

Cheers to the millennium!
Have a happy and prosperous New Year

Famous

december 1999 volume 1 number 2

canada's entertainment lifestyle magazine

The Hurricane

Norman Jewison on Denzel Washington
and the Oscar buzz

The Talented Mr. Ripley

Director Anthony Minghella
on Matt Damon and Gwyneth Paltrow

The Cider House Rules

Writer John Irving gives a rare interview

High Life

How Claire Danes, Jennifer Love Hewitt
and other stars spend their money

Cuiseen

What Geri Halliwell likes to eat



Mickey Mouse

returns for Fantasia 2000

Tom Hanks

**A portrait of the star
of The Green Mile**

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DECEMBER 22

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A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

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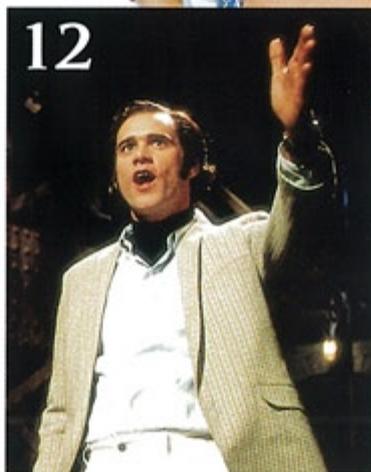
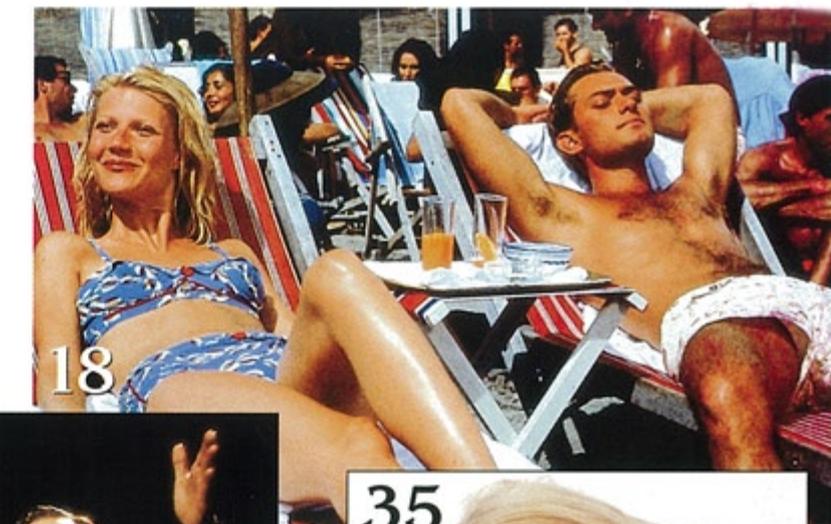
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A GREAT MONTH FOR FILMGOERS

*F*irst, we want to thank everyone who took the time to tell us how much they enjoyed the premiere issue of *Famous*. The response from filmmakers and the general public was truly overwhelming. Additional thanks to those of you who liked the magazine so much that you ordered subscriptions. We look forward to bringing you more great interviews, features and columns in every issue.

We have a lot of terrific stories in this issue, but there wasn't much doubt as to who would end up on the cover — Tom Hanks, a rare performer who transcends almost every category. He is both a dramatic and comic actor. He appeals to both men and women. He is one of the most powerful people in Hollywood, but still seems like a nice guy. He's cute, but not intimidating. Of course, the fact that he's the star of *The Green Mile*, one of this season's most interesting movies, didn't hurt.

We asked David Giammarco, a journalist who has interviewed Hanks six times over the past 10 years, to paint a portrait of this ubiquitous Hollywood icon (page 28). We then invited celebrated artist Stephen Andrews to create the powerful portrait of Hanks that you see on our cover.

As for our other stories, there's no way we would overlook anything Norman Jewison does. The prolific director's films have spanned all genres and demographics, and his place among filmmaking's best was sealed last March when he was honoured with the prestigious Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award at the Academy Awards. Jewison's latest feature, *The Hurricane*, stars Denzel Washington in a performance that is already generating Oscar buzz. We are grateful that the acclaimed filmmaker wrenched an hour from his busy schedule to chat with us (page 22).

John Irving is certainly someone who doesn't grant a lot of interviews, but he did agree to talk to *Famous*. The acclaimed author of *The Cider House Rules* (now a major motion picture) was refreshingly candid, opinionated and (not surprisingly) eloquent when asked about the controversial content of the book and the film adaptation (page 24).

Many film fans have been eagerly awaiting director Anthony Minghella's return to the big screen. His last film, *The English Patient*, won nine Oscars. In an exclusive interview, writer Mark Magee asked Minghella what we can expect from his latest, *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (page 18).

And that's not all we have in this issue: We've also filled the magazine with great holiday gift ideas, year-end wrap-ups and information about movies currently on-screen, coming soon and in the works. This is the time of year when the studios rush to release their best films in order to be eligible for the Oscars, so it's a ripe time to go to the theatre.

From all the staff at *Famous*, happy holidays and have fun ringing in the new millennium.

— Marni Weisz

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by fax: 905.564.3398

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include your full name, city of residence and a phone number and/or email address (we will not publish your phone number or email).

Cover illustration

Our cover of Tom Hanks was created by Stephen Andrews, an acclaimed Canadian artist who has works in the collections of the Art Gallery of Ontario, the National Gallery of Canada and the Canada Council's Art Bank. Andrews' recent exhibition, *hoi polloi* (Greek for "the masses"), was celebrated this fall in a month-long show at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery at the University of Toronto's Hart House. His works have been displayed around the world, including exhibitions in New York, Sao Paulo, Zurich and Berlin.

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T O M H A N K S

Paul Edgecomb
didn't believe
in miracles.

Until the day
he met one.

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get some *Sunshine*, meet Mr. Ripley,
and join the Man on the Moon

Deuce Bigelow

Who's In It? Rob Schneider, Anija Bareikis

Who Directed? Mike Mitchell (*Herd*)

What's It About? Schneider plays Deuce Bigelow, a down-on-his luck fish tank cleaner who takes a job fish-sitting for a world-class male escort. When Deuce mistakenly answers the escort's business phone, he discovers a new way to make dough. Enter Deuce Bigelow: Male Gigolo.



Rob Schneider as a fish-tank-cleaner-turned-male-gigolo in *Deuce Bigelow*

The End of the Affair

Who's In It? Ralph Fiennes, Julianne Moore, Stephen Rea

Who Directed? Neil Jordan (*Interview with the Vampire*, *The Crying Game*)

What's It About? Ralph Fiennes stars as a man involved with a married woman (Moore) during the Second World War. No, this is not a sequel to *The English Patient*, but rather an adaptation of the Graham Greene novel. During a bombing raid, Fiennes' character is wounded, prompting his mistress to promise God that if he survives she will end the affair. Of course, promises are made to be broken.

The Green Mile

Who's In It? Tom Hanks, David Morse, Michael Clarke Duncan

Who Directed? Frank Darabont (*The Shawshank Redemption*)

What's It About? Based on the six-part Stephen King serial, *The Green Mile* tells the story of Paul Edgecomb (Hanks), a retired prison security guard who recalls his relationship with a convicted murderer on death row (Duncan) who has healing powers. (See Tom Hanks interview on page 28.)

Stuart Little

Who's In It? Geena Davis, Michael J. Fox

Who Directed? Rob Minkoff (*The Lion King*)

What's It About? Michael J. Fox provides the voice for the mouse made famous in E. B. White's 1945 children's book, *Stuart Little*. This Stuart is a digitally created character who is adopted by the Littles. Mrs. Little is played by Geena Davis, and Gene Wilder provides the voice for the family cat, Snowball.

The Cider House Rules

Who's In It? Tobey Maguire, Charlize Theron, Michael Caine

Who Directed? Lasse Hallstrom (*What's Eating Gilbert Grape*)

What's It About? Maguire plays Homer Wells, an orphan raised in an orphanage that also serves as an abortion clinic. Caine plays the doctor who trains young Homer to follow in his footsteps. Homer, however, has some ethical problems with his mentor's line of work. Based on the John Irving novel of the same name. [See John Irving interview on page 24.]

Anna and the King

Who's In It? Jodie Foster, Chow Yun-Fat

Who Directed? Andy Tennant (*Ever After*, *Fools Rush In*)

What's It About? Foster plays British governess Anna Leonowens, who is hired by the King of Siam (Yun-Fat) to educate his 58 children. The unlikely relationship between Leonowens and King Mongkut turns from friendship to love, but ultimately the pair must repress their attraction for each other. The movie had to be filmed in Malaysia instead of Thailand (formerly Siam) because the Thai film board was unhappy with previous depictions of their king in the many retellings of this true story.

Sunshine

Who's In It? Ralph Fiennes, Rosemary Harris, Rachel Weisz

Who Directed? Istvan Szabo (*Meeting Venus*)

What's It About? Fiennes plays three characters from three different generations in this epic story of a Jewish family trying to survive political upheaval in 20th-century Hungary. The film made its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Bicentennial Man

Who's In It? Robin Williams, Embeth Davidtz, Sam Neill, Oliver Platt

Who Directed? Chris Columbus (*Nine Months*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*)

What's It About? Based on an Isaac Asimov short story, *Bicentennial Man* tells the tale of a robot (Williams) who is supposed to be nothing more than a maid, but over the course of two centuries develops human thoughts and feelings. The last time Columbus and Williams hooked up was for *Mrs. Doubtfire*.

LIFE IS A CONTACT SPORT.

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CAMERON DIAZ

DENNIS QUAID

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JAMIE FOXX

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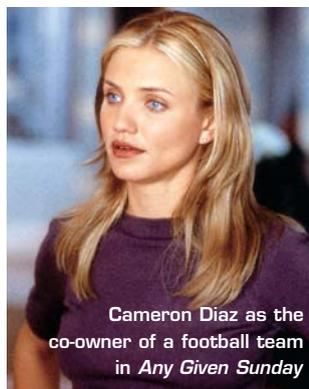
DECEMBER 22 — ONLY IN THEATRES

Any Given Sunday

Who's In It? Al Pacino, Dennis Quaid, Jamie Foxx, Cameron Diaz

Who Directed? Oliver Stone (*JFK*, *Natural Born Killers*)

What's It About? Al Pacino plays the coach of a football team at a crossroads — the team's aging quarterback (Quaid) is injured, making way for a younger quarterback played by Jamie Foxx. The all-too-familiar story puts the spotlight on the pressures of the pro-sports world. Expect the on-the-field scenes to be quite realistic: Director Stone reportedly asked some of the actors to submit videotapes of themselves playing football before casting. *Was it Nerf football?*



Cameron Diaz as the co-owner of a football team in *Any Given Sunday*

son's life and girlfriend (Paltrow) that he schemes to get rid of Law and step into his place. Based on the Patricia Highsmith novel. (See Anthony Minghella interview on page 18.)

Cradle Will Rock

Who's In It? Susan Sarandon, Emily Watson, John Cusack, Hank Azaria, Vanessa Redgrave

Who Directed? Tim Robbins (*Dead Man Walking*, *Bob Roberts*)

What's It About? The year is 1937, the location is New York, and the person is Orson Welles. He is trying to direct a musical, but the government doesn't like the play's alleged left-wing content and slaps an injunction on the project. Undeterred, the cast and crew carry on, guerrilla style — without costumes, scenery or props. *Entertainment Weekly* describes the film as: "Tim Robbins makes his *Reds*."

Girl, Interrupted

Who's In It? Winona Ryder, Angelina Jolie, Whoopi Goldberg

Who Directed? James Mangold (*Cop Land*)

What's It About? *Girl, Interrupted* takes place in 1967 when a teen (Ryder) is sent to a psychiatric hospital after being diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder. The film is based on writer Susanna Kaysen's autobiographical memoir of her nearly two-year stay in a mental institution.

FANTASIA 2000

Coming to IMAX Jan. 1

Sixty years after the release of Walt Disney's breathtaking collection of animated shorts, *Fantasia*, the genius filmmaker's vision is finally becoming a reality. Walt had always intended the film — which featured dancing hippos, frightening demons and mythic centaurs — to be an eternal work-in-progress, with new segments added every few years. That never happened — until now.

When *Fantasia 2000* opens at IMAX theatres across the country on January 1, Walt Disney's dream will be fulfilled in a big way — literally. Seven new segments and one classic segment from the original combine to make this new epic, which will be stretched across massive screens as big as eight stories high.

"The Sorcerer's Apprentice," starring Mickey Mouse as a mischievous junior magician, with music by composer Paul Dukas, is the only segment that will be repeated from the original *Fantasia*. The others feature state-of-the-art animation, and musical scores performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the baton of renowned conductor James Levine.

Just like the original segments, the new group of seven have been choreographed to some of the most popular classical music ever composed. Abstract shapes engage in a battle of good versus evil to Beethoven's "Symphony No. 5"; a pod of whales swim to Ottorino Respighi's "Pines of Rome"; witty urban characters from Manhattan's Jazz Age have fun with George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue"; a tin soldier saves a ballerina from a wicked jack-in-the-box to the tune of Dmitri Shostakovich's "Concerto No. 2"; a flock of flamingos play with a yo-yo to Camille Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals"; Donald Duck leads the procession on to Noah's Ark for Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance"; and a forest is destroyed by firebirds and rebuilt by an elk and sprite to the sounds of Igor Stravinsky's "Firebird Suite."



background image: "Firebird Suite"
inset: "Rhapsody in Blue"

For a sneak preview, log on to the film's official website, www.fantasia2000.com.

HIS GREATEST FIGHT WAS FOR JUSTICE.

DENZEL WASHINGTON

a NORMAN JEWISON film

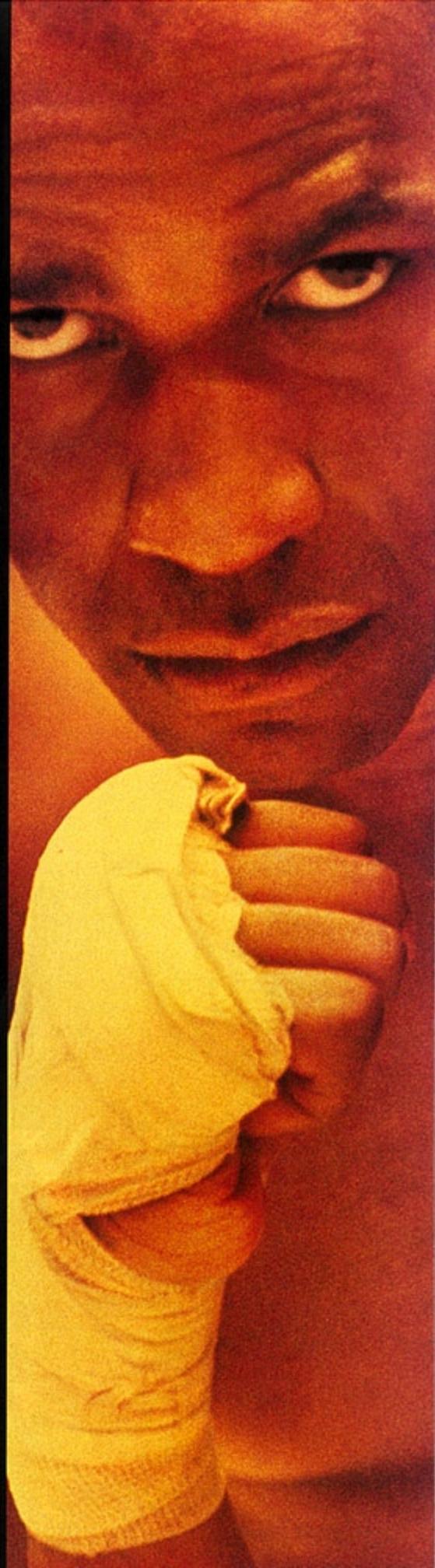
THE HURRICANE

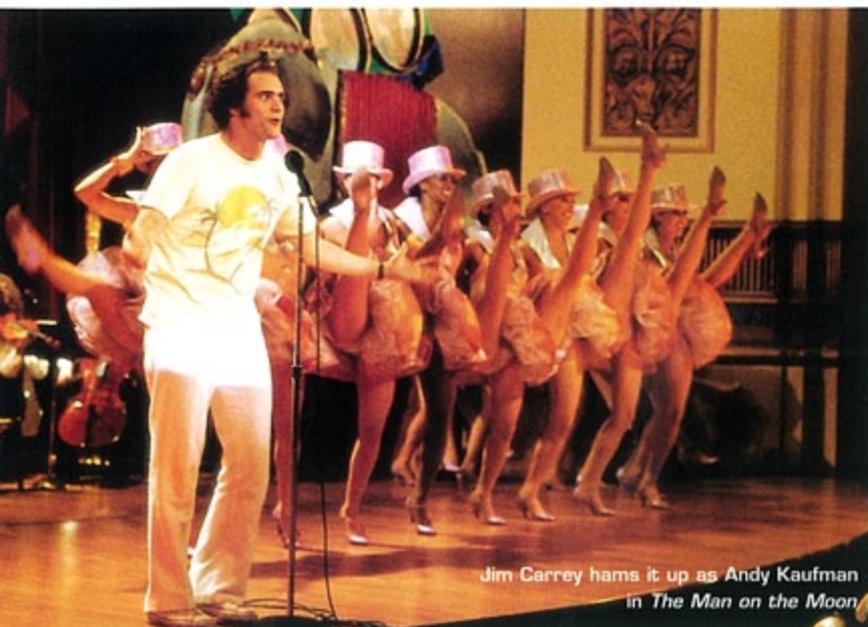
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Jim Carrey hams it up as Andy Kaufman in *The Man on the Moon*

Man on the Moon

Who's In It? Jim Carrey, Danny DeVito, Courtney Love, Paul Giamatti

Who Directed? Milos Forman (*The People vs. Larry Flynt*)

What's It About? Before he died of lung cancer at age 35, Andy Kaufman revolutionized modern comedy. His absurd bits incorporated performance art, music and acting into the traditional stand-up format, resulting in something audiences had never witnessed. Most people remember Kaufman through his appearances on *Saturday Night Live* or his stint as Latka Gravas on *Taxi*, but the real Andy Kaufman was a very complex man known for being a tad difficult. Jim Carrey, one of the groundbreaking comics of the nineties, takes a stab at capturing the essence of Andy Kaufman in this biographical film.

