

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

Famous

august 2006 | volume 7 | number 8

Hilary
Duff

ON MATERIAL
GIRLS

Robin
Williams+
Sandra Oh

TALK THE NIGHT
LISTENER

BON COP,
BAD COP'S
COLM FEORE

TALLADEGA
NIGHTS'
MOTORMOUTH
WILL FERRELL

Snakes on a Plane's

SAMUEL L.

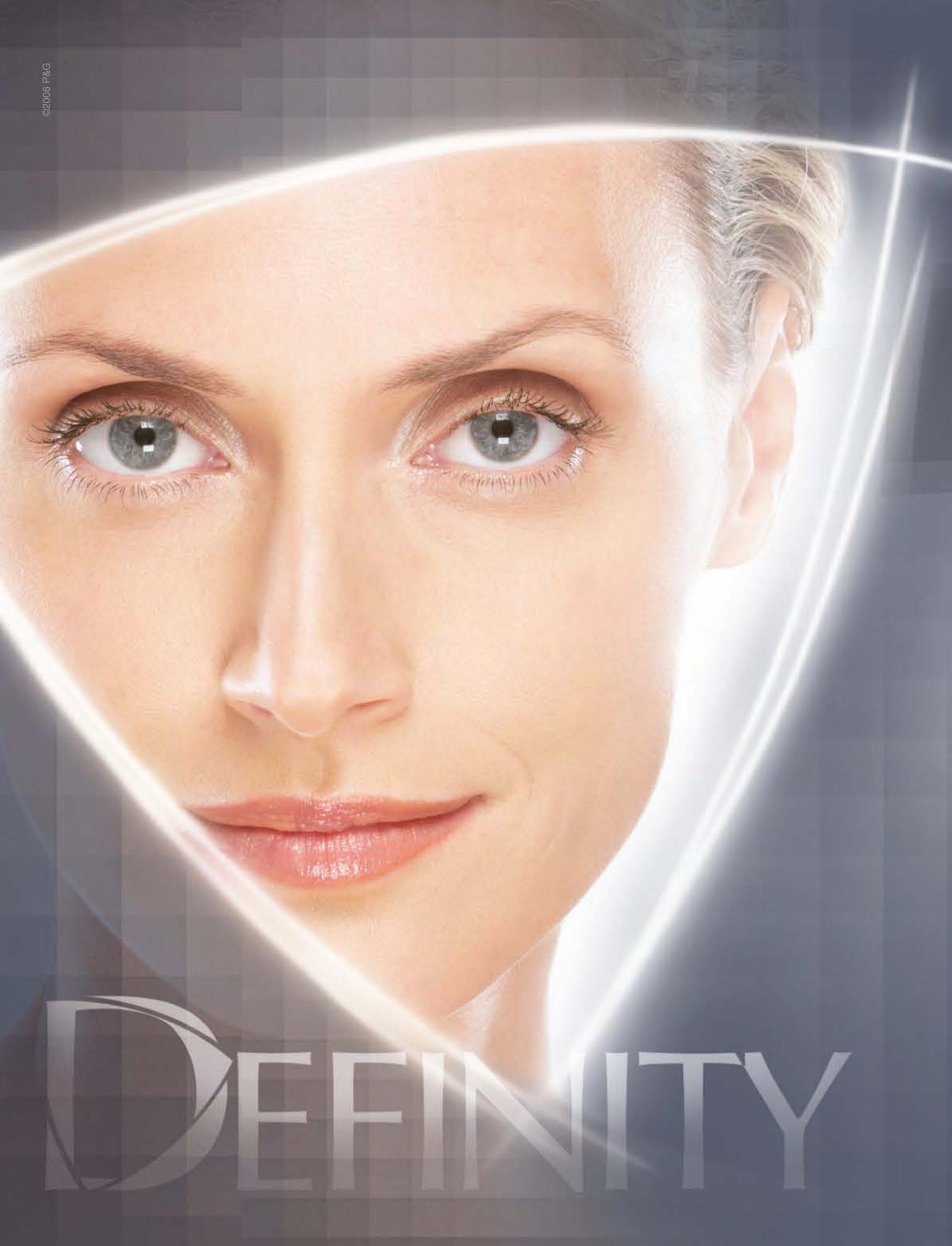
JACKSON

is here to tell you that he really, really hates snakes

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PLUS BRUCE WILLIS, SIENNA MILLER AND OTHER STARS ON THE PERILS OF DATING

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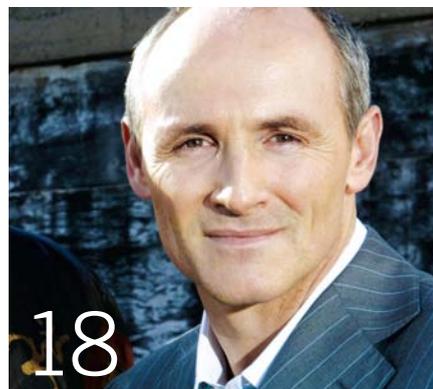
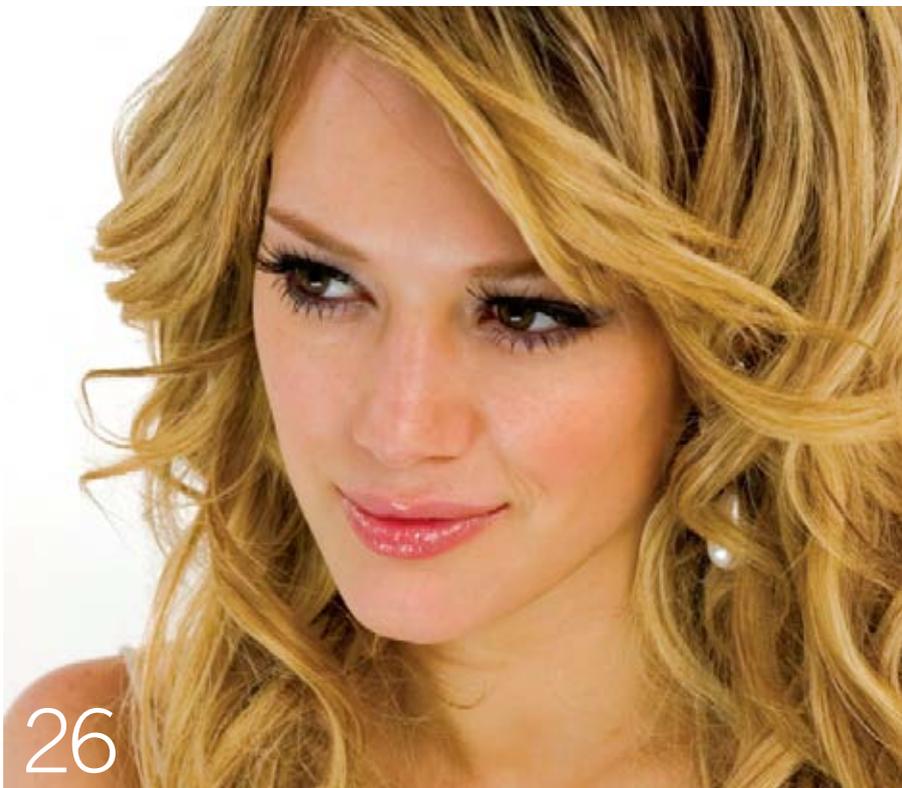


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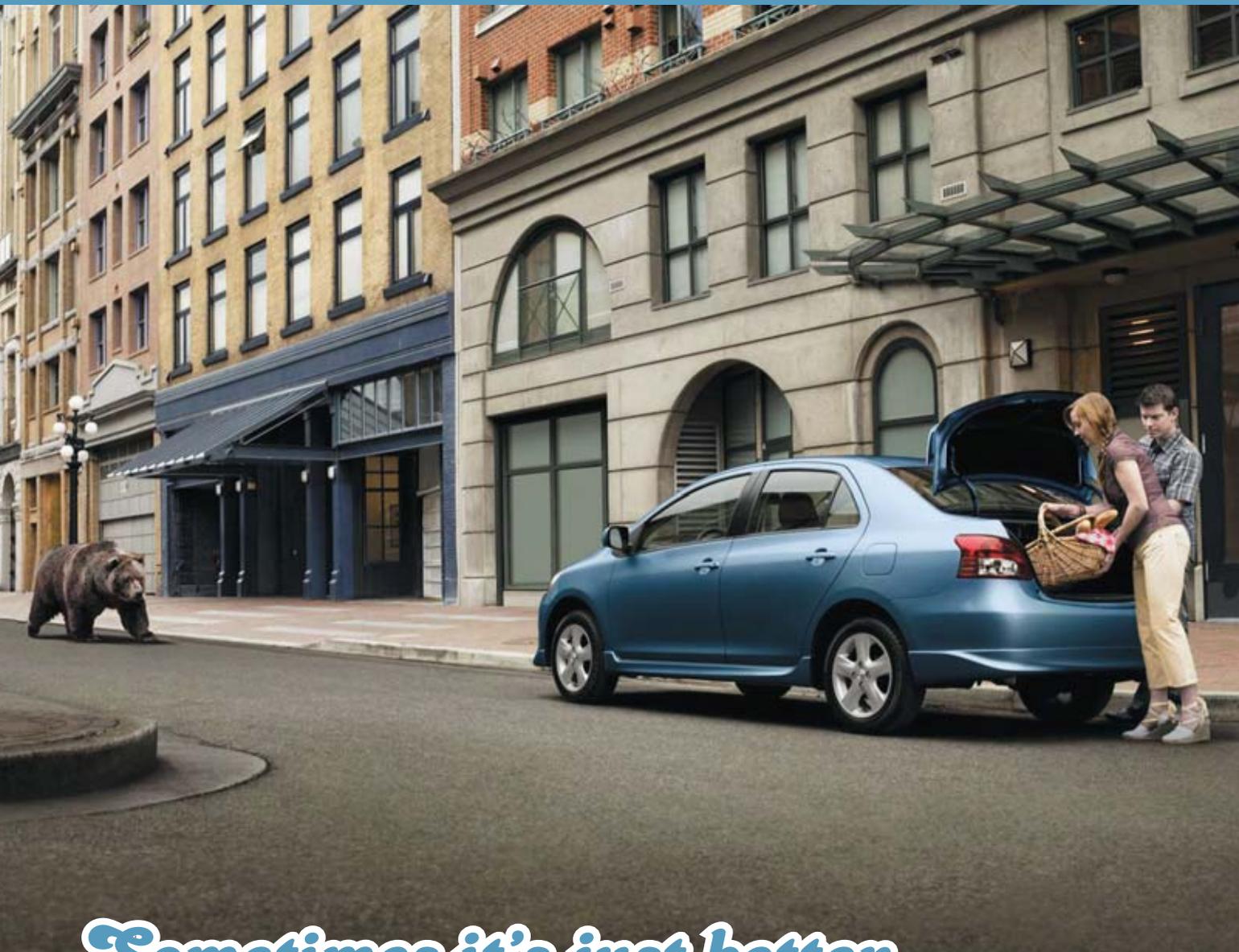
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COVER PHOTO: JOHN SCIULLI/WIREIMAGE



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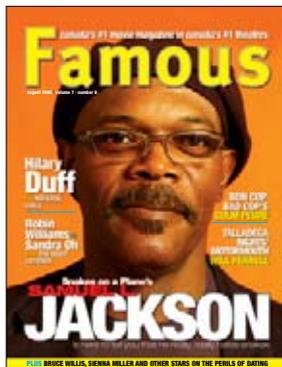
Famous™ magazine is published 12 times a year by Cineplex Entertainment. Subscriptions are \$32.10 (\$30 + GST) a year in Canada, \$45 a year in the U.S. and \$55 a year overseas. Single copies are \$3. Back issues are \$6. All subscription inquiries, back issue requests and letters to the editor should be directed to Famous magazine at 102 Atlantic Ave., Ste. 100, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1X9; or 416.539.8800; or Famous@cineplex.com

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40708019
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
Famous magazine, 102 Atlantic Ave., Suite 100, Toronto, Ont., M6K 1X9

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SUMMER OF SAM



I first realized there was something strange about *Snakes on a Plane* about five months ago, when I read that a particular sentence Samuel L. Jackson will utter is “expected to take on cult status.”

Now, hold on a second, cult status is by definition an organic, from-the-ground-up phenomenon that is decided by the people. Predicting that something will achieve cult status seems unnatural at best, marketing at worst.

But then I realized that, by that point, the film had already achieved a level of cult status on the web, with fans gleefully making up expletive-filled lines of dialogue they thought Jackson should deliver. This, despite the fact that the film’s plot hadn’t even been made public. There was simply the title and the fact that Jackson was attached.

Actually, there was one more thing: the fact that Jackson had admitted he agreed to do the film based on the title alone. He didn’t even need to read the script.

Although that seems like a small detail, I don’t think it is.

With that admission Jackson conceded that this would be a cheesy, fun, summer thriller that would revolve around the very simple but very effective image of deadly snakes released in an enclosed structure hurtling 30,000 feet above land. And that was enough.

Add the fact that Samuel L. Jackson is inarguably cool and we feel obliged to agree with him. Had it been tempestuous Russell Crowe or flaky Tom Cruise making the same statement we would be suspicious, reluctant. But Jackson? Yeah, we can see where he’s coming from.

