

# Famous



Woody Allen, Jenny McCarthy  
AND OTHER STARS SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT

canada's entertainment lifestyle magazine  
february 2001 volume 2 number 2

**Mena Suvari**  
MULLS OVER *SUGAR & SPICE*

**Chris Rock**  
GETS DOWN TO EARTH

**Charlize Theron**  
TALKS ABOUT  
*SWEET NOVEMBER*

**SPOTLIGHT ON:**  
CHRISTIAN SLATER,  
JUDE LAW &  
ANGELINA JOLIE

## HANNIBAL RETURNS

RIDLEY SCOTT, ANTHONY HOPKINS AND JULIANNE MOORE  
DISCUSS THE SEQUEL TO *THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS*

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ANTHONY HOPKINS JULIANNE MOORE

A RIDLEY SCOTT FILM

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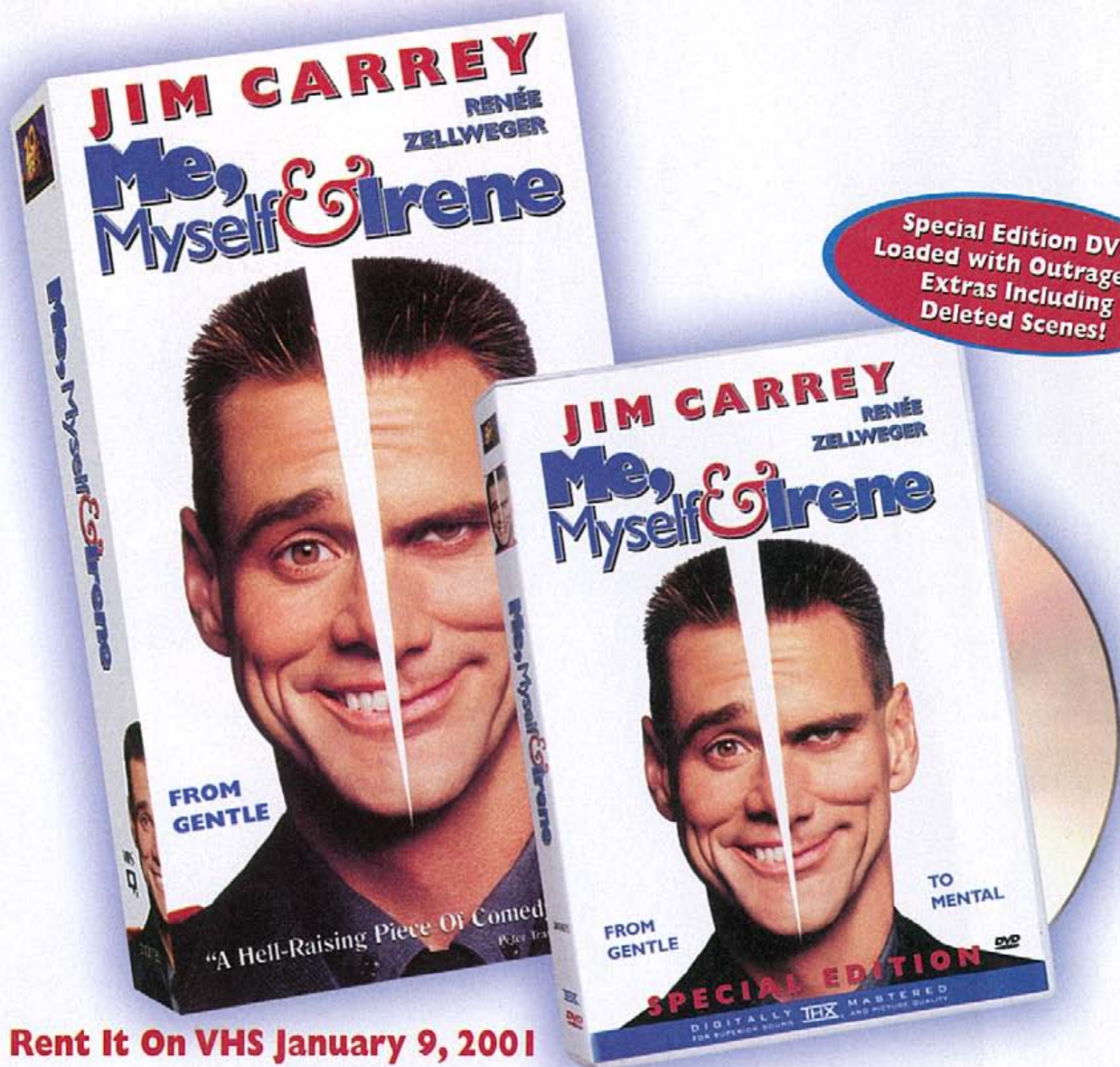
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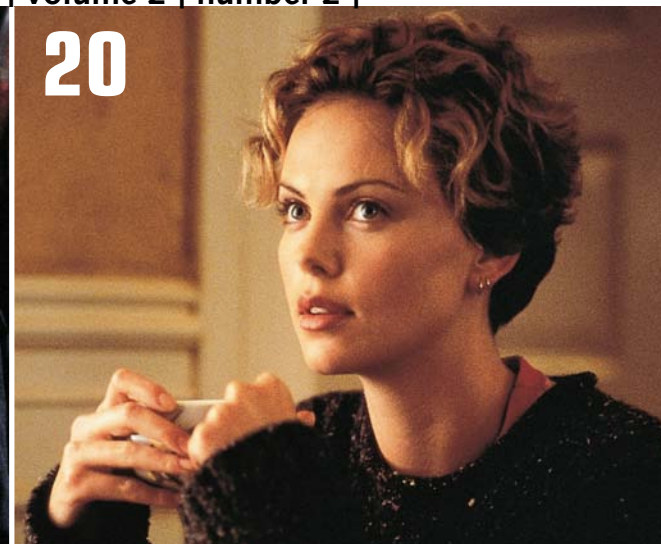


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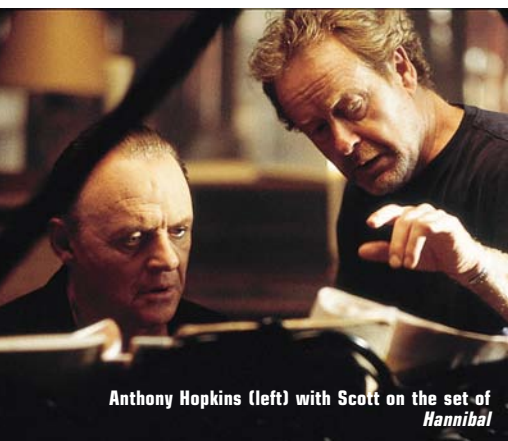
# MORE **CHIANTI?**

**W**hen *Silence of the Lambs* swept the top five Oscars in 1992 — Best Picture, Director, Actor, Actress and Adapted Screenplay — it was, by far, the most gruesome movie ever to do so. Previously, the only horrors to approach that level of legitimacy were 1973's *The Exorcist*, which was nominated for 10 Oscars but came away with just Best Sound and Adapted Screenplay, and 1977's *Carrie*, for which Sissy Spacek and Piper Laurie were nominated, but didn't win.

So what did this say about *Lambs*? Perhaps, in a year that also produced such schlock as *The Prince of Tides* and *Beauty and the Beast*, we were ready for a movie that made us sick to our stomachs. Some would even argue that *Lambs* wasn't all that

horrific. To this I say...are you nuts? One of the main characters supplemented his gourmet diet with human flesh, while another kidnapped and starved fat women so he could remove their skin and wear it around like a Chanel suit!

Maybe it was just that *Lambs* was such a darn good film. Whatever the case, its sequel, *Hannibal*, will have to crawl out from under a pretty big, dark shadow. But that didn't dissuade director **Ridley Scott** who read the script while on the set of his last pic, a little flick called *Gladiator*, and immediately decided to take on the project. For "Eat it Up," page 30, Scott spoke with David Giammarco about why he wasn't scared off by *Hannibal*, even though the project was



Anthony Hopkins (left) with Scott on the set of *Hannibal*

plagued by problems from the get-go.

Over the past two years, **Charlize Theron** has appeared in an astounding eight films — and has another three in the can for release this year. Very quickly, the stunning blonde has become one of Hollywood's hottest properties, that quintessential All-American girl next door. But hold on a sec. Theron hails from a little farm in South Africa. In "Sweet Emotion," page 20, Theron tells Earl Dittman how she shed her Afrikaner accent and why she chose her latest movie, *Sweet November*, over a much more lucrative offer.

In "Rock Stars," page 24, actor/comedian **Chris Rock** recalls his very first stand-up gig 15 years ago. He was paid five bucks — and was thrilled. Now the sharp-tongued comic makes his debut as a leading man in the metaphysical love story *Down to Earth*. Is the role likely to push Rock up to the next echelon of Hollywood celebrity? Bob Thompson visited him on the movie's Toronto set to find out.

At last, **Mena Suvari** has made a movie that doesn't have "American" in the title. After playing a chaste choir girl in *American Pie*, a precocious teen in *American Beauty* and a rebellious attention-seeker in *American Virgin*, Suvari breaks from the red, white and blue with *Sugar & Spice*, about a group of cheerleaders who turn to crime. No matter how the film does, it was a good personal decision for Mena. In "No Apologies," page 28, Suvari tells Sean Daly all about meeting her new hubby on the set of the film.

— **Marni Weisz**

# Famous

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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "BIG DADDY"

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nothing could  
come between them.

Then she  
came along.



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## NO, THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for a wonderfully Canadian perspective on my favourite topic, movies. I find your magazine to be well-written, insightful, as well as easy to read.

Jody Arnelt — Edmonton, Alta.

## GO WEST

I am a big film fan and every time I go I make sure to pick up a copy of *Famous* to see what's going on in the film industry. I find the articles and interviews very interesting.... However I do have one complaint. What about B.C.? Everything you print is about Toronto or Ontario. I realize your magazine is produced there and that Toronto does have a very large film industry, but Vancouver alone had over one billion dollars in film production revenue in 1999.... I don't understand how you can ignore what is being produced outside of Ontario, when your magazine is being distributed throughout Canada.

Cheryl Bedard — Delta, B.C.

## MEG IS NO WITCH!

My girlfriend and I always love reading through your magazine after we get home from a movie. We really enjoy the trivia section but she always wins. We were looking through your October issue [Vol.1 Number 10] and on page 21 there was a mistake in the article "Witchy Women" by Sean Davidson when he wrote about the movie *Practical Magic*. He stated that the movie stars were Nicole Kidman and Meg Ryan. However, it was Nicole Kidman and Sandra Bullock.

Jason Dwyer — Sudbury, Ont.

Hi! I love *Famous* magazine. I take one every time I go to the movies. I do read every article and I saw a mishap in one of them from the October 2000 edition. The article's title is "Witchy Women" and the author is Sean Davidson. Sorry dude, in the movie *Practical Magic* the actresses are Nicole Kidman and Sandra Bullock, not Meg Ryan. I saw that movie many times and unless she's hidden under a rock, she ain't there.

Julie Samson — Mirabel, Que.

## LOOKING FOR INFO

What language is the song from *Gladiator*, "Now We are Free," sung in?

Tadeusz Soplica — Waterloo, Ont.

*I don't know if you're going to like the answer Tadeusz, but it isn't any real language. Singer Lisa Gerard (formerly of the band Dead Can Dance) is known for creating her own language of gibberish words, and that's what she's doing here.*



Julianna Margulies

I was wondering if you could please send me an address for Julianna Margulies. They don't talk about her much in these magazines. Why?

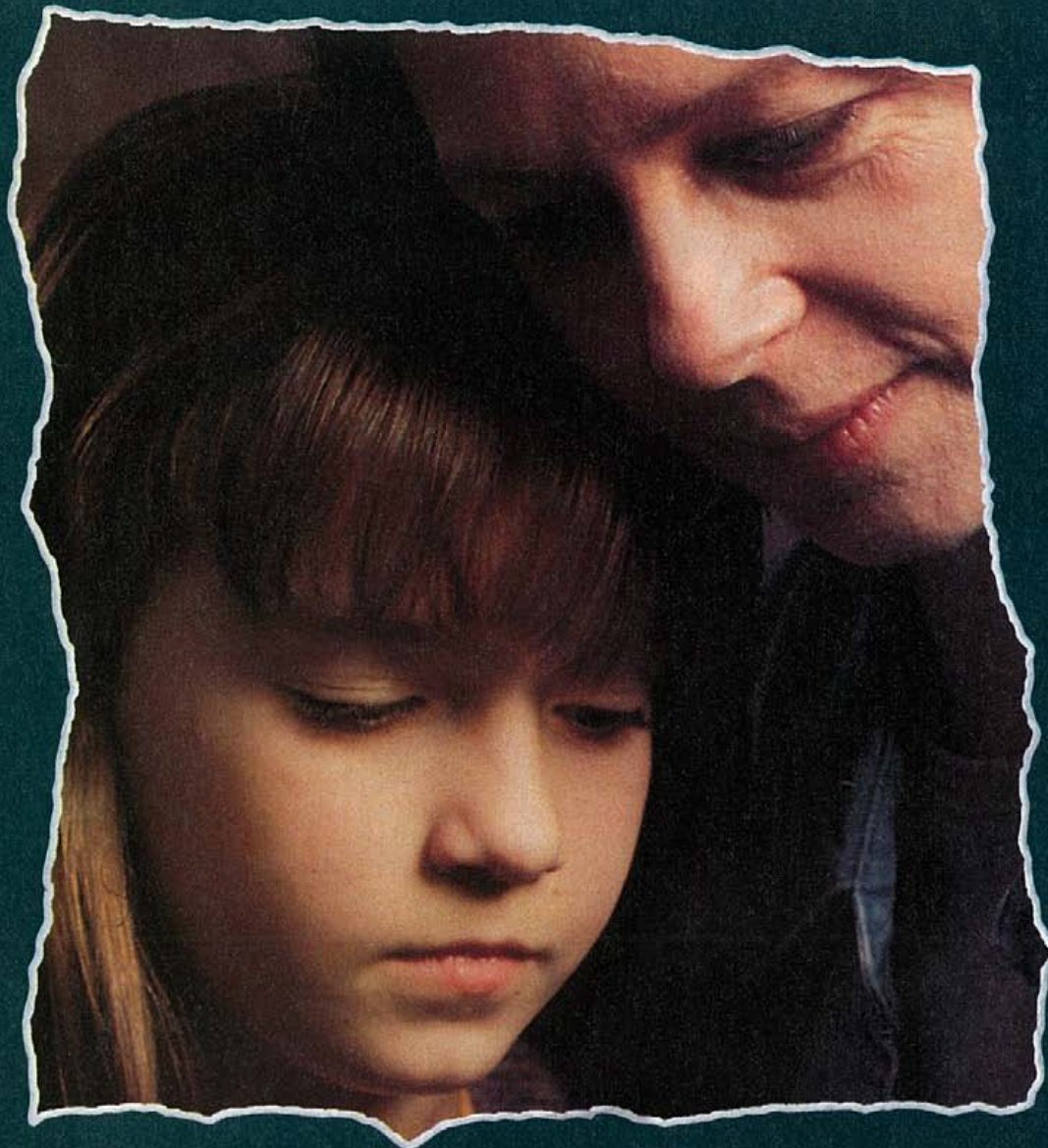
Mara Sever — Hamilton, Ont.

*Probably because, until now, she has appeared more often on TV than in movies. Try writing to her c/o International Creative Management, 8942 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA, 90211, U.S.A.*

## Famous welcomes your comments.

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## LOCAL HEROES FILM FESTS

Prairie film fans get, not one, but two Local Heroes film festivals over the next couple of months. Why two? Well, the Local Heroes tradition started 15 years ago in Edmonton, with a fest concentrating on feature films from around the world. Then, three years ago, Winnipeg debuted an off-shoot of the Alberta event, but this time concentrating on Canadian shorts. In fact, their event claims to be the only annual industry gathering dedicated solely to Canuck films.