Snow Falling on Cedars

Who's In It? Ethan Hawke, Youki Kudoh, Rick Yune, Sam Shepard

Who Directed? Scott Hicks (*Shine*)

What's It About? Ethan Hawke plays a young journalist covering the trial of a Japanese man accused of murder in the 1950s. Hawke has some information that may acquit the accused, but has to face his own demons before deciding whether to bring that information forth. Based on the novel by David Guterson, this film premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

The Hurricane

Who's In It? Denzel Washington, Vicellous Reon Shannon, Deborah Unger

Who Directed? Norman Jewison (*Only You, Moonstruck, In the Heat of the Night*)

What's It About? In 1966, boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter was a contender for the middleweight boxing title. Then, one night on his way home from a New Jersey bar, he was arrested in connection with three mur-

ders. He was convicted and sentenced to three life terms in prison. But a teenager named Lazarus Martin and a dedicated group of Canadian protesters were sure Carter was innocent and rallied to get the boxer exonerated. After 20 years in prison, Rubin Carter was finally released. [See Norman Jewison interview on page 22.]

Galaxy Quest

Who's In It? Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver, Alan Rickman, Tony Shalhoub

Who Directed? Dean Parisot (*Home Fries*)

What's It About? Allen, Weaver and Shalhoub play actors from a defunct sci-fi TV series. After the show is cancelled, they are relegated to attending conventions and making guest appearances. That is, until a group of real aliens intercept episodes of their show and mistake it for reality. The aliens abduct the actors in the hope that they can help them win an intergalactic war.

Play it to the Bone

Who's In It? Antonio Banderas, Woody Harrelson

Who Directed? Ron Shelton (*Tin Cup, White Men Can't Jump, Bull Durham*)

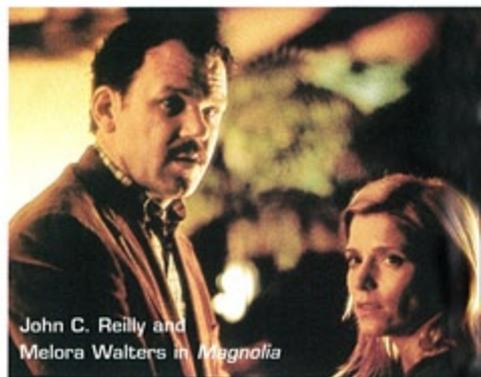
What's It About? Harrelson and Banderas play a couple of aging boxers trying to resurrect their careers by fighting each other for the welterweight championship in Vegas. The catch: They're good friends who have never fought each other before. Shelton has a good track record with athlete-past-their-prime stories. He's the man behind *Tin Cup*, about an over-the-hill golfer, and *Bull Durham*, about an aging catcher.

Magnolia

Who's In It? William H. Macy, Julianne Moore, Jason Robards, Tom Cruise, John C. Reilly, Melora Walters

Who Directed? Paul Thomas Anderson (*Boogie Nights*)

What's It About? The *Boogie Nights* team of Anderson, Macy and Moore reunite, and are joined by Cruise for this film that weaves together six separate stories that all take place in the San Fernando Valley. Love, loneliness, parents and children dominate those converging tales.



John C. Reilly and Melora Walters in *Magnolia*

Supernova

Who's In It? Angela Bassett, Wilson Cruz, Robert Forster, Lou Diamond Phillips

Who Directed? Walter Hill (*Last Man Standing*)

What's it About? The crew of a deep space medical ship answers the distress call of a mining operation in a distant galaxy and get more than they bargained for when the man who hailed them smuggles an alien artifact on board. Throw in the gravitational pull of a giant star about to go supernova and they're in real trouble.

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ANNA
AND THE
KING

CHRISTMAS



THE FIRST ROLES OF SOME OF TODAY'S BIGGEST STARS

Denzel Washington plays George Segal's son,
a young **Ethan Hawke** looks to the skies,
and **Jodie Foster** gets chomped by a lion

By Jami Bernard



Robin Platzner, Twin Images/Online USA

With his matinee-idol looks, velvet voice and commanding star presence, **Denzel Washington**, 45, is a force with which to be reckoned with in *The Hurricane*. Norman Jewison directs this true story of a boxer who was thrown in jail "for something that he never done," as the famous Bob Dylan lyric goes.

Born in Mount Vernon, N.Y., Washington grew up with two siblings, a pentecostal minister for a father and a beautician for a mother. He attended Fordham University in New York for journalism, but switched to acting after graduation. In his early twenties, he made his feature film debut in the 1981 comedy *Carbon Copy*, in which he played the illegitimate teenage son of George Segal — the result of a long-ago interracial affair. A year later, Washington started his own real-life "affair" when he married Pauletta Pearson, his wife of 17 years and with whom he has four children.

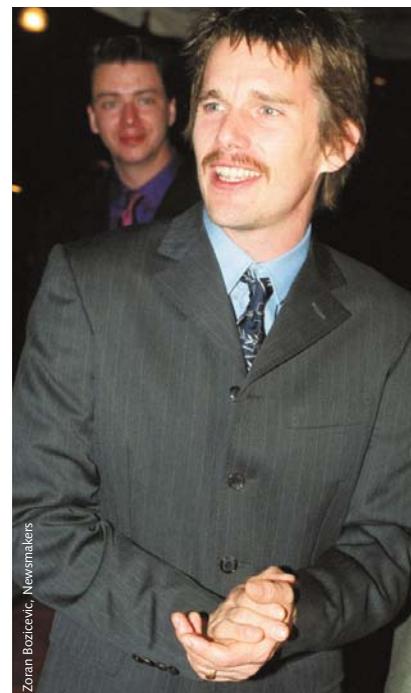
It took Washington a while to become a Hollywood heavyweight — he spent six years on the acclaimed eighties TV series, *St. Elsewhere* — but his portfolio now includes his Oscar-winning performance as the runaway slave in *Glory* (1989) as well as starring roles in *The Pelican Brief*

(1993), *Philadelphia* (1993) and *Courage Under Fire* (1996). Washington can also be seen in the recent thriller, *The Bone Collector*, where he plays a quadriplegic forensics specialist on the trail of a serial killer.

In *Snow Falling on Cedars*, a journalist played by **Ethan Hawke** has a special interest in covering the murder trial of a Japanese-American (Rick Yune). After all, the defendant is the guy who stole the heart of Hawke's childhood sweetheart — the girl he still loves.

To play an obsessive character, the 29-year-old native of Austin, Texas, may have drawn on the memory of his first movie experience — that of a kid obsessed with space travel in the 1985 adventure *The Explorers*. Hawke and another first-timer, the late River Phoenix, played school pals who find a way to manipulate energy fields so they can go tooling around town in a rebuilt carnival tilt-a-whirl. (One clever scene has them hovering in their own UFO in front of a drive-in screen where a sci-fi B-movie is playing.)

Hawke recently starred in *Joe and the King*, the directorial debut of his old friend Frank Whaley. Whaley affectionately reported that Hawke had been eating too much ice cream in sympathy with his then-pregnant wife, Uma Thurman. "Ethan, buddy, your butt is huge!" Whaley told him.



Zoran Bozicevic, Newsmakers

above: Denzel Washington at the premiere of *The Bone Collector*;
right: Ethan Hawke arrives for the Toronto International
Film Festival's screening of *Snow Falling on Cedars*

"You could show *The Godfather* on that butt!" Hawke has probably shed a lot of weight since then keeping up with Maya Ray Thurman-Hawke, who was born in July 1998.

If she could survive being bitten by a lion on her first movie set, then **Jodie Foster** can undoubtedly survive the imperious commands of the King of Siam in her new movie, *Anna and the King*.

Foster, who starred in such classics as *Taxi Driver* (1976) and *Silence of the Lambs* (1991), plays the 19th-century British schoolteacher Anna Leonowens to King Mongkut's (Chow Yun-Fat) 58 children.

There were plenty of children on the set of *Anna and the King*, which is perfectly fine with Foster. "I really love working with kids — there's something about their purity," she has said of working with them. "You can't bribe them with money — they don't care. There's something actually kind of beautiful in that." Now, the 37-year-old has her own child, Charles, born in July 1998. (She had to pull out of *Double Jeopardy* because of her pregnancy.)

As a child actress, Foster was always busy. By the age of eight, she had amassed an extensive résumé. She made her professional debut as the Coppertone billboard tot whose tanline was famously exposed by a persistent terrier. She also worked in TV commercials and did occasional sitcom work "for about 100 years" before breaking into feature films in 1972 with *Napoleon and Samantha*, a Disney movie about two kids on the lam with an abandoned lion. She shared the screen with actors Michael Douglas, Johnny Whitaker and a big cat named Major McTavish.

Foster proved more professional than at least one of her co-stars. "It was just one of those accidents that happens all the time," she explained. "The lion bit me."

Fortunately, she was also bitten by the film acting bug. "Making that first movie was a great experience. Getting a start in movies was a way of going to different countries and learning different languages," recalls Foster, who delivered her high school graduation valedictory address in French. "There was a real adolescent feeling on movie sets and, at the same time, a real seriousness. You play when you play, but you work when you work. And of all the bag of tricks that I have, bits and pieces are certainly taken from all those early years."

Jami Bernard is a film critic for the New York Daily News and author of

above: Jodie Foster at the American Cinematheque Moving Picture Ball in Beverly Hills, where she was honoured for her contribution to film and video

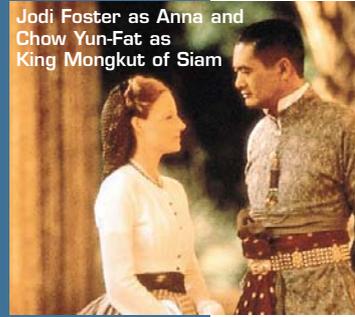
First Films: Illustrious, Obscure and Embarrassing Movie Debuts (*Citadel*).



Mario Anzuoni, Newsmakers

CHRONOLOGY: ANNA AND THE KING

Jodie Foster as Anna and Chow Yun-Fat as King Mongkut of Siam



Who would have thought that the story of a British governess living in Siam would have become such a part of North American pop culture?

This month's release of *Anna and the King* marks the seventh reincarnation of the relatively true tale of Anna Leonowens, a young woman who moved to Siam (now Thailand) to take care of the 58 children belonging to King Mongkut. Here we track the story's evolution:

1944 Anna and her king enter popular culture with the release of MARGARET LANDON's book, *Anna and the King of Siam*. Landon was a missionary who first travelled to Siam in 1927. The book was based, at least in part, on Leonowens' own memoirs. Aside from *Anna and the King of Siam*, Landon wrote a number of papers about the cultures of Southeast Asia.

1946 The character Anna Leonowens makes her screen debut, albeit as Anna Owens, in the JOHN CROMWELL-directed film *Anna and the King of Siam*. IRENE DUNNE stars as Anna, and REX HARRISON as King Mongkut.

1951 RICHARD RODGERS and OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II adapt Landon's story for the Broadway stage and adorn it with such catchy tunes as "Shall We Dance?" and "Getting to Know You." GERTRUDE LAWRENCE plays Anna and YUL BRYNNER is cast as King Mongkut. JOHN VAN DRUTEN directs, and the legendary JEROME ROBBINS is in charge of choreography. The production ran for three years and won five Tony awards.

1956 It wasn't long before Twentieth Century Fox decided to get in on a good thing and commit *The King and I* to film. YUL BRYNNER (he played the role more than 4,000 times on stage, screen and television) reprises his role as King Mongkut, and DEBORAH KERR plays Anna. The film was nominated for nine Academy Awards and won five.

1972 CBS offers a short-lived TV version of the story called *Anna and the King*. Yul Brynner plays King Mongkut once again, and SAMANTHA EGGAR plays Anna Owens.

1999 Anna and her king get the animated treatment with the Warner Brothers animated musical version, *The King and I*. MIRANDA RICHARDSON is the voice of Anna Leonowens, and MARTIN VIDNOVIC the voice of King Mongkut.

1999 The latest chapter in Anna's enduring tale — *Anna and the King* — is a purely dramatic rendition starring JODIE FOSTER as Anna and CHOW YUN-FAT as King Mongkut of Siam.

Christmas spending got you bankrupt?
Too bad you're not rich and famous.

Susan Granger asks ten celebrities how they spend their money

JOHN TRAVOLTA: "Airplanes. I have a 1947 British single-engine Vampire fighter and a Gulfstream GII corporate jet. I got it used, but hey, who cares? It gets you to Hawaii in the same five hours as the new one."

HARRISON FORD: "Flying: It's my passion — my extravagance. I have three planes and a helicopter."

REESE WITHERSPOON: "Clothes. They opened a new Miu Miu store in L.A., and I pretty much killed the store and dragged it home by its hair."

CLAIRE DANES: "My Yale education. When I was about seven, I heard that Yale had a really good drama department — I felt intuitively that that's where I'd end up. It's expensive, but worth every penny."

