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# Famous

august 2003 | volume 4 | number 8

**STARS  
WHO MET  
ON SET**

**SPOTLIGHT:  
JENNIFER  
LOPEZ**

**SLOAN  
GROWS UP**

**KEVIN  
COSTNER**  
REVISITS THE WEST  
FOR *OPEN RANGE*

**RACHEL  
WEISZ**  
ON BEING GREEDY  
FOR LAUGHS IN *ENVY*

Colin  
**FARRELL**

INTERROGATING THE *S.W.A.T.* STAR AND HIS  
BROTHER IN A PASADENA HOTEL ROOM

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THE LATEST  
**Video  
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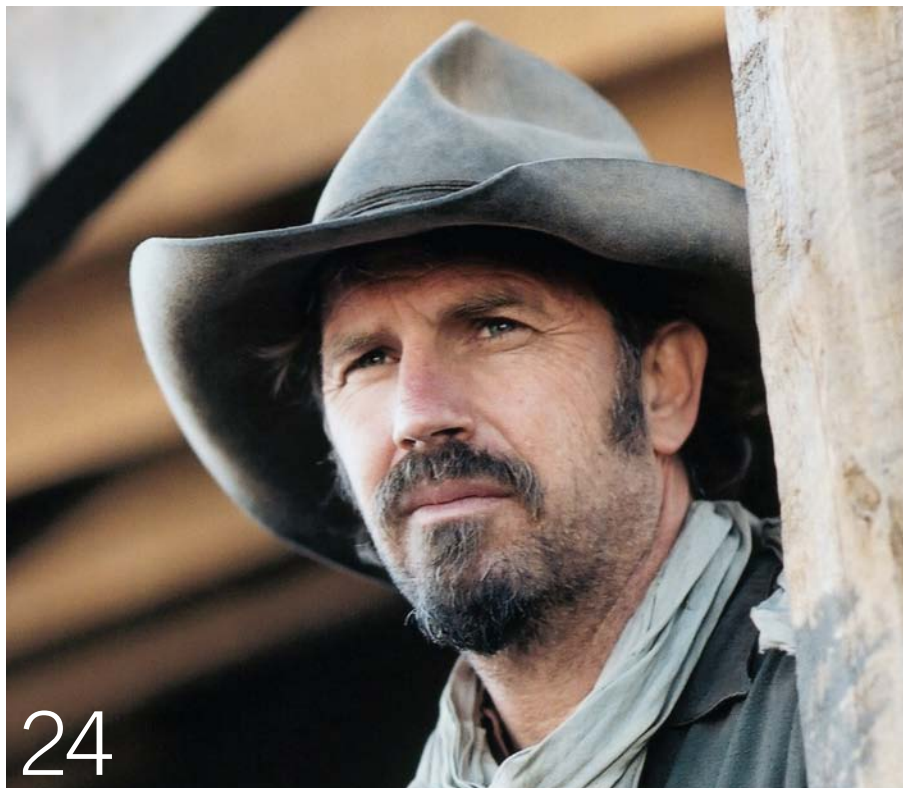


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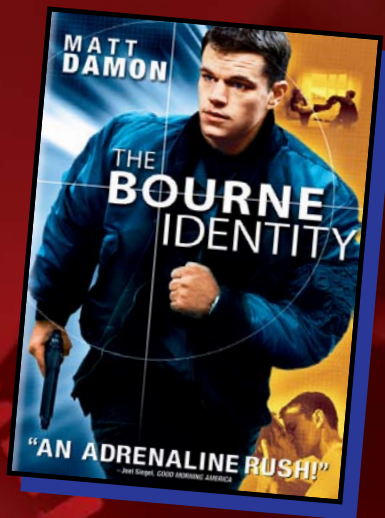
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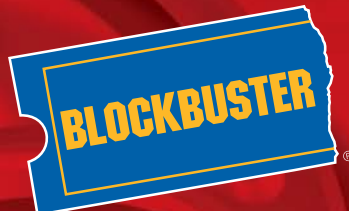
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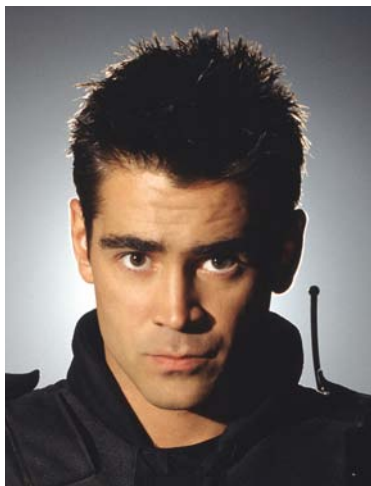
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## COVER COVER *to*

**W**ith this issue, **Colin Farrell** becomes only the third actor to grace the cover of *Famous* twice, after Oscar winner Russell Crowe did it for *Gladiator* and *A Beautiful Mind*, and Angelina Jolie, who earned the honour for both *Tomb Raider* pics.

It was just over a year ago [June 2002] that Farrell's stubbly mug adorned our publication for *Minority Report*. But, back then, we had one condition for giving the relatively unknown actor the prime spot. We needed a two-shot of Farrell with his co-star, Tom Cruise. Who, after all, was Colin Farrell?

Well, we found out in that interview. For one thing, he'd just divorced his wife of four months. And he smoked like a chimney. We also learned that, unlike most celebrities, Farrell didn't see the need to be coy or secretive about his off-screen habits. When asked whether it was okay to talk about his personal life, Farrell said, "Sure, why not? I haven't done anything, or I'm not in the midst of doing things, I'd be ashamed of talking about."

Prophetic.

One year later and there's no question whether Farrell is cover-worthy. One of the most talked about, photographed and lusted after celebrities around, the talented Irishman is known at least as much for his unapologetic playboy lifestyle, as his acting — to the point where it's starting to get a bit annoying. So can he steer the spotlight away from his pregnant gal pal and sweaty clasps with Britney Spears, and back toward his talent as a thespian? In his interview for "Where's the Filth?," page 30, he only swore six times. That's a start.

It's a bit of a challenge to pick the low point of **Kevin Costner's** career — is it *The Postman*, *Waterworld*, *3,000 Miles to Graceland*? But it's not hard to pick the high. That would be 1990's *Dances with Wolves* — the frontier epic that marked Costner's directorial debut and earned him a couple of Oscars. That's why many felt a sense of nostalgia, even relief, when they heard Costner would return to the Old West for his latest directing effort, *Open Range*. For "Cowboy Junkie," page 24, David Giammarco wandered the film's Alberta set with Costner, and picked the actor's brain about everything from shooting in Canada to what he's learned since *Wolves*.

And on page 28 you'll find "Weisz Moves In," in which Brit drama queen **Rachel Weisz** tells us all about *Envy*, the very American suburban comedy she did with Jack Black and Ben Stiller.

—Marni Weisz

**PUBLISHER** SALAH BACHIR  
**EDITOR** MARNI WEISZ  
**DEPUTY EDITOR** INGRID RANDOJA  
**ART DIRECTOR** DAVID TAYLOR  
**SENIOR DESIGNER** JUSTIN STAYSHYN  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER** SHEILA GREGORY

**CONTRIBUTORS** EARL DITTMAN  
DAVID GIAMMARCO  
SUSAN GRANGER  
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- Mark Guarino, CHICAGO DAILY HERALD



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> *Freddy vs. Jason* comes out this month

## HORROR OF HORRORS

Upon perusing your Volume 4, Number 6 issue of *Famous*, I came across a little blurb for *Freddy vs. Jason* in the summer preview section. I have to say that as a child of the '80s, both of these horror series strike a cinematic chord with me and others of my ilk. Like cheese balls and fried onions, these movies walk a fine line between the sick and sublime — once you start to consume them you can't stop no matter how ill they make you because they just taste so darned good. That said, a correction needs to be made to your magazine. *Famous* writes "this is the 19th, count 'em, 19th film appearance for these horror movie legends." While this is a well-deserved tipping of the hat (no Freddy pun intended) to these two, it is not altogether true. It is actually the 17th combined film appearance for both, as Jason was not in *Friday the 13th* part 5; it was just a crazy kid who used Jason's persona to commit the murders, and Michael does not appear in *Halloween III: Season of the Witch*. Apocryphal movies leave vacuums in otherwise complete series.

**K. Anderson — Richmond, B.C.**

## CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?

Producer Andre Rouleau states in "Montreal, Paris...What's the Diff?" [June 2003], [in relation to Natalie Portman dropping out of the movie *Head in the Clouds*] "It gave us the wonderful opportunity to work with Charlize [Theron], who is a more talented actress." Wow, what an idiot. I guess Natalie Portman will really want to work with him now just to prove him wrong! Then again, she will be wise to steer clear of a man who obviously has no tact. Natalie and Charlize are both wonderful actors and I am sure they would not appreciate being compared in such a way. If Natalie pulled out of the picture because she wasn't right for the roll, the producer should be thanking her, not taking a swipe at her abilities.

**Laurie Handforth — Toronto, Ont.**

## ELVIS FLICK HAS MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED

Last year at the Toronto Film Festival, I missed an opportunity to see the film *Bubba Ho-Tep* starring one of my favourite actors, Bruce Campbell. Judging from the media reviews and

friends who have seen this film, I was sure that it would have been released in theatres by now. Furthermore, I have been unable to find out any more information on its release date. I would greatly appreciate it if you could help me find out more information on this matter.

**Stan Gruszka — Toronto, Ont.**

*We contacted the producers of this quirky pic that imagines Elvis is still alive and living in a seniors home where he teams up with a black resident (who claims to be J.F.K.) to battle an ancient mummy...and they told us that Bubba Ho-Tep is still bouncing around the festival circuit, winning awards and getting great reviews. There are tentative plans to give it a limited release in L.A. and New York next month, and also plans to show it at Montreal's Parc theatre in October. That's probably not the answer you were hoping for — but, if that L.A./N.Y. opening goes well, the movie might expand in the fall. And, if not, that schedule should see it come out on video sometime in the new year.*

## REQUEST FOR FILTERED REALITY

Thanks for publishing a photo of yet another celebrity smoking [Macauley Culkin, June 2003 issue]. Do we really need to show this kind of junk to our youth? And does anyone really care what he is doing anyway?

**Glenn R. Zurla — Toronto, Ont.**



## FAMOUS WELCOMES YOUR COMMENTS

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PHOTOS BY AARON HAWCO

# the BUZZ ABOUT BRAD

It's a pretty good bet that, right now, Brad Peyton is writing. Although, he might be scribbling down a sketch of an insect. Or he might be looking at a random scrap of material, and turning it into an idea for a skirt to clothe an animated fly.

But put money on the fact that the 25-year-old, originally from Gander, Newfoundland, is trapped in his little downtown Toronto apartment working on his first feature film, a CGI-animated rendition of the classic poem *The Spider and the Fly*.

Wouldn't you be willing to spend your whole summer slaving away if Tom Hanks and his production company, Playtone (the ones behind the colossal hit *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*), chose you to write and direct their first animated feature?

"I get paid now to make stuff up and write it down. Can you name a better job," asks Peyton during a break at a cozy Queen West coffee shop.

"It should take three months, maybe, to write the script, then I send it to Universal [the film's financier] and see what they think. Ideally, they love the draft, they ask for a second draft, and we can go into production in the fall or the winter," Peyton says. Officially, it was Universal that signed Peyton's contract, a six-figure writing/directing deal with an option to direct a second and third picture.

And, yes, Peyton has met Hanks. "It was like, 'Tom's in the office.' 'Tom, come on over, we want you to meet Brad.' They made some joke about having two powerhouses come together, and I said I was the skinniest power he'd ever meet."

It was just a few months ago that Peyton pitched his vision, which he likes to describe as "progressively strange," to a Universal exec in L.A. "I went through the entire film scene by scene. Then, an hour later, I pulled out this scrapbook I'd been keeping and said, 'This is what the sets will look like, and this is what the characters will look like,' because I'd drawn them all,"

Peyton recalls. "I just thought, I'm a young filmmaker who's never made a feature film, I have to give them every reason to believe in what I have."

Playtone's interest in Peyton was based solely on a short film called *Evelyn, the Cutest Evil Dead Girl* he'd made with producer Jim Mauro through the Canadian Film Centre. The short is eight minutes of dark, absurd, sometimes grotesque, fun involving a pasty little dead girl trying to make friends with three snotty rich girls in their cardboard-cutout town.

"I was cultivating this style of filmmaking I call low-fi, which is where everything is built out of cardboard and wood," explains Peyton. "I like knowing that if it is a trick, it's a witty trick. It's not a cop-out with money. I think that evokes more for people than special effects sometimes."

The resulting tone is reminiscent of Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, with a bit of *Edward Scissorhands* thrown in. That's no coincidence, Burton is one of Peyton's favourite filmmakers and it's rare that Peyton's style is discussed without a reference to Burton. Peyton doesn't mind the comparison, but says, "I just want the chance to explore my own creativity, like he has."

And while *Evelyn* was made on a \$16,000 budget, Peyton will have a lot more than that with which to "explore his own creativity" on *The Spider and the Fly*. Although he doesn't know what the budget will be, similar CGI-animated features like *Ice Age* (\$60-million U.S.) and *Finding Nemo* (\$94-million) are among the most expensive movies made.

As for how he celebrated this pleasant turn of events, Peyton says, "I'm still in the middle of that. For me, my celebration comes when I can sit down and watch it, and then I can say, 'I can't believe I made this. It's so bizarre, like I'm staring at my brain right now — a combination of everything I see in my head, and everything I've always wanted to feel.' And that's when I'll celebrate."

