

CINEPLEX

MAGAZINE

THE MAN BEHIND THE MARTIAN

**DIRECTOR
RIDLEY SCOTT**
TALKS SCI-FI,
SPACE AND STAR
MATT DAMON

The Martian's
Matt Damon

Inside
**CHRISTOPHER
PLUMMER**
**PAUL
GROSS**

BOO!
**FIVE
 FRIGHTENING
 FLICKS FOR
 HALLOWEEN,
 PAGE 22**

*Paranormal Activity:
 The Ghost Dimension*





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SECOND
LOOK**

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Ridley Scott has taken us to space before, but never to Mars. Here the trailblazing director talks about his return to sci-fi, and stranding *The Martian's* star Matt Damon on the red planet with no one to talk to but a bunch of tiny cameras

BY MARNI WEISZ

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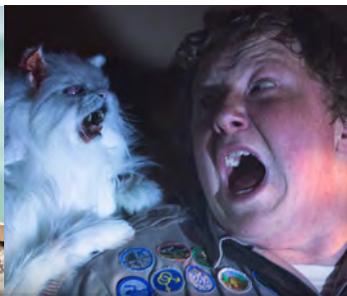
One of the biggest years in movie history ends with a massive Holiday Season, including new *Star Wars*, *Hunger Games* and 007 pics

BY INGRID RANDOJA



Ridley Scott (right) instructs Matt Damon (left) on *The Martian's* set

COVER PHOTO BY KURT ISWARENKO





TICKET TO MARS

The hazy, saffron-hued Mars of Ridley Scott's *The Martian* looks so, well, otherworldly. But, the truth is, you can go there today. Forget hitching a ride with the scandal-plagued Mars One project, and its dubious promise of one-way tickets to the red planet, or even trying to get there via Elon Musk's more reputable SpaceX.

Expedia has round-trip tickets to Aqaba, Jordan, for just over \$3,000 a pop. Once in Aqaba find the bus stop next to the police station and get on board the minibus headed to Wadi Rum (pictured right), also known as The Valley of the Moon, a sandstone and granite desert in southern Jordan where British military officer T.E. Lawrence — a.k.a. Lawrence of Arabia — spent time during the Arab Revolt, and which is now host to an eco-tourism industry driven by Bedouin locals who take visitors rock climbing and on camel safaris.



PHOTO BY ADAM PRETTY VIBERTY

It's also where Ridley Scott shot about 40 percent of the exteriors for *The Martian*, a thriller that stars Matt Damon as an American astronaut stranded on the red planet after a mishap during a NASA mission. The other 60 percent was shot on a sound stage in Hungary where Scott built an exact replica of his corner of Wadi Rum.

I interviewed Scott for this month's cover story and when I asked what he had to do to transform Wadi Rum into Mars, he said, "The most important thing was to add stuff in the sky, dust twisters.... The beauty and majesty of Wadi Rum is difficult to enhance but I think we did."

They have dust twisters on Mars?
"They do now," he deadpanned.

The 77-year-old, knighted, British filmmaker has a renewed interest in sci-fi these days. It's just one of the things we talked about for that story. Turn to "Space Man," page 42, to not only get a glimpse into *The Martian's* making, but find out where Scott's at with his next *Prometheus* and *Blade Runner* films.

The Martian's not the only film featured in this issue that used Jordan as a stand-in for another locale. On page 20 writer, director and star **Paul Gross** talks about making his Afghanistan-set movie, *Hyena Road*, in Jordan...and Manitoba.

And on page 28 you'll find our interview with **Christopher Plummer** about his new Atom Egoyan thriller, *Remember*.

We also have two film roundups in this issue. On page 22 we help you choose which of this month's five scary movies is the best one to get you into the Halloween spirit, and on page 32 we present our Holiday Movie Preview, a look ahead to the final two months of 2015 movies, including new *Star Wars*, James Bond and *Hunger Games* pics.

■ **MARNI WEISZ**, EDITOR

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SNAPS



THE KATIE TUG

Katie Holmes (right) tugs on her dress while shooting *All We Had* in Queens, New York. She stars as a mom struggling to raise her daughter (**Stefania Owen**, front) and is also directing the film.
PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



JUDE & DIANE FIND RELIGION

Jude Law and **Diane Keaton** have a little fun on the Rome set of their upcoming HBO series, *The Young Pope*.
PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



LADIES LOVE HIM

Patrick Stewart is surrounded by a mob of delightful dancers at the premiere of his new Starz series, *Blunt Talk*.
PHOTO BY MICHAEL KOVAC/GETTY



RYAN IN A RAGE

Ryan Gosling takes out his frustrations on a poor poster while shooting *La La Land* in Burbank.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



SKARSGÅRD IN DRAG

That's Alexander Skarsgård in drag (centre) with his *Diary of a Teenage Girl* co-star Bel Powley (left), director Marielle Heller (right) and producer Jorma Taccone. The premiere, held at San Francisco's Castro Theater, was preceded by a drag show and Skarsgård decided to stay in costume for the red carpet.

PHOTO BY MIRKA SKAFFARI/GETTY



JAKE & MARCUS IN RADIATOR SPRINGS

Lightning McQueen takes Jake Gyllenhaal (rear left) and pal Marcus Mumford of Mumford & Sons (front left) for a ride on Disneyland's Radiator Springs Racers.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

IN BRIEF



GARAGE PHOTO BY MATTHEW THOUVENIN

THE HARDEST WORKING GARAGE IN SHOW BUSINESS



Steve Jobs star Michael Fassbender

For the second time in three years the garage at 2066 Crist Drive — yes, the actual Los Altos, California, garage that once belonged to Steve Jobs' parents — will make an appearance in a bio-pic about Jobs.

The garage's big-screen debut came in Ashton Kutcher's 2013 misfire *Jobs*, and this month it has a supporting role in director Danny Boyle's *Steve Jobs*. Michael Fassbender stars as the visionary in the

film based on Aaron Sorkin's screenplay.

As the story goes, it was in this garage that Jobs and friend Steve Wozniak (played by Seth Rogen in the new film) created the first batch of Apple 1s.

However, in a 2014 Bloomberg interview, Wozniak said the garage's role in Apple's founding has been exaggerated.

"The garage is a bit of a myth, it's overblown," he said. "The garage represents us better than anything else,

but we did no designs there. We would drive the finished products to the garage, make them work, and then we'd drive them down to the store that paid us cash."

The garage also has a cameo in director Alex Gibney's documentary *Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine*, which did the festival circuit earlier this year. No word whether it will be cast in the Santa Fe Opera's recently announced production of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, set to open in 2017. —MW



Andy Serkis

On Home Turf: WAR OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

Prepare for war, B.C. Like the two films that precede it in the rebooted *Apes* franchise, the third film, *War of the Planet of the Apes*, is expected to be shot largely in British Columbia. And it could start filming as early as this month.

Andy Serkis — decked out in his coat of many sensors — is expected to return as ape king Caesar, and **Matt Reeves**, who directed the franchise's second film, *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*, will be behind the camera again.

Beyond that, little is known about the cast and plot. We can tell you that the project's shooting title is "Hidden Fortress," which may give you a clue. —MW ▶

THE ART OF FILM

Maybe Ryan Brinkerhoff's obsession with movies came from growing up in Mansfield, Ohio, the small town where *The Shawshank Redemption* was shot. "I was in elementary school when they filmed it and I still have fun watching it and pointing out my soccer coach as an extra playing a policeman," says Brinkerhoff, who now lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Brinkerhoff uses clever composition, unique colour combinations, and funny little references in his art. "I'm always trying to avoid a design that is simply a portrait of the main character," he says of his works, like these (from left) of *Mad Max: Fury Road*, *Halloween* and *The 'Burbs*. See more at banditodesignco.com. —MW



BEWARE



FROM THE VISIONARY DIRECTOR OF PAN'S LABYRINTH

CRIMSON PEAK

OCTOBER 16

IN THEATRES AND **IMAX**

LEGENDARY

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▶ CUMBERBATCH'S HAMLET

Two months ago Benedict Cumberbatch pleaded with fans outside London's Barbican theatre following a performance of *Hamlet*. He wanted them to spread the word on social media that theatregoers must refrain from shooting his performance. "I can see cameras, I can see red lights in the auditorium... It's mortifying," he begged.

Fair enough. We've got something far better, anyway. Camera-phone movies can't compare to the live, big-screen treatment Cumberbatch's *Hamlet* gets this month as part of Cineplex's National Theatre Live series on October 15th, or its encore presentation on November 7th.

Go to Cineplex.com/Events for more information and to buy tickets. —MW



Tom Hanks (left) and director Steven Spielberg on the *Bridge of Spies* set

DID YOU KNOW?

This month's Cold War thriller *Bridge of Spies* marks the fourth time Steven Spielberg has directed Tom Hanks in a feature film. The others are *Saving Private Ryan*, *Catch Me If You Can* and *The Terminal*. The two history buffs also worked together on the historical TV series *Band of Brothers* and *The Pacific*.



Quote Unquote

“The house that the Sharpes live in is in Cumberland in the north of England, and the house was built on a soundstage in Toronto.

And when I walked in for the first time it was just breathtaking 'cause it was on three or four storeys with a working elevator...

The most extraordinary set I have ever seen and I was actually very sad when they had to tear it down.

—CRIMSON PEAK'S TOM HIDDLESTON



PHOTO BY CHUNG SUNG-JUN/GETTY FOR IMAGE NET

THAT STUNT? PIECE OF CAKE.

It's hard to say what we love most about this image of Tom Cruise accepting a gift at a *Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation* screening in Seoul, South Korea. The gleeful look on Cruise's face? The disproportionately large cake-Cruise hanging from the cake-plane in the cake-depiction of the film's famous stunt? Or the surly security guard preparing to give the fan the Vulcan neck pinch if she tries anything funny? —*MW*



YOUR NEW HOST IS...

