

canada's #1 movie magazine in canada's #1 theatres

# Famous

august 2002 | volume 3 | number 8

**AL PACINO**  
INTRODUCES YOU  
TO *SIMONE*

**MICHELLE  
RODRIGUEZ**  
ON *BLUE CRUSH*

HANGING WITH  
**JACKIE CHAN**

SPOTLIGHT ON:  
**JAY MOHR**

Meet  
**Catherine Keener**

...and find out how she went from the casting department  
to starring in films like *Full Frontal* and *Simone*

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# BLUE CRUSH

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YOU HAVE TO TAKE THE RISK**

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After reading about Michelle Rodriguez you're going to want to see her new movie. You better, or she might break both your legs. Find out what's on the mind of this Hollywood bad girl as she moves beyond tough-chick roles to ride the waves in *Blue Crush*

By Bob Thompson

### 28 CALL HIM AL

It must be hard to raise twin babies on a famous movie star's salary. Maybe that's why proud papa Al Pacino made so many films in the last two years, like this month's *Simone*

By Earl Dittman

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Never heard of Catherine Keener? That's okay, she's never heard of you either. But this Oscar-nominated actor's name might soon be as familiar as her striking face, as she suits up to play Hollywood executives in two movies out this month — *Simone* and *Full Frontal*

By Bob Thompson

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# Support **staff**



**Q**uick, who was the only actor to get an Oscar nomination for *Being John Malkovich*? Was it John Cusack, for his portrayal of the spacey puppeteer who finds his way into Malkovich's noggin? Cameron Diaz, who couldn't have been less recognizable as his mousy girlfriend Lotte? How about Malkovich himself, for being ballsy enough to parody his own image? Wrong, wrong and wrong. The only actor to get an Oscar nod for the inventive 1999 pic was **Catherine Keener**, for

her performance as Cusack's sexy co-worker Maxine.

But that's the sort of actor Keener is. Rarely a leading lady, she excels at turning in sharp little performances that leave an impression on audiences and casting directors alike. It's a skill that keeps her pretty busy. Already having appeared as a network exec in last March's *Death to Smoochy*, this month she'll be in two more showbiz-centred films, *Full Frontal* and *Simone*. Check out "Well-Suited," page 32, to find out what Keener has to say about the new flicks.

You know how people are always worried about their jobs being taken over by machines? Tailors cringe as suits come off assembly lines faster than they can change a bobbin; accountants lament computer programs that can do your taxes better than they can; actors know that digitally created thespians work for less, and are often more talented.

Okay, maybe that last one isn't such a big concern yet. But *Simone*, **Al Pacino's** new movie about a producer who replaces his temperamental starlet with a virtual actress, will certainly get some studio bigwigs thinking. In "On a Wild Streak," page 28, the 62-year-old legend talks about Hollywood's beauty versus substance debate, explains how he created his character and tells you why, after an insanely busy streak, you might not see him for a while.

The only acting **Michelle Rodriguez** had done before landing the lead role in 2000's *Girlfight* was as an extra in *Summer of Sam* and *Cradle Will Rock*. But just two years later she's developed quite a following through tough-chick roles in 2001's *The Fast and the Furious* and last year's *Resident Evil*. And there's no doubt that fanbase will be thrilled to watch her prance around a beach in a bikini as a tough surf girl in *Blue Crush*. But, as Rodriguez explains in "Making Waves," page 24, this character is more than just a beach-bound ruffian — the role actually allowed her to stretch as an actress. Well, she'd have to, wouldn't she? You wouldn't want her to get a cramp out there.

—Marni Weisz

# Famous

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# Three degrees of Colm Feore

In Canada, Colm Feore is a leading man on television (*Trudeau*, *Sins of the Father*), on stage (Shaw Festival), and on screen (*The Perfect Son*). But south of the border he's one of the hardest working character actors in the movie business, appearing with the likes of Al Pacino, Russell Crowe, Alec Baldwin, John Travolta and Meg Ryan. You may have seen Feore in blockbusters like *Pearl Harbor*, *The Insider*, and *Face/Off* or, more recently, *The Sum of All Fears*. In fact, he's so prolific, there's a theory that says he can be connected to virtually any Hollywood movie star by as few as three degrees — that's three less than the popular Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon game. We tested this Three Degrees of Colm Feore hypothesis by linking the actor to some of the leading men and women of this season's top releases.

■ **Clint Eastwood** (*Blood Work*): Eastwood was the lead in *Absolute Power*, which featured Kenneth Welsh, who was seen with Feore in *The Wrong Guy*.



Colm Feore

■ **Dana Carvey** (*Master of Disguise*): Carvey appeared in *The Road to Wellville* with Anthony Hopkins, who starred in *Titus*, featuring Feore.

■ **Antonio Banderas** (*Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams*): Banderas starred in *Play it to the Bone* with Lucy Liu, who is in the upcoming *Chicago: The Musical* with Feore.

■ **Vin Diesel** (*XXX*): *The Fast and the Furious* star appeared in *Boiler Room* with Ben Affleck, who was in two films — *Pearl Harbor* and *The Sum of All Fears* — with Feore.

■ **Jennifer Love Hewitt** (*The Tuxedo*): Hewitt's co-star in *Heartbreakers* was Ray Liotta, who appeared in *Point of Origin* with Feore.

■ **Liz Hurley** (*Serving Sara*): Hurley starred in *Passenger 57* with Tom Sizemore, who showed up in *Pearl Harbor*.

■ **Mel Gibson** (*Signs*): Gibson starred in *The Million Dollar Hotel* with Amanda Plummer, whose father Christopher Plummer appeared with Feore in *The Insider*.

...But what about Kevin Bacon, himself, who stars in next month's thriller *Trapped*? Bacon was in 1982's *Diner* with Steve Guttenberg, who starred in *Airborne* alongside — you guessed it, Colm Feore. —JK

## Powers steering

Does this car look familiar? No? Add a couple of bulbous extrusions on the sides, and a long, phallic protrusion on the back. Now paint it gold. If you've seen *Austin Powers in Goldmember*, you should have it by now.

As bizarre as it looks, the latest automobile to be added to Powers' enviable garage is an adaptation of The Sparrow, a real single-seat car created by the California-based company Corbin Motors. And, although there are only about 300 of them on the road right now (most in the States), come next year you'll be able to buy the next generation, "Sparrow II," right here in Canada.

Jerry Kroll, the B.C.-based president and CEO of Corbin Motors Canada, says the cars will be built here and will sell for about \$20,000. The new design will be similar to the model used in *Austin Powers*, but a bit lower



and wider, and the single headlight will be replaced by a more traditional pair of lights. Best thing is — the car's completely electric. Just pull it into your garage, plug it in for four hours and you've got enough juice to run for 100km. "If you can operate an electric razor or a curling iron, you can operate this car," says Kroll. Only problem is, with only a driver's seat, where would you shag?

■ **To purchase your own Sparrow call Kroll at 604.687.3088.**

## Cry if you want to

It's no longer necessary to leave your newborn at home when you go to the movies.

Famous Players and CineBabies are now offering infant-friendly screenings of new flicks at five theatres. The weekly shows include free stroller parking and a changing table with wipes. Plus, the sound is turned down to protect the babies' sensitive ears.

CineBabies is the brainchild of Sandi Silver, who came up with the idea during maternity leave from her job at Lions Gate Films, a Toronto-based distribution company. Silver took her newborn son Mason to see a movie — and he started crying before the end of the opening credits.

Silver says the screenings are designed for parents with newborns up to nine months old, since they're more likely to remain still, but infants of all ages are welcome (children under two get in free). And, yes, crying is allowed.

CineBabies screenings are held at SilverCity Empress Walk (Toronto), SilverCity Mississauga, SilverCity Gloucester, Colossus Langley (Vancouver), and Colisée Kirkland (Montreal). For times and locations, go to [www.CineBabies.com](http://www.CineBabies.com) or [www.famousplayers.com](http://www.famousplayers.com).

No word yet on a similar program for people who just can't seem to turn off their cellphones and pagers. —JK



# Back to the future

Even though filming on the two *Matrix* sequels won't wrap until the end of this month, Warner Brothers has already stoked the buzz machine by releasing a selection of shots featuring Carrie-Anne Moss, Keanu Reeves and Laurence Fishburne in *The Matrix Reloaded*, due out next May. *The Matrix Revolutions* will follow six months later with a November 2003 release.

The buzz was also heard near the films' Sydney, Australia set every Sunday afternoon in July, as a helicopter fitted with a camera swooped as low as 50 metres above the city's core to shoot scenes.



# Gearing up for the major film fests

Film festival season feels a bit different this year, in the wake of what happened during last year's Toronto International Film Festival. The country's ultimate ode to glam, and arguably the most important film fest in the world, was interrupted on day six by the attacks of September 11 in the U.S. The champagne was put back on ice, glittery ball gowns were returned to hotel closets and the pompous affectations of many a media type were taken down a notch as the festival limped on, with all parties, many press conferences and some screenings being shelved. And the events that did carry on were pretty much ignored by the usually ravenous press, which suddenly had more important things to cover.

What long term effect the tragedy will have on the festival remains to be seen. But even before September 11 there were murmurs that the event had become too big and unwieldy. It's possible that last year's reality check will inspire a more toned-down affair. Of course, it's also possible that glitz can



Susan Sarandon, shown at 1999's TIFF, has a movie in this year's event as well

PHOTO BY JOHN KENNEDY

only be suppressed so long, and will come roaring back two-fold this year as the **Toronto International Film Festival** returns for its 27th run **September 5 to 14**.

Some early announcements from the Toronto team include their opening film — Atom Egoyan's *Ararat*, and gala screenings of David Cronenberg's *Spider*, *Moonlight Mile* with Susan Sarandon and *White Oleander* starring Michelle Pfeiffer. The Canadian Retrospective will honour *cinéma vérité* director Allan King, and South Korea will be the subject of this

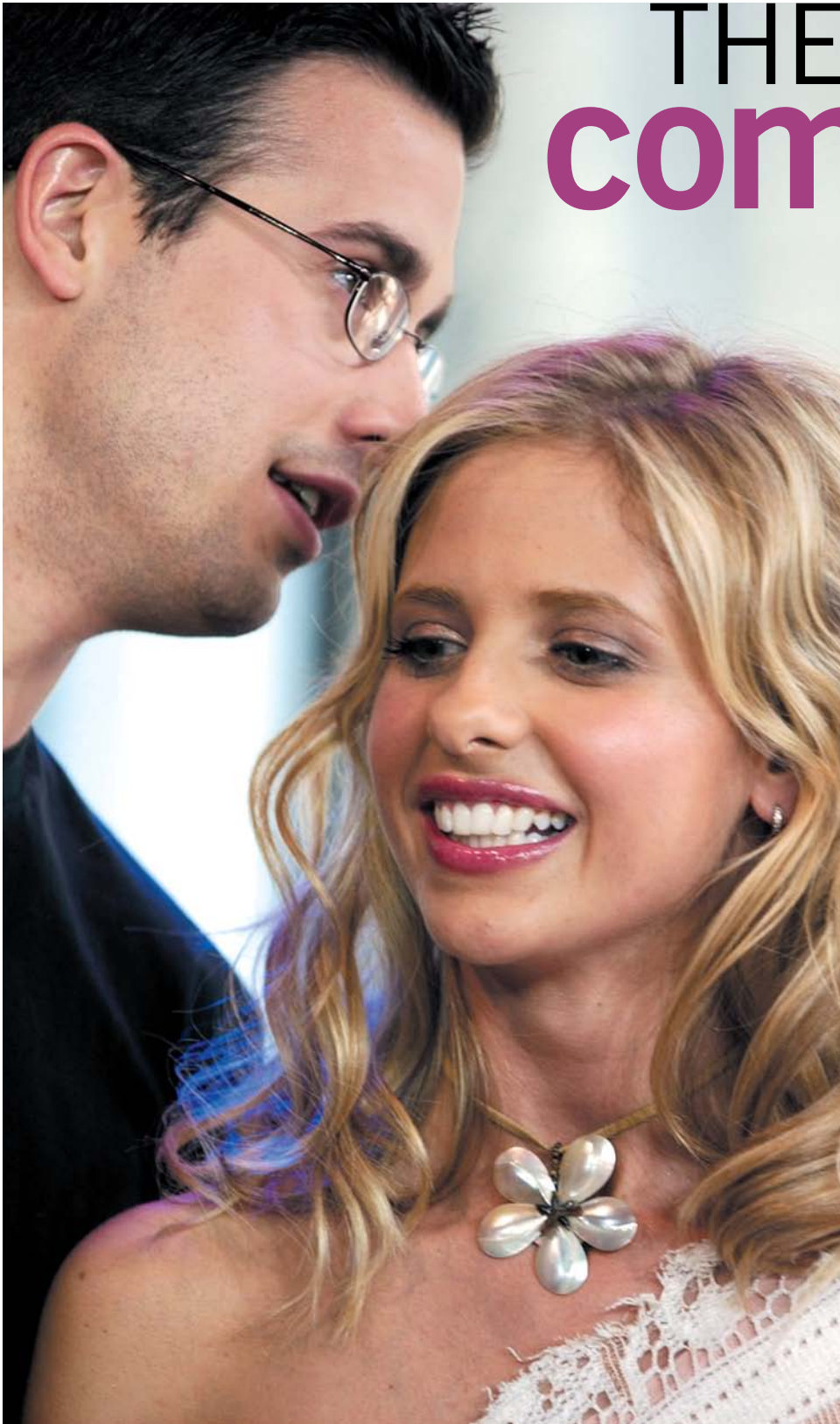
year's National Cinema showcase.

■ But before Toronto, **Montreal's World Film Festival** will fill that city's trendy streets with parties, concerts and, of course, films, from **August 22 to September 2**. Usually a nice mix of your more substantial Hollywood and international pics, last year's lineup included such diverse fare as the Oscar-nominated *In the Bedroom*, Benjamin Bratt's *Piñero* and the celebrated Iranian film *Baran*. In addition to perennial programs like the Student Film & Video Competition and Panorama Canada, this year's fest will include a Focus on Japan and a series dubbed African Horizons.

