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# Famous

december 2004 | volume 5 | number 12

## JIM CARREY

ON THE TWISTED  
WORLD OF

## LEMONY SNICKET

OWEN WILSON  
DIVES INTO  
LIFE AQUATIC

MATT DAMON  
TALKS  
OCEAN'S  
TWELVE

BEYOND  
THE SEA'S  
KATE  
BOSWORTH

THE LATEST  
VIDEO  
& DVD  
PAGE 48

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THE FINAL HUNT BEGINS.

WESLEY SNIPES

# BLADE TRINITY

JESSICA BIEL RYAN REYNOLDS

NEW LINE CINEMA PRESENTS AN AMEN RA FILMS PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH PETER FRANKFURT A FILM BY DAVID S. GOYER WESLEY SNIPES "BLADE: TRINITY"  
KRIS KRISTOFFERSON JESSICA BIEL RYAN REYNOLDS PARKER POSEY DOMINIC PURCELL WITH TRIPLE H CASTING BY RONNIE YESKEL MUSIC BY GEORGE DRAKOULIAS MARG BY RAMIN DJAWADI & THE RZA  
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# GAMES OF THE MONTH

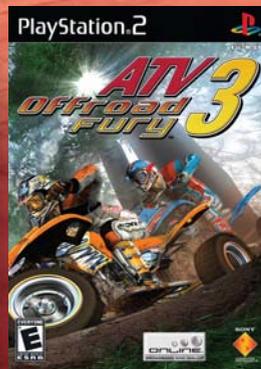
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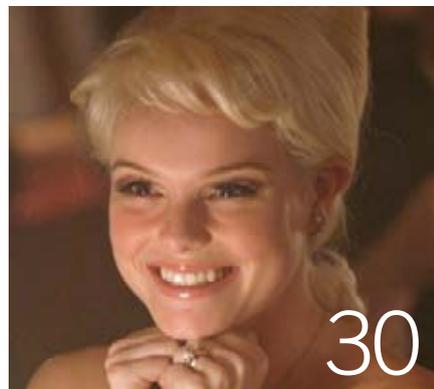
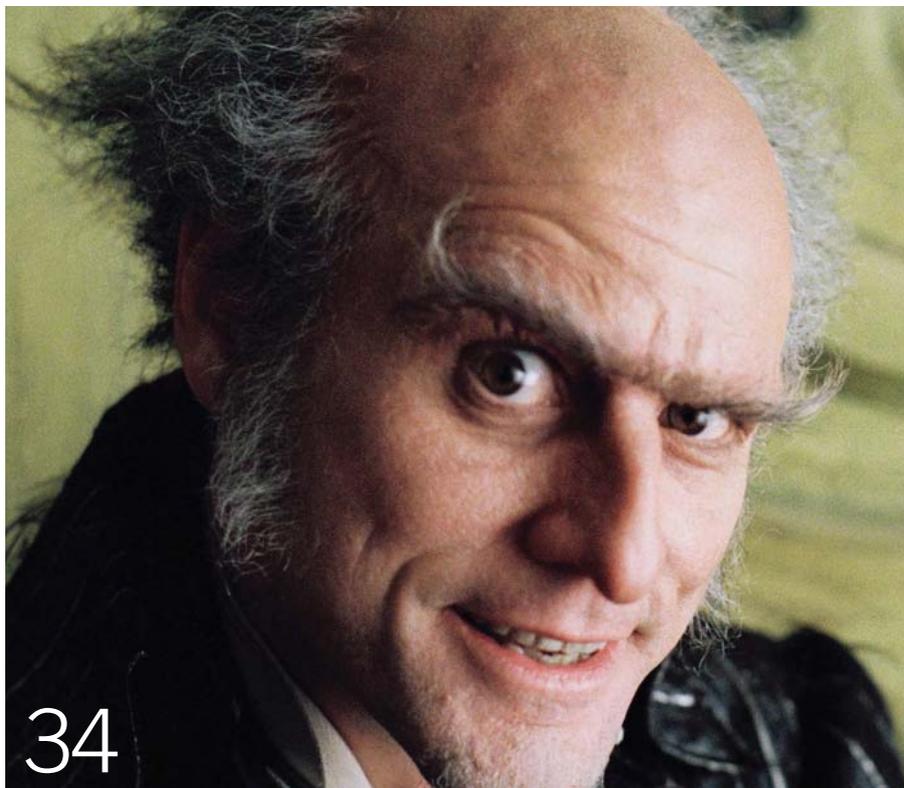
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With no *Lord of the Rings* and no *Harry Potter*, the best bet for box-office champ this holiday season is *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*. Star **JIM CARREY** gives you some insight into how the popular children's lit characters evolved for the big screen | BY EARL DITTMAN



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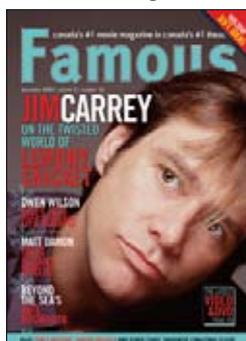
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# Lemonytwist

**Y**es, it's true. As many have pointed out, there are a lot of similarities between the *Harry Potter* movies and *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*. Both are based on phenomenally popular kids' books, both revolve around orphans fending off relatives who don't have their best interests at heart and both take place in fantastical, gothic worlds.

But there are also some monumental differences, the most interesting of which is control.



Author J.K. Rowling (who last year became richer than the Queen) presided over the *Harry Potter* adaptations with an inky fist. The result is that the movies (especially the first one) became note-for-note copies of the books, delighting purists but leaving others lamenting a lack of spontaneity. In contrast, the scribe behind the *Lemony Snicket* books, nearly anonymous Daniel Handler, was almost absent from the filmmaking process, and quite willingly so. In interviews, Handler has described his astonishment at walking onto the film's set and seeing

details he'd never even imagined — headlines on prop newspapers, the oh-so precise level of leaf decomposition...

But loyal readers of the *Lemony Snicket* series will notice bigger changes than simply the visual details. The casting of improv king **Jim Carrey** as the orphans' gold-digging uncle, Count Olaf, pretty much ensured that the character would stray from the printed page. In "Method to his Madness," page 34, Carrey describes how entire characters (Olaf is a master of transformation who appears under many guises) changed from their book versions, simply because Carrey felt like a different person once he was in costume. Will this strategy work as well as Rowling's? That's to be decided by the kiddies and all those crisp dollar bills they find under the Christmas tree.

Source material is also an interesting topic with this month's caper sequel *Ocean's Twelve*. Three years ago, Steven Soderbergh's remake of the 1960 Rat Pack flick *Ocean's Eleven* was a slicker-than-oil delight for both fans and critics. So what happens now that we've run out of original script? There was no Rat Pack sequel, after all. **Matt Damon**, who resumes his role as pickpocket Linus Caldwell, talks about evolving beyond the Pack in "Reunited and it Feels so Good," page 24.

**Owen Wilson's** latest, *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*, is an unconventional comedy about a team of oceanographers hunting a particularly nasty shark. The fact that it was written and directed by one of today's cleverest filmmakers, Wes Anderson (*Rushmore*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*), and stars adorable curmudgeon Bill Murray, makes it little surprise that this is the film the hip kids are anxious to see this holiday season. In our Q&A session with Wilson, "Out to Sea," page 18, the likable Texan reveals why it seemed to take forever to get this film made.

And finally, we have an interview with **Kate Bosworth**, who transformed herself into goody two-shoes Hollywood icon Sandra Dee for this month's Bobby Darin bio-pic *Beyond the Sea*. Read "Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee," page 30, for the full scoop.

—MARNI WEISZ



**PUBLISHER** SALAH BACHIR

**EDITOR** MARNI WEISZ

**DEPUTY EDITOR** INGRID RANDOJA

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR** DANIEL CULLEN

**PRODUCTION MANAGER** SHEILA GREGORY

**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT** ZAC VEGA

**CONTRIBUTORS** EARL DITTMAN

SCOTT GARDNER

SUSAN GRANGER

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Gwyneth Paltrow and Jude Law in the old-school sci-fi *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*

## ON THE PHONE

I enjoyed reading your comments about the use of telephones in movies over the years ["Don't Answer It," September 2004].... I loved *Phone Booth* mainly because it involved getting back to using the regular telephone. One telephone movie you forgot to mention that perhaps is the best in my estimation is the 1948 thriller *Sorry, Wrong Number* starring Barbara Stanwyck. She plays an invalid who overhears a murder being planned on her telephone and then discovers she is to be the victim. I saw this done as a play at Niagara-on-the-Lake's Shaw Festival a few years back, too, and it is very good.

Pat Fraser — Napean, Ont.

## FOX HUNT

I absolutely love your magazine. Every time I go to the movies I pick it up. It's great hearing about all my favourite actors and actresses. I was especially excited to read about the British actor Paul Bettany discussing his new film *Wimbledon* ["Court Date," September 2004]. Since I am a fan of many other British actors I was wondering if you had the mailing address for British actor Laurence Fox (*Gosford Park*). I searched for it on the internet but I couldn't find it. Can you help me out?

Beth Jonasson — Sudbury, Ont.

For those who can't remember who Fox played in the complicated ensemble piece *Gosford Park*, he was Lord Rupert Standish, the one who was courting Isobel. (Like that helps.) Send your letter to Fox's agency, The PFD Group, in London, England. Address it: Laurence Fox, c/o PFD, Drury House, 34-43 Russell St., London, England, WC2B 5HA.

## O CAPTAIN! MY CAPTAIN!

I was born in 1952 but after last night and experiencing *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow* I'm nine years old all over again. [Director] Kerry Conran has taken all of the very best elements of the serial adventures I grew up with as a kid and created not simply a movie, but a true work of art. I sat on the edge of my seat grinning from ear to ear. Outstanding! I can't wait for [his next film] *A Princess of Mars*.

Lawrence Northey — Richmond, B.C.

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# Self-made man

**H**is full name is Salvatore Antonio Allesandro Migliore, which makes life difficult for an actor when pithy names like Brad Pitt, Jude Law and Tom Hanks are standard issue.

So he goes by the manageable mouthful Salvatore Antonio, which suits the Toronto-based performer just fine. Six years since graduating from Canada's National Theatre School, Antonio has never had to work a "regular job," but instead has carved out a career in theatre, films and on television.

His TV credits include appearances on *Queer as Folk* and his current gig as lead character Sasha Martinelli on *Paradise Falls*. His movie roles include Judas (not Iscariot) in the Bible epic *Gospel of John* and the just-finished-shooting *Sam's Lake*, an urbanites-go-into-the-woods fright flick that was produced by Maverick Films, the offshoot of Madonna's record label, Maverick Records. *Sam's Lake* is set to make its debut at next month's Sundance Film Festival and is due out in theatres some time next year.

Now that I have Antonio on the line from his home in Newmarket, Ontario, I ask him the most obvious question, the one any self-respecting journalist would ask: "Have you, like, met Madonna?"

"No, I haven't met either her or Guy Ritchie, but I should very soon. She's been quite busy I hear," he says with a laugh.

"And I know it sounds like a really cheesy tie-in, but Madonna has been a huge influence for me my whole life," he continues. "She was not born into an entertainment family and she does not come from money. It's very much the same story with me. I come from immigrant parents, I'm the first entertainer in the family, which is breaking with tradition, so you have to have a lot of drive."

A few years back Antonio realized neither the Canadian film nor TV industries were large enough to contain his artistic desires. He therefore became the writer-in-residence with Toronto's Buddies in Bad Times Theatre.

"It gets to the point you have to comprise your own drive because there are so many variables you can't control if you are just an actor, especially here [in Canada]," he explains. "We are at the bottom of that stream that starts in L.A., and people have to make meals out of these scraps of parts that are allowed to be cast here in Toronto."

"I thought, 'Oh my God, this isn't going to be enough for me.' I can't be fighting over a two-line part in a convenience store. I have bigger dreams and I'm capable of so much more. So I started writing roles that I wished I could do."

According to Antonio, playwriting has "saved his sanity," and he's now branching out into writing screenplays. The irony is that his acting career just may get its biggest boost yet when *Sam's Lake* is released.

"No matter what happens with that, I still gotta take whatever comes my way," he says emphatically. "You end up doing certain projects you don't want to do. It's not furthering anything, but you gotta stay afloat, otherwise there's this auto parts distribution job waiting for me."