Get used to this mug. It belongs to Tanner Zipchen, the Cineplex Pre-Show's newest host. Zipchen — a radio DJ from Saskatoon — beat out hundreds of fellow contestants in Cineplex's "Casting Call" competition. He'll start this month.

Zipchen distinguished himself with his audition tape, in which — during a single two-minute shot as good as anything from Alejandro González Iñárritu's *Birdman* — he strolled from the radio station where he worked to the Cineplex theatre a block away to see *Jurassic World*, all the while explaining why he would make a great host... and changing into a replica of Sam Neill's Dr. Alan Grant ensemble from *Jurassic Park*.

Nicely done, Zipchen. Congratulations on the new gig.

TIMEPLAY TOP PLAYER



NAME: Kristal Stittle

HOME THEATRE:

SilverCity Fairview Mall

WHO ARE YOU? I'm the author of *Survival Instinct* and its sequels, a series that follows a variety of characters through a zombie apocalypse and all the terrifying things that come with it. Horror, especially zombies, is my home base but I love all kinds of movies and books and am working on expanding my writing to reflect this. I'm greatly inspired by what I watch on the silver screen and like to imagine my stories in the style of a Steven Spielberg film.

PHONE MODEL: LG Optimus L5

HOW OFTEN DO YOU PLAY?

Regularly once a week, but sometimes more.

FAVOURITE GAME: Buzz In

WHAT IS YOUR TIMEPLAY AVATAR?

A fox, because I like foxes. It was an impulsive decision.

HOW DO YOU FOCUS? I put aside the popcorn bag.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR PEOPLE NEW TO TIMEPLAY?

Speed is important so trust your instincts.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE SCARY MOVIE AND WHY? *28 Days Later* is definitely the one I've watched the most, everything about it is just so well done in my mind, but I have to say that [TV miniseries] *It* has been the scariest. A sharp-toothed clown living in the sewers that preys on children while no one else can see it? Yeah, I didn't sleep for two weeks the first time I saw that one.

FAST ZOMBIES, OR SLOW ZOMBIES? I like a good mix of both. The slowly shambling, ever growing, unstoppable horde is great, but having a couple of fast ones thrown in keeps everyone on their toes.

FAST ZOMBIES, OR SLOW ZOMBIES? I like a good mix of both. The slowly shambling, ever growing, unstoppable horde is great, but having a couple of fast ones thrown in keeps everyone on their toes.

TimePlay stats:

213,447 total experience points,
61 games played,
47 times in the top 10,
4 different locations,
 top game score of
6,669



Dmitri Hvorostovsky
as *Il Trovatore's*
Count di Luna

For more information, to buy single tickets or learn about ticket packages, go to CINEPLEX.COM/OPERA.

The Met: Live in HD

The 2015-2016 season gets underway this month with three stirring productions

PHOTO BY KEN HOWARD/METROPOLITAN OPERA

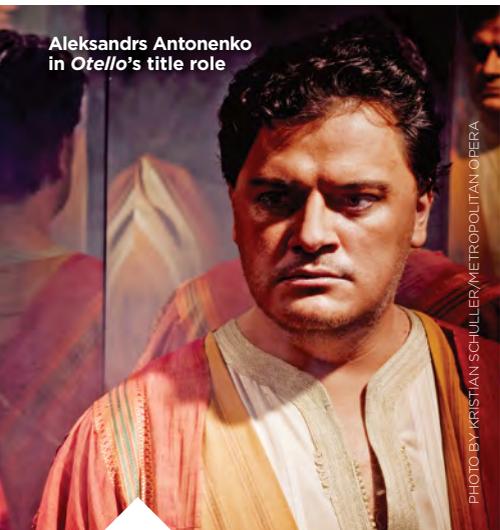
IL TROVATORE

GIUSEPPE VERDI

What would a Met season be without soprano Anna Netrebko in a meaty role? Here the superstar sings Leonora, who is in love with Manrico (tenor Yonghoon Lee), a leader of rebel forces in 15th-century Spain. Unfortunately for Manrico, the Count di Luna (Dmitri Hvorostovsky) is also in love with the noble Leonora and is not about to let this romance bloom. Marco Armiliato conducts.

LIVE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

12:55 P.M. EASTERN TIME



Aleksandrs Antonenko
in *Othello's* title role

PHOTO BY KRISTIAN SCHULLER/METROPOLITAN OPERA

OTELLO GIUSEPPE VERDI

Tenor Aleksandrs Antonenko plays the titular Moorish general in this Verdi opera based on Shakespeare's *Othello*. Soprano Sonya Yoncheva, a rising star, is Othello's wife Desdemona and baritone Željko Lučić plays the dastardly villain Iago. French-Canadian maestro Yannick Nézet-Séguin will hoist the baton for this production.

LIVE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

12:55 P.M. EASTERN TIME



Michelle DeYoung as
Tannhäuser's Venus

PHOTO BY MARTY SCHULZ/METROPOLITAN OPERA

Want More Met?
Pick up the November issue of *Cineplex Magazine* for your comprehensive guide to the 2015/2016 Season of *The Met: Live in HD*.

TANNHÄUSER

RICHARD WAGNER

Tenor Johan Botha tackles the challenging role of Wagner's Tannhäuser, the young knight who pursues passion with the lusty Venus (Michelle DeYoung) while his former flame Elisabeth (Eva-Maria Westbroek) waits and hopes for his return. Maestro James Levine conducts this early Wagner opera.

LIVE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

12 P.M. EASTERN TIME

BAD BOY

Ali Momen really wanted the role of gang member Nep in director Deepa Mehta's *Beeba Boys*, which focuses on rival Sikh gangs fighting it out in B.C.'s lower mainland. It's based on the life of notorious 1990s Vancouver gangster Bindy Johal and screened as a Gala Presentation at last month's Toronto International Film Festival before opening this month.

"I did an audition," says Momen on the line from his downtown Toronto home, "and then Deepa emailed and said, 'I want you to change your hair, I want you to get a tan, wear a goatee and wear this specific thing for the next time you see me.' It was just crazy, but I was, 'Okay Deepa, whatever you want, no questions,'" remembers Momen.

"There are only a handful of Deepa Mehtas in Canadian filmmaking so of course I did whatever I had to do, and I got the part."

Momen, who was born in Iran but moved to Canada when he was two, immersed himself in Punjabi and Sikh culture in order to play the gun-toting Nep, who rises through the ranks of Jeet Johar's (Randeep Hooda) gang.

The theatre-trained Momen — he spent three years working at the Shaw Festival — says he also benefited from an intense week-long workshop that Mehta put together for the actors playing the gangsters.

"The workshop wasn't so much about the script, it was more doing exercises and emotional openings," notes Momen.

"We all really exposed ourselves, and when you expose yourself in front of each other you bond very quickly. You could be in a friendship for two years and never tell your friend a secret, but in this workshop we were telling each other secrets every day, so of course we got close to one another." —INGRID RANDOJA



PHOTO BY ANGE CHOI/EYKAHOTO

BEEBA BOYS
HITS THEATRES
OCTOBER 16TH



ALL DRESSED UP

LAKE BELL

At the L.A. premiere of *No Escape*.

PHOTO BY GREGG DEGUIRE/GETTY

LAVERNE COX

In New York for the premiere of *Ricki and the Flash*.

PHOTO BY JAMIE MCCARTHY/GETTY

HENRY CAVILL

At the New York premiere of *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*

PHOTO BY JAMIE MCCARTHY/GETTY



KRISTEN STEWART

In L.A. for the *American Ultra* premiere.

PHOTO BY FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY



VANESSA HUDGENS

In L.A. for the *Industry Dance Awards*.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



JEREMY RENNER

In New York for the premiere of *Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation*.

PHOTO BY DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY

IN THEATRES

OCTOBER 2



THE MARTIAN

Master of sci-fi **Ridley Scott** takes us on a do-or-die space journey. The 77-year-old director helms this adaptation of **Andy Weir's** novel with **Matt Damon** as Mark Watney, an astronaut who uses his MacGyver-like skills to survive on Mars while his team — including commander **Jessica Chastain** — attempts a risky rescue. See **Ridley Scott** interview, [page 42](#).



Malala Yousafzai

HE NAMED ME MALALA

Movie superheroes can't hold a candle to real-life Pakistani teenager **Malala Yousafzai**, who was just 15 when Taliban gunmen shot her in the face to stop her from advocating on behalf of girls' education. This documentary from acclaimed director **Davis Guggenheim** (*An Inconvenient Truth*) highlights the now 18-year-old's life as a global activist and her private time with her with loving family.

OCTOBER 9



PAN

Joe Wright (*Anna Karenina*) helms this eye-popping origin tale that finds young Peter Pan (**Levi Miller**) and his friend Hook (**Garrett Hedlund**) joining forces to take down the evil pirate Blackbeard (**Hugh Jackman**) in the magical kingdom of Neverland. See [feature](#), [page 26](#).



Tom Hardy in *Legend*

LEGEND

You may remember the 1990 crime pic *The Krays*, which starred Spandau Ballet's musical brothers, Gary and Martin Kemp, as real-life twin crime bosses Reggie and Ronald Kray in the London of the 1960s. Here **Tom Hardy** plays the same two roles all by his lonesome.

HYENA ROAD

Paul Gross wrote, directed and stars in this military drama set in Afghanistan. Gross plays an officer overseeing a road crucial to Canada's military operation outside Kandahar. See **Paul Gross** interview, [page 20](#).