—MARNI WEISZ





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## LORD OF THE SONG AND DANCE

Whenever someone tells you they read *The Lord of the Rings* in less than a month, you can be sure the first parts they skipped were the songs — pages and pages of crooning hobbits, lyric elves and even walking trees with rhythm. Happily, the tunes were among the first things director Peter Jackson chucked when he adapted J.R.R. Tolkien's epic tale of wandering for the screen.

But what ends up on Movieland's cutting room floor can always be swept up, put in a big tub with a pound of glitter, and turned into a **BIG-TIME MUSICAL!**

With the recent announcement that *The Lord of the Rings: The Musical* (with a record-breaking \$13-million [U.S.] budget) will open on the London stage in early 2005, one's mind invariably turns to casting. And if you're a movie-type with no functioning knowledge of the British stage and its stars, you're apt to try casting the production with Hollywood celebs who've proven their melodic mettle by appearing in previous musicals — either on stage or screen. So, here goes:



PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY JUSTIN STAYSHY



**ARAGORN:** Who should play one of *LOTR*'s only humans? Australia's ultimate manly man **Russell Crowe**, who started his career in a touring production of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

**BOROMIR:** **Hugh Jackman**, Australia's second manliest man could play the fellowship's only other homo sapien. He's currently gearing up for the musical *The Boy From Oz*, which opens on Broadway next month.

**EOWYN:** As a child, **Sarah Jessica Parker** played Annie on Broadway, and now that *Sex and the City* is almost done, she'll be looking for work.

**ARWEN:** Good, sweet **Drew Barrymore**, who warbled her way through Woody Allen's experi-

mental musical flick *Everyone Says I Love You*, can warble her way through this one. It's not like Arwen has that many lines.

**GALADRIEL:** Ethereal **Glenn Close**, who proved her singing chops in the 1994 Broadway production of *Sunset Boulevard*.

**SAM: Meat Loaf.** Not only has the *Bat Out of Hell* singer starred in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, but also *Hair* and something called *Rockabye Hamlet*. Plus, we know how those hobbits love to eat.

**LEGOLAS:** The sprightly **Ewan McGregor**, who sang in *Moulin Rouge!*, looks like he could probably handle a crossbow.

**GIMLI:** **Harvey Fierstein**. It's the hair.

**BILBO:** A man who's got the Broadway/Hollywood balance down, **Nathan Lane** seems an appropriate choice to play the diminutive character who has the book's very first, rather prophetic, song: "The Road goes ever on and on, Down from the door where it began. Now far ahead the Road has gone, And I must follow if I can..."

**GOLLUM:** Quirky **Christopher Walken**. Known for his love of song and dance, Walken got his start in an Off-Broadway production of *Best Foot Forward*, and has always seemed a bit mentally conflicted to most.

**TOM BOMBADIL:** Cut out of Peter Jackson's trilogy because he speaks primarily in song, Bombadil will surely have a place in the musical. Enter **Rosie O'Donnell**, who played Rizzo in a recent mounting of *Grease*, and breaks into song more frequently than she adopts children.

**GANDALF:** **Antonio Banderas**, currently starring in the Broadway musical *Nine*, which is based on the Fellini film *8 1/2*, should be used to weird adaptations.

**FRODO:** **Eminem**. Sorry. It just had to be.

—MW

## THE WORLD COMES TO MONTREAL

The 27th **Montreal World Film Festival** kicks off this month (**August 27 to September 7**). Though the festival doesn't attract as many big-name stars as the Toronto International Film Festival (which overlaps with Montreal slightly, running September 4 to 13), the Montreal fest is a much more laid-back event — you can buy tickets to many films the day they screen and there isn't that panicky "must-see" energy that finds Toronto audiences clamouring to see Hollywood movies that will be released just weeks later.

But this year, the Montreal festival finds itself in a behind-the-scenes feud. They no longer want to be considered an accredited festival by the International Federation of Film Producers (FIAPF). However, the Federation won't divest them

of accredited status. In the past, FIAPF accredited film festivals — there are now more than 50 of them around the world — could count on the producers of prominent films to bring them their projects. But today more and more distribution companies, rather than producers, are deciding where their films will be screened. So the Sundance, New York and Toronto festivals, which are not accredited but are considered higher profile and better deal-making festivals, are snapping up films that Montreal wants.

Luckily, film fans don't have to concern themselves with the politics and can simply soak up the movies. Go to the Montreal World Film Festival site, [www.ffm-montreal.org](http://www.ffm-montreal.org), to learn which films will be screened and how to order tickets. —IR



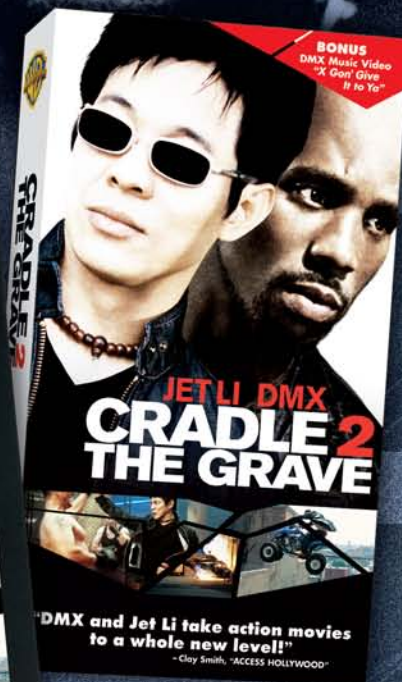
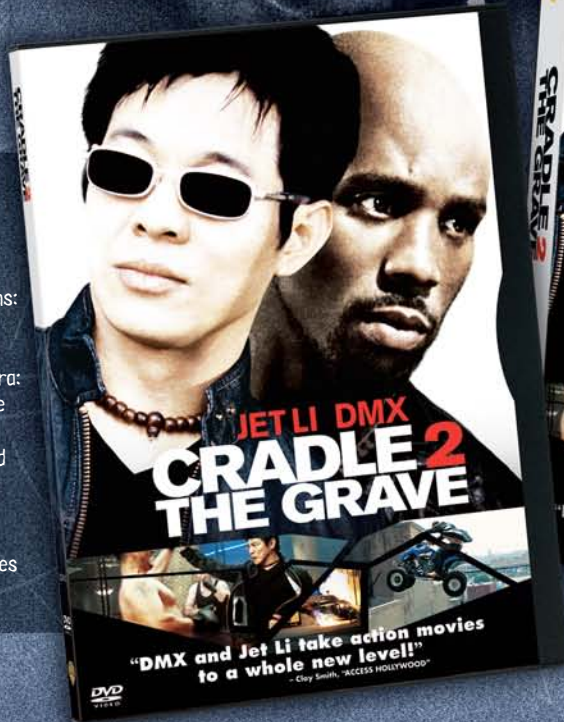
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# CAUGHT ON FILM

THE STARS WORK, PLAY AND PROMOTE THEIR FILMS



PHOTO FROM PHOTOGRAPHER SHOWCASE

*A Guy Thing's* Selma Blair arrived a bit early to meet a friend at a West Hollywood grocery store, and the management wouldn't let her in with her pooch. So, she whiled away the time by squeezing the foliage. Yes, they do feel as fuzzy as they look.



That's really Sarah Jessica Parker dangling from a trapeze high above New York City. The 38-year-old new mom spent the better part of a summer day performing her own acrobatic stunts for an episode of *Sex and the City*.



PHOTO FROM N.Y. PHOTO PRESS





PHOTO BY DEBBIE VANSTORY/IPHOTO

“Oh my God, my jacket just popped open and now you can see my bra!” “Oh my God, I totally forgot to wear a bra!” Drew Barrymore (left) and Cameron Diaz share an intimate moment at Grauman’s Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, where *Charlie’s Angels: Full Throttle* had its premiere.



PHOTO BY JAMES DEVANEY/WIREIMAGE

Is this how they’re dressing in France these days, or has Johnny Depp finally lost it? Perhaps the military-issue blanket and pilled toque were in preparation for stepping inside the notoriously chilly Ed Sullivan Theatre, where Depp was about to speak with David Letterman about his latest, *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*.



PHOTO BY JEFF KRAVITZ/FILMMAGIC

What happens when you put a new-age rocker from Ottawa in the same room with a cutie-pie actor from Vancouver? They fall in love of course. Alanis Morissette and Ryan Reynolds share a smooch backstage at the MTV Movie Awards in L.A.



# now in theatres

Bring a date to *American Wedding*, check out *Uptown Girls* or start the weekend with *Freaky Friday*



## AMERICAN WEDDING

**WHO'S IN IT?** Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan, Seann William Scott

**WHO DIRECTED?** Jesse Dylan (*How High*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Jim (Biggs) and Michelle (Hannigan) are getting married, and Stifler (Scott) sets his sights on Michelle's sexy younger sister Cadence (January Jones). This will probably be the last in the series, since *American Infidelity* and *Bitter American Divorce* just don't have the same comedic potential.

HITS THEATRES AUGUST 1

## JULY 30

### GIGLI

**WHO'S IN IT?** Jennifer Lopez, Ben Affleck

**WHO DIRECTED?** Martin Brest (*Scent of a Woman*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Affleck stars as a small-time hood named Gigli (it rhymes with "really") who screws up a kidnapping and is forced to accept the help of a female gangster named Ricki (Lopez). Sparks fly for Gigli, but not for Ricki — she prefers ladies. Of course, in real-life Lopez and Affleck had no such sexual incompatibility and fell for each other under the watchful eyes of oh, say, a couple billion people.

See our feature about finding love on set, page 22, and our Jennifer Lopez spotlight, page 20.

## AUGUST 1

### DIRTY PRETTY THINGS

**WHO'S IN IT?** Chiwetel Ejiofor, Audrey Tautou

**WHO DIRECTED?** Stephen Frears (*High Fidelity*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** A Nigerian doctor (Ejiofor), who's living as an illegal immigrant in London is befriended by a Turkish maid (Tautou) at the hotel where he works as a night porter. Together, they stumble upon a bizarre mystery.

## AUGUST 8

### SHAOLIN SOCCER

**WHO'S IN IT?** Stephen Chow, Ng Man Tat

**WHO DIRECTED?** Stephen Chow (*The King of Comedy*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** A shaolin master (Chow) teaches a soccer team of martial artists his gravity-defying "Mighty Steel Leg" technique. The most successful Hong Kong movie ever made, grossing \$60-million at home.

### S.W.A.T.

**WHO'S IN IT?** Samuel L. Jackson, Colin Farrell, Michelle Rodriguez

**WHO DIRECTED?** Clark Johnson (debut)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** The short-lived '70s TV series, remembered only for its top-10 theme song, rematerializes as a big-budget action flick starring Farrell as a hunky L.A.P.D. cop hand-picked for Jackson's elite SWAT team. Their assignment? Escort a drug kingpin (*Unfaithful*'s Olivier Martinez) out of L.A. See Colin Farrell interview, page 30.

## AUGUST 15

### ENVY

**WHO'S IN IT?** Ben Stiller, Jack Black

**WHO DIRECTED?** Barry Levinson (*Bandits*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Tim's (Stiller) feelings of jealousy toward his best friend ►►

## UPTOWN GIRLS

**WHO'S IN IT?** Brittany Murphy, Dakota Fanning

**WHO DIRECTED?** Boaz Yakin (*Remember the Titans*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Molly Gunn (Murphy) has been living the high life on the money her dead rock star dad left her. But when the loot is stolen, she has to get a job working as a nanny to a noxious eight-year-old girl (*I Am Sam*'s Fanning).

HITS THEATRES AUGUST 15





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**JULY 30** GIGLI  
**AUG 01** AMERICAN WEDDING  
 DIRTY PRETTY THINGS  
**AUG 06** FREAKY FRIDAY  
**AUG 08** SHAOLIN SOCCER  
 S.W.A.T.  
**AUG 15** ENVY  
 OPEN RANGE  
 UPTOWN GIRLS  
 FREDDY VS. JASON  
 KART RACER  
**AUG 22** GRIND  
 MARCI X  
 THE MEDALLION  
 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER  
**AUG 29** JEEPERS CREEPERS 2

▶▶ Nick (Black) boil over when Nick gets rich inventing a spray that evaporates matter. (Who cares about those wacky old laws of physics anyhow?!) Christopher Walken plays a drifter who encourages Tim's bad behaviour.

See Rachel Weisz interview, page 28.

### OPEN RANGE

**WHO'S IN IT?** Kevin Costner, Robert Duvall  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Kevin Costner  
*(The Postman)*

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Set in the dwindling days of the wild west, this cowpoke drama stars Costner and Duvall as kind-hearted cattle rustlers who help a small town in their fight against an evil rancher (Michael Gambon). Shot in and around Calgary.

See Kevin Costner interview, page 24.

### FREDDY VS. JASON

**WHO'S IN IT?** Robert Englund, Ken Kirzinger  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Ronny Yu (*Formula 51*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** *Nightmare on Elm Street's* Freddy Krueger (Englund) and *Friday the 13th's* Jason Voorhees (Kirzinger) face off using a bunch of dim-witted teens as their battle pawns.

### KART RACER

**WHO'S IN IT?** Will Rothhaar, Randy Quaid  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Stuart Gillard (*Rocket Man*)  
**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** A teenager (Rothhaar), who wants to race go-karts, enlists the help of his estranged dad (Quaid).



### FREAKY FRIDAY

**WHO'S IN IT?** Jamie Lee Curtis, Lindsay Lohan

**WHO DIRECTED?** Mark S. Waters  
*(Head Over Heels)*

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** The 1976 Disney classic gets a facelift with Lohan playing a 15-year-old teen who switches bodies with her divorced mother (Curtis) on the eve of mom's wedding. Herr Freud would have a field day with this premise.