This year, things start with the Winnipeg edition, running from February 25 to March 3. Festival director Bill Evans says there will be about 40 short films and six features, with John Greyson's *The Law of Enclosures* (starring Sarah Polley) opening the festival. Other films include Noam Gonick's *Hey Happy*, about a deranged UFO-ologist, John Fawcett's teen werewolf tale *Ginger Snaps*, which opens across the country later in March, and the Rosemary House film *Violet*, which stars *This Hour Has 22 Minutes'* Mary Walsh as a woman convinced she's going to die on her 55th birthday.

Then, from March 16 to 23, the Edmonton version celebrates their 15th anniversary by inviting past guests back to relive old glories, so look for some famous faces in the crowds.

Director Anne Wheeler (born and raised in Edmonton) gets the opening spot for her comedy *Marine Life*, which stars Cybill Shepherd as a woman having a mid-life crisis. The lineup also boasts the world premiere of *Bang*, a collaboration between three hot young Vancouver directors — James Dunnison, Reg Harkema and Carl Bessai — which follows three separate love stories from the gritty urban heart of Vancouver; and the Canadian debut of Polish director Krzysztof Zanussi's comedy *Life as a Fatal Sexually Transmitted Disease*. That's right, we said it's a comedy.

Although the public is more than welcome at both festivals, Evans has noticed that the celebrations have developed slightly different tones. "The Winnipeg festival has become the focus of the industry people, where the Edmonton festival has been more embraced by the public," he says. But what makes both fests special, he notes, is their focus on independent films and works by emerging filmmakers.

For complete schedules and ticket info, call 1.800.952.9307 for Winnipeg and 1.800.480.4084 for Edmonton. Or, check out their website, [www.nsi-canada.ca/localheroes](http://www.nsi-canada.ca/localheroes).

—MW



*Ginger Snaps*, starring Katherine Isabelle, will play Winnipeg fest



Audience members at the London production

So you never really understood the whole *Rocky Horror Picture Show* thing. Maybe you were too old, or too young, to get why perfectly normal folk would dress in fishnet stockings and bustiers and head to the local theatre at midnight to sing along with Tim Curry and Susan Sarandon. Maybe if the music had been better, say, like the lyrical lullabies from *The Sound of Music*, it would have been worth the effort.

Your time has come you closet Von Trapp-ers. *Sing-a-Long Sound of Music* — the interactive theatre experience already a huge hit in London and New York — is coming to Toronto's Eglinton Theatre for a limited

engagement starting February 23 and then moves on to Vancouver's Vogue Theatre from March 27 to April 8. Depending on how the show does, it may also be rolled out to other cities across Canada.

So how does this evening of Austrian merriment pan out? First, you hide yourself in a nun's habit or pull on your lederhosen, then head to the theatre where a host leads you through a vocal warm-up and instructs you on the finer points of interacting with Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer and all those darn singing kids. And make sure you put extra starch in that white shirt all you wannabe Kurts, or braid your hair so tight it cuts off the circulation to your toes little Leislis, because there will be a costume competition. Of course, the meat and potatoes of this theatrical buffet is getting to sing along with those over-the-top Rodgers and Hammerstein tunes, just the names of which — *Edelweiss*, *Climb Ev'ry Mountain*, *My Favorite Things* — are enough to move some fans to tears.

Rumour is, the idea for the show sprang from a social program at an old folk's home in Inverness, Scotland, where residents were given song sheets before being plunked down in front of a screening of *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. They had such a good time that, in August 1999, someone decided to try it with *The Sound of Music* at the Prince Charles Cinema in London's West End. The original production has been there ever since.

For the Vancouver shows, tickets range from \$20 to \$22.50 and are available from TicketMaster, 604.280.4444. For the Toronto shows, tickets cost \$25.50 and are available through TicketKing, 1.800.461.3333. Part of the proceeds from the Toronto shows will go to the United Way of Greater Toronto. —MW



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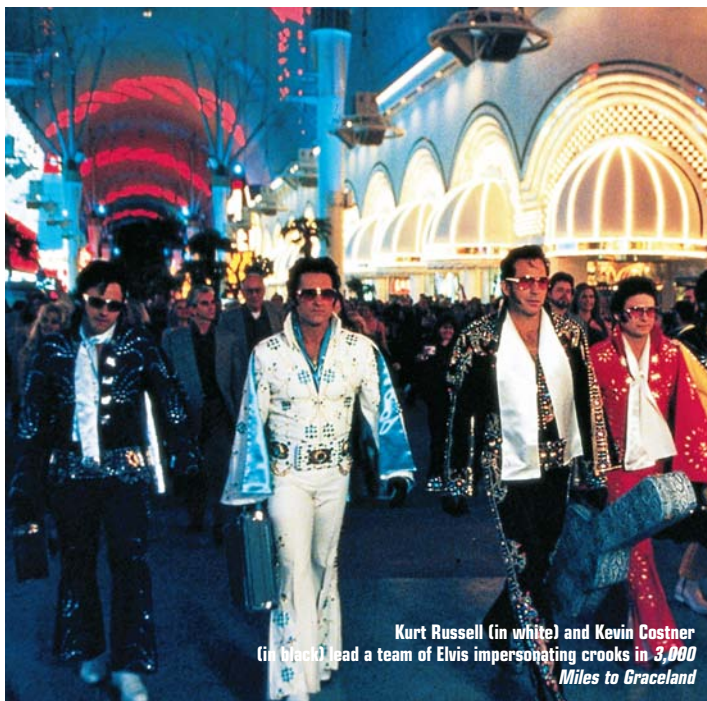
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Kurt Russell (in white) and Kevin Costner (in black) lead a team of Elvis impersonating crooks in *3,000 Miles to Graceland*

## ELVIS IS EVERYWHERE

**S**o you've seen every Elvis Presley movie ever made, even *Clambake* and *Girls! Girls! Girls!*. That means it's time to move on, and start watching the knock-offs. That's right, movies about Elvis impersonators. Start with this month's caper picture *3,000 Miles to Graceland* and then move on to these movies about wannabe Elvises. Or is it Elvii?

**Magnificent Major** (1977)

A freak science fair accident sends a little girl forward in time to a future ruled by an evil Elvis look-alike, where she is put on trial for not playing enough videogames.

**Honeymoon in Vegas** (1992)

Romantic comedy starring Nicolas Cage and Sarah Jessica Parker, memorable only for the climactic scene in which Cage jumps out of a plane with a squadron of skydiving Elvis impersonators. "We're the Flying Elvises! Utah chapter!"

**Rockabilly Vampire** (1997)

Schlocky horror flick about an investigative writer who's obsessed with the 1950s and out to prove that Elvis is still alive. That's when she meets a dead ringer for Elvis the Pelvis who turns out to be a vampire. Hip-shaking and bloodsucking ensue.

**Finding Graceland** (1998)

Is he or isn't he? Harvey Keitel is a hitchhiker who claims to be the real Elvis. On his way back "home" to Graceland he gets a ride with grieving widower Bryon, who's also making a *hajj* to the King's estate, and a sexy Marilyn Monroe look-alike played by Bridget Fonda. Priscilla Presley co-produced.

**Elvis Gratton** (1985) and **Elvis Gratton 2** (1999)

No one outside Quebec has ever heard of them, but the Elvis Gratton movies are one of the biggest things to hit *la belle province* since poutine. Quoted by Quebecois the way Anglos quote Monty Python, the first film combined three shorts into a full-length feature about the misadventures of a vulgar Montreal Elvis impersonator. The second movie? More of the same.

—SD

## hearsay

**zapped** David Spade was shocked to find his assistant, David Warren Malloy, robbing his Beverly Hills home recently and shocked again when Malloy allegedly attacked him with a stun gun. Yeeowch. We will resist the urge to write a joke about Spade's NBC series *Just Shoot Me* or his comedy special *Take a Hit*.

**quoted** *Proof of Life* star Russell Crowe, a popular target of paparazzi these days, took a swing at the press in a recent interview with *Rolling Stone*. "I do resent being hunted and invaded," complained the Aussie actor. "Some people have a constitutional right to make money out of being parasites. And there's nothing we can do about that, except say, 'Yeah, well, kiss my ass, and get the f-ck off my property.'" Okay, okay, we're going. Sheesh.

**stolen** Fans in Frankfurt, Germany have stolen as many as 300 lingerie ads featuring Claudia Schiffer. Wearing just a bra and panties, Schiffer appears on posters across the country for Swiss retailer Hennes & Mauritz. She also appears, we presume, in the fantasy lives of at least 300 German bachelors.

**in court** Tim Burton wants his artwork back. The *Sleepy Hollow* director has filed suit against a man Burton claims stole a box of his sketches and paintings from a storage room in 1991. According to Burton, the defendant was preparing to hock the 48 *objets d'art* at Christie's auction house in New York. Do I have a bid for this ballpoint pen sketch of Beetlejuice? Do I hear \$10?

**quoted** Arnold Schwarzenegger told London's *Sunday Times* that, some day, he'll run for governor of California. "When the time is right, I will announce it. You can't just run for office when there's not a specific need for it, because otherwise it's bogus. It's just for your ego." Der Arnold also has his eye on the White House, apparently undeterred by the U.S. Constitution which bars the foreign-born from the presidency. "You'd have to re-do the Constitution," says the Austrian ex-pat, shrugging it off, "but they've had so many amendments that that's really not a problem." What was that about ego?

—SD



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG GORWANI, NISKE LIFE, RIZZOLI INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS, INC. 1997

## HAVE A HEART

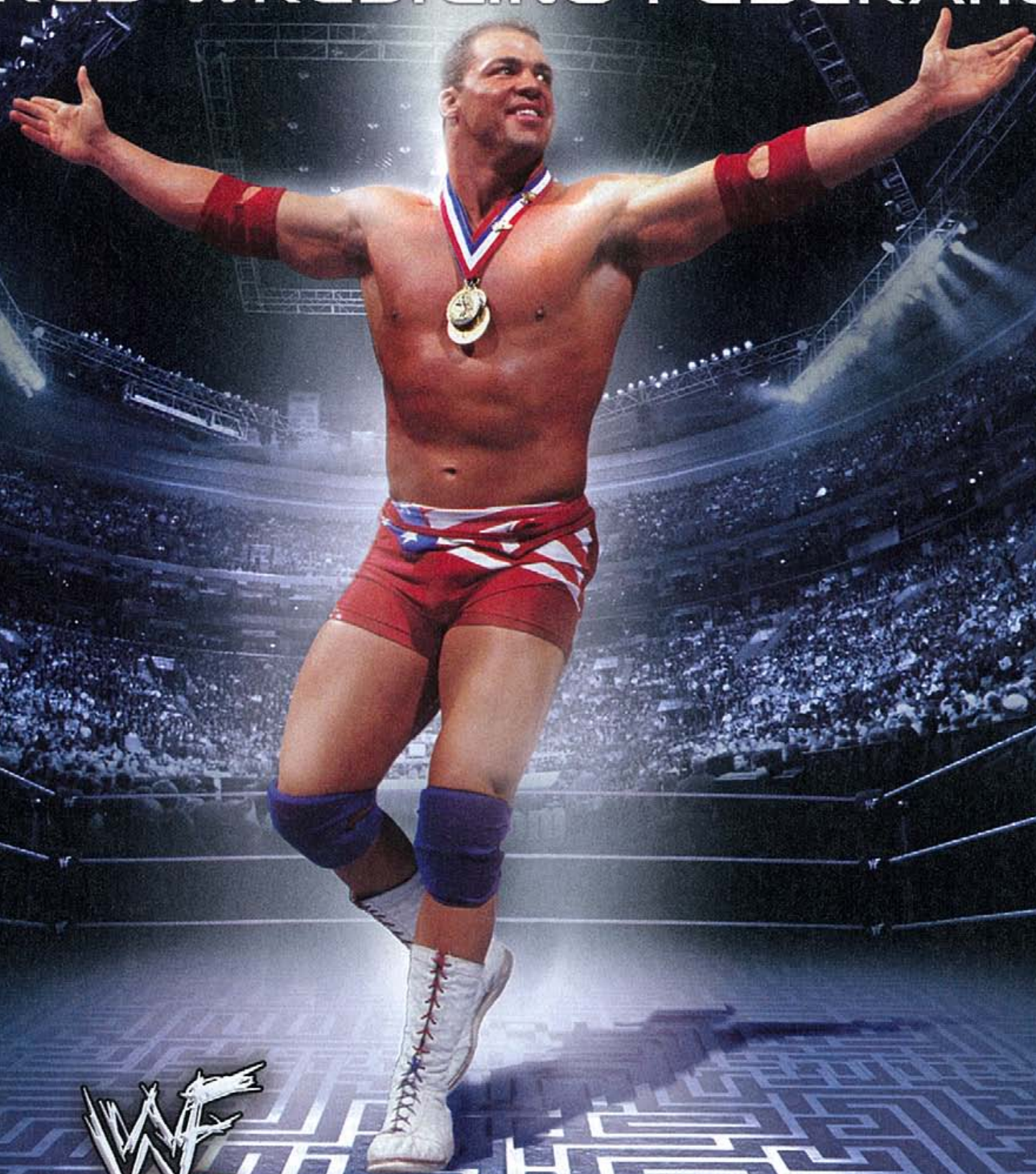
**V**ariety clubs have been helping kids in need since the 1920s, and their good work continues this month with the return of the Gold Heart Campaign. Gold Heart pins are available this month at Famous Players theatres, SAAN stores, the Beer Store and other retailers across the country for \$3 — and proceeds go toward the charity's work with physically, socially and developmentally handicapped children. The campaign started back in 1991 and, since then, has raised more than \$80-million and drawn support from such stars as Jim Carrey, Bette Midler and Meryl Streep. Pins are available at all Famous Players theatres.

—SD





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## GO HEAD OVER HEELS, MEET HANNIBAL OR GET DOWN TO EARTH



Matthew McConaughey and Jennifer Lopez in *The Wedding Planner*

### The Wedding Planner (Jan. 26)

**Who's In It?** Jennifer Lopez, Matthew McConaughey  
**Who Directed?** Adam Shankman (debut)  
**What's It About?** Lopez plays a loveless wedding consultant who, one day, realizes that she needs to start paying attention to her own love life. Before you can say "biological clock" she falls in love with the fiancé (McConaughey) of one of her own clients.

### Sugar & Spice (Jan. 26)

**Who's In It?** Marley Shelton, Mena Suvari  
**Who Directed?** Francine McDougall (debut)  
**What's It About?** Five high school cheerleaders

(*American Beauty*'s Suvari among the group) turn to crime when one of them (Shelton) gets pregnant. And who can blame them? Those Pampers aren't cheap. **See Mena Suvari interview, page 28.**

### Valentine (Feb. 2)

**Who's In It?** Denise Richards, David Boreanaz  
**Who Directed?** Jamie Blanks (*Urban Legend*)  
**What's It About?** Boreanaz, better known as Angel from the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* franchise, plays the villain in this teen thriller about a geek-turned-hunk who stalks and kills the girls who tormented him in high school.

### Say it isn't So (Feb. 2)

**Who's In It?** Heather Graham, Chris Klein  
**Who Directed?** James Rogers (debut)  
**What's It About?** This romantic comedy from the producers of *American Pie* and *There's Something About Mary* illustrates the perils of accidental incest. Klein (*American Pie*) plays a young guy who falls in lust with his ideal woman (Graham), only to discover that she might be his sister.

### With a Friend Like Harry (Feb. 2)

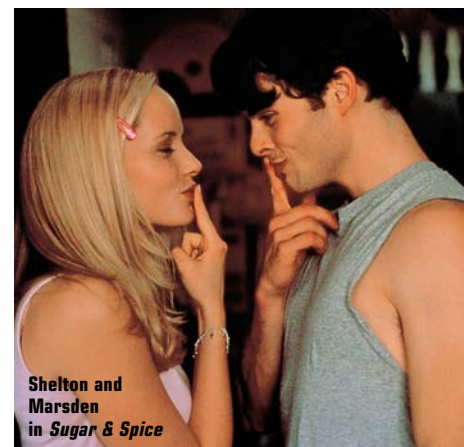
**Who's In It?** Laurent Lucas, Sergi Lopez  
**Who Directed?** Dominik Mol (*Intimacy*)  
**What's It About?** In this French thriller from the producers of the art house hit *The Dreamlife of Angels*, a stressed-out husband and wife work through a severe heatwave to restore an old farmhouse. Along the way they get some unexpected help from a mysterious and creepy old friend.