—INGRID RANDOJA



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## CLOSER

**WHO'S IN IT?** Jude Law, Julia Roberts  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Mike Nichols  
*(Primary Colors)*

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** In this think-y heartbreaker Alice (Natalie Portman) and Dan (Law) are in love, and Anna (Roberts) and Larry (Clive Owen) are in love. That is, until Dan and Anna think they might be in love, and Alice and Larry think they might be in love.

• HITS THEATRES DECEMBER 3

*Violet, Sunny and Klaus Baudelaire's* parents are killed in a fire they're sent to live with their evil uncle, Count Olaf (Carrey), who's only after one thing — their inheritance. Based on the first three of the phenomenally popular series of 11 kids' books. See **Jim Carrey interview, page 34.**

## THE SEA INSIDE

**WHO'S IN IT?** Javier Bardem, Mabel Rivera  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Alejandro Amenábar  
*(The Others)*

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** You might know this movie as *Mar Adentro*, but only if you live in Spain where it already came out this past September to rave reviews. Bardem plays Ramón Sampedro, the real-life Spaniard who fought for nearly 30 years to earn the right to die after a diving accident left him bedridden.

## SPANGLISH

**WHO'S IN IT?** Adam Sandler, Téa Leoni  
**WHO DIRECTED?** James L. Brooks *(As Good as it Gets)*

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** It's not an out-and-out drama, but this thoughtful tale about the disintegrating relationship between a chef (Sandler) and his alcoholic wife (Leoni) is certainly the deepest acting challenge Sandler's had since *Punch-Drunk Love*.

## DECEMBER 10

### OCEAN'S TWELVE

**WHO'S IN IT?** George Clooney, Matt Damon  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Steven Soderbergh  
*(Ocean's Eleven)*

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Bye-bye Las Vegas and hello Europe. Career crook Danny Ocean (Clooney) has not one, but three, big heists he thinks he can pull off at the same time. He's going to need all of his old pals to do it in this sequel to 2001's slick hit *Ocean's Eleven*. See **Matt Damon interview, page 24.**

### BLADE: TRINITY

**WHO'S IN IT?** Wesley Snipes,  
 Ryan Reynolds

**WHO DIRECTED?** David Goyer *(ZigZag)*  
**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Canadian Ryan Reynolds joins the cast of vampire hunters for this third *Blade* movie. He plays Nightstalker Hannibal King, and the other vampire slayers can sure use his help since the daddy of all undead, Dracula, is about to be resurrected somewhere out in the desert.

### BEYOND THE SEA

**WHO'S IN IT?** Kevin Spacey, Kate Bosworth  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Kevin Spacey  
*(Albino Alligator)*

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Spacey defies bio-pic conventions with his post-modern musical recounting the life of singer Bobby Darin (Spacey), who battled bad health and an unsupportive music biz to become one of the best live performers ever to grace

a stage. He also managed to snag Hollywood good girl Sandra Dee (Bosworth) for his wife. See **Kate Bosworth interview, page 30.**

## DECEMBER 17

### LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

**WHO'S IN IT?** Jim Carrey, Meryl Streep  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Brad Silberling *(Casper)*

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Move over parentless Harry Potter, there's a new orphan in town — three of them, in fact. When



## THE AVIATOR

**WHO'S IN IT?** Leonardo DiCaprio,  
 Cate Blanchett  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Martin Scorsese *(Gangs of New York)*

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** In addition to DiCaprio and Blanchett, Jude Law, Gwen Stefani, Kate Beckinsale, Alec Baldwin, Ian Holm, Willem Dafoe and Alan Alda all pitch in to bring the first portion of eccentric inventor Howard Hughes' life to the big screen. This is the part of Hughes' life that had more to do with becoming an aviation mogul than it did with going squirrely.

• HITS THEATRES DECEMBER 17

DECEMBER 22

### MEET THE FOCKERS

**WHO'S IN IT?** Ben Stiller, Robert De Niro

**WHO DIRECTED?** Jay Roach (*Meet the Parents*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** In this sequel to 2000's *Meet the Parents*, Jack Byrnes (De Niro) and his wife Dina (Blythe Danner) meet their future son-in-law's folks (Dustin Hoffman, Barbra Streisand).

### FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

**WHO'S IN IT?** Dennis Quaid, Giovanni Ribisi

**WHO DIRECTED?** John Moore (*Behind Enemy Lines*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** When their plane goes down in the Mongolian desert the survivors realize the only way they're going to get out is to make a new plane out of the wreckage. Unfortunately, the pilot (Quaid) can't stand the one guy who might know how to do that.

### THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

**WHO'S IN IT?** Gerard Butler, Emmy Rossum

**WHO DIRECTED?** Joel Schumacher (*Tigerland*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** This is the sixth time that the disfigured operaphile made famous in the 1911 Gaston Leroux novel has been given the big-screen treatment. This version is based on Andrew Lloyd Webber's gigantic musical, in which our sad hero (Butler) croons pop songs for the beautiful young warbler (Rossum) who's the apple of his masked eye.

DECEMBER 25

### THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU

**WHO'S IN IT?** Bill Murray, Owen Wilson

**WHO DIRECTED?** Wes Anderson (*Rushmore*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Murray plays Jacques Cousteau-like oceanographer Steve Zissou who's out to catch the shark that killed his friend. Wilson plays his new pilot, who just might also be his long-lost son. **See Owen Wilson interview, page 18.**

### FAT ALBERT

**WHO'S IN IT?** Kenan Thompson, Kyla Pratt

**WHO DIRECTED?** Joel Zwick (*My Big Fat Greek Wedding*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Remember that episode of *The Simpsons* which ended with Homer falling out of the animated world and into ours? Substitute the Fat Albert gang from Bill Cosby's 1970s TV series and you've got a good idea where this one starts. And look for Cosby to make an appearance as himself.

DECEMBER 31

### THE UPSIDE OF ANGER

**WHO'S IN IT?** Joan Allen, Kevin Costner

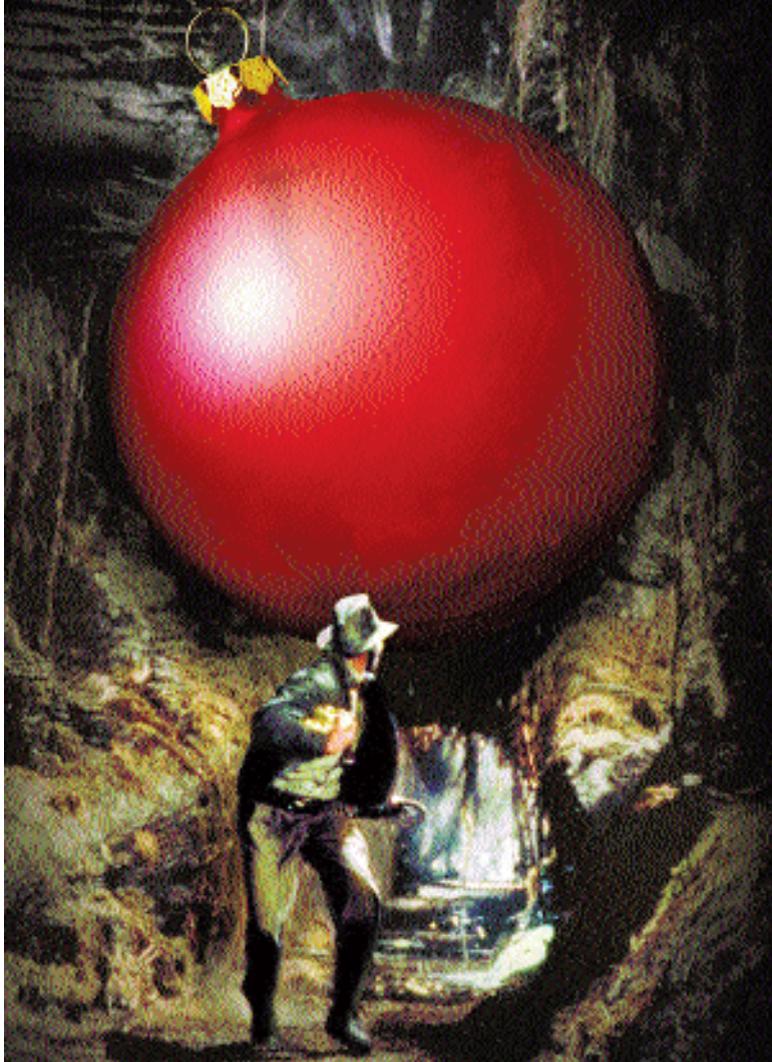
**WHO DIRECTED?** Mike Binder (*The Search for John Gissing*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Kevin Costner once again plays a professional baseball player, albeit a retired one this time, in this drama about a woman (Allen) who is abandoned by her husband and turns to her old major league friend for comfort.

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# Out to sea

Everything about **OWEN WILSON** is just a bit unusual — from his offbeat good looks to most of the roles he chooses. Get ready for one of the weirdest, as Wilson teams with Bill Murray and his old pal writer-director Wes Anderson for the curious fish tale *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* | **BY EARL DITTMAN**

**O**f the 20 films Owen Wilson has made, it's pretty safe to say that the best are the ones he's done with his friend, writer/director Wes Anderson — *Bottle Rocket*, *Rushmore* and *The Royal Tenenbaums*. That bodes well for the fourth film from the quirky duo, this month's *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*.

"In the movie business, when you can find someone who shares the same artistic sensibilities as you do and is someone you really, really trust, you find the time to do projects with them," says Wilson. The Dallas, Texas, native is looking comfortable in jeans, a white T-shirt and a "Strickland Propane" baseball cap courtesy of having done an episode of *King of the Hill*. The difference with this film is that, unlike the first three, Wilson didn't co-write *The Life Aquatic* with his old friend from the University of Texas. This time, Anderson's writing partner was Noah Baumbach (*Kicking and Screaming*).

"Doing a movie with someone who is on the same wavelength is so much more fun and exciting," Wilson says. "And you always know they're going to make a great film that you'll always be proud to say you were a part of. That's why when Wes asked me if I just wanted to act in *The Life Aquatic*, I was like, 'Sure, what do I play, where do you need me and when?'"

Shot in Italy, the stylish comedy follows Steve Zissou (Bill Murray), an eccentric oceanographer and documentary filmmaker on a quest to capture the ferocious "jaguar shark" which devoured a member of his team. But Zissou has problems beyond the elusive shark. In addition to a lack of funding, he has to fight off pirates, deal with a journalist who's writing his profile (Cate Blanchett), and get to know a new member of Team Zissou who just might be his long-lost son (Wilson).

"It's really outrageous, I think it's one of the best films Wes has ever made," says Wilson. "And Bill Murray is amazing. He is one of the greatest actors that we have in Hollywood. If people don't realize it by the work he's done in the past, they'll know it now. If Bill doesn't get a nomination for his work in this then there simply is no justice in the world. There, I said it."

**Is it true the shoot went on several months longer than it was supposed to?**

"I'm not really sure how long we were scheduled to be there or if we were there longer than we were supposed to be, but, personally, it did feel like we were in Italy for an eternity. Filming just went on and on and on [laughs]."

**Why do you think that was?**

"When you're in a foreign country, not all that familiar with the language and not used to the daily way of life there, every day feels like it's 48 hours long."