But don’t take it from me. In “Damn, Dirty Snakes,” page 30, Jackson tells you why it was simply time for him to do this film.

Someone recently pointed out to me that whenever Robin Williams does a funny movie he is clean-shaven, but whenever he does a serious movie he has a beard. Well, the beard is back for *The Night Listener*, a disturbing drama about a nighttime DJ who gets wrapped up with a young, possibly abused, fan. Williams explains why he did the movie for a mere \$65,000 in “Serious Radio,” page 20. Plus we’ve added a little bonus interview with Williams’ co-star Sandra Oh.

The funniest trailer of the summer may well be for Will Ferrell’s *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*, the actor/screenwriter’s loving slap at the NASCAR way of life. In “The Fast and the Hilarious,” page 24, Ferrell tells you why he needed to write about fast cars.

In “Can’t We All Just Get Along?,” page 18, Colm Feore fills you in on the movie that’s being promoted as Canada’s first bilingual film, *Bon Cop, Bad Cop*.

And on page 26 we give you “Living in a Material World,” in which Hilary Duff describes playing a spoiled heiress in her new movie *Material Girls* and how it is — no, wait, it isn’t — inspired by celebantes like Paris Hilton.

—MARNI WEISZ



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CAUGHT ON FILM

BRUCE WILLIS, MARISA TOMEI, JOHNNY DEPP, JUDE LAW, ELIZABETH HURLEY





1 Don't forget your keys! Elizabeth Hurley leaves her London home to attend good friend Elton John's White Tie and Tiara Ball in support of AIDS research.

PHOTO BY BRUNO VINCENT/GETTY

2 Jude Law takes a breather between takes on the SoHo set of *My Blueberry Nights*, a movie about a woman (singer Norah Jones in her big-screen debut) who meets a succession of strange folk as she travels across the States.

PHOTO BY ROBERT DEMARCO/GETTY

3 "Will you stop telling everyone you based me on Keith Richards, I'm really getting sick of that story." Johnny Depp checks out his Animatronic counterpart inside the newly updated *Pirates of the Caribbean* ride at Disneyland in Anaheim, California.

PHOTO BY PAUL HIFFMEYER

4 Marisa Tomei was already feeling fine when she arrived at Tao nightclub at the Venetian Resort and Casino in Las Vegas.

PHOTO BY MIKE STOTTS/WENN

5 Yeah, we get it Bruce. You're jumping over a hedge. Bruce Willis shows his vertical range at the British premiere of his animated movie *Over the Hedge*, held at London's Leicester Square.

PHOTO BY NATHAN STRANGE/KEYSTONE





UDDERLY CONFUSING

Oh, the humiliation! Considering there's already a scarcity of lead roles for female actors in Hollywood, to see that male actors nabbed the roles of cows in the animated comedy *Barnyard* hurts. (Not to mention it's just plain weird!)

Although the Oxford Canadian Dictionary's definition of cow includes the selection "a domestic bovine

animal (regardless of sex or age)," we all know that cows are female — you know, they produce milk and give birth to cute, wobbly calves — and bulls are male bovines that have all their bits intact.

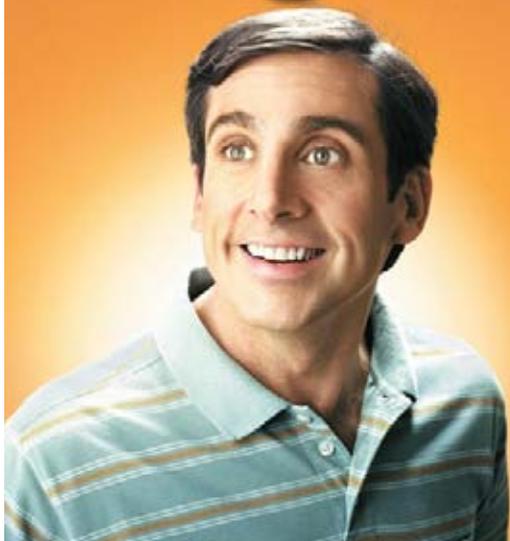
But *Barnyard* features the voice of Kevin James as Otis, the party-hearty cow who likes to torment humans. His posse includes cow pals

Eddie, Budd and Igg.

We might be able to forgive the male-centric casting, but when these animated cows strut their stuff and wave their udders — yes, those are female mammary glands — around like Chippendale dancers, well, that's just adding insult to injury. —IR



The 40-Year-Old Virgin



ONE LINE TO RULE THEM ALL

Okay, so you've made a your movie — how are you going to explain what it's about, market it and stir up excitement? Simple, you use a tagline, like, um, "In space no one can hear you scream," or "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..."

There's a fine art to writing movie taglines, or copy lines, as they're called in the advertising biz.

The Hollywood Reporter recently handed out its annual Key Art Awards, which pay homage to the year's best movie marketing in such categories as Best Copy Line, Poster, Trailer and TV Commercial.

THE NOMINEES FOR 2005'S BEST COPY LINE WERE:

- *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*: "The longer you wait, the harder it gets."
- *Crash*: "Moving at the speed of life, we are bound to collide with each other."
- *Saw II*: "Oh yes, there will be blood."
- *Tim Burton's Corpse Bride*: "There's been a grave misunderstanding."
- *Wedding Crashers*: "Life's a party. Crash it."

AND THE WINNER IS: *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* and its arousing effort, created by L.A.-based Crew Creative Advertising. —IR

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Sarah Carter

has a killer grand jeté

According to Sarah Carter, ballerinas make great samurai warriors.

The Toronto-born actor wields a sword this month in *DOA: Dead or Alive*, the live-action adaptation of the megapopular videogame that pits five gorgeous women against one another in knock-down, drag-out fights. Carter plays Helena Douglas, the tournament organizer and expert samurai fighter.

"I don't know what I would have done if I didn't have my history," says Carter on the line from her home in Los Angeles. "I danced with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and that has always been a help with my work, on all my jobs actually."

Carter moved to Winnipeg when she was five and it was there that she studied dance and acted in school plays. She left the 'Peg when she was 18 and headed to Toronto to study

at Ryerson's Theatre School, but dropped out after her first year when she realized she could get paid to act. She landed small TV roles, which in turn led to bigger roles in shows such as *Smallville*, *Entourage*, *Numb3rs* and *Shark*, a new lawyer series that debuts this fall and stars James Woods.

But *DOA: Dead or Alive* stands out as the 25-year-old actor's greatest challenge to date. Imagine not only learning

how to slice and dice with a two-foot sword, but doing so in China with a filmmaker who speaks very little English, renowned martial arts choreographer-turned-director Corey Yuen.

"It was a life-changing experience," says Carter. "It was pretty traumatizing actually, severe culture shock. Nothing looks the same, sounds the same, tastes the same, feels the same. It was an experience that was very hard every day it was happening, but in retrospect was the best thing that's ever happened to me."

And that includes working with Yuen.

"Cory's a genius," gushes Carter. "With not having English to speak, all we could do was communicate with images and feelings and body language, and it was powerful, in some ways a more powerful way of connecting than with language."

Fans of the videogame are holding their breath, hoping Yuen, Carter and the rest of the female cast — Devon Aoki, Natassia Malthe, Jaime Pressly and Holly Valance — will capture the game's ferocity as well as its notorious jiggle factor.

"It is eye candy," admits Carter. "But it's also a beautiful story of women coming together and fighting for what's right. I love that it starts out as a competition and eventually these women realize they need each other, and need to work together to save the day."

"And you know what, it's testing best with young girls, which is a really nice surprise to me because I thought it would only cater to the videogame fanatics."

—INGRID RANDOJA

now in theatres

| BY INGRID RANDOJA



JET LI'S FEARLESS

WHO'S IN IT? Jet Li, Betty Sun

WHO DIRECTED? Ronny Yu (*Freddy vs. Jason*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? It's 1910 and China is ruled by four nations — Russia, France, Britain and Japan. In an effort to crush growing Chinese nationalism, one fighter from each of the four occupying countries steps into the ring to fight China's greatest martial arts warrior — Huo Yuanjia (Li). The movie is based on real events, and Huo Yuanjia is still considered a national hero in China. Today, his great granddaughter is herself a renowned martial arts expert.

• **HITS THEATRES AUGUST 4**

Ontario's Sandra Oh snagged the role of Williams' bookkeeper. **See Robin Williams and Sandra Oh interviews, page 20.**

TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY

WHO'S IN IT? Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly

WHO DIRECTED? Adam McKay (*Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? NASCAR champ and good ol' boy Ricky Bobby (Ferrell) faces a crisis of confidence when a hotshot French Formula One driver (Sacha Baron Cohen) switches to the southern racing circuit. **See Will Ferrell interview, page 24.**

BARNYARD

VOICES: Kevin James, Courteney Cox

WHO DIRECTED? Steve Oedekerk (*Smart Alex*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The first rule of the Barnyard is you don't talk about the Barnyard, or talk in front of humans, period. That's right, animals can talk, walk and party just like us, and that secret will be exposed if immature cow Otis (James) keeps yapping in front of people.

THE DESCENT

WHO'S IN IT? Shauna Macdonald, Alex Reid

WHO DIRECTED? Neil Marshall (*Dog Soldiers*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A group of women on a caving expedition become trapped underground and have to fend off a bunch of nasty predators who live there.

BON COP, BAD COP

WHO'S IN IT? Colm Feore, Patrick Huard

WHO DIRECTED? Eric Canuel (*Le Survenant*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A cop from Ontario (Feore) and a cop from Quebec (Huard) join forces to solve a murder where the body was found strewn across the provincial border. This buddy dramedy is Canada's first truly bilingual flick, with both actors speaking French and English. **See Colm Feore and Patrick Huard interview, page 18.**

AUGUST 9

WORLD TRADE CENTER

WHO'S IN IT? Nicolas Cage, Michael Pena

WHO DIRECTED? Oliver Stone (*Alexander*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Stone's 9/11 drama ▶▶

AUGUST 4

THE NIGHT LISTENER

WHO'S IN IT? Robin Williams, Rory Culkin

WHO DIRECTED? Patrick Stettner

(*The Business of Strangers*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Armistead Maupin's controversial novel gets the big-screen treatment with Williams as a depressed radio host who becomes intrigued with a troubled teenager (Culkin). Nepean,

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ZOOM

WHO'S IN IT? Tim Allen, Courteney Cox

WHO DIRECTED? Ken Kwapis

(The Beautician and the Beast)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Captain Zoom (Allen) comes out of retirement to instruct a bunch of ragtag kids with superpowers — including his daughter (Kate Mara) — at a top-secret superhero school.

• **HITS THEATRES AUGUST 11**

►► focuses on two Port Authority officers (Cage and Pena) who race into the World Trade Center when the first building is hit to look for survivors. However, when the building collapses, they are trapped under tons of debris and must fight to stay alive.

AUGUST 11

MATERIAL GIRLS

WHO'S IN IT? Hilary Duff, Haylie Duff

WHO DIRECTED? Martha Coolidge (*Valley Girl*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Not since acting legends Dorothy and Lillian Gish teamed up in...okay, okay, we may be exaggerating the importance of the Duff sisters working together, but it will be interesting to see if the pair can pull off this comedy about two "celebutante" sisters who lose their fortune when their family cosmetics comedy is rocked by a scandal orchestrated by a very nasty competitor (Anjelica Huston).

See **Hilary Duff** interview, page 26.

PULSE

WHO'S IN IT? Kristen Bell, Christina Milian

WHO DIRECTED? Jim Sonzero

(War of the Angels)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Bell plays a college co-ed who starts receiving email messages from her friend Josh two days after he committed suicide.

STEP UP

WHO'S IN IT? Channing Tatum, Jenna Dewan

WHO DIRECTED? Anne Fletcher (debut)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Buff troublemaker Tyler Gage is assigned 200 hours of community service cleaning up the performing arts high school that he vandalized. And wouldn't you know, Tyler is actually a Fred Astaire in baggy jeans, and teams up with a female ballet student (Dewan) looking for a dance partner.



AUGUST 18

SNAKES ON A PLANE

WHO'S IN IT? Samuel L. Jackson,

Julianna Margulies

WHO DIRECTED? David R. Ellis (*Cellular*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? It was intended to be a campy thriller produced on a modest budget, but internet buzz has turned this flick into the most anticipated film of the summer. The title says it all — Jackson plays a surly FBI agent who helps fend off a bunch of venomous snakes aboard a flight between Hawaii and Los Angeles.

See **Samuel L. Jackson** interview, page 30.

AUGUST 25

HOW TO EAT FRIED WORMS

WHO'S IN IT? Luke Benwald, Tom Cavanagh

WHO DIRECTED? Bob Dolman

(The Banger Sisters)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Based on the kids' book by Thomas Rockwell (son of painter Norman), this family film finds 11-year-old Billy (Benwald) accepting a dare that would require him to eat 10 worms in a day, and we're not talking gummy worms either.

DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE

WHO'S IN IT? Devon Aoki, Sarah Carter

WHO DIRECTED? Corey Yuen (*The Transporter*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The popular arcade-style

videogame that showcases five hot babes beating the estrogen out of each other gets a live-action adaptation. See **Sarah Carter** interview, page 12.