Steve Jobs'
Michael Fassbender

STEVE JOBS

Jobs, the 2013 Steve Jobs bio-pic starring Ashton Kutcher garnered little interest, but we're curious about this look at Apple's excruciatingly demanding boss that's directed by **Danny Boyle**, written by **Aaron Sorkin** and stars **Michael Fassbender** in the title role. Look for **Kate Winslet** as Jobs' overwhelmed marketing chief and **Seth Rogen** as his one-time Apple partner, Steve Wozniak.

OCTOBER 16



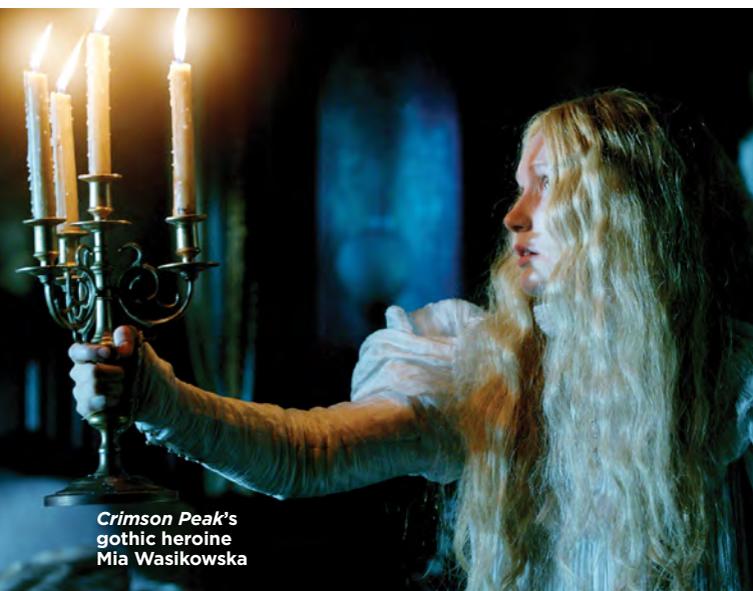
Tom Hanks
in *Bridge of Spies*

BRIDGE OF SPIES

The Cold War comes to life in this drama from director **Steven Spielberg**. **Tom Hanks** plays respected lawyer James Donovan, who in 1957 agrees to defend captured Soviet spy Rudolf Abel (**Mark Rylance**). Five years later Donovan is asked to broker a prisoner exchange involving Abel and American spy plane pilot Francis Gary Powers (**Austin Stowell**), who was shot down by the Russians and is being held in East Berlin.

GOOSEBUMPS

A group of teenagers bands together to save the town of Greendale when the monsters created in the mind of children's author R.L. Stine (**Jack Black**) come to life.



Crimson Peak's
gothic heroine
Mia Wasikowska

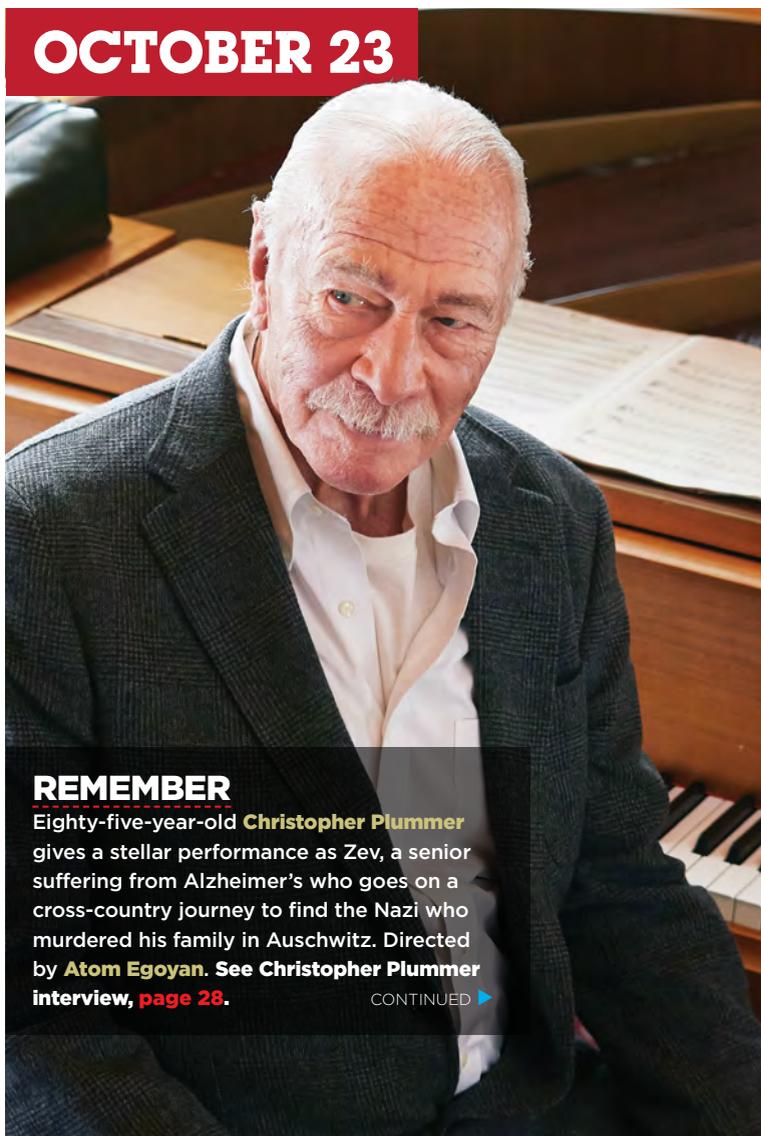
CRIMSON PEAK

Shot in Toronto but set in 19th-century England, Guillermo del Toro's latest mixes horror with gothic romance. Young Edith Cushing (**Mia Wasikowska**) finds her husband's (**Tom Hiddleston**) family home to be a dark and foreboding place. And she isn't too fond of her husband's sister (**Jessica Chastain**), the mansion's vigilant caretaker.

FREEHELD

This tearjerker is based on the real-life case of terminally ill New Jersey cop Laurel Hester (**Julianne Moore**), who takes on the government board that refuses to extend her pension benefits to her same-sex domestic partner, Stacie Andree (**Ellen Page**). **Steve Carell** plays a gay activist who helps the couple fight the injustice.

OCTOBER 23



REMEMBER

Eighty-five-year-old **Christopher Plummer** gives a stellar performance as Zev, a senior suffering from Alzheimer's who goes on a cross-country journey to find the Nazi who murdered his family in Auschwitz. Directed by **Atom Egoyan**. See **Christopher Plummer interview**, [page 28](#).

CONTINUED ▶

OCTOBER 23

▶ ROCK THE KASBAH

Tour manager **Richie Lanz (Bill Murray)** is stranded in Afghanistan after his singer (**Zoey Deschanel**) hightails it out of the war zone. However, Richie stumbles across a young woman (**Leem Lubany**) with a golden voice and agrees to help her get on the reality talent show *Afghan Star*.



BURNT

Bradley Cooper went on a diet to lose all of his *American Sniper* bulk before playing once-promising chef Adam Jones, who let his ego — and a taste for drugs — destroy his career. Now sober, he sets out to open a top-notch New York eatery. Co-starring **Uma Thurman, Jamie Dornan, Emma Thompson** and **Alicia Vikander**.



JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS

The 1980s animated TV series is turned into a live-action pic with **Aubrey Peeples** starring as Jerrica Benton, who dons a Ziggy Stardust-style costume and makeup to become Jem, the lead singer of an all-girl band.



Room's
Jacob Tremblay
and **Brie Larson**

ROOM

Emma Donoghue's 2010 bestseller gets the movie treatment. Five-year-old Jack (Canadian actor **Jacob Tremblay**) has no idea there's anything unusual about his life — even though he lives alone with his mom (**Brie Larson**), locked in a scary one-room shed.

THE LAST WITCH HUNTER

Immortal witch hunter Kaulder (**Vin Diesel**) enlists the help of a good witch (**Rose Leslie**) to stop the Witch Queen (**Julie Engelbrecht**) from releasing a deadly plague on New York. **Michael Caine** and **Elijah Wood** step in as men of the cloth.

OCTOBER 23



▶ **PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION**

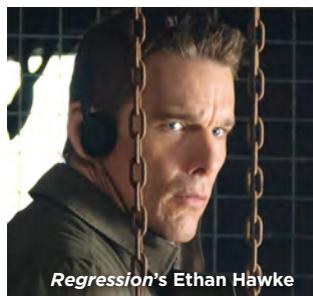
The horror series about an evil presence that haunts people in their homes — captured on grainy footage for all to see — is back with its sixth, and reportedly final, installment. Here, a family moves into a new home and comes across old VHS tapes and a camera that films paranormal activity.

OCTOBER 30



OUR BRAND IS CRISIS

Based on the 2005 documentary of the same name, this feature casts **Sandra Bullock** as “Calamity” Jane Bodine, the lead political strategist of a team that goes to Bolivia to help run a candidate’s campaign.



Regression’s Ethan Hawke

REGRESSION

Director **Alejandro Amenábar**’s thriller has a strong *True Detective* vibe. It follows a police investigator (**Ethan Hawke**) as he tries to unravel the off-kilter case of a young woman (**Emma Watson**) who says she was abused by her father.



From left: Tye Sheridan, Joey Morgan, Logan Miller and Sarah Dumont in *Scouts Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse*

SCOUTS GUIDE TO THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

It’s a coming of age story of a different sort as three relatively sweet Boy Scouts (**Tye Sheridan, Logan Miller** and **Joey Morgan**) earn bloodstained badges when they join with a kick-ass cocktail server (**Sarah Dumont**) to fend off a zombie uprising.