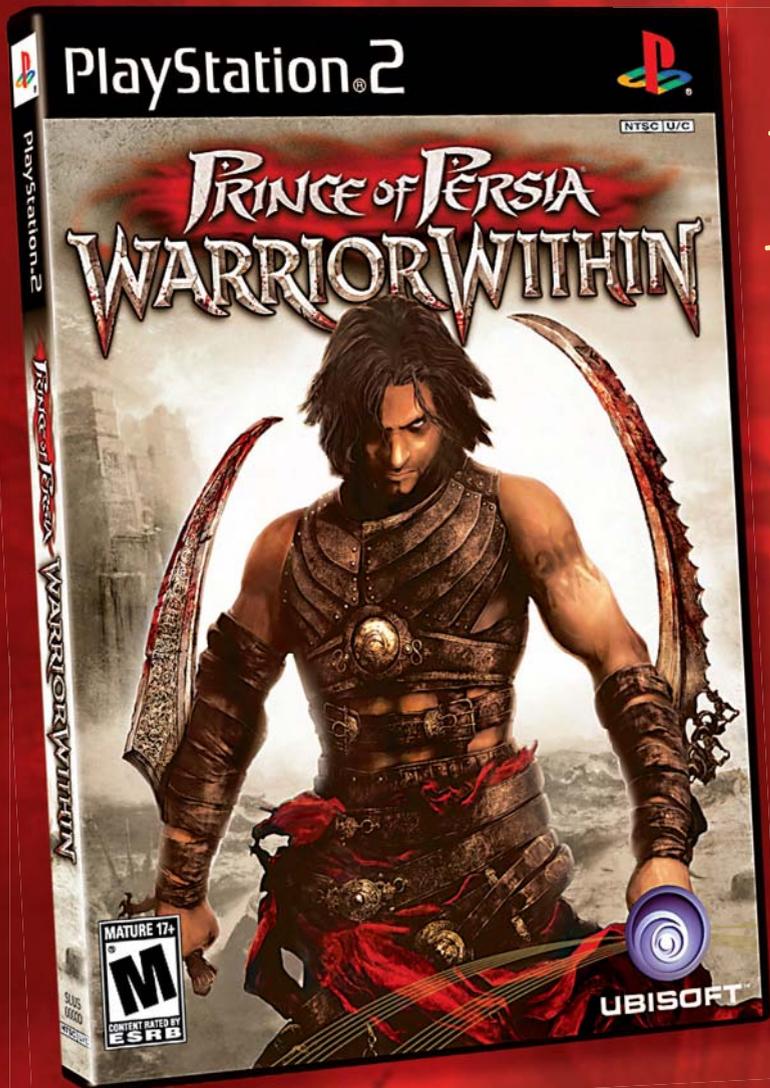
**There were rumours that Bill Murray held up the shoot because he wasn't happy with his dailies. In fact, didn't he fire his agent during filming?**

"Oh, I don't know anything about that, you'd have to ask Bill about that, if you're brave enough [laughs]. Look, you have to realize that everyone working on the film is a perfectionist. Wes has always been that way, and he surrounds himself with crew people and actors who want things perfect. And I respect that because it only makes the film the best it can be. Of course, perfectionism can be time-consuming. And then there's Bill, who is an absolutely lovable madman, who can be ►►



Owen Wilson (left) and Bill Murray play documentary-making oceanographers in *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*

"If Bill doesn't get a nomination for his work in this then there simply is no justice in the world," says Wilson



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# interview |

►► kind of unpredictable, if you know what I mean. More than anything, I think that it went on so long because we filmed all around Rome, and with the Italian crews there's just sort of a different work ethic. It's not good or bad, it's just different than what we're used to in Hollywood."

**Wasn't there a danger that you weren't going to be able to make the film because you needed special diving certification?**

"I wish it was that simple, but it was more like a real pain in the butt. It was one of those things — like in practically every movie — where something comes up that sounds like this big crisis and, in actuality, it really wasn't. Before we started filming, everyone was like, 'Oh, you need to go over to Italy and you gotta go and do all this diving. You're going to have to go get certified in Italy because you can't be certified in America — it won't work there.' And then you go over there, go through all the training and you hardly do any diving. So it was almost useless for me to go through all of it."

**Until recently, everything about the film — plot, cast, locations — was secret. Why did Wes Anderson feel the need to keep everything under wraps?**

"I wasn't aware that it ever was. Really? I didn't know that [pauses].... That just sounds like another urban legend perpetuated by the internet. A lot of guys have nothing to do but spend their days on the internet making up stories about future movies and celebrities. Sounds like an exciting life, doesn't it?"

**Did Wes Anderson write the film specifically for you and Bill Murray?**

"Around the time I was doing *I Spy*, Wes was writing something with Bill Murray and I in mind. He was thinking about us doing a movie where it would be kind of like a father-son type thing, and funny, of course. So, over the years, it evolved into *The Life Aquatic*. And it's a pretty unique idea."

**Are you amazed how successful you've become since the 1996 release of your first film, *Bottle Rocket*?**

"Yeah, it's kind of amazing because we came out to work on *Bottle Rocket*, which did not get a wildly enthusiastic reception

from audiences. So the idea that Luke [Owen's brother and co-star in *Bottle Rocket*] and Wes and everyone have been able to do pretty well is pretty amazing, to come off that small movie. What helped was that we had some supporters of *Bottle Rocket* in Hollywood. Martin Scorsese put it on his Top 10 list, which was kind of amazing for such a small movie that no one saw. It was embraced by some big people in Hollywood, and I guess that kind of helped."

**Do you think you've developed an Owen Wilson screen persona — a cool, but not superperfect kind of guy?**

"I'm not sure what my persona is. I know that I'm probably more comfortable giving a character vulnerability or some type of insecurity. That's easier for me to relate to."

**You've done everything from comedies to action pics. What is the main thing you look for in a script?**

"It's really just kind of trying to get a feel for who's involved and what the basic story is and if people are real open to collaborating. In the case of a movie like *I Spy*, I was working in Slovakia on *Behind Enemy Lines* and they called to say Eddie Murphy was going to do this movie. And, growing up, Eddie Murphy was a huge star to me, so to be able to work with Eddie was more important to me than the script. More than the script, the idea that I'd get a chance to work with Gene Hackman in *Behind Enemy Lines*... That's kind of how it goes. It may not be the smartest way to choose your projects, because some aren't what you had hoped for, but I'm getting to live out more of my dreams."

**Would you do a film without any comedy in it?**

"I think every film is a comedy in some way. I mean, *Raging Bull* has some really funny stuff in it, between the brothers, and it comes from their insecurities. If something feels really real, sometimes I think that's actually funnier than something that's a big type of joke."

**What's the biggest drawback of fame?**

"I would say, with like Eddie and Bruce Willis, that it becomes really difficult to just walk around without it becoming a big scene."

**Are you starting to feel that at all?**

"No, not really. Not where people are going crazy and there's a swarm of people."

**Does that possibility frighten you?**

"Yeah, but I guess that would be frightening to anyone. Although both those guys seem pretty happy, so I guess they find a way to deal with it. I mean, is it the end of the world if you can't walk around the Beverly Center?"

**Does your family have any regular Christmas traditions?**

"Yeah, we do. We have a football game called 'The Snow Bowl,' even though it never really snows in Dallas [laughs]. It's kind of family and friends playing football in the front yard, pretending there's snow all around. I guess my whole family is full of actors. At least I know where that acting gene comes from." **F**

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



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# Reunited and it feels so good

After pulling off the slick, superfun *Ocean's Eleven*, **MATT DAMON** and the rest of the cast were only too happy to reteam for the sequel, *Ocean's Twelve*. Damon discusses the joys of sharing the workload with the likes of George Clooney and Brad Pitt | **BY BOB THOMPSON**

If it's true that Matt Damon has usurped the Mr. Nice Guy crown from Tom Hanks, you'd never know it by Damon's reaction to the speculation. Instead of bashfully denying it, he flashes one of those gosh-darn grins, takes a drag off his American Spirit cigarette in a posh Beverly Hills hotel suite, then addresses the subject in mock anger, complaining that he is frustrated by this "good guy" tag, something he's had to live with first as a Boston teen, then a Harvard University almost graduate, then an actor.

Truth is, Damon's reputation on set and off has always been first-rate. "And I am so sick of living up to me," he says continuing his joke, before adding in a more serious tone: "The fact is it takes a lot less effort to be friendly and kind than to be mean and nasty."

A long list of actors and actresses should make note of that assessment.

Mind you, Damon has had a great deal to be friendly and kind about these days. After a sophomore slump with a string of under-performing films in the late 1990s, he's back on track in 2004 with the hit summer sequel *The Bourne Supremacy* and this month's sure-thing box-office winner *Ocean's Twelve*, the follow up to 2001's *Ocean's Eleven*, which earned \$447-million (U.S.) worldwide.

Unlike *The Bourne Supremacy*, *Ocean's Twelve* didn't drive Damon crazy with the anxiety of having to carry a film. "It feels good to know there is enough firepower that you don't have to worry about that kind of thing," he says, referring to *Ocean's Twelve's* abundant A-list talent led by director Steven Soderbergh and producer George Clooney, who also plays title character Danny Ocean. "And I'm guessing here, but it must feel just as good for Julia [Roberts] and Brad [Pitt], too. You know, all those actors who are accustomed to a giant workload on a film, and the huge pressure of carrying it on their shoulders."

As for Clooney and Soderbergh? "That's their problem," says Damon, laughing at his own joke.

Actually, *Ocean's Twelve* doesn't seem to have a problem at all. By all accounts the movie is an even more exotic and intriguing caper flick this time around as the gang sets its sights on simultaneous heists in three European locations.

Set three years after *Ocean's Eleven's* high-tech, high-stakes Las Vegas job, the second in the series (there are

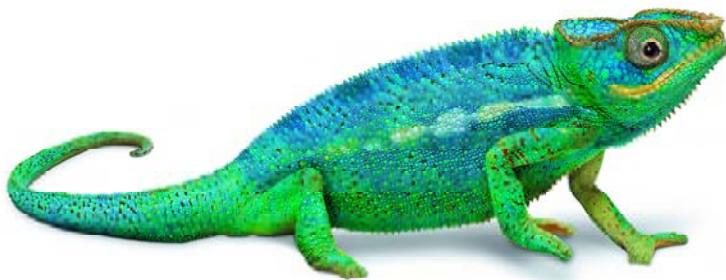
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already rumours of a third) has Danny Ocean organizing another big score and reuniting the old gang of cons and crooks, including Damon, Roberts, Pitt, Bernie Mac and Don Cheadle, with the addition of Catherine Zeta-Jones.

The team then jets to Amsterdam, Rome and Paris to pull off three jobs at once. Naturally, complications develop when the vengeful Las Vegas casino owner (Andy Garcia) from the first film is hot on their trail.

So let's see; beautiful settings, a cast of actors who like each other and a likely big-money hit for all concerned. Not surprisingly, arm twisting was not necessary in re-signing the actors. "No, no, not required. In fact, it was similar to last time," says Damon, taking another drag off his cigarette. "Steven says 'jump' to me, and I just say, 'How high?'"

Not that Damon didn't see the downside of doing a sequel to a heist remake. He agrees there isn't the same sort of anticipation there was with the first film, or, as he puts it, "will they or won't they be able to pull off the magic of the Rat Pack?," referring to Frank Sinatra's crew and their 1960 original. "But I think you feel instantly secure when you're dealing with someone like Steven, who frankly would not get involved if he didn't think he could bring it."

Besides, Damon has discovered the hard way that it's always a roll of the dice. Four years ago, he was wondering if he'd been cursed by bad luck and bad timing after Billy Bob Thornton's *All the Pretty Horses* and Robert Redford's *The Legend of Bagger Vance* failed miserably with critics and at the box office.

"I hadn't been offered a movie in a year because *Bagger Vance* had come out and bombed and *All the Pretty Horses* bombed, and funny enough the word on *The Bourne Identity*, before its release, was that it was going to tank too," he says. "So I was all of a sudden faceless and nameless, and no one really called and gave me any job offers for some time."

When *The Bourne Identity* did well, Damon was back on track, but he now knows that acting in the movies "is this kind of tenuous thing."

Sensible. Analytical. Perceptive. And that's not surprising.

He was born Matthew Paige Damon on October 8, 1970, in the Cambridge area of Boston, Mass. His dad, Kent, was an investment banker and tax consultant, his mother, Nancy Carlsson-Paige,

a professor of early education at Lesley College. When he was two, his parents divorced and he moved, with Nancy, to nearby Cambridge.

Along with pal Ben Affleck, Damon decided to pursue acting, although he seemed to make his mark as the more serious of the two, initially scoring a one-line role in 1988's *Mystic Pizza* with Julia Roberts. He didn't command much attention, however, until his cameo in 1996's *Courage Under Fire* opposite Denzel Washington. By then both Affleck and Damon were frustrated with their lack of work, and, in the oft-told tale, wrote a script for themselves with Damon in the lead and Affleck supporting in 1997's *Good Will Hunting*. The film earned the pair an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay and Damon a Best Actor nomination.

But it wasn't until *The Bourne Identity* that Damon started living up to his next-big-thing billing.

"It's basically three things that I look for; a good script, a good director and a good role," he says, then smiles and takes a pull on a newly lit cigarette. "Usually, I'll settle for any two of those, and the combination of all three is really hard to come by. So my philosophy hasn't changed. Whatever success or failures that I've had, I'm really happy and really proud of what I've done."