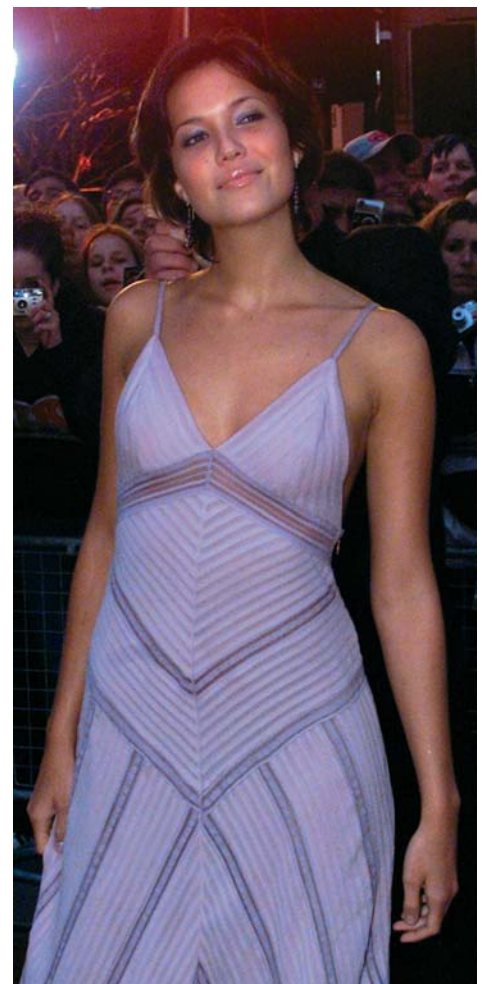
■ Also this month, **FILMI 2002: The Toronto South Asian Film Festival** moves into Harbourfront Centre from **August 15 to 18** as part of the Masala, Mendhi, Maasti cultural carnival. This year's offerings will include the Canadian *Cecil's Journey* and *The Film Club*, and international flicks like *Dil Chatah Hai*, *Wings of Hope* and the Golden Globe-nominated *Monsoon Wedding* —**MW**

# THE STARS come out

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FLICKS



Freddie Prinze Jr. whispers something in fiancée Sarah Michelle Gellar's ear as the two promote *Scoby Doo* at the MTV studios. Photo by Theo Wargo/WireImage



Mandy Moore at the MuchMusic Video Awards in Toronto. The actor/singer was in town shooting *How to Deal* with Allison Janney and Peter Gallagher. Photo from iPhoto Inc.



Susan Sarandon (right) gazes lovingly at her daughter Eva Amurri before the premiere of the Chris Rock/Anthony Hopkins film *Bad Company*. Mother and daughter will play, what else but, mother and daughter in next month's groupie pic, *The Banger Sisters*. Photo by Eric Charbonneau/PR Newswire



Looking très nouveau in basic black, Tom Cruise and Penélope Cruz make their way into New York's Ziegfeld Theatre for the world premiere of *Minority Report*. Photo by James Devaney/WireImage



Catherine Zeta Jones arrives at the Ivy restaurant in London, England. We're not sure whether her fellow passenger is family, friend or bodyguard. But we are sure we'd never mess with him. Photo from Zuma Press



*Smallville*'s Michael Rosenbaum (right) looks on as Dustin Hoffman tries his luck at the CineVegas film festival's Celebrity Blackjack Tournament. Hoffman received a Lifetime Achievement award at the nine-day event. Photo by John White

# now in theatres

DISCOVER **SIGNS**, SEE **FULL FRONTAL** OR MEET **THE MASTER OF DISGUISE**



Daryl Sabara  
and Alexa Vega  
in *Spy Kids 2*

AUGUST 2

## THE MASTER OF DISGUISE

**Who's In It?** Dana Carvey, Jennifer Esposito

**Who Directed?** Perry Andelin Blake (debut)

**What's It About?** Carvey is nutty as Pistachio Disguisey, a waiter who delights in mimicking his customers only to discover that he inherited his impressionist skills from his family of "masters of disguise." With some help from his lovely assistant (Esposito), Pistachio sets out to find evil Devlin Bowman (*Star Trek's* Brent Spiner), who is plotting to kidnap his father (James Brolin) and steal the world's greatest treasures. What, you were expecting a drama?

## SIGNS

**Who's In It?** Mel Gibson, Joaquin Phoenix

**Who Directed?** M. Night Shyamalan (*The Sixth Sense*)

**What's It About?** Are the mysterious patterns of circles and lines

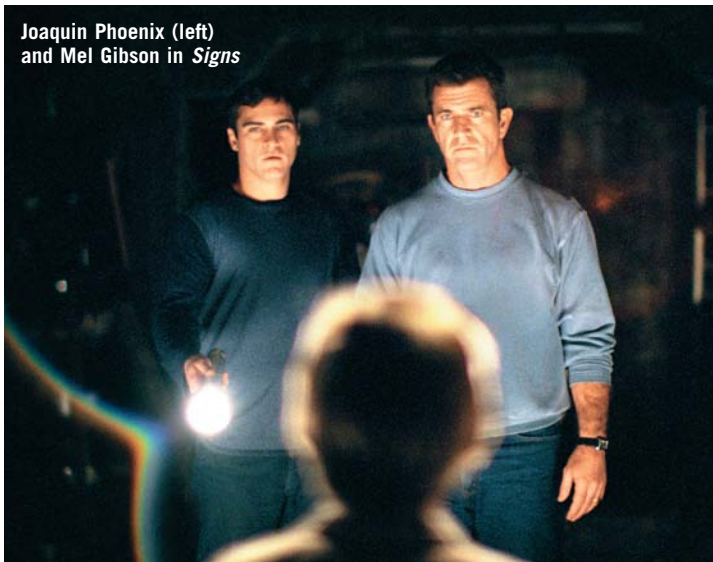
showing up in a Pennsylvania field messages from aliens or elaborate hoaxes? Farmer and preacher man Graham Hess (Gibson) and his brother Merrill (Phoenix) want to know. Their search for answers takes them on a dark journey that challenges everything they believed about the world.

## FULL FRONTAL

**Who's In It?** Julia Roberts, Blair Underwood

**Who Directed?** Steven Soderbergh (*Ocean's Eleven*)

**What's It About?** An experimental, existential film shot in just three weeks on both 35mm film and digital video, *Full Frontal* follows an actor (Underwood) who falls in love with a magazine writer (Roberts) working on a story about him. In a 24-hour period they cross paths with various media types, including a hapless journalist (David Hyde Pierce), an oleaginous producer (David Duchovny) and a control freak studio exec (Catherine Keener). Brad Pitt even shows up, as himself. **See Catherine Keener interview, page 32.**



Joaquin Phoenix (left) and Mel Gibson in *Signs*

AUGUST 7

### SPY KIDS 2: THE ISLAND OF LOST DREAMS

**Who's In It?** Daryl Sabara, Alexa Vega

**Who Directed?** Robert Rodriguez (*Spy Kids*)

**What's It About?** Carmen and Juni Cortez, the children of spies Gregorio and Ingrid Cortez (Antonio Banderas and Carla Gugino) take on a mysterious scientist (Steve Buscemi) living on an island populated by weird creatures, and fend off competition from a new pair of juvenile detectives, Gary and Gerti Giggles.

### THE GOOD GIRL

**Who's In It?** Jennifer Aniston, Jake Gyllenhaal

**Who Directed?** Miguel Arteta (*Chuck & Buck*)

**What's It About?** Aniston is a frustrated married woman who has an affair with a department store co-worker (Gyllenhaal) who thinks he's *Catcher in the Rye* narrator Holden Caulfield.

AUGUST 9

### XXX

**Who's In It?** Vin Diesel, Samuel L. Jackson

**Who Directed?** Rob Cohen (*The Fast and the Furious*)

**What's It About?** Settle down — it's not what you think. Nor is it based



Blair Underwood and Julia Roberts in *Full Frontal*

on the popular comic book series of the same name. Diesel plays charismatic extreme sports competitor Xander "XXX" Cage who is recruited by a government agent (Jackson) to infiltrate a Russian crime ring called Anarchy 99.

AUGUST 16

### THE ADVENTURES OF PLUTO NASH

**Who's In It?** Eddie Murphy, Randy Quaid

**Who Directed?** Ron Underwood (*Mighty Joe Young*)

**What's It About?** It's the year 2087 and Pluto Nash (Murphy) runs a nightclub on the moon (great drinks but no atmosphere, we're guessing). The movie's eponymous adventures begin when Nash refuses to sell the club to the mob. Watch for Pam Grier as Nash's gun-toting mom.

### BLUE CRUSH

**Who's In It?** Michelle Rodriguez, Kate Bosworth

**Who Directed?** John Stockwell (*crazy/beautiful*)

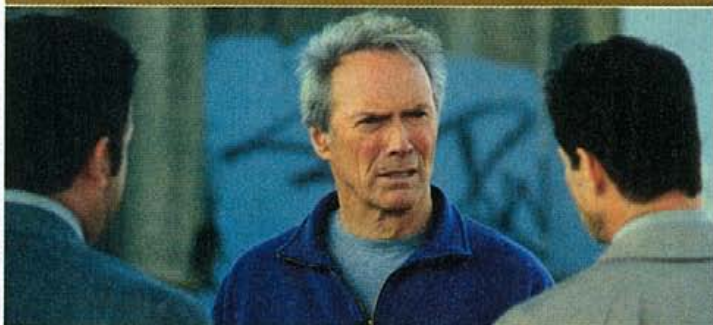
**What's It About?** When two young women working as hotel maids in Oahu (Rodriguez and Bosworth) get bored, they get on their boards. In fact, they become so good at surfing that they set their sights on entering



Eddie Murphy suits up for *The Adventures of Pluto Nash*



AUGUST 9



**BLOOD WORK**

**Who's In It?** Clint Eastwood, Jeff Daniels  
**Who Directed?** Clint Eastwood (*Space Cowboys*)  
**What's It About?** Eastwood, who bought the rights to Michael Connelly's book of the same name before it was even finished, plays Terry McCaleb, a retired FBI director recovering from a heart transplant aboard his boat in a Los Angeles marina. A nurse (Wanda De Jesus) convinces him to investigate the death of her sister, whose heart now beats in McCaleb's chest. With a little help from a neighbouring boater (Daniels), McCaleb discovers that what looked like a random killing during a robbery is something much bigger — and more personal. Along the way De Jesus steals his transplanted heart. Not literally, of course.

the traditionally guys-only Pipe Masters competition. But what happens to their competitive edge when one of them falls for a pro football player (Matthew Davis)? **See Michelle Rodriguez interview, page 24.**

**SIMONE**

**Who's In It?** Al Pacino, Winona Ryder  
**Who Directed?** Andrew Niccol (*Gattaca*)  
**What's It About?** Well-rested after a bout of *Insomnia*, Pacino plays a down-and-out Hollywood producer whose leading lady suddenly drops out of his film. He decides to secretly replace her with a computer-generated "actress" named Simone — a plan that backfires when she becomes instantly famous. **See Al Pacino interview, page 28.**

AUGUST 23

**SERVING SARA**

**Who's In It?** Matthew Perry, Elizabeth Hurley  
**Who Directed?** Reginald Hudlin (*House Party*)  
**What's It About?** Perry plays NYC process server Joe who is dispatched to serve divorce papers on Sara (Hurley) by her wealthy husband



Matthew Perry and Elizabeth Hurley in *Serving Sara*

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Robert Carlyle (left)  
and Samuel L. Jackson  
in *Formula 51*



Gordon (Bruce Campbell). But when she discovers that the time on the papers is wrong, Sara offers Joe a million bucks to serve Gordon with papers first.

### THEY

**Who's In It?** Laura Regan, Marc Blucas

**Who Directed?** Robert Harmon (*Nowhere to Run*)

**What's It About?** A graduate student (Regan) witnesses a terrible accident, forcing her to come to grips with her childhood fear of the dark and the nightmares she now experiences. Shot in Vancouver.

AUGUST 30

### POSSESSION

**Who's In It?** Gwyneth Paltrow, Aaron Eckhart

**Who Directed?** Neil LaBute (*In the Company of Men*)

**What's It About?** Two scholars (Eckhart and Paltrow) become romantically involved while uncovering the adulterous indiscretions of the two Victorian-era poets they're studying.

### FEARDOTCOM

**Who's In It?** Stephen Dorff, Udo Kier

**Who Directed?** William Malone (*House on Haunted Hill*)

**What's It About?** A New York City police detective (Dorff) and a health examiner (Natascha McElhone) investigating a series of deaths discover there's an online connection — each victim died exactly 48 hours after logging on to feardot.com. The cop clicks and the clock ticks.

### FORMULA 51

**Who's In It?** Samuel L. Jackson, Robert Carlyle

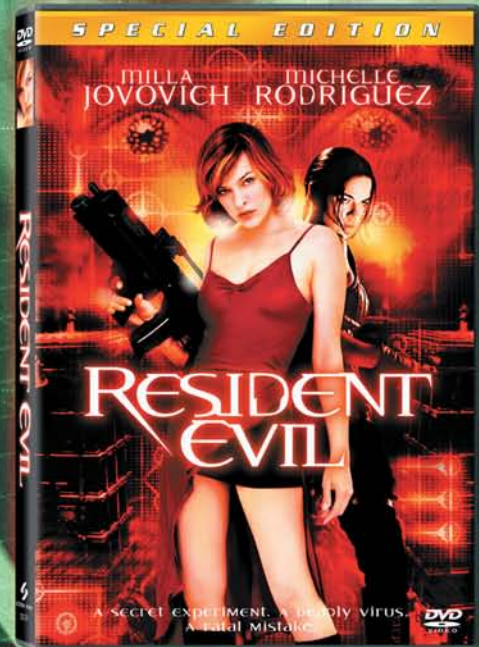
**Who Directed?** Ronny Yu (*Bride of Chucky*)

**What's It About?** Jackson plays an underground pharmacist who travels to Liverpool, England, in search of a market for his latest product. There, he befriends a gangster (Carlyle) who turns out to be very anti-America.

All release dates are subject to change.  
Some films play only in major markets.

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— Andy Jones, E! ONLINE

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# coming soon

THE BEST OF THE REST OF 2002



Elijah Wood returns for  
*The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*

## SEPTEMBER

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### CITY BY THE SEA

**Stars:** Robert DeNiro, James Franco

**Director:** Michael Caton-Jones (*The Jackal*)

**Story:** DeNiro plays real-life homicide detective Vincent LaMarca — whose father was executed in the 1950s for kidnapping and killing a child — as he discovers the prime suspect in the murder of a surfer is his own son (Franco). Based on a 1997 *Esquire* article.

## OCTOBER

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### RED DRAGON

**Stars:** Anthony Hopkins, Edward Norton

**Director:** Brett Ratner (*The Family Man*)

**Story:** Hopkins works up an appetite as Hannibal Lecter in this

prequel to *Silence of the Lambs* and *Hannibal* that also just happens to be a remake of *Manhunter*, Michael Mann's 1986 adaptation of the Thomas Harris novel *Red Dragon*. Still with us? This one tells of former FBI agent Will Graham (Norton) who turns to the imprisoned Lecter for help in finding a serial killer (Ralph Fiennes).

### SWEPT AWAY

**Stars:** Madonna, Adriano Giannini

**Director:** Guy Ritchie (*Snatch*)

**Story:** Madonna stretches her acting muscles by playing a snooty, spoiled rich woman in this English adaptation of a 1975 Italian film. During a Mediterranean yachting holiday with friends, she meets a Communist sailor (Giannini — whose father played the part in the original) who doesn't much care for her attitude. Things quickly change, though, when they are stranded together on an isla bonita and, like a ray of light, end up finding a love that is true blue...oh forget it.