FRONT ROW
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CONCERT
ROGER WATERS THE WALL
THURS., OCT. 1

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA
IL TROVATORE (VERDI)
LIVE: SAT., OCT. 3
OTELLO (VERDI)
LIVE: SAT., OCT. 17
TANNHÄUSER (WAGNER)
LIVE: SAT., OCT. 31

FAMILY FAVOURITES
THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER
SAT., OCT. 17
HOME
SAT., OCT. 31

THE IRON GIANT: SIGNATURE EDITION
SUN., OCT. 4; MON., OCT. 5

ANIME
BORUTO: NARUTO THE MOVIE
SAT., OCT. 10; WED., OCT. 14

CONCERT
THE WHO FROM HYDE PARK
WED., OCT. 7

JUST FOR LAUGHS
THE NASTY SHOW
THURS., OCT. 8

SENSORY FRIENDLY SCREENINGS
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2
SAT., OCT. 10

BOLSHOI BALLET
GISELLE
SUN., OCT. 11

NATIONAL THEATRE
HAMLET
LIVE: THURS., OCT. 15
THE BEAUX’ STRATAGEM
ENCORE: SAT., OCT. 24

CLASSIC FILM SERIES
MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON
SUN., OCT. 18; MON., OCT. 19;
WED., OCT. 28

BACK TO THE FUTURE: THE FAN EVENT
BACK TO THE FUTURE 1 & 2
WED., OCT. 21
BACK TO THE FUTURE 1, 2 & 3
SUN., OCT. 25

CONCERT
WACKEN THE MOVIE 3D
THURS., OCT. 29

SHOWTIMES ONLINE AT **CINEPLEX.COM**

ALL RELEASE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Paul Gross (right)
in *Hyena Road*

HYENA ROAD
HITS THEATRES
OCTOBER 9TH

Back to BATTLE

Paul Gross's second war movie, *Hyena Road*, explores the complex nature of modern warfare ■ BY MARNI WEISZ

Looking at Paul Gross's two most recent films as writer-director, 2008's World War I drama *Passchendaele* and this month's Afghanistan pic *Hyena Road*, you might think he has a master plan; some reason he's made two military movies in a row. That's not the case.

"After doing *Passchendaele* I had no interest in ever doing another war film because they're just so phenomenally difficult to execute," he says over the phone from his Toronto home.

Gross, whose big break as an actor came playing Constable Benton Fraser on TV's *Due South* in the 1990s, was asked to go to Afghanistan to visit the Canadian troops in 2010. Once there, he realized there was a story he wanted to tell.

"It was just mesmerizing to me, I've been in a lot of weird places, but never in an active war zone. It was so complicated and so strange, and not at all like I was led to believe by the press in general or the government."

He talked to soldiers — both those on the kinetic side of the battle, meaning the ones who fight, and those on the non-kinetic side, meaning strategists — and wove their stories into a screenplay about an intelligence officer (played by Gross) and a sniper (Rossif Sutherland) who form an uneasy friendship while trying to figure out the best

way to control a stretch of dusty road in Kandahar Province.

Some background footage Gross shot while in Afghanistan on his initial trip made it into the movie, and the rest was shot in Jordan (the exteriors) and on Canadian Forces Base Shilo near Brandon, Manitoba (the interiors).

"You can imagine how complex it is moving all this stuff around, particularly moving weaponry, dynamite, blasting caps, grenades, things like that into an area as turbulent as the Middle East," he says. "And I'm told we actually shut down Pearson [Airport] because someone saw some dummy hand grenades in a box that was going through and hit the big red button."

Hyena Road certainly isn't the only recent movie about Western military operations in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. Shortly after Gross wrapped shooting on *Hyena Road* last year, Clint Eastwood's *American Sniper* hit theatres with Bradley Cooper as U.S. sniper Chris Kyle. It was a huge hit, and touched off heated discussions about North America's role in the Middle East.

But Gross doesn't think *American Sniper* treads the same ground as his film.

"I think *Hyena Road* is kind of the opposite end of the spectrum," he says, "because *American Sniper* is very much an American war film, it focuses solely on the skill and bravery of an American soldier and very little on the nature of the war, why it happened, or whether it was a good one to be in or not."

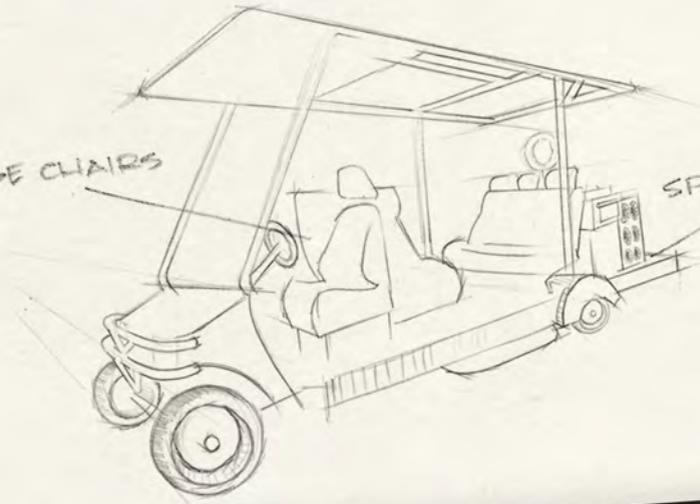
The soldiers depicted in *Hyena Road* are Canadian, and the film depicts the Canadian Forces' mission. Aside from Canadian-flag patches on the soldiers' shoulders, and one reference to Fort McMurray, Gross says it's the way the soldiers behave that makes this story Canadian.

"There is something about the nature of the Canadian soldier that is different from others. There's very little of that Marine Corps hoo-ha.... Most of the soldiers that I met and spoke with had a good, clear idea of why they were there. They were very committed to what they were doing, they were very restrained and professional, extraordinarily brave, but with a very different kind of attitude than we might see in American war films."

If his film has a point-of-view, he says, it's simply to show the complexity of the situation. "My interest is less in the grand politics of it, than in the individual complications of what we ask our fellow citizens to do and how little we know about what we ask them to do and how much it costs them to do that." ■

Marni Weisz is the editor of Cineplex Magazine.

MASSAGE CHAIRS



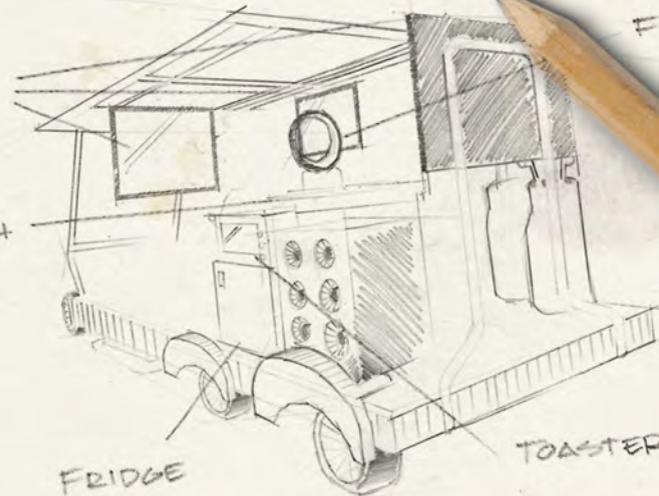
SPEAKERS

BEST DAY



TVs

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FIVE FRIGHTENING FILMS!

Are you ready for Halloween? Even if you think you don't like horror movies, you'll find a scary flick to get you prepped for the big night among October's offerings. No less than five frightful films will be released before All Hallows' Eve and they're all very different. In case you have time to see just one, we've put together this handy guide

Ivy George as Leila in *Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension*

I LIKE MY HORROR:
As realistic as possible
I'M HOPING TO:
Have a heart attack
MY FAVOURITE SCARY MOVIES ARE:
Paranormal Activity,
The Blair Witch Project,
The Visit
SEE...

Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension

STARRING: Chris J. Murray, Brit Shaw, Chloe Csengery, Ivy George

Remember the first *Paranormal Activity* movie — the groundbreaking found-footage horror that was made, independently, for just \$15,000 (U.S.) but ended up taking in nearly \$200-million at the box office?

That movie left audiences quaking, but with so many questions — many of which just turned into more questions with the franchise's subsequent films — like, who/what the heck is Toby? Well, it all ends here with the series' final installment, and according to the trailer "every secret will be revealed." It's a sentiment producer Jason Blum echoed when he told [Collider.com](#), "Yes! Yes! No more teasing, no more teasing."

Directed by Gregory Plotkin, who has served as editor on the last four *Paranormal Activity* films, this capper concerns a young couple, Ryan and Emily (Chris J. Murray, Brit Shaw), who find a box of old videotapes in their new home. Those tapes show Kristi and Katie, two pale, dark-haired little girls, doing the freaky things we've come to expect from them. And when Ryan and Emily's little girl, Leila (Ivy George), starts to act a little bit, well, possessed, mom and dad realize they need help.

HITS THEATRES: OCTOBER 23RD

CONTINUED ►



A RIDLEY SCOTT FILM

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HOME

MATT DAMON

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AMERICAN SPIRIT • SWISS PRECISION

Sarah Dumont and Tye Sheridan in *Scouts Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse*

I LIKE MY HORROR: Rude, crude and full of dudes
I'M HOPING TO: See zombies get what's coming to them
MY FAVOURITE SCARY MOVIES ARE: *Shaun of the Dead*, *Warm Bodies*, *Zombieland*
SEE...