On the other hand, Damon does have some regrets. For instance, dating other actors — although he seems to have learned his lesson and has sworn off colleagues after dating Minnie Driver, his *Good Will Hunting* co-star, then Winona Ryder for nearly three years. He's now dating civilian Luciana Barroso, an interior designer and single mother of a young daughter.

Next up for Damon is *Syriana*, a film by Steve Gaghan, who wrote *Traffic* for Soderbergh. "It's similar to *Traffic* in its structure, like four or five intersecting stories that revolve around a topic," says Damon.

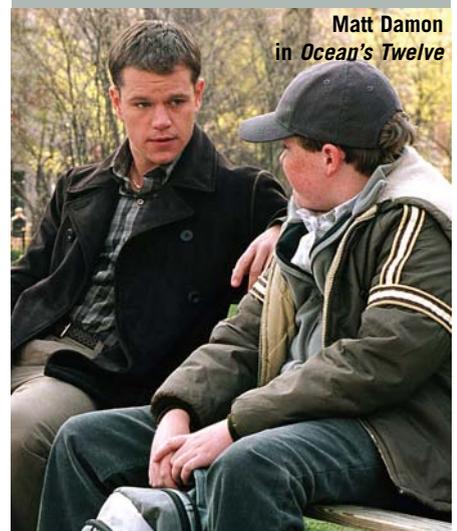
The film is currently shooting in the United Arab Emirates, which means Damon is on the road again.

"That is really the biggest sacrifice," he says. "Maintaining relationships and friendships can be done, but it just takes a lot of work, almost as much as making a movie." **F**

*Bob Thompson is a movie writer with the National Post.*

## WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN FOR MATT DAMON...

- Auditioned for, but didn't get, the role of the infatuated, murderous teen in Nicole Kidman's 1995 breakthrough *To Die For*. The part went to Joaquin Phoenix instead, who turned in one of his finest creepy performances.
- Turned down Leonardo DiCaprio's role in the 1995 Sharon Stone stinker *The Quick and the Dead*. All DiCaprio got out of the film was a reputation as a bad kisser, courtesy of Stone who shared an on-screen snog with the heartthrob.
- Auditioned for, but didn't get, the role of altar-boy-turned-murderer Aaron Stamper in 1996's *Primal Fear*. Edward Norton got the part, and an Oscar nomination.
- Turned down Jim Carrey's role in 2001's *The Majestic*. Hard to say whether this was a good move. The sappy nostalgia piece didn't do much for critics, but it would have given Damon the most screen-time he'd had to date.
- Stole the role of pickpocket Linus Caldwell in *Ocean's Eleven* (2001) from Mark Wahlberg when Wahlberg dropped out to do *The Planet of the Apes*. Definitely one the best bits of luck in Damon's career, and worst moves for Wahlberg.



Matt Damon  
in *Ocean's Twelve*



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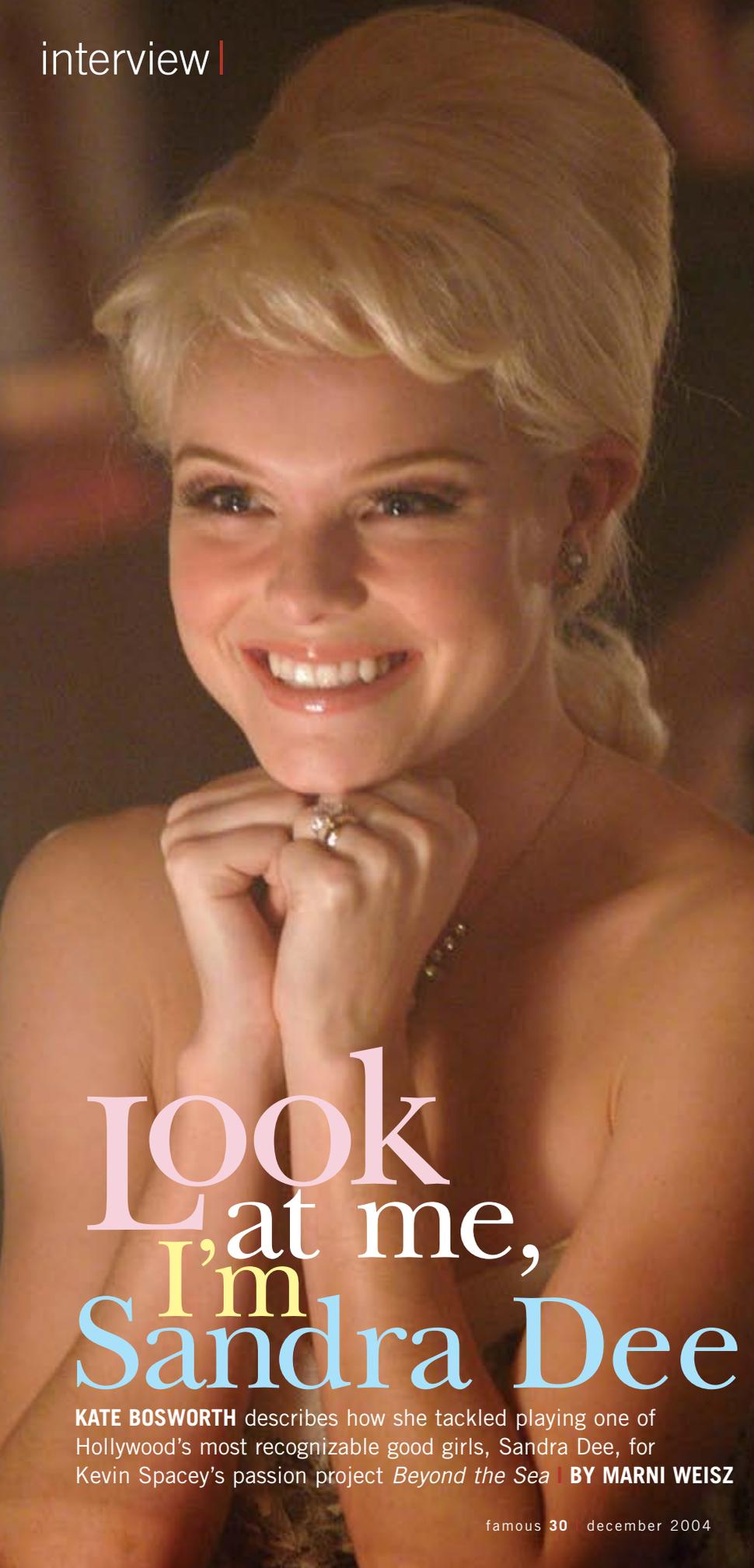
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# Look at me, I'm Sandra Dee

**KATE BOSWORTH** describes how she tackled playing one of Hollywood's most recognizable good girls, Sandra Dee, for Kevin Spacey's passion project *Beyond the Sea* **BY MARNI WEISZ**

**T**he first thing you notice when you meet Kate Bosworth is her eyes. It's not that they're especially beautiful — they are quite nice, but that's besides the point. It's that they're two different colours. The left one is blue, and the right one is hazel.

It's also something you notice in her new movie *Beyond the Sea*, the Bobby Darin bio-pic in which Bosworth plays Darin's wife, Sandra Dee. Not only do you notice her eyes because they're so unusual, but also because they're so unlike Dee's, which are dark brown.

That fickle relationship to reality typifies the approach both Bosworth and Kevin Spacey — who plays Darin, directed and spent years getting the film produced — took to making the movie.

"I asked Kevin, 'Should I wear dark contacts?' He's like, 'Then it's going to look like you're trying to play Sandra Dee....' So we left enough of ourselves in so that people aren't 'Oh, that's Kate Bosworth trying to play Sandra Dee. She's wearing contacts and a wig,'" explains Bosworth in an interview during the Toronto International Film Festival. The teeny-tiny 21-year-old star of *Blue Crush* and *Win a Date with Tad Hamilton* is looking positively demure in a gauzy white dress.

"You know, I started watching some of her films, and I started getting so freaked out that I was going to mimic her, impersonation versus performance. She always speaks like this, very clipped," continues the Los Angeles native, putting a point at the end of each word. "But then I was getting so caught up in it that I started losing the importance of it."

And truth be told, Bosworth's historically incorrect eye colour pales in comparison to the liberties Spacey took with his character. For those who don't know Darin's story, the crooner best known for his late 1950s, early 1960s renditions of "Mack the Knife," "Splish Splash" and "Beyond the Sea" died of heart failure when he was just 37. Spacey, who plays Darin from his early 20s on, turned 45 this past July.

But the issue of Spacey's age is quickly dealt with in the film.

As *Beyond the Sea* opens, Bobby Darin is making a movie about his own life. However, we don't know this until the filming comes to a sudden halt as Darin is, yet again, not satisfied with his own performance while filming a concert ▶▶

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► scene. As the singer rushes off the stage he's followed by his brother-in-law (Bob Hoskins) and a reporter, the latter of whom starts barking questions in that way reporters only do in movies that take place decades ago.

"Do you really think he can be objective about his own life? He's too old to play the part," balks the journalist, as if speaking for everyone who has qualms about Spacey playing the role, even if he does look a lot like Darin, and does a fine job of singing his own songs.

"He was born to play the part and you know it," barks Hoskins' character, and the case is closed. For Spacey, anyway.

then lays down between them on the bed explaining that he will never cross it until she does. It's one of those points in the movie where you wonder, "Okay, how much of this really happened?"

"Oh, it totally happened," insists Bosworth, explaining that many of the more personal moments were taken from the book *Dream Lovers*, written by Darin and Dee's son, Dodd. "She may have been more open with him than with anyone else," muses Bosworth.

There was also a lot of information Bosworth got from doing research that never made it into the film, like the reason why Dee may have been so

quickly went out of style as the 1960s opened audiences up to sexier and more experimental performances. She did some TV work in the '70s including a spot on *Fantasy Island*, virtually gave up acting in the early '80s, and now lives a relatively quiet life in Beverly Hills.

And if *Beyond the Sea* is to be believed, even Darin resented being shackled to Dee's saccharine image — repeatedly inferring that being married to Gidget wasn't helping his career. Eventually, the competition between these two very young, very famous people was one of the things that broke them apart. They divorced in 1967, six years before Darin's death.

By the time Bosworth started filming *Beyond the Sea* in Germany last winter (it's a Germany/U.K. co-production as Spacey couldn't raise the funds in the U.S.), Bosworth had already been dating 27-year-old *Lord of the Rings* star Orlando Bloom for several months.

The parallels seem obvious — both couples involve two young actors with skyrocketing careers and a noticeable age difference between them. But Bosworth, who doesn't particularly like talking to the press about her beau, says she did not draw on her own relationship one little bit. "I mean, playing a character is, like, so different than anything in my own life," she says.

Nor did she learn anything about the perils of jealousy from Darin and Dee's relationship that she could apply to her own. "It's just, like, I was already so crystal clear on how I wanted to deal with anything that's important to me in my own life," she insists.

Bosworth is currently trying to decide whether her "own life" will include a degree from Princeton. That's right, despite all the "likes" and "totallys" that Bosworth manages to squeeze into conversation, this young actor is no dummy. She was accepted at the Ivy League university several years ago but deferred enrolment twice while her acting career took off.

And she's still not sure Princeton is for her. "I really struggled with it because I love to learn, but I just couldn't see myself sitting in a classroom full-time at this point in my life."

Even the ivory tower officials in the admissions office apparently can't blame her. "They said, 'Well, whenever you think you might want to come, just give us a call.'" **F**



Bosworth and Spacey in one of *Beyond the Sea's* musical numbers

## "I started getting so freaked out that I was going to mimic her," says Bosworth

The film jumps back and forth through Darin's life, the first key plot point comes when, as a young boy, Bobby contracts rheumatic fever which severely scars his heart. His doctor says he won't live past 15, a prognosis that just makes Bobby more determined to pack as much life as possible in while he can. By his mid-20s Darin is a star, both on the charts and the big screen, and at 24 he meets virginal, 16-year-old Sandra Dee on the Rome set of their 1961 movie *Come September*. They're married that same year.

One of the funniest, and most touching, moments in the film comes on their wedding night when Dee breaks down in tears at the thought of having sex. Darin charges into the matrimonial bedroom wielding a sword which he

uncomfortable on her wedding night.