### Head Over Heels (Feb. 9)

**Who's In It?** Freddie Prinze Jr., Monica Potter  
**Who Directed?** Mark Waters (*House of Yes*)  
**What's It About?** Potter plays an art restorer who falls in love with her neighbour — even though she thinks she saw him kill someone.

### Hannibal (Feb. 9)

**Who's In It?** Anthony Hopkins, Julianne Moore  
**Who Directed?** Ridley Scott (*Gladiator*)  
**What's It About?** It seems at least one of Hannibal "The Cannibal" Lecter's victims survived. In the highly anticipated sequel to 1991's *Silence of the Lambs*, the serial-killer psychiatrist is stalked by one of his would-be victims (Gary Oldman) and it's up to disgraced FBI agent Clarice Starling (Moore, taking over for Jodie Foster) to save him. **See Ridley Scott interview, page 30.**



Shelton and Marsden in *Sugar & Spice*



# Famous Feedback

Over the past year, you've let us know how much you like our magazine via your letters and phone calls. We thank you for all of the positive feedback. Now we'd like to know which features you like the best, and what else you'd like to see in *Famous*.

Everyone who returns the survey will be entered in a draw for a Famous Players Big Card, which allows the winner and a guest free movies for a year at any Famous Players theatre.

**1 Are you...**

- a under 18 years of age
- b between 18 and 35 years of age
- c between 36 and 55 years of age
- d over 55 years of age

**2 Are you...**

- a male
- b female

**3 Where do you read *Famous*?**

- a in the theatre
- b at home
- c both

**4 How much time do you spend reading an issue of *Famous*?**

- a five minutes
- b fifteen minutes
- c half an hour
- d an hour or more

**5 How much of each issue do you read?**

- a less than one quarter
- b one quarter to one half
- c one half to three quarters
- d cover to cover

**6 We endeavour to write articles based on exclusive and original interviews with celebrities, rather than rewriting press releases. How important is this to you?**

- a extremely important
- b somewhat important
- c not important at all

**7 Which do you prefer reading?**

- a feature articles based on original interviews with the stars
- b question & answer sessions with the stars

**8 Is there a celebrity we haven't written about, who you'd like to see profilled in *Famous*?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**9 Rate our sections from 1 to 5, where 1 is Very Interesting, 2 is Interesting, 3 is Fair, 4 is Not Very Interesting and 5 is Not Interesting:**

Liner Notes (music)

1 2 3 4 5

Bit Streaming (internet)

1 2 3 4 5

Pulp and Paper (books)

1 2 3 4 5

Name of the Game (videogames)

1 2 3 4 5

Things (new products)

1 2 3 4 5

Cui-seen (food)

1 2 3 4 5

Horoscope

1 2 3 4 5

The Big Picture

(briefs about current movies)

1 2 3 4 5

On Video (new video releases)

1 2 3 4 5

Five Favourite Films

(celebrity interview)

1 2 3 4 5

Famous Last Words

(quotes from the stars)

1 2 3 4 5

**10 Rank these potential new *Famous* features in order of preference, with 1 being the one you'd most like to see and 8 being the one you'd least like to see:**

- ☐ Crossword
- ☐ Film history (i.e. "50 Years Ago This Month" or "Stars of the Silver Screen")
- ☐ Humour column
- ☐ Fashion
- ☐ Cartoon
- ☐ Travel
- ☐ Profiles of film jobs (i.e. gaffer, grip, cinematographer)
- ☐ Gossip

**11 Do you find that *Famous* is skewed...**

- a too young
- b too old
- c contains interesting info for both young and old

**12 Do you find that *Famous* is skewed...**

- a toward girls and women
- b toward boys and men
- c has interesting information for both sexes

**13 Do you find that *Famous* has...**

- a too much text and not enough pictures
- b too many pictures and not enough text
- c a good relationship of text to pictures

**14 Do you prefer to read about...**

- a high-profile celebs like Mel Gibson and Julia Roberts
- b up-and-coming actors you don't know much about
- c people you've never heard of, but who are doing interesting things
- d all of the above

**15 In your local theatre, is the magazine...**

- a easy to find
- b hard to find

**16 Do you find that the magazine is...**

- a always available
- b usually available
- c they've usually run out by the time I get there
- d it's always gone by the time I get there

**17 Would you like to read more about Canadian actors and film-makers?**

☐ yes ☐ no

**18 Would you like to read more about independent films?**

☐ yes ☐ no

**19 Would you like to read more about what's being filmed in Canada?**

☐ yes ☐ no

**20 Rate the magazine overall, from 1 to 5:**

Great Good Average Bad Terrible

1 2 3 4 5

**21 Other comments:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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view, page 30.

►► **Recess: School's Out** (Feb. 16)  
**Who's In It?** Ashley Edner, Jason Davis (voices)  
**Who Directed?** Chuck Sheetz (debut)  
**What's It About?** Reworked from the animated series *Disney's Recess*, this animated feature follows six grade schoolers who go on a road trip for summer vacation.



**Down to Earth** (Feb. 16)  
**Who's In It?** Chris Rock, James Gandolfini  
**Who Directed?** Paul and Chris Weitz (*American Pie*)  
**What's It About?** Rock plays a stand-up comic who gets killed in a bus accident but, because there's no room in Heaven, gets sent back to Earth in the body of a rich white man, played by Gandolfini. One problem: the rich guy's wife and mistress are both plotting to have him killed. **See Chris Rock interview, page 24.**

**Sweet November** (Feb. 16)  
**Who's In It?** Charlize Theron, Keanu Reeves  
**Who Directed?** Pat O'Connor (*Dancing at Lughnasa*)  
**What's It About?** Theron and Reeves, who played husband and wife in 1998's *The Devil's Advocate*, are reunited here as young lovers having a month-long fling. Sara (Theron) is a young woman who starts a new relationship every month, helps her man-of-the-moment become a better person and then moves on. But Mr. November (Reeves) doesn't want to let go at the end of the month. **See Charlize Theron interview, page 20.**

**Saving Silverman** (Feb. 16)  
**Who's In It?** Jason Biggs, Amanda Peet  
**Who Directed?** Dennis Dugan (*Big Daddy*)  
**What's It About?** When a couple of guys fear their buddy (Biggs) is about to marry a woman he doesn't love (Peet) they try to reunite him with his old girlfriend from high school.

**Enemy at the Gates** (Feb. 23)  
**Who's In It?** Jude Law, Ed Harris  
**Who Directed?** Jean-Jacques Annaud (*Seven Years in Tibet*)  
**What's It About?** During the Battle of Stalingrad, Russian sniper Vassili Zaitsev (Law) bags more than 140 invading Germans and becomes a national hero amid the horror of World War Two. But when word reaches Berlin, the Nazis send their best sharpshooter (Harris) on a mission to hunt him down. Based on a true story.

**Original Sin** (Feb. 23)  
**Who's In It?** Angelina Jolie, Antonio Banderas  
**Who Directed?** Michael Cristofer (*Body Shots*)  
**What's It About?** In 19th-century Cuba, a wealthy coffee tycoon (Banderas) gets into serious trouble when his mail-order bride (Jolie) arrives from America. Hope he kept the receipt.



**3,000 Miles to Graceland** (Feb. 23)  
**Who's In It?** Kevin Costner, Kurt Russell  
**Who Directed?** Demian Lichtenstein (*Lowball*)  
**What's It About?** Finally, a chance to see Costner in a gold lamé jumpsuit. A team of ex-convicts (Costner, Russell, et. al.) plan to rob a Las Vegas casino during a convention of Elvis impersonators — dressed in 1970s-era Elvis garb for cover. But, thanks to a meddling girlfriend (Cox Arquette), the heist goes wrong and the crooks turn on each other. Part road movie, part heist movie, part black comedy.

**See Spot Run** (Mar. 2)  
**Who's In It?** David Arquette, Michael Clarke Duncan  
**Who Directed?** John Whitesell (*Calendar Girl*)  
**What's It About?** Marked for death, an FBI drug-sniffing dog enters the witness protection program and is soon adopted by a New Jersey postal worker (Arquette). The postie then has to deal with two hitmen, sent to rub out his pooch. No, we're not making this up.

**All release dates subject to change.  
 Some films play only in limited markets.**

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## ENEMY AT THE GATES

Law and Rachel Weisz in *Enemy at the Gates*



### JUDE LAW

**Now appearing in...***Enemy at the Gates*, a reality-based World War Two drama about a Russian sharpshooter (Law) who is turned into a hero as part of a propaganda campaign. But once the Nazis hear about him, they dispatch their best marksman (Ed Harris) to hunt him down. Jean-Jacques Annaud (*Seven Years in Tibet*) directs and Joseph Fiennes co-stars as a Russian propagandist.

**Bio bits:** There aren't many men who can get away with being called "beautiful," but Jude Law is one of them. The actor gorgeous enough to have stolen hearts even as no-good playboy Dickie Greenleaf in 1999's *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, was born on December 29, 1972, in a southeast suburb of London called Blackheath. He has an older sister, Natasha, and his parents, Peter and Maggie Law, were both teachers. Jude was named both after the Beatles song *Hey Jude* and the title character from Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure*.

With such artsy parents, it was no surprise when Jude started acting with the National Youth Music Theatre at age 12. As for his education, he first attended a public school, but, when the place became too violent, his parents transferred him to a private school. No matter, he ended up dropping out at age 17 when he landed a role on the British soap opera *Families*. By 1992, Law was back doing serious theatre, and his performance in the play *Les Parents Terribles* even got him nominated for an Olivier Award. When, in 1995, the play changed

its name to *Indiscretions* and moved to Broadway, Law followed. By this time he had already made his big-screen debut in 1994's *Shopping* — an also-ran British film that would have been a total bust if Law hadn't met his future wife, actress Sadie Frost, on set.

The pair have two children together, a boy named Rafferty and a baby girl named Iris, and are raising Finley, a son from Frost's previous marriage to Spandau Ballet's Gary Kemp.

**Interesting tidbits:** Has two tattoos — one of his initials, and the other of some lyrics from the Beatles song "Sexy Sadie." • Mick Jagger wants to be played by Law in an upcoming biography that will be directed by Martin Scorsese.

**Awards and nominations:** Nominated for a Best Supporting Actor Oscar (2000), won the British Academy Award for Supporting Actor (2000) and won the Golden Globe for Supporting Actor (1999) all for *The Talented Mr. Ripley*

**Sample roles:** Dickie in *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1999), Ted in *eXistenZ* (1999), Steven in *The Wisdom of Crocodiles* (1998), Jerome in *Gattaca* (1997), Billy in *Shopping* (1994)

**On dropping out of high school:** "I didn't enjoy the institution of school. I like the accumulated knowledge and the minds of good teachers, but I hated rules and regulations. It's the same on set. If you're not having a good time, why are you standing there doing it? It's your life." — *Film Unlimited*, February 2000

## 3,000 MILES TO

### CHRISTIAN SLATER

**Now appearing in...***3,000 Miles to Graceland*, a dark comedy about a gang of crooks who try to knock over a Las Vegas casino during a convention of Elvis impersonators. Think *Ocean's 11* meets *Viva Las Vegas*. Kevin Costner and Kurt Russell co-star, while little-known Demian Lichtenstein (*Lowball*) directs.

**Bio bits:** The only child of casting director Mary Jo Slater and soap opera actor Michael Hawkins, Slater was born on August 18, 1969, in New York, N.Y., and started acting at age seven when mom handed him a part on the daytime drama *One Life to Live*. When he was nine, the same year his parents divorced, he started working on stage, touring with Dick Van Dyke in *The Music Man* and starring in Broadway productions of *Macbeth* and *David Copperfield*. A smattering of made-for-TV roles led to a part in 1985's *The Legend of Billie Jean*, the first of his many teen rebellion movies, and a prestigious role next to Sean Connery in the 1986 medieval murder mystery *The Name of the Rose*. His distinctly Jack Nicholson-esque performance as a murderous,

Slater hits paydirt in *3,000 Miles to Graceland*





# aring in...

## GRACELAND

maladjusted teen in the 1989 black comedy *Heathers* made him an instant celebrity.

Slater tried to shed his "bad boy" image in his 20s — taking on increasingly mature roles in *True Romance*, *Murder in the First* and *Untamed Heart* — but multiple arrests earned him a reputation as a real-life hell-raiser. In 1989 he led police on a wild car chase through West Hollywood and, after wrapping his car around a telephone pole, was charged and convicted of impaired driving. He spent 10 days in jail. He was again arrested in 1994 at a New York airport for trying to board a plane with a loaded gun in his luggage (he served three days community service), and yet again in 1997 when he allegedly punched an ex-girlfriend at a party and bit another man in the ensuing melee. Slater later admitted to being on heroin and cocaine at the time. He entered a drug rehab program, served two months of a 90-day sentence and got out early for good behaviour. But now, it sounds like Slater is finally settling down. He married his girlfriend Ryan Haddon last year, following the birth of their son, Jaden Christopher.

**Sample roles:** Reginald in *The Contender* (2000), Robert in *Very Bad Things* (1998), Hale in *Broken Arrow* (1996), Lewis in *Bed of Roses* (1996), James in *Murder in the First* (1995), Daniel in *Interview with the Vampire* (1994), Clarence in *True Romance* (1993), Adam in *Untamed Heart* (1993), "Lucky" Luciano in *Mobsters* (1991), Mark in *Pump up the Volume* (1990), J.D. in *Heathers* (1989), Adso in *The Name of the Rose* (1986)

**Interesting tidbits:** He's a big *Star Trek* fan and has slanted eyebrows because, as a kid, he shaved them to dress up as Mr. Spock and they didn't grow back properly. ● He has a younger half-brother, Ryan Slater, who also acts.

**Love life:** Dated *Heathers* co-star Winona Ryder, fashion editor Michelle Jonas and models Christy Turlington and Nina Huang.

**About the car chase:** "Having an eye-opening experience like that can change your attitude about your whole life. I decided it was a little too precious to be tampering with. I was lucky enough to be stopped and smart enough to pay attention. Now I'm so used to not drinking, I don't think about it." — *San Francisco Chronicle*, March 1996

## ORIGINAL SIN

Jolie with Antonio Banderas in *Original Sin*



### ANGELINA JOLIE

**Now appearing in...** *Original Sin* with Antonio Banderas, a steamy thriller set in 19th-century Cuba. Banderas plays a wealthy coffee merchant who gets more than he bargained for from his American mail-order bride, played by Jolie.

**Bio bits:** Her mom acts, her brother directs, and her dad is an Oscar winner. But as a kid, Angelina Jolie wanted to be an undertaker, not an actor. She was born on June 4, 1975, in Los Angeles, to actors Jon Voight (*Deliverance*) and Marcheline Bertrand. Her parents split up that same year and Jolie and her older brother James were raised by their mom in New York and Los Angeles. An early interest in mortuary science, one of her many unusual and macabre hobbies, eventually gave way to acting and modeling.

Jolie (which is actually her middle name) entered L.A.'s Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute at age 11 and, by 16, was working as a model and appearing in music videos for the Rolling Stones ("Has Anybody Seen My Baby?") and Lenny Kravitz ("Stand By My Woman"). Still in her teens, she joined the Met Theatre Group, where she worked with Ed Harris and Holly Hunter. On the set of 1995's *Hackers* Jolie met, and fell in love with, British co-star Jonny Lee Miller (*Trainspotting*) and the pair got married within the year. Jolie wore black leather pants at the ceremony and wrote Miller's name, in her own blood, on a white T-shirt. But it didn't last. The couple separated almost immediately and later divorced amicably.