## NOVEMBER

### HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

**Stars:** Daniel Radcliffe, Sean Biggerstaff

**Director:** Chris Columbus (*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*)

**Story:** If you don't know, go find a 10-year-old and ask him. This is the second of several movies based on the enormously popular J.K. Rowling books with Radcliffe back as everyone's favourite boy wizard. When Harry returns to the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry he discovers that the long-sealed Chamber of Secrets has been opened up, and sets out to unravel the mystery.

### JAMES BOND: DIE ANOTHER DAY

**Stars:** Pierce Brosnan, Halle Berry

**Director:** Lee Tamahori (*Along Came a Spider*)

**Story:** Not much is known about the latest instalment in the James Bond franchise. What we do know is that it is the 20th Bond film (the fourth for Brosnan), the enemy is an evil North Korean leader (Rick Yune), Madonna is doing the official song, the opening sequence involves Hovercrafts and Berry's eyes are still moist from Oscar night. It's a safe bet there are some beautiful women, lots of explosions and maybe a martini or two — shaken, not stirred, of course.



Marie-Josée Croze and David Alpay in *Ararat*

### ARARAT

**Stars:** David Alpay, Charles Aznavour

**Director:** Atom Egoyan (*Felicia's Journey*)

**Story:** Armenian-Canadian director Atom Egoyan's roots are showing in this film-within-a-film depicting the making of a historical epic about the early 20th-century slaughter of more than a million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire in Turkey. The controversial film — the government of Turkey has called it a distortion of history — focuses on a young man (Alpay) working as a driver on the film's set. Aznavour plays the director and Bruce Greenwood is an American doctor who runs a mission in Turkey.

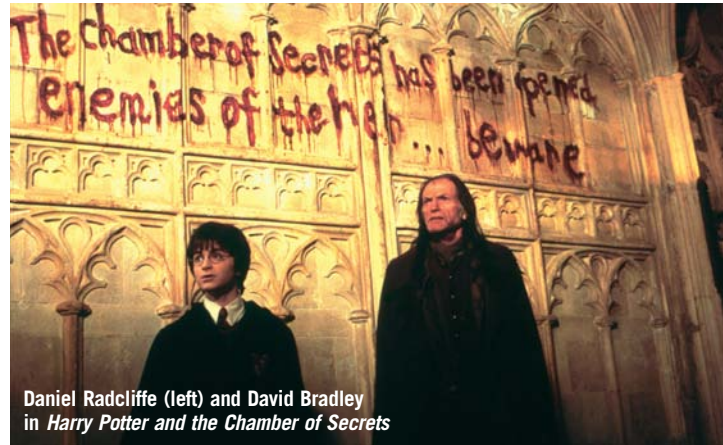
## DECEMBER

### THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS

**Stars:** Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen

**Director:** Peter Jackson (*Fellowship of the Ring*)

**Story:** Jackson's lush — and so far highly acclaimed — retelling of the classic J.R.R. Tolkien trilogy continues with the second of three *Rings*



Daniel Radcliffe (left) and David Bradley in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

films shot simultaneously (*The Return of the King* opens next Christmas). This time, as all good hobbits know, we see what happens to Frodo Baggins and his friends now that the fellowship has broken up and they're off to conquer the dark lord Sauron.

### CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

**Stars:** Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks

**Director:** Steven Spielberg (*Minority Report*)

**Story:** It's based on the true story of Frank W. Abagnale, whose crime spree in the 1960s earned him the distinction of being the youngest man on the FBI's Most Wanted list. Abagnale (DiCaprio) assumes a number of different identities to steal millions of dollars while pursued by an FBI agent (Hanks) with begrudging respect for his abilities.

### GANGS OF NEW YORK

**Stars:** Leonardo DiCaprio, Cameron Diaz

**Director:** Martin Scorsese (*Goodfellas*)

**Story:** Leo competes against himself at the box office this holiday season with this highly anticipated and oft-delayed epic tale of the fight between Irish and Italian gangs from 1846 to 1863 in New York City. (Scorsese generated plenty of buzz for this flick, based on the 1928 book of the same name by Herbert Asbury, by showing a 20-minute preview at Cannes.) DiCaprio is Amsterdam Vallon, the son of the slain leader of the Italian gang, who vows vengeance on his father's killer, Bill "The Butcher" Poole (Daniel Day-Lewis). Diaz is cast as a thief who falls in love with Vallon.



Leonardo DiCaprio (centre) in *Gangs of New York*

# Mohr fun in space

**Saturday Night Live** alumni **Jay Mohr** joins Eddie Murphy in *The Adventures of Pluto Nash*

**Now appearing in...** *The Adventures of Pluto Nash* as an Italian singing sensation, and best friend to Eddie Murphy's title character. The fun begins when Nash, who owns a nightclub on the moon, refuses to sell his place to the local, lunar mafia...making them very, very angry.

**Bio bits:** It wasn't cool to take drama at his high school, so John Ferguson Mohr Jr. took wrestling instead, and taught himself to act and do comedy in his spare time by re-enacting scenes from *Raging Bull*, stealing jokes from the TV show *Star Search* and practicing his ability to cry on demand in front of a mirror. It's not often we see Mohr cry on film, but maybe all that wrestling and boxing explains why, 10 years later, he's so good at playing obnoxious alpha males.

Growing up in suburban New Jersey in the 1970s and '80s, Mohr was the third child of Jean, a nurse, and Jon, a marketing executive. He wasn't much of a student and admits he wasn't very funny either. Obnoxious? Oh yeah. Irritating? That too. But in his last year of high school he took part in a teen comedy night at a local stand-up club and was soon performing purloined material at nearby bars and clubs.

His mom had just two rules: Until he graduated high school he couldn't perform on school nights, and he wasn't allowed to use the f-word.

Mohr eventually got an agent and, now performing full time, played in a few short-lived sitcoms — including a one-season stint as the wacky neighbour, alongside then-unknown Hilary Swank, in ABC's *Camp Wilder*. He also hosted the one and only season of the MTV game show *Lip Service*.

His supposed big break came in 1993 when he was called up to join the cast of *Saturday Night Live*. But it didn't go well. *SNL* was in a deep slump at the time and, like many cast members, Mohr grew frustrated at his scant screen time and the all-out lameness of the NBC series. Only when his celebrity impersonations — most notably an uncanny aping of Christopher Walken — caught on with audiences was he shoved in front of the cameras.

Mohr quit the show after two seasons, and caught his real big break when he tried out for *Jerry Maguire* as the swaggering, villainous sports agent who fires Tom Cruise. He aced the screen test but, still an unknown, wouldn't have landed the part if Cruise and director Cameron Crowe hadn't argued on his behalf to the studio execs.

Mohr also makes an appearance, this month, in the new Al Pacino movie *Simone*, and currently hosts the show *Mohr Sports* on ESPN.



Mohr in *Pluto Nash*

**Sample roles:** Dan in *Speaking of Sex* (2001), Chris in *Pay it Forward* (2000), Peter in *Action* (1999), Zack in *Go* (1999), Jack in *200 Cigarettes* (1999), Mark in *Playing by Heart* (1998), Tony in *Mafia!* (1998), Brett in *Suicide Kings* (1997), Nick in *Picture Perfect* (1997), Bob in *Jerry Maguire* (1996)

**Interesting tidbit:** Has a tattoo on his left bicep, "Will 12-27," in memory of the day his cousin was killed by a drunk driver.

**Love life:** Married actress and former model Nicole Chamberlain in 1998. They live in L.A. with their Rottweiler, Shirley.

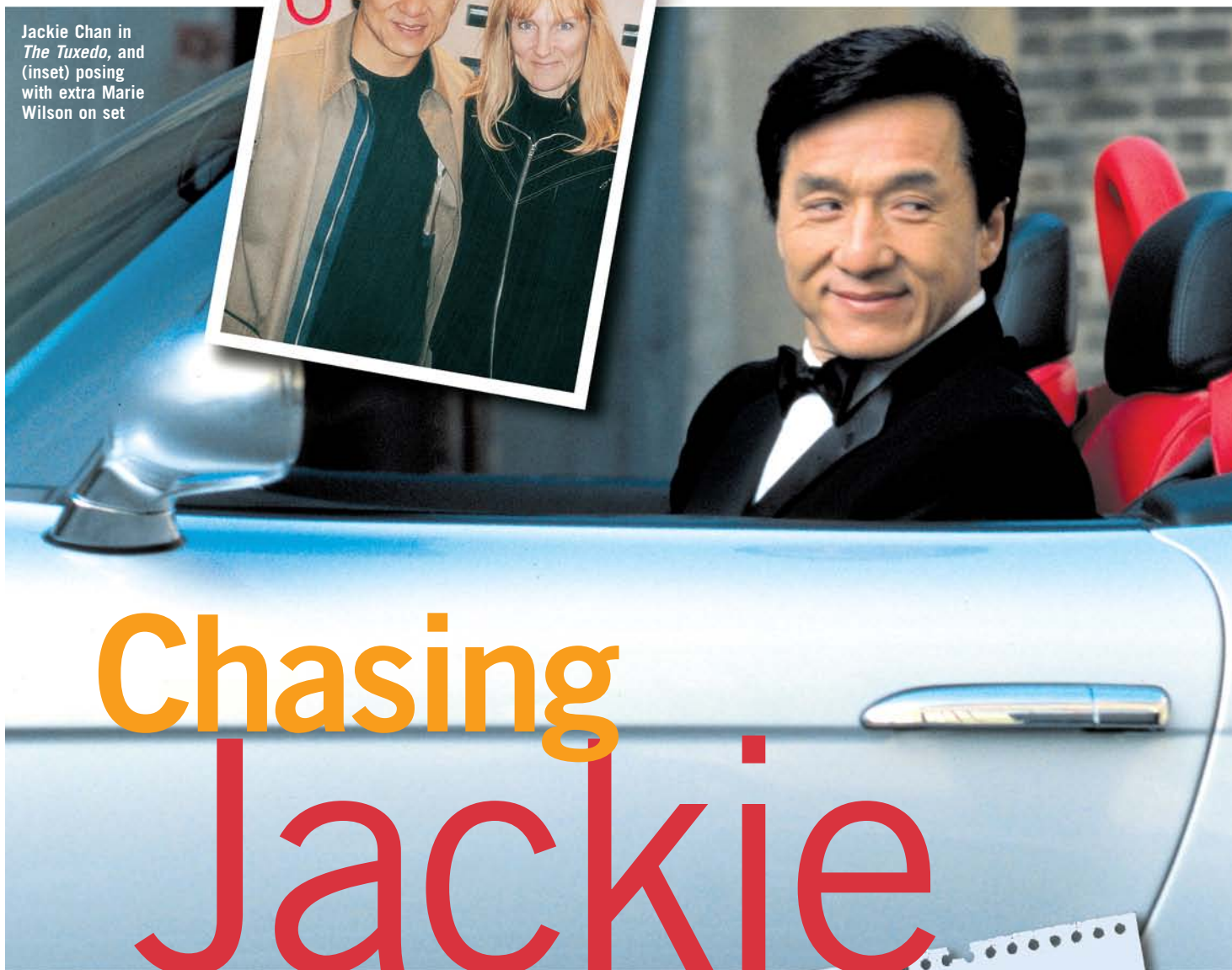
**On his teen years:** "I was more annoying than funny. I wasn't the guy everyone liked. I was the guy that wouldn't shut up." —*Entertainment Weekly*, August 1997

# NEW BRISK Lemonade



**THIS AIN'T NO SISSY LEMONADE!**

Jackie Chan in *The Tuxedo*, and (inset) posing with extra Marie Wilson on set



# Chasing Jackie

**S**hot in Toronto last fall, and due out in October, *The Tuxedo* has action virtuoso Jackie Chan playing chauffeur to a mysterious playboy millionaire. How do you fit high-kicking fight scenes and breathtaking stunts into a flick about a chauffeur? Injure the boss, who's really a government agent, in a suspicious explosion and give Chan access to his prized tuxedo, which gives its wearer the ability to fight like a machine. Transformed into a makeshift secret agent, Chan is then partnered with an equally inexperienced spy played by Jennifer Love Hewitt. Together, the pair must take over where Chan's boss left off.

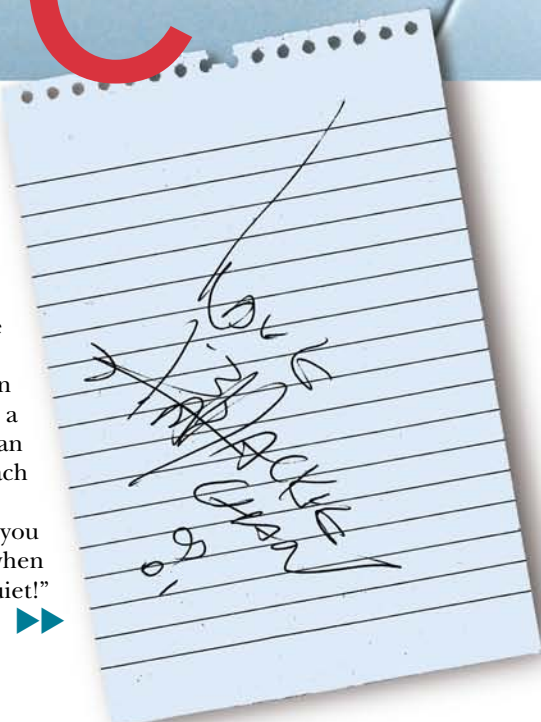
Marie Wilson, Toronto-based actor, writer, and an extra on the shoot, had a covert mission of her own. Get Chan's autograph, and perhaps a picture. Here she shares her on-set diary.

## Day 1

**5:30 a.m.** It's a cold October day as I ride my bike into the heart of downtown Toronto. I'm playing a business woman (strictly a background part) in Jackie Chan's new action/comedy flick *The Tuxedo*. I'm really looking forward to watching the remarkable Mr. Chan in action.

**10 a.m.** Jackie's shooting a scene in which he's pinned against his cab by a bike courier. As director Kevin Donovan yells "Cut," civilian onlookers approach J.C. for autographs. I'm envious.