"There had been a question of sexual abuse earlier in her life and that's where I took [my performance] from. I mean, it would be such a shock to a woman, she was so blocked off, everything in her shut down. And also she was naive to the point where when she was pregnant with Dodd she was in the doctor's office and she was like, 'So, what happens?' And the doctor's like, 'What do you mean?' And she's like, 'What's giving birth?' Things like that, repeated examples where it's shocking."

Although, to this day, Sandra Dee still represents the iconic Hollywood image of a 1950s goody-goody, her career was actually quite short-lived. Perhaps best known for playing a young surfer-girl in the 1959 comedy *Gidget*, Dee's style

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# Method to his madness

Master of transformation **JIM CARREY** talks about getting into character — er, characters — for the fantastical kids flick *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events* | **BY EARL DITTMAN**

If the *Harry Potter* movies taught Hollywood producers anything, it's the lucrative lesson that if children like to read, they like to see their favourite literary characters brought to life on the big screen even more.

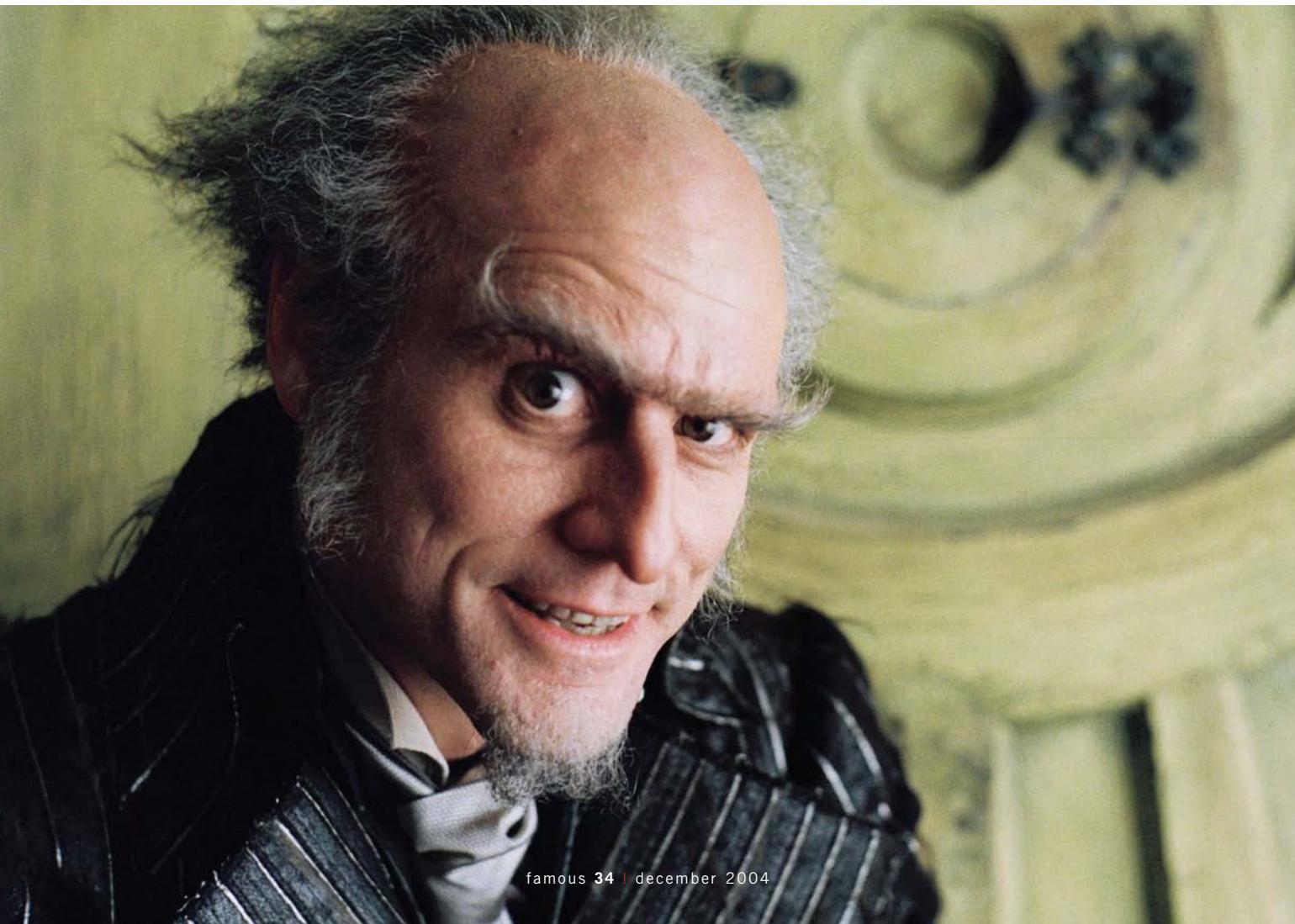
So it's not at all surprising that *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events* — the series that finally booted *Harry Potter* from the *New York Times* children's best-seller list — lands in theatres just in time for Christmas break.

For the parents in the crowd, a handful

of Hollywood's finest have been cast in the adult roles — Meryl Streep as Aunt Josephine, Jude Law as narrator Lemony Snicket and Canadian-born Jim Carrey as Count Olaf, the villainous uncle of 14-year-old Violet, 12-year-old Klaus and toddler Sunny, also known as the Baudelaire orphans. After the children's parents die in a terrible fire, Count Olaf, a failed actor, tries to scam the kids out of their considerable inheritance by creating bizarre alter-egos and using elaborate disguises. Carrey,

the father of a 17-year-old daughter, says he took the role because he liked the way the script entertained youngsters without being preachy.

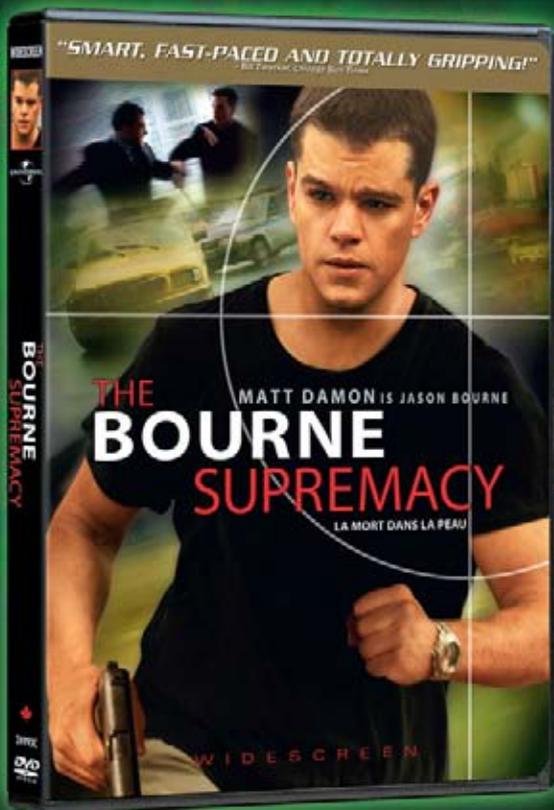
"It was such a different way to tell a children's story, it didn't talk down to them or treat them as if they didn't have a brain — it's very original," Carrey says while sipping hot tea in his hotel room on a chilly New York morning. The 42-year-old is dressed to keep warm in a big sweater, jeans and boots. "It's a really intelligent and irreverent movie, and I ▶▶



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►► knew I would have so much fun doing it.... It was an opportunity for me to show up as this crazed thespian. He's an evil thespian, which is redundant, if you think about it."

Law, who has three kids of his own, has a firm grasp on why book-to-screen transformations work so well for the peanut butter sandwich demographic.

"To kids, there's something magical about being able to go to a movie theatre to see and hear a part of their imagination jump off the page and start to walk and talk," Law said at the New York junket for *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*. "In a lot of ways, it's like some of their dreams have come true, especially if they're big fans of the books or they are stories which their mom or dad read to them at night. It makes them feel really special."

The screenplay penned by Robert Gordon (*Men in Black II*) uses storylines from the first three books (there are now 11) — *The Bad Beginning*, *The Reptile Room* and *The Wide Window*, all of which were written by the mysterious Lemony Snicket, a.k.a. writer Daniel Handler. Brad Silberling (*Moonlight Mile*, *Casper*) directed the film.

By the time shooting began, Carrey was well-versed in everything Snicket. "Brad asked me to read all the books and I did, and I thought it was going to be a real opportunity to experiment, improvise and have fun just throwing on disguises and going, 'Who are these characters,'" recalls Carrey.

"We just had fun and played around with the Count's own characters. For instance, there was a character named Stephano who was supposed to have an Italian accent and act a certain way. But when they put this different-looking wig on me in the makeup chair, like five minutes before they were going to test this character, I said, 'It's not that guy anymore,'" Carrey explains. "Then they put this mustache on, but it had been altered in a way, and I said, 'It's not the guy anymore.'" So Brad Silberling came into the trailer said, 'Well, what do you mean? Who is it? Where's Stephano?' And I just started speaking like the guy that belonged to the hair and that's where the character came from. Literally five minutes before we went out to start filming, the character just kind of blossomed."

As co-star Streep will attest, the role was perfectly suited to Carrey's uncanny



## STILL OUR JIM?

Americans can't eat ketchup chips and can't order a double-double from Tim Hortons, but they can now call Jim Carrey one of their own. On October 7th Carrey officially became a U.S. citizen, completing a process he began in December of 2001.

"This country has helped define me and make my dreams come true," he said of the U.S. in an official statement. But fear not, the hockey-loving lad from Scarborough, Ont., is keeping his Canuck status, thereby giving him dual Canadian/American citizenship.

"I have no intention of giving up my Canadian heritage, and all those who loved and supported me," said Carrey. "My upbringing in Canada made me the person I am. I will always be proud to be a Canadian."

powers of transformation. "Jim was divine, he's such an incredible actor," said Streep while out promoting *The Manchurian Candidate* earlier this year. "It was really fun working with him. I had a couple of scenes with Jim, and we have a full-blown romantic relationship. Working with Jim was like watching a chameleon. He could turn into any kind of character at a moment's notice."

Born in Newmarket, Ontario, the youngest of Percy and Kathleen Carrey's four children, Jim's own childhood memories are of spending long winter days playing hockey in the middle of the street with other kids from the neighbourhood.

"Like every young Canadian boy, we had fantasies of either wanting to be a rock star, a hockey idol or on TV. Since we thought the Americans had the upper hand with movies, I don't think any of us ever thought about becoming movie stars," Carrey recalls with a laugh. "I loved playing hockey. It's such a great game. But as I got older, I realized I was too tall [6'2"] and lanky for it. I simply didn't have the big, hunky hockey player body that I would need to make it into the pros. So I kind of marked 'hockey idol' off my list. And since I sounded like [Rush singer] Geddy Lee with his vocal cords torn out, I figured becoming a rock star was out of the question too."

Instead, Carrey concentrated on making people laugh. And by the time his family moved to the Toronto suburb of Scarborough, it was obvious to everyone, including his junior high teachers who let him do standup routines at the end of class, that he was a natural-born comedian.

But his dream to become a professional funnyman was put on hold when his family hit hard times and Jim was forced to drop out of high school, work in a tire factory and, for a stretch of time, live with his family in a Volkswagen van.

"We might have been poor, but my family and I were always there for each other," he recalls. "And my family was always behind my desire to become a comic. They were my biggest cheerleaders. So I had to work hard to make it happen."

After years of practice, Jim perfected his standup skills, bid farewell to his family and moved to Los Angeles. Fate ►►

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▶▶ would lend a hand in Carrey's rise when the late Rodney Dangerfield caught his act at the famous West Hollywood club The Comedy Store. Dangerfield was so impressed with the young Canadian, he asked him to be the opening act on his upcoming U.S. tour.

Once back in L.A., Carrey landed stints on the sitcom *The Duck Factory* and, more importantly, the groundbreaking variety show *In Living Color*. The silly, but very funny, 1994 comedy *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective* made Carrey an A-list star, and in 1996 he became the first actor to earn \$20-million for a single film when he did so for the dark Ben Stiller-directed comedy *The Cable Guy*.

In 1998 Carrey branched out with a light-but-dramatic role in *The Truman Show*, a clever film about a guy who, unbeknownst to him, has been the star of a top-rated TV show since birth. Many thought Carrey was cheated when he didn't get an Oscar nomination for his performance, and Carrey himself said that Academy members were too narrow-minded for not giving comedic roles the same weight as dramatic ones. So when his next role saw him virtually transform into troubled performance

artist Andy Kaufman for 1999's *Man on the Moon*, it was widely believed this was Carrey's stab at that elusive nomination. Once again, he was ignored by the Academy.