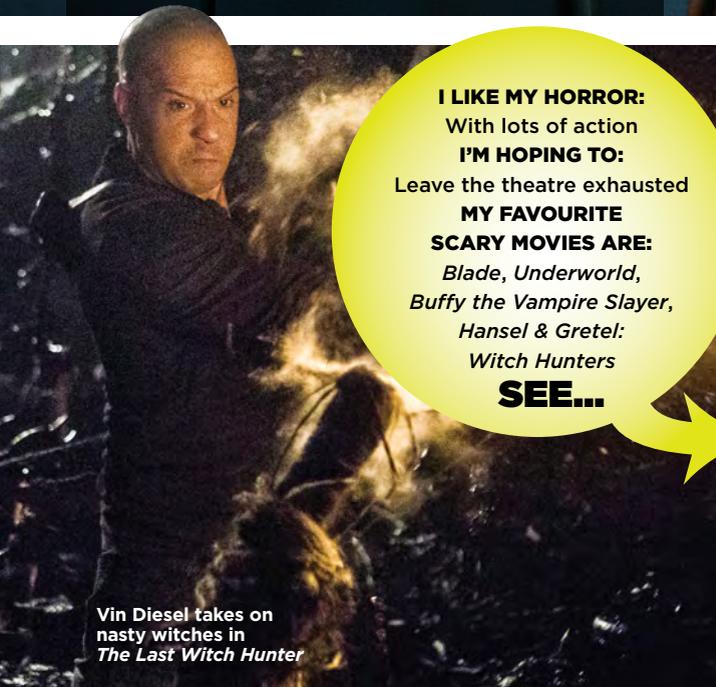
▶ Scouts Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse

STARRING: Tye Sheridan, Logan Miller, Joey Morgan, Sarah Dumont

You don't really have to like horror movies to get a kick out of this one — a kick from a festering, veiny zombie foot! We're almost getting a *Superbad* vibe from this comic-horror about three Boy Scouts (Tye Sheridan, Logan Miller, Joey Morgan) and one cocktail waitress (Sarah Dumont) who use scouting skills to rid their town of, wait for it, zombies.

Arnie and Maria's kid, Patrick Schwarzenegger, is expected to play a football player named Jeff in this pic that was co-written and directed by another son of a Hollywood icon, Christopher B. Landon, whose dad was the late Michael Landon from *Little House on the Prairie*. By the way, Christopher's cred as a horror writer includes the four *Paranormal Activity* movies prior to this month's franchise finale, *The Ghost Dimension*.

HITS THEATRES: OCTOBER 30TH



Vin Diesel takes on nasty witches in *The Last Witch Hunter*

I LIKE MY HORROR: With lots of action
I'M HOPING TO: Leave the theatre exhausted
MY FAVOURITE SCARY MOVIES ARE: *Blade*, *Underworld*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters*
SEE...

The Last Witch Hunter

STARRING: Vin Diesel, Elijah Wood, Michael Caine, Rose Leslie

Take the lightning pace and heavy muscle of Vin Diesel's *Fast and Furious* films, add terrifying monsters, witches (of course) and a protagonist (Diesel) who is doomed to live forever, and you have the blueprint for this frightening action-adventure pic that may be poised to launch a franchise. At least, that's what Diesel says. In June he announced on his Facebook page that he'd already been asked to commit to a second *Witch Hunter* film.

The big man plays Kaulder, a centuries-old witch hunter who was cursed with immortality after killing the supposedly immortal Queen Witch (Julie Engelbrecht). But is she really dead? Probably not. And now Kaulder has to stop a coven of nasty witches trying to unleash the plague, yup, the good old Black Death, on New York City.

HITS THEATRES: OCTOBER 23RD



Crimson Peak

STARRING: Tom Hiddleston, Jessica Chastain, Mia Wasikowska, Charlie Hunnam

Director Guillermo del Toro has called this ghost story a “throwback” to the classic horrors made before found-footage and low budgets became the genre’s standard.

He co-wrote the script with Matthew Robbins (*Don’t Be Afraid of the Dark*) nearly a decade ago, and last year he finally got the chance to shoot the 19th-century story in Toronto (the city he came to love while making *Pacific Rim*). The film’s central set — a terrifying English mansion — was built at Toronto’s Pinewood Studios, but the crew also travelled to Kingston and Hamilton, Ontario, to shoot period scenes.

Mia Wasikowska plays Edith Cushing, an author who writes about ghosts. She falls for Sir Thomas Sharpe (Tom Hiddleston), the tall, dark and spooky patriarch of the mysterious Sharpe family. They marry, and she moves into the creepy, haunted house he shares with his severe sister, Lucille (Jessica Chastain). Boo!

HITS THEATRES: OCTOBER 16TH



Crimson Peak's Tom Hiddleston and Mia Wasikowska

I LIKE MY HORROR:

Gothic

I'M HOPING TO:

Get chills...and see

Tom Hiddleston without a shirt

MY FAVOURITE

SCARY MOVIES ARE:

Interview With the Vampire,
The Others,
Bram Stoker's Dracula

SEE...



From left: Jack Black, Odeya Rush and Dylan Minnette in *Goosebumps*

Goosebumps

STARRING: Jack Black, Dylan Minnette, Odeya Rush, Ryan Lee

Here’s the horror movie you can take the kids to, or even send them on their own, assuming they’re able to handle PG-level frights.

Based on the popular children’s horror books by R.L. Stine, this campy flick stars Jack Black as real-life author Stine, who — for the purposes of this movie — writes about monsters (including the Abominable Snowman, giant insects and swarms of evil garden gnomes) who are not, as everyone assumes, fictitious, but very, very real.

In order to maintain the peace, he keeps the beasts locked up inside his manuscripts, but when Zach (Dylan Minnette), a teen who just moved into the neighbourhood, opens one of those manuscripts he unleashes the monsters and Stine, Zach and Stine’s daughter Hanna (Odeya Rush) have to corral the rampaging beasts.

HITS THEATRES: OCTOBER 16TH

I LIKE MY HORROR:

Funny and kind of cute

I'M HOPING TO: Giggle

as much as scream

MY FAVOURITE

SCARY MOVIES ARE:

Gremlins, *Mars Attacks,*
ParaNorman

SEE...

Go to CINEPLEX.COM/HORRORCAL to get ticket reminders and news updates for these horror pics

10 Fascinating Things About PAN

Director **Joe Wright** came to Toronto to talk up his Peter Pan origins tale, *Pan*. Here are 10 interesting things we learned



4 Hugh Jackman was cast as Blackbeard because of his experience in theatre.

“We wanted an actor who had a sense of movement, a sense of scale...someone who’s really going to throw themselves into the role and Hugh certainly does that. He gives everything.”

1 Playing Peter Pan is Australian actor Levi Miller’s first major role.

“He just had this kind of light in his eyes and this wonder. He lacks any kind of irony. He’s very wholehearted about everything he does. He’s just kind of beautiful.”

2 Wright and his team saw thousands of boys before casting Peter.

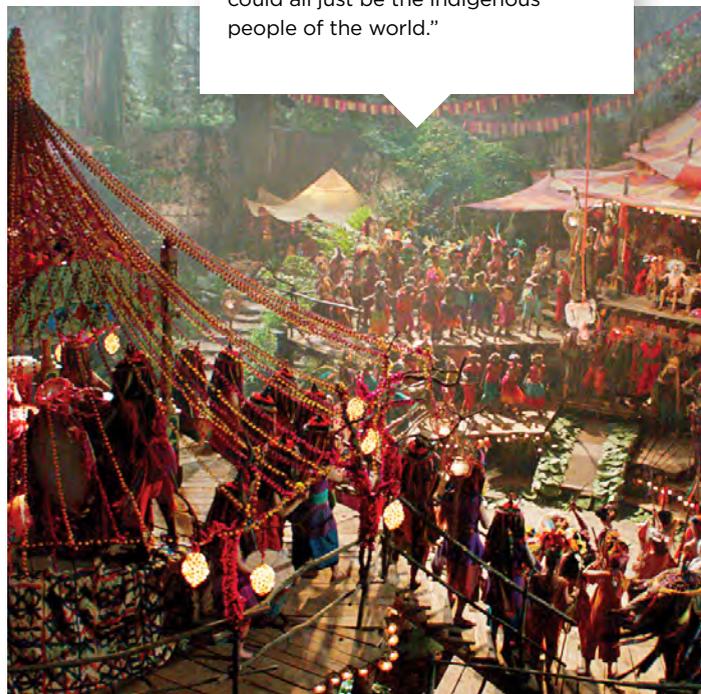
“We did a global search for our Peter. We had representatives in every English-speaking country in the world, and we saw thousands and thousands of kids, and it was horrible.”

3 Some of the other boys who auditioned for Peter still found work on the film.

“There were all these lovely weird kids that I got in the film in other roles, like [Peter’s friend] Nibs [played by Lewis MacDougall].”

5 Tiger Lily and her tribe represent the indigenous people of the world.

“In the book, [J.M.] Barrie’s quite unspecific about the nationality of the tribe. And it’s only subsequently through Disney where they’ve become Native American and it felt like if I had them all Native American, that seemed a bit dodgy to me. So I was thinking what community could they all be from, what nationality? And it occurred to me that they could all just be the indigenous people of the world.”



PAN

HITS THEATRES
OCTOBER 9TH

6 The best fighter in the film isn't Hook, Blackbeard or even Peter Pan. It's Tiger Lily (Rooney Mara).

"I wanted the female character to be the best fighter of them all. Rooney is tough."



7

Garrett Hedlund's younger version of Captain Hook (he still has two hands!) has a 1940s vibe, à la Indiana Jones.

"The hat is very Indiana Jones, but I think there is something very old fashioned about the character that I really love. And I grew up loving Indiana Jones and those movies... I kind of see it as being from Peter's imagination so every character, everything in the movie, has to be something that Peter, growing up in London in the 1940s, could have imagined."

8

The film was shot in a huge aircraft hangar in Bedford, England.

"You know, actors have their agents come out and visit them on set, and they'd get lost.... You'd see these New York agents wandering around this forest set, going 'Get me out of here!'"