Jolie landed parts in a handful of otherwise forgettable films — *Playing God*, *Without Evidence*, *Foxfire* — before hitting it big with two TV roles. Her performance in HBO's *Gia* drew praise, as did her part in the made-for-TV movie *George Wallace*. Despite the success, Jolie decided to quit acting and returned to New York. But a plum part alongside Denzel Washington in the crime thriller *The Bone Collector* soon lured her back into show biz. Within the year she had met and married her second husband, *Pushing Tin* co-star Billy Bob Thornton, and scored an Oscar for her role as a psychotic teenager opposite Winona Ryder in 1999's *Girl, Interrupted*.

**Sample roles:** Sara in *Gone in 60 Seconds* (2000), Lisa in *Girl, Interrupted* (1999), Amelia in *The Bone Collector* (1999), Mary in *Pushing Tin* (1999), Joan in *Playing by Heart* (1998), Gia Carangi in *Gia* (1998), Cornelia Wallace in *George Wallace* (1997), Kate in *Hackers* (1995)

**Interesting tidbits:** Collects knives and, reportedly, likes to play with them during sex. ● At last count, had six tattoos, including a dragon, a cross and a quote from a Tennessee Williams play. ● Is openly bisexual.

**On her "bad girl" image:** "I read things I've said and don't realize I'm being a 'bad' girl. I do like being sexual, I do collect knives, I do like tattoos. I like dark things. But there's a side of me that's soft. I love my family; I want to be a mother." — *Entertainment Weekly*, November 1999



# SWEET emotion

IN REAL LIFE, AND ON THE SCREEN, *SWEET NOVEMBER*  
STAR **CHARLIZE THERON** TRUSTS HER FEELINGS

BY EARL DITTMAN

**C**harlize Theron is so down-to-earth, so...un-Hollywood.

Casually strolling down a busy Manhattan sidewalk on the outskirts of Central Park, exchanging jokes and small talk with her, you feel like you're hanging out with your best friend's gorgeous little sister. If it weren't for the double takes, followed by those inevitable looks of amazement from passing tourists, you wouldn't have a clue that the affable 26-year-old is one of Hollywood's hottest new properties. And that's just the way the casually dressed "It girl" from Benoni, South Africa prefers it.

"I'm not really into all that 'star' stuff, that's why I try to dress and act as low-key as I can," Theron says, removing her sunglasses and brushing her radiant blond locks from her flawless face. "It's not that I don't like meeting people or have a problem signing autographs or anything like that. I just like it when I can walk around and function like a normal person. Anyway, it's not like I'm always being mobbed or anything. I'm just an actress who is kind of pretty and gets good parts. I'm not anyone *that* special."

But over the past few years Theron has proven that she's more than just a pretty face. A mere eight months after her plane first touched down at LAX, Theron was cast in her debut film, 1996's *2 Days in the Valley*. Since then she has worked almost non-stop, appearing in *That Thing You Do!*, *Celebrity*, *Mighty Joe Young*, *The Devil's Advocate*, *The Astronaut's Wife*, *The Cider House Rules*, *Reindeer Games*,

*Men of Honor*, *The Legend of Bagger Vance* and this month's *Sweet November*.

Directed by Pat O'Connor (*Inventing the Abbotts*), *Sweet November* is a remake of the 1968 Sandy Dennis/Anthony Newley tearjerker about Sara (Theron), a young woman who begins a new romance with a different man each month, helps him become a better person, then moves on. But her carefully planned monthly mission is thwarted once November rolls around and she meets Nelson (Keanu Reeves), who refuses to let her go when his allotted days are up. Even though Sara loves Nelson too, she has a secret that could destroy any long-term plans to be together.

"*Sweet November* is just the kind of movie I've been wanting to make for a very long time," Theron says, pausing for a moment to sign an autograph for a gushing male fan. "I've had some great parts, don't get me wrong, but none like this one."

**DID YOU REALLY TURN DOWN THE FEMALE LEAD IN THE \$150-MILLION EPIC *PEARL HARBOR* TO STAR IN *SWEET NOVEMBER*?**

"Believe it or not, it's true."

**WHY? *PEARL HARBOR* IS ALREADY BEING TOUTED AS THIS SUMMER'S BLOCKBUSTER.**

"After doing *Reindeer Games*, *Bagger Vance* and *Men of Honor*, it basically seemed like another boy's movie for me, and I wanted to do something that was more female-oriented. *Sweet November* is really a great story, and my character in it was so wonderful to play. It gave me a chance to really act and not just be a part

of the scenery. Anyway, I think I've passed the point of worrying about what movies will be good for my visibility. I just want to make movies that will fulfill me as an actress, regardless if they are going to be big summer movies or not."

**WHAT MAKES SARA SUCH A GREAT CHARACTER TO PLAY?**

"The wide range of emotions she goes through. It was challenging for me because she's a woman who feels so many different things through the course of the story. In most of the movies I've been in, I've been the supporting character, so I only got to play maybe one or two aspects of how they felt. With Sara, I was able to lose myself in her emotions, from happiness to sadness to everything in between."

**YOU WORKED WITH KEANU IN *THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE*. HOW DID THAT AFFECT YOUR WORK WITH HIM THIS TIME AROUND?**

"It was like two old friends getting together again after a long vacation. We weren't afraid to try different things in front of each other, I think we both felt this freedom to experiment with our characters. I know I felt that way. But a lot of that comes from the fact that Keanu is so giving as an actor."

**OTHER ACTORS HAVE SAID THE SAME THING ABOUT HIM. WHAT EXACTLY DOES IT MEAN?**

"He's an actor, not a movie star. By that, I mean he is more interested in improving the quality of the piece as opposed to how many close-ups he's going to get. It's all about the acting to him."



Model turned actor  
Charlize Theron  
in *Sweet November*

**HOW DO YOU AVOID MAKING A VERY DRAMATIC LOVE STORY LIKE *SWEET NOVEMBER* INTO AN OVER-THE-TOP MELODRAMA?**

"By keeping it real. Very dramatic things happen in everyday life and in real relationships, but the secret to making sure they don't look melodramatic on screen is to re-create them as honestly as possible. That's where the real acting comes in to play. That's when you have to dig deep in yourself and search for your own emotions. It can be tough to do, but when you get it right, the pay-off is worth it."

**DID YOU WATCH THE ORIGINAL WITH SANDY DENNIS AND ANTHONY NEWLEY BEFORE SHOOTING?**

"No, because I didn't want to be influenced by it — consciously or unconsciously. I've seen it since, and I really like it. But I wanted to do Sara my own way, and when you do a remake, you run the danger of re-creating someone else's performance. I wanted this role to be all mine."

**YOU STARTED OUT AS A MODEL AND, BY 16, WERE IN MILAN MODELING CLOTHES FOR SOME OF FASHION'S BIGGEST DESIGNERS. WHY DID YOU STOP MODELING?**

"I just got tired of being seen simply as 'Somebody beautiful who should not say a word.' Luckily, after Milan I got a modeling job in New York. Once I was there, I decided I wanted to dance with one of the best dance companies in the world, the Joffrey Ballet. I auditioned, and I got the job. Things couldn't have gone any better for me. I mean, here I was, this bright-eyed teenager dancing with the Joffrey Ballet. As far as I was concerned, I had it made. My life was set."

**BUT THAT ALL ENDED WHEN YOU HURT YOUR KNEE.**

"I damaged it so badly, that they told me my dance career was over. I was crushed. I felt like everything I had worked so hard for was gone, for good. I thought, 'I'm 18, and my life is over.' I was so depressed. I even thought about going back to South Africa. But I've never been a quitter. And after a little soul searching, I realized that the thing I loved about ballet the most was not the dance but the performance. What I really liked was putting on the makeup, getting on stage and projecting a character. That's what kind of triggered the idea to act. That's when I decided to move to L.A."

**HOW DID YOU LOSE YOUR SOUTH AFRICAN ACCENT?**

"Television. I watched American television, constantly, 24 hours a day for four months to get rid of my accent. I watched every





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## interview



**"I HAVE A GREAT SENSE OF PEACE OVER MY LIFE RIGHT NOW," THERON SAYS. "IT'S PROBABLY HARD TO BELIEVE THAT BECAUSE OF THE CRAZY CAREER I'VE HAD AND WITH HAVING TO WORK CONSTANTLY"**

► kind of American show I could to learn all the different types of U.S. dialects. I was determined to sound like an American, even if it killed me. And two months later, I got my first job, in *2 Days in the Valley*."

**THAT WAS SIX YEARS AGO. HOW HAVE YOU CHANGED SINCE THEN?**

"My jeans from back then don't fit anymore. So I've gotten too big for my britches [laughs]."

**IS THERE A DREAM PART YOU'D LIKE TO PLAY?**

"Scarlett O'Hara. I've always wanted to play her. But in some ways, that's come true, because in a sense, my character in *Bagger Vance* is very much like a Scarlett O'Hara. So that's how lucky I am."

As dusk begins to hover over the Big Apple, Theron finds herself a spot on the edge of a concrete bench to sit and watch a spectacular New York City sunset. The beauty and splendour of the setting puts her

in a serene, reflective mood.

"I have a great sense of peace over my life right now," she concedes. "It's probably hard to believe that because of the crazy career I've had and with having to work constantly. But I've been able to maintain a certain amount of peace...because I really love what I do."

"What motivates me to get out of bed at four in the morning to film a scene in *Sweet November* is the work," she continues. "To work with the other actors and to have that creative outlet is what I live for. That is what satisfies me and what makes me feel like I'm a full human being. The premieres, the great reviews, the magazine covers and everything that's written about me is nice, but it's something that I have no control over. I have control over my work and my personal life. And, right now, they are both doing great." **E**

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



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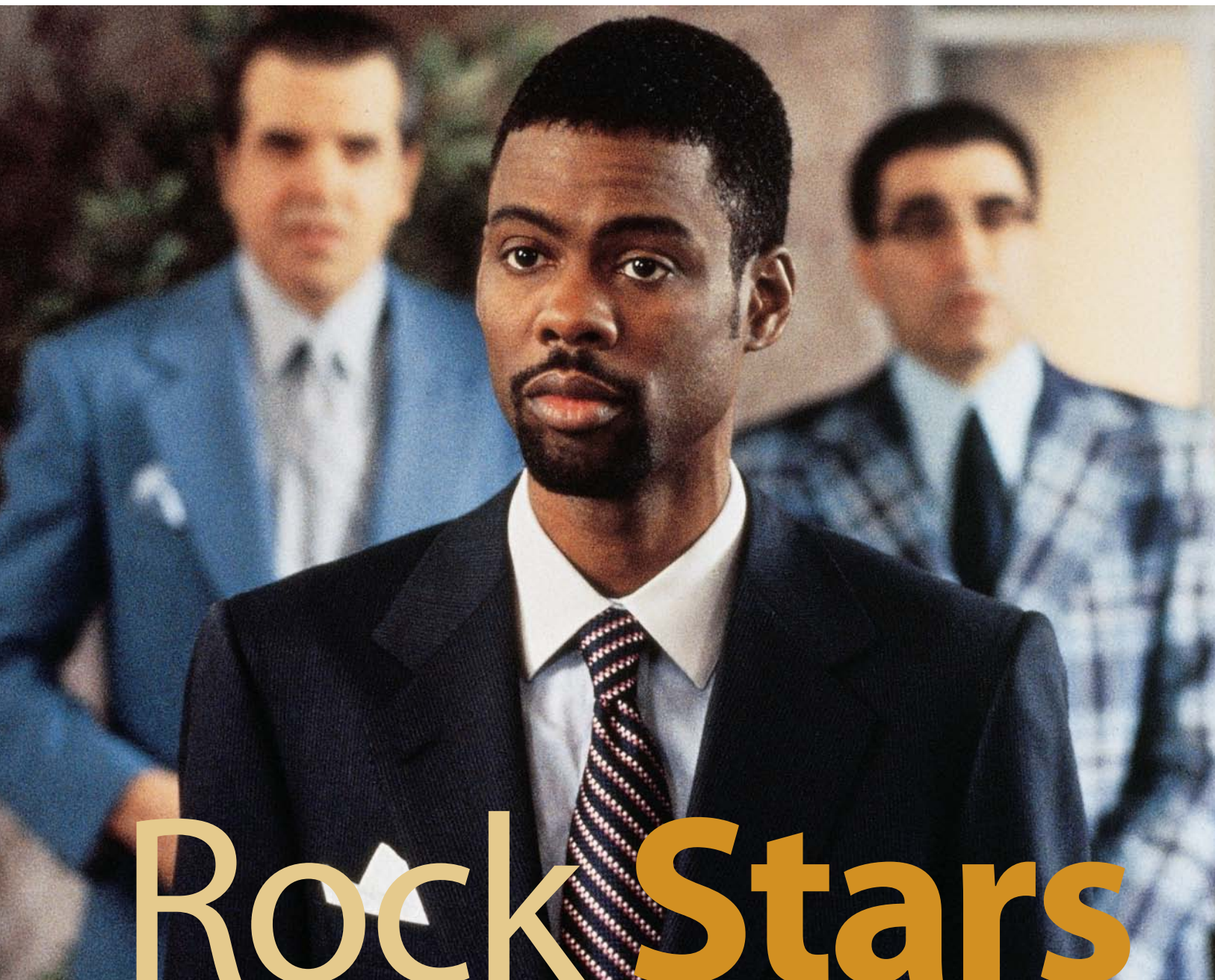
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# Rock Stars

**Chris Rock has gone from supporting cast member on *Saturday Night Live* to outspoken social commentator with his acclaimed HBO specials and biting stand-up. He's also had small parts in many films, but never a starring role. Until now.**

**With the supernatural comedy *Down to Earth*, Chris Rock the comic becomes Chris Rock the leading man**

**BY BOB THOMPSON**

**Chris Rock**, the comic mouth that roars, is quietly sitting in his trailer on the Toronto set of *Down to Earth*. He's not plotting his next hilarious diatribe or figuring out what cultural quirk is annoying him to comic distraction. Instead, he's casually sketching in a binder with a crayon, his focus broken when I introduce myself.

"It gives me something to do," he says bashfully as he closes the book and directs me to sit across from him at his modest kitchen table. He's on a break from shooting



a scene for the Chris and Paul Weitz (*American Pie*) fantasy comedy, in which he plays a struggling stand-up comic taken too soon from Earth by an incompetent angel (Eugene Levy).

His character is eventually returned to Earth in a loner body belonging to a billionaire (James Gandolfini) who is being targeted for death by his boozing wife (Jennifer Coolidge). Chazz Palminteri (*The Usual Suspects*) portrays the head angel who runs Heaven like a swinging Fifties nightclub, while Regina King (*Enemy of the State*) is on hand as Rock's love interest.

If the premise sounds familiar, it should. Warren Beatty had a hit with the same sort of idea — although Beatty played a football player — in 1978's *Heaven Can Wait*. That film was, in turn, based on 1941's *Here Comes Mr. Jordan* in which Robert Montgomery played a boxer.

But the fact that *Down to Earth*'s central character is a black comic allows for some social commentary and lots of excuses for punchline dialogue — two elements that were extremely attractive to Rock when choosing his first star vehicle. "It seemed like a movie I could do," he suggests, coyly smiling at his understatement. He also co-wrote the film and had a hand in the casting.

"He's just about perfect for it," Chris Weitz later agrees, just before shooting the sequence in which the billionaire, as Rock, interrupts his wife and assistant lamenting his supposed death. "Most people know the loud and aggressive side of Chris, but they're going to see a quieter side in this film too."

That's fine with Rock. He's ready to take his career to the next level. We're not talking an A-list star is born, but *Down to Earth* should help his status. He has already signed on to do Peter and Bobby Farrelly's adaptation of the cheeseball Seventies TV series, *Six Million Dollar Man*. And if the Farrelly Brothers can do for Rock what they did for Jim Carrey with *Dumb and Dumber*, that will be fine with him. But the 35-year-old comic is well aware of the hills and valleys in show business, despite riding high these days with his HBO talk show, acclaimed HBO specials, sold-out live shows and high profile supporting parts in *Lethal Weapon 4* (1998), *Dr. Dolittle* (1998), *Dogma* (1999) and *Nurse Betty* (2000).