"I certainly don't think there's some kind of organized conspiracy against me," Carrey says with a laugh. "The Academy votes on what they see. Whatever is more publicized are the movies they watch. I don't think there's an accumulation of Academy voters who sit around and talk about what they are going to do with Jim Carrey. They're not going, 'Well, maybe 10 years down the road we will give it to him, but not now.'

"I'll win when it's time. Sure, I'd like to get it for the comedies just as much as I did for *The Truman Show* and *Man on the Moon*. And maybe I will. But I'm not going to lose any sleep over it. I'm just going to keep doing what I do — making people laugh. And I'm going to keep smiling every time they call my name for the nomination and clap when it goes to the other guy." **F**

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



From left: Jim Carrey, Liam Aiken and Emily Browning

# famous TRIVIA

**1** Canadian actor Ryan Reynolds stars as a vampire hunter in *Blade: Trinity*. Name the considerably less bloody 1998 TV series that was Reynolds' big break.

**2** *Spanglish* is Adam Sandler's second primarily dramatic film. What was his first?

**3** Leonardo DiCaprio plays airline mogul Howard Hughes in *The Aviator*. In which recent movie did his character pretend to be a pilot?

**4** The 1970s animated TV series *Fat Albert* gets the live-action treatment this month. Who provided the voice of Fat Albert on the original cartoon?

**5** Blythe Danner plays Ben Stiller's mother-in-law in *Meet the Fockers*. Who is Danner's famous daughter?

**6** Dennis Quaid stars as the pilot of a downed airplane in this month's *Flight of the Phoenix*, a remake of the 1965 film of the same name. Who played Quaid's role in the original?

**7** Kevin Costner plays a former big-league baseball player in this month's *The Upside of Anger*. Name the three other movies in which he has already played a baseball player.

# answers

1. *Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place*
2. *Punch-Drunk Love*
3. *Catch Me if You Can* 4. Bill Cosby
5. Gwyneth Paltrow
6. Jimmy Stewart
7. *Bull Durham*, *Field of Dreams*, *For Love of the Game*

# THE BEST CHRISTMAS THEY'LL EVER HAVE.

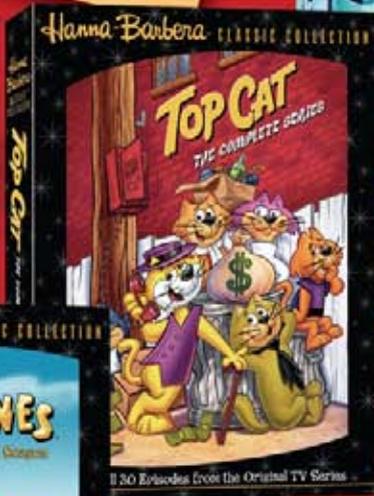
STEPHEN AND LORA  
MERRY XMAS  
XOXO  
SANTA

DECEMBER 7

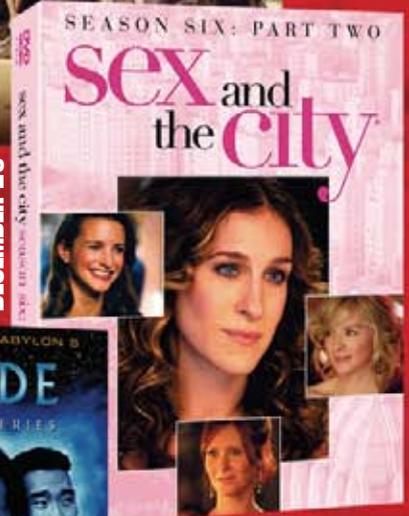
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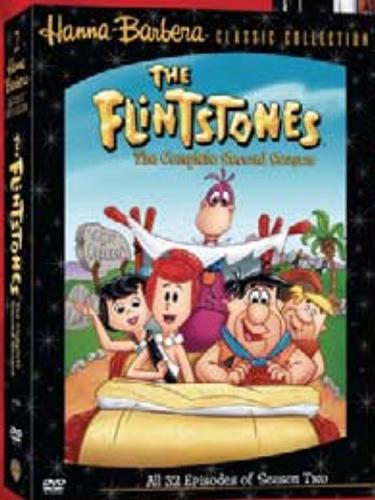
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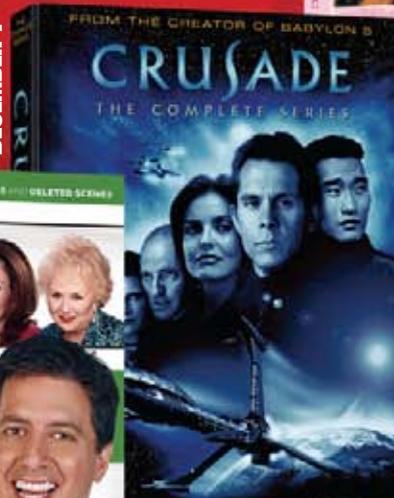
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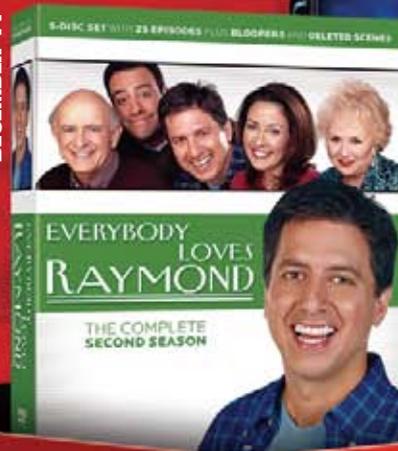
DECEMBER 7



DECEMBER 7



DECEMBER 14



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# Present tense?



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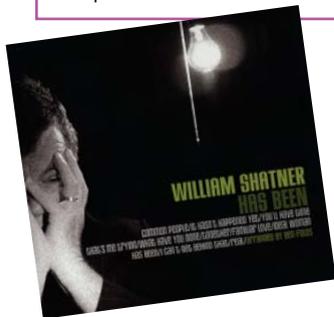
No gift will get more use over the holidays than a digital camera. Fujifilm's **FinePix E500 Zoom (\$400)** has a high-performance 3.2x wide zoom lens yet it's easy to use thanks to its versatile exposure options. Plus, movie-capture at 10 frames per second with full sound means you're not limited to stills when those neighbourhood carollers come knocking.

What to do with all those digital pictures? Don't leave them on your desktop gathering virtual dust. Kodak's **Easyshare Printer Dock Plus (\$270)** lets you make four-by-six-inch prints from almost any digital source, even your digicam or cellphone cam, with no need for a computer.

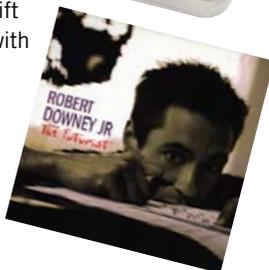


**Presents for your party host are a must! Here are a couple of festive suggestions.**

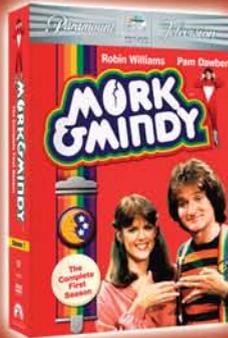
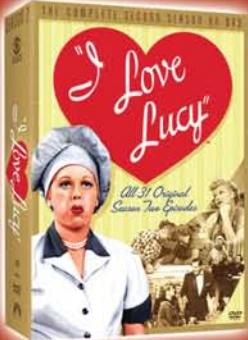
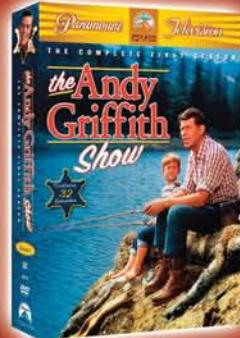
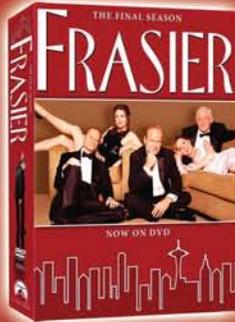
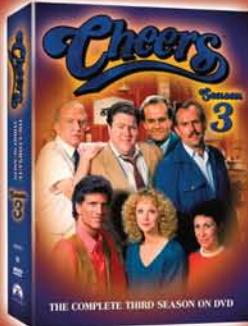
● Lush's **Christmas Cracker (\$7)** is a spicy orange-scented bubble bar that dissolves under running water. Orange, cinnamon and clove oil stimulate circulation and eliminate toxins. ● And nothing makes you feel Christmassy like cranberry. Try these aromatherapy products from The Body Shop — **Candle (\$14)**, **Home Fragrance Oil (\$7.50)**, **Silver Metal Glow Aroma Burner (\$24)**.



Have a music/movie fan on your gift list? Combine their two loves and wrap it up with a bit of kitsch with CDs from two of the year's top crossover artists. William Shatner's **Has Been (\$20)** includes the tunes "That's Me Trying" and "Common People," while on **The Futurist (\$20)** Robert Downey Jr. croons through eight of his own pop tunes plus a cover of Charlie Chaplin's "Smile."



“Remember that one episode...?”



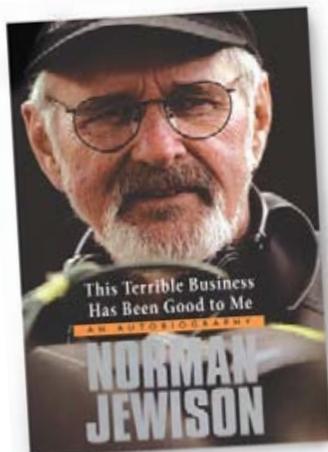
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Norman Jewison's new autobiography, **This Terrible Business Has Been Good to Me (\$39)**, would make a great Christmas or Hanukkah gift. It's not that we — like most people — are under the delusion that the celebrated Canadian director (*In the Heat of the Night*, *Fiddler on the Roof*) is in fact Jewish. It's that the first chapter "Growing Up Jewish," is a hilarious description of how, as a child, even Norman couldn't wrap his head around the fact that, despite his last name, he was not Jewish, but Methodist. Of course, there's lots of great stuff in there about Hollywood too.

Watch your special someone count down the minutes New Year's Eve on a snazzy new time piece. Some of our favourites are the sleek **Westport** from Tommy Hilfiger (**\$105**), the fruity **Gelato** line from Roots (**\$95**) and the classic, masculine **Quest Chronograph** from ESQ (**\$395**).



Although there's no new *Lord of the Rings* movie out this season, on December 14th you can pick up the five-DVD **Return of the King: Collectors DVD Gift Set (\$120)** which includes the four-DVD extended version of the final film, an entire disc devoted to the *LOTR* soundtrack, and a "Minas Tirith Polystone Keepsake Box." Or, for \$160 you can get the 12-DVD *Lord of the Rings Special Extended Edition Trilogy Set* featuring the lovingly drawn-out versions of all three films.

Never mind the actual movies, the 35 hours of extras on the 10 discs in **The Ultimate Matrix Collection Limited Edition (\$150, out December 7th)** ensure that *Matrix* geeks won't see a lick of sunlight between Christmas morning and New Year's Eve. Plus, the Limited Edition comes with a miniature bust of Neo and a cubic display case in which to store The One, and all those discs.





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This classic Tank Dress in red gains extra style points from its elegant Grecian drape detailing (\$95, Tristan & America).

# all dressed up

Whether you go all out with a stunning red dress, or just add a bit of bling via makeup and accessories, the holidays are the time to sparkle and shine | **BY LIZA HERZ**

**D**on't you hate those women who add just one carefully chosen accessory to their workday outfit and are magically transformed into party-ready glamourpusses? Not that we want to begin a Christmas column with the theme of "hate," but really.

You don't need the fashion savvy of a Hollywood stylist to dress yourself for the holidays. The fastest way to add festive gleam is through some minimal, non-invasive tinkering and the judicious use of accessories.