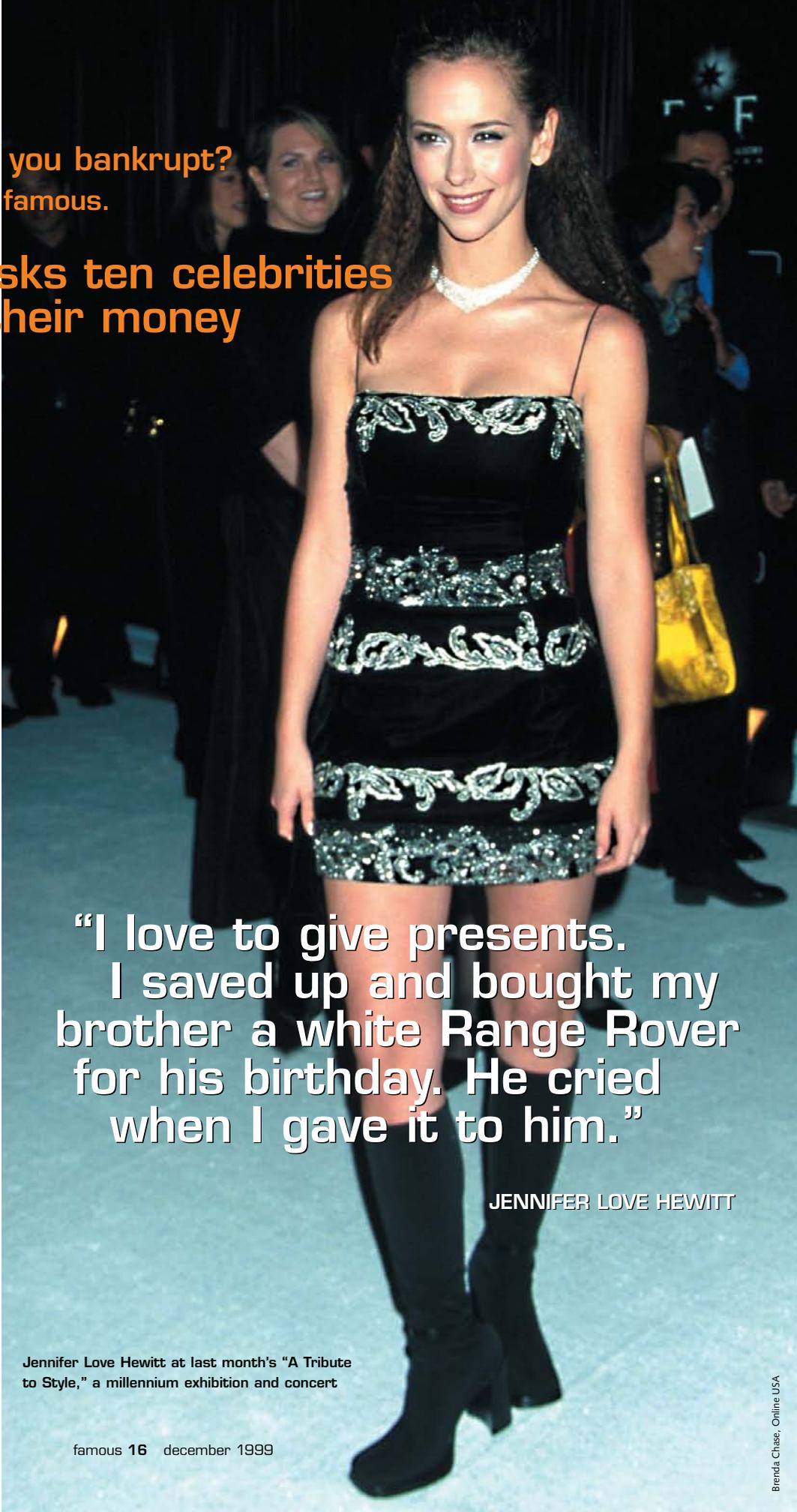
LYLE LOVETT: "My motorcycle. It's a Ducati from 1996. I don't race, but I enjoy going to a racetrack and riding around as if I were."

GOLDIE HAWN: "An apartment in New York is my greatest extravagance. You don't need an apartment in New York if you don't actually live there, but I'm an Easterner by birth, and it feels good to get back there occasionally."

STEVE MARTIN: "Magic tricks. I got on Ebay [an auction site] on the internet and spent \$200 on an antique magic trick. I used to do magic, so I had a nostalgic response."

FRAN DRESCHER: "My new home in Malibu. I needed a calming environment. The ocean is very therapeutic. Running an empire is hard — I realized I was totally out of touch with my feelings. I love having the ocean for my backyard."

JULIA ROBERTS: "Joy perfume. Everyone needs a little joy."

A full-page photograph of Jennifer Love Hewitt. She is standing on a blue carpet, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a black, strapless, sequined dress with silver floral patterns and a matching sequined belt. She is also wearing black high-heeled boots and a pearl necklace. In the background, other people are visible, including a woman in a black dress and a woman in a yellow bag.

"I love to give presents. I saved up and bought my brother a white Range Rover for his birthday. He cried when I gave it to him."

JENNIFER LOVE HEWITT

Jennifer Love Hewitt at last month's "A Tribute to Style," a millennium exhibition and concert

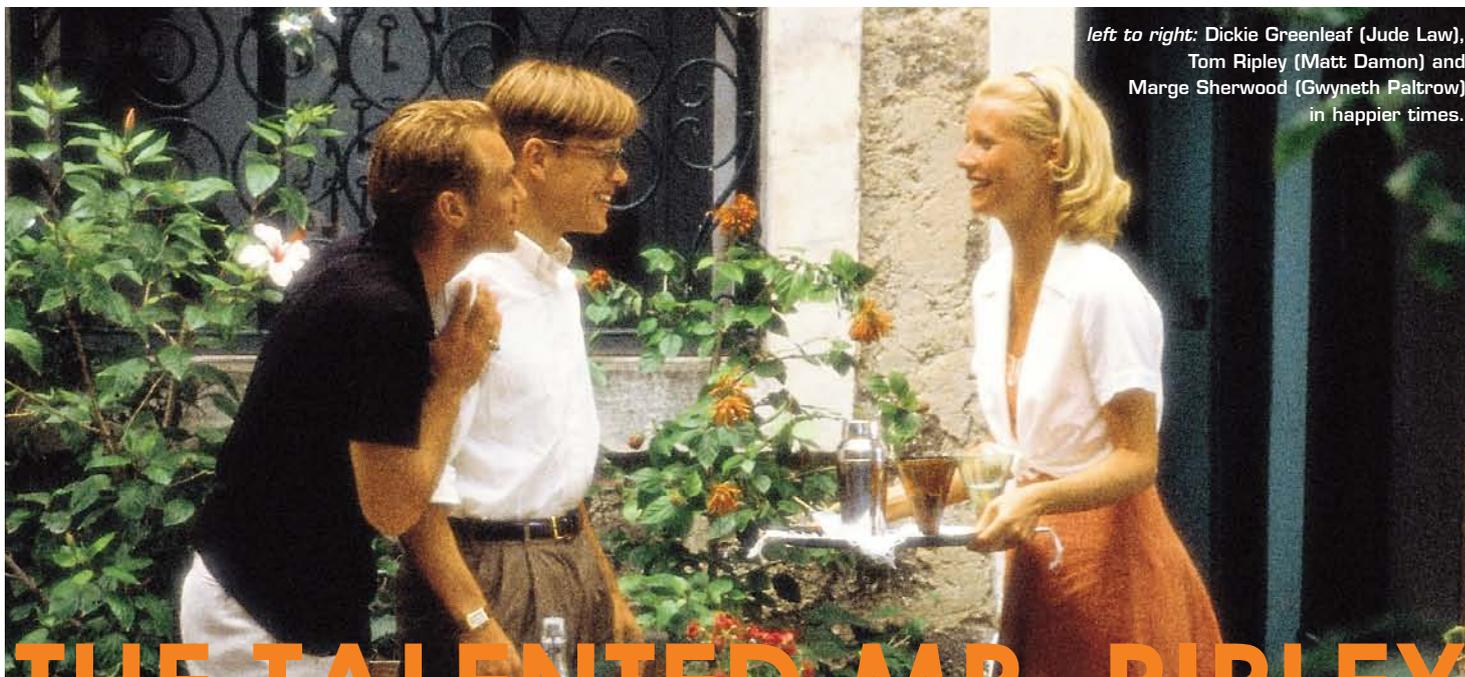
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left to right: Dickie Greenleaf (Jude Law), Tom Ripley (Matt Damon) and Marge Sherwood (Gwyneth Paltrow) in happier times.

THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY

His name may not be as well-known as Kubrick's or Spielberg's, but considering that Anthony Minghella's last film was the exceptional and critically acclaimed *The English Patient*, it should come as no surprise that when it came time for him to cast *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, A-list stars were lining up for a chance to work with him. What was a surprise was that the Oscar-winning writer/director decided to give away the plum roles to virtual unknowns — or, at least, they were unknowns at the time.

For while the names of Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow and Cate Blanchett currently grace the tops of movie posters and the covers of magazines, the same could not be said of them a few years ago when Minghella made his casting choices. Damon was picked right after Minghella saw an early cut of *Good Will Hunting* — mere months before the film's release catapulted the young actor into the upper echelons of stardom. Blanchett — a relative unknown until her Oscar-nominated role in *Elizabeth* — was cast before that film made her much sought after. And Minghella had Paltrow in mind for the part years ago — back when he knew her less as a weepy Oscar winner, and more as an old family friend. Never one to take credit where credit isn't due, Minghella simply says that the fortunate rise of his stars' fame just "makes me look much smarter than I really am."

Of course, Minghella deserves more credit than that. After all, his last trick was to turn *The English Patient*, Canadian Michael Ondaatje's dense, Booker Prize-winning novel full of poetic language and internal

Director
Anthony Minghella
talks about his
new thriller and his
big-name stars

By Mark Magee

soul-searching, into a romantic period piece about a doomed extra-marital affair. The resulting film both pleased the book's fans and brought in a whole new audience. Of course, *The English Patient's* success cannot be attributed to Minghella alone, which is probably why he brought along that film's cinematographer, editor, costume designer and composer (each of whom took home one of *The English Patient's* nine Oscars) for this film.

But even though many of the same creative minds worked on both *The English Patient* and *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, Minghella claims that, in terms of subject matter, they probably couldn't be further apart. "At the heart of *Ripley*, there is a descent into purgatory," he says. "It's much more of a cautionary tale than *The English Patient*. And also, it's phrased much more like a suspense film than *The English Patient*, which was a rather meditational love story."

Based on Patricia Highsmith's novel, with the screenplay by Minghella, *The Talented Mr. Ripley* is the story of Tom Ripley (Matt Damon), a young man sent to Italy by a wealthy shipbuilder to bring his gadabout playboy son, Dickie Greenleaf (Jude Law), home to America. Upon arriving, Ripley becomes obsessed with Dickie's idyllic lifestyle, which is actually pretty understandable considering it consists primarily of playing jazz saxophone by the sea and relaxing with his girlfriend, Marge (Gwyneth Paltrow). Ripley soon ingratiates himself into the couple's life and begins to alter his identity to mirror that of the enviable Dickie. Ripley's desire to be just like his idol, however, quickly goes far beyond simply combing his hair with the same part, and events spiral



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◀ MR. RIPLEY page 18

begins to take over Dickie's life in a decidedly violent way.

While Ripley may sound like an unlikable character, Minghella feels that audiences will be intrigued by his story. "There's an element of Ripley in everybody," he says. "I think we've all, at one point or another, wanted to be someone else. And, by focusing on that, the audience finds themselves in a place where they've gone a long, long way down the road of action which they might find reprehensible, but nevertheless they could inhabit and understand." As if to prove his point, Minghella

laughingly admits: "For me, I covet the work of almost every other filmmaker I see. There are many Dickies who are film directors whose lives and careers I would love to exchange for my own."

Minghella realized that the role of Tom Ripley had to be played by someone to whom audiences could relate; otherwise, Ripley would simply come off as a cold and calculating *Single White Female*-esque kook. Obviously, choosing Matt Damon and his confident, easy-going, boy-next-door charm made sense.

Changing the book's setting from the early to late 1950s also made sense. Recognizing the film's themes of privilege and desire for upward mobility, Minghella felt that setting Mr. Ripley during Italy's "Il Boom" period — when the country finally shook off the ravages of the Second World War and became a revitalized centre of fashion and style — would add to the opulence and glamour of Dickie and Marge's lifestyle. And it doesn't hurt that Minghella's "diet as a young man" consisted of the movies made by Italian filmmakers of that era.

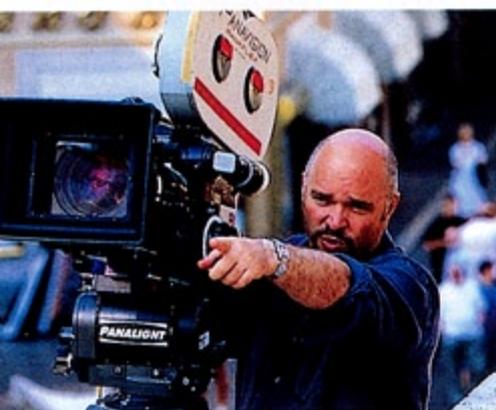
Fellini's *La Dolce Vita*, another film about a working-class interloper into the world of the social and economic elite, is the obvious inspiration for much of Mr. Ripley's look and feel.

Mr. Ripley works on a number of different levels: There is the straight-ahead fun of following a twisting thriller filled with deceit, murder and intrigue. There are the complex thematic issues of class, desire and sense of identity. There is the simple enjoyment of looking at the lush and beautiful cities and seashores of Fifties Italy. And, finally, if none of the above moves you, you can always just sit back and watch some of Hollywood's best-looking actors grace the screen for two hours. **F**

Mark Magee is a contributing editor with Shift magazine. He also wrote the short film *Fon*, which won Best Experimental Film at TVO's Telefest Awards in 1998.



above: Matt Damon and Gwyneth Paltrow scoot around in *The Talented Mr. Ripley*; below: Anthony Minghella on location in Italy



famous trivia

1

Michael Caine, star of *The Cider House Rules*, was born Maurice Joseph Micklewhite. Which movie inspired his Hollywood moniker?

2

Ralph Fiennes, who plays three roles in the December release *Sunshine*, was once married to an actress from *ER*. Who is she?

3

This past summer, Geena Davis (*Stuart Little*) tried out for the American Olympic team, but finished eight spots out of the running in her chosen event. What was it?



inset: Geena Davis and Hugh Laurie in *Stuart Little*

4

Matt Damon seemed to find instant fame with his 1997 movie, *Good Will Hunting*, but he had been getting bit parts in Hollywood movies for years. In 1988 he made his big screen debut as a character named Steamer. What was the movie?

5

Man on the Moon, the much-anticipated biography of comedian Andy Kaufman, hits screens this month. What was the name of the character Kaufman played on *Taxi*?

6

Tom Hanks, star of *The Green Mile*, met his wife, actress Rita Wilson, on the set of a movie that was released in 1985. What is the name of that movie?

7

Cradle Will Rock's Susan Sarandon has been nominated for five Best Actress Oscars, but has only won once. For which role did she take home the golden statue?

8

This month, Winona Ryder stars in *Girl, Interrupted*, about a teenager placed in a mental institution. Ryder's godfather was a well-known writer who recently passed away. Who was he?