HITS THEATRES AUGUST 6

## AUGUST 22

### GRIND

**WHO'S IN IT?** Colin McKay, Jennifer Morrison

**WHO DIRECTED?** Casey LaScala (debut)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Hoping to break into the pro skateboarding tour, four teens follow their boarding hero (McKay) on his U.S. tour. Look for cameos from real-life boarders such as Bam, Neil Hendrix and Bucky Lasek.

### MARCI X

**WHO'S IN IT?** Lisa Kudrow, Damon Wayans  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Richard Benjamin  
*(Mermaids)*

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** The pampered Marci (Kudrow) takes over her dad's rap label and has to do some serious damage control when rapper Dr. Snatchcatcher's (Wayans) song "Shoot Ya' Teacha" hits the airwaves.

### THE MEDALLION

**WHO'S IN IT?** Jackie Chan, Claire Forlani  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Gordon Chan (*Fist of Legend*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** The indestructible Jackie Chan plays a Hong Kong cop who dies and is brought back to life by a magical medallion. Resurrected as a "Highbinder" — an immortal with super-human powers — he must stop bad guys from getting their paws on the medallion.

### MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

**WHO'S IN IT?** Ashton Kutcher, Tara Reid  
**WHO DIRECTED?** David Zucker (*Airplane!*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** House-sitting for his boss seems like the perfect way for Tom Stanisfield (Kutcher) to bed the big cheese's daughter (Reid), but his less-than-noble plan backfires when unwanted guests keeping ringing the doorbell. Shot in Vancouver.

### JEEPERS CREEPERS 2

**WHO'S IN IT?** Ray Wise, Jonathan Breck  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Victor Salva  
*(Jeepers Creepers)*

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** The Creeper (Breck) from the original *Jeepers Creepers* returns to dine on a squad of high-school basketball players and curvy cheerleaders when their team bus breaks down on a deserted road.

HITS THEATRES AUGUST 29



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# Jennifer LOPEZ

**NOW APPEARING IN...**the crime pic *Gigli* (pronounced “jeely”) as Ricki, a girl gangster who’s sent in to do clean up after another young hood (J.Lo’s off-screen squeeze Ben Affleck) screws up his assignment.

**BIO BITS:** There hadn’t been an overtly Hispanic woman with any real star power in Hollywood since the now-forgotten Dolores del Rio hit her peak back in the 1940s. (We’re not counting Rita Hayworth, who even though was born Margarita Carmen Cansino to Spanish immigrants never publicized her heritage.) So even if some of Jennifer Lopez’s films haven’t — oh, how to put this? — raked in the Oscars, she at least deserves credit for punching a crack in, and wriggling through, one of moviedom’s thicker glass ceilings; becoming the poster *senorita* of the late-’90s “Latin explosion” in the process. Not bad for someone who, just over a decade ago, was shaking her booty between comedy skits on Fox TV’s sketch-com show *In Living Color*.

Born July 24, 1970, in New York City, Jennifer Lopez grew up with her parents and two sisters in The Bronx’s tough Castle Hill neighbourhood. Her mom, Guadalupe, taught kindergarten and her dad, David, was a computer technician. Both hail from Puerto Rico.

Jennifer started dance and singing lessons when she was five. She played baseball, tennis and took gymnastics at

her all-girls Catholic high school and, after graduation, juggled a job in a law office with her many auditions and small roles in musical theatre. She made her film debut in the otherwise forgettable 1986 drama *My Little Girl* and, at age 18, moved to L.A. to chase a full-time career in show biz.

Luckily, the Fox network was hiring and “J.Lo” got that first big break as one of *In Living Color*’s Fly Girls. She continued to dance through the early ’90s, collaborating with Janet Jackson among others, but also slowly gained recognition as an actor — playing schoolteacher to Robin Williams in *Jack*, partner to Woody Harrelson and Wesley Snipes in *Money Train*, and prey to a really big snake in *Anaconda*.

Again luckily, back-to-back starring roles launched her onto Hollywood’s A-list just as her musical career was getting up to speed. Her well-received turn as a Latina singer in *Selena* was followed closely by the Steven Soderbergh smash *Out of Sight*. That same year, her single “If You Want My Love” put her on the Billboard charts. Her 1999 debut album, *On the 6*, went multiplatinum as did her follow up, *J.Lo*.

Early next year you’ll see a repeat performance of the Jen and Ben show when the pair star in a very different film, Kevin Smith’s *Jersey Girl*. Smith’s first departure

from the Jay and Silent Bob movies revolves around a slick music promoter (Affleck), his book editor girlfriend (Lopez) and the six-year-old girl who shakes up their lives.

Lopez already has three more movies slated for release in 2004 — the drama *An Unfinished Life* about a down-on-her-luck single mom, the Richard Gere romantic comedy *Shall We Dance?* and *Tick-Tock*, a real-time thriller that sees J.Lo play a sexy FBI agent trying to track down a bunch of bombs.

**TRIVIA:** Her sister Leslie sings opera.

- Her other sister, Lynda, is a host on VH-1.
- In the Bronx gyms they called her “La Guitarra” because her body was shaped like a guitar.
- An interactive wax statue of Lopez was unveiled at Madame Tussaud’s Wax Museum in New York City earlier this year. When you whisper in its ear, it blushes. But most publicity photos of men posing with Lopez’s likeness showed they were more interested in squeezing her derriere than melting her with sweet nothings.
- She’s said she doesn’t mind her notoriously big bottom, it’s her skinny ankles she hates.

**SAMPLE ROLES:** Marisa in *Maid in Manhattan* (2002), Slim in *Enough*

SELENA [1997]



ANACONDA [1997]



THE CELL [2000]





(2002), Sharon in *Angel Eyes* (2001), Maria in *The Wedding Planner* (2001), Catherine in *The Cell* (2000), Azteca in *Antz* (1998), Karen in *Out of Sight* (1998), Grace in *U Turn* (1997), Terri in *Anaconda* (1997), Gabriella in *Blood & Wine* (1997), Selena Quintanilla in *Selena* (1997), Miss Marquez in *Jack* (1996), Grace in *Money Train* (1995)

**LOVE LIFE:** Married Cuban model Ojani Noa in 1997. They met while Noa was a waiter in Miami, and got engaged at the wrap party for *Selena*. The marriage ended with divorce in 1998. • Dated Sean “Puffy” Combs from 1999 through early 2001. • Married her choreographer Cris Judd in September 2001, and divorced him in January 2003. • She met her current love Ben Affleck on the set of *Gigli* and they were engaged in October of last year while in the middle of filming their second movie in a row together, Kevin Smith’s *Jersey Girl*. That engagement came three months before her divorce from Judd was finalized.

**LEGAL TROUBLE:** Arrested in December 1999, with Combs, in connection with a shooting at a New York nightclub. Charges were dropped.

**ON LETTING GO:** “If you think you can start controlling the image they put out there of you, you’ll go nuts. A lot of times it’s negative. They don’t like to focus on the positive, no matter how much you do. You just have to put up, like, a defense mechanism as an artist, to not let the outside world come in and ruin that for you.” [NY Rock, February 2001]



#### ENOUGH [2002]



#### MAID IN MANHATTAN [2002]



#### GIGLI [2003]

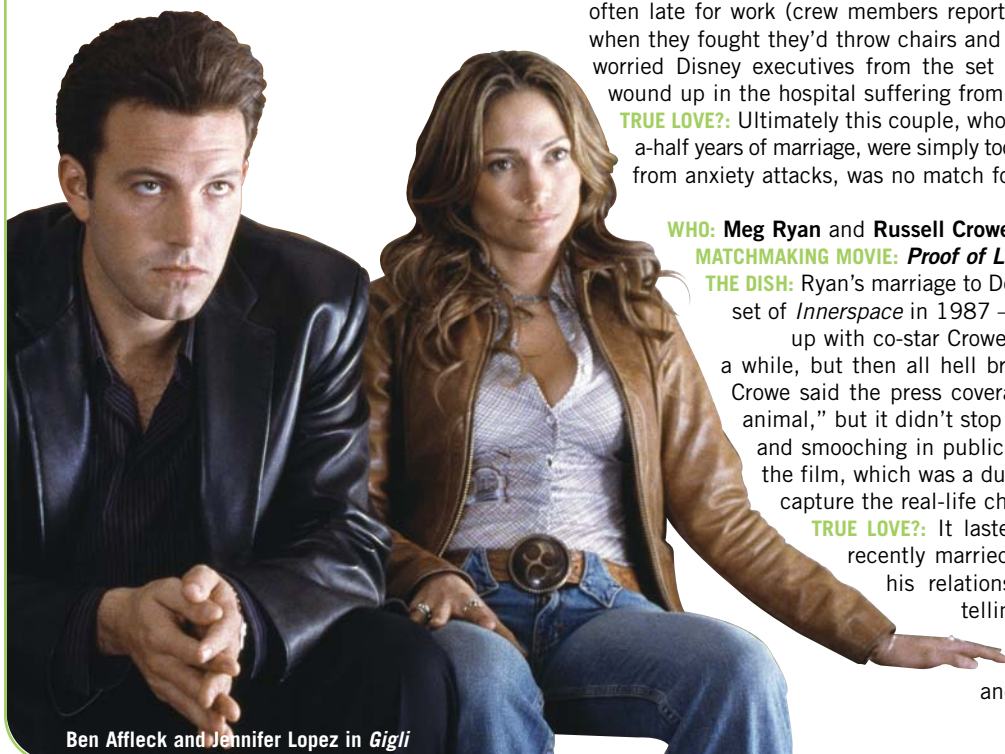


# Love between takes

Imagine you're a good-looking movie star. Now imagine your life is consumed with making movies, spending your large disposable income and trying to avoid the general public. All of a sudden your dating pool is boiled down to other good-looking, free-spending, insular movie stars who understand your pain. And where are you going to meet these stars? On a movie set of course!

Sometimes these affairs lead to long-term bliss, sometimes they sputter out the minute the cameras stop rolling. Either way, we mere mortals just can't seem to get enough of celebrity couplings. Here's a list of some of the more renowned Hollywood workplace romances.

| BY INGRID RANDOJA



Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez in *Gigli*

**WHO:** Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck

**MATCHMAKING MOVIE:** *Gigli* (2003)

**THE DISH:** The undisputed couple *du jour*. The first hint that J.Lo and Ben were an item was when Affleck took out a full page ad in *The Hollywood Reporter* simply to praise his *Gigli* co-star. Can you say "suck up"? It worked, and Lopez, who was still married to hubby number two (Cris Judd) when the affair began, dumped Judd and swore everlasting love for gentle Ben. Their wedding, and the media madness that will go along with it, has been put on hold while Lopez finishes filming *Shall We Dance?*

**TRUE LOVE?:** Remember, Jenny from the block has been around the marriage block a few times, so don't bet on a golden wedding anniversary.

**WHO:** Alec Baldwin and Kim Basinger

**MATCHMAKING MOVIE:** *The Marrying Man* (1991)

**THE DISH:** Whoa nelly! One of Hollywood's most notorious on-set affairs found the deathly shy Basinger and manly man Baldwin basically taking over the film set. According to a 1991 *Premiere* article, the passionate couple was often late for work (crew members report their trailer actually rocking) and when they fought they'd throw chairs and phones at each other. They barred worried Disney executives from the set and first-time director Jerry Rees wound up in the hospital suffering from stress.

**TRUE LOVE?:** Ultimately this couple, who divorced in 2001 after seven-and-a-half years of marriage, were simply too different — Basinger, who suffered from anxiety attacks, was no match for the volatile Baldwin.

**WHO:** Meg Ryan and Russell Crowe

**MATCHMAKING MOVIE:** *Proof of Life* (2000)

**THE DISH:** Ryan's marriage to Dennis Quaid — who she met on the set of *Innerspace* in 1987 — was crumbling when she hooked up with co-star Crowe in London. They were discreet for a while, but then all hell broke loose when they went public. Crowe said the press coverage made him feel like a "hunted animal," but it didn't stop the couple from dancing on tables and smooching in public. Too bad the publicity didn't help the film, which was a dud and, interestingly enough, didn't capture the real-life chemistry between the two.

**TRUE LOVE?:** It lasted nine months, and while Crowe recently married Danielle Spencer, he still claims his relationship with Ryan was "true love," telling *Entertainment Weekly*, "How can you deny yourself something that was absolute and passionate and gigantic?"



**WHO:** Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton

**MATCHMAKING MOVIE:** *Cleopatra* (1963)

**THE DISH:** This granddaddy of all on-set romances saw the classically trained Burton and Hollywood mega-star Taylor conducting a frenzied affair in Rome on what was, at the time, the most expensive movie ever made. Both were married with children and their openly adulterous union led the Vatican to issue a public condemnation, and a U.S. congressman to introduce a bill to stop the lovers from entering the States. How big was this affair? Big enough to have a greeting card company print a card that read “Like Romeo and Juliet, like Antony and Cleopatra, like Liz and Dick — Love is forever.”

**TRUE LOVE?:** The “Battling Burtons” were married twice for a total of 11 years. There’s no doubt they loved each other, but their fighting, heavy drinking and extravagant lifestyle created a circus atmosphere that finally destroyed their relationship.

**WHO:** Billy Bob Thornton and Angelina Jolie

**MATCHMAKING MOVIE:** *Pushing Tin* (1999)

**THE DISH:** All the juicy stuff with this couple happened after they finished *Pushing Tin*, in which they played a married couple. At the time Jolie was separated from husband Jonny Lee Miller (whom she met on the set of *Hackers*) and dating Timothy Hutton (whom she met on the set of *Playing God*). Thornton was living with Laura Dern, (whom he met on the never-released film *Daddy and Them*). Jolie and Thornton hit it off, talked regularly on the phone after their movie was completed, then suddenly they were married in a quickie Las Vegas ceremony. They openly discussed their love of rough sex, his eating disorder and her bisexuality. Their home was a nosferatu-like love nest that had the tabloids referring to the couple as “vampirish.”

