat cancer. However, Mueller was fit enough in 2004 to record with the band and can be heard on this album.

### SAM ROBERTS

**Chemical City >> April 11**

Canuck rocker Roberts finally drops the long-awaited follow-up album to his 2003 disc *We Were Born in Flames*.

# new releases

GO HOME WITH **DICK AND JANE**, **CASANOVA**, **SHOPGIRL** OR **TRISTAN & ISOLDE** | BY MARNI WEISZ

## APRIL 11



### FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

**Stars:** Jim Carrey, Téa Leoni  
**Director:** Dean Parisot  
*(Galaxy Quest)*  
**Story:** When Dick (Carrey) loses his job as VP of

Communications for an Enron-esque company, he assumes he'll get another soon enough. Easier said than done. The fact that his wife Jane (Leoni) just quit her gig as a travel agent leaves the couple in a desperate situation — which they rectify by turning to armed robbery.

### THE GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED

**Stars:** Shia LaBeouf, Stephen Dillane  
**Director:** Bill Paxton *(Frailty)*  
**Story:** In 1913, Francis Ouimet (LaBeouf), a poor 20-year-old who grew up across from a golf course and with oodles of natural ability, defeats reigning champion Harry Vardon (Dillane) at the U.S. Open. Based on a true story. **DVD Extras:** featurettes on the real people who inspired the movie, interview with Francis Ouimet



### AN UNFINISHED LIFE

**Stars:** Robert Redford, Jennifer Lopez  
**Director:** Lasse Hallström  
*(The Cider House Rules)*  
**Story:** A decade after his

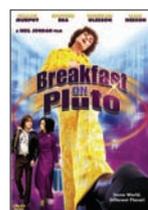
son's accidental death, Wyoming rancher Einar Gilkyson (Redford) gets an unexpected visit from his daughter-in-law Jean (Lopez) and the granddaughter he never knew he had. **DVD Extras:** director commentary, making-of featurette, still gallery

### WOLF CREEK

**Stars:** John Jarratt, Cassandra Magrath  
**Director:** Greg McLean *(debut)*  
**Story:** A gruesome horror about a group of kids on a road trip through the Australian outback. Note: not for people who dislike

watching really bad things happen primarily to women. **DVD Extras:** director and cast commentary, interview with John Jarratt, making-of featurette

## APRIL 18



### BREAKFAST ON PLUTO

**Stars:** Cillian Murphy, Stephen Rea  
**Director:** Neil Jordan  
*(The Crying Game)*  
**Story:** In this dreamy drama

that was a favourite on the festival circuit, an orphaned Irish boy (Murphy) reinvents himself as Kitten, a sweet-natured transvestite who makes his way through life alternately as a rock singer, a magician's assistant and a streetwalker, all the while trying to find the mother who abandoned him on the steps of a church. **DVD Extras:** commentary by Jordan and Murphy, behind-the-scenes featurette

### MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS

**Stars:** Judi Dench, Bob Hoskins  
**Director:** Stephen Frears *(Dirty Pretty Things)*  
**Story:** A bored widow (Dench) in wartime England buys a theatre and, with the help of a very proper producer (Hoskins), mounts a round-the-clock revue that does very well at first. But when their success spawns copycats that suck audiences out their door, they step it up a notch by having the showgirls go nude. Based on a true story. **DVD Extras:** directory commentary, making-of featurette



### HOSTEL

**Stars:** Jay Hernandez, Derek Richardson  
**Director:** Eli Roth  
*(Cabin Fever)*  
**Story:** This slasher movie

made headlines early in January when it won its opening weekend at the box office (over blockbusters like *Narnia* and *King Kong*, in their waning

days) despite being made for only a few million dollars. A couple of American backpackers making their way through Europe get a tip about a killer hostel in Bratislava. Unfortunately, a lot of the guests actually get killed.

### THE LIFE AND HARD TIMES OF GUY TERRIFICO

**Stars:** Matt Murphy, Kris Kristofferson  
**Director:** Michael Mabbott *(debut)*  
**Story:** Real-life country stars such as Kristofferson and Merle Haggard chime in for this mockumentary about the life of 1970s country singer Guy Terrifico.