INVINCIBLE

WHO'S IN IT? Mark Wahlberg,

Greg Kinnear

WHO DIRECTED? Ericson Core (debut)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Based on a true story, this underdog football flick stars Wahlberg as Vince Papale, a 30-year-old bartender who cracks the Philadelphia Eagles' lineup in 1976 after attending an open tryout orchestrated by head coach Dick Vermeil (Kinnear).

BEERFEST

WHO'S IN IT? Paul Soter, Erik Stolhanske

WHO DIRECTED? Jay Chandrasekhar

(The Dukes of Hazzard)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Two American brothers hit Germany's Oktoberfest celebration and stumble upon a secret society that performs ancient, hallowed beer-drinking rituals.

AUGUST 27

WWE-PAY-PER-VIEW SUMMERSLAM

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Translate this!
Colm Feore (left)
and Patrick Huard

CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?

Accomplished Anglo actor **Colm Feore** squares off against popular Quebecois star **Patrick Huard** in a mismatched-cop story that claims to be Canada's first bilingual film

BY CHRISTOPHER DIRADDIO WITH FILES FROM MARIE-CLAUDE FORTIN

You know Colm Feore. Although he was born in Boston, Massachusetts, he's lived in Ontario for most of his life and has become one of Canada's most famous actors.

He's captivated us with interpretations of Canadian royalty (*Trudeau, Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould*), heartfelt portrayals in Canadian dramas (*The Perfect Son*) and memorable roles in American blockbusters (*Chicago*). Now the classically trained actor (he's as comfortable on Broadway and at Stratford as he is on film) is finally poised to become a household name in Quebec, starring alongside

box-office sure thing Patrick Huard in the action-packed buddy pic *Bon Cop, Bad Cop*.

Touted as Canada's first bilingual film, *Bon Cop, Bad Cop* is the story of two very different police officers with an unusual predicament. When a body is found strewn across the Quebec/Ontario border, both jurisdictions claim the case. Officers Martin Ward (Feore) of the Ontario Provincial Police and David Bouchard (Huard) of the Sûreté du Québec are forced to work together to solve a string of murders taking place in the world of professional hockey. Each wants to do it their own way — Ward following the

letter of the law, and Bouchard ignoring it completely. The result is a mix of action and humour that also explores the differences (and similarities) between "the two solitudes."

"I told my agent I needed to do this film at any cost," says Feore. "It's a role imbedded in truth. I know this type of person, this Ontarian who makes the effort to identify with his Quebecois brothers and tries to decipher this culture that he loves, even if he doesn't completely understand it."

Huard, one of Quebec's most loved actors (in English Canada he's best known for the *Les Boys* movies), also co-wrote the screenplay. With a mischievous grin and a knack for playing bad boys, he's impressed in both comedic and dramatic roles.

"For [director] Erik Canuel and I, there was never another actor for the role of Martin Ward other than Colm Feore," says Huard. "He was the right age for the role, and had the look we wanted. We needed someone extremely charming, who had a quiet strength, who spoke both French and English, and had a sense of humour. That was Colm."

Bon Cop, Bad Cop was filmed in English and French, "sometimes at the same time, sometimes in the same sentence," says Huard. "What is great about understanding both languages is that you can choose the right word that best conveys the sentiment you wish to express."

The film will appear with subtitles tailored to the city in which it's playing, but not all dialogue will be translated. "Sometimes it is not necessary," says Huard. "Very often we understand the meaning of a reply without a translation."

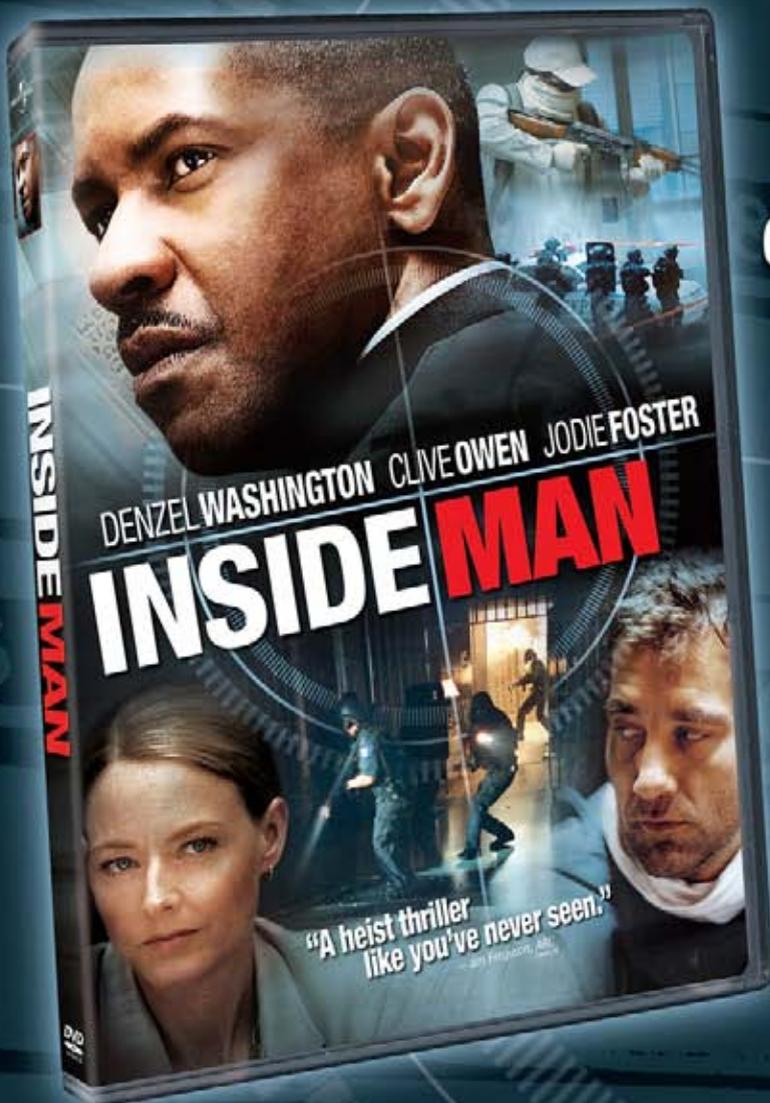
Huard insists that *Bon Cop, Bad Cop* is not a political film. "What interests me, in this story, is the humanity.... We all have our differences and our points in common. Ward and Bouchard are two men who work hard at all that they do and they try to unite their efforts in order to accomplish something special."

"For me, the wall between the 'two solitudes' is in our heads," says Feore. "You must see the film to realize that. In the meantime I'll be selling tickets one at a time if I have to, in the supermarket, in the streets of Stratford where I'll be in Shakespeare this summer. I'll simply tell people, 'Go. If you don't like the film, I'll give you your money back.'" **F**

Christopher DiRaddo is a Montreal-based freelance writer.

DENZEL WASHINGTON CLIVE OWEN JODIE FOSTER

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— Pete Hammond, *MAXIM*

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Robin Williams taps into his sober side to play a radio host trying to find, and save, an endangered kid in *The Night Listener* | BY RON DICKER

Robin Williams was so passionate about *The Night Listener* that he did it for \$65,000. That doesn't cover the cost of catering on many films.

But experience has taught the four-time Oscar nominee and one-time winner, for *Good Will Hunting*, to look beyond the dollar signs.

"You've seen more of the potholes," the 55-year-old Williams says. "I know where they are. Sometimes you see them dangling lots of money with a 'C'mon, it'll be great. We'll fix it!' Nah, that's a bad one."

As much as the comic is known for his shtick, he can also play it straight. Laughs were sparse when he portrayed a murder suspect in *Insomnia* (2002) and the dangerous dweeb in *One Hour Photo* (2002). And *The Night Listener* is certainly no knee-slapper. Williams' wee-hours DJ, Gabriel Noone, gets sucked into the life

of a member of his call-in audience. In a strange bookend to the last time Williams played a radio host, 1987's *Good Morning Vietnam*, Gabriel finds more than meets the ear.

Fresh off being dumped by his boyfriend (Bobby Cannavale), Gabriel tries to learn more about a mysterious teenage fan (Rory Culkin) who has penned a wrenching memoir of sexual abuse and is dying of AIDS. The boy's adoptive mother (Toni Collette) acts as his agent and nurse. After several phone calls, Gabriel sets out from New York for Wisconsin to meet the pair, and the visit reveals as much about Gabriel as it does about mother and child.

The movie is based on something similar that happened to author Armistead Maupin, which he then turned into a book of the same name. "It's very dark,"

Williams says. "It really talks about what drives us — the terror of being alone and the need to connect with people."

Instead of borrowing traits from Maupin, a fellow San Franciscan who's most famous for *Tales of the City* and who co-wrote the script, Williams built his own character. "It's the same thing as in *Awakenings*, where I was playing Oliver Sacks, but not really," he says.

The Night Listener might not have happened if not for Maupin's persistence. Williams' agency reportedly stonewalled Maupin because the project was too small, so Maupin got the script to Williams' wife Marsha, who encouraged her husband to read it.

The rest is indie history. *The Night Listener* emerged from its Sundance Film Festival debut with a \$3-million distribution deal from Miramax. At the ►►



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From left: Robin Williams and Bobby Cannavale

►► time, it was the studio's most expensive acquisition since parting from founders Harvey and Bob Weinstein.

It's at those kinds of moments that Williams likes to remind his management that money isn't the only motivation. "They've been compensated years ago, so it doesn't matter," he says.

As for the reaction *The Night Listener* will receive, Williams says he stopped gauging the critical winds a while ago. "All of a sudden you realize, you got the gig," he says. "Rodney Dangerfield once told me, 'It's crazy. I'm sweating. I own the club. Why?'"

Like Gabriel, Williams is a storyteller. But even he has trouble explaining how professional critics treat him on occasion. When he played a clownish healer in *Patch Adams* (1998) many ripped him for being schmaltzy. When he played a homicidal children's TV star in *Death to Smoochy* (2002) they pounced on him for being mean.

"Sometimes you just catch a bad wave," says Williams.

"It really talks about what drives us — the terror of being alone and the need to connect with people," says Williams

The ocean metaphor is an apt one for this interview, which finds the manic comedian in a laid-back California mood despite the fact that he's sitting in a Manhattan hotel room. He often tones down his act in intimate settings like this.

It wasn't always this way. Williams needed to be the life of the party for much of his career — and used cocaine for fuel. "At a certain point you start to really live a life," he says. "When you're young, you think you're bulletproof."

He's established, comfortably middle-

aged and living clean, often seen riding his bicycle in and around his beloved San Francisco. "It's good to live outside of L.A. and not have show business be the be-all and end-all," he says.

And Williams knows how all-consuming Hollywood can be. He remembers one unpleasant incident that reinforced the fact that weekend box office is king there. After one of his movies flopped in its debut, Williams recalls, "I got it even from the parking attendant. 'Sorry about this weekend.' I'm sorry too. Can I have my car keys?"

Nearly three decades have passed since Williams burst into households on TV's *Mork & Mindy*. He says his Juilliard instructor, actor John Houseman, once told him, "You will be our soldiers in the army of the theatre...unless of course you can make sh--loads of money doing television."

He made plenty in standup, too. Williams says he's itching to return to the comedy stage because the political climate is ripe. About his growing mistrust of the Bush administration's version of the war in Iraq, he says: "It's like saying during our Civil War, 'We're just having a small brush fire down there in Atlanta.'"

There's plenty more where that came from, but a busy film schedule has kept him from touring. He has a handful of movies awaiting release, including *August Rush*, *Man of the Year*, *Happy Feet* and *Night at the Museum*.

And he still loves the business, even if it doesn't always add up to big business.

"I just want to keep doing strange movies like *The Night Listener*," he says. "It's still exciting. It doesn't change. If it did, there's no need to do it."

Ron Dicker is a New York-based writer.

Sandra Oh: Actor without borders

First Sandra Oh racked up awards and nominations for her performance as a jilted lover in the dry comedy *Sideways*, then she won a Golden Globe for her weekly stint as an ambitious surgical intern on TV's *Grey's Anatomy*, and now she appears opposite Robin Williams in one of the darkest movies of the season, *The Night Listener*. The Nepean, Ontario, native is climbing the ladder the right way — by showing her range.

In *The Night Listener*, Oh plays Williams' friend and bookkeeper, Anna, who cautiously offers help as his character begins an obsessive search for a young boy who may be in trouble.

"It's not meant to be a blockbuster or anything like that, but with Robin giving one of the most amazing performances I've ever seen, it should generate a lot of interest in the film," says Oh, who turned 35 last month. "This is Robin like many people have never seen before. And some of the

great benefits of being in a film with an actor who gives a performance of their lifetime is that you consciously push yourself to be as good as you can be. Also, you know that a lot more people are going to make the effort to go out and see the film, so they end up catching your work, too."

While American audiences have only recently begun to recognize Oh's abilities, Canadians have been privy to her talents for quite a while. Born in the Ottawa suburb of Nepean, Oh has long been a staple of the Canadian indie film scene with performances in such acclaimed movies as *Last Night*, *Double Happiness* and *Wilby Wonderful*.