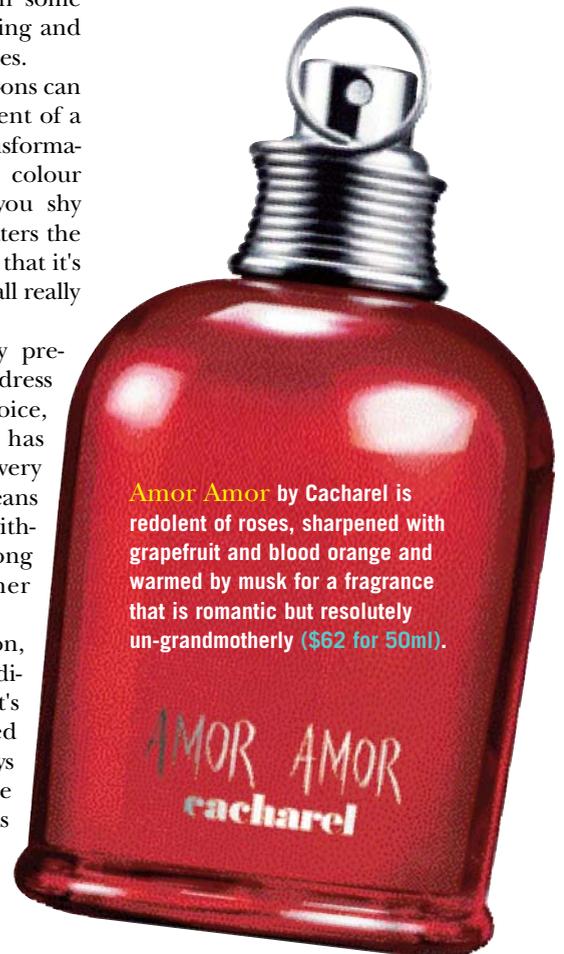
Having the right party add-ons can provide the glamour equivalent of a Clark Kent to Superman transformation. Indulge yourself with colour and girly sparkle, even if you shy away from such attention-getters the rest of the year. Besides, now that it's dark before 6 p.m., we could all really use the colour.

The other route to party preparedness is that one killer dress — the showstopper. Our choice, from Tristan & America, has both holiday colour and a very modern silhouette, which means you can look Christmassy without seeming like you belong on the tree with the other ornaments.

During the holiday season, red is not a cliché, it's a tradition. And thank heavens it's back after some wrongheaded attempts to make the holidays dubiously trendy (baby blue Christmas trees?). Irony has no place in this most festive of seasons.

Before we launch into our list of must-haves, don't forget to spread the holiday cheer to those less fortunate. You can write a cheque to a charitable organization, or, if shopping is more your thing, buy some toys for a local toy drive or be a Secret Santa for someone in need. This is, after all, the season of giving.

**HappyHolidays!**



**Amor Amor** by Cacharel is redolent of roses, sharpened with grapefruit and blood orange and warmed by musk for a fragrance that is romantic but resolutely un-grandmotherly (\$62 for 50ml).

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# style |

++ The ultimate party accessory is gleaming skin. **Shimmer Powder** in **Get Golden** (**Revlon, \$12**) brushed on your face, shoulders and the nape of your neck will make you look like an empress who was carried to the party on a sedan chair held aloft by buff, mute slaves.



A statement-making **Corset** (**Winners, \$110**) is not to be worn by the timorous or party-shy. And demand nothing but the finest champagne when out in this number.



Remember your first silver ring bought from a heavily tattooed street vendor? Birks' new **Biker Chic** line mixes edgy silver with every girl's best friend, diamonds, for a fresh look (**\$165-\$4,800, Birks**).



The delicate knife pleats and shapely heel on this **Mule** say demure, but the red satin fabric shows an abiding love of a good party (**\$475, Patrick Cox at Zola Shoes, Toronto**).



A small **Embellished Bag** like this one from **Aldo** (**\$40**) is all you need at night. Remember: lipstick, cellphone, paper money, keys. Oh, and a pen to write down your phone number for new admirers.

Have to go from daytime wage-slave to creature of the night with no time in between? Add a **Beaded Silk Tank** (**\$50**) to **Pinstriped Pants** (**\$45**) and play up the contrast with a **Faux Fur Scarf** (**\$50**) against bare skin (all from **Le Chateau**).



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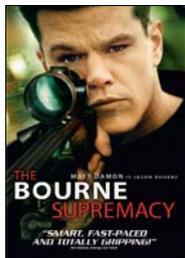
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# new releases

GO HOME WITH **THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE**, **KING ARTHUR** OR **SHAUN OF THE DEAD**

DECEMBER 7



## THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

**Stars:** Matt Damon, Joan Allen

**Director:** Paul Greengrass (*Bloody Sunday*)

**Story:** Despite nightmares about his past, amnesia-plagued assassin Jason Bourne now lives a quiet life. But when he's framed for a botched CIA operation he must take up his former ways in this satisfying sequel to 2002's *The Bourne Identity*. **DVD Extras:** featurettes on casting, special effects, locations, fights, the "Moscow Tunnel Chase"

DECEMBER 14

## COLLATERAL

**Stars:** Tom Cruise, Jamie Foxx

**Director:** Michael Mann (*Ali*)

**Story:** A cab driver (Foxx) finds himself the hostage of an engaging contract killer (Cruise) who's making his rounds from hit to hit during one night in LA. Terrific performances and action mix with atmosphere and dark humour in this tense, stylish thriller. **DVD Extras:** deleted scenes, rehearsal footage of Cruise and Foxx



## DODGEBALL: A TRUE UNDERDOG STORY

**Stars:** Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller

**Director:** Rawson Marshall Thurber (debut)

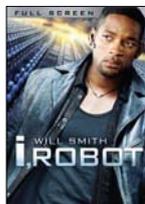
**Story:** A group of misfits enter a Las Vegas dodgeball tournament in order to save their beloved local gym from the onslaught of a corporate fitness chain. Gloriously mindless slapstick fun, perpetrated by comic actors at the top

of their game. **DVD Extras:** commentary by Stiller and Vaughn, seven deleted or extended scenes, bloopers reel, "Dodgeball Boot Camp" featurette

## PRINCESS DIARIES 2: ROYAL ENGAGEMENT

**Stars:** Anne Hathaway, Julie Andrews

**Director:** Garry Marshall (*Pretty Woman*)  
**Story:** In 1999's *The Princess Diaries* ugly duckling Mia (Hathaway) learned she was both the lost princess of Genovia and (shocker!) mind-numbingly beautiful. Now all grown up, this taut feminist thriller follows Mia's struggle to get married before she loses her crown.



## I, ROBOT

**Stars:** Will Smith, Bridget Moynahan

**Director:** Alex Proyas (*Dark City*)

**Story:** In 2035, technology and robots are a trusted part of everyday life. But that trust is broken when a scientist is found murdered and a technophobic detective (Smith) believes a robot is responsible. **DVD Extras:** "making of" featurette, still gallery

## THE DOOR IN THE FLOOR

**Stars:** Jeff Bridges, Kim Basinger  
**Director:** Tod Williams (*The Adventures of Sebastian Cole*)

**Story:** Adapted from John Irving's novel *A Widow for One Year*, this film veers from drama to comedy and back as it chronicles a pivotal summer in the life of a troubled family. Bridges' standout performance is already building Oscar buzz.

DECEMBER 21

## THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE

**Stars:** Denzel Washington, Meryl Streep

**Director:** Jonathan Demme (*Silence of the Lambs*)



**Story:** In this update of John Frankenheimer's 1962 political thriller, a sinister Halliburton-style corporation has brainwashed Gulf War hero turned vice-presidential nominee, Raymond Shaw (Liev Schreiber). Meanwhile, Shaw's old unit commander (Washington) suffers from recurring nightmares that drive him to uncover a massive conspiracy. **DVD Extras:** Demme's commentary, deleted and extended scenes, outtakes



## KING ARTHUR

**Stars:** Clive Owen, Keira Knightley

**Director:** Antoine Fuqua (*Training Day*)

**Story:** This version of the Camelot legend, courtesy of producer Jerry Bruckheimer (*Bad Boys II*), removes the classic tale's mystical and magical elements in favour of full-tilt medieval action, a brooding Arthur (Owens) and a sassy, leather-bikini'd Guinevere (Knightley). **DVD Extras:** an "Unrated Extended Director's Cut" promises a "longer, grittier, and more explicit motion picture"



## SHAUN OF THE DEAD

**Stars:** Simon Pegg, Nick Frost

**Director:** Edward Wright (debut)

**Story:** This rom/zom/com (romantic zombie comedy) from the U.K. follows the bloody funny adventures of lovable loser Shaun (Pegg) as he copes with a zombie invasion by leading his ex-girlfriend and dear sweet mum to the only safe place he can think of — the pub. ▶▶

# Famous CHRISTMAS

# GIFT GUIDE

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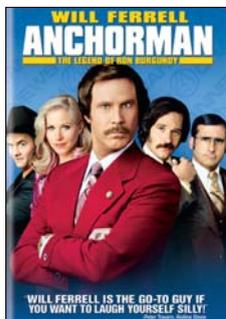


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▶▶ DECEMBER 28



**ANCHORMAN:  
THE LEGEND  
OF RON  
BURGUNDY**

**Stars:** Will Ferrell, Christina Applegate  
**Director:** Adam McKay (debut)  
**Story:** Ron Burgundy

(Ferrell) is a top-rated newsman in swingin' 1970s San Diego. But when beautiful new anchor Veronica Corningstone (Applegate) joins him at the desk, it's more than a clash of two TV people with really great hair — it's war! **DVD Extras:** bloopers, the "Afternoon Delight" recording session and music video, a Ron Burgundy interview with Bill Kurtis, Burgundy's A&E Biography.



**DE-LOVELY**

**Stars:** Kevin Kline, Ashley Judd  
**Director:** Irwin Winkler (*Life as a House*)  
**Story:** This elegant musical bio-pic

depicts the life of composer Cole Porter (Kline). Despite his preference for the company of men, Porter finds inspiration and love with his wife (Judd), and their complex relationship lends new meaning to such classic tunes as "Anything Goes," "It's De-lovely" and "Night and Day."



**OPEN WATER**

**Stars:** Blanchard Ryan, Daniel Travis  
**Director:** Chris Kentis (*Grind*)  
**Story:** Susan and Daniel (Ryan, Travis)

are scuba divers stranded at sea when their tour boat accidentally leaves them behind. The tension and dread escalate when the bickering married couple — who are already cold, tired, dehydrated and more than a little scared — notice the circling sharks...



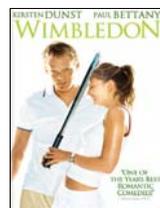
**GARDEN STATE**

**Stars:** Zach Braff, Natalie Portman  
**Director:** Zach Braff (debut)  
**Story:** Quirky laughs and twentysomething angst mix as moderately successful TV

actor Andrew "Large" Largeman (Braff) returns home to New Jersey after nine years in L.A. There, a young woman (Portman) helps him reconnect with his disturbing past and himself. **DVD Extras:** commentary with Braff and Portman, 16 deleted scenes, outtakes

**RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE**

**Stars:** Milla Jovovich, Jared Harris  
**Director:** Alexander Witt (debut)  
**Story:** Genetically altered superbabe Alice (Jovovich), who narrowly survived 2002's *Resident Evil*, returns to splatter zombie butt all over Raccoon City. Even cooler, you get to see Toronto City Hall blow up — a sure-fire attraction for any Canadian who doesn't live in T.O. (and some who do).



**WIMBLEDON**

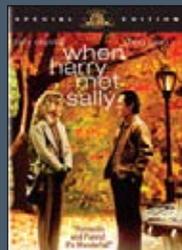
**Stars:** Kirsten Dunst, Paul Bettany  
**Director:** Richard Loncraine (*Richard III*)  
**Story:** In this romantic charmer, an aging B-list tennis player (Bettany) has one last shot — and two weeks — to win both the most important tournament of his life and the heart of a rising women's tennis star (Dunst).

**NEW YEAR'S DVDS**

Now that Arnold Schwarzenegger's *Jingle All the Way* and Bob "Porky's" Clark's *Black Christmas* are out on DVD, it's easy to name a sackful of classic Christmas movies worth seeing this holiday season — in fact, even celebrities seem able to do it (see page 54).

But what about December's other big holiday? Despite its focus on drama-ready, adult topics like parties and romance — not to mention free-flowing champagne — the list of memorable New Year's Eve movies is surprisingly short and comprised of movies that might not immediately spring to mind. So, we offer you these suggestions for a New Year's Eve movie marathon.