**TRUE LOVE?:** Sure, as much as two seriously whacked-out people can be in love. They divorced after two years.

**WHO:** Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins

**MATCHMAKING MOVIE:** *Bull Durham* (1988)

**THE DISH:** At first the producers were hesitant to cast Robbins as the ball player lusted after by Sarandon because they felt someone as classy as her would not fall for someone like him. Boy, how wrong they were. Sarandon, 12 years older than Robbins and involved in an on-again, off-again relationship with Italian director Franco Amurri, did fall for Robbins, and she points to her then-two-year-old daughter Eva for paving the way — “She chose him first,” Sarandon told London’s *Daily Telegraph*.

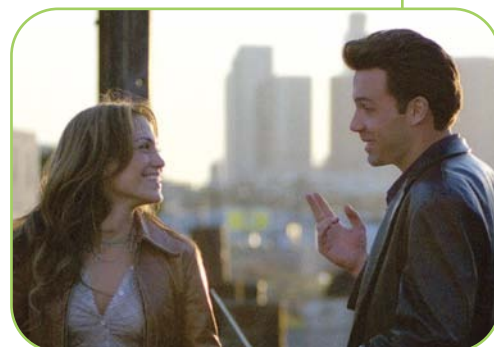
**TRUE LOVE?:** You betcha. For 15 years this dynamic duo has managed to raise a family in New York (they have two other children together), work together and pour their energy into political and humanitarian work.

**WHO:** Melanie Griffith and Antonio Banderas

**MATCHMAKING MOVIE:** *Two Much* (1996)

**THE DISH:** This remains one of the most unlikely on-set couplings. He was the suave Spanish movie star trying to make a name in Hollywood and she was the troubled actress who had grown up in Tinseltown and seen better acting days. They both admit theirs was a slow-building romance and they only got together, very discreetly (both were married), near the end of shooting. The press actually thought he was having an affair with a besotted Madonna, who visited Banderas on the set and announced to all she wanted to bed him.

**TRUE LOVE?:** Damn, if these two don’t keep beating the odds. They got married in 1996, have a daughter together, and still seem very much in love. The road has been bumpy — Griffith continues to battle her addictions, and rumours of women trying to lure Banderas away abound — but this curious couple remain devoted to one another.



♥ Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck

2003



♥ Meg Ryan and Russell Crowe

2000



♥ Melanie Griffith and Antonio Banderas

1996



♥ Alec Baldwin and Kim Basinger

1991

# Cowboy Junkie

**K**evin Costner has always marched to the beat of his own drum. So why, at age 48, should he change now?

Back when he was a struggling actor in the early '80s he refused to utter his only line of dialogue opposite Jessica Lange in 1982's *Frances* because he felt it didn't ring true for his character — even though it would have guaranteed him a Screen Actors Guild card, a prerequisite for the union auditions that had eluded him for years. And after attaining stardom as noble, albeit often flawed, heroes in such films as *The Untouchables*, *Bull Durham*, and *Field of Dreams*, Costner bucked conventional wisdom by directing, producing, and starring in the three-hour-plus Western *Dances with Wolves*, with a third of the dialogue in the Lakota Sioux language.

“One guy told me to buy a gun and shoot myself, it was a cheaper way to commit suicide,” recalls Costner with a wry grin.

But the 1990 film grossed more than \$500-million worldwide and earned Costner his title of Hollywood heavyweight, bagging the first-time helmer seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. Now, 13 years after that remarkable triumph — and the numerous peaks (*JFK*, *Thirteen Days*) and valleys (*The Postman*, *Waterworld*) which followed — Costner returns to his beloved genre with *Open Range*, an epic Western about men forced into action to uphold the so-called “Code of the West.”

Directed by Costner last summer on location outside Calgary, *Open Range*, which co-stars Robert Duvall and Annette Bening, is a lavish recreation of the Old West, right down to the impressive frontier town at the foot of the Rocky Mountains which Costner had built especially for the film. The story follows a group of cattle herders who team up to rid a small town of a ruthless rancher (Michael Gambon) who creates an “outlaw state” with his own rules and laws.

Taking a break from an elaborate and bloody gun fight being staged on the town's main street, Costner checks the playback monitor, and satisfied with the intricate Steadicam maneuvers, declares the shot a “Print” and lays down his vintage rifle by his director's chair. He takes off his cowboy hat, wipes the sweat



Kevin Costner (left) and Robert Duvall in *Open Range*

from his brow, and takes me on a tour of the extensive main street set. As we wander inside the fully dressed saloons, banks, stores, houses and stables, it's clear Costner feels right at home...on the range. With his six-shooter on his hip, leather chaps and cowboy hat, he's like a kid in a candy store, recreating the world of the Western screen heroes he idolized as a child growing up in California.

**You could develop any project to direct, so why pick a genre which Hollywood seems to have dismissed?**

“Yeah, the Western is a very scary genre for Hollywood. They probably said, ‘Gee, if Kevin really needs a hit, what in the hell is he doing making a Western?’ So this kind of flies in their face. But actually it is so in spirit with who I am. I always follow my artistic bent, and I have a deep love for this genre.”

It's been an up-and-down 13 years since Kevin Costner triumphed with *Dances with Wolves*. Is that why he's returning to the old west for *Open Range*? | BY DAVID GIAMMARCO

**Does box office ever figure into your decisions?**

“While you want that, and you want the audience to accept your work, does that validate your work for an entire year? You know, there's a lot of people that measure the work that they do for a whole year based on a weekend's box-office gross. And I have worked really hard to not do that. I mean, I've had pictures that have done very, very well, and I've had pictures that haven't made as much money, so should I be unhappy that I did a movie just because it didn't hit a certain dollar amount at the box office? Should I start doing sequels? There's a real maturity that I think you have to go through if you're really serious about how you approach your work.”

**So you're not nervous about how this movie will do?**

“No. But I really want people to see this



movie because I love the Western genre so much, and I feel like we have tried to put the best things that I know about it in this movie. It's like when you want someone to love what you love, something that you're so passionate about.... This picture is actually very familiar with *Dances* on a certain level, because I had to put a lot of my own money into that in order to get it made."

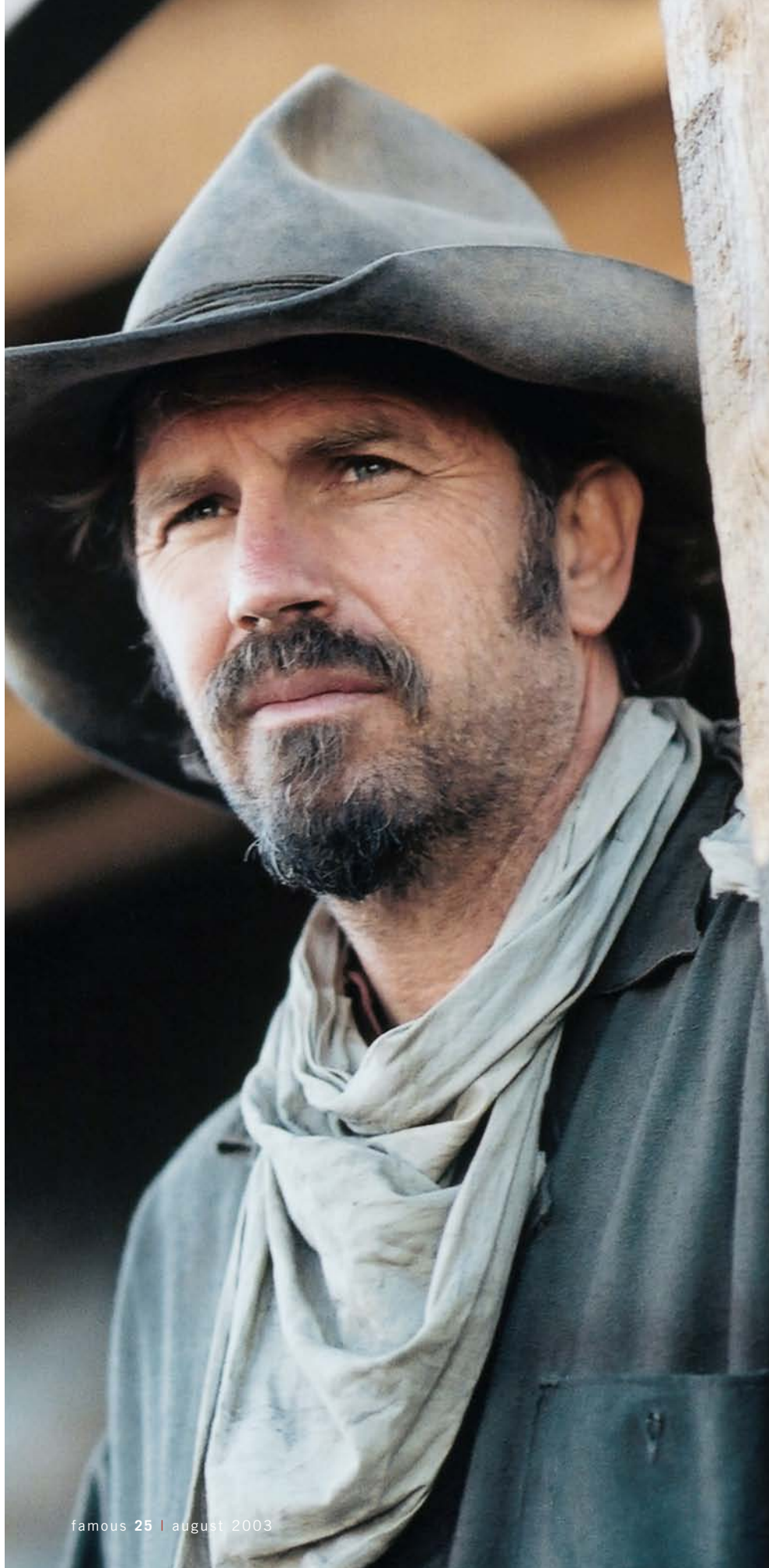
**So what keeps drawing you back to Western storytelling? What can you say with a Western that perhaps you can't in a contemporary setting?**

"Well one is they're not as simple to do as people would think. In fact, they're almost just the opposite. Back then, your life was in danger a lot of the time and you had to be resourceful and you could easily find yourself on the other end of the law. Historically, law enforcement has always been backed up by the most powerful person in the community, so a lot of dilemmas were faced by frontiersmen. And I've always believed that true drama comes out of dilemma. And so I think the Western just sets itself up beautifully for that. Like when you see a stranger, there's inherent drama because you don't know if he wants your horse, wants your gun, wants your gold, or wants your water.

And the West was filled with people who you had no way of really knowing who they really were because they could reinvent themselves in the next town 200 miles away. That can't happen now in today's technologically advanced society, but back then word couldn't travel very far. And America, which had just come out of the very violent Civil War, was wide open for people who had tainted records in the Wild West. It was a very dangerous place, and highly unpredictable, and when you have that, it makes for very compelling storytelling."

**Does winning an Oscar, like you did for *Dances with Wolves*, raise the bar too high?**

"I think it raised the bar for people who were going to critique me. I was the same person before the award, and I felt I was the same person after the award. The world's perception, I think, changed and you have absolutely no control over that. You know, I loved directing *The Postman*. I worked as hard on ►►



▶▶ that as I did on *Dances* or on this particular movie. It just happened that *The Postman* came out the same day as *Titanic*, and those who would have difficulty with the film, did. But I've been really gratified by how people talk to me about that movie in terms of the person on the street."

**What have Robert Duvall and Annette Bening brought to the film that perhaps wasn't on the printed page?**

"They've delivered exactly what I've wanted. What was really important was we didn't have to rewrite for them. I worked really hard on the script with the writer [Craig Storper], and Annette and Robert both accepted the writing on first glance. And they've been very trusting of me as director, and I really appreciate that."


**Tell me about shooting in Canada.**

"I'm always going to be indebted and thankful to Canada, because I could not have made this movie had I not come here. So I immediately have this love of Canada for how they embraced this project, and also their smarts about doing business with filmmakers really made it the only place to shoot this movie. The reason this movie looks like a gigantic \$50-million production is because I made it here in Canada. And also, the vastness of the land here I was able to tap into, where the environment, in a way, is as big a star of the movie [as the actors]. A lot of people haven't seen these kind of vistas.

Also, the crews up here are phenomenal, there's three or four guys I'm going to take with me on my next project. They're at the top of their game. And the actors here have filled out my cast beautifully and have a real grasp of their own craft and understand what I'm doing. They bring a real excitement and enthusiasm that you don't always find elsewhere. It's been a terrific experience being up here."

**What do you know now as a filmmaker that you wished you had known when you directed your first film?**

"[Laughs.] Well I'm always surprised by how hard it is. And this movie seemed impossibly hard. What I don't know is what a hit is, but I'm pretty certain what a good movie is. And I'm comfortable with the knowledge that writing is the star of the movie for me, and always will be. I'm really interested in the storytellers of our era, but I'm not interested in the story norms of our era. There can't be this machine that feeds us these movies in these forced parameters. Because of that the majority of the movies are completely corporate. So when they have successes, [movie execs] feel empowered and you see more of the same. And when they don't have success, they usually blame it on somebody else.