"I'm a Canadian actress first and foremost, and I'm proud that I'm still a part of the Canadian filmmaking community," says Oh, clad in a navy blue blouse and a simple pair of jeans during this L.A. interview. "Even now, while I'm doing a weekly series, whenever any Canadian filmmaker has called me I've done their film — if my schedule has permitted.... It's very, very important to me. I feel like I've been afforded and granted a level of

respect in Canada that I have not necessarily been given in the States.”

Although she currently lives in Los Angeles, Oh has a handful of Canadian projects she’s planning to do during her hiatus from *Grey’s Anatomy*. “I think that it’s always important to go back to your roots and to say, ‘I’m still alive,’” says Oh.

But she’s a realist and knows she has to work in Hollywood in order to pay the bills. “Usually someone writes something specifically for me or says, ‘Let’s hire Sandra.’ I could not make a living just working in Canada, and that’s so horrible. There’s only so many roles that I can play. But I have never not gone back and shot something when asked.”

The daughter of Korean immigrants who settled in Nepean, Oh hopes her performances have created more jobs in Hollywood for Asian actors

— but in all honesty, she’s not sure how much of an effect she’s had on the business.

“Hopefully I’ve broken down stereotypes, but it’s never been a conscious effort,” Oh confesses. “That’s not necessarily my purpose. My purpose is to do a great job. But the whole thing about stereotypes is that it’s really more of an issue that there’s nothing for us to compare it to. If you have a man who’s black, it’s hard, but it’s a much wider field to compete in.

“[With] Asian actresses it’s much narrower. But the fact that you have a character on *Grey’s Anatomy* who is Asian and is a doctor shouldn’t be that strange. Do you not have an Asian doctor? I do. Right? That’s not a stereotype, because I do feel that for a lot of places that’s the norm.”

—Earl Dittman



The Night Listener's Sandra Oh listens to Robin Williams



Will Ferrell and Leslie Bibb

THE FAST AND THE HILARIOUS

Will Ferrell puts his unique spin on racing movies with the NASCAR spoof *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby* | BY EARL DITTMAN

Will Ferrell has been one of comedy's It Boys for years. Maybe it's his sheer likeability that makes people overlook flops like *Bewitched*, instead concentrating on his silly hits like *Elf*, *Old School*, *Wedding Crashers* and *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*.

So there's a lot on the line with his latest comedy, *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*. The satire of the NASCAR way of life also marks Ferrell's third big-screen writing credit — the first being the painful SNL spinoff *A Night at the Roxbury* and the second *Anchorman*.

This time, Ferrell plays a redneck race car driver who's as hot as melted rubber, until NASCAR brings in a snooty Formula One driver (Sacha Baron Cohen) to shake things up. The California born and bred actor was in New York when he sat down to talk about going fast, his love of sports and growing up in the real O.C.



John C. Reilly
(left) with Ferrell

You co-wrote this script with director Adam McKay. Why go after NASCAR racers?

"I don't really have a strategy or game plan of what the subject matter is going to be. I just kind of stumble across different topics or ideas that make me interested. I've always been strangely fascinated with fast cars and probably always secretly wanted to be a race car driver, so writing a movie was my way of getting behind the wheel of those fast cars."

So, how was the racing?

"It was great, but I discovered I'd probably make a horrible race car driver because I really don't like driving that fast, can you believe it? While everyone else was going 200 miles an hour, I was going around 130 miles an hour. I think I always came in last place."

Are any of the races in the movie real?

"Yes, a lot of the racing sequences are for real. We were really lucky to get the full cooperation of NASCAR, so they let us film live at some of the races. We were allowed a lot of access so we couldn't make too much fun of them. At least, that's what we tell them."

How does it feel to be one of the hottest men in show business?

"It just feels natural. You know what I'm saying, Baby. Your first name is Baby, isn't it? That's what I thought. It's fine. Who am I to judge?"

Seriously, is stardom everything you thought it would be?

"I have been so lucky that it has been relatively gradual. I remember thinking when I got hired for *Saturday Night Live*, I made sure that I took the subway every day because I thought after I did the first show I'll never be able to take the subway again because I'm going to get mobbed. And, sure enough, I still take the subway. I took the subway for all seven years I was on the show. It's a little bit like dog years. Seven years on that show was like one year on *Friends* in terms of the exposure. But it works to your advantage. You slowly get used to being recognized."

You grew up in Orange County. What do you make of the TV show *The O.C.*?

"It is the most unrealistic depiction of Orange County ever. There's nothing sexy about Orange County."

Weren't you one of those guys by the pool?

"What pool? It's ridiculous. Orange County is tract homes and big movie theatres."

What kind of kid were you?

"I characterize myself as a conscientious class clown. I enjoyed making my friends laugh, but I wasn't obnoxious to the point where I got kicked out of class for doing it. I knew when enough was enough. And I was a petty thief. I have a long line of misdemeanor trouble."

What was the worst crime you ever committed?

"Robbed a liquor store. No, just kidding. I actually never did anything bad. I used to streak. I knew it would come in handy someday [laughs]."

Didn't you major in sportscasting in college?

"Yes, Sports Information. I have a degree in Sports Information."

What is that?

"I still don't know. I was going to be a broadcaster. It was such a tough major they cancelled it. It's now defunct."

Did you really think you'd end up in sportscasting?

"Gosh, I didn't even get that far with it. I graduated from college and I worked on a local cable access news show, and the person that I wanted to be was Chevy Chase. I really didn't care about reporting. It was very Ron Burgundy-esque in my own way. I didn't care about getting a news story. Those aren't good instincts to have if you want to become a journalist.... With the way that ESPN kind of changed and brought comedy into sportscasting and sports reporting, that's probably where I would've gone had I stuck with it."

Did you know that one way or another you were going to be on camera?

"No, not so much. When I graduated college I was just trying my hand at things, and standup comedy was something on my 'to do' list that I always wanted to try. It was that, along with taking an acting class and I was just kind of in a period of trying all of these different things and was having fun with it, and thought, 'Boy, if I could get paid to do this, this would be fun.' Then after finding [improv troupe] The Groundlings, and going through their program, and then *Saturday Night Live*.... So it all just kind of happened that way, but I didn't have that thing where it's like, 'One day, you people will see me and I will show you idiots!'"

Do you consider yourself more of a comedian or an actor?

"I think of myself as a cabaret performer." **F**

Earl Dittman is a freelance writer based in Houston, Texas.

Living in a material WORLD

...But she's much more than a material girl. In her 18 years **Hilary Duff** has conquered TV, fashion, music and movies with brains, guts and hard work — unlike the spoiled character she plays in *Material Girls* | BY MARNI WEISZ

Considering that a whole subgenre of celebrity journalism has emerged just to stoke rivalries between young starlets and then stand back and watch the fireworks (see Paris Hilton v. Lindsay Lohan), Hilary Duff's decision to make *Material Girls* seems pretty ballsy.

The teen-comedy has 18-year-old Duff and her older sister by two years, Haylie, playing a couple of spoiled, fashionable heiresses to a cosmetics company fortune who are nearly brought down by scandal.

So it's a reference to the Hilton sisters, no?

"Um, I don't think so," Duff says on the line from her offices in L.A. "I mean, I guess they're sisters that inherit money, and lots of people know them, so from that I guess lots of people think that. But it's not like that at all."

Yet a plot synopsis on the site of one of the four production companies attached to the film — Patriot Pictures — reads, "*Material Girls* is a light-hearted, teen comedy about a pair of 'celebutante' sisters, who are famous only for being famous (much like another pair of infamous celebute sisters)."

"Well, I didn't write that," Duff responds with a little laugh, "so maybe we should go on."

Duff is no dummy, that's for sure. When she opens her mouth the voice that comes out is surprisingly soft and girlish. But at 18

the Houston-born celeb already commands a pop culture empire that rivals that of the Olsen Twins — music (four albums), TV (reruns of her defunct *Lizzie McGuire* series), film (*Cheaper by the Dozen*, *A Cinderella Story*, *The Perfect Man*) and a fashion and accessories line that's been going strong for years.

On this day she's doing a round of phone interviews despite the fact that she has been battling a sinus infection for two weeks. Afterwards she'll take that sinus infection — and her medicine — into the studio to record a song that may or may not end up on the *Material Girls* soundtrack. The day will also involve "some meetings, some stuff for my fashion line, some more interviews, and I have some people waiting outside for me now."

Duff was involved in a notorious teen feud herself a couple of years ago when the rags reported that both she and Lohan were vying for the attention of adolescent pop singer Aaron Carter. The back and forth between the two teens was the type of stuff that usually entertains no one outside of a high school hallway. However, when you're young, rich and famous, even some adults find the minutiae of your teen crushes surprisingly interesting...and profitable. These days the paparazzi are happy to get a snapshot of Duff with her current boyfriend, Good Charlotte singer Joel Madden.

So even if Duff didn't interpret the movie as a takeoff of ►►





Sister, Sister: Hilary (left) and Haylie Duff doll up for *Material Girls*

“I liked the fact that I got to work with my sister, and I thought it was funny,” Duff says of her decision to do *Material Girls*

Duff says she chose the script for two reasons: “I liked the fact that I got to work with my sister, and I thought it was funny.”

She also got to record a cover version of Madonna’s 1980s anthem “Material Girl” for the soundtrack, not coincidentally because Madonna’s Maverick Films served as another of the film’s production companies.

Over the past couple of years Duff has been quoted almost as much about being tired and needing a break as she has about the Lohan feud. Turning 19 next month, she’s certainly at a crossroads. How long will she be able to appeal to the teen and pre-teen crowd that has been her bread-and-butter for the past five years? And how long will she want to?

With the typical aplomb of a Hollywood veteran she refuses to say much about her upcoming projects — the contracts aren’t signed yet, don’t ya know? — but she admits she wants to do things that are more mature. “The next couple projects are definitely things that people haven’t seen me do before,” is the only glimpse she’ll give into her future.

Someday, that future may have nothing at all to do with movies, CDs or backpacks emblazoned with her face.

Last year Duff completed one semester of an environmental science course through Harvard’s online program before having to put her studies on the back burner in favour of, well, being Hilary Duff. “I’m welcome to go back anytime but I’m too busy right now and it’s too hard on top of all of the things that I do,” she says, adding, “I can’t wait to have some time off to be able to do some more.”

When asked if she can see a day when she’d chuck it all to go do research in the rain forest, or some other thing environmental science grads might actually do, Duff coos, “I would *love* to do something like that. I don’t know if I’m going to quit [showbiz] altogether. What if people don’t want to look at me anymore? I might be forced to.”

And as she continues to talk about the difference that class made in her life, she becomes increasingly energetic and passionate.

“It opened my eyes to so much stuff, about the ozone layer and how it’s just wearing away, and how we have no room for trash anymore, and the constant waste that happens every day.

“Actually, after I finished up the semester I was preparing for my tour, and we would come up with show ideas and see if we were going to do pyro or see if we were going to have big confetti cannons that shoot pieces of glitter or paper. And I was thinking, ‘Okay, can we reuse the paper?’ And they’re like, ‘Oh no.’ And I’m like, ‘How much are we going to use on the whole tour?’ And they told me, and I was so shocked that I said, ‘No, I don’t even want it.’”