9

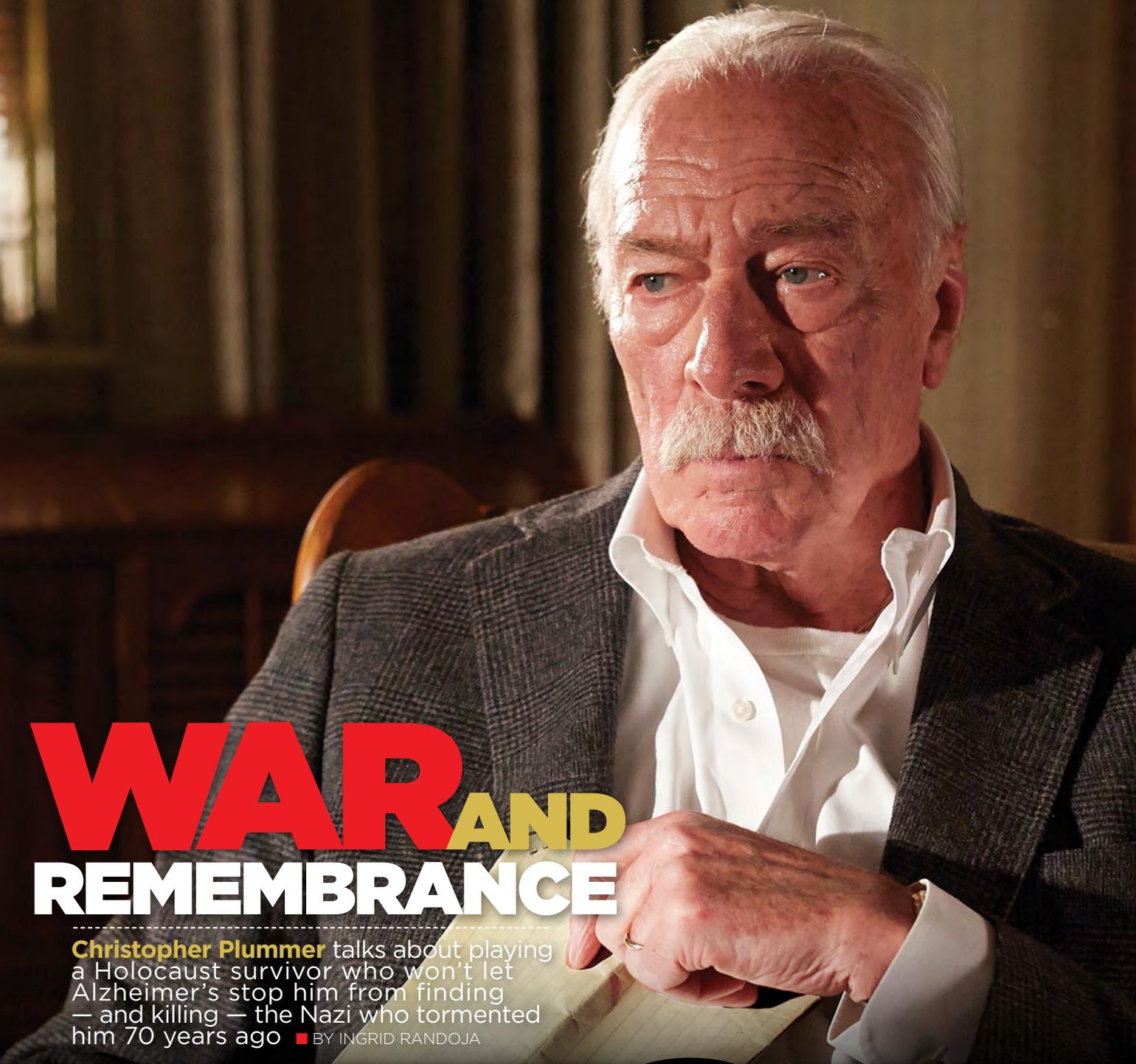
This is the lightest film Joe Wright has ever directed. His previous efforts include *Pride & Prejudice*, *Atonement*, *The Soloist*, *Hanna* and *Anna Karenina*.

"Totally. It's really silly and I loved doing it. It was a breath of fresh air to be able to be as whimsical and as silly and as lighthearted as I liked. I loved making *Anna Karenina* but there aren't a lot of laughs in that. Doing this it was just an opportunity to allow myself the freedom of a childish imagination."



10 Most actors dream of being pirates.

"We built these great pirate ships, it was funny how the crew and all the cast embraced them. It's funny, if you ask practically any actor if they'd like to come and play a pirate they're like, 'Oh yeah, I've always wanted to be a pirate.'"



WAR AND REMEMBRANCE

Christopher Plummer talks about playing a Holocaust survivor who won't let Alzheimer's stop him from finding — and killing — the Nazi who tormented him 70 years ago ■ BY INGRID RANDOJA

Christopher Plummer is a marvel.

At age 85, when most men his age have long ago settled into retirement, he's acting full-time both on stage and in films. He holds the record as the oldest person — age 82 — to win an Oscar (his was a Best Supporting Actor nod for 2011's *Beginners*), and this month he carries a heavy load as the star of director Atom Egoyan's dramatic thriller *Remember*.

Plummer plays Zev, a Holocaust survivor suffering from the early stages of Alzheimer's who sets out to find the Nazi guard who killed his family 70 years ago in Auschwitz. Plummer was at his Connecticut home when we spoke by phone about the daunting role, his own memories of the war and how he keeps his mind sharp.

Q

What drew you to this role?

"Well, I had never really done this sort of thing before, a kind of victim. He's an ordinary person who has very little purpose in life until he finds out the murderer of his family is alive all this time, and that

propels him into action. But he's a victim of the situation, and those sorts of creatures I haven't played very often, so I thought, 'Yes, I'd love to try this.' It's hard to say I enjoyed the film because god knows the subject matter is pretty dour, but I actually did."

CONTINUED ►

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REMEMBER
HITS THEATRES
OCTOBER 23RD



Christopher Plummer (left) on set with director Atom Egoyan

“I count him as a friend, and if you are going to play a part like this then you need **a friend at the helm. He helped me tremendously,”** Plummer says of Egoyan



Plummer (right) with co-star Martin Landau

Go to CINEPLEX.COM/REMEMBERONSET for our on-set visit

▶ **You appear in almost every scene. It’s a hugely demanding role. Were you apprehensive about taking on the part?**

“It’s a bit of a workhorse, and very difficult because Zev doesn’t drive the movie, the movie drives him. He has that hurdle, early Alzheimer’s, so you have to let everything that happens move over you like a cloud constantly moving overhead. That was difficult, and Atom had to make the movie very tense and let me sort of slowly move through it.”

You previously worked with Atom on *Ararat*. Was it helpful having someone you knew on the other side of the camera?

“Yes, and I count him as a friend, and if you are going to play a part like this then you need a friend at the helm. He helped me enormously.”

You were a boy when World War II broke out; what do you remember about that time?

“I was just too young to join the service, my English cousins had all joined with the British right away. I guess I must have been around 13, and it was so foreign to us on this side of the map with that great gulf between us and Europe. We took in young people. I think we called them ‘war guests.’ They were family members of friends overseas that were sent over to Canada to be safe. Our family sponsored about four or five kids, so I played with them and got to know about other countries from those kids.”

Speaking of memories, how is your memory holding up?

“Well, pretty good so far, I still do theatre. The last thing I did was my one-man show about literature called *A Word or Two*, and that’s

an hour and 20 minutes without stopping. But you know we’re very lucky, us thespians, because our work keeps our memory very sharp. So it’s extremely sad when members of our profession do actually have loss of memory, it’s doubly sad really because their livelihood is gone.”

It’s true, your memory is a muscle, and you’ve got to exercise it.

“Yes, and I’ve had a rather long break and I am going out of my mind. I can take about a month off and then I go crazy.”

How do you relax?

“I read and I still play tennis, which I love. I don’t play as well as I did, but I’ve been playing tennis my whole life. I walk, go to the gym, I listen to music and go to concerts.”

You must come across your movies on TV from time to time.

Do you ever sit down and watch them?

“No, I switch channels [laughs]. I love watching other people’s films and other people’s performances. Once the film is made I’ve seen it in private, and don’t want to see me again, thank you very much.”

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.



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PREVIEW!



Jennifer Lawrence (right) leads rebel fighters in *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2*

GAMES OVER

All she wanted to do was save her sister. Little did Katniss Everdeen (**Jennifer Lawrence**) know that her brave sacrifice to replace young Prim (**Willow Shields**) in Panem's annual death match would lead to revolution. *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2* closes out the hugely popular dystopian series with this violent showdown that asks Katniss to finally embrace her role as Panem's de facto warrior-leader in order to overthrow villainous President Snow (**Donald Sutherland**). CONTINUED ▶

**THE HUNGER GAMES:
MOCKINGJAY - PART 2**
HITS THEATRES NOVEMBER 20TH



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THE HATEFUL EIGHT
HITS THEATRES
DECEMBER 25TH

Kurt Russell as
The Hateful Eight's
bounty hunter,
John "The Hangman" Ruth

WILD, WILD WEST

▶ There won't be any Peace on Earth this holiday season as **Quentin Tarantino's** *The Hateful Eight* comes out with all guns blazing. The director's second Western (following 2012's *Django Unchained*) finds a bounty hunter (**Kurt Russell**) and his captured female fugitive Daisy Domergue (**Jennifer Jason Leigh**) holed up alongside six mysterious men (including Tarantino favourite **Samuel L. Jackson**) in a snowbound inn. CONTINUED ▶

michael
fassbender

kate
winslet

seth
rogen

jeff
daniels

steve jobs|

from director
danny boyle

and
screenwriter
aaron sorkin

coming soon



Leonardo DiCaprio's
out for revenge
in *The Revenant*

LEFT FOR DEAD

▶ Much has been written about the making of director **Alejandro González Iñárritu's** *The Revenant*. It's been reported that the cast and crew suffered greatly while shooting in the harsh Alberta wilderness, and that some of the stunts were dangerous. Yet, that's what makes this movie so compelling; its unremitting authenticity. **Leonardo DiCaprio** stars as frontiersman Hugh Glass, who's left behind by his comrades after being mauled by a bear. He survives and sets out on a cross-country trek to find the men and take vengeance. CONTINUED ▶

THE REVENANT
HITS THEATRES
DECEMBER 25TH

CINEPLEX

MAGAZINE

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THIS**



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BOO!
FIVE
FRIGHTENING
FLICKS FOR
HALLOWEEN,
PAGE 22

Paranormal Activity:
The Ghost Dimension

Interviews with A-list movie stars.