I'm comfortable that the movies I like to make may not be the most popular movies. I won't be surprised if they're successful though, because I always believe that I make a movie that almost anybody can understand and appreciate. But I can't try to make a movie for a specific age group, or a certain demographic. I wouldn't know how to. I can only make a movie that matches up with my own sensibility, and if I step away from that, I'm sure to lose myself. And I will become unrecognizable to those who have supported me over the years." 

*David Giammarco is an entertainment writer based out of Toronto and Los Angeles.*

# coming soon

## MYSTIC RIVER >> OCTOBER

**Stars:** Sean Penn, Kevin Bacon

**Director:** Clint Eastwood (*Blood Work*)

**Story:** Believe it or not, this is the 24th movie Clint Eastwood has directed, and the sixth out of his last seven to be based on a book. This time, the source material is Dennis Lehane's novel of the same name, about three childhood friends who are reunited under less than friendly circumstances. When ex-con Jimmy's (Penn) daughter is murdered, Boston cop Sean (Bacon) must investigate — and one possibility is their old friend Dave (Tim Robbins) who's had psychological problems since he was kidnapped as a child. Sounds more *Unforgiven* than *Space Cowboys*, thankfully.

## GOTHIKA >> OCTOBER

**Stars:** Halle Berry, Penélope Cruz

**Director:** Mathieu Kassovitz (*Hate*)

**Story:** It'll be interesting to see whether this dark thriller makes its scheduled October release date, since Berry broke her arm in the middle of the film's Montreal shoot. She plays a psychologist who wakes up in the psych ward of the hospital in which she works, having no idea how she got there, but accused of killing her husband. Cruz plays a fellow psych patient and Robert Downey Jr. (who knows a bit about being locked up) is a psychiatrist. This is the French Kassovitz's English-language directing debut, but most North American film fans know him as an actor — he played Audrey Tautou's elusive love interest in *Amélie*.

## KILL BILL >> OCTOBER

**Stars:** Uma Thurman, David Carradine

**Director:** Quentin Tarantino (*Pulp Fiction*)

**Story:** This movie looks more like a cross between *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *Charlie's Angels* than it does like Tarantino's past films, but the plot doesn't sound so far off. Thurman plays an assassin called "The Bride" who is shot by her boss, Bill (Carradine), at her wedding. But she survives and, after five years in a coma, wakes up looking for revenge. The cast also includes Lucy Liu and Daryl Hannah. It's been six years since Tarantino's last directing effort, *Jackie Brown*.

## MASTER AND COMMANDER: THE FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD >> NOVEMBER

**Stars:** Russell Crowe, Paul Bettany

**Director:** Peter Weir (*The Truman Show*)

**Story:** Crowe and Bettany, co-stars in 2001's *A Beautiful Mind* reunite for this adaptation of the 10th novel in writer Patrick O'Brian's 20-deep *Master and Commander* series. (Just think of the possibilities for sequels and prequels!) It's 1806, smack dab in the middle of the Napoleonic Wars, and Captain Jack Aubrey (Crowe) sails the world with his secret agent friend (Bettany) in search of adventure and intrigue. And if you saw Crowe's wedding pictures, and wondered what was up with that long ponytail, he's got the same look in this pic that was shot in northern Mexico last summer and fall.



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# WEISZ MOVES IN

**RACHEL WEISZ UNPACKS HER COMEDIC TALENTS TO PLAY A SUBURBAN WIFE IN *ENVY***

| BY EARL DITTMAN

She's done action (*The Mummy*), drama (*Enemy at the Gates*) and romance (*About a Boy*), and now London-born Rachel Weisz tries her hand at comedy with *Envy*, the Ben Stiller, Jack Black pic about a group of American suburbanites who let their covetous feelings run wild.

Holed up in a lavish Beverly Hills hotel suite to promote the film, one of four she has coming out in 2003, the 32-year-old Weisz opens up about everything from the challenges of comedy to her extreme hatred for American tea.

**Four movies is a lot for one year.**

"I know, and I'm beat. I'm surprised I'm able to put two sentences together [laughs]. *The Shape of Things* and *Confidence* have already been released. Even though I think about five people saw them, I'm really proud of them. I just finished *The Runaway Jury* in New Orleans with Gene Hackman and John Cusack, and, of course, there's *Envy*."

***Envy* is a bit of a departure for you, isn't it?**

"It is.... I've never played such a normal, all-American kind of woman before."

RACHEL WEISZ PHOTO BY JEFF VESPAWIREIMAGE





From left, excluding assorted pets and children: Jack Black, Amy Poehler, Rachel Weisz and Ben Stiller in *Envy*

#### What's the story?

"If I start rambling, stop me, because I'm really crappy at pitching storylines. Basically, Ben and I, and Jack and Amy [Poehler], are married couples that are best friends who live opposite each other. We both have 2.5 children and are blue collar workers. Jack is a dreamer, and he's always coming up with these wild inventions. One day, he dreams up this invention of an aerosol can that you spray on dog poop and the dog poop disappears. So he says to Ben, his best friend, 'Why don't you invest in it by giving me two grand?' But he won't invest. So, of course, it becomes a best-selling item and Jack and Amy become gazillionaires. However, they don't move out of the neighbourhood. They knock down their little house and they build a huge estate that they call 'Envy.'"

#### How do you choose your films?

"I just read, read and read. How I choose is when I can read something and think, 'This is a world that I want to enter into, this is a character that I want to play and this is a story that I want to tell.' You have to really want to do a film, because you'll be doing it for three or four months."

#### After *The Mummy* did you only get offers to do action pics?

"Yeah, a ton of them. And they were

offering me big paycheques to do them. But I wisely turned them down."

#### You never thought about just taking the money and running?

"Yeah, for a second. But what would I do with all the money? Financially, I'm doing fine."

#### What did you do with your first big paycheque for *The Mummy Returns*?

"What did I do? I guess that I bought an apartment in London and a Jaguar."

#### Do you prefer life in Hollywood or London?

"You know, I don't really know what the lifestyle is like here in Hollywood. I just come to Hollywood to promote my movies and stay in fancy hotels. My friends and my family live in the U.K., so I certainly feel more comfortable with life there than in Los Angeles."

#### Do the London paparazzi follow you around?

"If you don't go out to events or premieres in designer dresses or evening gowns, they ignore you. If you want the press, you court them. It's a choice, I believe. Unless you get caught being bad or you're someone like Julia Roberts...you're fine."

#### Where do you live now?

"Actually, I just moved to New York."

#### Did you buy an apartment there?

"No, I just moved there. But I'm not giving up my London apartment. I want to be able to go back every couple of months to see my mom, dad and my gorgeous little godson, George."

#### What do you miss most about England besides your family and friends?

"Tea. American teas suck! They are really bad in the States. Luckily, in New York City there's a store where you can buy English tea bags, it's a shop quite aptly called Tea and Sympathy. It's the only thing keeping me alive. I'm not joking."

#### So why did you move to New York?

"For love."

#### Are you getting married?

"No, haven't been asked yet [laughs]."

#### Who is the lucky guy?

"He's not a director, an actor or a rock star, so I'm keeping that information to myself. But I will say that it's been an incredibly wonderful and intense two-year relationship."

#### So what's next for you?

"A nice long rest. I think I deserve one." 🍷

*Earl Dittman is an entertainment writer based in Houston, Texas.*





## WHERE'S THE FILTH?

IT MUST BE HARD TO LIVE UP TO THE HARD-DRINKING, TRASH-TALKING IMAGE COLIN FARRELL HAS CREATED. OR MAYBE THE STAR OF THIS MONTH'S COP THRILLER *S.W.A.T.* HAS JUST REALIZED THE WHOLE THING'S WEARING A BIT THIN. BARRETT HOOPER FINDS OUT

Something's wrong with Colin Farrell. We're in a Pasadena hotel room, ostensibly to talk about his new movie, *S.W.A.T.* Based on the short-lived '70s cop series best-remembered for its theme song, it stars Farrell as Street, a "loose cannon" member of an A-Team-style L.A.P.D. Special Weapons and Tactics squad that also includes Samuel L. Jackson (as team leader Hondo), Michelle Rodriguez (as tough chick Sanchez) and LL Cool J (as street-smart Deke). When the drug lord (*Unfaithful* heartthrob Olivier Martinez) they've been assigned to transport offers a cool \$100-million to whoever springs him from custody "all hell breaks loose," according to Farrell, who refers to *S.W.A.T.* as "a big wham-bam-thank-you-ma'am" action movie. And that's just about the only thing to be gleaned from him about the film because he never sticks to any topic long enough to go into detail.

But that's not the problem. I offer him a beer from the minibar — Farrell's a hardcore Dublin pubcrawler whose life seems to revolve around the three Cs of Carlsberg, cigarettes and chatting up "birds" — but he declines. He's just trying to be professional, I figure, and besides, it's barely noon.

No, my concern about Farrell actually doesn't materialize until about 20 minutes into our interview when I realize



he hasn't sworn once.

Now, ordinarily this wouldn't be an issue, except Farrell has a reputation for treating profanity like punctuation. He's been called "the most profane celebrity on the planet" and his creative use of the seven words George Carlin says you can't say on television would make Carlin consider expanding his list. (Checking the tape of our interview later, it turns out Farrell did swear, at least a half-dozen times among the 4,000 or so words he spoke.)

"Me mum would like it if I swore less," Farrell says when asked about it.

"And drink less and smoke less and f-ck around less," chimes in his older brother, Eamon, who's sitting across an ashtray from Farrell in a nearby chair, and is apparently unconcerned what his mother thinks of his language. Eamon's presence at the interview is never explained beyond the fact that he's in town visiting his famous sibling.

It was Eamon who persuaded his brother to take an acting class back when he was still struggling to find direction, painting houses, busing tables and performing in a travelling country-and-western dance troupe that made him look like "one of the Village People," Farrell says.

Surprisingly, Eamon, who runs a performing arts school for children

back in Ireland, appears to be a more Hollywoodized version of his brother. He has a deep tan and blond highlights in his spiked hair, and he's wearing leather pants and designer sunglasses. And when he speaks, his accent is noticeably less noticeable.

Farrell, on the other hand, has messy brown hair and the only colour in his face is from a couple days' beard (the California sun depresses him, he says). He's wearing black jeans and a white shirt that looks as though he slept in it, and a tattoo on the inside of his left forearm reads "Carpe Diem...with my girl," a reference to actress Amelia Warner, to whom he was once married for all of four months.

Presently, Farrell has the world at his feet, both literally and figuratively. Figuratively, he is the current Hollywood It Boy, with starring roles opposite Bruce Willis, Tom Cruise, Al Pacino and Ben Affleck, all in the last year. And literally, Farrell's cowboy boots, the only good thing to come out of playing Jesse James in *American Outlaws*, almost knock over a small globe as he stretches out on the sofa.

A charmingly devilish Irishman with talent and good looks in equal measure, Farrell seems to care little about what people think of him. "Did you see me biting my lip on the cover of that magazine

saying 'Have you had sex with Colin Farrell?'" Farrell says, referring to a *Details* cover story about how much the actor — a healthy, single 27-year-old male — likes to fool around.

"No," Eamon says, responding, I assume, to the question of whether he's seen the magazine and not the question the magazine asks.

"It's a laugh," Farrell says, pulling hard on a Camel Light and squinting through the blue haze.

The conversation, it seems, is as much about entertaining each other as it is about entertaining my questions, which is entertaining in its own way.

But Farrell becomes quite serious when he discusses the film he's just completed shooting in Toronto, *A Home at the End of the World*, based on the novel by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Hours*, Michael Cunningham. In it he plays Bobby, who fathers the child of his gay best friend's roommate (played by Robin Wright-Penn) before the three of them move into a home together to form an offbeat family.

"It's one of the most beautiful things I've ever read," he says. "A small, intimate character piece to see if I can do some f-ckin' acting."

It's a good thing Farrell has a sense of humour. The tabloids have had a field day with his love life in the past few



From left: Colin Farrell, Brian Van Holt, LL Cool J, Michelle Rodriguez and Samuel L. Jackson in *S.W.A.T.*

Colin Farrell  
(left) with his  
brother Eamon  
at the Dublin  
International  
Film Festival



PHOTO BY PAUL NICHOLLS/WIREIMAGE

▶▶ months, from an alleged backstage liplock with Demi Moore at the Golden Globes (“that’s bullsh-t”) to attending the premiere of his spy thriller *The Recruit* with Britney Spears. “We’re just mates,” Farrell says with sincere exasperation when the pop star is brought up. Farrell would give more fodder to the tabloids a couple of weeks after our interview when it was announced he’s about to become a father by his current, sort-of girlfriend.

For the most part, Farrell just laughs at the feeding frenzy around him, preferring to take life with “a pinch of salt and a pint of Carlsberg.” And that, too, is part of his scruffy charm.

“It’s actually funnier for us than it is for anyone else,” says Eamon. “Especially now, with photographers and reporters coming around my house and our mother’s house back home, sniffing around for dirt.”

Touted as the Irish Brad Pitt since before he made his first Hollywood film, Farrell’s big break actually came on the stage. In 1998, he was appearing in a play, *A Little World of Our Own*, in London’s West End when Kevin Spacey happened to be in the audience. Spacey was so impressed with his performance that he helped Farrell land a small part in the gangster movie he was making, *Ordinary Decent Criminal*, and even more importantly, a Hollywood agent.

Next thing he knew Farrell was taking power lunches with Hollywood’s movers and shakers — “a bunch of pretty people in pretty suits,” he calls them. That led to an unlikely debut, as a hard-headed Texan army recruit who tries to help his buddies avoid being sent to Vietnam in the bootcamp drama *Tigerland*.