Okay, getting back to that next project: How about a teen-comedy sequel to Al Gore’s *An Inconvenient Truth*? **F**

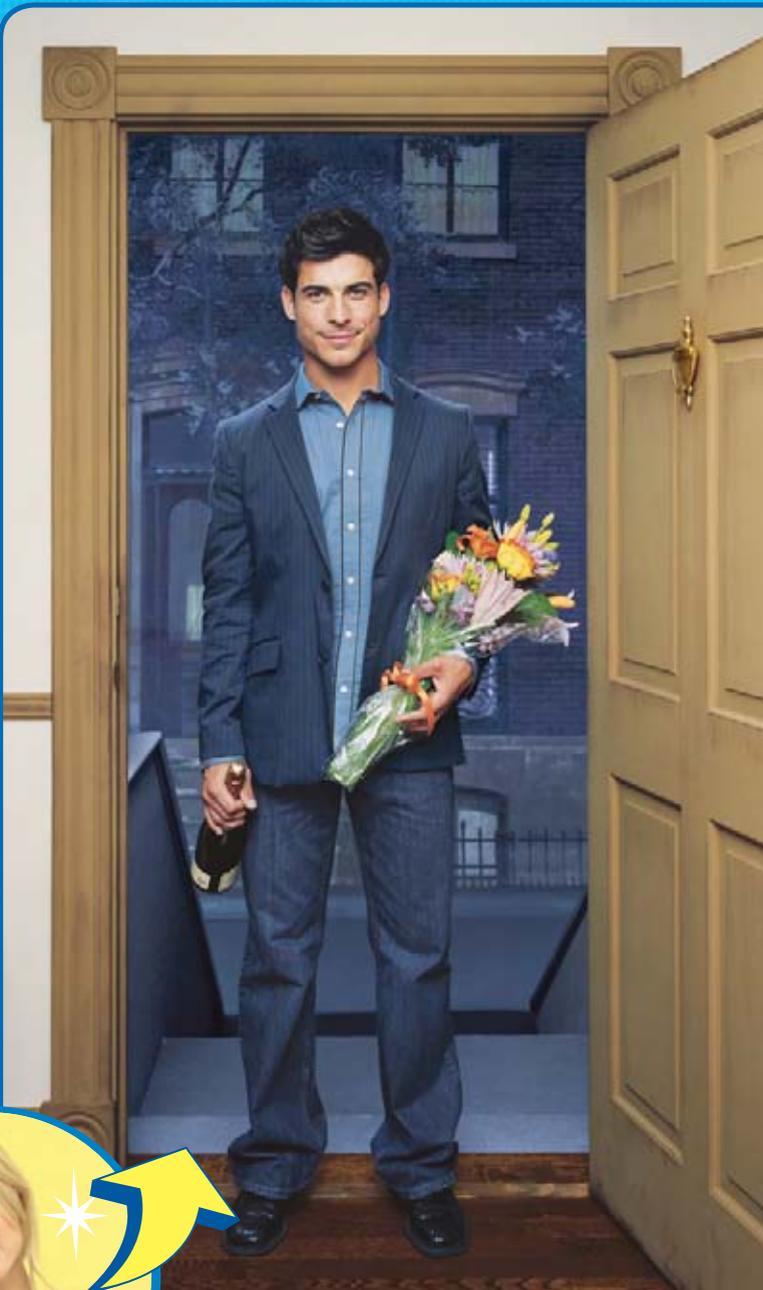
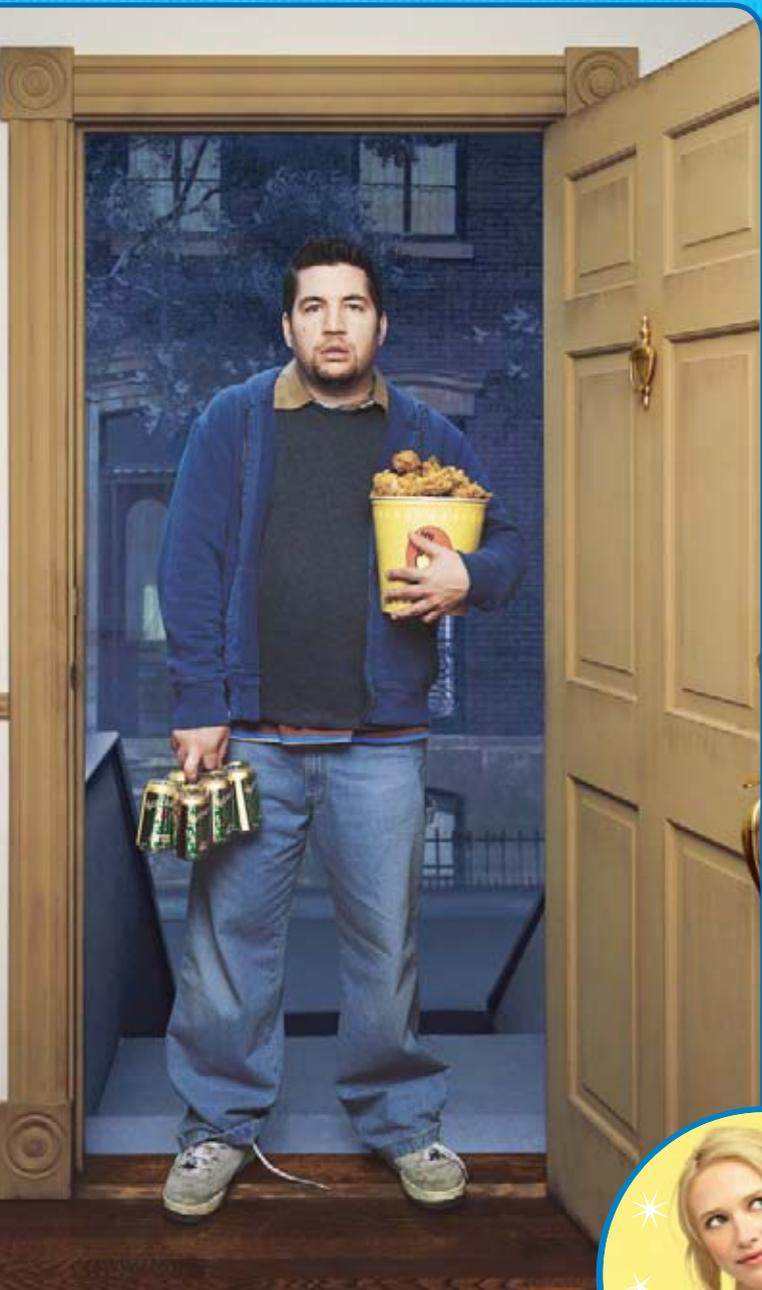
►► Paris and her sister Nicky, you’d think she might keep her distance for fear of spawning a second episode of battling starlets.

“I didn’t really care,” she says with candor. “I wouldn’t pick a movie to play them.... I don’t really care what people think. If they think it’s like them, I don’t think that it is.”

The film was directed by Martha Coolidge, who’s best remembered by a certain generation for 1983’s *Valley Girl*, another film that explores the superficiality associated with California rich kids. In that film, a sweet-but-shallow girl from the Valley (Deborah Foreman) falls for a punk from the city (Nicolas Cage) much to the dismay of her friends.

But *Material Girls* appears to be a lot lighter and more slapstick than *Valley Girl*. As Duff describes it, “The movie is about two sisters who have everything, and a huge scandal goes down where everyone thinks that [their company has] been testing on animals and has been covering up all these cases where people have been breaking out and it’s ruined their faces.”

The sisters — Tanzie (Hilary) and Persia (Haylie) Marchetta — have just lost their beloved father, the company’s founder, and it seems that his jealous, right-hand man has concocted the scandal with rival cosmetics company Fabiella (headed by Anjelica Huston) to set the stage for a takeover. “It would be his company, and we would be cut out,” adds Duff.



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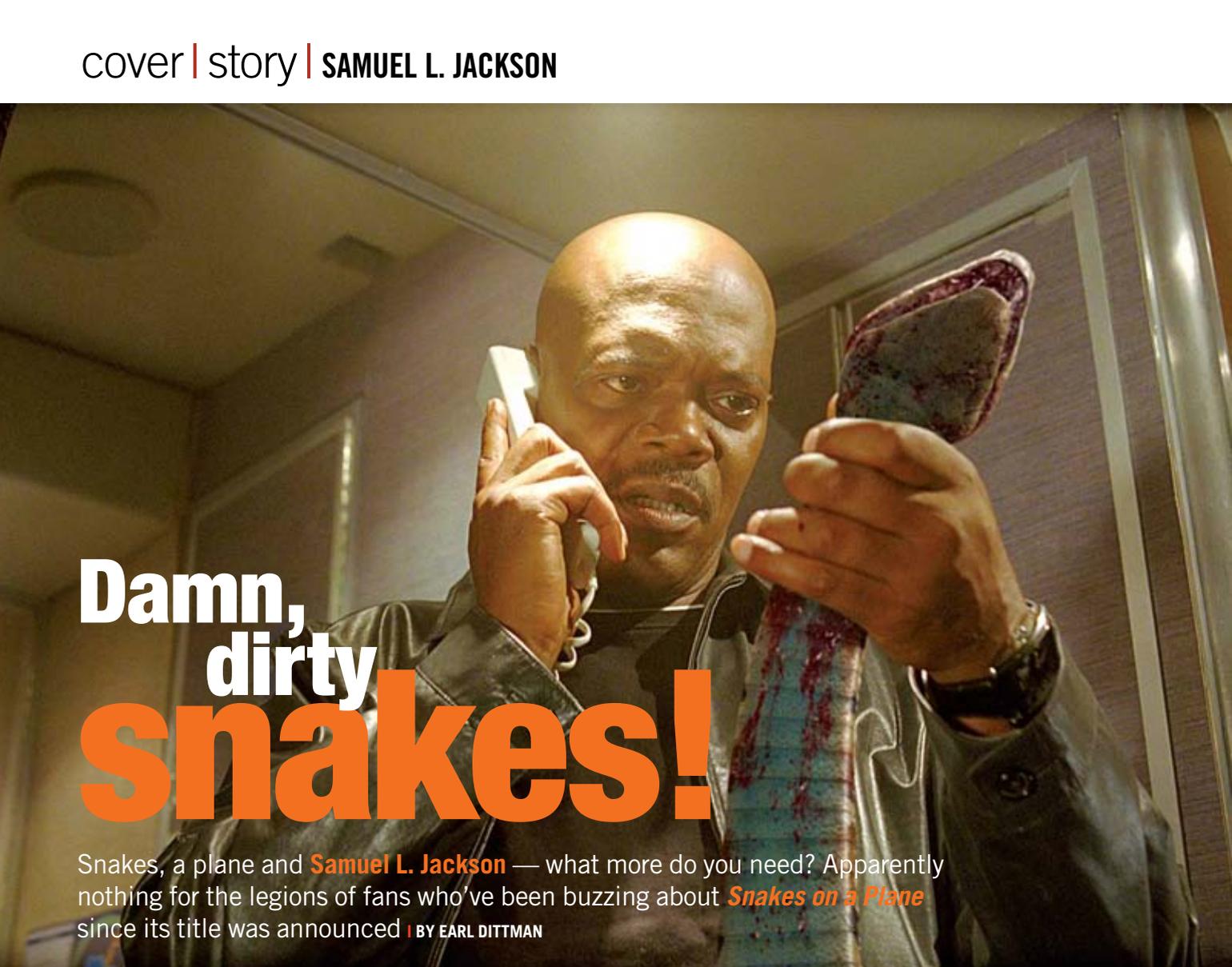


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Damn, dirty snakes!

Snakes, a plane and **Samuel L. Jackson** — what more do you need? Apparently nothing for the legions of fans who've been buzzing about *Snakes on a Plane* since its title was announced | BY EARL DITTMAN

With upwards of 75 movies to his credit in the past two decades (we'll do the math, that's almost four movies per year), it's no surprise that Samuel L. Jackson is considered one of the hardest-working men in Hollywood.

If you get the feeling he just likes to act, you're right. Whether it's a superviolent crime pic like *Pulp Fiction*, sci-fi classics like the *Star Wars* prequels or a character piece like *Coach Carter*, Jackson knows making movies for a living is a pretty good deal.

So it was with his usual zeal that he attacked *Snakes on a Plane*, the action flick with a concept so perfectly cheesy that it set off the biggest internet buzz storm in years, with bloggers even inviting readers to come up with expletive-filled lines they'd like to hear fly from Jackson's lips.

The 57-year-old actor was in New York when he spoke with Earl Dittman about the unlikely combination of snakes ...and a plane.

Why *Snakes on a Plane*?

"Well, I like scary movies, and I really haven't done a hardcore scary movie, and this one seemed to fit the bill. I mean, the scariest thing I can think of is a crate load of poisonous snakes getting released into the atmosphere on a plane. I don't know about you, but just the thought of it scares the heck out of me [laughs]."

Tell me about filming.

"It was slithery but it was good, and, believe it or not, it was fun. It was another one of those fun kind of movies where I just kind of go to work and I don't have to think about what's going on. Actually, the only thing I really had to worry about was a snake being close to me and being able to get away from it. I'm not a big fan of snakes, so I kept my distance most of the time and asked for the fake ones to be used with me as much as possible."

What's it about?

"Actually, I've been warned that if I talk too much about the plot, I'll end up with a snake in my bed. But I play an FBI agent transporting a witness to a trial, and the bad guy put this crate load of poisonous snakes on the plane. So I'm basically playing another cop, not a big stretch for me."

You do play a lot of cops. How do you give them different personalities?

"Interestingly enough, movies tend to be about crime a lot, so you're either the bad guy or you're the good guy. I play a bad guy sometimes, because I like playing bad guys, but if you're a good guy you're a cop, an FBI agent, an ATF agent, private eye, you're some kind of law enforcement person.... But all those guys have to have a different set of problems that inform who that character is and how they approach their work and the people that they work with."



Snakes on a Plane's Nathan Phillips (left) and Samuel L. Jackson

How do you think most people perceive you?

"I think people associate me more with the tough guy, heroic, kind of fearless characters than the vulnerable characters that I play."

What's your biggest weakness and biggest strength?

"Main weakness is overconfidence and strength is arrogance. Being an actor, interestingly enough, a lot of actors say that they can't stand to watch themselves on screen. It takes a certain amount of arrogance to put yourself in front of that many people, and a certain amount of vanity. So, to say that you don't like watching yourself on screen means that you shouldn't ask other people to do it either. I don't have that issue. If I'm at home watching television and there's nothing else on that's exciting and I pass a movie that I'm in, I'll watch it."

Do you think of yourself as good-looking?

"When I look around and I compare myself to people, I kind of go, 'I'm still okay, especially for a guy my age.' When I was very young and I used to look at my uncles and my grandfather's brothers, I'd say, 'How old are you?' And they'd go, 'Fifty.' And I'd go, 'Damn!' But they looked that old. And it never occurred to me when I got to 50-something that I would look in the mirror and this is the face that I would see. I always thought it would be older, longer, grayer or something, but I guess because of health and the strenuousness of one's job.... To answer your question, do I think I'm good-looking? Yeah, to an extent, but nobody ever mistakes me for Denzel."