1) *The Caine Mutiny* 2) Alex Kingston, who plays Dr. Elizabeth Corday
3) *Archery* 4) *Mystic Pizza* 5) *Laska Graves* 6) *Volunteers*
7) *Sister Helen Prejean* in *Dead Man Walking* 8) Timothy Leary

"A VIRTUAL MASTERPIECE"

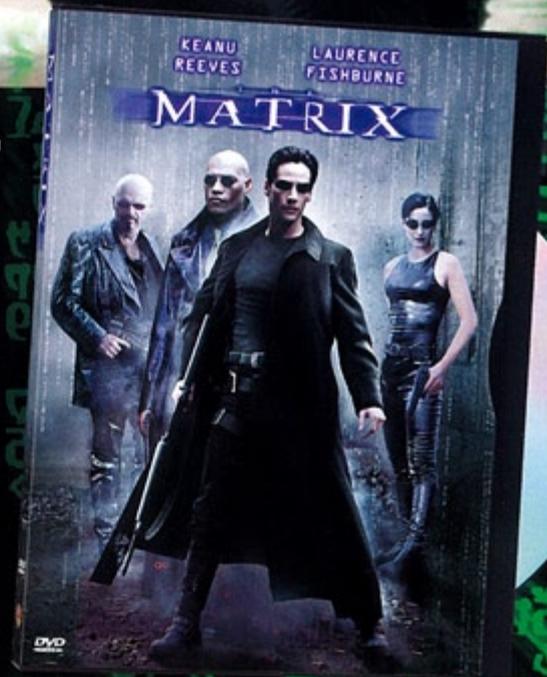
-Richard Corliss, TIME



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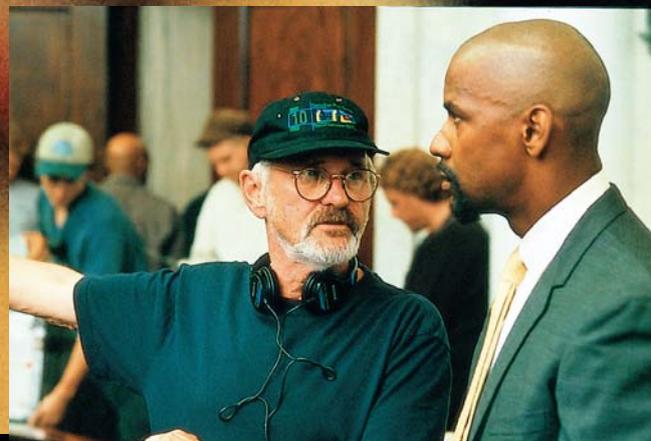
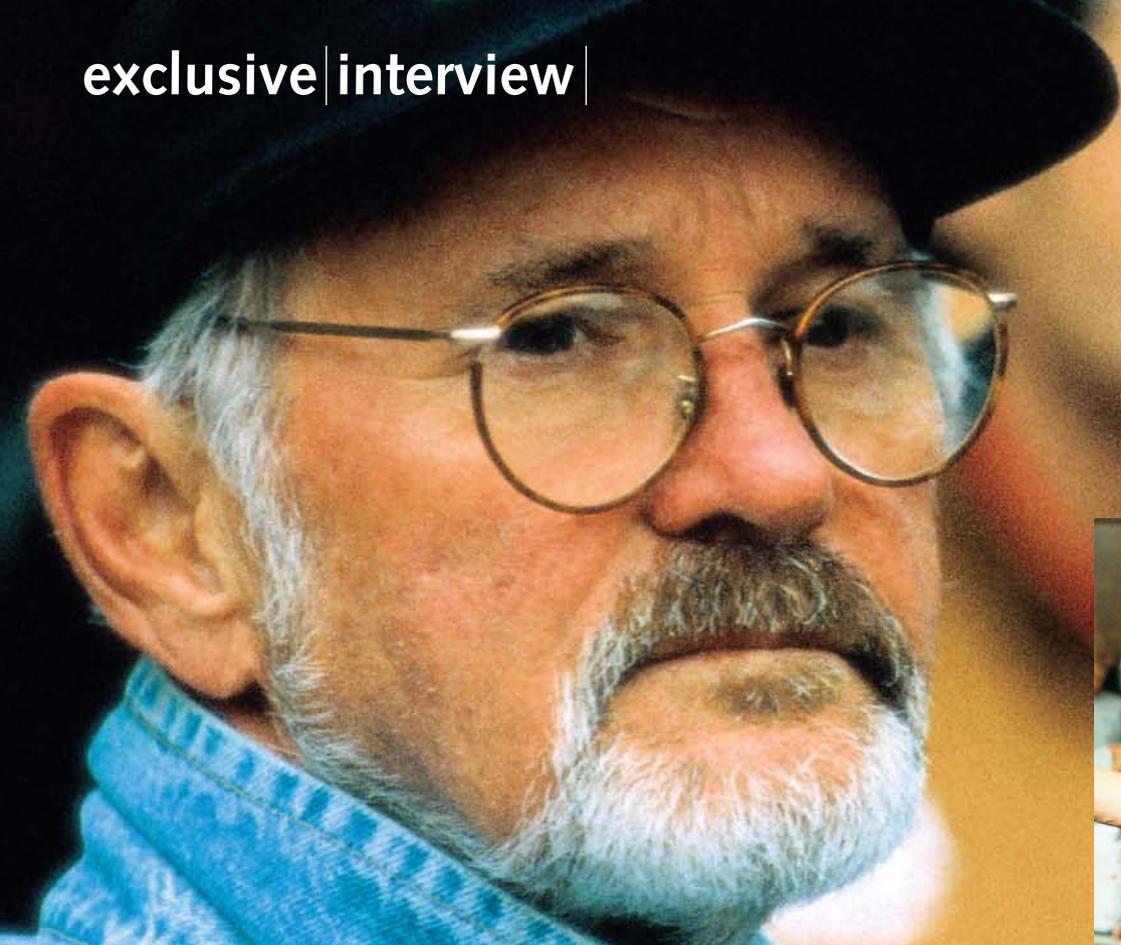


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CAPTURING the HURRICANE

ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR NORMAN JEWISON

TALKS ABOUT HIS RIVETING NEW FILM ON THE

LIFE OF BOXER RUBIN "HURRICANE" CARTER

With such acclaimed films as *In the Heat of the Night*, *A Soldier's Story* and *Moonstruck* to his name, Norman Jewison is arguably the most successful filmmaker ever to come out of Canada. Over the past four decades, his films have garnered an astonishing 45 Academy Award nominations, out of which 12 were winners. Last March, Canadians watched with pride as Jewison was honoured by the Academy of Motion Pictures with the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award. With the release this month of *The Hurricane*, Jewison once again tackles a riveting story about the strength of human will.

In 1966, while Norman Jewison was directing one of his first hits, *The Russians are Coming! The Russians are Coming!*, there was a young boxer making his way up the professional ranks. That boxer was Rubin "Hurricane" Carter.

But one night on his way home from a New Jersey club, Carter was stopped by police. Three people had been murdered in a nearby bar and, although not a suspect at first, Carter was eventually arrested for the crime and later sentenced to three life terms in prison. Carter insisted he was innocent and, while in prison, wrote his memoir, *The Sixteenth Round*.

Jewison's film shows how that book inspired a Brooklyn-born teen, Lazarus Martin, who was then living with a group of Canadians in Toronto, to help the boxer fight for his freedom and eventual release.

The movie, which stars Denzel Washington, was first screened as a work-in-progress at the Toronto International Film Festival this past September, and the response was phenomenal.

Famous Publisher Salah Bachir tracked down the filmmaker on his car phone and spoke with him about the film.

SALAH: What attracted you to this story?

NORMAN: Well, you know, I was approached about eight or 10 years ago by [producer] David Picker, who read the story in *Sports Illustrated* about Rubin Carter. It was a wonderful story. It had every-

above: Norman Jewison; top inset: Denzel Washington as "Hurricane" Carter; bottom inset: Washington and Jewison on the set of *The Hurricane*.

thing. It was not only about the injustice of being wrongfully accused and spending 19 years in jail, but it was also about this group of Canadians and this kid who read *The Sixteenth Round* and became passionate about Rubin's life, so they went down and visited him.

SALAH: So you decided that you wanted to make the film based on that article alone?

NORMAN: I also read *The Sixteenth Round*. That's what really locked it in for me. It was a very powerful story about the power of love over hate, about all of those things that really affect our lives.

SALAH: So why did it take so long to bring it to film?

NORMAN: I told David that I was very interested in making the film, but he could never get financing for it, and so the whole thing disappeared. Then, some years later, there was another book written [by the Canadians with whom Lazarus Martin lived] called *Lazarus and the Hurricane*, which was never published in the United States. It wasn't a big book here, but it expanded on the same story that was in *Sports Illustrated*. So that's when things started to happen. Eventually, the rights were bought by a Canadian producer, John Ketcham, who, in turn, sold the rights to a company called Beacon. It sat there for about four years while they were developing a screenplay. Then [screenwriter] Dan Gordon came along and did a rewrite.

SALAH: Was that when you officially became involved?

NORMAN: They came to me and asked me if I was interested in directing it, and I told them I was not only interested but I would commit immediately because the story was so powerful, and it had direct connections to my hometown, Toronto. Then I met with Rubin Carter and he was so charismatic. I also found out that Denzel Washington had always had some interest in Rubin Carter's story, so I went to Denzel and that's how it all happened. That was about two years ago.

SALAH: Was Rubin Carter an advisor on the film?

NORMAN: He was an advisor, but he wasn't on the set very much because he didn't want to go to New Jersey. He was afraid they'd beam him down. [Laughs.] We spent a couple of weeks in New Jersey and we shot in Rahway Prison and around Paterson, New Jersey, where he spent the early part of his life. But we did most of the film in Toronto, and Rubin came down when we did the boxing sequences. He got pretty excited. As you know, Denzel went into training for this, for about three or four months.

SALAH: You worked with Denzel before, on *A Soldier's Story*. And this time, they're talking about a possible Oscar for his performance.

NORMAN: Well, there's a buzz. Let me put it this way: I think Denzel gives the performance of his

career. And some of the fight sequences are just, well, we staged them all in Toronto — they're all in period, they're all in black and white. They're really powerful.

SALAH: So, what should people take away from this film?

NORMAN: I think the theme of the picture is summed up in a scene near the end where Hurricane looks at the kid through the bars and says, "Hate got me in here, but love is going to bust me out."

And it's a very uplifting ending when, finally, in a federal court, the federal judge overturns the verdict and releases him from prison after so many years. It's really a terrific kind of Capra-esque ending. The individual triumphs again against society. Justice wins. It is a terrific film for me because it's kind of a trilogy — it started with *In the Heat of the Night*, then *A Soldier's Story*, and now this. All three films are about very strong characters.

SALAH: Are you idealistic enough to think that you can change society with film?

NORMAN: No, I can't change society with film. I'm too old for that. When you're young, you think you're going to change the world. When you're as old as I am, you know that you can probably make people think a little bit. You can probably expose them to some sort of private fears and joys that you may have. I don't think films really change anybody, but I do think that, in a way, film is the literature of this generation, and I've said that before. That's what makes movies powerful. This is the strongest form of communication we have, internationally, and I think to bring this story to the screen and expose it — to let people hear certain truths — may have some small effect. But I don't think it changes anybody.

SALAH: You don't sound defeated by that.

NORMAN: No, I don't want to use film as a social vehicle for propaganda. If I did, I would make documentaries. I'd become Leni Riefenstahl. [Laughs.] I'd just try to sell people on my specific political agenda. But I don't have any particular agenda. I just love a good story, and I think the idea behind this story is that hate often gets us into difficult situations, racially speaking especially, and love is about the only thing that's going to bust us out. Not violence. It's just simply love and understanding. I think that's what the film really is talking about. And I think people respond to it. They *are* responding to it.

SALAH: Who would you want to play you in the movie of your life?

NORMAN: Who would I want to play me!? Oh, God ...

SALAH: God would be a big star.

NORMAN: [Laughs.] That would be a weird piece of casting. I don't know, maybe a combination of Danny DeVito and Jim Carrey. I just wouldn't want anyone who took themselves too seriously. **F**

Norman Jewison's Filmography

- 1962 40 Pounds of Trouble
- 1963 The Thrill of it All
- 1964 Send Me No Flowers
- 1965 The Cincinnati Kid
- 1966 The Russians are Coming!
The Russians are Coming!
- 1967 In the Heat of the Night
- 1968 The Thomas Crown Affair
- 1969 Gaily, Gaily



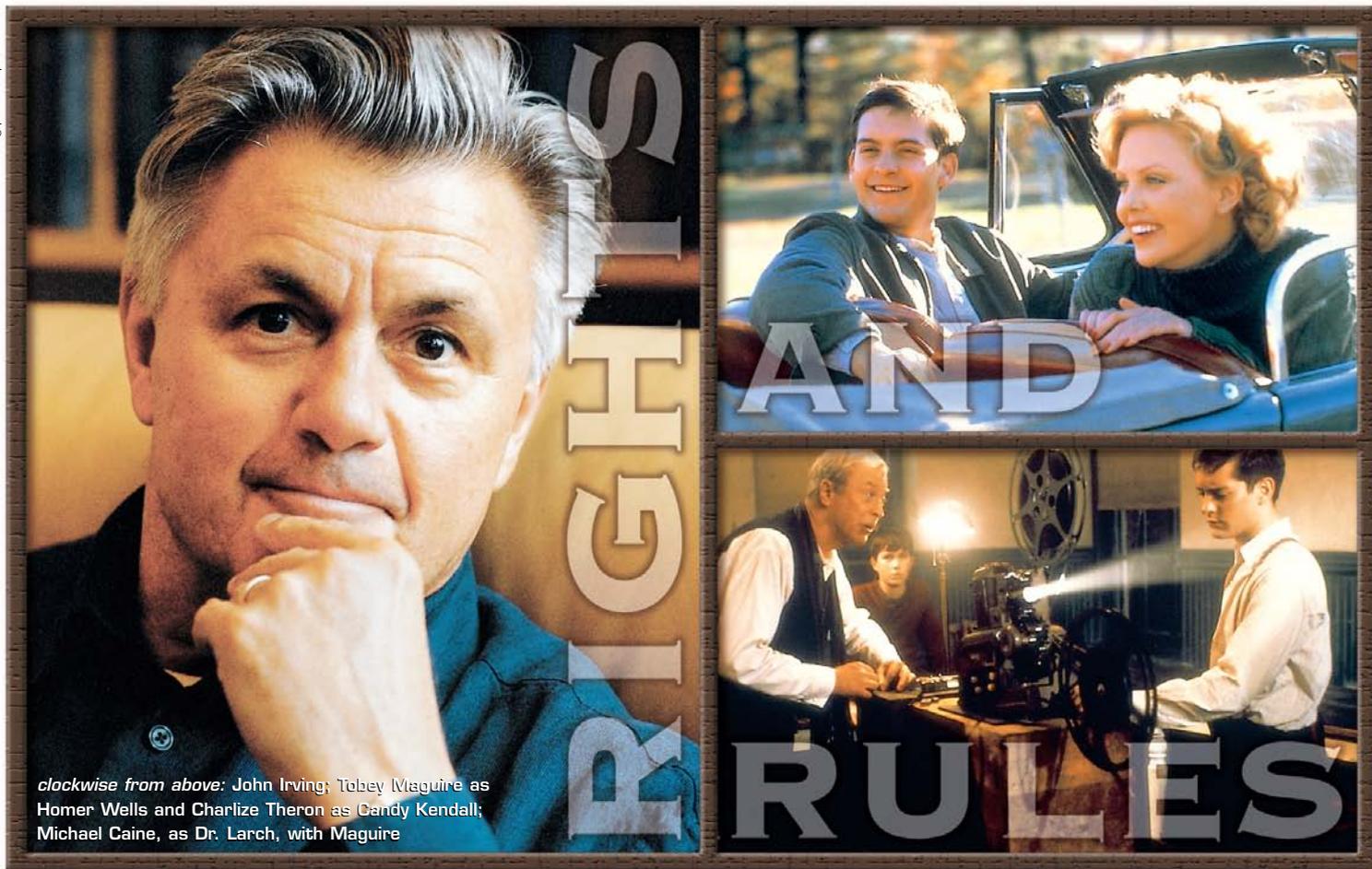
Howard E. Rollins, Jr. (at left) stars in *A Soldier's Story*

- 1971 Fiddler on the Roof
- 1973 Jesus Christ Superstar
- 1975 Rollerball
- 1978 F.I.S.T.
- 1979 . . . And Justice for All
- 1982 Best Friends



Robert Downey, Jr., and Marisa Tomei in the romantic comedy *Only You*

- 1984 A Soldier's Story
- 1985 Agnes of God
- 1987 Moonstruck
- 1989 In Country
- 1991 Other People's Money
- 1994 Only You
- 1996 Bogus
- 1999 The Hurricane



clockwise from above: John Irving; Tobey Maguire as Homer Wells and Charlize Theron as Candy Kendall; Michael Caine, as Dr. Larch, with Maguire

IN A RARE INTERVIEW, WRITER JOHN IRVING TALKS ABOUT **THE CIDER HOUSE RULES,** ABORTION AND HIS NEW MEMOIR

The *Cider House Rules* is a movie about many things. It is about a boy growing up in an orphanage, and the doctor who raises him. It is about first love, race, and a specific time and place. And it is about segments of the population being forced to live by the rules that other segments construct for them.

But as much as anything else, it is a movie about abortion. The controversial issue pervades from the first frame to the last, as the orphanage is also a refuge for women seeking safe abortions at a time when coat-hangers and toxic chemicals were the most available methods of terminating a pregnancy.

"The premise of the novel and the film is historical," says John Irving, the celebrated American author who wrote both the screenplay and the novel of the same name. "This is what it was like when that procedure was illegal, largely unavailable, mostly unsafe.