And while that film may have gone largely unnoticed, Farrell’s performance

didn’t, earning him rave reviews and a Boston Society of Film Critics award. After his followup, *American Outlaws*, failed to ignite at the box office, Farrell filled the role vacated by Ed Norton in the POW drama *Hart’s War*, opposite Bruce Willis. And when Matt Damon dropped out of Steven Spielberg’s sci-fi thriller *Minority Report*, Farrell found himself with top billing behind Tom Cruise. “That was a lot of fun, yeah, like playing every day,” Farrell says, adding another butt to the small graveyard in the ashtray.

Realizing that my time with Farrell will soon be up, I steer the conversation back toward *S.W.A.T.* by asking him what it was like to work with the uber-cool Jackson. “Sam’s great, he’s just f-ckin’ great,” he says. “He’s one of the big reasons I took the movie, the chance to work with him and with Michelle.”

And while Farrell isn’t one for exercise — “lifting a pint to his face is all the workout he likes,” says Eamon — after playing an MIT misfit recruited into the CIA by Pacino in *The Recruit* and the psychotic skinhead Bullseye in the comic book caper *Daredevil*, he says he was “pretty psyched” for the physical demands of *S.W.A.T.* “They took us to SWAT school, taught us how to shoot guns and do assaults on buildings and rescue hostages and blow stuff up,” he says. “It was wild.”

With that, Farrell sits up, rests his feet firmly on the floor and stubs out his cigarette. He considers, for a moment, the past couple of years of his Hollywood existence. “It’s been mad, ya know? But it won’t always be like this.” **F**

*Barrett Hooper writes about movies for the National Post.*

# famous trivia

**1** Name the two films *S.W.A.T.* star Colin Farrell has made with director Joel Schumacher.

**2** *Marcy X* lead Lisa Kudrow also plays Phoebe on TV’s *Friends*. On which TV sitcom, starring Helen Hunt and Paul Reiser, did she play Phoebe’s twin sister Ursula?

**3** Kevin Costner, Robert Duvall and Annette Bening all star in the western *Open Range*. Which of them has *not* won an Oscar?

**4** Funnyman Ben Stiller, who plays a jealous neighbour in the comedy *Envy*, has appeared in six films with this actress/comedian. Who is she? (Hint: She was a regular on *The Larry Sanders Show*.)

**5** In which horror film did *Freaky Friday* star Jamie Lee Curtis make her big-screen debut — *Friday the 13th*, *A Nightmare on Elm Street* or *Halloween*?

**6** Which *Uptown Girls* star also voices the character of Hank’s niece Luanne on TV’s *King of the Hill*?

## A N S W E R S

**1** *Tigerland* and *Phone Booth* **2** *Mad About You* **3** Annette Bening **4** Janeane Garofalo **5** *Halloween* **6** Brittany Murphy



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# CRUISE PLAYS A HITMAN, MCGREGOR LENDS LUNGS TO ROBOT AND ZELLWEGER DOES JANIS JOPLIN | BY INGRID RANDOJA



## CRUISE COVETS KILLER ROLE

Nice guy **Tom Cruise** has always wanted to play a baddie, and he'll finally get his chance in *Collateral*, a thriller to be helmed by macho director **Michael Mann** (*Heat*). The script for *Collateral* was stuck in development hell at DreamWorks for three years, that is until Mann and Cruise signed on. Cruise will portray a hitman who hires a New York cab for a day so he can get around town to commit a series of murders. Things get complicated when the cabbie figures out what his fare is up to, and realizes he'll be Cruise's final victim. Who plays the cabbie? **Adam Sandler** is in negotiations, and his stellar turn in *Punch-Drunk Love* indicates that the nasal-voiced funnyman could pull off the dramatic role. Filming is set to begin in October.

## FOSTER'S FRENCH TWIST

Although she's plugging away directing her much-delayed circus drama *Flora Plum*, **Jodie Foster** is in negotiations to play a small part in **Jean-Pierre Jeunet's** (*Amélie*) upcoming romantic comedy *Un Long dimanche de fiançailles* (*A Long Sunday Engagement*). The hook here is that smarty boots Foster will act in French, which she speaks fluently, and has since the age of 14 when she starred in the French film *Moi, fleur bleue* (*Stop Calling Me Baby!*).



## MCGREGOR'S MACHINE AGE

If **Ewan McGregor** is in a shopping mood he should sign up for the "don't pay until 2005" plan because that's when he'll be cashing in big. Not only will the plucky Scotsman wield his light sabre as Obi-Wan Kenobi in May 2005's *Star Wars: Episode III*, he'll also lend his voice to the much-anticipated animated flick *Robots*, due out in March of that year. Directed by **Chris Wedge** (*Ice Age*) and produced by Wedge's digital animation studio Blue Sky, *Robots* takes place in a universe inhabited by mechanical beings and focuses on Rodney the robot (McGregor), who gets a job working with the famous inventor, Big Weld (Mel Brooks), only to discover that life isn't so rosy for obsolete robots. The rest of the vocal cast includes **Halle Berry**, **Drew Carey**, **Amanda Bynes**, **Jim Broadbent** and Canadian **Harland Williams**.



## RENÉE ROCKS

**Melissa Etheridge** desperately wanted to play her, **Brittany Murphy** was actually signed to play her, but it's **Renée Zellweger** who will play tragic rock icon Janis Joplin in the bio-pic *Piece of my Heart*. Zellweger, like Joplin, is a Texas gal and, according to *Piece of my Heart* producer **Tom Rosenbert**, "she's been obsessed with Joplin for years." It's unknown whether Zellweger will do her own singing. Production is slated to start after Zellweger wraps *Bridget Jones: Edge of Reason*, which is a relief since Joplin's normal-sized figure will mean Zellweger won't be able to go overboard and lose *too* much weight like she did after the first *Bridget Jones* film.

## B R I E F L Y

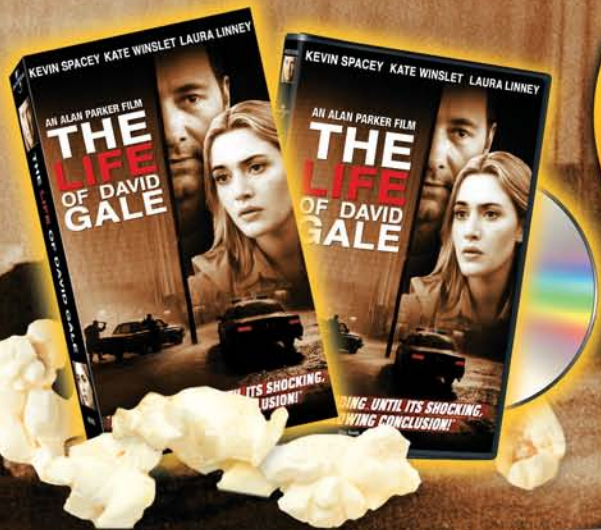
■ **Ben Affleck** will play a sports reporter who uses sports terminology to help couples solve their sexual problems in *Sex Talk*. ■ **Matt Damon** has agreed to reprise his role of super spy Jason Bourne in *The Bourne Identity* sequel, *The Bourne Supremacy*. ■ Look for troubled celeb couple **Whitney Huston** and **Chobby Brown** to team up for their big-screen debut in *Buffy and Charlie*, in which they'll play musician/gangsters. ■ **Milla Jovovich** cements her position as reigning sci-fi/horror queen by taking the lead in the vampire-inspired chiller, *Ultraviolet*.



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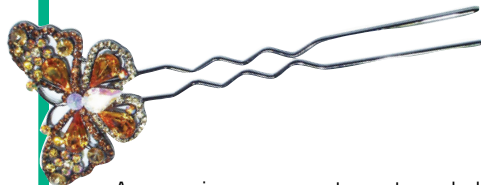


You've probably noticed Revlon's new Professional Hair Days line at a lot of salons lately — more than a dozen styling products that are a step up from usual drugstore offerings. But the one product hairdressers were raving about at the recent ABA (Allied Beauty Association) conference in Montreal was the **SCRUNCH CURL ENHANCER** (\$19), which is great for creating loose, messy waves or enhancing tighter loops.

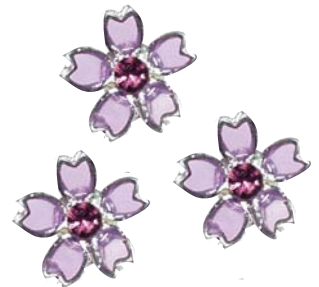


Scrunch Curl Enhancer helps this model at the ABA conference attain a sexy, tussled look. **Photo: Louis René Gauthier. Makeup: Trinidad Rivas.**

If you're tired of having to wash your hands after using styling product, or getting goopy hands every time you touch your hair, try **DUWOP'S HANDS2HAIR** (\$24), an ingenious moisturizing hand cream and hair styling crème in one. Made from an oil/soy base, the pleasant-smelling stuff (is that grapefruit?) really works! Available at select boutiques, or by calling (toll-free) 1-877-8BEAUTY.



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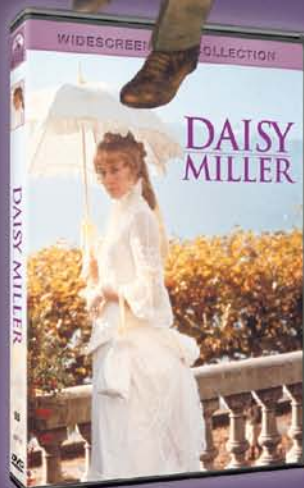


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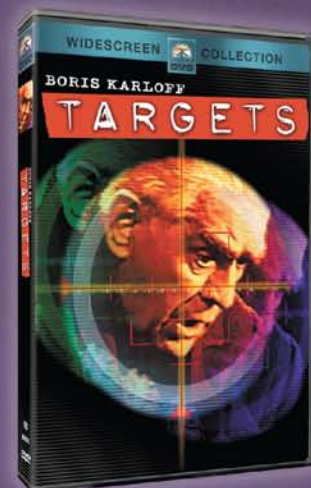
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# JOSH ROUSE'S "HAPPY-SAD" SONGS, AND SLOAN ON GETTING OLDER | BY INGRID RANDOJA



Josh Rouse

## ROUSING JOSH ROUSE

**S**inger/songwriter Josh Rouse was born in 1972, his beloved Telecaster guitar was made in 1972, which led Rouse to thinking it would be cool to make a '70s-style album titled, what else, *1972* (in stores August 26). The Nebraska-born Rouse is a gifted musician who's amassed a loyal following who appreciate what he calls his "happy-sad" songs. You don't hear Rouse songs on the radio, but his melodic tunes have made their way onto TV soundtracks — *Ed*, *Roswell*, *Dawson's Creek* and *Party of Five* — and director Cameron Crowe nabbed the Rouse ditty "Directions" for his *Vanilla Sky* soundtrack.

But back to *1972*. It's a mellow, infinitely listenable album, the kind you play while sipping a few cocktails on a late summer afternoon.

"It's a feel-good record," says Rouse on the phone from his home in Nashville, where the much-travelled musician now lives with his wife. "This is the music I've been into since I started making records in 1998. I've always said I wanted to make a record that sounded like 1972. It's my favourite period of music, it's about the groove of that era."

The album, Rouse's fourth, does have a groovy groove. And you can hear his musical influences scattered throughout the disc.

"This is the first time I've ever made an album in which we were referencing things," explains Rouse. "It was like, let's put a Curtis Mayfield type of flute here — we call it the ghetto flute — or I want a Rolling Stones "Miss You" vibe on this song, or a David Bowie *Hunky Dory* piano feel here."

*1972* is bursting with lovely, slightly melancholy songs, and you

gotta believe a filmmaker making a set-in-the-'70s movie would snatch a few of them for their soundtrack.

"I'd like to see that happen more often," says Rouse with a laugh. "It's cool to see celebrities hopping around while your music is playing in the background. You think, 'Hmm, I wonder if Cameron Diaz listens to me...' I'm here in my little world and I just never know who is into my music. It's really neat, your music can really get out there."

## SLOAN'S MID-LIFE CRISIS

**S**loan's eighth album, *Action Pact*, hits stores August 19th, unleashing a solid stream of power pop. "It's probably more cohesive than our other records," says

guitarist/vocalist

Jay Ferguson on the phone from his home in Toronto. "It's a little narrower in scope than the last couple of records we've made,

there's no real sad acoustic

songs." However, the first single, the catchy "The Rest of My Life," brings an introspective edge to the disc. "The song addresses the thought that at our age we still live for the band, but what about the other side of our lives," notes Ferguson. "It's about balance in your life. It's not necessarily about being embarrassed about being in a band — I could do this forever, it's what I wanted to do since I was a kid. It's about anybody who is at a certain age and who asks, 'Am I going to get married? Am I going to start a family? What am I doing?' I think everybody goes through that."



## OUT THIS MONTH

### THE DANDY WARHOLS

*Welcome to the Monkey House* >> AUGUST 5

It's been three years since this cheeky band out of Portland, Oregon released a CD. Their latest, named after a book of short stories by Kurt Vonnegut Jr., is produced by Duran Duran alumnus Nick Rhodes.

### MARY J. BLIGE

*Love & Life* >> AUGUST 26

Soul sistah Blige reunites with former producer P. Diddy and gets vocal support from rappers 50 cent, Method Man, Eve and Jay-Z on this her sixth album.

### RANCID

*Indestructible* >> AUGUST 26

The veteran punk outfit still has what it takes to get bodies flailing, which is why they're headlining this summer's Vans Warped Tour.