When you're preparing for a role how do you develop the look of your character — to have hair or not?

"My makeup artists and my hairdresser,

wig-sticker-oner, Robert, are really helpful with that. Usually, I'll read the script and we all kind of decide. We ask each other, 'How does he look to you?' and we start talking about it. A lot of times when we're just out and we see hairstyles, I'll say to Robert, 'Take a picture of that guy's hair because I like it and we may use that at some point.' Robert's sister is a hairdresser, too. So she was working on set one day, and she personally had this red kind of knotty Afro, and I said, 'That's cool, take a picture of that.' And then when we got to do *The Negotiator* I was like, 'Oh, yeah, your sister's hair.'"

Do you feel like you're an insurance policy for a film like *Snakes on a Plane*?

"I do feel like I'm an insurance policy sometimes because people feel like I add credibility to a story. They hire Morgan [Freeman] for the same reason, because they know there's something solid ►►

▶▶ that's going to be there. And, hopefully, because we're there, it will raise the other actors' abilities in another kind of way.... Yes, I have great skills, I worked a long time to develop these great skills, and when I go into a film I go into it in a studied manner and with a plan, and if you don't have a plan, it will show. So, hopefully, I make the story better because I'm there."

Where do you get the energy to do so many films?

"Come on, have you been on a movie set before? Craft services? Not a bad job, huh? Would you not go to that job every day if you had the chance to? It's not that difficult to get up and go to a job at 5:30 in the morning. You can actually go back to sleep in your trailer as soon as you get to work. All you do is hang out all day, it's cool, I like it. I like acting number one, and being on a movie is like the biggest fantasyland in the world where you get to do all kinds of boy stuff. You get boys, noise and guns. You can't beat it."

Do you find there's a difference between film and television stars?

"There is some kind of mental television vs. movie thing that happens in a certain way. I don't really see it until I'm at the Golden Globes, when I run into them and they defer to you in a way. Like I'm rolling up and going, 'Man, I love your show, it's just so great.' And they're like, 'You know who I am?' I'm like, 'Yeah, I watch your show, I love it.' I would love to do television. If it was up to me I'd do it, but my agents say, 'You can't do television because you're a movie star. You do something for free, then people won't pay to see you.'"

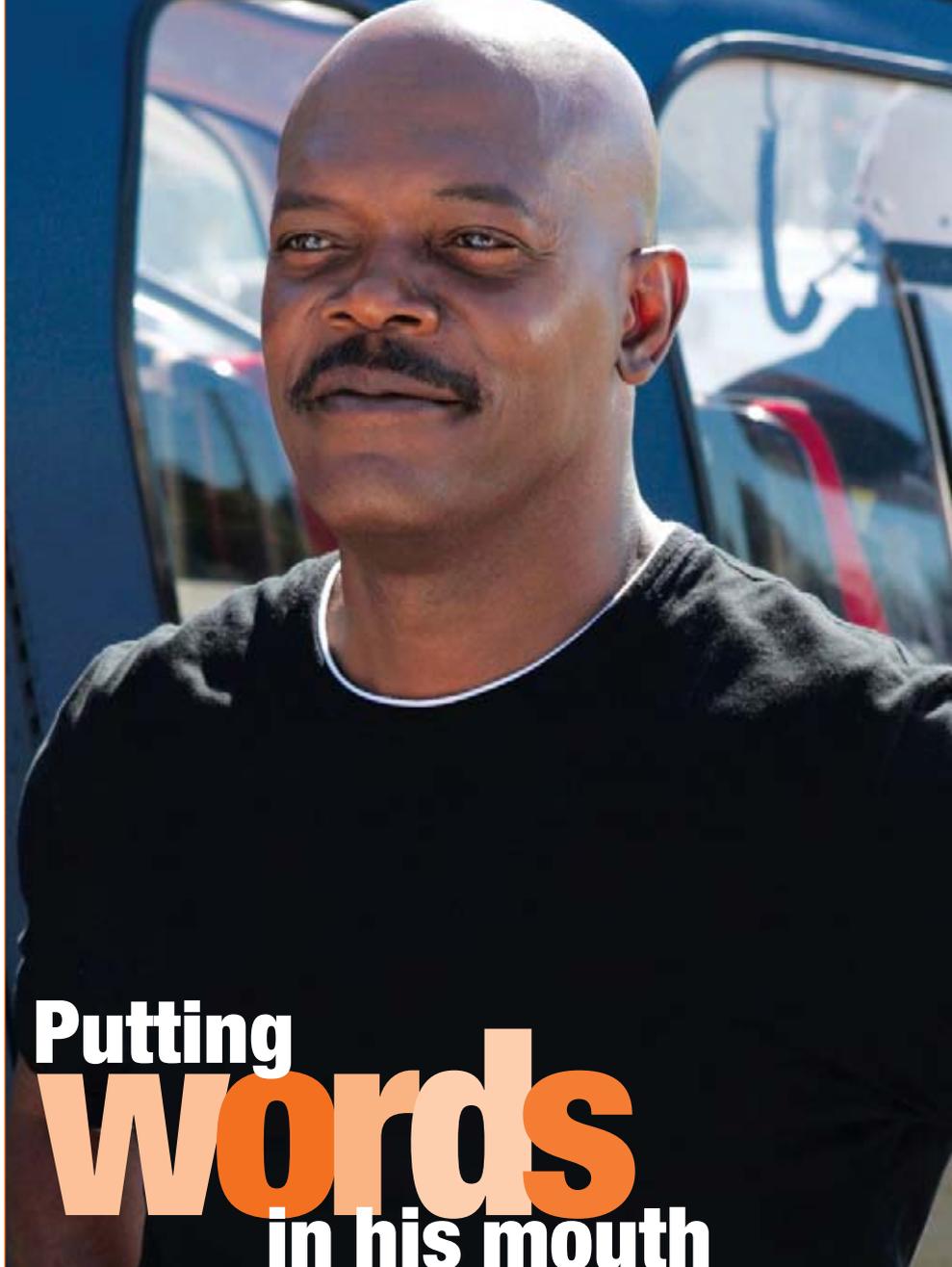
What television shows would you be on?

"I love *The Wire*, I love *Nip/Tuck*, *The Sopranos*. I watch all of the *CSI* shows and the *Law & Orders*. I'm a TV junkie. I can't help it. I'd love to be on any one of them. Extras? I'm there."

Before you leave, I have to ask, did you have any close calls with the snakes?

"I think they knew how I felt about them, so they kind of felt the same way about me. We just respected each other's territory so we got along fine. C'mon, I make movies, it's not the first time I've worked with snakes." **F**

Earl Dittman is a freelance writer based in Houston, Texas.



Putting
words
in his mouth

It was a publicist's dream. As soon as the title *Snakes on a Plane* became public, fans started to make up lines they wanted to hear Sam Jackson shout while wrangling agitated serpents at 30,000 feet. This, despite the fact they had no idea what the movie was about aside from the obvious — it involved snakes on a plane.

For the most part the lines prove that there's a reason not everyone can make a living writing for Hollywood. But here are some of our favorites from a blog called "Snakes on a Plane Quote Tracker" (<http://snakesonaplane.ning.com>).

- "Come 'ere baby, let me suck out the poison."
- "Ding! You are now free to move about the...
LOOK OUT FOR THE SNAKES...ON THIS PLANE!"
- "I'm 'a turn that b*tch into a wallet."
- "I'm gonna kick some ASP!"
- "I don't hijack your jungle, don't put snakes on my motherf***ing plane!"
- "In the event of sudden loss of cabin pressure, the overhead compartments will open to release A LOAD OF MUTHAF***IN' SNAKES!"
- "I want these motherf***ing snakes OFF this motherf***ing plane!"
- "What's the deal with airline food? I swear, the last time I flew there were motherf***ing snakes on the plane!"

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coming | soon |

can't wait for...

| BY MARNI WEISZ



Josh Hartnett and Hilary Swank

The Black Dahlia (September)

This is true: In 1940s Los Angeles B-list actor Elizabeth Short was murdered in a way so grisly that the crime-scene photos could not be released to the public. After her death she was nicknamed The Black Dahlia by reporters covering the story.

Beyond that, what you see in director **Brian De Palma's** film *The Black Dahlia* is up for debate. Here's how the official plot synopsis puts it: "*The Black Dahlia* weaves a fictionalized tale of obsession, love, corruption, greed and depravity around the true story of the brutal murder of a fledgling Hollywood starlet that shocked and fascinated the nation in 1947 and remains unsolved today."

Sounds like Hollywood may be taking note of the furor that erupted over author **James Frey's** liberal definition of memoir, instead choosing to be up front about just how much of the adaptation is pulled out of thin air...or, more accurately, the head of novelist **James Ellroy** (*L.A. Confidential*) whose book of the same name provides the film's framework.

While Canadian actor **Mia Kirshner** (*The L Word*) plays Short, the story really revolves around the two cops investigating the murder (**Josh Hartnett** and **Aaron Eckhart**) and the women in their lives (**Scarlett Johansson** and **Hilary Swank**), one of which turns out to have an unexpected connection to the deceased.

The Departed (October)

The tagline for this movie could be: "You got peanut butter on my chocolate. No, you got chocolate in my peanut butter!"

In a star-studded tale of double double-identities

Leonardo DiCaprio plays a young cop who goes undercover to infiltrate Boston's Irish mafia at the same time that a young mafia hood (**Matt Damon**) goes undercover to join the Boston Police Department. As each rises through the ranks of their

respective faux vocations their lives and intentions become increasingly muddled.

Jack Nicholson plays the man at the centre of it all, crime boss Frank Costello, while **Martin Sheen**, **Mark Wahlberg** and **Alec Baldwin** round out the formidable cast.

BRIEFLY...

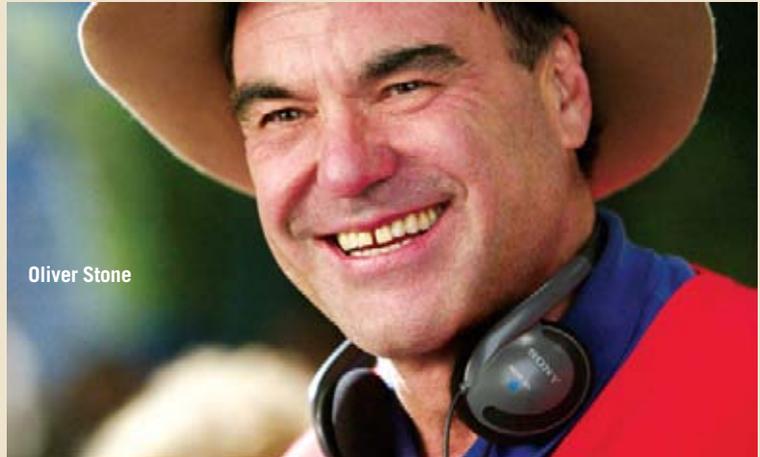
OCTOBER → *The Nightmare Before Christmas (3-D Version)* — We don't usually spend valuable space talking about re-releases, but how cool is this? They're putting a 3-D version of **Tim Burton's** gothic claymation masterpiece into compatible theatres just in time for Halloween!

NOVEMBER → *The Return* — Ready to see the new scream queen **Sarah Michelle Gellar** in a pleasant love story? Well, you'll have to wait a bit longer. Here she plays a woman who is tormented by nightmares depicting the murder of a woman she doesn't know.

famous trivia

1 Robin Williams, who stars in this month's dark drama *The Night Listener*, got his start playing an alien on TV's *Mork & Mindy*. But on which popular sitcom did Mork first appear?

2 Director Oliver Stone, who's known for turning history into cinema (*JFK*, *Alexander*, *Nixon*), releases *World Trade Center* this month. Stone is also a prolific screenwriter. Which of the following movies did he *not* getting a writing credit for — *Scarface*, *Conan the Barbarian*, *Evita*, *Escape from New York*?



Oliver Stone

3 A popular TV actor who was born Kevin Knipfing lends his voice to the animated movie *Barnyard* as Otis the cow. What name do we know him by?

4 Which band do *Idlewild* stars André Benjamin and Antwan "Big Boi" Patton belong to?



André Benjamin (left) with Antwan Patton

5 Chevy Chase, who plays a scientist in the superhero comedy *Zoom*, only does family films these days. He even turned down a part that won another actor an Oscar because the movie wasn't kid-friendly. Was it Lester Burnham in *American Beauty*, Dr. Wilbur Larch in *The Cider House Rules* or Melvin Udall in *As Good As It Gets*?

6 With which sport is *Snakes on a Plane* star Samuel L. Jackson obsessed, playing whenever he can find the time?

7 Greg Kinnear plays a football coach in the new Mark Wahlberg movie *Invincible*. In which film did he play a baseball coach last year?

answers

1. *Happy Days* 2. *Escape from New York*
3. Lester Burnham 4. Outkast
5. Kevin James 6. golf 7. *Bad News Bears*

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A STUDY IN

style

Tech, fashion and cosmetics tips to help you go back to school | BY LIZA HERZ

YOU'RE NOT a true style maven until you can get to class looking great despite having overslept. The ability to get showered, made up and dressed in under 15 minutes is an important skill to learn — as important as what you will learn in school.