**G**rowing up in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighbourhood of Brooklyn, Rock learned quickly about failure and human frailty. The



From left: Palminteri, Rock and Levy in *Down to Earth*

"I guess I am  
a pessimist usually,"  
says Rock,  
"But it's the beauty  
of being a New Yorker.  
You just know  
that everybody's  
full of sh-t"

first of six kids, he was born February 7, 1965, in South Carolina. But Julius, his trucker father (who died before Rock hit it big), and his school-teacher mom, Rose, moved the family to Bed-Stuy soon after. Rock quickly developed a darkly sardonic humour, especially after being bussed to an almost all-white school where, he says, he learned about racism and how to take a beating without getting too messed up.

Jokes gave him an out in many ways. He's fond of saying he had two idols growing up — boxer Sugar Ray Leonard and Eddie Murphy. "I couldn't fight," says Rock, shrugging. But, like Murphy, he could talk up a storm. So talk he did with his pushy attitude and his sharp wit, first at Manhattan comedy clubs and later on the road doing the U.S. "chuckles circuit" as some comics derisively call it.

He still remembers his first gig 15 years ago. "It was audition night at Catch a Rising Star," he says of the New York comedy club where he used to hang out with his good buddies Jerry Seinfeld and Paul Reiser. "I did five minutes, and got five bucks," he says. "*Five bucks.*"

"Normally you don't get paid, but they told me I passed the audition that night so they paid me. I got a buck a minute, 60 bucks an hour. That's a fine living," he says, chuckling.

For the next four years, Rock slugged it out, reworked his material and honed that jabbing satirical, often caustic, persona. Those first four or five years were lean and mean, but as Rock points out, "everything is an easy thing when you have nothing else to do."

That changed drastically in 1989 when his comedy routines — and Eddie Murphy's glowing review of his act to Lorne Michaels — earned him a spot on Michaels' *Saturday Night Live*. Four years later, he moved to *In Living Color*, wrote, produced and starred in the rap parody *CB4*. He also had a small part opposite his idol Murphy in *Boomerang*.

In 1993, he won raves for the HBO special *Chris Rock: Big Ass Jokes*, and, in 1997, scored two Emmys for the controversial *Bring The Pain*. The talk show, the live performances, and especially his co-starring role in *Lethal Weapon 4* with Danny Glover and Mel Gibson, put him on the show business map. ►►





Dead man talking.  
Rock with Regina King  
in *Down to Earth*

►► Now Rock has supplanted Murphy as the hip, happening comedy truthsayer. So what does he do in *Down to Earth*? He plays a bad comic. “Oh yeah,” he says, “I can do that. I had a lot of time practising. I bombed. I still bomb from time to time, never in a paying gig — but when I’m doing something new, something’s got to give. So that’s not a problem, to go on stage and not get laughs.”

According to Paul and Chris Weitz, he’s got the acting chops to pull off lots more, which makes me wonder out loud why Rock waited so long to star in a custom-made motion picture. “I guess I could’ve done it earlier,” he says. “When I got into the acting, I asked myself, ‘Do I want to act, or do I want to be a star?’ I want to act. And realistically,” he continues, smiling at the revelation, “I took all the great offers I was getting. Mel Gibson says he wants you in his movie, you go make his movie.”

Confront Rock with an either/or situation and the acting routine loses to the stand-up routine every time.

“I’d give up acting in a minute if I had to,” he confirms. “I’ve been making a living telling jokes all by myself on stage for a long time. Acting is auditioning and being at the whim of other people’s taste. Do they like me? Does the studio like me?”

But *Down to Earth* was different because he had so much control, and

because it’s being directed by the Weitz Brothers, who share Rock’s need for an easy-going atmosphere. “Everything kinda goes smoothly,” Rock confirms. “You get the script right, hire people that are good and that you want to be with for the next three months, and there you have it.”

That’s positive coming from a pessimist, I tell him.

“I guess I am a pessimist usually,” he says. “But it’s the beauty of being a New Yorker. You just know that everybody’s full of sh-t. You find that out at a young age. You’re 12 and you say, ‘Oh, I get it, everybody’s full of sh-t.’ That puts you ahead of everybody else because they don’t figure that out until they’re 28 or 30.”

So, is he happy now? Sure. But he still misses the days before he found success. “Struggle was good. Struggle was more fun than this,” he says, meaning being alone and waiting for his next assignment. “It was pure back in the days, sitting at dinner with Jerry Seinfeld, Paul Reiser, Adam Sandler. It was like being a kid hanging out at the corner with your bicycles.”

With that, the trailer door opens and Rock is summoned back to the set — his new neighbourhood that’s fun, but not as much fun as it used to be. **f**

*Bob Thompson is a movie writer with The Toronto Sun.*

## famous trivia

- 1 Heather Graham plays Chris Klein’s love interest, who may actually be his sister (yuck), in the quirky new comedy *Say it isn’t So*. On which very quirky TV show did she play the lead character’s love interest back in 1991?
- 2 *15 Minutes* star Robert De Niro turned down the role of Jesus Christ in which 1988 movie?
- 3 Neil Diamond makes a cameo as himself in the romantic comedy *Saving Silverman*. The crooner once took a stab at real acting, playing a character named Yussel Rabinowitz in a 1978 film. Name that movie.
- 4 Ed Harris plays a Nazi sharpshooter in the reality-based drama *Enemy at the Gates*. It’s not the first time Harris has played a character based on a real person. Which real-life astronaut did he play in 1983’s *The Right Stuff*?
- 5 Katey Sagal provides the voice of Mrs. Spinelli in the new animated feature *Recess the Movie: School’s Out*. On which current TV show does she also voice an animated character?
- 6 On which daytime soap did *Saving Silverman* star Jason Biggs play Pete Wendall from 1994 to 1995?
- 7 Was Keanu Reeves, who stars opposite Charlize Theron in *Sweet November*, born in Toronto, Beirut or Hawaii?

### ANSWERS

- 1 *Twin Peaks* 2 *The Last Temptation of Christ* 3 *The Jazz Singer* 4 John Glenn 5 *Futurama* 6 *As the World Turns* 7 Beirut





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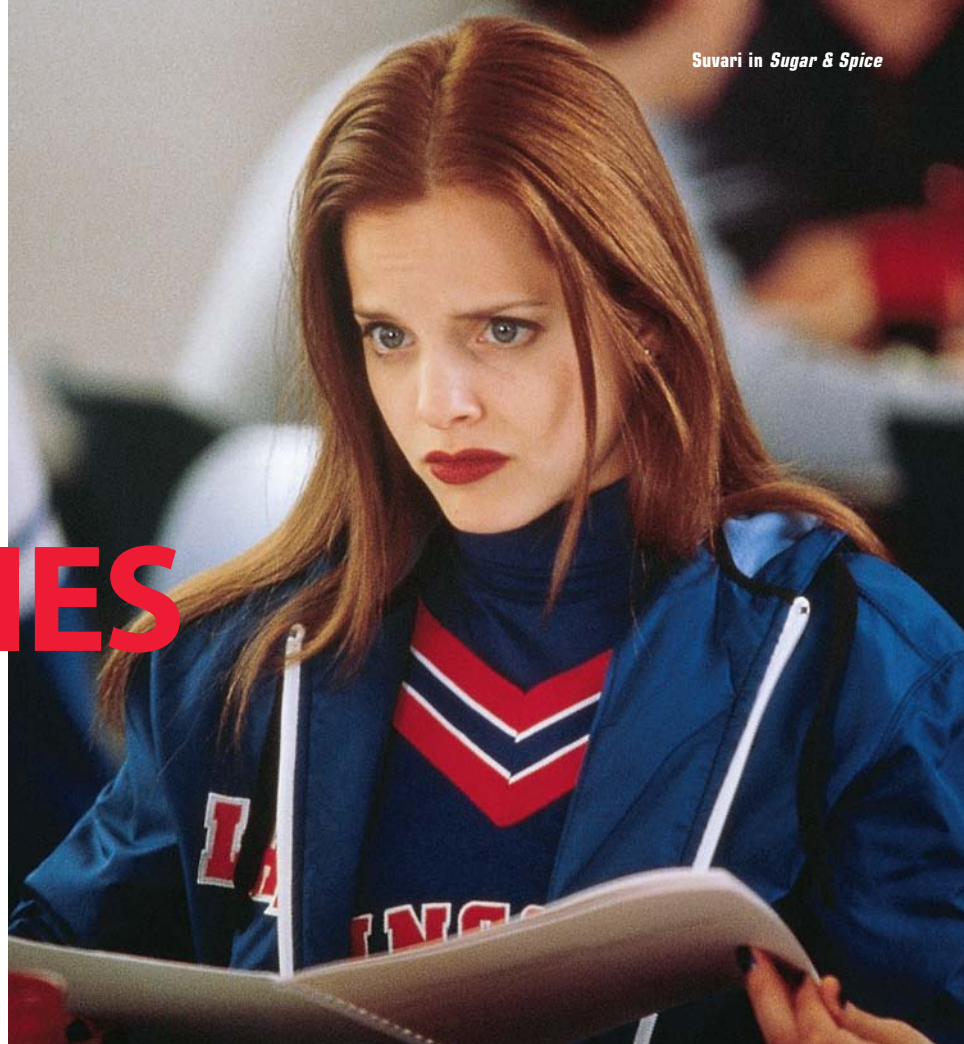




# NO APOLOGIES

**At 19, she took her top off for *American Beauty*. At 21, she married the 38-year-old cinematographer she met on the set of her new movie, *Sugar & Spice*. But Mena Suvari has always been mature for her age. And besides, her choices are nobody's business but her own**

BY SEAN DALY



**M**ena Suvari doesn't like talking about her relationships. Especially not her relationship with 38-year-old Robert Brinkmann, the Hollywood cinematographer she wed in a small, private ceremony last March.

But can you really blame her?

Since the beginning of their whirlwind courtship, which blossomed on the set of her new movie *Sugar & Spice*, the 22-year-old star of *American Pie* and *American Beauty* has been bombarded by members of the press with the type of May/December romance questions usually reserved for Michael Douglas and Woody Allen: "What did your parents say?" "Couldn't you find someone your own age?" "What could you two possibly have in common?"

Of course, the 5'4" native of Newport, Rhode Island — who grew up in Charleston, South Carolina and now lives with her husband in Los Angeles — is doing her best to avoid all the inquiries. She also downplays the fact that several of her recent characters (including Angela Hayes in the Oscar-winning *American Beauty* and Dora Diamond in last summer's disappointing *Loser*) have been romantically involved with much older men.

As she settles into a Beverly Hills hotel suite in blue jeans and a denim jacket, the former Wilhelmina model chuckles at the suggestion that her life is quickly beginning to imitate her craft. "It's all just a big coincidence," she laughs, in between sips of water. "Everybody is trying to make all these great connections, but any similarities really just happened by chance."

The youngest of four children born to Ando, 76, a retired psychologist, and the much younger Candice, a 52-year-old nurse, she sees no reason to dwell on age differences, and says that her personal happiness is more important than any outsider's opinions. "I had my fair share of not-so-great relationships before I met my husband," she points out. "What's so amazing to me is that I found someone like him that I *could* marry."

Suvari (whose first name comes from her Egyptian godmother and surname is Estonian) says she wasn't in the market for a boyfriend when Brinkmann — who has also worked behind the camera on *The Cable Guy* and *Encino Man* — suggested that she and co-star Marla Sokoloff (*The Practice*) accompany him out one evening while they were filming in northern Minnesota. "He was

trying to be all subtle, you know," Suvari recalls. In the end, Mena and Marla went out for dinner, and when Robert showed up Marla took off so Suvari and Brinkmann could be alone. The couple spent the remainder of their first "date" catching a screening of *Eyes Wide Shut* ("We both love Stanley Kubrick"), and have reportedly spent every possible day together since.

Suvari insists that she and Brinkmann kept their relationship "extremely professional" during the filming of *Sugar & Spice*, which took place last summer at various locations around the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. They spent their free time taking in movies and walking around the lakes before she headed to New York City and Toronto in November 1999 to begin work on *Loser*.

Suvari describes *Sugar & Spice* as a "dark comedy" about a group of high school cheerleaders whose relationship strengthens when one of them, Dianne (played by Marley Shelton), discovers she is pregnant. Fellow team member Kansas Hill (Suvari) and the rest of the squad are a rather tight-knit crew, so in between homework, cheering practice and Lamaze class, they plan a heist that will ensure the baby's



financial future — having no idea that their actions will become the focus of the entire country. Sean Young (*Blade Runner*) plays Kansas' mom, a sexy felon who is touched when her daughter comes to her for advice about the robbery.

Fortunately, high school was never quite that exciting for Suvvari. In fact, she didn't even go to the prom. "Nobody asked me," she recalls. "But that's okay. I had other things on my mind. I just wanted to get out into the real world. I never really felt that I could identify with people my age at the time, when I was 15 and 16." Of course, by then Suvvari was well on her way to a career in show business. But fame and fortune wasn't always her main agenda.

"When I was younger, I wanted to be an archeologist, a paleontologist...all types of other things," she recalls. "But I was always really dramatic and outgoing. I guess I got that from the Greek side of my family."

Suvvari began modeling near her home in Charleston, South Carolina at age nine. Then she lost her two front teeth and dropped out of the picture for a few years because as she remembers, "I wasn't so cute anymore." She returned to work following her 12th birthday, and, after lying about her age (she claimed she was 13), landed a five-year deal with the renowned Wilhelmina Agency in New York City. She spent several years commuting between work in the Big Apple and classes back home at Ashley Hall, her all-girls middle school, before the family eventually packed their bags and headed west to California.

But she quickly learned that being the new kid in town is not always easy. After attending a private Catholic school in South Carolina, where she had to wear a uniform, Suvvari says she had a bit of difficulty fitting in with her new classmates. "My first day I had my first collar button buttoned up to here and my skirt down to here," she explains, trying to demonstrate. "And I looked like an idiot! So everyone right away thought I was an idiot. And coming from South Carolina to L.A., when we had the earthquake, I was teased that all my chickens got loose."

"I guess kids can be like that," she says, with a shrug. "I don't know what I did wrong. I was just trying to go to school."

It wasn't long before Suvvari made her television debut in commercials for Rice-a-Roni, Kodak and Pizza Hut. Then, from 1995 to 1997, she appeared on numerous TV shows including *Boy Meets World*, *ER* and *Chicago Hope*. She made the transition to



Sugar & Spice

"I never really felt that I could identify with people my own age at the time, when I was 15 and 16," says Suvvari

feature films in the stinker *Nowhere* (1997), before eventually landing plum roles in *Kiss The Girls* (1997), *Slums of Beverly Hills* (1998) and *Carrie II: The Rage* (1999).

While the young starlet was working her way up the ladder in Hollywood, two of her three older brothers graduated from the prestigious Citadel military academy and became active in the United States military. Today one remains in the service as an army captain, while the other two have returned to the public sector — one in real estate, and the other hoping to follow his sister into show business ("but behind the scenes," she says).

According to Suvvari, her siblings are all "very supportive" of her personal and professional accomplishments. She says they resist any urge to be protective of their younger sister or steer her away from sexier roles, such as the rose petal-covered object of Kevin Spacey's desire in *American Beauty*.

That part required Suvvari, then 19, to appear topless in a scene when her character contemplates making love to the father of her best friend. "It really wasn't just a nudity shot," she defends. "It was very much an unveiling of the character and who she is. It shows she's not just a kid.

You know, she's just innocent. It was very beneficial to the movie, and to that role."

Before rehearsals began on the film, Suvvari says director Sam Mendes asked her to fly from Vancouver to Los Angeles to discuss the scene. "He didn't want to talk to me over the phone," she recalls. "But he gave me such a great level of comfort. It was wonderful. And not only that, it was a little comforting that I wasn't the only one who was naked. Kevin had a scene, Annette [Bening] had a scene, Thora [Birch] had one.... So I was like: 'Okay, we're all a little involved.'"