If you've ever been a movie extra you know the laws of the set: Be quiet when the AD (assistant director) yells "Quiet!" Never look into the camera when its ▶▶



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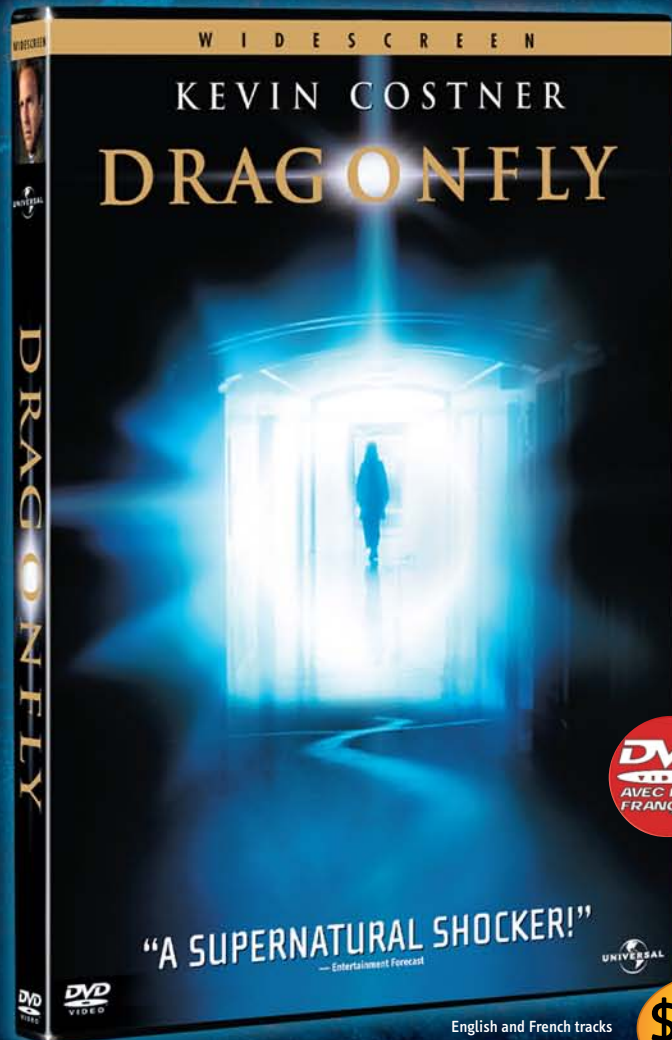
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— Jeffrey Lyons, NBC

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Jackie Chan with Jennifer Love Hewitt in the Toronto-shot *The Tuxedo*

▶▶ rolling. And don't bother the stars. That means no photographs, no autographs, no trying to get pieces of clothing. If you're found guilty of breaking any of these rules you may never work in this town again.

Regardless, I keep pen and paper handy.

## Day 2

**4 p.m.** I stand shivering, shuffling back and forth in my business suit on the set's rain-soaked sidewalk. Jackie's sitting atop a stretch limo, attached to cables that are suspended from a huge crane. He communicates with the crane operator using a kind of action-movie sign language.

When "Action" is called the limo drives ahead and Jackie bounces along the roof, three or four times, then falls to the ground. After three takes his clothes are wet and muddy. The cables help soften his fall, but even so it's got to hurt.

## Day 3

**2:30 p.m.** Jackie stands with a box of crackers in his hand. All around him crew members bustle, hoisting and dragging equipment about for the next shot. Relaxed and focused, Jackie scatters cracker crumbs on the pavement before him. One block away the cars on King Street blare their horns and go about their business oblivious

to this Zen-like act.

One by one pigeons arrive to eat the crackers. By the time the director is ready to shoot there's a flock gathered. On "Action" Jackie emerges from the back doors of a van and makes his way toward the nearby art gallery. Pigeons flutter and take flight as he walks through them, and this otherwise ordinary shot comes to life.

## Day 4

**5 p.m.** We're on a break and I'm supposed to be in the holding area (they're using an abandoned building) with the other extras. But there's no heat in there, so I'm pacing the street, muttering to myself. Suddenly, I see Jackie through the window of that art gallery. He sits with his eyes closed while his assistant massages his shoulders.

Cautiously, I slip into the gallery.

My heart's pounding as I stand with my back against a wall trying to look as if I couldn't care less that I'm within feet of Jackie Chan. I inch along the wall drawing ever nearer to him, pen and paper in hand. Eyes still closed, he relaxes into the massage. I'm thinking, "I can't do this to him." Not only that, but the whole gallery front is glass. I'm highly visible and if anyone were to see me...

But I can't think of that now.

Glancing over, I see that his eyes have opened. I turn to him, frozen in a different kind of way now. He smiles at me and reaches out for my pen and paper.

Leaving the gallery, I'm walking on air. As I continue down the wet road in the blustery autumn wind, I look down at the paper.

"Love, Jackie Chan. 01," it reads, and for the first time during the shoot, I am warm.

## Day 5

**9 a.m.** At the start of Jackie's name he's inscribed a Chinese character. I show his autograph to a Chinese extra I'm teamed with for a scene, who tells me it means "dragon," adding "That's what Jackie's name means in Chinese."

## Day 6

**5:30 p.m.** As I'm coming up an escalator I see Jackie talking with his assistant. Encouraged by yesterday's encounter, I approach them with my camera. Smiling, Jackie beckons me forward. From there, it all goes down like a well choreographed fight scene (without the fight): J.C. puts his arm around me while his assistant takes my camera. Flash!

Mission accomplished. **F**

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-SHAWN EDWARDS, FOX-TV

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# MAKING *waves*

She's ruffled feathers in Hollywood. She was arrested for scrapping with her roommate. And she has a reputation for taking tough-chick roles. So what's **Michelle Rodriguez** doing in the surf, sand and swimsuits pic *Blue Crush*?

BY BOB THOMPSON

**J**ersey chic and surf girl don't usually go together. So it's hard, at first, to picture *Girlfight*'s inner-city teen boxer Michelle Rodriguez squeezed into a bikini, catching some rays and taking on a monster wave in Hawaii — as she does in this month's *Blue Crush*.

And it's not just that, from age 12, the Texas-born Rodriguez was raised in gritty Jersey City, New Jersey, and the surfing isn't great in the murky Hudson River. It's also because, since being plucked from obscurity (and a brood of 350 wannabe actors) to star in the multi-award-winning *Girlfight* (2000), Rodriguez has cultivated the image of a don't-mess-with-me bad girl.

She's done it through her choice of roles — playing a wise-cracking member of an L.A. street-racing gang in last year's surprise hit *The Fast and the Furious*, and as an elite, kick-ass military commando in the guns-aplenty videogame adaptation *Resident Evil*.

But she's also done it in her real life, spending time in court earlier this year after her friend and roommate, Louise Ann Ward, pressed charges following an ugly little domestic spat. Rodriguez allegedly stormed into Ward's bedroom, forced her to hang up the phone, punched her in the eye, pulled her hair...then it got ugly. The pair reportedly flailed around on the street outside their building for a while, exchanging punches and insults. But about a month later, Ward dropped the charges.

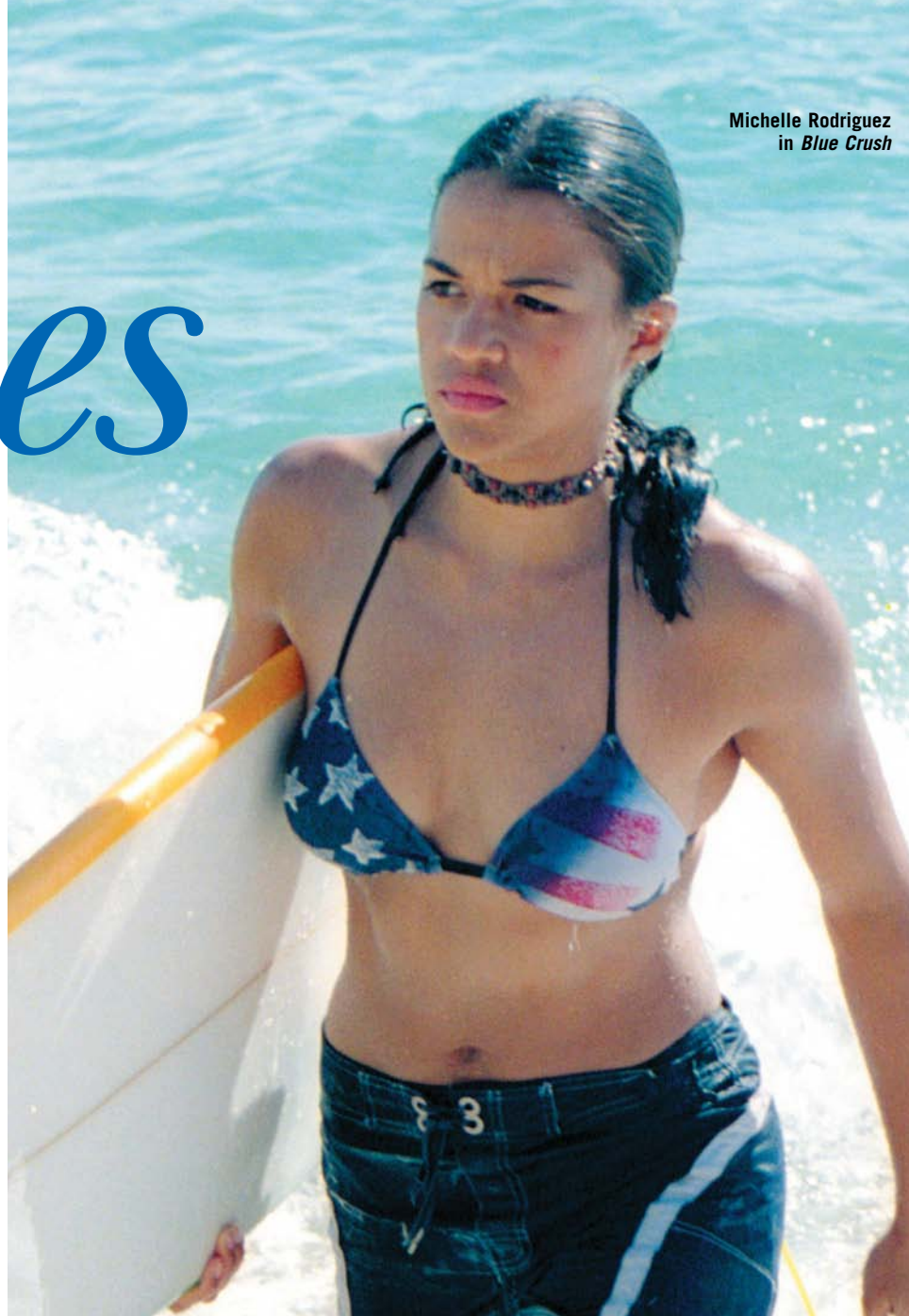
"Friends fight, and then they make up," Rodriguez told

reporters outside a Jersey City courtroom.

So, is Rodriguez trying to soften her image by playing a surf girl? "Not really," she says at a Beverly Hills hotel. Hunched over a table, she still looks resplendent in a flowery, pink cotton dress. "I am, after all, a kick-ass surfer in the picture."

True. In director John Stockwell's (*crazy/beautiful*) splashy new flick, Rodriguez plays Eden, caustic friend to talented surfer Anne Marie (Kate Bosworth). Both are maids at an Oahu hotel, both have a lot of free time, and both spend much of it riding the waves. Anne Marie gets so good that she plans to enter the prestigious Pipe Masters surf competition. But then she meets a pro quarterback (Matthew Davis of *Legally Blonde*) who thinks she's hot, and her dedication to the board wanes. Enter Rodriguez to get her friend's mind back where it should be — balancing high atop a frothy peak.

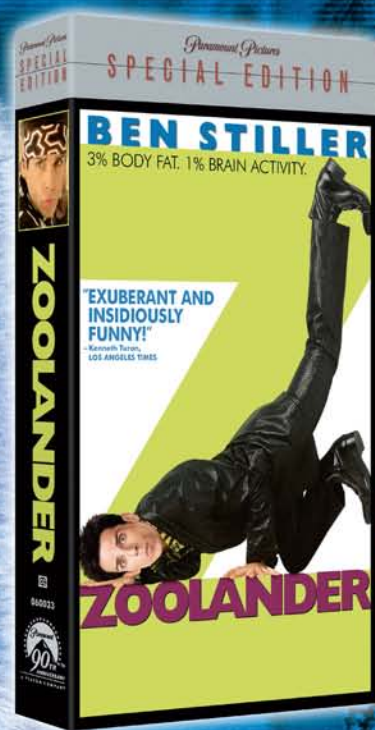
Kick-ass or not, the role allowed Rodriguez to explore various



Michelle Rodriguez  
in *Blue Crush*



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FILMS





From left: Mika Boorem, Sanoë Lake, Kate Bosworth and Michelle Rodriguez in *Blue Crush*

▶▶ shades of a character, something she says not all filmmakers think she can do. “At times I’m disillusioned because people don’t see past how fierce I can be,” she says. This time, she credits her director with giving her a bit more credit. “A really good director like John Stockwell sees past the bullsh-t of who I am supposed to be,” Rodriguez says. “I’m just a director’s tool, and until I can do my own thing, the director can pull out of me whatever the director wants.” Which, in this case, meant getting a little wet. For *Girlfight*, Rodriguez trained as a pugilist for five grueling months before

stepping in front of the cameras. Compared to that, she says her *Blue Crush* training was “a piece of cake.”

“I did have two-and-a-half weeks of surf school training, paddling on the board, getting the feel for it,” recalls Rodriguez. “But then they wanted to throw me into these big waves, and I’m like, ‘Hell, no, man, I’ve never been on a surfboard in my life.’”

Eventually, she became competent enough to do a few surf scenes that made it into the movie, although she remembers wiping out more often than not. “So, yeah,” she adds, smirking, “I did some of my surfing stuff, but I had a double for most of it. I did most of my Jet Ski business, though, and that got pretty crazy.”

There was, however, one key thing she learned about what it takes to stand atop a swirling mass of H<sub>2</sub>O. “The sweet spot is the centre of balance,” she says, “and I think that’s equivalent to everything in the end, if you ask me. I found it a couple of times, but then, you know, I was back in the water again.”

**S**urprisingly, “Joisy girl” Rodriguez was born in Bexar County, Texas on July 12, 1978. She lived there until she was eight, moved to the Dominican Republic and then Puerto Rico, where she stayed with her grandmother for three years “to learn Spanish, which I speak fluently, and absorb some of the Latin culture.”

Jersey City was the family’s next stop, and where the 12-year-old started to think about being famous. “I wanted to be a star,” she says, “I just didn’t know how to go about it.” Nine years later, lousy at school and unhappy with “hangin’ out,” she took the plunge and was hired as an extra on *Summer of Sam* and *Cradle Will Rock*. And a few months later a magazine advertisement announcing an open casting call in New York got her attention. She was as surprised as anybody when she landed the role in *Girlfight*.

Three years later, here she is starring in a surf film and lounging in a Beverly Hills hotel suite, talking about her life. “It just speeds by, this business,” she says. “Sometimes it slows down for me, and I really get to savour it, but that is rare. And sometimes I wonder, like a lot of actors, if I’ve made the right moves, chosen the right movies.”

Likewise, you have to wonder whether some of the filmmakers who’ve chosen to work with Rodriguez have second-guessed their choices. Depending on who you talk to in Hollywood, Rodriguez is either her own person or a fresh talent with a big chip on her shoulder. “I’ve been irresponsible, show up late for meetings, get people mad in high places, and sometimes I say things I shouldn’t say,” Rodriguez admits. “Then after this person talks to that one, that person doesn’t like me. It always seems to be a political thing, and I’m like, ‘Dude man, give me a break.’”