Red-carpet fashion.

Casting news.

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THE HUNGER GAMES! HOLIDAY MOVIE PREVIEW. PAGE 39



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Daniel Craig is
back as Bond
in *Spectre*

WILL BOND BREAK?

► Bond is the gift that keeps on giving. *Spectre*, the 24th installment in the spy franchise, finds superspy James Bond (**Daniel Craig**) examining his own past, which leads him to a sinister organization headed by the creepy Franz Oberhauser (**Christoph Waltz**). **Monica Bellucci** and **Léa Seydoux** are the ladies who attract Bond's attention, while **Ralph Fiennes** returns as the no-nonsense M, who struggles to keep MI6 from being shut down.

CONTINUED ►

SPECTRE
HITS THEATRES
NOVEMBER 6TH

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NEEDS A VOICE

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Go to CINEPLEX.COM/STARWARSVIDEO to watch interviews with Lupita Nyong'o, Oscar Isaac and other *Star Wars* cast members

STAR WARS: EPISODE VII - THE FORCE AWAKENS

HITS THEATRES
DECEMBER 18TH

STAR WARS UNIVERSE EXPANDS!

► Prayers were answered when director **J.J. Abrams** agreed to kick-start Hollywood's most beloved — and most scrutinized — movie franchise. *Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens* is set 30 years after *Return of the Jedi*, and finds new heroes Rey (**Daisy Ridley**), Finn (**John Boyega**) and Poe (**Oscar Isaac**) battling an empowered First Order (formerly the Empire). But what gets us tingly is the thought of seeing *Star Wars* originals Luke (**Mark Hamill**), Leia (**Carrie Fisher**) and Han (**Harrison Ford**) back in the universe.

Daisy Ridley and John Boyega bring new blood to the venerable *Star Wars* franchise

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 FRONT ROW
CENTRE
EVENTS

SPACE

MMA

After three decades spent making movies that take place either now, or a long time ago, **Ridley Scott** has finally returned to the future. The director who brought us *Alien* and *Blade Runner* is in the midst of a sci-fi frenzy, and this month's thriller ***The Martian*** is the one NASA types are waiting to see

■ BY MARNI WEISZ



F



Director Ridley Scott (right) directs Matt Damon (left) on location in Wadi Rum, Jordan

British director Sir Ridley Scott is sitting in his L.A. office refining the script for *Prometheus 2*. He's on page 51, just under halfway through.

"Three people are dying and I think it's maybe two too many," he says with a laugh. "You know, you've gotta keep the balls going in this kind of film because to follow *Alien* and then *Prometheus 1*, now *Prom 2* has got to deliver a lot of stuff."

The follow-up to 2012's *Prometheus*, itself a prequel to the deep-space horror franchise that began with Scott's *Alien* in 1979, is just one of several movies that mark the writer-director's return to sci-fi after three decades, along with *Blade Runner 2* (in its early stages) and this month's *The Martian*, which stars Matt Damon as American astronaut Mark Watney, who becomes stranded on Mars.

"I think because I did two, one after the other [*Blade Runner* came out in 1982], I thought at the time, two science-fictions in a row which were, I think, pretty successful, I really won't go back there because there are so many other subjects to do.

"Now, quite a number of films later, I went the full circle thinking, 'You know, I'd really like to revisit and pick up not so much where *Alien* left off, but I want a preamble to where *Alien* was going to. So what I'm working towards, whether it's two or three *Prometheuses*, which will end up as it were joining up with the very first *Alien*. In other words, how did that ship get there? Why was it there? What was on board? What were those eggs, those hideous things? Why would anyone devise such a horrible weapon?"

As for *Blade Runner 2*, Scott has chosen to write the story, but not direct. That honour goes to Canadian Denis Villeneuve. "Very good director," says Scott. He opted to helm *Prometheus 2*, but not *Blade Runner 2*, because "*Prometheus 2* opens up a larger universe to go again and again which I think is kind of interesting."

Behind Scott, framed on the wall, hangs the cover of *The Martian's* script. On it, Scott — a talented artist who often sketches his own storyboards — has doodled astronaut Watney standing alone on Mars with the words, "I'm gonna science the sh-t out of this planet" written in a thought bubble floating above his head. Watney is stranded on the red planet when his crewmates, headed by commander Melissa Lewis (Jessica Chastain), have to leave suddenly amid a dust storm. He is, incorrectly, presumed dead.

CONTINUED ▶

Matt Damon as *The Martian's* stranded astronaut, Mark Watney

Mark Watney (Matt Damon) charts his time on Mars

“For this guy to survive and not actually commit suicide or swallow one of those secret tablets, he keeps himself going by not addressing what a fearful position he’s in”

Go to CINEPLEX.COM/MARTIANQUIZ for our Astronaut Movie Quiz

► Cool as the sketch is, it isn’t the reason the cover page earned a spot on Scott’s wall. “Oh, you mean the one that went into space?” he asks. “It’s kind of unusual, isn’t it?”

In December 2014, NASA (which acted as a consultant on the film) sent that very piece of paper into orbit. It went around the Earth twice as part of a test flight of NASA’s Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, a spacecraft that will play a part in future Mars missions.

“They said, ‘This is going up, do you want to do us a little scribble on the front of your script?’ recalls Scott. “They’re all thrilled and enthusiastic about the book. I just have to make sure I don’t screw it up.”

The Martian is based on the first novel by computer programmer turned author Andy Weir. It wasn’t even published by a major publishing house until well after Scott and team had started working on the movie. “He was one of those new authors who write a chapter or two, put it out [online] and see who’s interested, and gradually it gathered momentum,” Scott explains.

Drew Goddard, the writer and director behind 2012’s inventive horror *The Cabin in the Woods*, wrote the screenplay, and Scott says he’s not sure why Goddard didn’t direct the film too, since he had such a good grasp on the material. Perhaps it was too intimidating. After all, like Tom Hanks’ *Cast Away*, much of this film involves one man, alone, talking to himself.

“I think that probably would scare off a number of directors,” says Scott. “You can’t really just rely on voiceover.”

Instead, Scott and team invented “buddies” for Watney to speak with in the form of the GoPro-type cameras that are peppered throughout his habitat and the rover he uses to travel around the planet’s surface while trying to survive until maybe, just maybe, he’ll be rescued.

But, Scott explains, assuming he won’t be rescued is also a big part of why Watney spends so much time talking to those cameras. “If it goes wrong, later, those who come back will want to see how your demise came about,” explains the director.

While that may not sound like a very funny premise, Scott says humour is always close to the surface in this film. It has to be.

“The book has a lot of humour in it, and I got the humour being British. We tend to be dryer than anyone

else, and I think the dry humour that lies in *The Martian* book appealed to me tremendously,” he says. “For this guy to survive and not actually commit suicide or swallow one of those secret tablets, he keeps himself going by not addressing what a fearful position he’s in.”

Which is what made Damon such a good fit. “Matt’s a funny guy,” confirms Scott.

Though, Damon didn’t seem so funny as the (SPOILER ALERT) homicidal, stranded astronaut in last year’s *Interstellar*, a film that — on the surface — bears striking similarities to *The Martian*. Both movies take place largely in space, and both boast performances from Damon and Chastain, with Damon playing a stranded astronaut.

Do the similarities concern Scott?

“No, not at all,” he says. “I really liked *Interstellar*, but no. I was able to call the director [Christopher Nolan] ’cause I know him, and I said, ‘Can I take a look?’ So he showed me stuff and I said ‘Fine, I’m okay.’ *Interstellar* is exotic in that it’s addressing the end of the world fundamentally, and what do we do? And this is fundamentally addressing the immediate future and the ambitions of NASA and what they are going to be doing in 20 years.”

Twenty years, you really think so?

“I think it will be sooner,” he says. ☑

Marni Weisz is the editor of Cineplex Magazine.



OUT OF THIS WORLD

Here’s the cover of *The Martian*’s screenplay that went into space in December aboard NASA’s Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle. Director Ridley Scott, who sketched protagonist Mark Watney on the cover, is no slouch as a visual artist. He attended the West Hartlepool College of Art in the 1950s, where he earned a diploma in design.

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AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON **OCTOBER 2**

Shaken by the death and destruction you'll all remember from the first *Avengers*, Tony Stark (**Robert Downey Jr.**) resurrects the Ultron global defense system meant to protect Earth from its worst foes. But when Ultron (voiced by **James Spader**) identifies Earthlings as Earth's biggest enemy, Stark and team are in serious trouble.



SAN ANDREAS

OCTOBER 6

When "The Big One" hits, you could do worse than having **Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson** on your side. Here the big hero plays Ray J, a rescue pilot for the L.A. Fire Department, who flies into action after a massive earthquake hits California.



INSIDE OUT

OCTOBER 13

Pixar's latest tearjerker peers into a young girl's mind and finds the five emotions — Joy (**Amy Poehler**), Sadness (**Phyllis Smith**), Fear (**Bill Hader**), Anger (**Lewis Black**) and Disgust (**Mindy Kaling**) — that rule her brain as she moves to a new city.