At this stage in her career, Suvvari says she isn't sure if she'll do on-screen nudity again. In fact, before *American Beauty*, she had always crossed out any clause in her contract that required her to disrobe on screen. "I always said I didn't want to be known like that.... And then this happened. But I think that it really depends on the circumstances of the script. So I'm not gonna say I'm open to it. It just depends."

But she doesn't really like talking about that either. **3**

Sean Daly is the editor of Showtime magazine in Los Angeles.





# EAT IT UP

OKAY HANNIBAL THE CANNIBAL FANS, YOUR LONG WAIT IS OVER. AFTER 10 YEARS, IT'S TIME TO SEE WHAT RIDLEY SCOTT, ANTHONY HOPKINS AND JULIANNE MOORE HAVE DONE WITH *THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS*' SEQUEL, *HANNIBAL*

By David Giammarco



Ridley Scott, reclining on his hotel room sofa, fires up a prized Cohiba, and exhales some good old-fashioned bravado amidst the plumes of smoke. You see, the *Gladiator* director has stepped into an even bloodier arena than that of the Roman Coliseum — the long-awaited sequel to *The Silence of the Lambs*. “I’m very competitive,” says Scott with a Hannibal Lecter-like twinkle of assurance in his eyes, “so this will probably be even more interesting than the first one.”

The 1991 original was one of only three films in Oscar history to sweep the top five Academy Award categories: Best Picture, Director (Jonathan Demme), Actor (Anthony Hopkins), Actress (Jodie Foster), and Adapted Screenplay (Ted Tally). *Lambs* also went on to gross more than \$150-million

at the North American box office, and, ever since, creeped-out moviegoers have been nervously licking their chops for another helping of their favourite cannibal. But the behind-the-scenes feeding frenzy that finally brought *Hannibal* to the big screen would’ve brought chills even to the good Dr. Lecter himself.

Not only did it take author Thomas Harris 11 long years to write the follow-up to his best-selling novel — torturing eager publishers, studios, filmmakers and fans for an entire decade — but when the long overdue 600-page manuscript finally arrived, it was slammed by a number of critics and fans not only for dumbing down the character of FBI agent Clarice Starling, but also for the excessive amount of gruesome slayings. Overkill? Well, that’s why Jonathan Demme felt he needed to drop out of the project, especially in the wake of the Columbine shootings. Next to pass was screenwriter Ted Tally. A copy of Harris’ book was also dispatched to Jodie Foster in Malaysia, where she was shooting *Anna and the King*. Another was delivered to Anthony Hopkins at his home in England, and finally another was couriered to producer Dino De Laurentiis, who had “first negotiation/last refusal” rights for the sequel. De Laurentiis immediately slapped down \$11-million for the screen



rights — the highest amount ever paid for a screen adaptation. But in the ensuing months, hopes of reuniting the original dream team behind *Lambs* began to crumble.

After Demme and Tally passed, the next domino to fall was Foster. Following protracted discussions involving an asking price of \$20-million, Foster backed out, saying she preferred instead to direct an independent project of her own called *Flora Plum*. This after De Laurentiis had spent a few million in screenplay adaptations by pricey writers — including a version by David Mamet (*State and Main*) — who had all tried to cater to Foster's vision for the sequel. But in the end, the unavoidable focus on Hannibal Lecter at the expense of the Clarice Starling character could not be changed. Everyone involved was suddenly very nervous about Foster's departure. The fate of the film seemed dire.

Enter Ridley Scott, who was in the midst of finishing *Gladiator* when he committed to the project.

"Even though I was shooting a very big movie, I read *Hannibal* in, like, three sittings," recalls the man also responsible for *Blade Runner*, *Alien* and *Thelma & Louise*. "I just loved the density of the story and the characters. I liked the fact that it not only takes place 10 years later, but it was *written* 10 years later and therefore it feels like something that is totally distinct from its predecessor."

Scott immediately enlisted Oscar-winning screenwriter Steve Zaillian (*Schindler's List*) to rewrite the Mamet version. It was this new draft that finally lured Anthony Hopkins back to reprise his most famous screen character. "Anthony was always keen to do the movie," explains Scott. "He was very amused by the book, but really wanted to make his decision based on the final script. It had to translate to the script for him, or it was a no-go."

With Hopkins secured as Hannibal (at a reported price of \$15- to \$20-million), the hunt was now on for a new Clarice Starling — the object of Lecter's twisted affections. De Laurentiis knew audiences were more entertained by Hannibal than the Starling character anyway, and, in an interview with American Press, went so far as to say, "the only thing that matters is a good director and a good story. With those two things, I could play Starling. Within two minutes the audience will forget all about Jodie Foster — I promise you."

"Jodie's...an interesting woman," offers



Hopkins and Moore  
in *Hannibal*

## "CLARICE CAN NO LONGER BE INNOCENT 10 YEARS LATER," SAYS SCOTT. "SO, IN A SENSE, JULIANNE IS REALLY STARTING OFF WITH A FRESH CANVAS HERE"

Scott. "She has a career as a director, and a film she'd been trying to get financing for finally came through. So she had to do it. And also, she'd been [in that role] before and didn't feel she wanted to go back again. I understand that."

Ashley Judd, Gillian Anderson and Gwyneth Paltrow were considered for the role, but eventually it came down to four names: Cate Blanchett, Hilary Swank, Angelina Jolie and Julianne Moore. Scott met with each actress on his short list and eventually chose Moore.

"Though Jodie fulfilled brilliantly her role in the first one — which was evidenced by the fact she won an Academy Award for it — she was playing a rookie, essentially. An innocent," says Scott. "Clarice can no longer be innocent 10 years later. So, in a sense, Julianne is really starting off with a fresh canvas here. And she's brilliant in a much different way. She has the honesty, sincerity, and strength of character that I was looking for in Starling. I knew almost immediately she would be wonderful in this role."

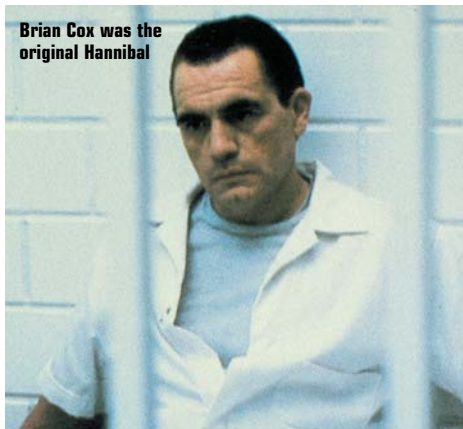
Moore says she had no fears about filling Foster's shoes, because she viewed Starling as a brand-new character. All the same, she is prepared for the inevitable comparisons. "It's unavoidable," Moore said at a press conference during production last summer in Italy. "Jodie gave a brilliant performance

in a really wonderful movie. But all I can say is: That was that movie, and we've done a different one. It's a completely separate film.

"Clarice was just a student in the first film," continues Moore, "and now she's been a member of the FBI for a long time. She has a lot of authority. So in that sense, it helps me a lot. It gives me a different place to start. She is quite a different person at this point in her life."

The story picks up exactly 10 years after Lecter — who, in case you don't know, is a cannibalistic serial killer — escaped from maximum security custody, teasing both Starling and audiences with the immortal line that ended the movie: "I'm having an old friend for dinner." Now living in the shadows of Florence, Italy, Lecter is enjoying a newfound grace and elegance in his life...a more varied cuisine, as it were. But his past comes back to haunt him yet again when one of his only surviving victims (played by *The Contender's* Gary Oldman) lures Starling into a trap as bait to bring Hannibal out of hiding. Chock full of unpredictable plot twists and a slew of new gourmet cooking recipes, Scott says he was never hesitant about filming the book's graphic slayings. "Violence isn't the star of the film," he insists. "The film is about the orchestration between these two characters. The first





Brian Cox was the original Hannibal

## The Other Hannibal Lecter

Think *Hannibal* is the second movie about Hannibal Lecter, following in the freaky footsteps of 1991's *The Silence of the Lambs*? Wrong. It's actually the third.

In 1986, a little-known, but critically acclaimed thriller called *Manhunter* was released with the tagline "Enter the mind of a serial killer...you may never come back." Sound familiar? It should. The plot of this first movie was very similar to Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins' *Lambs*. In *Manhunter*, William Petersen, who you might remember from last year's *The Contender*, plays an FBI agent trying to track down a serial killer dubbed "The Tooth Fairy." Instead of killing women and making their skin into a dapper flesh suit like our chilling villain in *Lambs*, this killer's M.O. is to murder an entire family at every full moon. Just as Clarice Starling (Foster) seeks help from psychologist/psycho Hannibal Lecter (Hopkins) to get inside the mind of the man she's hunting in *Lambs*, so to does Petersen go to Lecter for advice in *Manhunter*. Only his Hannibal Lecter is played by British actor Brian Cox, who most recently played Hermann Göring in the CTV miniseries *Nuremberg*.

All three movies are based on books by Thomas Harris, although *Manhunter*'s title was changed from that of the book: *Red Dragon*. And each of the movies was helmed by a different director. When Ridley Scott (*Gladiator*) signed on for *Hannibal* he was taking over for *Lambs*' Jonathan Demme (*Philadelphia*), while Michael Mann (*Heat*, *The Insider*) was the big boss for *Manhunter*.

—MW

► book was a process of Hannibal wooing Clarice Starling. The second book was much more in the direction of a real relationship between the two. It's kind of a love story, really. But in much darker tones. I find the story far more interesting this time."

He says *Hannibal* isn't a horror film. "I've never regarded *Alien* as a horror film, either. I took on the task 'cause I loved the dynamics and the characters and the engine of the story — and what came out of it was a very scary movie. Same thing here. Because I think to attach the word 'horror' to a film of this calibre and to *Silence of the Lambs* is not correct. I mean there's nothing wrong with horror films or the genre, but I think that *Lambs* was above that context. And so is *Hannibal*."

Appropriately, the last word goes to Hannibal Lecter himself. At that Italian press conference, Hopkins likened this sequel to a dark opera. "Lecter has a strange, bizarre love for Clarice," he explained. "It's a yearning he's had for her for many years. It's a dark romance...about obsession." Though he wouldn't elaborate further on the film's twists and turns, Hopkins did reveal that we'll see a new side of Hannibal the Cannibal. "He's a man who is bored by his retirement from public life," said Hopkins. "He's a little world-weary. Then, suddenly, he hears that they're after him again, and he thinks, 'Good — back into action!'"

And Hopkins thinks he knows why Hannibal has become one of the most enduring and genuinely terrifying screen



Hopkins gets subdued in *Hannibal*

villains in motion picture history. "Jungian psychoanalysts would say it's the shadow that we have in all of us," he says. "Or maybe it's his certainty, his calmness that we probably envy. Some of the most colourful figures in classical literature — Iago, Richard III, Faust — have those qualities. They're so brilliant. They have no doubts. They have no uncertainty. That's what makes them charismatic — they're always in control.

"And so a film like this," he muses, "gives us a moment of coming close to the dark side of *ourselves*. Just for two hours. I believe a character like Hannibal Lecter is part of all our darker, deeper shadows. Deep inside." **F**

David Giammarco is an entertainment journalist based out of Toronto and L.A.



Moore takes a shot at playing Clarice Starling



# HOFFMAN PLAYS CANADIAN, REDFORD DOES ACTION PIC, JOVOVICH FIGHTS ZOMBIES

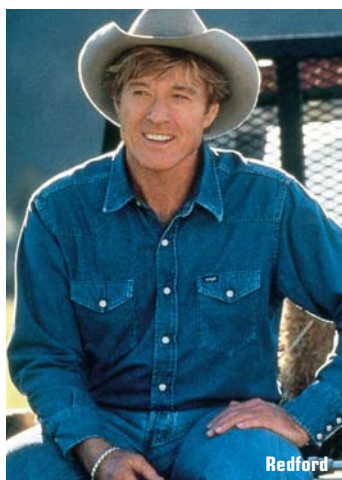


## HOFFMAN GAMBLES

Canadian banking history will hit the big screen when **Philip Seymour Hoffman** plays embezzler and gambling addict Brian Molony in the thriller *Owning Molony*. Molony, who worked at a CIBC branch in Toronto, stole more than \$10-million inside of 18 months to feed his out-of-control gambling habit. Hoffman, last seen in *State and Main*, will start shooting in Toronto and Atlantic City as soon as he finishes work on **Paul Thomas Anderson**'s as-yet-untitled new movie. *Owning Molony* is a British/Canadian co-production and will be directed by **Richard Kwietniowski** (*Love and Death on Long Island*).

## REDFORD GOES TO JAIL

**Robert Redford** (*The Horse Whisperer*) has joined the cast of the prison action picture *The Castle*. Breaking from his recent character-driven roles, the 63-year-old actor will star as a five-star general who is wrongly court-martialled and sentenced to life in prison. He then organizes his fellow convicts into a ragtag army and leads them in a revolt against the corrupt warden and guards. *The Contender*'s **Rod Lurie** is set to direct.



## GRAHAM FALLS FOR FIENNES

Chinese director **Chen Kaige** (*Farewell My Concubine*) will make her North American film debut when she calls the shots for *Killing Me Softly* — a sexy thriller starring **Heather Graham** (*Committed*) and **Joseph Fiennes** (*Shakespeare in Love*). Based on the novel of the same name, it tells the story of a British woman who suddenly dumps her long-time boyfriend and quiet life for a steamy affair with a mysterious, and possibly dangerous, mountain climber.

## JOVOVICH GETS GAMEY

Hollywood's fascination with videogames continues with news that **Milla Jovovich** (*The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc*) will star in an adaptation of the gory shoot-'em-up *Resident Evil*. Jovovich has signed to play Alice the Zombie Killer in the \$40-million movie to be directed by *Event Horizon*'s **Paul Anderson** (not to be confused with Paul Thomas Anderson). If he can fit the movie into his schedule, **David Boreanaz** (*Angel*) will join her, playing the leader of a special military team that fights through an army of flesh-eating zombies.



## SIZEMORE LEADS THE WAY

After years of being second banana in movies like *Saving Private Ryan*, *Bringing Out the Dead* and *Red Planet*, **Tom Sizemore** will finally get a chance to play a lead in the war movie *Black Hawk Down*. It's the mostly true story of the Battle of Mogadishu, 1993's prolonged and bloody shoot-out between U.S. elite forces and Somali soldiers. Sizemore and **Josh Hartnett**, both of whom will also appear in this summer's *Pearl Harbor*, will be under the direction of *Hannibal*'s **Ridley Scott**.

## B R I E F L Y

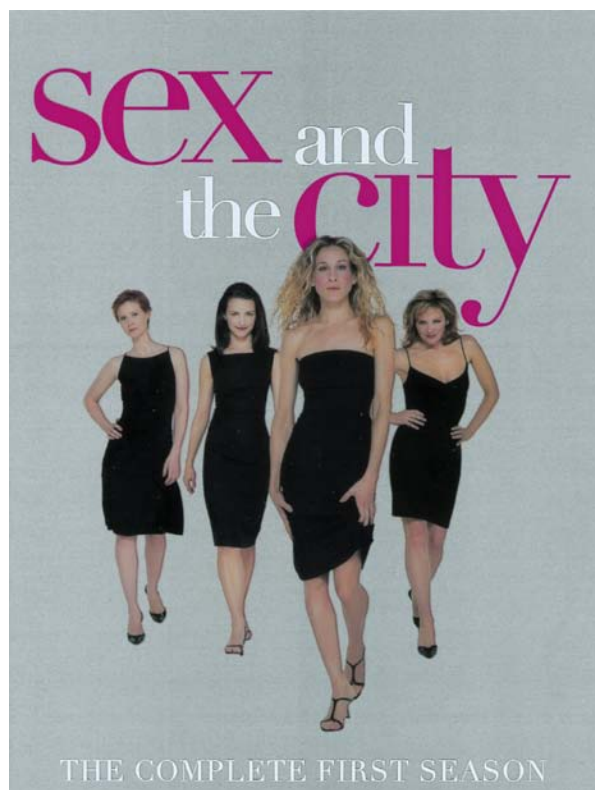
Broadway showgirl and hell-raiser **Texas Guinan**, who schemed her way into the movie biz back in the 1920s, will be the subject of the movie *Hello Suckers*, and will be played, appropriately enough, by **Courtney Love**. ■ **Kris Kristofferson** will lead a human rebellion against those damn, dirty apes in **Tim Burton**'s remake of *Planet of the Apes*. ■ **Andy Garcia**, **Scott Caan** and **Casey Affleck** have joined the ever-increasing cast of **Steven Soderbergh**'s remake of *Ocean's Eleven*. ■ **Robert De Niro** and **Eddie Murphy** are in talks to co-star in the cop comedy *Showtime*. Stand by for news that Hell has frozen over.