## APRIL 25

### AEON FLUX



**Stars:** Charlize Theron, Frances McDormand  
**Director:** Karyn Kusama  
*(Girlfight)*  
**Story:** Four centuries after a

virus kills 99 percent of the population, most of the survivors have retreated to the apparently utopian walled city of Bregna. But all is not as it seems, and after her peaceful sister is killed, Aeon Flux (Theron) turns mercenary. Based on a series of animated shorts that ran on MTV. **DVD Extras:** featurettes on locations, stunts and costume design, commentary by Theron

### CASANOVA

**Stars:** Heath Ledger, Sienna Miller  
**Director:** Lasse Hallström *(Chocolat)*  
**Story:** Legendary lover Casanova (Ledger) sets out to win the heart of the one woman (Miller) who wants nothing to do with him. **DVD Extras:** extended scene, featurettes on costumes and location

### MATCH POINT

**Stars:** Scarlett Johansson, Jonathan Rhys Meyers  
**Director:** Woody Allen *(Manhattan)*  
**Story:** What's this? A Woody Allen movie

that stars neither Allen nor someone doing their best impression of him? In what's widely considered to be Allen's best film in years, Johansson stars as an American in London, who falls for her boyfriend's sister's boyfriend (Rhys Meyers), a former competitive tennis player. There are no good guys or bad guys in this movie, just people with varying attachments to lust and greed.



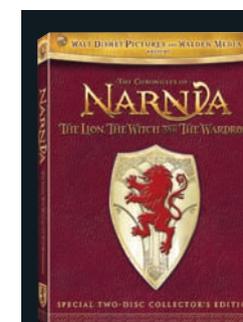
### SHOPGIRL

**Stars:** Steve Martin, Claire Danes  
**Director:** Anand Tucker  
*(Hilary and Jackie)*  
**Story:** A wealthy, older man (Martin) charms a smart, younger woman

(Danes) into dating him despite their age difference. And all those presents and nice dinners don't hurt. Based on Martin's novella of the same name. **DVD Extras:** "Evolution of a Novella: The Making of *Shopgirl*," deleted scenes, commentary by Tucker

### TRISTAN & ISOLDE

**Stars:** James Franco, Sophia Myles  
**Director:** Kevin Reynolds *(The Count of Monte Cristo)*  
**Story:** It's 600 AD and Tristan (Franco), the adopted son of an English ruler, falls for the Irish princess Isolde, who saves his life after he's presumed dead. Romantic, yes, but complicated too, as this all happens at a time when the English and Irish are fighting over England.



### The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (APRIL 4)

World War Two is raging and the Pevensie kids — Lucy (Georgie Henley), Edmund (Skander Keynes), Peter (William Moseley) and Susan (Anna Popplewell) — are waiting it out in an eccentric professor's old country house. One day the youngest, Lucy, crawls into a wardrobe during a game of hide-and-seek and discovers it contains a portal to a frozen parallel universe full of wonderful and awful things. The kids quickly learn that a despotic witch (Tilda Swinton) has cast a spell resulting in permanent winter, and they

are destined to remove her from power with the help of a benevolent Jesus figure in the form of a computer-generated lion.

If you attributed the similarities between *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy to the fact that both were shot in New Zealand, and both owed their looks to the hot special-effects company Weta Workshop, you might want to dig a little deeper.

Their authors — *Lord of the Rings*' J.R.R. Tolkien and *Narnia*'s C.S. Lewis — taught at Oxford at the same time, and were intimately acquainted with each other's fantasy worlds, both of which are about good battling evil in unusual woodlands. But where Jackson's *Rings* trilogy was off-limits for the under-12 set, *Narnia*, directed by *Shrek* helmer Andrew Adamson, ducks in under that line, despite a few frightful scenes near the end.

You can opt for a single-disc DVD (\$38), which still comes with lots of bonuses, or the two-disc Collector's Edition (\$45), which has almost 10 hours of added features. Producers obviously had the DVD in mind from the project's embryonic stage, as featurettes follow the four freakishly mature child actors (particularly that Georgie Henley) from their first auditions. We also see how much the kids grew over the seven-month shoot — Georgie shot up four-and-a-half inches, and they actually had to

stop shooting at one point because of the growing pains in the little actor's legs. The discs also boast a feature-length pop-up commentary with facts supplied by co-producer Douglas Gresham, Lewis's stepson.



From left: Swinton, Keynes and Adamson on set

IT CAUSED QUITE A BUZZ.



KIND OF LIKE THE IDEA OF NO LATE FEES.