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# HIGH CALIBUR

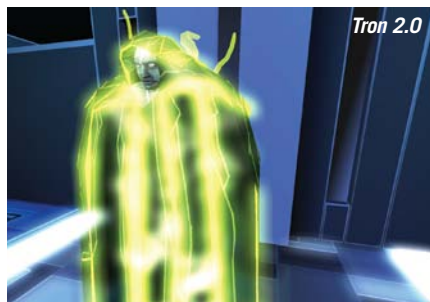
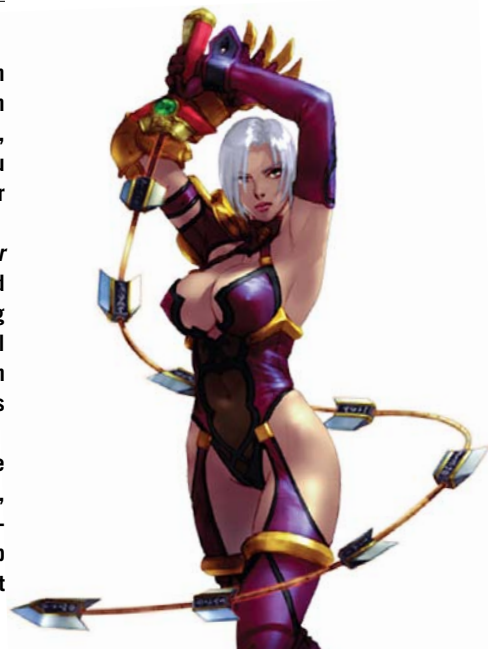
Stellar sequel *Soul Calibur II* ups the options for demolishing opponents | BY MARK MAGEE

## SOUL CALIBUR II [GC • PC • XBOX]

Fighting games have been a mainstay of the videogame world ever since Ryu first took on Blanca back in the days of *Street Fighter*. But aside from the occasional graphic flourish (*Mortal Kombat's* infamous spine-ripping gore) and the move to 3-D (thank you very much, *Virtua Fighter*), the basic gameplay of the genre has pretty much remained the same — you face off against an opponent, lay into them with a handful of button-mashing punches or kicks, and then wait for the triumphant victory pose.

That paint-by-numbers mentality is one of the main reasons why the original *Soul Calibur* stood out like a severed thumb. Because, while all the other fighting games out there relied on old school kung fu for their inspiration, *Soul Calibur's* characters were sword-wielding duelers with an arsenal of blades that ran the gamut from fencing epees to medieval broadswords to oversized scissors. And, while that may sound like nothing more than an interesting cosmetic change, the addition of weaponry vastly increased the range of tactics and strategies one could use to beat the living pulp out of one's digital opponents.

This multiplatform sequel to the classic original brings back many of your favourite characters, along with a handful of snazzy new ones (including, on the GameCube version, *The Legend of Zelda's* heroic Link). The game also boasts seven different modes of gameplay, including a unique RPG-style mode that lets you collect and equip your fighter with up to 200 different weapons, for those who just can't wait to get their hands on the perfect blade-encrusted whip.



## TRON 2.0 [PC]

The 1982 film *Tron* was notorious for two things — its groundbreaking computer-created special effects and its awesome spin-off videogames. Now, 20 years later, it's time to return to the land of light cycles, deadly discs and evil computer programs with this fast-paced action game. You can either work your way through more than 30 huge single-player levels or fire up the multiplayer arenas, where up to 16 participants can compete in a variety of combat and racing games.

mostly due to the well-balanced combat system and excellent script. So fans will be pleased to hear that this new offering — which is being promoted as a “lost episode” from season five — looks to be just as good as its predecessor. Sharpen up Mr. Pointy and get ready to dust some vamps!



## GLADIUS [GC • PS2 • XBOX]

Admit it — after walking out of *Gladiator*, you wanted nothing more than to pick up a trident and a net and start kicking some serious butt. But polite society frowns upon gladiatorial combat these days, so if you really want to live the life of a Roman-style arena fighter, pick up this unique role-playing game that puts you in charge of recruiting and training your very own school of gladiators. Now if only they'd come up with a good Christians vs. lions game...

## FREAKY FLYERS [GC • PS2 • XBOX]

The “go-kart” style of racing games — first popularized by *MarioKart* — takes to the skies with this cute and funny racer that puts you and your buddies in the cockpits of some really tiny planes. The huge environments, crazy stunts and zippy races all help make this a great party game, but even better are the hilarious jokes (penned by Ben Edlund, writer of *The Tick* comic book) that pepper the game like doodlebugs on WWII London.



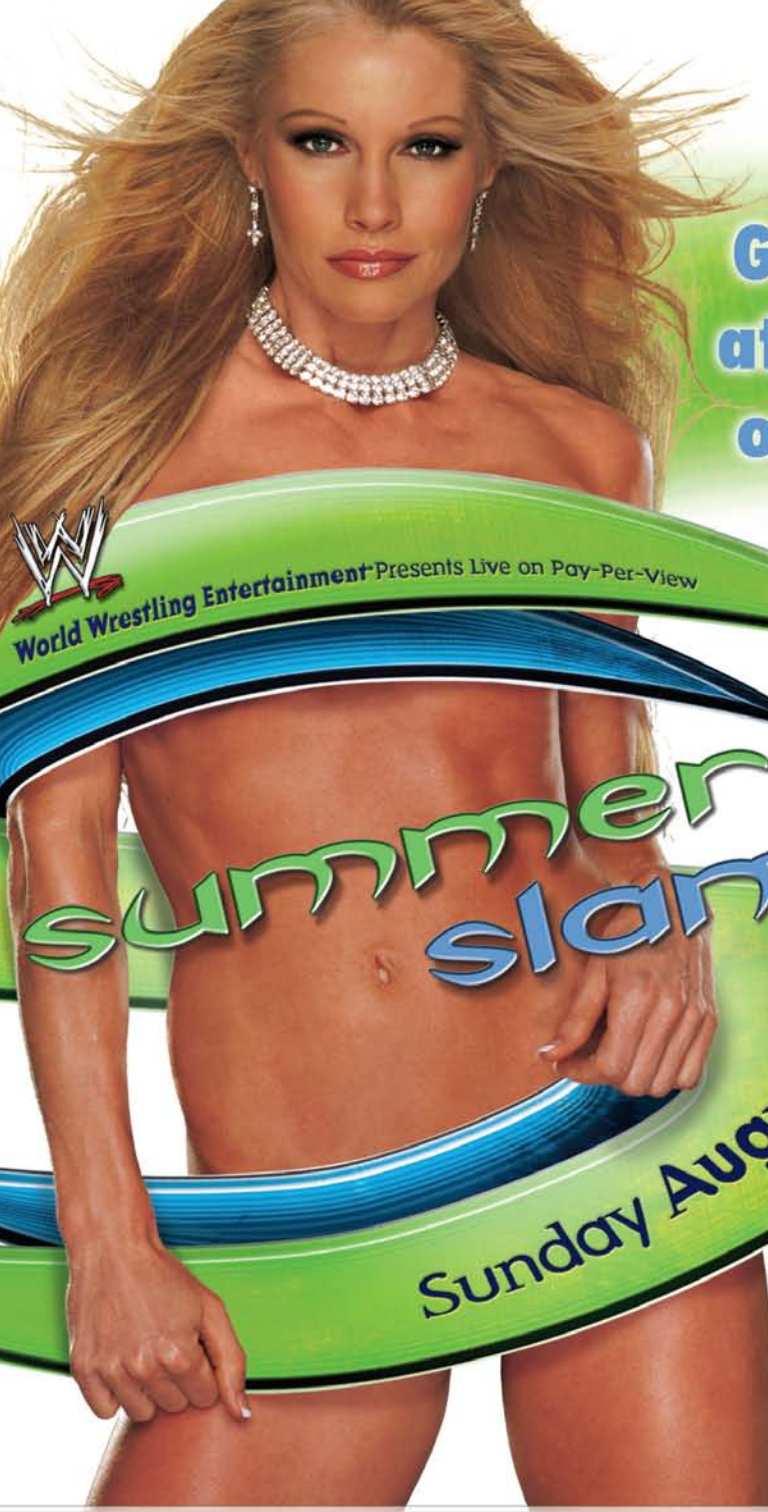
## BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER: CHAOS BLEEDS [GC • PS2 • XBOX]

Last year's stellar *Buffy* game was one of the chosen few titles that have successfully made the leap from TV to videogame,

## DINO CRISIS 3 [XBOX]

Capcom's dinosaur-hunting franchise continues with this, the third chapter in the popular series. As with the previous two, you wander around a dino-infested world with little more than a gun, a few gadgets and your wits. The gameplay is basically identical to the *Resident Evil* series, so fans of those games might want to take a break from offing zombies to take on some more mobile opponents.





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# June WHITFIELD MAKES HER PICKS

Overseas, June Whitfield is recognized as the “grandmother of British comedy,” but North Americans know her simply as Eddy’s mother on the hilarious ’90s TV series *Absolutely Fabulous*.

Whitfield was born in London, England in 1925, and studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. She made her mark in radio in the ’50s and later on TV in the long-running BBC sitcoms *Happily Ever After* and *Terry and June*, both alongside comedian Terry Scott. It was Whitfield’s image as the long-suffering suburban mum that *AbFab* originator and star Jennifer Saunders looked to subvert when she cast her in the groundbreaking series. Whitfield spoke to *Famous* while in Toronto to promote *AbFab*’s release on video and DVD.

#### WHAT ARE YOUR FIVE FAVOURITE FILMS?

“Number one is *Gone With the Wind* [1939]. It was a very sexy film without actually being demonstrative. When Rhett carried Scarlett up those stairs we knew what was going to happen. • Number two is *Mary Poppins* [1964] because it’s such a joyful film and I love Julie Andrews and I love the music. It’s a fun film, apart from Dick Van Dyke’s English accent. • Number three would be *High Society* [1956]. Again, a wonderful musical with Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly and Celeste Holm. It’s the musical version of *The Philadelphia Story*, about a rich girl who is supposed to marry some chap, but is in love with someone else. • Number four is *Casablanca* [1942] because it’s with Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart and I followed their film careers. • And for number five I would say *The Shawshank Redemption* [1994]. I saw it recently and I thought it was such

a well-made movie, although it’s not really my kind of film, being about prisons and people hitting each other. But I was transfixed from start to finish.”

#### WHO AMONG THE *ABFAB* CAST IS MOST LIKE THEIR CHARACTER ON THE SHOW?

“I would say no one. Jennifer is very quiet, hates publicity, parties. She’s a homebody. Joanna [Lumley] is certainly nothing like Patsy. Julia [Swahala] is very bright and Jane [Horrocks] is just so multitalented. I mean, a bit of you comes out in whatever you’re doing, but I wouldn’t say anyone is exactly their character.”

#### HOW MUCH FREEDOM DID YOU HAVE TO IMPROVISE ON SET?

“If anything happened in rehearsal and Jennifer laughed at it and thought it was a good idea, then it was in.”

#### WAS YOUR CHARACTER FULLY DEVELOPED WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED?

“Oh, goodness no. When I started out I thought I would be just a suburban mother that Edina didn’t want to deal with. Anytime she sees her mother it reminds her of getting old, so that’s why she says things like, ‘Get that old woman out of here!’ From there, Mother became a kleptomaniac and all sorts of things. I think Mother knows exactly what she’s doing, but just isn’t telling.”

#### WERE YOU SURPRISED BY *ABFAB*’S SUCCESS?

“I’m always surprised at success, and Jennifer was surprised by its success. It just struck a chord, didn’t it? I look at the characters as caricatures, they are so over-the-top, but then I meet people who say, ‘She’s just like my mother.’ I think ‘Really?’”

#### HOLLYWOOD IS QUITE CRUEL TO ACTRESSES WHEN THEY REACH A CERTAIN AGE. IN BRITAIN IT SEEMS THEY ARE MUCH KINDER TO THEIR ACTRESSES. DO YOU AGREE?

“I do. There are certainly more actresses in the leading-lady category who go on much longer. Look at Helen Mirren and the Dames — Maggie Smith and Judi Dench. They found roles that fit them. But everybody ain’t always young.”

#### YES, BUT EVEN OLDER ACTRESSES IN HOLLYWOOD MUST STILL CONFORM TO A BEAUTY IDEAL AND THEY’RE NOT ALLOWED TO BE THEMSELVES.

“I think we’re more open to the fact that people do get older, and a lot of the viewers are well over 40 and 50, so it’s not as much of a shock.”

#### IS THERE A ROLE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY BUT NEVER HAVE?

“I suppose, in my youth, I would have liked to have done more musicals. I thought I’d be Judy Garland at one time.”

#### ONE LAST QUESTION: WHAT’S WITH THE THEME SONG, “WHEELS ON FIRE”? IT’S THE ODDEST SONG AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANYTHING.

“Our show’s a bit like that, nothing to do with anything. Really, I have no idea. It has to be Jennifer’s choice. I believe her husband, Ad Edmondson, is on the backing track, so that may have something to do with it. Maybe it’s supposed to evoke the ’60s, and Eddy & Patsy are still living in the ’60s. Maybe that’s it.”

—CATHY PROWSE



# new RELEASES

GO HOME WITH AGENT CODY BANKS,  
THE GOOD THIEF OR THE LORD OF THE RINGS

AUGUST 5

## AGENT CODY BANKS

**Stars:** Frankie Muniz, Hilary Duff

**Director:** Harald Zwart (*One Night at McCool's*)

**Story:** *Malcolm in the Middle's* Muniz stars as a pint-sized CIA agent whose quest to save the world is put in jeopardy because he can't talk to girls without jabbering like an over-caffeinated infant.

## BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE

**Stars:** Steve Martin, Queen Latifah

**Director:** Adam Shankman (*A Walk to Remember*)

**Story:** An uptight white lawyer's life is turned upside down with the surprise arrival of an outrageous black jailbird. The moral of the story? White people need to chill, yo!

## WHAT A GIRL WANTS

**Stars:** Amanda Bynes, Colin Firth

**Director:** Dennie Gordon (*Joe Dirt*)

**Story:** An uptight British politician's life is turned upside down with the surprise arrival of his outrageous American daughter. The moral of the story? British people need to chill, yo!

AUGUST 12

## HEAD OF STATE

**Stars:** Chris Rock, Bernie Mac

**Director:** Chris Rock (debut)

**Story:** An obscure alderman (Rock) is chosen as the last-minute replacement for a recently deceased presidential candidate. The big joke? He's black! And they say political satire is dead.

## HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

**Stars:** Nobody you've ever heard of.

Trust us.

**Director:** Rob Zombie (debut)

**Story:** Any film that features cannibalism,

Satanism and 1,000 dead bodies is okay in our books. The fact that it's the directorial debut of the singer from the cartoony metal band White Zombie is just gravy.

## THE HUNTED

**Stars:** Tommy Lee Jones, Benicio Del Toro

**Director:** William Friedkin (*Jade*)

**Story:** An AWOL Special Forces assassin (Del Toro) has gone feral in the forest, and the only person who can stop his killing spree is his former mentor (Jones).

## THE LIZZIE MCGUIRE MOVIE

**Stars:** Hilary Duff, Adam Lamberg

**Director:** Jim Fall (*Trick*)

**Story:** Tween sensation Lizzie has graduated from middle school, and now she's spending her summer being mistaken for a pop idol in Italy. Kinda makes summer camp seem lame, doesn't it?

AUGUST 19

## BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE

**Stars:** Michael Moore, Charlton Heston

**Director:** Michael Moore (*Roger & Me*)

**Story:** This Oscar-winning documentary may play a little fast and loose with the facts, but it's such a good argument against America's culture of guns and fear, we can forgive a duplicitous edit or two.



## CHICAGO

**Stars:** Renée Zellweger, Richard Gere

**Director:** Rob Marshall (debut)

**Story:** This glitzy musical about a murdering showgirl won the Oscar for Best Picture proving, for some, that the old-fashioned song-and-dance style of filmmaking is back with a vengeance, and, for others, that Academy voters are actually dumber than previously suspected.

## THE GOOD THIEF

**Stars:** Nick Nolte, Tcheky Karyo

**Director:** Neil Jordan (*In Dreams*)

**Story:** A luckless gambler plans a double heist at a casino on the French Riviera in this slick and jazzy slice of fun that manages to be everything *Ocean's Eleven* wanted to be.

AUGUST 26

## THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS

**Stars:** Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen

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

**Story:** The second chapter in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy is just as good as the first, but with the added bonuses of Gollum's note-perfect performance and the epic battle of Helm's Deep.

new to DVD

## CASABLANCA: SPECIAL EDITION

Sixty years after it first hit the silver screen, the doomed-love classic *Casablanca* is still winning over new fans with its eternally quotable dialogue and heartbreaking finale. This new edition of the film is filled with a number of retrospective-style special features, but the real draw is the recently discovered 10 minutes of previously unseen footage that was left on the cutting room floor. Of course, purists will protest that the movie was perfect the way it was, but everyone else will enjoy seeing Bogey and Bergman mix it up as Rick and Ilsa one more time.



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# august

HOROSCOPE | BY DAN LIEBMAN



KATIA SMIRNOVA

## leo

July 23 >>> August 22

You gain a new perspective on a difficult problem, and should feel comfortable making a decision by the end of August. Relatives are more supportive of your plans. Decorating a room or designing a wardrobe? Bold touches and bright colours suit your personality.

## virgo

August 23 >>> September 22

Your confidence level starts to soar around the 15th. Long-distance friendships thrive, but don't ignore those who are closer to home. An interesting financial prospect may be worthy of more research. Your greatest gift is making others feel good about themselves.

## libra

September 23 >>> October 22

Your personality — easygoing manner, willingness to adapt — is perfectly suited to a month that's marked by change. Getting away on your own may be difficult.

## scorpio

October 23 >>> November 21

Your virtuous side (did you know you had one?) emerges early in August. You're taking the high road: forgiving *and* forgetting. A friend's loyalty is proved, but in an unobvious way. Health matters require a proactive approach and maybe a second opinion.

## sagittarius

November 22 >>> December 22

Your creative juices are flowing, especially during the first half of August. Take advantage of the season and do some outdoor sketching or poetry writing. A family dispute turns into a tug of war, your best role is as referee.

## capricorn

December 23 >>> January 20

Capricorn's calendar fills up quickly. Postponed meetings, rescheduled appointments and on-again, off-again visits are clumped together in a space of 31 days.

## aquarius

January 21 >>> February 19

Your rebellious side makes a rare but memorable appearance, likely during the week of the 18th. Your workload gets heavier. Delegate tasks before your leaning tower of papers starts to topple.

## pisces

February 20 >>> March 20

August marks the start of a less competitive, more cooperative, period for Pisces. It seems everyone has an opinion — and for once, that's a good thing. Listen and heed their advice. A friend finally repays a favour or debt, but in a surprising or unconventional way.

## aries

March 21 >>> April 20

August proves the old adage that opposites attract. Whether personal or professional, you establish a rapport with someone whose temperament is drastically different from yours.

## taurus

April 21 >>> May 22

August finds you more receptive to change and more willing to spend money on yourself. You may be signing important agreements or taking on major new responsibilities. In either case, don't hesitate to raise questions before committing.

## gemini

May 23 >>> June 21

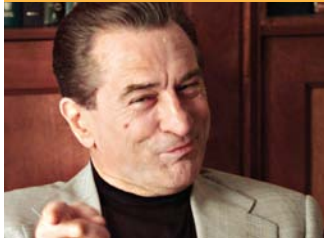
Decisions made now have long-term results, so weigh all the pros and cons. Creativity and imagination are your strong suits. You add flair to even the duller events. Late month is an ideal time for developing new interests and taking on an unusual hobby.

## cancer

June 22 >>> July 22

August finds you playing catch up — getting together with a neglected friend, or finally taking that much-delayed trip. It's also a good month for working on your image. Disputes are settled with little fanfare. Ornerly relatives are suddenly a joy to be with.

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



1st Sam Mendes  
2nd Peter O'Toole  
3rd Martin Sheen

4th Billy Bob Thornton  
5th Jonathan Silverman  
6th Geri Halliwell  
7th Charlize Theron  
8th Dustin Hoffman  
9th Gillian Anderson  
10th Antonio Banderas  
11th Hulk Hogan  
12th Casey Affleck  
13th Don Ho  
14th Halle Berry

15th Ben Affleck  
16th Madonna  
17th Robert De Niro  
18th Edward Norton  
19th Matthew Perry  
20th Joan Allen  
21st Kim Cattrall  
22nd Valerie Harper  
23rd Scott Caan  
24th Marlee Matlin  
25th Elvis Costello  
26th Macaulay Culkin



27th Paul Reubens  
28th Shania Twain  
29th Michael Jackson  
30th Cameron Diaz  
31st Richard Gere





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PHOTO BY RENA DURHAM/KEystone

David Duchovny takes part in a Malibu triathlon to benefit pediatric AIDS research

# 10

## MALE STARS REVEAL THEIR BEAUTY SECRETS

**DAVID DUCHOVNY** “When I played a transvestite on *Twin Peaks*, I had to wear women’s clothes, even pantyhose. So I discovered Nair — to get the hair off your legs. It’s not very professional. Nair is like napalm. You put it on and wait a couple of minutes and wipe it off. It’s pretty magical. If you gotta take hair off, use Nair.”

**FREDDIE PRINZE JR.** “Personal hygiene is very important. I take a 30-minute shower every morning. Then I use a dab or two of Sebastian’s Twisted Taffy pomade on my cowlick, plus Secret deodorant. I should use Gillette or something tougher, but I love the scent of baby powder. How weenie is that?”

**DYLAN MCDERMOTT** “I keep in shape playing basketball three times a week, and I can’t eat fried foods because, when I gain weight, it goes right to my face. I’m Irish — that’s what happens.”

**JOHN TRAVOLTA** “I don’t do cosmetics in private life, but I do have someone colour my bald spots when I’m working on a film. When Gene Hackman saw me on a set before I’d had anything done, he grimaced and said, ‘Boy, makeup and hair does wonders for you!’ Balding is a

natural phenomenon of aging but it can be disguised by many different over-the-counter spray preparations — and I don’t mind using them.”

**JAMES MARTERS** “My real hair is brown and curly but for TV [he played Spike on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*], they had to bleach it every two weeks. It’s so hard on the scalp. At first my scalp was bleeding and then it peeled off. Big, thick clumps came out! Then I discovered that if you put four to seven packs of Sweet ’n Low in the bleaching solution, it alleviates the burning.”

**JIM CARREY** “Dove soap! I get the biggest one in the store and I throw it away as soon as the Dove engraver is gone. For exercise, I swim in my pool several times a week. I call it the River Jordan because that’s where I swim and float and I talk to

God and I do whatever — a lot of good things have happened there.”

**MICHAEL CLARKE DUNCAN** “A man can’t feel good about himself in a suit that doesn’t fit properly. I’m big — 6’5”, 315 pounds — and I couldn’t find an Armani suit that fit me for an important occasion. Rochester Big & Tall Clothing, the mail-order house, got me a size 56 black wool Versace suit, which was great.”

**RICK SCHRODER** “I stay off alcohol because it makes my face puffy. And I eat a big breakfast — bacon and eggs or pancakes — and consume lots of liquids.”

**BRENDAN FRASER** “The deep-tissue massage I get in Koreatown in Los Angeles. They sit on you and use their elbows and knees. It’s revitalizing.”



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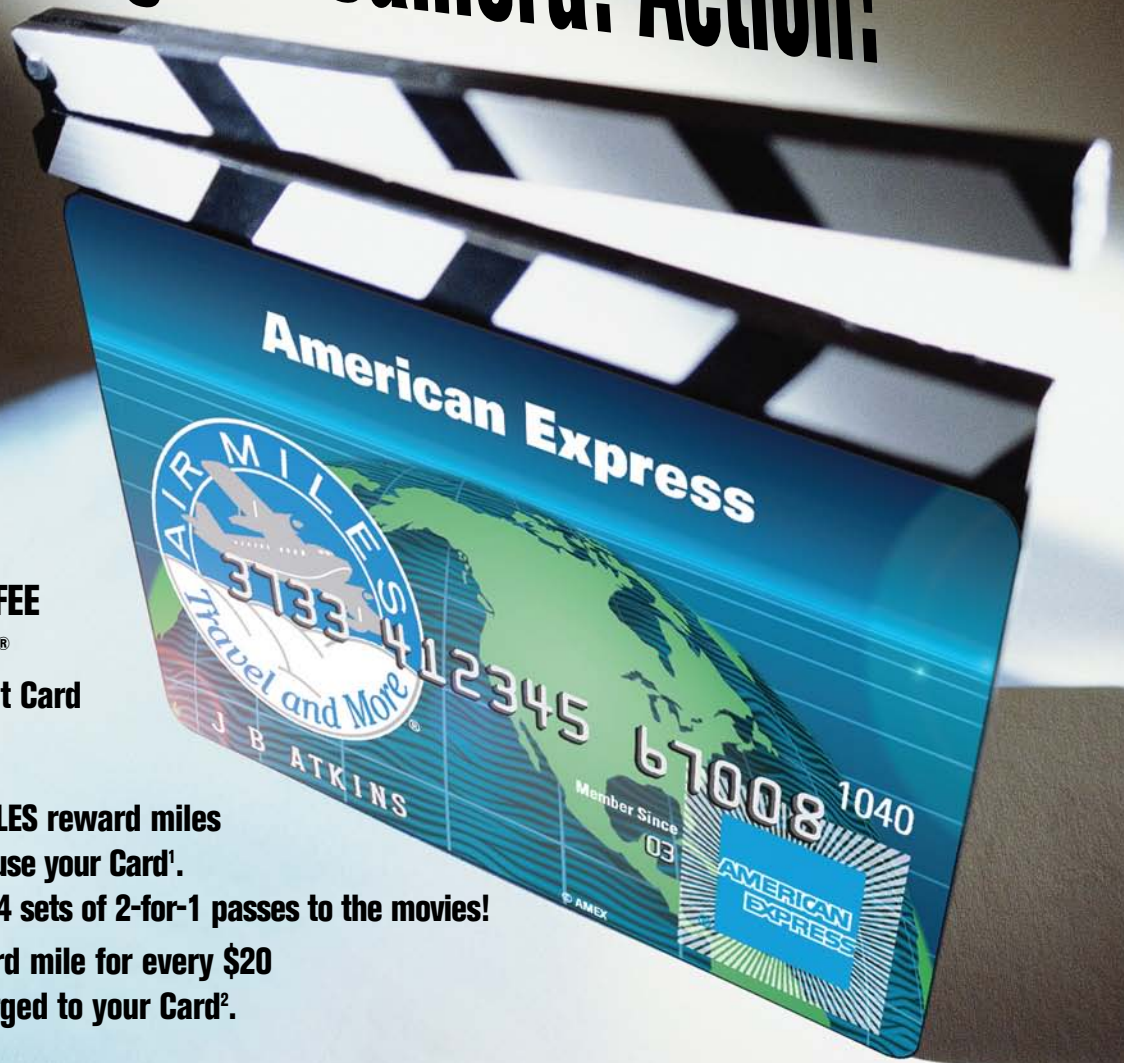
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