# FOR YOUR amour

**W**hether it's Valentine's Day, a birthday or an anniversary, that first present for a new beau or belle is always the toughest to buy. You don't want to get something so serious that you scare them off, but you don't want to get something so impersonal that you tick them off either. With that in mind we've compiled a collection of fun and funky gifts, most of which you can get for less than 50 bucks.

BY MARNI WEISZ



## ▲ THERE BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD...

HBO's *Sex and the City: The Complete First Season* on DVD is the perfect gift to remind your girlfriend or boyfriend just how much better it is to be in a good, stable relationship than out on the streets lookin' for love. Sympathize with four beautiful New York women (Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon) as they try to find romance, but usually fail. **Suggested price: \$37. Available at HMV**



## ▲ BUG OUT

Is your girlfriend always telling you to quit bugging her? Or does she want you to bug off? Get her one of these gorgeous bug brooches by Paris-based designer Daniel Swarovski. Then, next time she wants to scold you for bugging her she'll think of this darling piece of jewellery, and remember just how sweet you are.

**Suggested price range: \$95 to \$180. Available at Birks**



## ▲ HEART WARMING

You've heard of seeing stars. Well, your sweetie will see hearts every time she dons her soothing "Love Blooms Gel Mask." Soak it in hot water, or cold, and then floating hearts and glitter will surround her with the symbols of your love.

**Suggested price: \$6. Available at La Senza**





### ▲ GOOD CLEAN FUN?

So you've got the candles, the bubble bath and the incense. But there's something missing. Music. Don't risk wrecking your \$600 stereo by dragging it into a humid bathroom for some romantic tub time. Get your mate this portable, water-resistant AM/FM radio from Sony and then tune in to some romantic music. And, in case you become distracted, the radio automatically turns off after an hour. **Suggested price: \$60.**

Available at authorized Sony dealers or online at [www.sonymstyle.ca](http://www.sonymstyle.ca)

### ▼ THAT'S THE TICKET

An old idea, but with great new packaging. From Gregory J.P. Godek, who also wrote *1001 Ways to be Romantic*, comes this little booklet of coupons redeemable by your lover for such romantic goodies as The Ultimate Picnic, Two Hours of Cuddling or An All-Sports Weekend. Okay, maybe that last one doesn't sound very romantic, but for some guys, it is. Really. You can either give your partner the whole booklet at once (be warned, with more than 50 coupons this means a lot of love time) or give them one or two vouchers at a time.

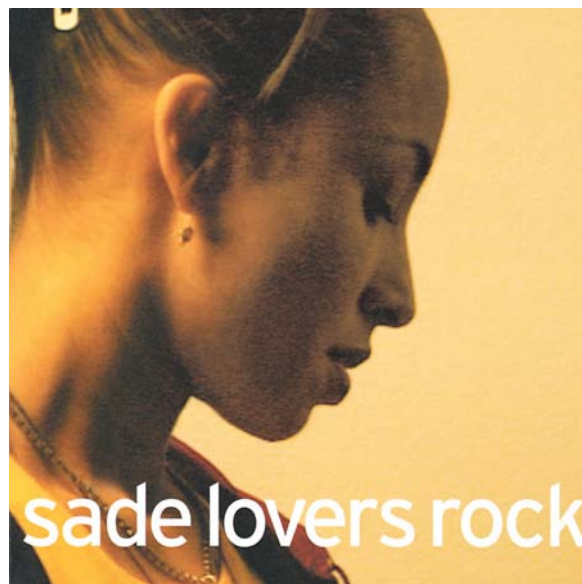
**Suggested price: \$8. Available at La Senza**



### ▼ MAKES SCENTS

From the culture that brought you the Kama Sutra, comes Ayurveda: the ancient Indian science of longevity. Based on different combinations of the five elements (earth, air, fire, water, ether), The Body Shop's Ayurveda concoctions use smells to enhance one's sense of balance and harmony. You can give your partner their daily dose of peace in either a body oil mist, nourishing body balm, massage gel or cleansing body scrub. **Suggested price range: \$20 to \$30.**

Available at The Body Shop



### ▲ SWEET SOUNDS

You remember Sade, the Eighties pop sensation who made it big with tunes as sweet and smooth as a big glass of Bailey's Irish Cream — "No Ordinary Love," "Sweetest Taboo," "Your Love is King." Well, her latest album, *Lovers Rock*, is sure to be just as intoxicating. Set the mood with "All About Our Love," "It's Only Love That Gets You Through," or "By Your Side." All the sugar, with none of the calories. **Suggested price: \$17.**

Available at HMV



**W**hat do you think buff screen brute Sylvester Stallone would order at a restaurant? T-bone, thick and bloody? A meaty rack of ribs?

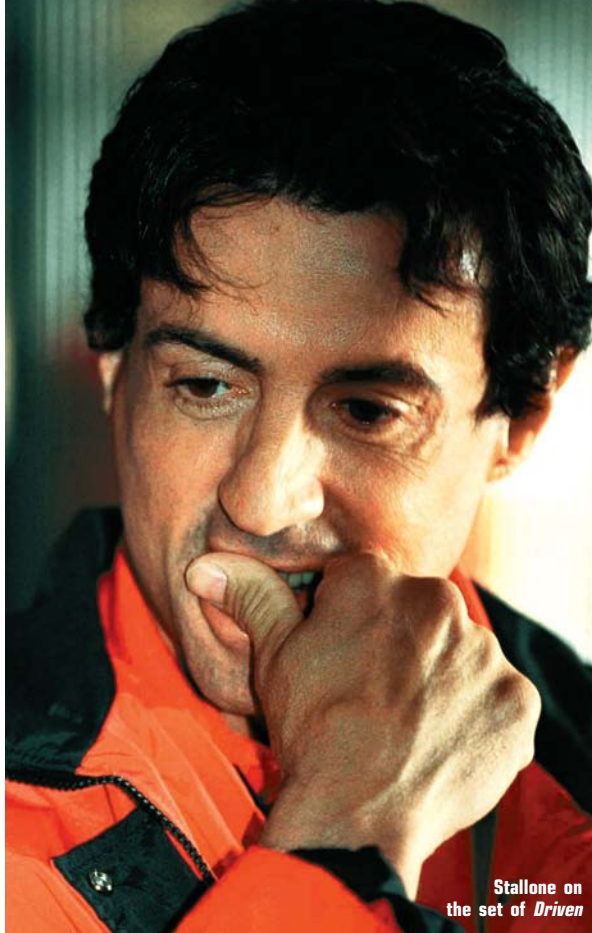
How 'bout Thai Purple Rice-Crusted Atlantic Salmon? That's what the burly star of the *Rocky* and *Rambo* movies requested at Café Sassafras, a three-year-old eatery in Toronto's upscale Yorkville neighbourhood.

"Most of the celebs tend to eat fish and salads. That's a given," says general manager Terry Hughes. And he's seen his share — Robert Duvall, Ben Affleck, John Cusack, among others. "Andrea Martin, for example, was shooting a commercial across the street. She ate organic green salads every two hours, all day."

Sly was in town working on his upcoming car-racing movie, *Driven*. He came in with wife Jennifer Flavin and two kids, four-year-old Sophia (you may remember her much-publicized heart operation at three months old) and two-year-old Sistine. Then there was Sly's bodyguard who Hughes says "looked like about three of us could fit in his pants."

They sat in the front window (on Stallone's request), where the beefy star drank red wine and smoked a huge cigar. "He said hello to everyone and signed a lot of autographs," recalls Hughes. "He was quite jovial."

Stallone spent much of the evening trying to control his rambunctious kids. "They had like a million balloons, and you know kids and balloons — they want to bang them around. So he



## SLY DOES salmon

HOW TO MAKE THE FISH DISH  
SYLVESTER STALLONE ENJOYED AT  
TORONTO'S CAFÉ SASSAFRAZ

finally had to tie them to a chair." The balloons, not the kids.

It was Sophia's fourth birthday, a funny story in itself. Stallone called ahead of time to order a birthday cake, telling Hughes to put his daughter's name on it. "But he didn't tell us whether she spelled it with a 'ph' or an 'f,'" he recalls. "So we had to make two cakes, one with each name."

The salmon, which is placed on a pool of *beurre blanc*, is an original creation of chef Roy Cook, who uses Atlantic rather than Pacific salmon because it's leaner and firmer. "And it has a more distinctive flavour," says Hughes. At Café Sassafras, the dish is served with lemon couscous, grilled peppers and asparagus.

Stallone thanked the chef personally for the wonderful meal. "Apparently he had worked as a short-order cook for years, so had lots of compassion for all the guys in the kitchen and even shook their hands," says Hughes.

He returned for brunch a few days later, and also held a meeting at the restaurant with a couple of agents and his bodyguard. "And you know the girl who does the Chanel commercials, Estella Warren? She's in the movie too and happened to be at the restaurant at the same time. So she came over and had a little yip-yap with him," says Hughes. "Then Farrah Fawcett came in and she said hello. It was a little star thingy that afternoon."

—Marni Weisz

For reservations at Café Sassafras call 416.964.2222.

### ingredients

TO SERVE FOUR

#### Salmon

One 6-oz. boneless filet of Atlantic salmon per person  
Olive oil for basting and frying

#### Rice Crust for Salmon

Thai black or purple rice .....1 cup  
Coriander seed .....1/2 tsp  
Fennel seed .....1/2 tsp

#### Beurre Blanc

Shallots, coarsely chopped .....4  
White wine vinegar .....4 tbsp  
White wine .....3/4 cup

35% cream .....1/2 cup  
Bay leaf .....1  
Peppercorns .....to taste  
Butter .....1 stick  
Hot pepper sauce .....dash

### method

Prepare rice crust by grinding ingredients in a coffee grinder or food processor until the consistency of coarse sand. ■ Brush salmon filets with oil and place them curve side down (dark side up) on the ground rice mixture to thickly coat one side. Preheat sauce pan with olive oil. Just before oil reach-

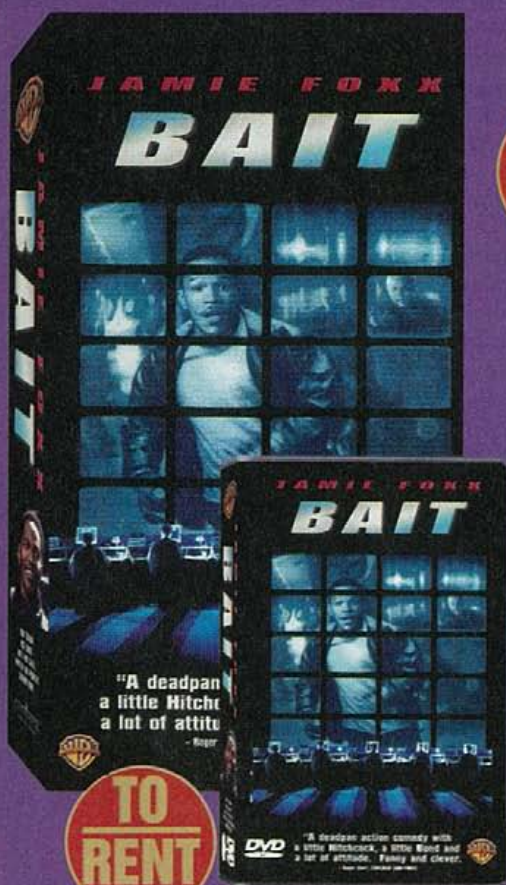


es smoking point, place filets crust side down in pan and sear for 30 seconds or until rice coating is crispy. Flip filets over (so rice side is up) and transfer to a baking sheet. Finish in a preheated oven at 400 degrees for five to seven

minutes for medium, or until the outside of the salmon becomes flaky. ■ For the *beurre blanc*, combine wine, vinegar, shallots, peppercorns and bay leaf and reduce to half. Add cream and reduce to half again. Remove peppercorns and bay leaf. Using a hand blender, blend the cold butter, a small piece at a time, until emulsified. If sauce is too thick, add more wine. Add a dash of pepper sauce. Strain sauce onto one side of the plate creating a pool. Place salmon, crust side up, on top of sauce. Serve immediately.



# MOVIES TO GO FEBRUARY 2001



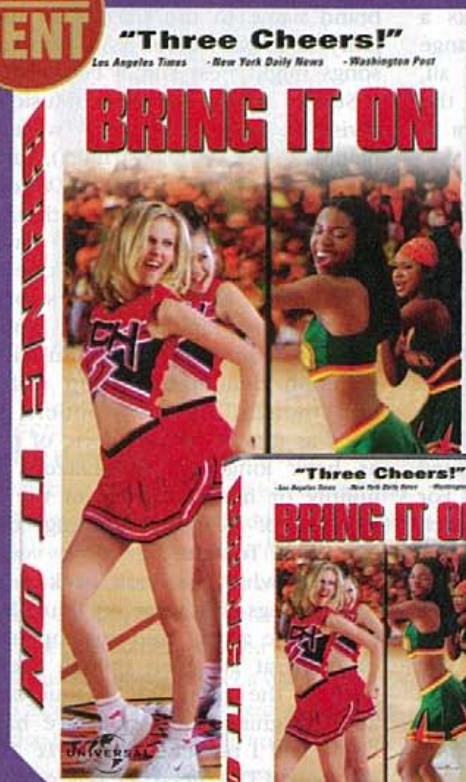
**TO  
RENT**

## BAIT

Jamie Foxx. A convict who shared a cell with the now-deceased getaway driver in a robbery that netted \$42 million in gold, is used by a Federal agent as bait to draw out the deceased man's partner and find the location of the loot.

AVAILABLE: NOW

**TO  
RENT**



## BRING IT ON

Kirsten Dunst.

While competing

at the annual cheerleading championships, the top squad discovers that their former captain stole all of their best routines from an inner-city high school team.

AVAILABLE: FEBRUARY 20



## THE ADVENTURES OF ROCKY AND BULLWINKLE

Robert De Niro. Rocky and Bullwinkle battle Boris Badenov and Natasha Fatale after the terrible twosome break out of their cartoon world and try to take over Earth under the instructions of Fearless Leader.

AVAILABLE: FEBRUARY 20

**TO  
RENT**

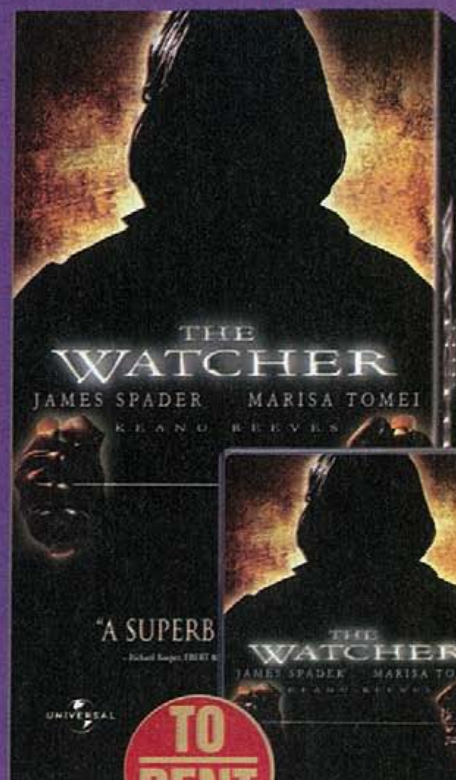


## THE WATCHER

James Spader, Keanu Reeves. After giving up in his search for a serial killer, a police detective moves to

another city, only to find that his nemesis has followed him and is continuing his murderous ways in his new home town.