BY MARNI WEISZ

Everything that happens in the story happens because of that history. It is not a story about the present-day argument or conflict surrounding abortion. I take it as a given that women should be able to get abortions if they want them."

A woman's right to choose is certainly something about which Irving (a longstanding supporter of Planned Parenthood and the National Abortion Rights Action League) is passionate, and singular of mind.

"This is hardly a radical view — it is the law of the land," he says. "The radical view is the opposition to abortion rights."

Directed by Lasse Hallstrom (*My Life As a Dog*), *Cider House* tells the story of Homer Wells

(Tobey Maguire), who grows up in the twenties and thirties at the St. Cloud's Orphanage in St. Cloud's, Maine. Fortunate children at St. Cloud's (usually the pretty ones) are adopted. Homer is adopted several times, but for one reason or another, always ends up back at the orphanage. Dr. Wilbur Larch (Michael Caine), who runs the orphanage, comes to look upon Homer as a son, and teaches him to be his assistant. Without any formal medical training, the teenaged Homer learns how to deliver babies and how to perform that other service that Dr. Larch provides.

But knowing how to perform abortions doesn't mean that Homer will. Although he respects a woman's right to choose, being an orphan he can't help but think about his fate had his mother decided to go that route instead.

By the time a handsome young couple — Wally Worthington (Paul Rudd) and Candy



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◀ RULES page 24

Kendall (Charlize Theron) — arrive at St. Cloud's to terminate Candy's pregnancy, Homer, now a young man and never having been beyond the town of St. Cloud's, is feeling the pull of the outside world. He hitches a ride with Wally, gets a job picking apples at the Worthington orchard on the coast of Maine, and lives through a string of incidents that force him to reevaluate his stance on performing abortions, and his place in the world.

"The story of *Cider House* is concerned with an historical accuracy, an historical truth," Irving says. "This is what happens when that procedure is driven underground. Period."

Irving, who has homes in both Vermont and Toronto (he is married to a Canadian publisher), first watched the film on a big screen at this year's Toronto International Film Festival.

"I had seen the film sixty-four previous times before it was shown at the Toronto Film Festival — but only on the small screen, various edits on the VCR," Irving says. "I wanted to wait to see it on a big screen until there was an audience, the biggest audience possible."

That capacity audience responded to the film by giving Irving a standing ovation.

Irving doesn't grant many interviews, but he has a lot to talk about right now. Aside from the movie, there's his new memoir, *My Movie Business*, in which he discusses not only the laborious process of condensing *The Cider House Rules* (almost 600 pages of rich and quirky prose) to fit a two-hour film, but also his other attempts to adapt his novels for the screen — *Setting Free the Bears* (which never made it to film), *The World According to Garp* (1982), *The Hotel New Hampshire* (1984), and *A Son of the Circus*, which starts shooting in India this January and co-stars Jeff Bridges and Jessica Lange.

In part, Irving wrote *My Movie Business* to answer a common query.

"The question I am most often asked — not by other writers, but by the general public — is what I think of this or that movie made from one or other of my books," he says. "I find the question depressing. One doesn't write a novel in order to see a movie made of it. The question implies that a novel is somewhat incomplete until a movie has been made."

The memoir does a good job of answering those questions once and for all. But you'll notice that *Simon Birch*, the 1998 movie based on Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany* is not discussed in the memoir. It was reported that Irving was so unhappy with that film that he asked that the characters' names be changed and that his name be removed from the project.

Not true, he says.

"Reportedly I wasn't happy with *Simon Birch*? As reported by whom? I said I liked *Simon Birch*," he says. "I just said it was different enough from *Owen Meany* for me to ask Mark Steven Johnson [the writer/director] not to use my title or the names of my characters. He agreed....What pisses me off is the 'reportedly.' It has been the presumption of the media that I was displeased with *Simon Birch*. I was not displeased, and I never said I was."

The reason *Simon Birch* isn't mentioned in *My Movie Business* is simple, he says. "It wasn't my business. I had nothing to do with it."

There is no question as to whether or not he is happy with the final edit of *Cider House*. "I love the finished film," he says. In fact, he even has a cameo as the stationmaster at the St. Cloud's train station. While in the book, the stationmaster is a complex character full of fear and disapproval, in the movie version Irving is little more than an extra — seen from afar in the opening scene, and again near the end.

"I just wanted to be there when Homer stepped off the train — to see him come back to St. Cloud's as only the stationmaster would have seen him," Irving says in reference to that penultimate scene. "A witness."

In *My Movie Business*, Irving mentions only one instance where he was confronted by a right-to-lifer who disagreed with his point-of-view in *Cider House*. The incident took place at a book signing when a woman approached him to say that he misunderstood her organization.

As to whether there will be any controversy when the film is released this month, Irving can't really say.

"I am neither expecting nor not expecting controversy," he says. "It was a long and difficult novel. Most people of the right-to-life persuasion don't read long, difficult novels. Anyone can manage to sit through a film — or to walk out of a movie in a self-righteous rage. I suppose there will be controversy. So what? These people are extremists. To be kind, they should be ignored. To the extent that they hurt people, which they have, and when they interfere with the rights of others, which they seem to consider their right, they should be jailed." **F**

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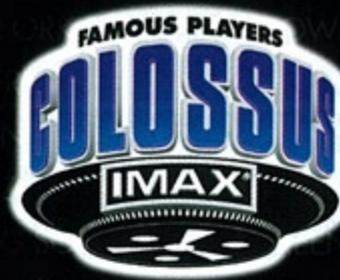
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DOING TIME WITH TOM HANKS



EVERYTHING TOM HANKS TOUCHES TURNS TO GREEN, AND WITH THE RELEASE OF HIS LATEST FILM, *THE GREEN MILE*, HE HAS A SHOT AT A THIRD OSCAR. HERE'S A LOOK AT HIS MOVE FROM ALSO-RAN COMEDIES TO POWERFUL DRAMAS

David Morse, Jeffrey DeMunn and Tom Hanks in *The Green Mile*

By David Giammarco

IN person, Tom Hanks is amusing, unassuming, affable and, well, downright likable. Though that isn't a word he likes to hear.

"Yeah I know I'm likable, because I hear it so much from guys like you," Hanks says with mock angst. "I mean, I really don't think I'm any more or less decent than anybody else. But I think if [the media] can turn it into a commodity, they will. I mean, they've got to label you as something, don't they?"

Well if the shoe fits. After all, you don't see Hanks caught in barroom brawls, compromising positions on Sunset Boulevard, or indulging in fisticuffs with *Hard Copy* commandos. The fact remains that Hanks, at 43, has resonated profoundly with film audiences. He's an Everyman movie star, the kind of guy moviegoers figure would be the produce manager at their local IGA if it weren't for his \$20-million-per-picture salary.

Hanks slowly and quietly became a certified Hollywood hero without the usual Tinseltown PR criers and image-makeover artists. Much like Forrest Gump awkwardly stumbled into pivotal points of history, so, too, has Hanks into motion picture history.

His latest film, *The Green Mile*, a period piece set in a Louisiana penitentiary, hits the big screen this month. And long before the movie's release, people were already talking about another Oscar nomination for Hanks.

In 1995 he became the first actor in more than 50 years to win back-to-back Best Actor Oscars when he won for *Forrest Gump*. The year before, he took home the prize for his portrayal of AIDS-stricken lawyer Andrew Beckett in *Philadelphia*.

Hanks has also sustained an unparalleled winning streak at the box office throughout the nineties. Over the past eight years, every one of his movies — *A League Of Their Own*, *Philadelphia*, *Sleepless In Seattle*, *Forrest Gump*, *Apollo 13*, *Toy Story*, *Saving Private Ryan*, and *You've Got Mail* — was a big hit, earning him the Hollywood nickname "Money In The Bank Hanks." The recently released *Toy Story 2* and *The Green Mile* are sure to follow suit. Like McDonalds or Hershey's Chocolate, Hanks is a universally trusted American brand name.

Born in Concord, California, Hanks grew up without much to cling to. His parents separated when he was five, and he moved from town to town with his father, who worked as a cook in various eateries. From an early age, Hanks learned the vagabond independence an actor needs. "I thought nothing of getting on the bus by myself and visiting Mom four or five times a year," he recalls. Hanks quickly learned to adapt to his ever-changing surroundings and friends. "To me it was the natural order of things — this willingness to go off and throw yourself into strange circumstances," he reasons. "I was never afraid to pack up and go." And when he wasn't on the go, he was looking up at the sky. His fascination with the U.S. space program would evolve into an obsession that continues to this day — *Apollo 13* and his own HBO series, *From The Earth To The Moon*, stemmed from that early devotion to astronautics.

In high school Hanks left a burgeoning athletic career for drama, because he says his actor friends laughed more than the jocks. "I was attracted to acting because it was fun," he says simply. "I'd rather laugh all day long than anything." Before he had turned 20, Hanks was performing in local theatre groups and touring companies. A move to New York City dropped him into the requisite starving-actor doldrums for a couple years before he finally landed the lead



top to bottom: Hanks and Morse with death-row inmate (played by Michael Clarke Duncan) in *The Green Mile*; Hanks as a lonely single dad in *Sleepless in Seattle*; and as a victim of AIDS discrimination in *Philadelphia*.

"I mean in your younger days, when you're not quite there, it's simply a matter of survival. You spend so much time as an actor trying to establish a beachhead and, well, I had a beachhead established but I didn't even realize it. Now I'm in a position where the jobs that I take better deserve to be turned into movies, because if they don't and it's a resounding failure, then that's going to haunt me much more so than it had in the past."

How Hanks moved from second-rate comedies to diverse roles in movies that consistently end up on year-end Top 10 lists is a testament to the actor himself. "After a while, it became something of an empty enterprise for me," he explains of his change of approach in taking roles. "I realized it was much more important to say 'No' to stuff than it was to say 'Yes'."

So he started selecting scripts that had a personal connection. And while those "select" projects became few and far between, Hanks remained adamant, even if it meant turning down \$5 million paychecks. "I remember my agent said, 'So, what do you want to do then?' and I said, 'Well, it's not like I know what I want to do, but I sure know what I don't want to do. And I don't want to play guys anymore going, Oh, I'm not in love and I wish I was or I'm just hoping to get to work today but my car keeps breaking down in funny ways. They're boring. They've got nothing to do with my life, and I don't want to have to waste time even considering them.' And that was that. It was like a huge stack of work on my desk just got thrown away, and what was left was, you know," he says with a grin, "much less to choose from."

role on the sitcom *Bosom Buddies* in 1980. Suddenly, at age 23, Hanks was earning \$9,000 a week — "that was more money in a week than I had earned my entire career," he laughs.

After *Bosom Buddies* went off the air in 1982, Hanks earned roles in successful films like *Bachelor Party* and *Splash* but then had a string of forgettable flops. Remember *The Burbs*? Or *The Man With One Red Shoe*? How about *Volunteers*? The only redeeming aspect of the *Volunteers* experience may have been that Hanks met his wife, actress Rita Wilson, on set.

"Yeah, I just did everything that came down the pipeline," he acknowledges of that period.

"I mean in your younger days, when you're not quite there, it's simply a matter of survival. You spend so much time as an actor trying to establish a beachhead and, well, I had a beachhead established but I didn't even realize it. Now I'm in a position where the jobs that I take better deserve to be turned into movies, because if they don't and it's a resounding failure, then that's going to haunt me much more so than it had in the past."

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Even now, when it would be tempting to shift into cruise control and coast on his blockbuster glory, Hanks is still on the prowl for difficult, morally ambiguous roles. Sure he returned as the voice of Woody in last month's *Toy Story 2* ("It's just such a fascinating, magical process to be a part of," he says with a smile — "so very different from my work in live action filmmaking"), but playing a prison guard in

HANKS BIO

Born July 9, 1956,
in Concord, California

Parents separated
when he was five

He and two older
brothers lived with
their father, Amos

Attended Skyline
High School in Oakland;
Chabot College in
Hayward, California;
and California State
University in Sacramento

Married to first wife,
Samantha Lewes,
from 1978 to 1985

Met current wife, actress
Rita Wilson, on the set
of *Volunteers* in 1985

Married Wilson in 1988

Has four children: Colin
and Elizabeth with Lewes,
and Chester and Truman
with Wilson

Brother, Jim Hanks, is
also an actor and stood in
as Tom's "running double"
in *Forrest Gump*

involved with executions in *Green Mile* isn't exactly child's play. "There's a great dichotomy to this man who kills people for a living," explains Hanks of the role. "It's as gruesome and as horrifying a paycheck as you'll ever earn, and yet he's been able to rationalize it ... I understand his motivation."

The film is based on Stephen King's best-selling 1996 six-part novel of the same name and was directed by Frank Darabont, who garnered seven Academy Award nominations in 1995, including Best Picture, for *The Shawshank Redemption*, another prison movie based on a Stephen King book. The cast and crew for *Green Mile* pack enough collective Oscar nods (19) and wins (five) to establish a new gold standard. Set in a 1930s Louisiana penitentiary, *Green Mile* focuses on the relationship between a death-row prison guard (Hanks) and a mysterious black inmate (Michael Clarke Duncan) with seemingly supernatural powers who has been sentenced to death for the murder of two white girls.

"It was a lot of hard work, believe me — this wasn't *Toy Story*, that's for sure," Hanks says. "We were shooting it in the same place every day, all day. We came into the cell block first thing in the morning and we were there every night. It really starts to affect you after a while being in that environment. I mean, we shot a five day execution scene that was so grueling — if you had seen us we probably would have looked like banshees. We were just cracking up. You definitely realize how oppressive prison life really is. It would scare anybody."

Considering the early reviews, all the work seems to have paid off. But Hanks downplays any kind of accolades and insists he's not on a crusade for every hero role in Hollywood — it's just that the villain roles don't appeal to him. He also believes that, even if he did try his hand at on-screen evil, it would come off as gimmicky.

"I'm at the level now where it's kind of a news event every time I take on some kind of job," Hanks says matter-of-factly. "I just have to be very careful and find roles that are unique and at the same time somehow responsible. And I do take that into consideration simply because I'm a force in the industry. I think I understand my responsibilities as an actor much better now." **F**

David Giammarco has interviewed Tom Hanks six times over the past decade.

Ryder, DiCaprio, Shandling and Kudrow tackle new roles

Films that hit the big screen early in 2000

The Beach

Stars: Leonardo DiCaprio, Virginie Ledoyen, Tilda Swinton

Director: Danny Boyle

Story: DiCaprio plays Richard, a disenfranchised youth backpacking through Southeast Asia. After finding a map containing directions to a legendary tropical paradise, Richard and a small group of Americans set out to find that paradise, nicknamed "The Beach." The film is based on the novel by Alex Garland. Director Boyle is best known for *Trainspotting* and *A Life Less Ordinary*.

Lost Souls

Stars: Winona Ryder, Ben Chaplin, John Hurt, Elias Koteas

Director: Janusz Kaminski

Story: Faith battles reason in this supernatural thriller about Maya (Ryder), a young woman who discovers a conspiracy to bring the Devil to Earth in human form and must convince a crime reporter that he is the target of this plot. The film marks the directorial debut for renowned cinematographer Janusz Kaminski, known for his artful work on *Schindler's List*.

What Planet Are You From?

Stars: Garry Shandling, Annette Bening, Ben Kingsley

Director: Mike Nichols

Story: Shandling plays an alien sent to Earth to breed. Only problem is his anatomy doesn't quite match ours, so he has to use gizmos and devices to carry out his mission. (Shandling also co-wrote the script.)

Mission to Mars

Stars: Gary Sinise, Tim Robbins, Don Cheadle

Director: Brian De Palma

Story: After the first manned mission to Mars ends in disaster, Sinise leads a second one to rescue the disaster's only survivor (Cheadle) and investigate what went wrong.