Some tips: Showering is as effective as coffee for waking up. Cold pizza can be consumed while running, but we don't recommend it.

Items of clothing that do not wrinkle are good. Buy a couple hoodies or a zip-up in a cool new techno fabric (like the one above from Ellesse's fall line, \$70 to \$80). If it's only been on the floor overnight, it's still good. Think of this as an expanded version of the "three second rule" for dropped food. Makeup is important. Mascara, lip balm. And if you absolutely can't manage

mascara, sunglasses work well too. Although professors will know you're trying to hide something if you keep them on in class.

Always befriend the smartest person in each course. You need to borrow notes from someone who actually understands the lectures. Besides, this person has spent so much time studying they probably don't have any friends and will be grateful for the attention.

Try to eat some real food each day. That means something not from the deep fryer or the grill. Anything that grows in the ground. An apple perhaps. This can only help.

Back up your hard drive once a week. Those discs you buy are not only for burning music. Save your work and save yourself much grief down the road because you just never know.



1 The new **Nokia 6103 Mobile Phone** (\$40 with a three-year contract from Rogers Wireless) is clad in a black rubber cover for your fashionable side, and loaded with Bluetooth capability, VGA camera and a video recorder/player for your nerdish side.

2 It's not clutter, it's your very important stuff. Corral it

stylishly in these **Enamel Bins** courtesy of design dominatrix Debbie Travis (**three-piece metal bin set \$20, Canadian Tire**).

3 Just doing homework on the **Toshiba QosmioG30 Notebook Computer** (\$3,300, www.toshiba.ca for retailers) might be hard for movie fans since it also an HD DVD player with Dolby speaker technology

(and a built-in tuner so you can watch HDTV too).

4 Skilled dorm cooks can make an entire meal in a **Proctor-Silex Extra-Large 4-Slice Toaster Oven** (\$40, **The Bay, True Value Hardware**) but we're just happy with a really gooey toasted cheese sandwich — late-night study snack of champions.

5 Textured and earthy but with a whimsical appliqué, the **Etnies Laura Corduroy Pack** (\$60, **West 49 stores across Canada**) is feminine, yet anything but girly.

6 Run to class or run to Starbucks, but do it in style and comfort in **Converse All-Star Diva Mary Jane Slip-Ons** (\$90, call 1.800.387.9550 for retailers). ▶▶

things |

Taking care of the student body



►► **1 Degree Ultra Clear Anti-Perspirant (\$5, drugstores)** won't leave those tedious white marks on your clothing, while its clean scent and new formula keep you fresh for hours.

2 Attention test-day nail biters: Europe's **Trind Nail Products (\$45 per starter kit, www.trind.ca for retailers)**, favourites of nail chewers like Cindy Crawford,

moisturize and strengthen nails to heal and grow so you won't have to spend the whole first semester with your hands in your pockets.

3 Easily applied while running to class, **Benetint Lip Balm (\$24, Shoppers Drug Mart Beauty Boutiques)**, a spinoff of their best-selling lip stain, looks lusciously red in the jar but wearably natural on your lips.

4 Look awake and alert even if you're not with Maybelline's new **Volum'Express Turbo Boost Mascara (\$8.50 drugstores)**. The high-tech formula replaces traditional waxes with gels to deliver clump-free, thicker lashes.

5 The 2% salicylic acid in new **Chill Factor Oxy Daily Cleaning Pads (\$8, drugstores)** unclogs pores and banishes

zits, while the cooling menthol wakes you up better than any alarm clock.

6 Forego scary energy drinks that are loaded with sugar and get a boost instead from central nervous system-protecting amino acids and naturally occurring caffeine from the kola nut in **Greens + Extra Energy (\$28 for 136 g, Shoppers Drug Mart)**.

- AGE: 26 – 30
 31 – 35
 36 – 40
 41 – 45
 46 – 50
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STEFY, from left: Jason Gaviati, Sean Meyer, Stefy Rae and Andreas Brobjer

Out this MONTH

LAMBCHOP

Damaged >> August 22
Nashville's awesome alt-country band is back with their ninth studio CD, which, according to leader Kurt Wagner, takes inspiration from TV's lean, mean Western series *Deadwood*.

PERSEPHONE'S BEES

Notes From the Underworld >> August 29
These jazzy, cocktail-hour rockers from San Francisco are fronted by Russian babe Angelina Moysov, whose crisp, Slavic singing style punctuates their laid-back sound.

LUDACRIS

Release Therapy >> August 29
Atlanta rapper/actor Ludacris puts a recent appearance on *Oprah* behind him — he felt he was dissed by the mighty O — with the release of this sure-bet CD, the follow-up to 2004's huge hit, *The Red Light District*.

IT'S GETTING STEFY IN HERE

BY INGRID RANDOJA

When the producers of the girls-get-even flick *John Tucker Must Die* were searching for songs for their soundtrack they turned to STEFY, an up-and-coming band fronted by vivacious singer Stefy Rae.

"I wanted to give a song to the girls," Rae says "Chelsea," which appears both in the movie and on STEFY's self-titled debut CD (in stores August 29).

"It's a song about a girl who takes away your guy and how you feel at the end," she explains on the line from L.A. "I've had my

heart broken so many times that it felt good to release all of that in the song. It was kind of like therapy for me."

Rae and her bandmates first created a stir in the bubbling Orange County, California, music scene with tight, new wave-ish pop tunes and their high-energy performances — Rae struts and even rolls around on stage. Her strong, sexy voice and on-stage presence give her a definite Debbie Harry vibe.

"I'm really going for more of a baby doll theme," she explains.

"I love little cute dresses, pantyhose, high heels, glamorous makeup and big hair, while the guys are usually in suits."

Although only in her early 20s, Rae has been in the music biz since she was 15 when Columbia Records signed her as a solo artist. The solo thing didn't pan out, but the band thing seems to be working just fine.

"We write everything ourselves," she says. "I might write a love song and someone will say, 'No, those lyrics are not good, here, we'll change it.' If the band doesn't like something I'm not going to fight it. We all have to agree on it, we're a band, a team, a family."

HELLO GOODBYE | BY INGRID RANDOJA

If Goldfrapp and Caribou provide the soundtrack to your life, then you'll have to add Junior Boys' *So This is Goodbye* (in stores August 22) to your playlist. The second CD from the Hamilton, Ontario, duo of Jeremy Greenspan and Matt Didemus is a sensational synth-pop concoction. Lead vocalist Greenspan's soothing voice blends with beat-infused tunes that never rush, but rather unfold like an acoustic road map. Songs such as "The Equalizer" and "In the Morning" are sexy, trippy tracks, while "So This is Goodbye" and the cover of Frank Sinatra's classic "When No One Cares" provide the bittersweet balance.



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A CALL TO ARMS

Enchanted Arms combines beautiful imagery with rich mythology | BY SCOTT GARDNER



ENCHANTED ARMS XBOX 360

The role-playing game (RPG) genre for Xbox has not been a particularly strong one, but Microsoft hopes to turn that around with *Enchanted Arms*, the first Japanese RPG for the 360.

Released in Japan this January (under the spellcheck-defying name [eM]-eNCHANT arM-) it features 50-plus hours of gameplay, high-def graphics and the creativity, depth and epic

scale that developers from the *Land of the Rising Sun* still seem to do better than anyone else.

Set, naturally, in a mystical fantasy world, the back-story explains that in ancient times humans (or the pointy-eared, human-ish characters that always pass for such in these games) created powerful creatures called golems to do their bidding. Then, perhaps inspired by their spiritual brethren like *Terminators* and *Cylons*, these

man-made golems turned against their masters, nearly wiping out mankind. Finally, they were magically imprisoned and lay dormant, forgotten by nearly all, as human society recovered and once again flourished. But now, 1,000 years later, dark forces are gathering and the golems are rising again.

Enter Atsuma, our typically spiky-haired, naïve and bumbling-yet-brave Japanese hero. Atsuma is an apprentice Enchanter (a magic user) but as he learns to use his powers he discovers that he has an additional gift. Like the Enchanters of the ancient world, he can absorb creatures — and their powers — into his own body, specifically, his arm (hence the “enchanted arms” of the title). This power then enables him to use any golem creature he meets as a weapon.

Not surprisingly, the specifics of the plot are top-secret, but various machinations send

Atsuma out on a series of missions to pursue his grand destiny and save the world. From bustling cities to lush forests, the environments overflow with detail and subtleties that showcase why this is a next-gen title.

As usual with traditional Japanese RPGs, battles are strictly turn-based, which means that instead of things coming at you all at once, you’ve got time to think about each attack or spell before you unleash it.

The golems, by the way, aren’t just the dumb clay beasts you may be familiar with from your *D&D* days (or tales in Hebrew school). Instead there are about 75 magical creatures you can customize and control, including a healer golem who looks like a mermaid in a clam shell, and a pepperoni-eyed pizza golem who just might come in handy if you’re snowed into a mountain pass, Donner Party-style.

SAINTS ROW XBOX 360

Ever wonder what *Grand Theft Auto* would look like on a next-gen console? The 360-exclusive *Saints Row* is a third-person action-adventure that casts you as a member of the Third Street Saints, a criminal gang trying to take back the streets from three rival clans ruling the city of Stilwater.

The goal of acquiring real estate for your gang loosely ties the story together, but the game is huge and truly open-ended, and what kind of “entrepreneur” you become is completely up to you. Activities for fun and profit include street racing, pimping, drug



trafficking, contract hits and even white-collar crime. And the missions you choose, and the results you achieve, have a dynamic effect on the story. Also, watch for heated online play where you can recruit members into your own gang and challenge rival gangs in multiplayer rumbles.

RULE OF ROSE PS2

In 1930s England, pre-teen Jennifer finds herself trapped in a spooky orphanage ruled by a cult-like clique of young girls with a strange and sinister social system.

Although it has strong thematic similarities to survival-horror titles like the *Silent Hill* series, gameplay is decidedly different since Jennifer is a normal, everyday girl, not a martial arts master or automatic weapons specialist. Instead of using her little fists, she relies on her wits to solve the puzzles that let her escape from dungeons and defeat savage monsters. And beware: with multiple endings to the game, wrong choices can definitely be made.



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new releases

GO HOME WITH **LARRY THE CABLE GUY**, **L'ENFANT** OR **THE SHAGGY DOG** | BY MARNI WEISZ

AUGUST 1

THE SHAGGY DOG

Stars: Tim Allen, Kristin Davis

Director: Brian Robbins (*The Perfect Score*)

Story: While prosecuting a case involving a lab that's doing genetic tests on animals, a district attorney (Allen) is bitten by a 300-year-old pooch that has survived that last three centuries at a Tibetan monastery. Said dog's bite alters the DA's DNA so that he switches from man to dog and back at the least appropriate times.



V FOR VENDETTA

Stars: Natalie Portman, Hugo Weaving

Director: James McTeigue (debut)

Story: A masked, caped vigilante known only as V (Weaving) seeks revenge

against the totalitarian government that once held him captive. During his incarceration scientists performed terrible experiments on him, which not only made him madder, but stronger. Now, in his quest for revenge and justice, he saves, and then trains, a young woman (Portman) hoping she'll take his place. **DVD Extras:** a 2-disc special edition includes three featurettes, a musical "Cat Power Montage," behind-the-scenes footage

AUGUST 8



LARRY THE CABLE GUY: HEALTH INSPECTOR

Stars: Larry the Cable Guy, Joe Pantoliano

Director: Trent Cooper (*The Comeback*)

Story: Never heard of Larry the Cable Guy? No worries, neither had we. Turns out he's huge in the Red States thanks to stand-up and TV appearances revolving around fart jokes and cutoff plaid shirts. Confusing thing

here is that Larry's not a cable guy, but a health inspector, and he has to figure out why people are getting sick at one of the swankiest restaurants in town.

AUGUST 15

AN AMERICAN HAUNTING

Stars: Donald Sutherland, Sissy Spacek

Director: Courtney Solomon (*Dungeons & Dragons*)

Story: For those who like their horror movies old school (or are just tired of Hollywood's current surplus of bloody road trips and caves filled with psychopathic freaks) comes this ghost story based on a true case from the 1800s in which a Red River, Tennessee, family was tormented by a spirit who eventually killed one of them. Apparently, it's the only documented case in history where a murder was attributed to a ghost.

L'ENFANT

Stars: Jérémie Renier, Déborah François

Directors: Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne (*Le Fils*)

Story: The winner of the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes Film Festival is a wrenching

drama about a young Belgian couple living off of her government benefits and his petty crimes. Not an ideal life to begin with, but when he sells their baby behind her back the real anguish begins.