It seems she’s also rubbed some people in her old neighbourhood the wrong way. Rodriguez concedes there are friends from her past who want to knock her down a peg now that her face is splashed across movie screens and magazine spreads. “There are some of those mean, unhappy people who are like, ‘Anyone can do what you do’ — that kind of attitude,” she acknowledges. “I say, ‘Screw them, man.’”

But, honestly, does Rodriguez think she’s changed over the past two years? “Well, let’s see,” she says teasing a little, looking down one side of her then the other, “my armpits still smell bad, so yeah I’m the same.” **F**

Bob Thompson is a movie writer for *Sympatico.ca*.

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1. Who is the mother of Al Pacino's twins?

2. In which U.S. city did *Full Frontal* star Catherine Keener go to college?

3. Who directed Michelle Rodriguez in *Blue Crush*?

Send this entry form to: "Bring the Movies Home," c/o Famous magazine, 102 Atlantic Ave., Suite 100, Toronto, Ont., M6K 1X9. All entries must be postmarked no later than October 15, 2002.

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# On a wild streak

That's how Al Pacino describes the last two years of his life. The usually picky actor has done seven movies in that time, claiming he's simply been overrun with great scripts. Here he talks about his career, thoughts of slowing down and his latest picture to hit screens, *Simone*

By Earl Dittman



Supporting a head of gray hair and looking uncharacteristically frail, Al Pacino rushes into his suite at one of mid-Manhattan's more illustrious hotels, apologizing profusely for running two hours late. "Please forgive me for keeping you waiting," Pacino pleads. "I'm sorry, but we were shooting a couple of my scenes this morning and they ran really late, otherwise, I would have been here on time."

The 62-year-old actor has already spent the better part of the a.m. on the set of HBO's film adaptation of the award-winning

Broadway play *Angels in America*, in which he portrays the infamous Roy Cohn. To recreate the despised lawyer's final days before his death from AIDS-related complications, Pacino has dyed his hair white and lost a lot of weight. It's a striking transformation.

"Lately, everybody I meet thinks I've been sick or something," says the Bronx native. "I don't normally go the De Niro route by gaining or losing weight for a movie, but since Roy Cohn is such a well-known figure, I wanted to make sure I looked as close to him as I can get. It's just

me trying to be one of those pain-in-the-butt Method actors."

After a decade of relegating himself to a single motion picture per year, Pacino has embarked on what has to be one of the most prolific times of his career. Since the dawn of the millennium, the actor has already filmed seven projects. Two — *Chinese Coffee* and *Insomnia* — have already seen the light of day. *Angels in America*, *Gigli* (with Jennifer Lopez) and *The Recruit* are slated for release next year. And before the end of 2002, Pacino will light up the screen in two more films: *People I Know*,



Pacino in *Simone*.  
Right: Sweeping up.  
Bottom: In the shadow  
of his creation

about a New York publicist, and the comedy *Simone*, which hits multiplexes this month.

With a cast that includes Catherine Keener, Jay Mohr and Winona Ryder, *Simone* is a cautionary tale that focuses on Hollywood's increasing dependence on digital special effects. Pacino stars as Victor Taransky, a jaded producer whose comeback film is thrown into chaos when his leading lady walks off the set. Worried the production will be shut-down for good, Taransky digitally creates a virtual actress to replace the temperamental diva. His

computer creation, known simply as Simone, becomes an overnight sensation, turning his film into a blockbuster. But Taransky's happiness comes to an end when the media demands to meet the elusive Simone.

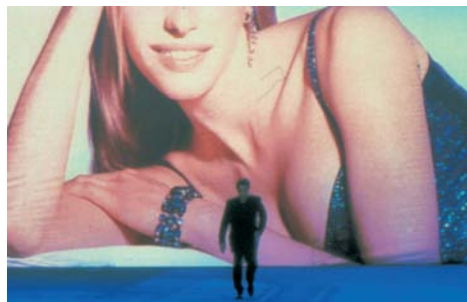
**[Q] Seven movies in two years — why so busy all of a sudden?**

**[A]** "I think saying I've been busy is a bit of an understatement. I've been on this wild streak, where I've been working non-stop.... It's just that there's been so many great scripts coming my way, it's been tough to say no to them. *Simone* is a good example. I think *Simone* is a very special kind of movie, with a very special, unique and wonderful director — Andrew Niccol, who wrote *The Truman Show*. I think he has a very special spin on the medium and the media. It's unique and very funny. My schedule was getting packed, but I could see how special a movie it would be. So, I did it, and I am quite pleased with it."

**[Q] Did you base your character on any particular producer?**

**[A]** "No, he's more of a combination of different producers I've met. When I did *The Devil's Advocate*, I looked at different actors who had played devils. So, I kind of combined all those performances with producers I've known and came up with Victor [laughs]."

"SOMETIMES IT'S ODD," PACINO SAYS, "BECAUSE THE CHARACTERS THAT YOU THINK ARE FARTHEST FROM YOU TURN OUT TO BE SOME OF THE BEST WORK YOU'VE DONE"



**[Q] *Simone* addresses whether Hollywood should reward performers who simply look good over those who are great at their craft. Do you think great actors are getting the short end of the stick?**

**[A]** "I really don't think so. I really think that things are the way they are because that's what people want and that's what is working. But a lot of these great-looking movie stars are really good at what they do. They are all very gifted and project a certain kind of thing that makes audiences come to movies. And that's a special thing. It should be rewarded and applauded, because not many people can do it the way they do it." ▶▶



►► [Q] Your last picture, *Insomnia*, was partially shot in Vancouver. How do you feel about the controversy over Hollywood productions leaving the U.S. to shoot in Canada?

[a] “While I was doing *Insomnia* I was unaware of the controversy. Of course, I would like it if they would come to shoot at my house [laughs]. But there is so much to say about going to a location and shooting a movie. I think it serves the picture so much that one has to weigh that when you are going to make a picture. And, as far as Canada goes, it’s beautiful. Every time that I’ve been to Canada — Toronto and Vancouver — it’s been swell. During *Insomnia*, though, I was popping down to L.A. on the weekends to see the babes, so I didn’t get to spend much time there. But Vancouver has to be one of the most beautiful places on the planet. It’s incredible to behold.”

[Q] Those “babes” are the twins you had with Beverly D’Angelo a year-and-a-half ago. How has becoming a father again changed your life, besides having to watch *Barney* and *Sesame Street*?

[a] “Well, I’m usually up and out before they wake up, but I catch *Barney* every once and a while. I mean, the babes like to watch that when they eat. Thank God for *Barney*! As for how they have affected me, they have certainly given my life a lift. So, what can I say?”

[Q] Are you good with the diaper changing?

[a] “Oh, gee. I really would like to refrain from any diaper stories.”

[Q] Okay, let’s talk about your career. Of all your film roles, which one hit closest to home?

[a] “I was just going to say *The George Washington Story*, but I didn’t do that, did I? [Laughs.] Sometimes it’s odd because the characters that you think are the farthest from you turn out to be some of the best work you’ve done. The characters that you feel are the closest to you, sometimes don’t take the same step. Desire and a passion to do a role doesn’t mean that it’s you. It’s a complicated paradox. I just go with the flow. If I feel there’s something in it, that there’s a chance for me to get a performance out of it, I go for it. What I learned early in my life as an actor is that you try different parts in order to see if any of them will work.”

[Q] You’re often called a legend. How do you respond to that?

[a] “Well, what I usually do when they say that is, I say, ‘This is a legend.’ [He pulls out a harmonica and plays a couple of riffs.] Now, that’s all I can say to that [laughs]. When someone says that, I say, ‘I guess I’ve been around a while.’”

[Q] What edge did you have over all the others who started at the same time, but have disappeared?

[a] “I’ll tell you. We all know that movies are about a lot of waiting around. I think that I’ve learned to deal with the down time on a movie.... When I was a younger actor, waiting was impossible, so I wouldn’t do films early in my career. I’d spend a couple of years between movies. Now I’ve found a way to deal with that waiting time. I have a life that takes place during it. You just learn how to distribute your time. But, these days, every time I make a movie, when that last shot comes, I say to myself, ‘Well, I think that’s going to be it for a while.’”

[Q] So you’re not planning to keep up your current pace?

[a] “I think I’ve worked enough over the past two years to last me a lifetime [laughs]. I’ve got babes at home now that are starting to miss me. Anyway, I think my fans will be sick of me by the end of next year. Maybe this face needs to go under-cover for a while. It sounds like a good idea to me. What about you?”

*Earl Dittman is an entertainment writer based in Houston, Texas. His last piece for Famous was an interview with Tom Hanks in the July issue.*

# famous trivia

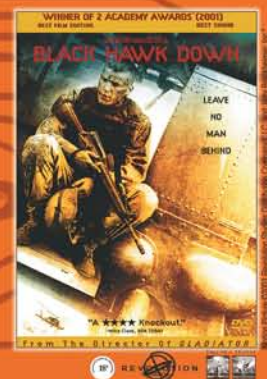
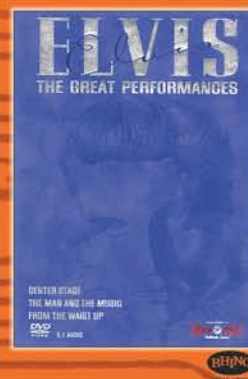
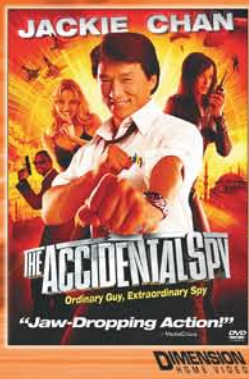
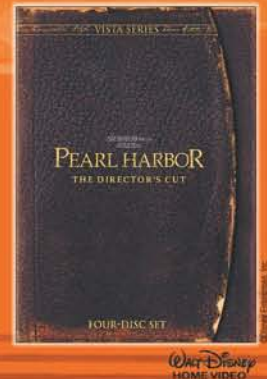
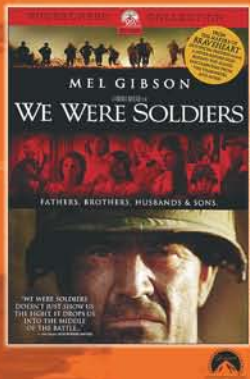
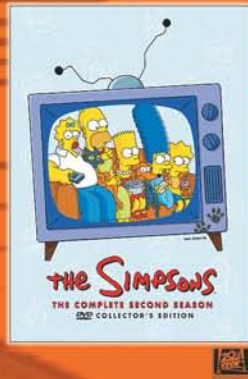
- 1 In which city was *Blood Work* star Clint Eastwood elected mayor in 1986?
- 2 *A Guy Thing*'s James Brolin is currently married to Barbra Streisand. But to which star of TV's *WKRP in Cincinnati* was he married from 1986 to 1995?
- 3 Which star of *The Tuxedo* is going to play the Devil in an upcoming remake of *The Devil and Daniel Webster*?
- 4 What's the only movie for which XXX star Samuel L. Jackson earned an Oscar nomination?
- 5 Eddie Murphy and Randy Quaid appear together in this month's *The Adventures of Pluto Nash*. Both were cast members on *Saturday Night Live*, but not at the same time. Which one was an *SNL* regular first?
- 6 Before he made it as an actor, *Spy Kids 2*'s Steve Buscemi was in a very different line of work. Was he a garbage collector, a firefighter, a cop, a chef, a university professor or a Broadway dancer?
- 7 What whale of a movie was *Master of Disguise* talent Bo Derek's very first?
- 8 In which Canadian city was *Serving Sara* star Matthew Perry raised?

## ANSWERS

- 1 Carmel-by-the-Sea 2 Jan Smithers
- 3 Jennifer Love Hewitt 4 Pulp Fiction
- 5 Eddie Murphy 6 Firefighter
- 7 Orca 8 Ottawa



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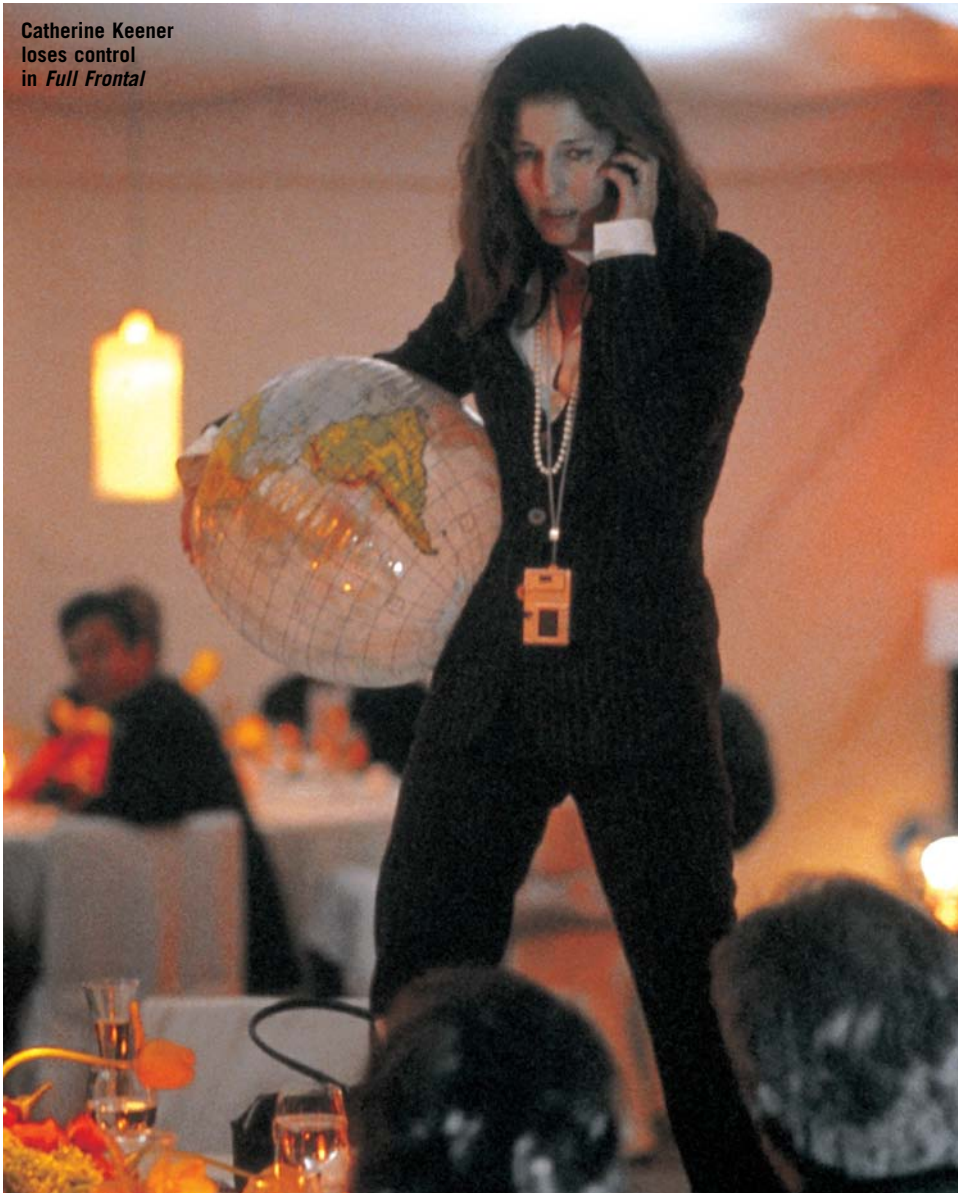
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Catherine Keener  
loses control  
in *Full Frontal*



## WELL SUITED

Playing “Hollywood suits” has become a specialty for relative unknown **Catherine Keener**. This month’s *Full Frontal* and *Simone* bring to three the number of movie execs the actor has played this year. But you may be surprised to know she’s drawing on two decades of movie-biz experience | **BY BOB THOMPSON**

**T**here is something decidedly un-Hollywood about Catherine Keener, which is ironic given her recent habit of playing Hollywood insiders. In two new movies — *Full Frontal*, opening August 2, and *Simone*, due August 16 — Keener plays showbiz executives. But she insists the two characters are different. In *Simone*, “I play a control freak,” while in *Full Frontal*, “I play a control freak who goes out of control.”