Hanging Up

Stars: Meg Ryan, Diane Keaton, Lisa Kudrow, Walter Matthau

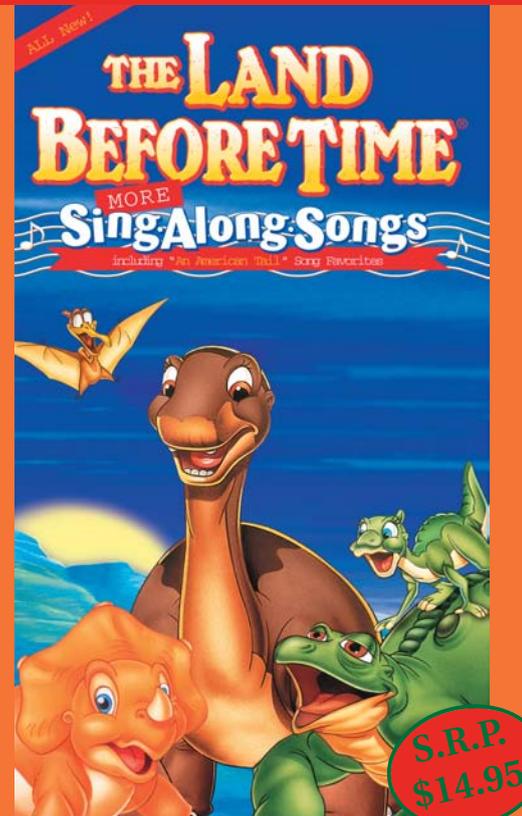
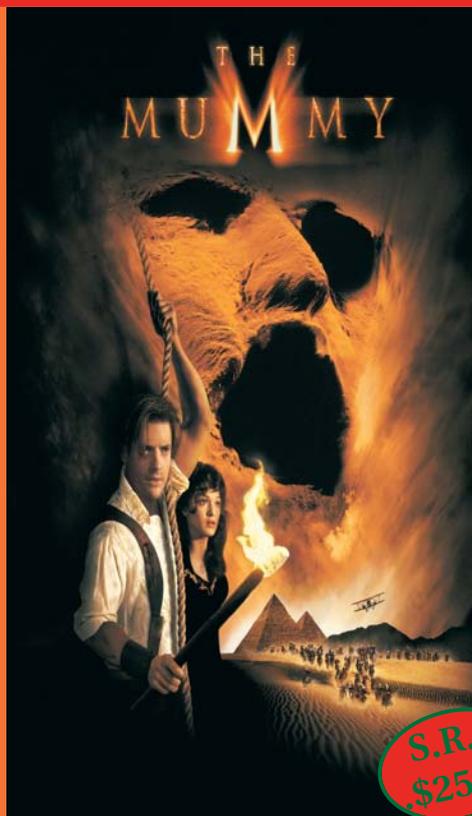
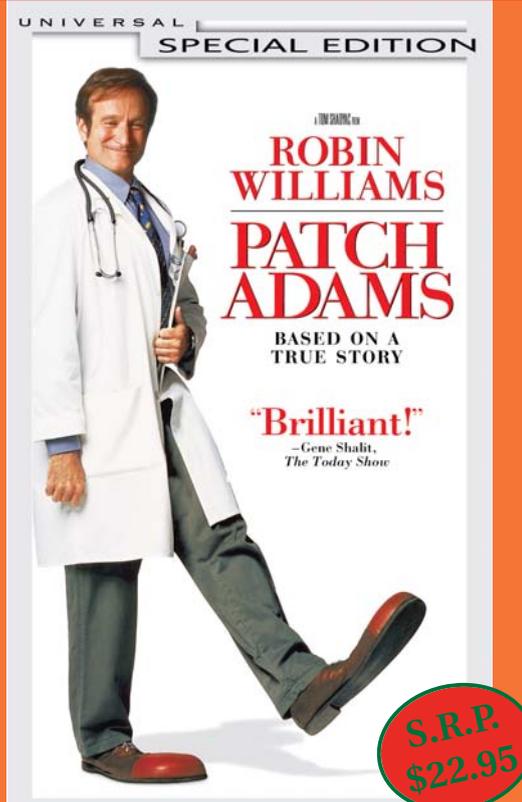
Director: Diane Keaton

Story: Based on the bestselling novel by Nora Ephron (*You've Got Mail*), *Hanging Up* is about a trio of sisters who bond while their overbearing, less-than-likable father (Matthau) is dying. Keaton plays the oldest sister, Georgia, the editor of a woman's magazine; Ryan plays the middle sister, Eve, who becomes their father's caregiver; and Kudrow plays the youngest sister, Maddy, a soap star.



Winona Ryder
ponders her next
move in *Lost Souls*

it's a wrap...



From Universal Studios Home Video



ASHLEY JUDD, "PEE-WEE HERMAN" AND BRAD PITT PONDER NEW ROLES



MONKEY BONE...

diverse cast has joined the quirky *Monkey Bone*, part live action, part animated flick about a cartoonist from a popu- animated show who falls into a coma after an accident. Co-starring

Brendan Fraser, Whoopi Goldberg, Rose McGowan and possibly **Paul "Pee-Wee" Rubens** (who would be the voice of animated *Monkey Bone*), the cartoon segment takes place in a coma-induced town, where our hero, with *Monkey Bone's* help, must defeat *Death* to come out of his stupor.

FIND A SPIDER

Although *Spiderman* is coming to the big screen eventually (probably in 2001), who will direct and who will play the teen genius Peter Parker/superhero *Spiderman* is anyone's guess. Names bandied about to play the radioactive web spinner include heavyweights **Leonardo DiCaprio, Freddie Prinze Jr.** and **Ryan Phillippe**, but scriptwriter **David Koepp** has said that an even younger actor might make more sense — remember, Pete Parker isn't even of legal drinking age.

JUDD'S INSTINCT

Basic instinct would tell you to cast **Sharon Stone** in *Basic Instinct 2*, but Stone, whose career took off after her bisexual vixen role in the 1992 thriller, couldn't do a deal with producers, so in walks **Ashley Judd** — maybe. Judd is apparently more than interested, but could also be too expensive after her success with *Double Jeopardy*. Judd may be too busy anyway: She's considering a role in the drama *Angel Eyes* (after **Jennifer Lopez** dropped out), about a female cop who gets chummy with a man who lost his wife and child.



...AND SPEAKING OF MONKEYS

The oft-delayed *Planet of the Apes* project, a remake of the 1968 classic, is progressing. A script is being written, a budget is being set (rumoured to be in the \$120-million neighbourhood), a tentative summer 2001 release date has been given and a director is being sought. **Michael Bay** (*The Rock, Armageddon*) is reportedly interested, but would want to "youthify" the apes by using a teen-friendly cast (what about the kids from *Dawson's Creek*?).



TIME CODE: 2000

Salma Hayek has definitely signed on to **Mike Figgis's** (*Leaving Las Vegas*) new psychodrama *Time Code: 2000*, which is in production in L.A. The movie has a soap-like plot (something Hayek, a former daytime queen in Mexico, is familiar with): A woman kills her abusive husband, marries a psychologist, gets blackmailed by very bad cops, has to tell her new hubby her secret ("I murdered husband No. 1.") and has to stop the blackmailers (with No. 2's help). It looks like **Jeanne Tripplehorn, Kyle MacLachlan** and **Julian Sands** are also involved with the project.

PITT + COEN BROTHERS?

The writing, directing and producing **Coen Brothers** (*Fargo, Raising Arizona*) could have **Brad Pitt** on board for their adventurous *To the White Sea*, based on a James (*Deliverance*) Dickey novel. Pitt would play an American tail gunner who has to make a long trek home on the frozen wastelands of Northern Asia after getting shot down over Japan during the Second World War. Maybe our hero will run into a beautiful woman (**Jennifer Aniston** perhaps?) in the barracks.

ARQUETTE ISN'T CAGED

Patricia Arquette (*Stigmata* and *Bringing Out the Dead*) is ubiquitous. The five foot, one inch starlet (sis of actor sibs David, Rosanna and Alexis, and wife of **Nick Cage**) is set to play the love interest of the son (**Adam Sandler**) of Satan (**Harvey Keitel**) in the fantasy/comedy *Little Nicky*. Then, in February, she will head to the set of *Human Nature*, an offbeat romantic comedy about a woman with excessive body hair who falls for the world's least-endowed man (not **Mark Wahlberg**). Later, she'll play a go-go dancer in *In the Boom Boom Room*, based on the sixties-era play by **David Rabe** (*Hurlyburly*).

BRIEFLY

The prequel to *The Exorcist*, *Exorcist: Dominion*, may start shooting next spring in Africa, and will focus on Father Merrin's journey to Africa, where he first encounters Satanic forces. ♦ The bio-pic about **Muhammad Ali's** life is in limbo for now while **Will Smith** decides Yes or No. ♦ *The Nutty Professor 2: The Klumps* is in production, and includes **Eddie Murphy** reprising his role(s) as everyone. ♦ **Madonna** will play the jilted wife in *Quadrille*, the movie version of **Noel Coward's** stage play, which is slated to begin production in April in London.



BOOK 'EM NOW

The year's best movie books make great gifts for the literary film fan

By John Goddard

If you've got a movie fan on your Christmas list, or are looking for something to read over the holidays, check out the many film biographies and memoirs published this year, beginning with those about the late comedian Andy Kaufman.

For many, Kaufman season officially begins December 25 with the release of *Man on the Moon*, a film that tracks the short, blazing career of a comic famous for anything but peace and goodwill.

But for others, it has already begun: Three new biographies are currently in bookstores — two on Kaufman and one on home-grown comic Jim Carrey, who plays Kaufman in the film.

The first book out is *Andy Kaufman Revealed! Best Friend Tells All*, by Bob Zmuda, as told to Matthew Scott Hanson. Zmuda was Kaufman's self-described best friend, writing partner and co-conspirator in a number of pranks that included wrestling women as a way to get dates.

From the inside, Zmuda traces Kaufman's brilliant but ultimately self-destructive career, from his early nightclub act as Foreign Man, to his role as Latka in the seventies sitcom *Taxi*, to his death in 1984 from lung cancer at age 35.

From the outside, but more thoroughly, journalist Bill Zehme covers similar territory in *Lost in the Funhouse: The Life and Mind of Andy Kaufman*. Zehme hit bestseller lists with his last biography, *Sinatra and the Lost Art of Livin'*. For the new one, he spent six years interviewing family members, friends and other key players, as well as researching Kaufman's unpublished writings.

Jim Carrey got the role in *Man on the Moon* after submitting a dazzling audition tape to director Milos Forman, reveals Canadian author Martin Knelman in *The Joker is Wild: The Trials and Triumphs of Jim Carrey*.

Carrey beat out Nicolas Cage, John Cusack and Kevin Spacey for the role — not bad for a guy who

endured a nightmare upbringing on the fringes of Toronto. At one point when Carrey was in high school, his father signed up the whole family as the overnight cleaning staff at a tire factory.

"It was a horrendous time in my life," Carrey recalled years later. "I hated everything and everybody."

Among the year's other books for the movie fan is *Budge: What Happened to Canada's King of Film* by Barbara Wade Rose, which tells the story of documentary filmmaker Budge Crawley. In 1939,

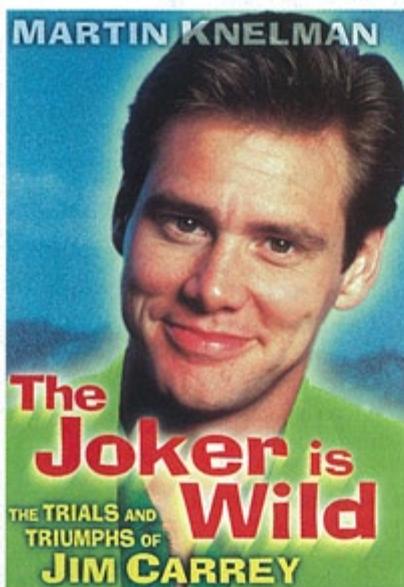
he founded one of North America's biggest studios outside Hollywood, which made some 5,000 films and went on to win nearly 300 international awards. Crawley's top successes include *Janis*, on singer Janis Joplin, and the Oscar-winning *The Man Who Skied Down Everest*.

In another two cases, daughters write about fathers. Victoria Price has published *Vincent Price: A Daughter's Biography*, in which she reveals the ghoul of such classic horror films as *House of Wax* and *The Fly* to be a complex but human man, different from his dark persona.

Maria Cooper Janis has authored *Gary Cooper Off Camera: A Daughter Remembers*, a memoir of the laconic Oscar-winning star of *High Noon* (1952).

But the most unexpected book for the movie fan this year has to be the novel *Wake of the Perdido Star* by actor Gene Hackman and friend Daniel Lenihan, an underwater archeologist. Hackman has always wanted to write, he says on the fly-leaf. In lively prose, he and Lenihan tell of Jack O'Reilly, 17, who sails from Salem, Massachusetts, in 1805, to begin a transformative round-the-world adventure. Sounds like the story might make a good screenplay.

John Goddard is the author of two books; the most recent is Rock and Roll Toronto: Alanis to Zeppelin (Doubleday).



out this month

Monster: A Novel

Author: Jonathan Kellerman
The popular Alex Delaware series continues with this story about an asylum inmate who seems to be able to predict murders in the outside world.

The Essential Clive Barker

Author: Clive Barker
A collection of storyteller Clive Barker's tales arranged thematically in a narrative made up of visions, dreams, love, terror, revenge, and heaven and hell.

The Eyes of the Heart

Author: Frederick Buechner
The Pulitzer Prize-nominated author releases his third memoir. This one focuses on his faith, his father's suicide and the death of his only brother.

And the Sea is Never Full

Author: Elie Wiesel
The Nobel Prize winner's memoirs begin when, at age 40, the writer and social activist sets himself a challenge: "I will become militant. I will teach, share, bear witness."

In Siberia

Author: Colin Thubron
An account of the author's 15,000 mile journey up the Yenisei River to the Arctic, into the mountains and east to Amur, the Pacific and the abandoned gulags of Kolyma. Tired already?

Teranesia

Author: Greg Egan
A sci-fi writer's stunning novel about a genetic apocalypse in which spontaneous mutations bring forth a new stage of human evolution.

THE ONES THAT GOT AWAY

Some great CDs that slipped through the cracks this year would make perfect Christmas gifts

By Wayne Carter

Psssst. Wanna hear a secret? Your favourite music store is full of them — albums that should have been big hits this year but, for one reason or another, didn't take off. Part of the reason some slipped into relative obscurity is that we live in a "formatted" world where many interesting albums don't fit into specific categories. And because CDs aren't cheap, most buyers aren't real keen on taking the plunge into un-"charted" territory.

But Christmas is the perfect time to explore these hidden gems. Chances are, most music lovers on your gift list don't have 'em and have never heard 'em.

For recommendations, *Famous* magazine spoke with five major record company executives and asked them a simple question: What was the one release this year that absolutely blew your mind, yet very few people had a chance to hear?

Here's what they had to say:

Macy Gray,
On How Life Is (Sony)

Recommended by: Amber Meredith, National Media Relations, Sony Music

Why? It took about a second for Meredith to suggest Macy Gray (who was recently signed to Epic Records) and her debut album, *On How*

Life Is. "That woman has a gift," Meredith says, "a voice that is impossible to pigeonhole — a spectacular cross between Nina Simone, Al Green and Lauryn Hill. She is an old soul in a very fresh musical place."

XTC, *Apple Venus Vol. 1* (Universal/TVT)

Recommended by: Elana Rabinovitch, Director, National Media/Artist Relations, Universal Records

Why? Rabinovitch offered to pontificate for as long as we liked on XTC's *Apple Venus Vol. 1*. "It's a brilliant pop album — signature XTC," she says, "and as such is very much relevant. There is still a huge core audience for XTC, but it's hard to recruit new fans."

Tracie Spencer, *Tracie* (EMI/CAPITOL)

Recommended by: Beth Waldman, National Media Relations, EMI Music

Why? Tracie Spencer has been a diva in training for more than a decade, and if record company faith has any pull, EMI's Waldman will single-handedly make Spencer a household name. "She is a beautiful, stunning girl with pipes like you won't believe," she says. "She was discovered on *Star Search* at age 11, had a couple of albums as a teenager, finished high school and then attended UCLA. This is her first album as an adult, and it really shows her growth as an artist."

Citizen King, *Mobile Estates* (Warner Music)

Recommended by: Ron Morse, Label Manager, Warner Brothers

Why? If you dig the hip-hop sound, but are looking for something with a lighter feel, look no further than Citizen King's *Mobile Estates*. "They have a hip-hop-meets-pop sound," Morse says, "a somewhat lighter version of what's going on in the rock world with acts like Rage Against The Machine and Limp Bizkit. But this is definitely on the pop side."