TOMORROWLAND

OCTOBER 13

In a story inspired by Disneyland's retro land of the future, a disillusioned teen (**Britt Robertson**) is given a glimpse of an alternate-Earth utopia and goes in search of the reclusive inventor (**George Clooney**) who may be able to take her there.



PIXELS **OCTOBER 27**

In this latest flick from **Adam Sandler** and his crew, three decades after a time capsule carrying samples of classic 1980s videogames like Pac-Man and Donkey Kong is sent into space, Earth is attacked by alien life forms using elements from those games to destroy us.

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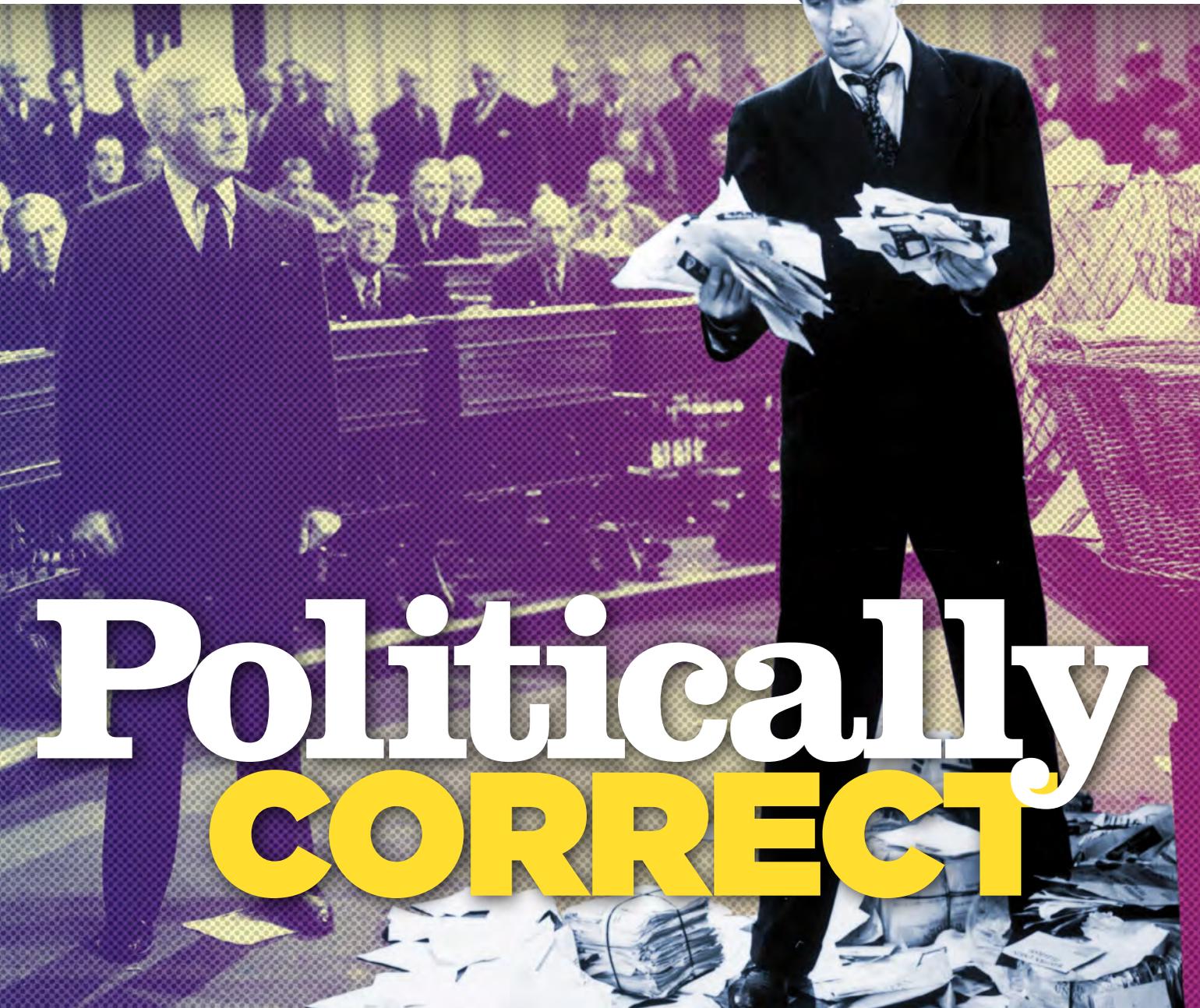
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Politically **CORRECT**

It's that last scene in *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* that gives even the most jaded person hope. With his voice hoarse, his lank hair falling into his eyes, senator Jefferson Smith (Jimmy Stewart) croaks, "Somebody will listen to me!" before fainting to the floor of the U.S. Senate chamber.

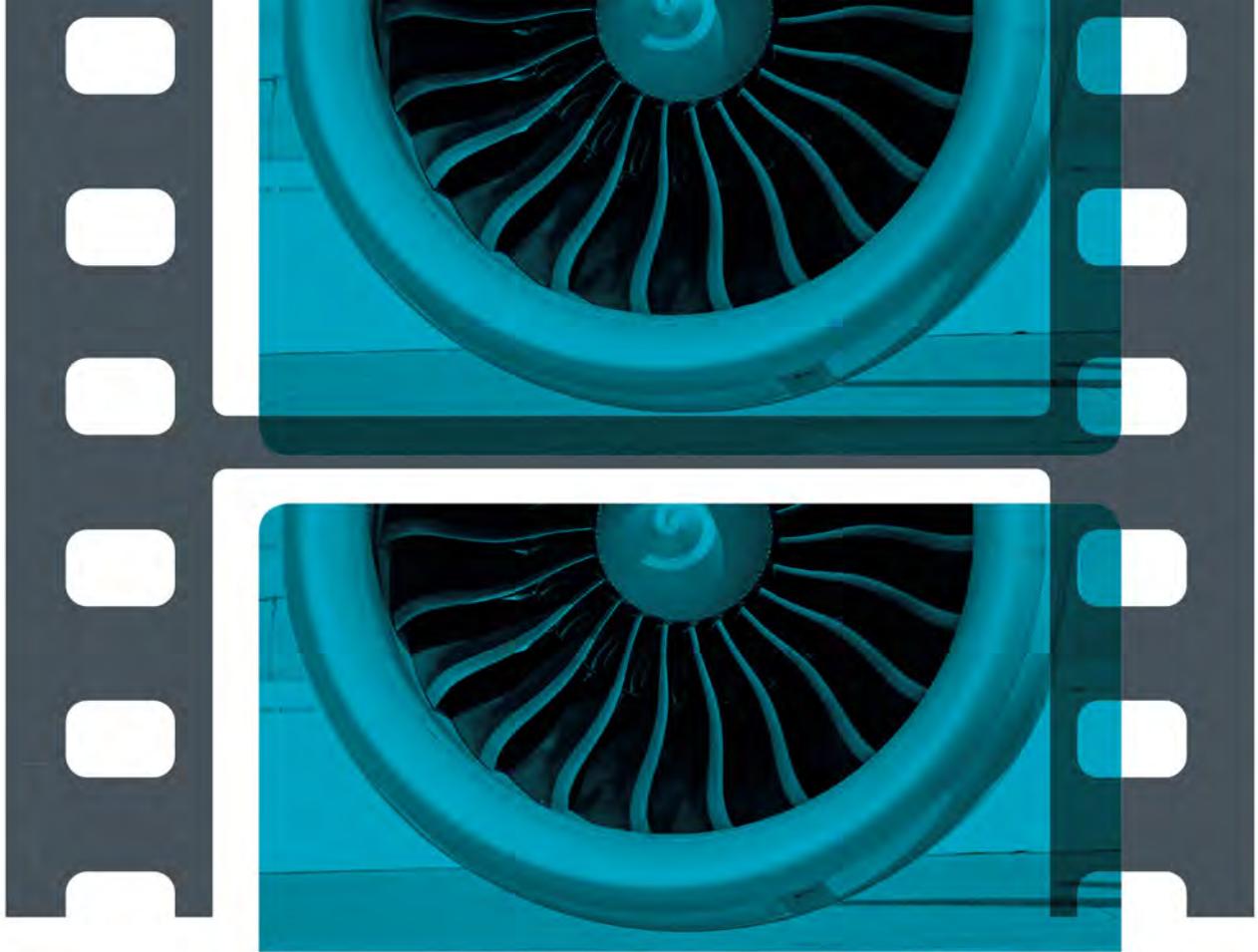
Director Frank Capra's 1939 film casts Stewart as a naïve Boy Scout leader who's chosen by his

state's corrupt leaders to fill a vacant Senate seat. But when the idealistic Mr. Smith learns he's been set up to not just fail, but to be drummed out of office, he engages in a 23-hour filibuster, giving an impassioned speech about the power of honesty, decency and loving thy neighbour.

Yes it's a hokey and awfully sentimental movie, but it's also hugely entertaining and sends the message that the men and women who've been elected to serve us should be the best among us, not the worst. —INGRID RANDOJA

**MR. SMITH
GOES TO
WASHINGTON**

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FINALLY...

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

We're all familiar with the inspiring Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani teen who was shot in the face by Taliban gunmen for promoting girls' education. Fifteen at the time, she's now 18 and as outspoken as ever, as you'll see in director Davis Guggenheim's documentary *He Named Me Malala*, in theatres October 2nd.

You may not be quite as familiar with her equally inspiring father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, the "He" in *He Named Me Malala*. Ziauddin — a poet and himself an educator — stood behind his daughter at every juncture and may have pre-ordained Malala's incredible journey by giving her the name Malala in the first place. Ziauddin and his wife Toorpekai named their daughter after Malalai of Maiwand, a 19th-century Afghan teen girl who was killed while rallying Pashtun fighters as they battled British troops at the 1880 Battle of Maiwand. —MW



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