HOOT



Stars: Logan Lerman, Cody Linley

Director: Wil Shriner (debut)

Story: When young Roy Eberhardt moves from Montana to Florida he finds it hard to fit in and

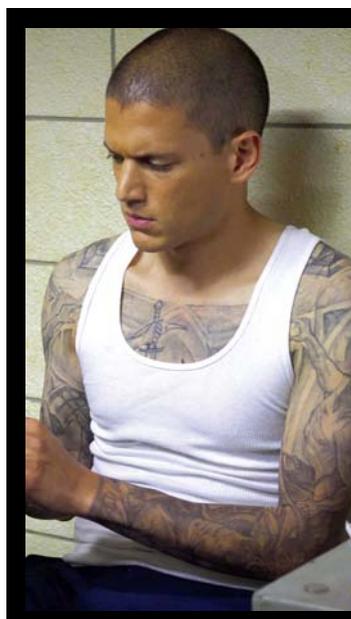
make friends. But then he hooks up with a Huckleberry Finn-esque townie named Mullet Fingers who's on a quest to save a group of burrowing owls. **DVD Extras:** deleted scenes, bloopers, three games, director commentary, Jimmy Buffet music video

SCARY MOVIE 4

Stars: Anna Faris, Carmen Electra

Director: David Zucker (*Scary Movie 3*)

Story: Riffing off *The Grudge*, *War of the Worlds*, *Million Dollar Baby* and *Saw*, this



TV on DVD

PRISON BREAK: SEASON ONE (August 8, \$90)

This is the one you told all your friends you were waiting to catch on DVD. Well, the time has come to schedule a bad cold or the flu so you can spend a couple of days sitting in front of the TV watching all 22 episodes in the first season of this nail-biting TV drama.

Brett Ratner (*X-Men: The Last Stand*) directed the pilot and produced the entire series, which follows a structural engineer (Wentworth Miller) who tattoos himself with the architectural design for Fox River Penitentiary, and then gets himself incarcerated so he can help his brother (Dominic Purcell) escape.

The set is six discs long and bonuses include commentary tracks and such featurettes "Beyond the Ink," "If These Walls Could Talk," and "Prison Break — Manhunt."

APOCALYPSE NOW: THE COMPLETE DOSSIER

(August 15, \$22)

Sure, there have been other DVD versions of *Apocalypse Now*...but never one with a 17-minute clip of Marlon Brando reading the entire T.S. Eliot poem "The Hollow Men," mere excerpts from which were used in Francis Ford Coppola's 1979 film. C'mon, 17 minutes of Brando at his squirrely best that's never been seen outside of the Zoetrope editing suites? That alone is worth the very reasonable \$22 price tag for this 2-disc set.

Apocalypse Now: The Complete Dossier contains the original version of Coppola's Vietnam pic about U.S. Army Captain Benjamin Willard (Martin Sheen) as he travels up a snaking river to corral a crazy American Colonel (Brando), along with *Apocalypse Now Redux*, the version that was released theatrically in 2001, with several extra scenes of varying



quality and relevance.

Now, not everyone liked *Redux* — a scene where Willard bartered with Playboy bunnies particularly incensed some fans — but when you're talking about a film where the anarchy of its making has

become as legendary as the film itself, seeing what ended up on the cutting room floor is as insightful as seeing what made it to screen.

The Complete Dossier features your usual director's commentary and intros, plus even

more deleted scenes than were grafted onto *Redux* and a slew of featurettes on technical aspects like sound and music that are geared toward young filmmakers. And did we mention the 17-minute take of Brando reading T.S. Eliot?

fourth *Scary Movie* finds Cindy (Faris) investigating the death of a little boy whose ghost is (humorously) haunting her house. **DVD Extras:** NBA playoffs piece, DVD-ROM content

AUGUST 22

JUST MY LUCK

Stars: Lindsay Lohan, Chris Pine
Director: Donald Petrie (*Welcome to Mooseport*)

Story: Young career gal Ashley (Lohan) seems to have been born with the proverbial horseshoe implanted in a certain part of her anatomy — everything always goes her way. Until one night when she kisses a mysterious boy (Pine) at a masquerade ball and all of her good luck turns very, very bad.



PHAT GIRLZ

Stars: Mo'Nique, Jimmy Jean-Louis
Director: Nigest Likké (debut)

Story: In a take-that romantic comedy for the full-figured, Mo'Nique

plays a plus-sized woman who catches the eye of a ripped, African doctor (Jean-Louis) who likes big ladies because size equals social status in his country.

DVD Extras: deleted and alternate scenes, bloopers, director's video diary

LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN

Stars: Josh Hartnett, Ben Kingsley
Director: Paul McGuigan (*Wicker Park*)

Story: A case of mistaken identity lands a

nice guy named Slevin (Hartnett) in the middle of a mob feud. When Slevin is confused for his friend Nick, who has some serious debts, he's offered a deal by a gangster known as The Boss (Morgan Freeman) — kill a rival crime boss's son and the debt will be forgotten. But when that rival (Kingsley) gets wind of the plan things quickly change. **DVD Extras:** deleted scenes, alternate ending, commentaries



SILENT HILL

Stars: Radha Mitchell, Jodelle Ferland
Director: Christophe Gans (*Crying Freeman*)

Story: Preserving the eerie look that made the videogame so

compelling, this big-screen spinoff begins when a little girl named Sharon has a recurring nightmare during which she sleepwalks into dangerous situations while repeating the name of the abandoned town "Silent Hill." Her mom (Mitchell) decides the best thing to do is take Sharon there, despite the protests of her father (Sean Bean). **DVD Extras:** "The Making of *Silent Hill*"

AUGUST 29

AKEELAH AND THE BEE

Stars: Keke Palmer, Laurence Fishburne
Director: Doug Atchison (*The Pornographer*)

Story: Tapping into the popularity of spelling bees that was spawned by the 2002 documentary *Spellbound*, this family film earned great reviews for being heartwarming yet not too sappy. Akeelah is



THE SENTINEL

Stars: Michael Douglas, Kiefer Sutherland
Director: Clark Johnson (*S.W.A.T.*)

Story: A Secret Service agent (Douglas) who has spent more than 20

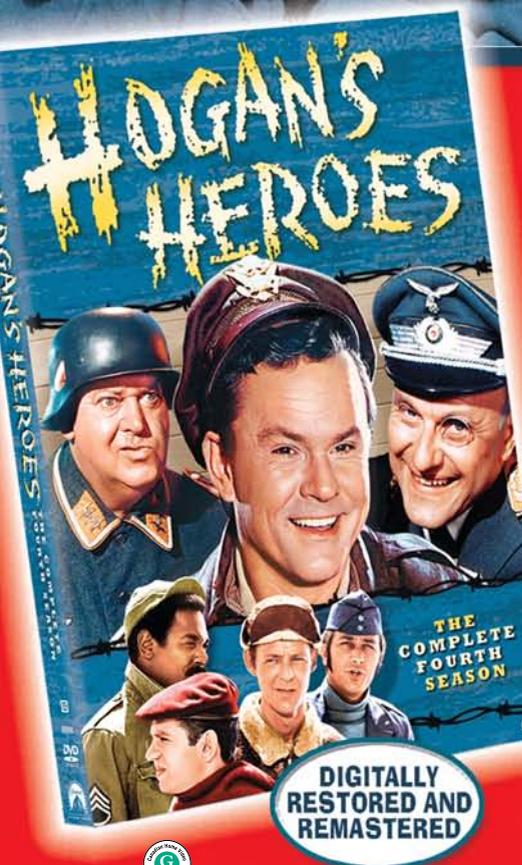
years protecting the President of the United States suddenly finds himself a suspect in a plot to kill the very same leader of the free world. Why? Well, first, he's sleeping with the First Lady (Kim Basinger) and his guilt causes that little needle on a lie detector test to go all screwy. **DVD Extras:** alternate ending, director and writer commentaries, deleted scenes

TAKE THE LEAD

Stars: Antonio Banderas, Alfre Woodard
Director: Liz Friedlander (debut)

Story: Based on a true story, Banderas plays Pierre Dulaine, a charming, well-meaning dance teacher who thinks he can change a bunch of tough kids in a rough New York neighbourhood by teaching them how to ballroom dance. And what do you know? He's right. **DVD Extras:** "Meet the Dungeon Kids," "Between the Steps: Pierre Dulaine Profile," deleted scenes, director commentary

NUSSING MISSING!



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star | gazing |

AUGUST 2006

HOROSCOPE | BY DAN LIEBMAN

Leo

July 23 ☆ **August 22**

With finances, opt for careful planning. You begin to appreciate someone you deal with on a regular basis. Relatives give you breathing room. The pressure is off to make a big decision, leaving you more time to think things through.

Virgo

August 23 ☆ **September 22**

New friendship is a current theme and you discover common interests with someone you met recently. Expect loads of drop-ins and last-minute invitations, but be sure to take some private time around the 15th. Use your gift for motivating others to do their best.

Libra

September 23 ☆ **October 22**

Hang on to phone messages and emails — they can prove highly useful. A loved one expresses feelings in unexpected ways. Your ambitious side emerges and it's an ideal month to pursue a job. Believe only a few of the scandalous stories you hear this month.

Scorpio

October 23 ☆ **November 21**

You enjoy bursts of creativity and find yourself spending time with artistic types. Add touches of bright colour to your surroundings. It's a good month to hold a garage sale — not to attend one — and clear out the clutter.

Sagittarius

November 22 ☆ **December 22**

If serious about something important — a relationship, a job — be sure to tell the person in question. It's a good month to take up an offbeat hobby. Opinions about a neighbour or colleague change for the better. A family member finally understands your point of view.

Capricorn

December 23 ☆ **January 20**

You start to take an interest in a scientific area, and you're involved in activities that

require organization. Someone you know seems less threatening, but you know only too well that appearances can be deceiving. It's a good idea to resolve a serious financial disagreement by the 31st.

Aquarius

January 21 ☆ **February 19**

You're in touch with your spiritual side — it's a good month to develop interests in psychology and even the occult. Plus, you find opportunities to earn extra cash. Look forward to being reacquainted with a long-lost friend you've been thinking about.

Pisces

February 20 ☆ **March 20**

It's an excellent time to make a major announcement. It's also a good month to make a sensitive request, especially after the full moon of the ninth. Your attitudes are becoming less old-fashioned. Expect to learn something shocking about a new acquaintance.

Aries

March 21 ☆ **April 20**

There's a foreign flavour to the month, even if you don't cross any borders. You may learn a language or entertain someone from abroad. Don't take sides in a dispute, at least not till you hear all points of view.

Taurus

April 21 ☆ **May 22**

It's more difficult than expected to give up the leadership position you've grown to enjoy. A friend shares romantic secrets, and relations improve with a member of your own sign. Be sure to follow up on appointments, especially ones related to health.

Gemini

May 23 ☆ **June 21**

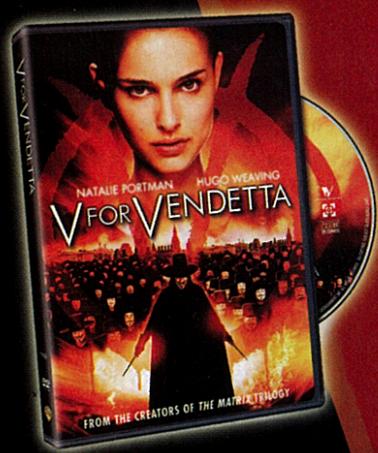
You're doing what you do best — communicating effortlessly and with wit. But you're also acquiring new interests with the accent on sports. Plan ahead for delays scattered through the month.

Cancer

June 22 ☆ **July 22**

No matter where you are, you find it hard to sit still. Look for jobs that require limited concentration. You're known to put on a good party, so what are you waiting for? An old friend returns after a strange absence.

"PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS."



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10

STARS TALK ABOUT DATING

BY SUSAN GRANGER



SIENNA MILLER

"You can't date men and not expect to be disappointed. It comes with the territory."

NICOLE KIDMAN "I have an aversion to the idea of dating. I prefer, 'Listen, I like spending time with you. Spend time with me.' Then there's no expectation. Dating is just a hard thing to do."

TERI HATCHER "I feel like I'm too old to just have sex. I mean, I want to have sex, but with somebody who really loves me and gets me."

CAMERON DIAZ "It's hard to embarrass me, but once I was out with a guy who was really rude to a waiter and so I left. I walked right out on him. The way he behaved just made me lose my appetite."

BRUCE WILLIS "It's different for me because I have 'JACKPOT' stamped on my forehead.... I took a couple of shots at [dating] the last few years, and it just didn't work out. I may be meant for bachelorhood."

KRISTIN DAVIS "I'm not really a dater. My life with my friends is very full...so I don't notice so much that I haven't had a date in a long time. Is it so bizarre to think that I could be happy with my dog and my friends?"

MISCHA BARTON "All the boys I date are actually really nice.... Some girls like to be jerked around by boys and to have to chase after them, but I'm not really into that."

ETHAN HAWKE "I'm not capable of saying to someone words like, 'I love you,' because I don't know what they mean anymore."

RYAN SEACREST "The worst dating disaster I've had was when I was out with a woman and we got to dessert — it was cake — and she started eating it with her hands, without a fork. I was waiting for her to make a joke about it, but she didn't. I couldn't get past that."

JASON BIGGS "A lot of girls don't understand the actor's crazy life. I just want to date someone who's nice. I'm looking for someone I can have an awesome conversation with, who can make me laugh and make me funnier. I love acting, but I'd like to escape that world."

You only get three sick days a year. Use them wisely.

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