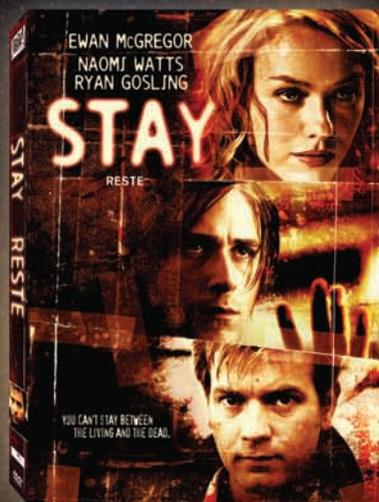
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star | gazing |

**APRIL  
2006**

**HOROSCOPE | BY DAN LIEBMAN**

### Aries

**March 21** ☆ **April 20**

You take small, but fascinating, detours as you advance toward a professional goal this month. If entering into a situation involving shared finances, be certain your partner is up-front and responsible. Look for ways to pamper yourself without spending lavishly.

### Taurus

**April 21** ☆ **May 22**

This is an ideal month to fulfill a personal dream — whether it's performing on stage, writing a book or learning a new skill. Ordinary tasks become more enjoyable around the 19th. There are unpredictable events late in the month, but stability returns by the 30th.

### Gemini

**May 23** ☆ **June 21**

You're in motion this month — zipping back and forth to visit friends, tend to tasks and oversee various projects. Resist a temptation to take on superiors during the weeks of the 17th and 24th. The last week of the month is a good time to speak from your heart.

### Cancer

**June 22** ☆ **July 22**

Release bottled-up tensions and then look forward to a time of accomplishment. Mid-April will be all about experimentation and surprise. You'll whip up gourmet meals, try new art forms or entertain at least one unexpected houseguest.

### Leo

**July 23** ☆ **August 22**

It's time to let someone else take charge in a family situation. There's a last-minute feeling to the month. A travel opportunity unexpectedly opens up, or perhaps you're suddenly called to an interview. Around the 25th, someone shares a major secret.

### Virgo

**August 23** ☆ **September 22**

You're articulate and diplomatic. It's an excellent time to lead a group or present ideas. Enjoy an opportunity to take on

projects that allow you freedom. When an old friend contacts you around the 21st, you set off on an interesting stroll down memory lane.

### Libra

**September 23** ☆ **October 22**

April is a month of extremes. You spend part of your time in quiet reflection, and another part surrounded by huge crowds. In the areas of diet and health, work to find a middle ground. If you need to ask tough questions, wait till the 20th and don't mince words.

### Scorpio

**October 23** ☆ **November 21**

Spend less time solving other people's problems and more time sorting out your own stressful situation. A new form of relaxation — guitar playing perhaps — could do the trick. Someone you once treated well does you a huge favour during the last week.

### Sagittarius

**November 22** ☆ **December 22**

The first half of April involves professional and personal tasks that require attention to detail. Your priorities change through the month as you find yourself more connected to spiritual matters than materialistic ones. At the same time, your confidence level peaks.

### Capricorn

**December 23** ☆ **January 20**

Casual comments made during the week of the 17th could be taken out of context, so choose your words thoughtfully. Surround yourself with people whose glasses are half full. They'll encourage and inspire you to do something that can make a real difference.

### Aquarius

**January 21** ☆ **February 19**

Someone's trying to stir up trouble on and off this month — but avoid a showdown at all costs. Focus on improving your body, your mind or both. And, especially around the 20th, don't hesitate to express your real feelings to a person you care about.

### Pisces

**February 20** ☆ **March 20**

Friends are easier to reach and more in tune with your interests. Relatives give you more breathing space. Try new and even offbeat strategies if requesting favours or going after a raise. Travel-related information is less than reliable and needs clarification.