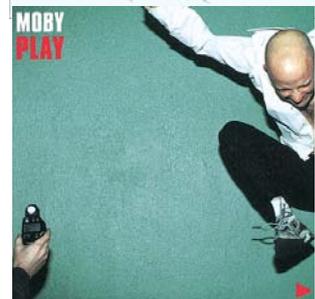
Moby, *Play* (BMG/V2)

Recommended by: Shane Carter, VP of Marketing, BMG/V2

Why? Carter chose someone that many Canadians have heard but probably didn't know it — Moby, a U.K.-artist who has been in the dance scene for years, and had two tracks from *Play* used on commercials: one for Molson ("BodyRock"), the other for

Bailey's Irish Cream ("Porcelain"). Carter, who probably hears more music in a day than most people do in a month, says *Play* "is such a different sound. It isn't the 'same old thing.' It is something completely unlike anything that is being done out there right now."

For the record, writer Wayne Carter is obsessed with Macy Gray.



out this month

Artist: Sheryl Crow
Title: Sheryl Crow and Friends Live from Central Park
Label: MCA

Artist: Pink Floyd
Title: The Wall Live
Label: EMI

Artist: Lara Fabian
Title: Lara Fabian
Label: Epic

Artist: Methods of Mayhem
Title: Methods of Mayhem
Label: A&M

Artist: Jay Z
Title: Volume 3: The Life and Times of Shawn Carter
Label: Def Jam

Artist: Juvenile
Title: The G Code
Label: Universal

Artist: Mixed
Title: The Green Mile soundtrack
Label: Warner Brothers Records

Artist: Kelis
Title: Kaleidoscope
Label: Virgin



More than a year after her departure from the astoundingly successful Brit pop band the Spice Girls, singer Geri Halliwell (aka "Ginger Spice") still has to rely on security guards to enjoy a meal in peace.

When the petite redhead recently visited Canoe, an upscale Toronto eatery, she was trailed by several carloads of fans, paparazzi and professional autograph seekers that had followed her from a taping of the Comedy Network's *Open Mike with Mike Bullard*.

"As soon as they pulled up, the fans went after them — they ran up the stairs at the base of our building and tried to get in the elevator with her," recalls Monique Sutherland, the assistant manager on duty that night.

By the time Halliwell and her party of 13 were ready to leave, they still weren't sure the coast was clear, so the singer had to take the service elevator down to the grimy loading dock where her getaway car was waiting.

"That couldn't have been too pleasant," Sutherland says with a laugh.

But all of this is old hat for Halliwell, who didn't seem disturbed by the commotion. In fact, she seemed to be much more interested in what she was going to have for dinner, making a special request of Canoe's executive chef, Anthony Walsh.

"She wanted something light, vegetable-based — preferably a soup," Walsh recalls. "It wasn't on the menu, but I put together a very nice consommé and she asked for the recipe. She was very sweet about the whole thing."

Halliwell followed the soup with sea bass on a

GINGER AND SPICE AND EVERYTHING NICE

Geri Halliwell enjoys tomato consommé at Toronto's Canoe

bed of greens, but it was the consommé that she wanted to make at home.

"It's aromatic and a teeny bit spicy from the lemongrass and ginger. It's really nice," Walsh says. "The best way to describe it is refreshing and light."

Like most consommés, this one is clarified with egg whites. "You mix the egg whites with the rest of the vegetables," Walsh says. "The egg whites cook and pull all the impurities out of the rest of the soup. It floats up to the top and separates the liquid from all of the solids, which will come out as one big blob. Then you have this beautiful, golden clear broth."

Although the preparation time for this delicate soup can be fairly minimal, Walsh suggests simmering it slowly so that the broth has time to separate from the solids. But he did speed things up for the busy Halliwell (it took about 30 minutes) by making just one serving. If you cut the ingredients in half, you cut the cooking time in half.

Halliwell asked for the recipe as soon as she finished eating, so Walsh quickly typed it up on a Canoe card with a few cute references to the "ginger" and the "spice." Sutherland says the singer was so happy with the card that she asked to meet Walsh. But, alas, Halliwell's table wasn't the only one in the restaurant and the chef just didn't have time. "I had my head in a pot, so to speak," Walsh quips.

Instead, Halliwell sent one of her own cards back to the kitchen for Walsh. Rumour had it she gave him her phone number, but Walsh says that was just a bit of fiction concocted by his wife.

What did it really say?

"Oh, I forget. 'Thanks so much, love Geri', or something like that," says Walsh, who has cooked for his share of celebs. "We've had tons of stars up here, from Elton John to Phil Collins — it's become somewhat of a hot spot for the big cheeses." — *Marni Weisz*

For reservations at Canoe, call 416-364-0054.



Chef Anthony Walsh proudly displays his consommé

PHOTO BY KEITH HOUGHTON

WHAT YOU NEED TO SERVE TWO

plum tomatoes	1 500-gram can
small piece of ginger	roughly chopped
stalk of lemongrass	roughly chopped
egg whites	3
cans of water	2
(use tomato can to measure)	
sugar	2 tablespoons
salt	1 tablespoon
fresh basil leaves	¼ cup
scallions, minced	¼ cup

Spice Mix

ground coriander	1 tablespoon
ground nutmeg	1 tablespoon
star anise	1 tablespoon
ground fennel seed	1 tablespoon

METHOD: Combine the tomatoes, spice mix and the rest of the ingredients, except for the water and the egg whites. • Let the mixture sit for about 30 minutes, then combine the egg whites with the tomato mixture and place in a heavy-bottomed pot. • Mix well, add the water and mix again. • Let simmer on medium for an hour. Taste, and then season if required. • Strain the soup and serve.

BEST VIDEOGAMES OF 1999

They make super stocking stuffers

By Marc Saltzman

In a year when videogame profits rivaled Hollywood box office receipts, you can bet there are a number of stellar games to snag for the '99 holiday season. So many, in fact, that it can be tough to pick the right ones. Look no further, here they are:

Action/Fighting

Fighting games are enjoying a long-overdue renaissance, led by **Soul Calibur** (Namco, for Dreamcast). In this faithful adaptation of the elegant arcade hit, gamers can choose from one of 10 characters — each with their own unique personality, fighting style and weapons.

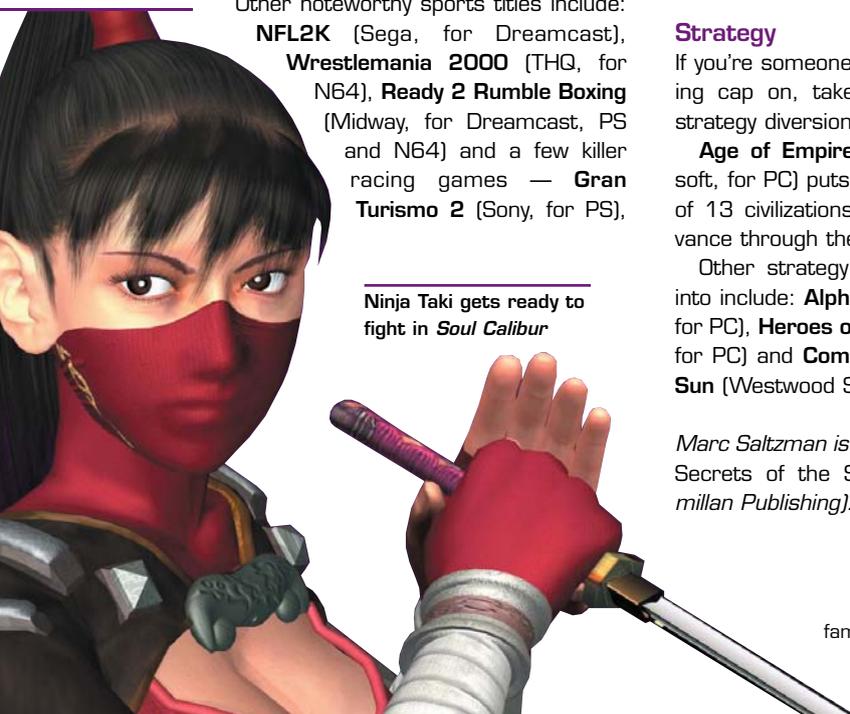
Consider the following triple-A titles as well: **Tomb Raider IV: The Last Revelation** (Eidos, for PC and PlayStation), **Quake III Arena** (Activision, for PC and Mac), **Tony Hawk's Pro Skater** (Activision, for PS), **Donkey Kong 64** (Rare, for Nintendo 64) and **Bugs Bunny: Lost in Time** (Infogrames, for PC and PS).

Sports

FIFA 2000, **NHL 2000** and **NBA Live 2000** (EA Sports, for PC and PS) will certainly satisfy soccer, hockey and basketball fans, respectively. All three feature unprecedented realism, gorgeous graphics, heated gameplay and incredible sound and music.

Other noteworthy sports titles include: **NFL2K** (Sega, for Dreamcast), **Wrestlemania 2000** (THQ, for N64), **Ready 2 Rumble Boxing** (Midway, for Dreamcast, PS and N64) and a few killer racing games — **Gran Turismo 2** (Sony, for PS),

Ninja Taki gets ready to fight in *Soul Calibur*



NASCAR 3 (Sierra Sports, for PC) and **Driver** (GT Interactive, for PC and PS).

Adventure

For the best in monsters, magic and mayhem, **EverQuest** (989 Studios, for PC) is a multi-player role-playing game played over the internet by thousands of simultaneous users. Players roam around a huge digital landscape (nearly 40 square miles) to accept various missions alone or by banding together with others.

Other compelling adventures include **Final Fantasy VIII** (Squaresoft, for PC and PS), **System Shock 2** (Looking Glass/EA, for PC) and **Outcast** (Infogrames, for PC).

Sim

If you're looking for a challenging civilian aircraft simulation, it doesn't get much better than **Flight Unlimited III** (Looking Glass/EA, for PC) and **Flight Simulator 2000** (Microsoft, for PC). Both offer astonishingly realistic visuals, vibrating force-feedback support and enough open-ended gameplay to keep you soaring into the wee hours of the morn.

If aerial combat is what you're after, consider **Jane's USAF** (Jane's Combat Simulations, for PC). For an "out of this world" space sim, choose **FreeSpace 2** (Interplay, for PC).

Strategy

If you're someone who likes to put your thinking cap on, take note of these immersive strategy diversions for the computer.

Age of Empires II: Age of Kings (Microsoft, for PC) puts the player in charge of one of 13 civilizations in an epic struggle to advance through the ages.

Other strategy games to sink your teeth into include: **Alpha Centauri** (Electronic Arts, for PC), **Heroes of Might and Magic III** (3DO, for PC) and **Command & Conquer: Tiberian Sun** (Westwood Studios, for PC).

Marc Saltzman is the author of Game Design: Secrets of the Sages (BradyGAMES: Macmillan Publishing).

out this month

Sim Theme Park (Maxis Software: PC)

With *Sim Theme Park*, budding Walt Disneys can design, build and maintain a theme park in the hopes of attracting new visitors and turning a profit. Players can ride every roller coaster from a vertigo-inducing first-person perspective. Motion sickness bags not included.

Donkey Kong 64 (Rare: Nintendo 64)

Another beloved Eighties arcade classic gets a 3D makeover with this epic action/adventure game that yields more than 50 hours of gameplay. Monkey around with five lovable characters: Donkey Kong, Diddy Kong, Tiny, Chunky and Lanky.

NBA Show Time: NBA on NBC (Midway Entertainment: Dreamcast, PlayStation, Nintendo 64 and Game Boy Color)

Midway's over-the-top basketball game features all 29 NBA teams and stadiums, plus fantasy courts, customizable players and other arcade-like qualities, including the on-fire mode and ultra-high jumps and dunks.

Medal of Honor (Electronic Arts: PlayStation)

Conceived by Steven Spielberg after shooting *Saving Private Ryan*, this first-person shooter pits the player as a secret U.S. agent in the Second World War. The goal is to prevent a German takeover of Europe by successfully completing a number of covert missions.

Diablo II (Blizzard Entertainment: PC)

In this highly anticipated sequel to 1997's best-selling role-playing game, players can select from one of four new character classes, each with its own unique attributions, and set out to explore four dangerous worlds. Play alone or on the internet against others.

by David Rusk

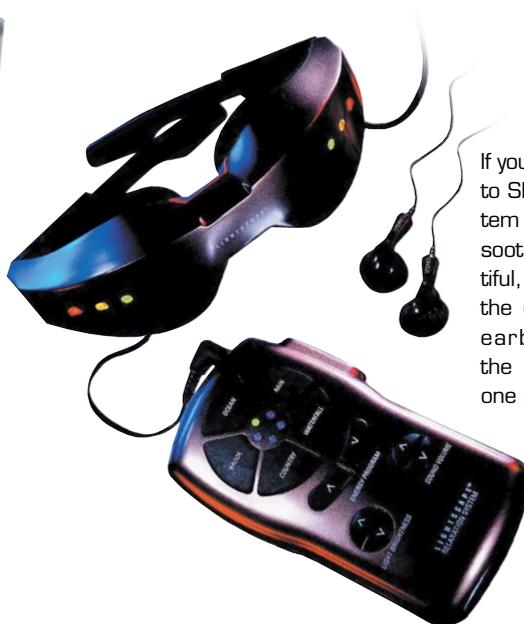
DVD-L50 Palmtheatre

While movie theatres are getting bigger, Sharp Electronics is making the DVD experience smaller with this portable DVD player by Panasonic. Despite being the world's smallest and lightest portable DVD player with a built-in LCD screen, the DVD-L50 features advanced virtual surround sound and a DTS audio output. Other special features include a built-in re-charger, three hours of playback time and a credit-card-sized remote control. Call 905-624-5505 for the retail location nearest you. Suggested price: \$1,700



Lightscape Relaxation System

If your job is stressing you out, turn to Sharper Image's relaxation system to escape into a world of soothing natural sounds and beautiful, ever-changing colours. Don the goggles, folding headphones, earbuds and controller with the Sound Soother, and choose one of five environments: babbling brook, quiet countryside, gentle rain, rushing waterfall or rhythmic ocean. Available over the internet at www.sharperimage.com. Suggested price: \$149 (U.S.)

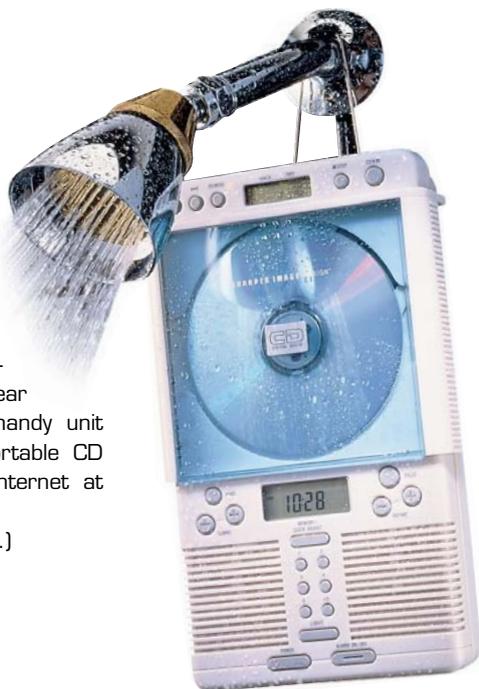


TOO COOL

Watch movies in the palm of your hand, relax with soothing goggles, listen to CDs in the shower, and use a video phone to get up close and personal

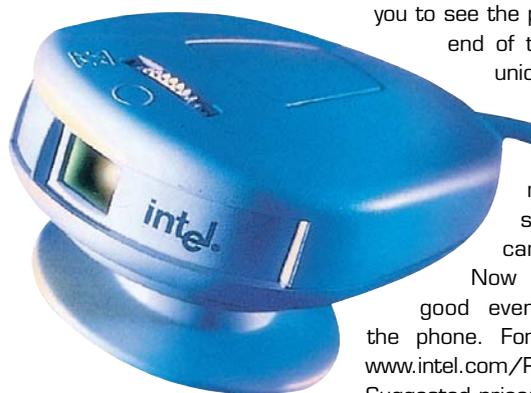
CD Shower Companion

This water-resistant stereo (also from Sharper Image) allows you to play your favourite CDs, listen to AM/FM radio, and even pipe in sound from any broadcast TV program. With clear digital stereo sound, this handy unit can also be used as a portable CD player. Available over the internet at www.sharperimage.com. Suggested price: \$189 (U.S.)