Keener’s year of satirizing Hollywood “suits” began with her portrayal of a caustic network vice president in the made-in-Toronto box office disappointment *Death to Smoochy*. “I’m just realizing that I’ve done three of them, all this year,” says the actress, sitting comfortably in a Los Angeles hotel, wearing jeans and a white blouse and looking younger than her 41 years. “It’s just the way it worked out, I guess. Maybe the guys who make those movies think that I’m appropriate, somehow. It’s certainly a world that I’m familiar with.”

In Steven Soderbergh’s *Full Frontal*, Keener plays Alice, “another studio-type suit,” opposite Julia Roberts and Blair Underwood. “I’m someone who’s kind of losing my stuff at the beginning,” she explains, “and I’ve lost it completely by the end — it was really fun to do.” The film, which is expected to expand after a limited release, is a pseudo-sequel to Soderbergh’s 1989 breakthrough *sex, lies and videotape*, and was shot in just three weeks using both 35mm film and digital video. It’s the story of an actor (Underwood) who falls in love with the magazine writer (Roberts) who is writing a profile of him. In a 24-hour period they cross paths with various media people, including David Hyde Pierce, David Duchovny and Brad Pitt.

In *Simone*, a comedy from writer/director Andrew Niccol, Keener shares the screen with Al Pacino, who plays a hapless movie producer who creates a digital actress and then has to deal with the consequences of her fame. “I play a high-powered studio executive,” Keener says. “But she’s elegant. My character is a little more diplomatic than, say, my *Smoochy* character.” She thinks about it for a few seconds. “Let’s say she is diplomatic, but the kind that will waste you when you’re not looking.”

Keener has seen a few people like that in Hollywood since she had her first small role as a waitress in the 1986 Brat Pack drama *About Last Night*, starring Demi Moore ▶▶



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Keener in *Simone*

▶▶ and Rob Lowe. “I think I had maybe one line,” she recalls. Thirteen years, and a lot of bit parts later, she earned an Oscar nomination for her portrayal of the money-grubbing Maxine in Spike Jonze’s warped satire, *Being John Malkovich*. And just how un-Hollywood is Keener? Consider how she spent Oscar night. “All I kept thinking about was getting home. I knew that my friends were at my house and I also knew I wasn’t going to a party after,” she recalls. “I had been working out and dieting so I could get into the dress, and I had been dreaming about pizza for a week.” The Oscar went to Marcia Gay Harden for *Pollock*, but Keener got what she really wanted. “I came home, walked through the

**“I ended up moving to New York to work as an intern at a casting company owned by my friend’s mother. I didn’t even know what casting was.”**

doorway, and there were my friends and pizza pie waiting just for me.”

For some reason, despite the critical acclaim — and a high-profile part as Jerry’s plagiarist artist girlfriend in an episode of *Seinfeld* — Keener hasn’t exactly become a household name, though her face is widely recognized. “I’m really happy with how things have gone and I feel lucky because I

think that I’ve been doing movies that I’m really proud to be a part of,” she says. “The quality feels honestly familiar and consistent, although a lot of people don’t know who I am and might not have seen my earlier movies.”

Not that the Miami-born and raised Keener ever thought she would be in movies. After graduating from high school she attended Wheaton College near Boston with thoughts of a career in city planning. When Keener graduated from Wheaton as an English History major, she wasn’t sure what would be next. “I ended up moving to New York to work as an intern at a casting company owned by my friend’s mother. I didn’t even know what casting was.”

Keener found out quickly enough, proved to be good at it, then moved to L.A. a year later and landed a similar job. She then briefly worked as a casting assistant at NBC. “I remember Woody Harrelson coming in to audition for *Cheers*,” she says. “And you knew the guy had it because there was something about him, how he owned the stage and how charming he was when he was on it.” Harrelson’s charisma gave Keener pause. “I think that I decided that maybe I didn’t want to do casting all my life, so I gave acting a try.”

She found some work — mostly small TV roles and parts in low-budget independent films — but admits she didn’t feel as though she had made it until she landed the part of stand-by-your-man Yvonne in 1991’s *Johnny Suede* with Brad Pitt. “It was like, ‘Oh man, this is what being in a good movie feels like. It’s nice,’” she recalls. “Then I kept trying to go after that same feeling.”

Keener was soon playing the wives of A-list stars like Nicolas Cage, in *8mm*, and George Clooney, in *Out of Sight* (her first Soderbergh project). Off screen, her leading men are husband Dermot Mulroney, her co-star in 1995’s *Living in Oblivion*, and their two-year-old son Clyde.

So is Keener at risk of being typecast as the doting wife or heartless showbiz exec? She’s not worried. “If I feel like I’ve been there, I’m more hesitant to involve myself in something,” she admits. “But the characters in *Full Frontal* and *Simone* feel different internally to me, so I don’t really worry about it.”

“And I do appreciate the work,” she adds. **F**

*Bob Thompson is a movie writer with Sympatico.ca.*

# CAVIEZEL SEEKS REVENGE, LANE FINDS LOVE AND NORTON STEALS THE GOLD

BY JOHN KENNEDY



Caviezel

## THE ROAD TO EL DORADO

It's a match made in heaven. **Jim Caviezel**, who co-starred with **Jennifer Lopez** in the made-in-Toronto flick *Angel Eyes*, is set to work next with director **Robert Harmon**, who helmed 1991's *Eyes of an Angel*. The new project is *The Highwayman*, a suspense thriller about a man (Caviezel) who vows to avenge the death of his wife by finding her killer, a psychopath who hunts his victims down in an old El Dorado. The script was written by **Hans Bauer** (*Anaconda*) and **Craig Mitchell** (*Komodo*). Caviezel, who played **Ashley Judd**'s spooky husband in *High Crimes*, will hit the road for *The Highwayman* after he's finished playing Ethan Allen in the war drama *Rebels*, due in theatres next year.

## NORTON, NORTON EVERYWHERE

**Edward Norton** just can't stop working. The actor has two films coming out in the next three months — *Red Dragon* and *Frida* — and has just wrapped Spike Lee's *The 25th Hour*. Now he's jumping into *The Italian Job* alongside **Mark Wahlberg** and **Charlize Theron**. Directed by **F. Gary Gray** (*The Negotiator*), it's a remake of the 1969 film starring **Michael Caine** and **Benny Hill**. Wahlberg plays the head of a gang of robbers who stage a traffic jam so they can steal back a safe full of gold stolen by a double-crossing associate (Norton). Shooting will take place in Italy and Los Angeles.



Norton

## GARNER COMES OUT OF THE CLOSET

One of Hollywood's fastest rising TV stars, *Alias*'s **Jennifer Garner**, has signed on to play the lead in *13 Going on 30*. It's the story of an unpopular young girl who, at her 13th birthday party, is talked into playing a game called "Seven Minutes in the Closet." Humiliated, she refuses to come out. When she finally emerges, she finds herself almost 30 years old, looking fabulous and popular. Written by *What Women Want* duo **Josh Goldsmith** and **Cathy Yuspa**, *13 Going on 30* will be shot next summer while *Alias* is on hiatus. Just five years ago the highlight of Garner's movie career was showing up as "the girl in the elevator" in **Woody Allen**'s *Deconstructing Harry*. In a few months she'll be seen in **Steven Spielberg**'s *Catch Me If You Can* (starring **Tom Hanks** and **Leonardo DiCaprio**), and then with **Ben Affleck** in 2003's *Daredevil*.



Lane

## LANE UNDER THE SUN

**Diane Lane**, whose powerful performance in *Unfaithful* resulted in critical raves and lots of panting, is packing up her SPF-30 and heading to Italy. The actress will start shooting *Under the Tuscan Sun* next month for writer-director **Audrey Wells** (*Guinevere*). Based on the memoirs of **Frances Mayes**, the romantic comedy follows an American woman who travels to Italy in search of a better life. She buys and restores a villa in the countryside and — yup, you guessed it — falls in love with a man.

## J. LO TRIES SHRINK RAP

In *Enough*, **Jennifer Lopez** showed us she could kick butt. Now she'll be focusing her efforts on the other end. Lopez has signed on to star in *Shrink!*, a comedy based on an online comic strip by **Rob Liefeld** about a former superhero who becomes a psychologist so she can counsel other superheroes. The new career goes well until Lopez's character finds herself caught in a love triangle. No director or co-stars have been named, but Columbia Pictures says the film will include several recognizable comic book characters. *Shrink!*, which will also mark Lopez's first time as a co-producer, is one of two projects in development focusing on female head docs. Writer/director **Sebastian Gutierrez** (*Judas Kiss*) has a still-untitled film in the works about a psychiatrist who wakes up as a patient at the asylum where she works.

## BRIEFLY

Fox hopes to sas-squash the competition with the action comedy *Animal Control* about inept zookeepers taking care of Big Foot and the Loch Ness Monster. No word yet on casting. ■ **Adam Goldberg** (*Saving Private Ryan*) will play an Orthodox Jew who fights to save Hanukkah from an evil Santa in *The Hebrew Hammer*. ■ **Natalie Portman** (*Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones*) has joined **Nicole Kidman**, **Jude Law** and **René Zellweger** in the cast of *Cold Mountain*, directed by **Anthony Minghella** (*The Talented Mr. Ripley*). ■ **Adam Herz**, who wrote the first *American Pie*, is baking up a script for a third instalment. ■ *Quills* director **Philip Kaufman** is working with **Robin Williams** on a biographical film about the late entertainer **Liberace**.



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# WIDE APPEAL

AS SASKATOON'S WIDE MOUTH MASON RELEASES ITS FOURTH ALBUM, THE REST OF THE INDUSTRY MAY FINALLY BE ON THE SAME PAGE

BY MICHAEL WHITE



Wide Mouth Mason, from left: Safwan Javed, Shaun Verreault and Earl Pereira

“**W**e have worn grooves in the Trans-Canada Highway,” chuckles Shaun Verreault, frontman for Canadian rock outfit Wide Mouth Mason. His tone suggests he’s only half-joking.

Since being plucked from obscurity in their hometown of Saskatoon and signed to Warner Music in 1997, the trio — Verreault, bassist Earl Pereira, and drummer Safwan Javed — has toured the country almost incessantly, living the road warrior lifestyle that rock bands virtually abandoned sometime between Led Zeppelin’s breakup and the rise of the music video.

But it makes sense that Wide Mouth Mason should spread their word by living out of a van for months on end. A blues-infused power trio in the tradition of Cream or Stevie Ray Vaughan, their sound hearkens back to the era when ceaseless touring wasn’t a necessary evil — it was a choice. It’s paid off, too. Two of their three albums have achieved gold status (more than 50,000 copies sold) in Canada, bolstered by rock radio staples including “Midnight Rain” and “Why.” Meanwhile, fan websites obsess over such minutiae as which guitar pedals the band uses.

But the band’s fourth album, *Rained Out Parade*, due August 27, might be the one to raise them to another level, particularly in the stubborn U.S. market. Confident and infectious, and full of potential hits including the blues-funk stormers “Bootleggin’” and “Come

Out to Go,” it boasts the intuitive interplay and energy that a band achieves only when it stays the course for the long haul. The album also benefits from having been written and recorded during the band’s first substantial break in more than five years. “It had a longer gestation period than any album since our first,” says Verreault.

The album was recorded at The Tragically Hip’s rustic Bathhouse recording studio near Kingston, Ontario. “Before we even recorded a note, I had been really interested in the idea of doing a *Music From Big Pink* kind of vibe,” the singer/guitarist excitedly recalls, referencing The Band’s legendarily organic-sounding 1967 album. “The sort of album where we go live in a house and where, if you hear the toilet flushing, it just adds to the song. We would mic the walls so you could hear the way the room shook or reverberated when music was being played in it.”

*Rained Out Parade* also arrives at a time when the popularity of artists as seemingly unlike as The Hives and Pete Dinklage suggest a collective longing for a return to stripped-back, high-energy rock after years of meticulously polished pop and effects-laden rap-metal. Suddenly, rather than Wide Mouth Mason having to change to suit the times, the times have bent towards them. “I think the only way we’ve been able to stick it out and be around for four records is by keeping in our peripheral vision what’s going on in music, and then, in the midst of that, following our muse anyway,” says Verreault. Recalling the group’s second album, he adds, “Probably the least commercially viable thing we could have done in 1998 when *Where I Started* came out was to put out a record like *Where I Started*.”

Wide Mouth Mason intends to stand by its time-honoured methods and hit the highway as soon as the album’s released, traversing Canada before trying, again, to win over the world.

“A wicked thing about being four records in is we have a sustainable sort of a thing, we get to play music for a living,” says Verreault. “If all that happens is that we travel around playing in Canada — at the very, very least, what I wanted to do when I was 10, I’m doing.”

Michael White is the music editor of Calgary’s Straight.

out  
THIS MONTH

Artist: Andy Dick  
Title: Andy Dick  
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Artist: Eve  
Title: Alution  
Label: Interscope/Universal

Artist: Jimmy Fallon  
Title: The Bathroom Wall  
Label: DreamWorks/Universal

Artist: Filter  
Title: The Amalgamut  
Label: Warner Bros.

Artist: Frou Frou  
Title: Details  
Label: Island/Universal

Artist: Haven  
Title: Between the Senses  
Label: Virgin UK

Artist: Linkin Park  
Title: Reanimation  
Label: Warner Bros.