If you want that sweet feeling without the extra helping of syrup that comes with most Yuletide tales you can't do much better than 1989's *When Harry Met Sally*. Meg Ryan was never cuter and Billy Crystal was actually sort of appealing in this pitch-perfect romantic comedy that tracks a star-crossed pair who fall madly, deeply, passionately into friendship...then finally more, after Crystal's mad dash across Manhattan one New Year's Eve.



In *Peter's Friends* (1992) a group of college pals who've been separated for 10 years meet for a New Year's Eve reunion at Peter's English countryside estate. This ensemble dramedy, co-starring Emma Thompson and Kenneth Branagh, is often called an English version of *The Big Chill* — which is hardly fair, considering how much funnier, dramatic and less whiny this gang is. This one's not out on DVD yet, so you'll have to track down a VHS copy.

For something equally talky but decidedly hipper, there's always 1999's *200 Cigarettes*. Set in Manhattan on New Year's Eve 1981, this comedy features a revolving cast of characters fumbling around the East Village on their way to and from various parties. It's got a great punk/new wave time-capsule soundtrack, and how's this for a cast: Christina Ricci, Kate Hudson, Janeane Garofalo, Ben Affleck, Courtney Love, Dave Chappelle and Elvis Costello as himself.

Need even more edge, not to mention some graphic violence, sex and nudity? Check out 1995's *Strange Days*, a near-future action thriller set in the 48 hours before Y2K and written by James Cameron. Ralph Fiennes is a sleazy virtual reality porn king, Angela Bassett is his bodyguard and Juliette Lewis, um, plays against type as a drugged-out wannabe rocker. Worth a look just for the explosive finale at a wild New Year's Eve street party that ushers in the new millennium.

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A blue van is shown from a side-rear perspective. The van has a white roof rack with equipment. The Shaw logo, consisting of the word "SHAW" in a bold, italicized font with a curved line to its right, and the tagline "Always On" below it, is printed on the side panel. Below the logo, the text "CALL US AT 4 A.M. AND WE'LL STILL LIKE YOU." is written in large, bold, black capital letters. Underneath that, "24/7/365 TECHNICAL SUPPORT" is written in a smaller, bold, black font. The van's rear wheel and a portion of the rear light assembly are visible at the bottom right.

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# december

HOROSCOPE | BY DAN LIEBMAN



KATIA SMIRNOVA

## Sagittarius

November 22 >> December 22

A recent move may have left you feeling in limbo, but now you're much more comfortable about where you are, literally and figuratively. A visiting relative makes the holiday season sparkle. You receive a small gift that has a symbolic meaning.

## Capricorn

December 23 >> January 20

It seems that an awful lot of opportunities slipped through your fingers this year. But that's history. December is *your* month for being in the right place at the right time. As well, your friendship circle becomes more tightly knit and some financial questions are resolved.

## Aquarius

January 21 >> February 19

You may have been a little gullible last month, but now you're extraordinarily shrewd. In fact you're such a good judge of character, it's almost frightening. The holidays emphasize both elegance and reconciliation.

## Pisces

February 20 >> March 20

Your self-esteem gets an important boost around the middle of the month when a couple of meaningful compliments come your way. Continue to be kinder to yourself. It's a good month to plan courses or other activities that will introduce you to new people in 2005.

## Aries

March 21 >> April 20

After a recent energy spurt, it's tempting to curl up and tune out. Still, with even the slightest effort, you can reach a major goal by the end of the year. It's also a good month to identify your strengths and figure out ways to promote them next year.

## Taurus

April 21 >> May 22

Your personalities are certainly different, but you connect with someone you're introduced to around the 15th. Stretch your creative resources when it comes to gift giving. And be careful about what you agree to, a tentative okay can be regarded as a firm agreement.

## Gemini

May 23 >> June 21

All your hard work over the past six or so months shows signs of paying off. Don't hesitate to ask touchy questions. You could be enjoying a traditional celebration in an unconventional setting. And you bask in the limelight around the full moon of the 26th.

## Cancer

June 22 >> July 22

The emphasis is on commitment. As the holidays approach, friends prove their loyalty beyond doubt. Following several interruptions, you bring a pet project to completion. Ideas once thought to be unrealistic now start gaining momentum.

## Leo

July 23 >> August 22

You're more comfortable among people with whom you have little in common. You're also a bit obsessed about appearance and could find yourself cultivating a new look. It's a great month to explore new ways of promoting offbeat ideas.

## Virgo

August 23 >> September 22

Anyone trying to tick you off has chosen the wrong month. You're in control of nearly every situation — plus you're full of mischief. You're unusually adept at making things from scratch. Just watch for a late-month stretch in which priorities can get mixed up.

## Libra

September 23 >> October 22

It's a good month to reflect on how relationships are changing. A recent conflict can be resolved better with assertiveness than with diplomacy. Get a head start on your resolutions, especially those involving health, fitness and self-improvement.

## Scorpio

October 23 >> November 21

The first half of the month emphasizes togetherness, as you and others are finally able to synchronize schedules. Watch out for a tendency to be hard on yourself. And while there's nothing unusual about holiday reunions, this year they're truly memorable.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

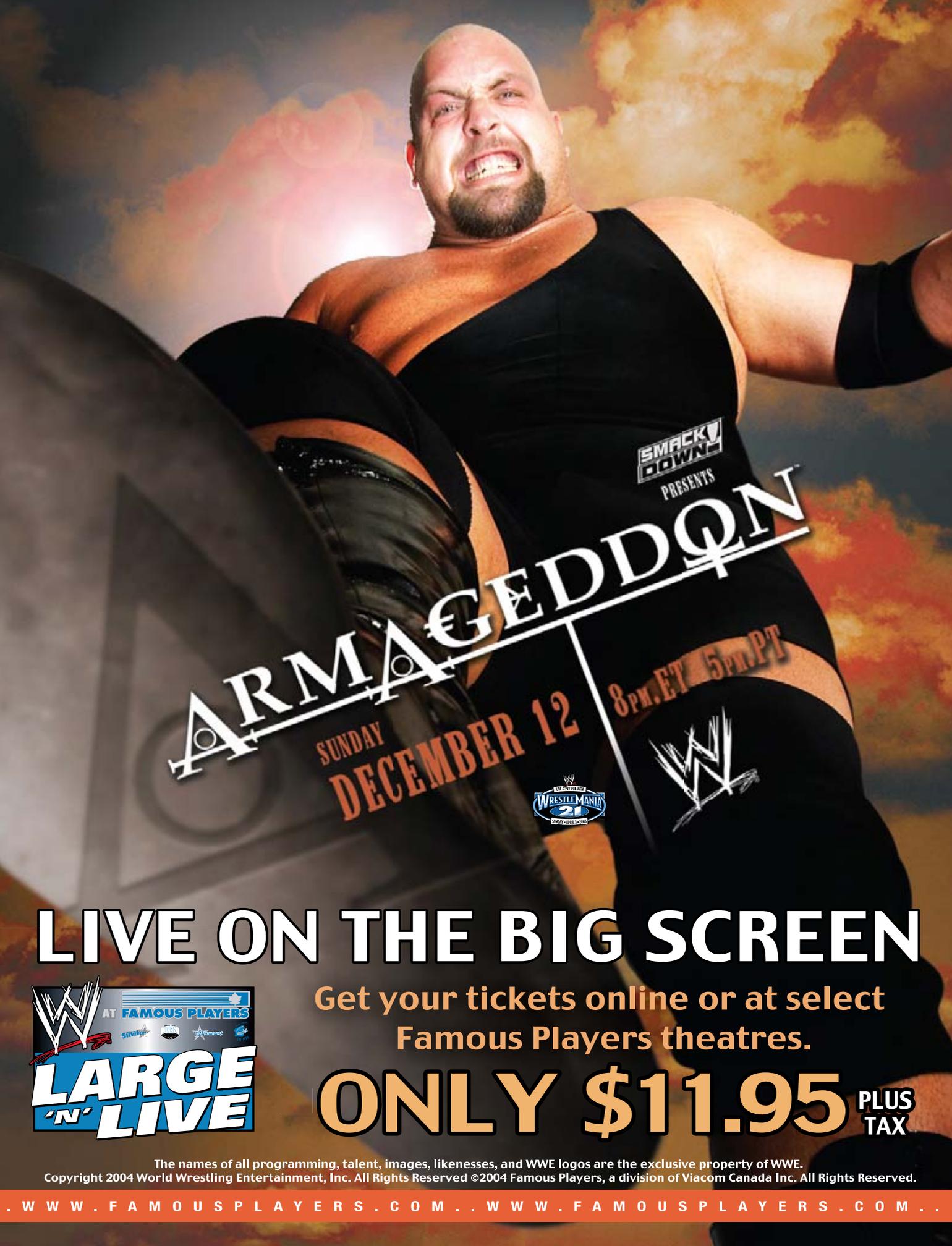


- 1st: Bette Midler
- 2nd: Lucy Liu
- 3rd: Brendan Fraser
- 4th: Marisa Tomei
- 5th: Frankie Muniz
- 6th: Tom Hulce
- 7th: Ellen Burstyn
- 8th: Kim Basinger
- 9th: John Malkovich
- 10th: Kenneth Branagh
- 11th: Teri Garr

- 12th: Jennifer Connelly
- 13th: Jamie Foxx
- 14th: Patty Duke
- 15th: Don Johnson
- 16th: Benjamin Bratt
- 17th: Eugene Levy
- 18th: Brad Pitt
- 19th: Jake Gyllenhaal
- 20th: John Spencer
- 21st: Kiefer Sutherland
- 22nd: Ralph Fiennes

- 23rd: Estella Warren
- 24th: Ricky Martin
- 25th: Sissy Spacek
- 26th: Jared Leto
- 27th: Gérard Depardieu
- 28th: Maggie Smith
- 29th: Jude Law
- 30th: Tracey Ullman
- 31st: Val Kilmer





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PHOTO BY CHRIS WAHL/PHOTO

# 10 Stars ON THEIR FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS MOVIES

BY SUSAN GRANGER

**GEORGE CLOONEY** “*White Christmas...* because of my aunt Rosemary Clooney. She sang those wonderful Irving Berlin songs with Bing Crosby. It’s a loose remake of *Holiday Inn*. My aunt sang ‘Count Your Blessings [Instead of Sheep]’ and ‘Sisters’ — the latter with Vera-Ellen.”

**SANDRA BULLOCK** “*How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, the animated cartoon narrated by Boris Karloff. I have this thing for Dr. Seuss. I just love him, especially around the holidays. He perks up the spirit.”

**TOBEY MAGUIRE** “*A Charlie Brown Christmas* because it’s a genuine classic. All the Peanuts characters put on a Christmas pageant and poor Charlie gets a little — really little — tree. Linus and Snoopy are there, the whole gang. Vince Guaraldi’s jazz score is cool, particularly ‘Christmas Time is Here.’”

**ROB LOWE** “*National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation* because it reminds me of when I rented an RV and my wife and I packed up our two sons and our dog and went on a camping trip. It was great, but it had its moments.”

**JOHN TRAVOLTA** “*Holiday Inn* with Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire. It’s about two song-and-dance men seeking to help out an old Army buddy at Christmas — and it’s the movie in which Crosby originally sang ‘White Christmas,’ which then became a standard.”

**CHRIS O’DONNELL** “*It’s a Wonderful Life* with Jimmy Stewart. Every year I watch it, sometimes four or five times. It’s my favourite film of all time. When it gets to the part where the guy goes, ‘George Bailey...he’s my brother,’ I tear up. It gets to me every single time.”

**CHRISTINA RICCI** “*Black Christmas...* it’s one of those B-movies made during the ’70s, a silent night/deadly night slasher that’s very funny. Olivia Hussey’s in it with Margot Kidder, Keir Dullea, John Saxon and Andrea Martin. Andrea Martin later satirized herself on SCTV.”

**JIM CARREY** “*The Grinch*, not only because I played him, but because it shows how Christmas tends to bring out the worst in people as well as the best. If you dig deep enough, everyone has a reason to be miserable at Christmas. I remember my father used to tie sleigh bells under our beds on Christmas Eve and totally freak us out. I was terrorized.”

**WHOOPI GOLDBERG** “*A Christmas Carol* with Alastair Sim because he’s the quintessential Scrooge to me, a real curmudgeon. I think it’s one of the best Christmas holiday films ever made.”

**LIZA MINNELLI** “*Meet Me in St. Louis* because my father [Vincent Minnelli] directed it and my mother [Judy Garland] sang the incomparable Ralph Blane/Hugh Martin song ‘Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.’”

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