Intel PC Camera Pro Pack

This pack combines a high quality PC camera and easy-to-use Intel video phone software that allows you to see the person on the other end of the phone line. The unique item also features the Intel E-mail Postcard, so the user can record and send short video postcards. Bottom line? Now you have to look good even when you're on the phone. For more info, go to www.intel.com/Pccamera. Suggested price: \$135



HOT NEW INTERNET DEVICES

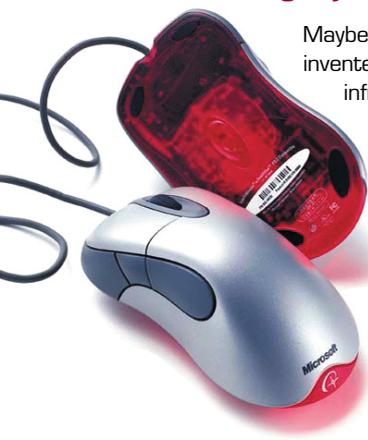
The best Christmas yet
for connecting over the web

By Edward Trapunski

The holidays are a time for connecting — when people want to hook up with faraway friends and relatives.

This Christmas, the opportunity to connect is enhanced, even if it's only *virtually*. The hottest offerings at electronic stores and computer shops across the country are devices that make using the internet easier. While you can't actually reach out and touch somebody across the World Wide Web, the new devices make the time it takes to connect faster — and connecting more fun.

Mighty Mouse



Maybe Microsoft hasn't come up with a better mousetrap yet, but they have invented a better mouse. The Microsoft IntelliMouse Explorer (\$105) uses infrared optical tracking technology and a digital signal processor instead of the usual moving ball to run the tracking device over the mouse pad. No more moving parts and no more Christmas pudding crumbs gumming up the works. This is the first time a computer pointing tool has been designed specifically for easy internet navigation, as it features two thumb buttons on the side of the mouse for riffing back and forth between web pages. This brings the number of buttons on the mouse to five. The fifth button, which is actually a wheel that lets you scroll up and down the page, has been improved to allow users to zoom in on web pages from the mouse without the hassle of toolbars or menus.

The mouse's companion, Microsoft Internet Keyboard (\$45), is the first keyboard that offers hot keys (seven of them), which allow you one-touch access to the web directly via the keyboard. At \$105, the upscale models — Microsoft's Natural Keyboard Pro and Internet Keyboard Pro — provide eight additional multimedia keys to control CDs and the PC's audio and video features from the keyboard.

Music to your Ears

No need to wait for the latest audio CDs to hit music stores, or for Boxing Day sales to be able to afford them. With the RCA LYRA, music lovers can create their own custom playlists with digital music downloaded from the internet directly to a portable device the size of a Walkman. The \$330 RCA LYRA, the world's first digital audio player, allows you to assemble and update your own MP3 or G2 music library for free. It only takes two minutes to transfer 60 minutes of music, and with built-in music management software, the music can be sorted by artist, album and genre to suit anyone's taste. The RCA LYRA might not help you get in touch with faraway family and friends, but it will enable you to create personalized presents for them.



Share and Share Alike

One source of household bickering has subsided now that many families have more than one computer. But there are still arguments over internet access, with family members clamouring for time to surf. The Intel Any Point Home Network (\$149) and the 3Com Office Connect Networking Kit (\$149) both let more than one person use the net at the same time without the need for a second phone line or another internet account. So, at the same time that one member of the family is emailing grandma, another is sending her flowers over the web. Both networks use existing phone lines and simple plug-and-play installation so there's no need for an expensive networking consultant to oversee the job. The systems also create an internal network in the home, allowing family members in separate rooms to duke it out in multiplayer computer games or to send messages back and forth without climbing the stairs.



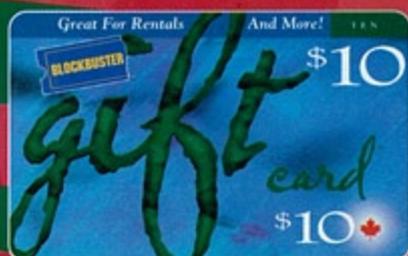
Bandwidth on the Run

We're so busy shopping and partying during the holiday season that we don't want to rely on our desktop computer for email and internet access. With Bell Mobility's Digital Data To Go Connectivity Kit (\$75) and the new \$679 Palm Vx hand-held organizer connected to a Qualcomm or Nokia digital PCS phone, we can carry the World Wide Web in our pockets. No matter where we are, we can retrieve and reply to email and also check out our favourite sites online.



Edward Trapunski is the author of The Secrets of Investing in Technology Stocks (John Wiley & Sons, Canada).

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CHRISTMAS GEMS

Famous staff and writers pick their favourite holiday films

Christmas in Connecticut (comedy, 1945)

Why? "It's just a sentimental thing. I watch it with my mom every year." — *Marc Saltzman, writer*

Stars: Barbara Stanwyck, Dennis Morgan
Director: Peter Godfrey

Story: Stanwyck plays Jennifer Lane, a food writer who pretends to be an expert homemaker living on a farm when, in reality, she is an urban New Yorker who can't even make spaghetti. When Lane's editor decides to spend Christmas at her place, she knows she's in trouble.

It's A Wonderful Life (drama, 1946)

Why? "It's the overall uplifting message and spirit that I like. It doesn't really deal with Christmas — it deals with life."

— *David Rusk, writer*

Stars: Jimmy Stewart, Donna Reed
Director: Frank Capra

Story: Need we describe this perennial classic? Okay. After a bundle of cash goes missing, Savings and Loans manager George Bailey (Stewart) thinks that the people in his life would have been better off without him. Then his guardian angel, Clarence, descends from the heavens to show him how bleak that scenario would have been.

Miracle on 34th Street (drama, 1947)

Why? "It has everything: It's cute, it has hope, it's heartwarming." — *Salah Bachir, publisher*

Stars: Maureen O'Hara, Natalie Wood, Edmund Gwenn
Director: George Seaton

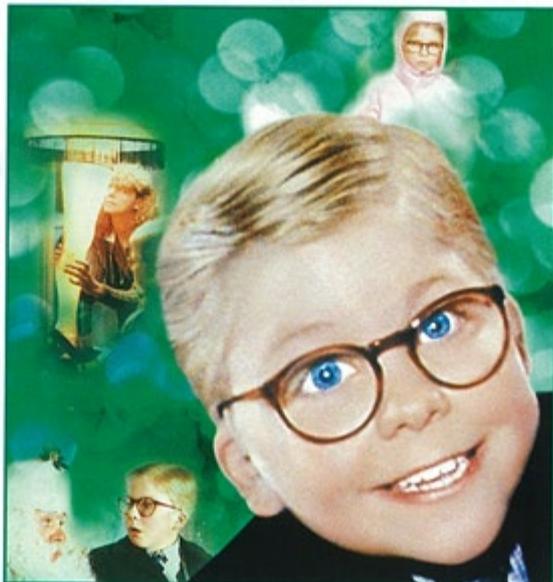
Story: O'Hara plays Doris Walker, a serious single mom who wants her daughter, Susan (a very young Natalie Wood), to grow up straight and strong. That means there's no time for such foolishness as believing in Santa. But when a very kindly old man (Gwenn) claims to be Kris Kringle, Doris, Susan and everyone else in New York City are forced to rethink their beliefs.

A Charlie Brown Christmas (animated, 1965)

Why? "I love Linus's speech at the end about the real meaning of Christmas, plus you get to see the Peanuts kids dancing." — *Mark Magee, writer*

Stars: Charlie, Lucy, Linus

Story: Tired of the commercialism surrounding the holidays, Charlie Brown tries to discover the real meaning of Christmas by directing the annual pageant. This made-for-TV special also contains the enduring image of Charlie Brown's hapless little Christmas tree.



Peter Billingsley as Ralphie in 1983's *A Christmas Story*

Black Christmas (horror, 1974)

Why? "The tagline on the poster says it all: 'If this movie doesn't make your skin crawl, it's on too tight.'" — *Wayne Carter, writer*
Stars: Olivia Hussey, Keir Dullea, Margot Kidder

Director: Bob Clark

Story: A psychopath enters a sorority house right before Christmas, torments the students with obscene phone calls, then starts to terminate them one by one.

A Christmas Story (comedy, 1983)

Why? "Peter Billingsley is great. He gives one of those performances that's so natural — only an 11-year-old would be able to pull it off." — *Marni Weisz, editor*

Stars: Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin, Melinda Dillon

Director: Bob Clark

Story: Billingsley plays Ralphie, a young boy who wants only one thing for Christmas — a Red Rider BB gun. But the adults in his life torture him with one relentless refrain: "You'll shoot your eye out." Set in the 1940s, but done in the eighties, this is a classic that stands the test of time. And yes, director Bob Clark is the same Bob Clark who directed the chilling Christmas horror mentioned above.

Scrooged (comedy, 1988)

Why? "It's funny. It's not like it's a theatrical masterpiece — it's just amusing. I like to laugh." — *Carla Horwitz, creative associate*

Stars: Bill Murray, Karen Allen, Bob Goldthwait

Director: Richard Donner

Story: Just when you thought you couldn't stand another version of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, along comes Donner with this gem. Murray plays Frank Cross, a joyless TV exec visited by three spirits who show him where his life went off track.

Christmas Vacation (comedy, 1989)

Why? "I just like wacky Christmas movies. Plus, it speaks to how dysfunctional families are when they come together at holidays." — *Neil Marton, deputy editor*

Stars: Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid

Director: Jeremiah S. Chechik

Story: Clark Griswold (Chase) just wants to spend a nice, quiet Christmas with his family, but when obnoxious cousin Eddie (Quaid) and the in-laws show up, all hell breaks loose. The film contains two classic scenes — Clark festooning his house with thousands of Christmas lights, and the cat gnawing through the Christmas tree's electrical cord.

december video releases

Deep Blue Sea (Dec. 7)

Stars: Saffron Burrows, Samuel L. Jackson, LL Cool J

Director: Renny Harlin

Story: Jackson plays the head of a pharmaceutical company that hires a researcher (Burrows) to develop a cure for Alzheimer's. But the cure involves altering the brains of sharks, and they aren't too happy about it. A vicious storm separates the researchers' undersea station from the rest of the world, making the scientists easy prey for the angry sharks.

Duking it out with an unhappy shark
in *Deep Blue Sea*



Beefcake (Dec. 7)

Stars: Daniel MacIvor, Joshua Peace, Carroll Godsman

Director: Thom Fitzgerald

Story: Fitzgerald's much anticipated follow-up to *The Hanging Garden* is a docu-drama about the life of Bob Mizer, a photographer who specializes in shooting muscle-bound men and explicit erotic films.

The General's Daughter (Dec. 14)

Stars: John Travolta, Madeleine Stowe, Timothy Hutton

Director: Simon West

Story: Based on the bestselling novel by Nelson DeMille. Travolta plays a warrant officer working in the U.S. Army's Criminal Investigations Division. When he is assigned to investigate the murder of a female officer, he uncovers an internal scandal.

Drop Dead Gorgeous (Dec. 14)

Stars: Denise Richards, Kirsten Dunst, Kirstie Alley, Ellen Barkin

Director: Michael Patrick Jann

Story: This black comedy tells the suburban tale of a group of teens competing against each other in a Minnesota beauty pageant. Throw in an overbearing mother (Alley) who will stop at nothing to ensure her daughter wins, and you have a delightfully dark film.

Summer of Sam (Dec. 14)

Stars: John Leguizamo, Mira Sorvino, Jennifer Esposito

Director: Spike Lee

Story: The members of a close-knit New York neighbourhood are consumed by fear and paranoia during the 1977 spate of murders committed by David Berkowitz.

American Pie (Dec. 21)

Stars: Jason Biggs, Shannon Elizabeth, Eugene Levy

Director: Paul Weitz

Story: Jason Biggs plays Jim, an adolescent who isn't having much fun losing his virginity. SCTV alumnus Eugene Levy plays his father, who is more than willing to offer advice.

Mickey Blue Eyes (Dec. 28)

Stars: Hugh Grant, Jeanne Tripplehorn, James Caan

Director: Kelly Makin

Story: Grant plays an auctioneer who is drawn into New York's underworld when he proposes to the daughter of a Mafia kingpin.

Dudley Do-Right (Dec. 28)

Stars: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker

Director: Hugh Wilson

Story: Fraser plays legendary Mountie Dudley Do-Right in this live-action version of the popular cartoon. Once again, Do-Right finds himself squaring off against Snidely Whiplash after the villain has staged a fake gold rush in Semi-Happy Valley.

Universal Soldier: The Return (Dec. 28)

Stars: Jean-Claude Van Damme, Michael Jai White, Heidi Schanz

Director: Mic Rodgers

Story: In this sequel to 1992's action-packed *Universal Soldier*, Van Damme plays Luc Deveraux, a technical expert working to revive the government's Universal Soldier training program. But when S.E.T.H., the supercomputer controlling the soldiers, goes haywire, Deveraux must save the day.

Wishing You
and Yours...

Best Wishes

at

This Special

Time of

Year

Famous

m a g a z i n e

FAMOUS PLAYERS



THE CENTURY'S BEST

The American Film Institute recently compiled a list of the 100 greatest movies ever made in the United States. Here are some unforgettable lines from the Top 15

Orson Welles, shown above as *Citizen Kane*, is as hot as ever. Welles is one of the principal characters in this month's release, *Cradle Will Rock*, and was also the subject of a recent HBO bio-pic, *RKO 281*.

- 1. Citizen Kane (1941)**
"You know, Mr. Bernstein, if I hadn't been very rich I might have been a really great man" — *Charles Foster Kane (Orson Welles)*
- 2. Casablanca (1942)**
"We'll always have Paris. We lost it until you came to Casablanca. We got it back last night" — *Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart)*
- 3. The Godfather (1972)**
"I'll make him an offer he can't refuse" — *Michael Corleone (Al Pacino)*
- 4. Gone with the Wind (1939)**
"After all — tomorrow is another day" — *Scarlett O'Hara (Vivien Leigh)*
- 5. Lawrence of Arabia (1962)**
"I cannot fiddle, but I can make a great state of a small city" — *T.E. Lawrence (Peter O'Toole)*
- 6. The Wizard of Oz (1939)**
"Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore" — *Dorothy Gale (Judy Garland)*
- 7. The Graduate (1967)**
"Mrs. Robinson, you're trying to seduce me — aren't you?" — *Benjamin Braddock (Dustin Hoffman)*
- 8. On the Waterfront (1954)**
"I coulda' had class. I coulda' been a contender. I coulda' been somebody, instead of a bum, which is what I am — let's face it" — *Terry Malloy (Marlon Brando)*
- 9. Schindler's List (1993)**
"Power is when we have every justification to kill, and we don't" — *Oskar Schindler (Liam Neeson)*
- 10. Singin' in the Rain (1952)**
"Cosmo, call me a cab" — *Don Lockwood (Gene Kelly)*
"Okay, you're a cab" — *Cosmo Brown (Donald O'Connor)*
- 11. It's a Wonderful Life (1946)**
"I wanna live again Clarence, I want to live again" — *George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart)*
- 12. Sunset Boulevard (1950)**
"All right, Mr. DeMille. I'm ready for my close-up" — *Norma Desmond (Gloria Swanson)*
- 13. The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957)**
"You give me powders, pills, baths, injections, enemas — when all I need is love" — *Shears (William Holden)*
- 14. Some Like it Hot (1959)**
"Real diamonds! They must be worth their weight in gold!" — *Sugar Kane (Marilyn Monroe)*
- 15. Star Wars (1977)**
"The Force is what gives a Jedi his power. It's an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us. It binds the galaxy together" — *Ben "Obi-wan" Kenobi (Alec Guinness)*



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as Ichabod Crane

Sleepy Hollow

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