Artist: Allison Moorer  
Title: Miss Fortune  
Label: Universal South

Artist: Queens of the Stone Age  
Title: Songs for the Deaf  
Label: Interscope/Universal

Artist: Stroke 9  
Title: Rip it Off  
Label: Universal

Artist: Tegan & Sara  
Title: If it Was You  
Label: Universal Music

Artist: 30 Seconds to Mars  
Title: 30 Seconds to Mars  
Label: Virgin/Immortal

Artist: Uncle Kracker  
Title: No Stranger to Shame  
Label: Atlantic/Warner Bros.

Artist: Lee Ann Womack  
Title: Something Worth Leaving Behind  
Label: MCA Nashville

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**CONTENT** is the key



# Mario cleans up

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, THE RED-SUITED PLUMBER RETURNS

BY MARK MAGEE

## SUPER MARIO SUNSHINE

>> **GameCube**

When the GameCube launched last year, all anyone wanted to know was: Where's Mario? After all, a new Super Mario game has accompanied every major Nintendo hardware release since the old-school NES days.

But the balance has finally been restored with *Super Mario Sunshine*, the latest epic from acclaimed videogame designer Shigeru Miyamoto (the brains behind everything from *Donkey Kong* to *Zelda*). This time around, Mario heads off to a beautiful island in order to catch some rays. But upon arrival, he discovers that someone has covered the entire island with filthy muck! And, as if that's not bad enough, the locals think it's all Mario's fault.

The only way to restore Mario's good name is for you to fire up a portable water cannon and start hosing down the dirt.

Of course, there are plenty of enemies who want to stop Mario from cleaning up the joint, so you'll have to use everything



from your new cannon to your trusty butt-stomp to save the day.

## SOCOM: U.S. NAVY SEALS

>> **PS2**

At first glance, this military-themed game might look like just another third-person

shooter. But what makes this game special is the fact that it comes bundled with voice-recognition technology and a headset. So as you creep through the jungle you can mutter things like "cover me" or "deploy," and your buddies (both real and virtual) will follow your commands.

Best of all, this is an internet-ready game, meaning you can hook yourself up online and use the headset to co-operate and plan tactics with real live teammates from around the world. Which is good, because since it only takes a couple of shots to kill you, you'd better make sure your buddies are watching your back!

## MAT HOFFMAN'S PRO BMX 2

>> **PS2 & Xbox**

The extreme sports videogame craze started by Tony Hawk's ultra-popular *Pro Skater* series continues with this BMX bike offering. Just like in the Hawk's game, the whole point here is to zip around mammoth levels, all while pulling off sick tricks and catching big air. The original *Mat Hoffman's Pro BMX* was a perfectly acceptable game — neither stellar nor awful — and this sequel looks to be about the same.

## DISNEY'S MAGICAL MIRROR

>> **GC**

Poor Mickey Mouse is trapped in a house, and the only way he can get out is by rebuilding the broken magic mirror that got him there. But first, he has to find all the pieces that were hidden throughout the building by a nasty ghost. To find the pieces you have to solve a series of puzzles that — while charming — are clearly aimed at the ten-and-under crowd.

## MADDEN NFL 2003

>> **Xbox & GC & PS2**

Good ol' John Madden. Who would have thought that the genius behind such insightful comments as "I predict the team who scores the most points will win today's game" would have ended up as the figure-head for the best football videogame ever? The Madden series has always been a favourite of critics, even if it hasn't sold as well as other titles. But now that it's available for every console, perhaps all those poor *GameDay* owners will discover just what they've been missing.

*Mark Magee is the associate editor of Premiere Video Magazine.*



# A HIRING POWER

YOUR DREAM JOB IN SHOWBIZ MIGHT JUST BE  
A CLICK AWAY | BY JOHN KENNEDY

**H**ave the summer movies inspired you to take a new career path? Did *The Sum of all Fears* and *Men in Black 2* bring back dreams of working as a spy? Has *Minority Report* sparked an interest in law enforcement? Maybe *Stuart Little 2* made you want to become an exterminator. Or, has all the time you've spent in a theatre this summer inspired you to find a job in the movie business?

**Showbiz types wanted**  
You too can have a fabulous new career in the world of entertainment. Earn buckets of money, party with beautiful people and, best of all, become famous. No experience necessary. Apply, in writing, to [humanresources@dreamj.com](mailto:humanresources@dreamj.com).  
No phone calls please.

These days, finding a new job doesn't necessarily mean scanning the newspaper's classified ads and hitting the pavement with a stack of résumés. Savvy job seekers are surfing their way to new employment because it's cheap and convenient and — unless you're already at work — you can do it in your underwear.

"It's really a revolution of how people look for work," says Christopher Jones, vice president of content and communities at Yahoo's HotJobs [[www.hotjobs.com](http://www.hotjobs.com)], citing the convenience of being able to post and customize your résumé online, and to search for jobs in the industry or region in which you're interested.

And, for all you wannabe filmmakers, Jones claims HotJobs has more entertainment industry job listings than any of his competitors and offers a convenient "Search Agent" service. "You can enter keywords like 'screenwriter' and 'Hollywood' and you'll get an email letting you know when a job posting that fits comes up," explains Jones. Members can also chat online with others looking for similar work.

There are also a number of specialized sites that allow job seekers to browse openings throughout the entertainment industry. The Entertainment Employment Journal [[www.eej.com](http://www.eej.com)] offers visitors a handful of current job postings for free, but you'll have to shell out as much as \$109 (U.S.) for access to the complete list of opportunities. On a recent visit to the site, there were openings for creature developers at George Lucas' digital animation company, a legal affairs assistant at Miramax and a customer service representative at Sony Pictures Entertainment.

Similarly, Action Jobs [[www.actionjobs.com](http://www.actionjobs.com)] requires \$39.95 (U.S.) before you get access to a list of job postings in the entertainment industry. There's no fee, however, to look for work at Showbiz Jobs [[www.showbizjobs.com](http://www.showbizjobs.com)], where you can narrow your search by category, company, region or minimum salary. A search for jobs in Canada came up with nothing, though.

You can also go directly to the employers. Kim Robertson of Alliance Atlantis, a Toronto-based film and TV production and distribution company, says about 1,000 applications a month are received online from people hoping to break into show business. Some get lucky.

"Last year one-third of our new hires were via the website," explains Robertson. "So it's a very effective tool."

The company proudly trumpets a "Cool Jobs" page at its site [[www.allianceatlantis.com](http://www.allianceatlantis.com)], but concedes virtually all of the work is done well behind the scenes. "While most opportunities are not likely to put your picture on the cover of your favourite entertainment magazine any time soon, there is a bit of glam in everything we do," reads a message on the job page, where you have the option of viewing current opportunities or submitting your personal information to the "Candidate Profiler" section. Visitors can also download a corporate video — worth watching if you're called for an interview.

Lions Gate Films [[www.lionsgatefilms.com](http://www.lionsgatefilms.com)],

## job creation

THEY'RE NOT SHOW-BIZ SPECIFIC, BUT THESE SITES ARE ALSO WORTH A LOOK.

### Monster

[www.monster.ca](http://www.monster.ca)

This is the Canadian branch of one of the biggest job-search engines on the web, but you're not limited to browsing for positions here at home — there are also U.S. and international listings. The site offers excellent resources ranging from tips on writing the perfect cover letter and résumé to how to make a good impression at an interview.

### Workopolis

[www.workopolis.com](http://www.workopolis.com)

Similar, in many ways, to job sites like Monster and HotJobs (you'll find many of the same career-building resources), Workopolis is a Canadian site with worldwide listings. There's also a "Boss Panic Button" in the upper right-hand corner that instantly brings up a phony desktop image, just in case your current employer walks in.

### FlipDog

[www.flipdog.com](http://www.flipdog.com)

Another easy-to-use search engine with useful resources, FlipDog claims it has "more jobs from more employers in every category. Period." Who knows if that's true, but a keyword search for jobs in the "movies" resulted mostly in management positions at video rental stores. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

with offices in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, also provides information on current openings — but most are at the company's Los Angeles office. Toronto-based Nelvana, a leading producer of animated features and series, not only provides job listings on its website [[www.nelvana.com](http://www.nelvana.com)], but offers information on its application guidelines and portfolio requirements.

Your future as the head of a major film studio — or at least someone who makes coffee for the head of a major film studio — might be waiting for you online.

John Kennedy is the managing editor of Famous.

# new RELEASES

GET IN THE BEDROOM, MEET THE NEW GUY  
OR DISCOVER THE SWEETEST THING

AUGUST 13

## BIRTHDAY GIRL

**Stars:** Nicole Kidman, Ben Chaplin

**Director:** Jez Butterworth (*Mojo*)

**Story:** A lonely Brit (Chaplin) gets himself a mail-order Russian bride (Kidman), but he's none too pleased to find out she's a smoker who can barely speak English. However, he is pleased about the fact that she likes to act out scenes from his porno tapes, and looks like Nicole Kidman.

## IN THE BEDROOM

**Stars:** Sissy Spacek, Tom Wilkinson

**Director:** Todd Field (*Nonnie & Alex*)

**Story:** What begins as a casual summertime fling between a young man and an older single mother turns into a horrible tragedy, leaving his parents (Spacek and Wilkinson) to wonder what they could have done differently. Somber and moving, this is intelligent filmmaking for adults.

## THE NEW GUY

**Stars:** DJ Qualls, Eliza Dushku

**Director:** Ed Decter (debut)

**Story:** A high school doofus (Qualls) gets sent to the big house, where he learns the ABCs of cool from his street-smart cellmate. After his brief stint in the clink, he hits a new school and re-invents himself as the baddest cat around.

## RED GREEN'S DUCT TAPE FOREVER

**Stars:** Steve Smith, Patrick McKenna

**Director:** Eric Till (*Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace*)

**Story:** Everyone's favourite Canadian handyman, Red Green (Smith), is about to be booted out of his precious Possum Lodge, and the only way he can save the day is by winning a duct tape sculpting contest. Yes, you read that right.

AUGUST 20

## IRIS

**Stars:** Judi Dench, Kate Winslet

**Director:** Richard Eyre (*Laughterhouse*)

**Story:** This moving bio-pic details the lifelong romance between acclaimed author Iris

Murdoch (played by Winslet and Dench) and her loving husband John Bayley by jumping back and forth between their early days as students, and her later battle with Alzheimer's.

## JOE SOMEBODY

**Stars:** Tim Allen, Julie Bowen

**Director:** John Pasquin (*Small World*)

**Story:** After being humiliated by the office bully in front of his daughter, a meek office drone (Allen) decides to toughen himself up by taking martial arts lessons.

## NATIONAL LAMPOON'S VAN WILDER

**Stars:** Ryan Reynolds, Tara Reid

**Director:** Walt Becker (debut)

**Story:** Van (Reynolds) may be the ultimate party boy at his college, but he's also seven years into a degree with no end in sight. So when daddy cuts him off without a cent, Van decides to pay for his tuition by hiring himself out as a professional party planner.

## THE SWEETEST THING

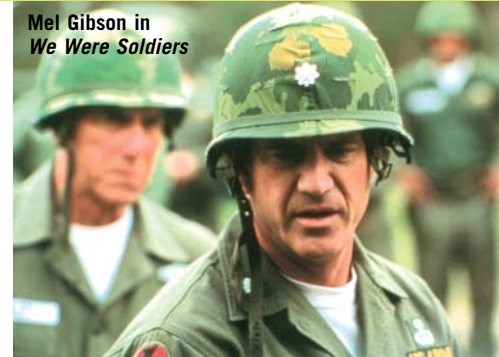
**Stars:** Cameron Diaz, Selma Blair

**Director:** Roger Kumble (*Cruel Intentions*)

**Story:** An unlucky-in-love single girl (Diaz) thinks she's finally found the man of her dreams, so she heads off to a wedding he's attending in order to pick him up. Unfortunately, what she doesn't know is that she's actually crashing *his* wedding.



Jim Broadbent and  
Judi Dench in *Iris*



Mel Gibson in  
*We Were Soldiers*

## WE WERE SOLDIERS

**Stars:** Mel Gibson, Madeleine Stowe

**Director:** Randall Wallace (*Man in the Iron Mask*)

**Story:** A group of fresh-faced American soldiers — headed up by veteran Mel Gibson — accidentally wanders into the first major land battle of Vietnam, during which 400 Yankee troops found themselves surrounded by 2,000 North Vietnamese.

AUGUST 27

## HIGH CRIMES

**Stars:** Ashley Judd, Morgan Freeman

**Director:** Carl Franklin (*One True Thing*)

**Story:** A defence attorney (Judd) comes home one day to discover that her husband (Jim Caviezel) has been arrested by the military for his part in the slaughter of a Latin American village. Of course, she decides to stand by her man and serve as his legal counsel.

## THE QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

**Stars:** Aaliyah, Stuart Townsend

**Director:** Michael Rymer (*Perfume*)

**Story:** The vampire Lestat (Townsend) wakes up from a 200-year nap and decides to become a rock star. But then the sheer power of his awesome tunes awakens Akasha, Queen of All Vampires (Aaliyah). Together, they share saucy rose-petal baths while planning to conquer the world.

## THE ROOKIE

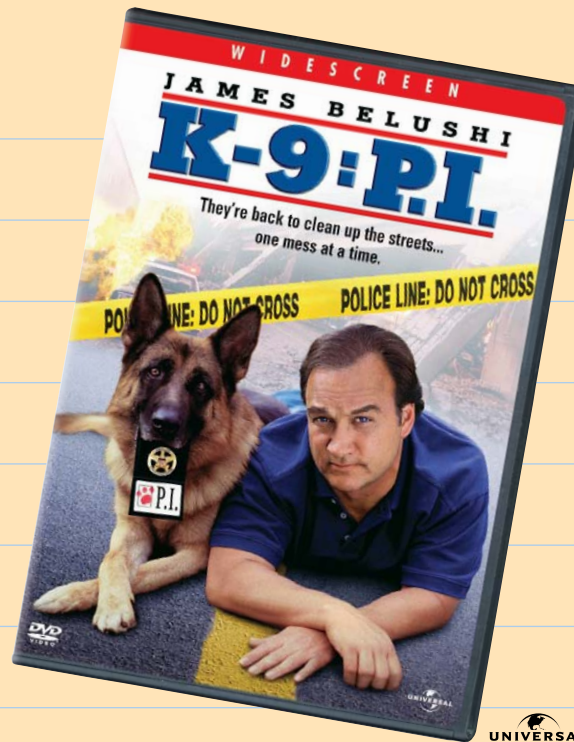
**Stars:** Dennis Quaid, Rachel Griffiths

**Director:** John Lee Hancock (*Hard Time Romance*)

**Story:** As true stories go, the tale of Jim Morris is pretty nifty. To encourage the losing high school baseball team he coaches, he makes a deal. If they get into the playoffs, he'll try out for the majors. They do, he does, and he makes it — instantly becoming the oldest rookie ever to play major league baseball.