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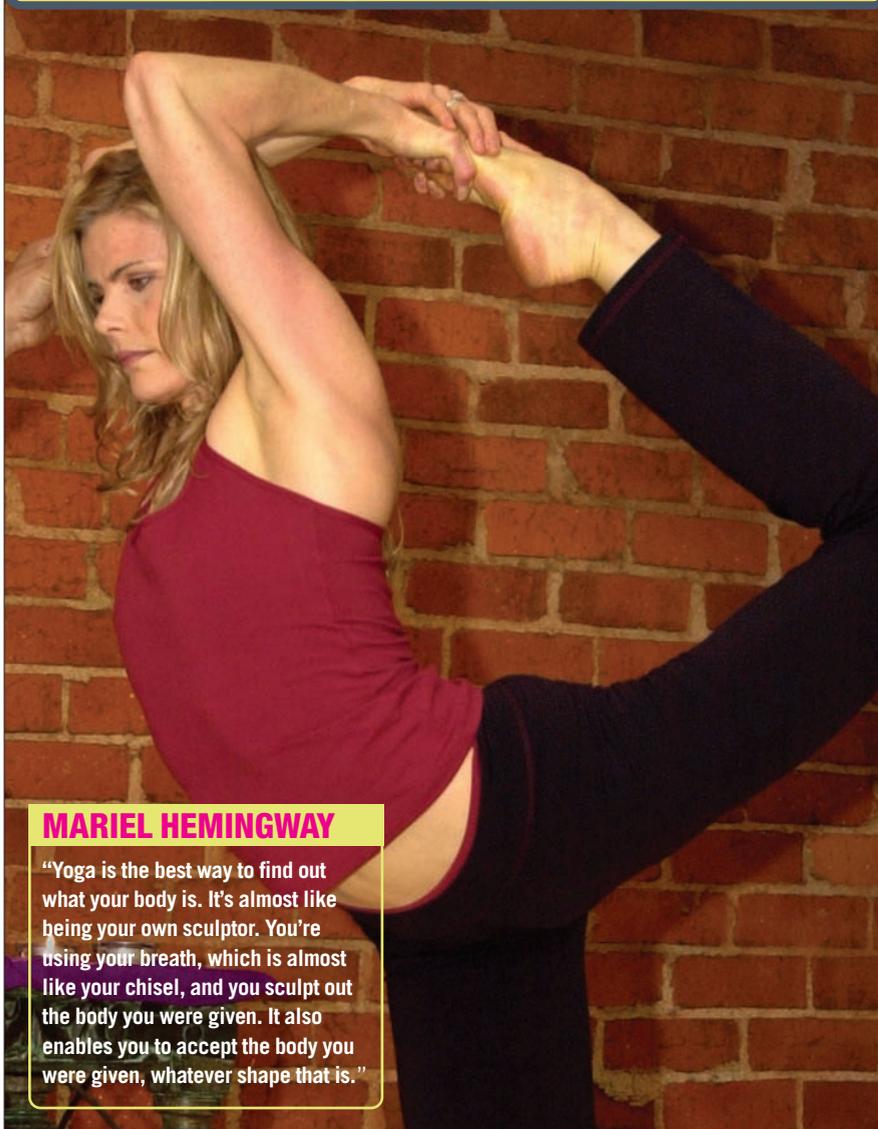
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# 10

## STARS TALK ABOUT YOGA

BY SUSAN GRANGER



### MARIEL HEMINGWAY

"Yoga is the best way to find out what your body is. It's almost like being your own sculptor. You're using your breath, which is almost like your chisel, and you sculpt out the body you were given. It also enables you to accept the body you were given, whatever shape that is."

**GWYNETH PALTROW** "I've learned to let go of the patterns and things that held me back in a feedback loop of discontentedness — and yoga was a part of that. And my yoga instructor introduced me to macrobiotic eating which has given me a tremendous amount of energy."

**COURTENEY COX** "I take classes in power-yoga. It's great. You're continuously moving, working up a great sweat. I also take Pilates classes. That's another strenuous form of yoga."

**MEG RYAN** "It not only keeps me in shape but it helps me feel calm and centred. You suddenly know what peace-of-mind might be like. You get this float afterward that is so incredible."

**DEMI MOORE** "Yoga is very important to me for a leaner, more flexible body, stronger muscles and a clearer mind. Once people begin to understand the mind-body-spirit connection, they're hooked."

**SARAH JESSICA PARKER** "Pilates is a form of yoga that I have come to really rely on for a flat stomach, among other things. In 10 sessions, you feel the difference. In 20, you see the difference. I do both Pilates and yoga with a trainer."

**CHRISTY TURLINGTON** "I was really gangly and uncoordinated as a kid. I couldn't even do a cartwheel. Yoga changed me in every way — physically, emotionally and spiritually."

**RACHEL GRIFFITHS** "In Los Angeles, I've got this great yoga guy named Mark Blanchard. You'll go to his class and see 16 girls with the most amazing arms. He's not a yoga Nazi. You take things at your own pace and get there when you get there."

**ROSANNA ARQUETTE** "I try to do Pilates three times a week and yoga twice a week. That's so much better than aerobics and that fat-burning thing."

**MICHELLE PFEIFFER** "I hate yoga! I hate yoga! It hurts and your body isn't supposed to bend like that. Forget it. It's not natural."

PHOTO BY MIKE GUASTELLA/WIREIMAGE

# KEEP HAVING FUN WITH DICK AND JANE



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