With files from *Premiere Video Magazine*.  
All release dates subject to change.

# FILM STUDIES 101

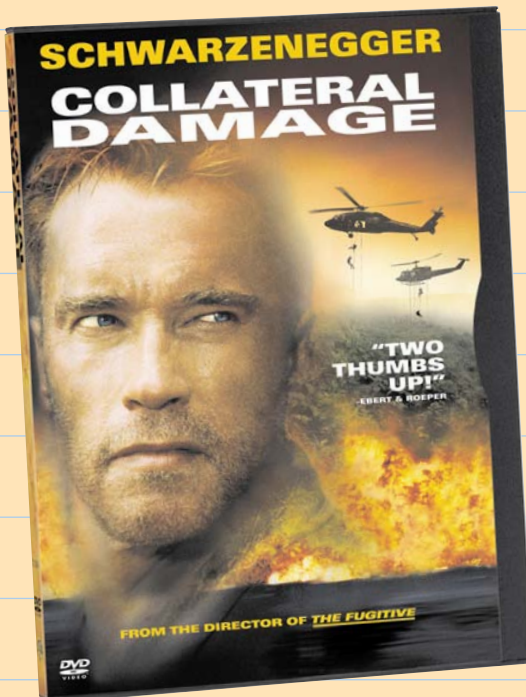


## K-9:P.I.

Before they start enjoying their retirement, police detective Dooley and his unruly canine partner Jerry Lee must solve one last crime. An all-new action comedy featuring Jim Belushi, star of TV's *According to Jim*.

### DVD features:

- Spotlight on location: A featurette on the making of the film
- Cast and filmmaker biographies
- Theatrical trailer
- AVAILABLE JULY 30



## SMALLVILLE

Growing up is tough for any teenager. But it's even tougher when you have mysterious superpowers you don't understand and must not reveal to others!

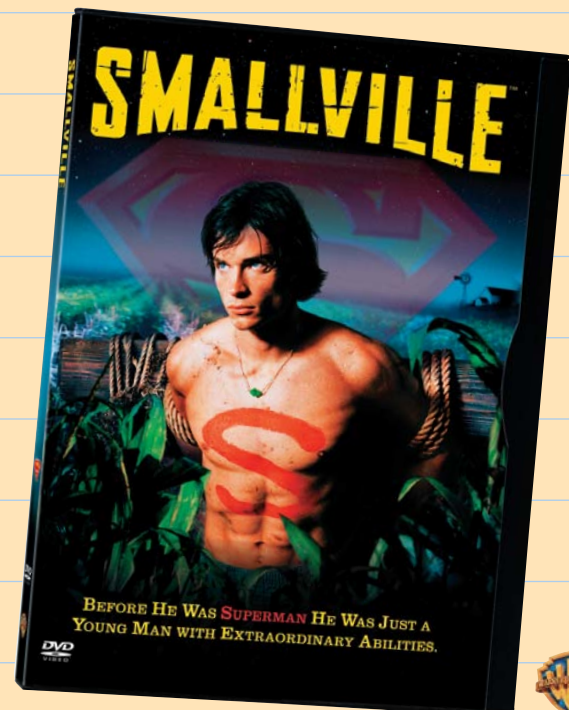
**DVD features:**

- Audio commentary by producers Alfred Gough, Miles Millar and pilot director David Nutter
- Interactive map of Smallville
- Storyboard-to-screen feature
- Interactive menus
- Original trailers
- Scene access
- 5.1 English and French, Portuguese and Spanish audio tracks
- AVAILABLE NOW

## COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Surging excitement and one-man heroics fuel the powerful action thriller *Collateral Damage*. Superstar Arnold Schwarzenegger plays that one man who packs this film with a ticking time bomb of suspense. **DVD features:**

- Feature-length audio commentary by director Andrew Davis
- Documentaries: behind the scenes and "The Hero in a New Era"
- Additional scenes not found in the original movie!
- Interactive menus
- Cast/director film highlights
- Theatrical trailer
- Scene access
- 5.1 English and French audio tracks
- Enhanced features for your DVD-Rom PC and more!
- AVAILABLE JULY 30



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# august

H O R O S C O P E | BY DAN LIEBMAN



KATIA SMIRNOVA

## leo

July 23 >>> August 22

Money is the big theme this month. Long-range financial planning should be high on your “must do” list, and debt collection can prove surprisingly successful.

## virgo

August 23 >>> September 22

Forget the dog days — you’re cooler, calmer, and once again in control. The person who’s been undermining your authority is stirring up trouble elsewhere. A stalled renovation job is back on track, and an education-related project needs some brainstorming.

## libra

September 23 >>> October 22

Check your audience before voicing opinions, since off-the-cuff comments can return to haunt you. Mixing business and pleasure can be a disaster. All in all, it’s a good month for making acquisitions large and small.

## scorpio

October 23 >>> November 21

A battle of wits comes to a welcome end when you decide to change your tactics. Around the 16th, romance starts to show its cerebral side. Encourage older relatives or friends to share their stories, express their emotions, and treat you nicely.

## sagittarius

November 22 >>> December 22

This month, you should experiment with a variety of approaches and interests. Romantic partners respond to spontaneity or sentimentality.

## capricorn

December 23 >>> January 20

With all the tips you’ve handed out, you can probably write a book on self-confidence. Now it’s time to follow your own advice. A financial news-brightener may coincide with the full moon of the 22nd.

## aquarius

January 21 >>> February 19

There’s lots of hype surrounding a new neighbour or co-worker. But there’s substance, too, so don’t write anyone off. Late August may find you rubbing shoulders with a sexy V.I.P. Of your various relationships, the platonic ones require the most attention.

## pisces

February 20 >>> March 20

As you look ahead, consider the possibilities rather than the drawbacks. You could be making a career breakthrough or landing a promotion, especially if your work involves training or education. Charismatic and funny, you’re winning admirers everywhere.

## aries

March 21 >>> April 20

Relatives are more trusting and colleagues more supportive. But friends tend to be gossipy, so be careful of what you’re saying about whom and to whom. Your workload may increase, but resist temptations to lower your standards, even slightly.

## taurus

April 21 >>> May 22

Keeping up with local events — even trivial ones — can prove rewarding. Around the middle of August, you may find yourself in the awkward position of not siding with an ally.

## gemini

May 23 >>> June 21

It’s time to consider how friends and relatives fit into your plans. Several projects that have been dangling over your head can be successfully completed by the 20th. Do something to improve your health.

## cancer

June 22 >>> July 22

After playing the lead in several family dramas, you shift to a supporting role. August sees you starting a new relationship — professional or romantic. School reunions or link-ups with former classmates are a good idea toward the end of the month.

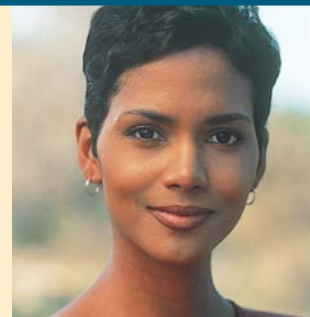
## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



1st **Dom DeLuise**  
2nd **Peter O’Toole**  
3rd **Martin Sheen**  
4th **Billy Bob Thornton**

5th **Jonathan Silverman**  
6th **Geri Halliwell**  
7th **Charlize Theron**  
8th **Keith Carradine**  
9th **Gillian Anderson**  
10th **Rosanna Arquette**  
11th **Hulk Hogan**  
12th **George Hamilton**  
13th **Alfred Hitchcock**  
14th **Halle Berry**  
15th **Ben Affleck**  
16th **Angela Bassett**

17th **Sean Penn**  
18th **Robert Redford**  
19th **Matthew Perry**  
20th **Robert Plant**  
21st **Kenny Rogers**  
22nd **Valerie Harper**  
23rd **Shelley Long**  
24th **Marlee Matlin**  
25th **Claudia Schiffer**  
26th **Macaulay Culkin**  
27th **Paul Reubens**  
28th **Shania Twain**  
29th **Michael Jackson**



30th **Cameron Diaz**  
31st **Richard Gere**

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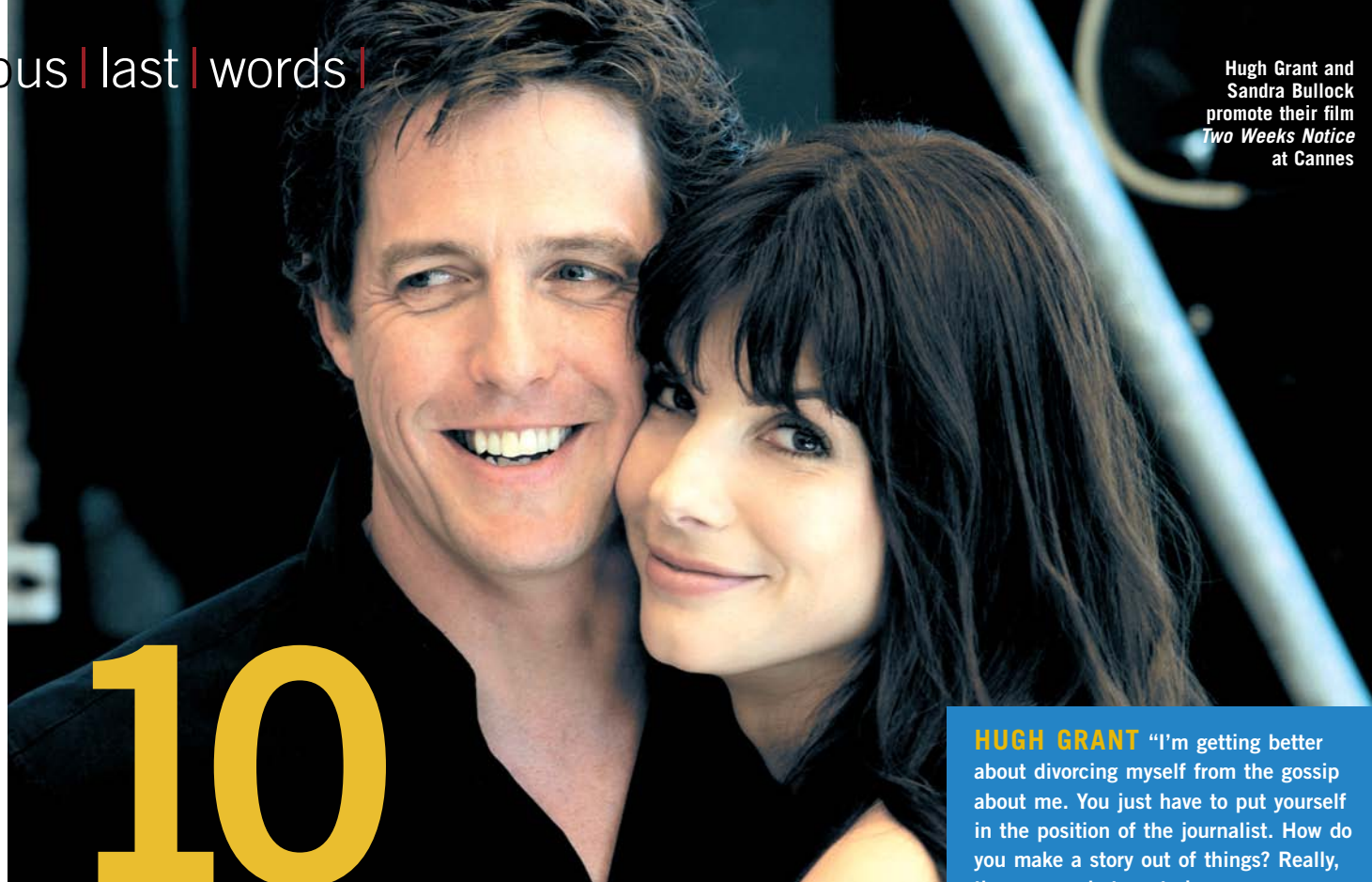


PHOTO BY JEFF VESPA/WIREIMAGE

10

## STARS TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT GOSSIP

By Susan Granger

**KENNETH BRANAGH** “I try and stay away from the British press. The British press can certainly be very savage and they can be very obsessed, as they were about Princess Diana. I remember seeing that television interview with Diana which played, as you know, to an awestruck public during the time of her divorce. Two minutes after it aired, I saw on a news program a complete perversion of everything she had said.”

**JULIA ROBERTS** “My job is not being in the public eye. I don’t like having to explain myself. I resent having to make it comfortable for other people to understand. My job is acting, but gossip does have to be dealt with.”

**WHOOPI GOLDBERG** “Gossip mongers want to know what colour drawers we wear to bed. I don’t think it’s anyone’s business. I don’t think anybody has the right to expect that they will be answered on those type of questions.”

**VINCENT PEREZ** “I’ve been in the gossip magazines and I hate that. They really give me a hard time, following me. I was in Spain once and I caught one of the guys at the airport. I grabbed him and took everything: his camera, his film. The guy was trembling.... I was in a killing mood and he just let me do what I wanted.”

**RICHARD DREYFUSS** “The public has no right to be gossiped to. There is no obligation to thrust gossip into people’s faces. There is an obligation to make sure that the security of the country is taken care of...but to say that allows the press any allowance of gross behaviour is despicable and thoughtless. Ultimately, it belittles the press and clearly belittles the people that the press is dealing with.”

**HARRISON FORD** “The press is voracious in its appetite for gossip. If you feed it all the time, it is not a good thing. The people are not as interested as the press.”

**HUGH GRANT** “I’m getting better about divorcing myself from the gossip about me. You just have to put yourself in the position of the journalist. How do you make a story out of things? Really, there are only two stories: success or humiliation. There is a cruelty to that, but then it would be hypocritical of me to mind too much because I’ve always enjoyed that cruelty when it’s focused on other people.”

**SANDRA BULLOCK** “I’m as open as what I’m willing to lose. I’m very private when it comes to things that I really cherish and I’m not willing to lose. Like anybody who is a love interest in my life and is somebody that I care about, I’m going to protect. I’m going to protect a lot.”

**DANIEL DAY-LEWIS** “Maybe I seem to be pathologically secretive, but if I am it’s only because I’m aware that once you give something away to these gossipers, you can’t have it back again.”

**LAURA DERN** “Since the beginning of celebritydom, people have wanted to know gossip. Gossip was around in the Roman era. Everybody wanted to know if Julius Caesar was gay. I know sometimes I thrive on it. You hear so-and-so left his wife. ‘Are you kidding me?’ It’s so foul, but we all want to know certain things.”

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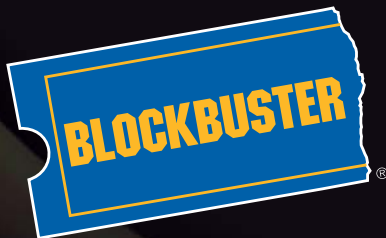


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## SHIFT REALITY

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