AVAILABLE: FEBRUARY 20



**TO  
RENT**







# banding together

## Record labels storm the charts with a new wave of compilation CDs

Of

the many things one can buy for a song, it's funny that a song is now rarely one of them.

For decades, the best and most popular way to acquire a good song was the single, usually on a 7-inch vinyl record. But ever since vinyl was conquered by the compact disc, the single hasn't been the same. Subsequent single formats (cassette and CD) never fully caught on in North America, either because of consumer disinterest or because, at about six bucks a pop, they're not the affordable pocket-change investment that vinyl singles were. After all, why sell a three dollar single when the absence of that option forces music buyers to shell out for a \$20 album?

Whatever the case, it's a strange time to be without the single because we're living in one of the most industrious eras for the pop song in recent memory. The likes of 'NSYNC and Britney Spears are all about earning your love, and your money, one silly little ditty at a time.

Enter the old-fashioned compilation album — the closest thing this generation has to the single. The jam-packed, mass-marketed hits collections pioneered by Canada's own K-tel Records so many decades ago have stormed back into vogue with staggering success. For the past few years, compilations have been among the best-selling CDs in Canada. Believe it or not, last September a compilation called *Now! 5* entered Canada's Top 100 album chart at number one, knocking the seemingly immovable Eminem out of the coveted top spot. The collection was still there two weeks later, preventing the highly anticipated new Barenaked Ladies album, *Maroon*, from reaching its expected peak.

How did this happen? Well, while compilations were comparatively scarce in Canada in the '80s and mid-'90s, in the U.K. they never went away. The *Now! That's What I Call Music* series has been a staple of the British pop album chart for almost 20 years. Having noticed this, and the success of the *Dance Mix* CD series

(launched in '91 by video music channel MuchMusic), Canadian record labels decided to give an old concept a new spin.

The now-ubiquitous *Big Shiny Tunes* rock/pop compilations, and the *MuchDance* series of CDs (an outgrowth of *Dance Mix*), are the result of a partnership between Canada's major record labels — BMG, Sony, EMI, Universal and Warner — and MuchMusic, whose role, other than to attach a trusted brand name to the CDs, is to use the popularity of music videos as a barometer for what songs might best suit a compilation.

Susan Arthur, of MuchMusic's marketing division, says while they were hoping for platinum sales (100,000 units), each volume of *Big Shiny Tunes* and *MuchDance/Dance Mix* has surpassed quintuple platinum; *Big Shiny Tunes 2* and *Dance Mix '96* have each been certified diamond (more than one-million units).

There are always naysayers, of course, and a popular complaint about compilations is that they exploit the popularity of lowest common denominator pop fluff. Like it or not, though, one-hit wonders have always been as crucial to the fabric of popular music as have long-term trail-blazers. Who hasn't, guiltily or not, taken joy in the sublime uselessness of "Kung-Fu Fighting" or "Everybody Have Fun Tonight"?

"Even when we look back at the different track listings that were on [MuchMusic's] earlier CDs, those artists aren't as top of mind, if top of mind at all, even though they were huge back in the early '90s," Arthur concedes, then adds, laughing, "But when we have parties at home and I put on *Dance Mix '92*, well, that's the only CD I need to put on."

Although, if there are any teens around they probably think of the tunes in terms of another popular compilation — *Retro Dance Party*.

*Michael White is a Vancouver-based music writer who has written for numerous magazines including Mojo and Exclaim.*

## OUTTHISMONTH

**Artist:** Jeff Beck  
**Title:** *You Had it Coming*  
**Label:** Epic/Sony

**Artist:** Eric Burdon  
**Title:** *Absolutely the Best*  
**Label:** True North/Universal

**Artist:** Cappadonna  
**Title:** *The Yin & the Yang*  
**Label:** Epic/Sony

**Artist:** Dave Matthews Band  
**Title:** *Everyday*  
**Label:** RCA/BMG

**Artist:** Duncan Sheik  
**Title:** *Phantom Moon*  
**Label:** Nonesuch/Warner

**Artist:** Ted Hawkins  
**Title:** *The Kershaw Session*  
**Label:** True North/Universal

**Artist:** Carolyn Dawn Johnson  
**Title:** *Room With a View*  
**Label:** Arista Country/BMG

**Artist:** Jennifer Lopez  
**Title:** *J. Lo*  
**Label:** Epic/Sony

**Artist:** Mudhoney  
**Title:** *Here Comes Sickness: The Best of the BBC Recordings*  
**Label:** True North/Universal

**Artist:** Lionel Richie  
**Title:** *Renaissance*  
**Label:** Mercury/Universal

**Artist:** Staggered Crossing  
**Title:** *Staggered Crossing*  
**Label:** Warner Music Canada

**Artist:** Finley Quaye  
**Title:** *Vanguard*  
**Label:** Epic/Sony

**Artist:** Usher  
**Title:** *All About U*  
**Label:** Arista/BMG

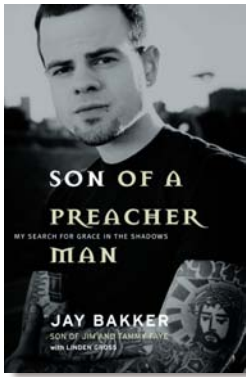
**Artist:** Tarsha Vega  
**Title:** *Diamonds & Monsters*  
**Label:** RCA/BMG



## BOOK TIME WITH A PUNK PREACHER, BEAT SCREENWRITER OR SEXY WITCH

### Son of a Preacher Man: My Search for Grace in the Shadows

By Jay Bakker, with Linden Gross (HarperSanFrancisco, \$35)

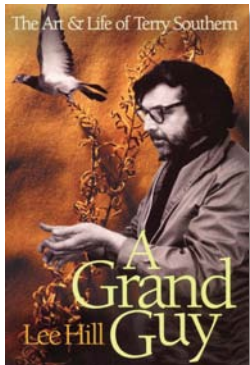


Jay Bakker was 13 years old when his dad, televangelist Jim Bakker, was sent to prison for defrauding followers of his PTL ministry. As the world watched a religious freak show play out on TV, Jay and his sister Tammy Sue came across as chubby, nattily dressed little brats. But the day after dad went to prison, young Jay started drinking. Heavily. Twelve years later, and covered with tattoos, 25-year-old Jay Bakker looks more like a follower of Black Flag than God. But look a little closer. Those tattoos aren't of knives and bloody roses, but of Jesus Christ himself. After tackling his alcohol problem, Jay Bakker became a minister just like his dad. Okay, not really like his dad. Instead, Jay reached out to street kids and drug abusers by founding the Revolution ministry, which operates not out of a glitzy TV studio or sacred theme park, but the basement of his Atlanta home. Over

the past few years Jay Bakker has been a curiosity for the media, inspiring features in *Rolling Stone* and *USA Today*. But here he tells his own story, with the help of San Francisco writer Linden Gross.

### A Grand Guy: The Art & Life of Terry Southern

By Lee Hill (HarperCollins, \$41)



His name may not be as well known as those of William Burroughs or Jack Kerouac, but writer Terry Southern was just as involved with the Beat Generation. He's even on the cover of the Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper* album — standing between Lenny Bruce and Oscar Wilde. Southern was also one of

the screenwriters who shaped the odd face of film-making in the 1960s. He collaborated with Stanley Kubrick to write 1964's brilliant military spoof *Dr. Strangelove* and, in 1969, created the movie that's widely considered his masterpiece, *Easy Rider*. In between, Southern churned out camp favourites like *Casino Royale* and the movie that made Jane Fonda a star, *Barbarella*. Now Calgary writer Lee Hill recounts Southern's fascinating life — from being part of the avant-garde in post-war Paris through the psychedelic '60s — in the first full-length biography about the influential satirist.



### Wicca for Lovers: Spells & Rituals for Romance & Seduction

By Jennifer Hunter (Viking Studio, \$28)

Why sit back and let nature take its course? This Valentine's Day, if your intended isn't responding the way you want, just put a spell on the little scoundrel. Everything you need to know is sandwiched between the pages of this easy-to-follow guide to Wicca-style romance. The book comes packaged with some basic tools: rose quartz, a plume feather, a vial of rose oil and, ummm, a taper candle. Spells and erotic recipes are supposed to help with everything from getting pregnant to making sure your mate doesn't stray. Or, if your attempts to foster faithfulness are too late, there's also a spell for healing a broken heart. Author Jennifer Hunter, a trained witch, has appeared on *The Howard Stern Show* — which we all know is the standard for judging any great witch. (Perhaps she was the one who turned him into a toad.)

—Marni Weisz

## OUTTHISMONTH

### If There Would be No Light

By Sahara Sunday Spain

She's described as a "poet savant" and her work so impressed Gloria Steinem that the renowned feminist wrote the introduction to this collection of verse. Why is that interesting? Because Sahara Sunday Spain is only nine years old and has been composing poetry since before she could write.

### Women of the Pleasure Quarters: The Secret History of the Geisha

By Lesley Downer

Did you know that the first geisha (about 400 years ago) were men? That little morsel is just one of the surprising bits of trivia in this in-depth history about that mysterious branch of Japan's hospitality industry.

### Live in a Better Way: Reflections on Truth, Love and Happiness

By His Holiness the Dalai Lama

They're actually using the promo line "A new book by the best-selling author of *The Art of Happiness*, *Ethics for the New Millennium* and *The Path to Tranquility*" to sell this book. It's the Dalai Lama for gawd's sake! Anyway, this is a collection of public lectures his holiness has given in India over the years, along with transcripts of the question-and-answer sessions that followed.

### Jean-Paul Gaultier

By Colin McDowell

Full-colour sketches and backstage photos adorn this biography of one of the most influential fashion designers of the late twentieth century. Author Colin McDowell is one of the most renowned fashion writers in Britain, having worked for most of the major newspapers in London.

### The Immortal Class: Bike Messengers and the Cult of Human Power

By Travis Hugh Culley

Bike messengers are like modern-day gladiators, battling cars, pedestrians and the weather. And writer Travis Hugh Culley is one of them. When Culley moved to Chicago to work in the theatre, he became a courier instead, and found it provided an excellent perch from which to observe life.



# YOUR PRODUCT here

**Is there no escape from advertising?  
Now even videogames are trying to sell you something**



**By Marc Saltzman**

**W**hether it's Scully whining to Agent Doggett on a Nokia cellphone during *X-Files* or Matthew Broderick pounding down Pepsis in *Godzilla*, gratuitous on-screen product placements on TV and in movies are certainly nothing new. So what's next? Videogames? You bet your marketing dollar. We're talking about an industry with revenue that rivals that of Hollywood, coupled with eager young gamers with disposable incomes.

In fact, it's already happening.

Nintendo was one of the first to attempt a cross-promotional arrangement with 1998's *1080 Snowboarding*, in which savvy gamers noticed the familiar blue, red and white Tommy Hilfiger logo emblazoned across their boarding apparel.

Then there's the popular action/racing game *Driver 2*, from Infogrames, with its ties to hip clothing manufacturer Diesel. Not only are there Diesel signs, billboards, bumper stickers and posters littered throughout the game, but the main characters are wearing Diesel clothes. In exchange, Diesel is promoting *Driver 2* with floor displays in its stores worldwide, and will feature specially created window

displays in some locations. There were even *Driver 2* demos in their stores during the game's launch last December.

But the trend is not limited to fashion. Fox Interactive has inked a deal with the LifeSavers Company — which is why the main character in Fox's *Croc 2* must eat Gummi Savers in order to complete the game. According to Scott Marcus, Fox Interactive's VP of worldwide promotions, no money was exchanged in this deal. Instead, LifeSavers splashed Croc's face on more than six-million packages of Gummi Savers.

Not convinced this is becoming a trend? Earlier this year, Sega Dreamcast's *Crazy Taxi* featured Pizza Hut, KFC and Levis logos on its billboards. And in Electronic Arts' James Bond thriller, *The World is not Enough*, the communication device used for mission updates sports a large Motorola logo.

Is all of this a good thing? That depends. Some argue that product placement in videogames contributes to the overall realism and all-important "suspension of disbelief." It's more realistic to stroll by a vending machine branded with "Coca-Cola" than "Frank's Soda." On the flip side, others think it's a blatant intrusion.

And the ways in which the ads are being slipped in are becoming ever more creative. Conducent, a Pennsylvania-based company, is making a name for itself as a broker between videogame publishers and companies interested in in-game advertising. But with an interesting twist. According to company spokesperson Kathy Myers, ads within the computer games they're working on will be updated regularly via the internet. For example, depending on what time of the year the game is played, the image on the Jumbotron in a football game may change from "Watch *The Simpsons* Valentine's Day Special this Sunday Night" to "Buy Tickets to

## OUTTHISMONTH

**Paper Mario** (Nintendo 64)

The Mario Brothers embark on a perilous journey and explore new regions of the Mushroom Kingdom. While the game is in 3D, the characters are 2D, so Mario, Luigi, Peach, Bowser and Todd appear paper-thin as they flip and flutter through the game.

**Phantasy Star Online** (Sega)

*Phantasy Star's* sprawling sci-fi universe moves online, where up to four players team up on missions — the largest number of players ever able to participate in a console role-playing game at one time. This newest *Phantasy Star* story involves a scout crew sent to investigate an explosion on the home planet.

**Clive Barker's Undying** (PC)

It's 1920s Ireland and you are summoned to your friend's ancestral estate to help free him from his family's curse. You must battle his four undead siblings and fight a plethora of other baddies including the Hounds of Gal'ziabar. Spooky environments include an old monastery, a pirate's cove and the cursed city of Oneiros. A special mode even lets you fly in the spirit world.

SuperBowl XXXV at 1-800..."

In response to the critics, Myers says gamers can turn off this technology if they want, and claims the price of computer and console games should drop to as low as \$5 or \$10 (as opposed to today's \$30 to \$80) since companies will maintain profits through advertising revenue rather than passing the development costs down to the gamer. (Uh-huh, we'll believe it when we see it.) But one thing is for sure — there is no medium safe from advertising. And with the enormous costs it takes to create and market triple-A video games (roughly \$2- to \$3-million a pop), we can expect to see more of these in-game endorsements and cross-promotional marketing campaigns.

*Marc Saltzman is the author of five books, including Game Design: Secrets of the Sages, Second Edition (Macmillan Publishing).*

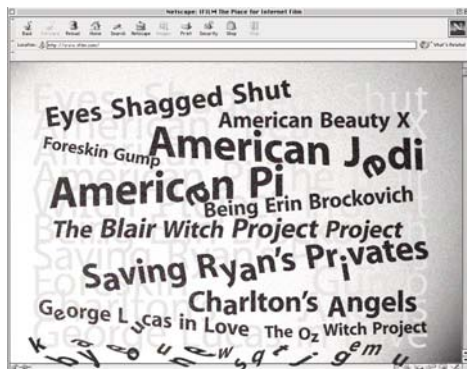


# short SIGHTED?

THE SPOOF HAS BECOME THE GENRE OF CHOICE FOR SHORT FILMS ON THE NET. BUT ARE THEY ANY GOOD?

BY CHRIS TURNER

One of the internet's premiere film sites, iFilm.com, recently had a short film in heavy rotation called *Spoof! An Insider's Guide to Short Film Success*, about a team of hapless film school grads trying to make a short satirical movie. The characters, like the filmmakers behind *Spoof!* itself, are hoping to cash in on the increasing success of parody films getting play on the internet. Their project? Something called *Eyes Shagged Shut*.



*Spoof!* speaks volumes about the proliferation of ill-conceived, one-note parodies on the web — mainly that the trend is ripe for satire even before many internet users have connections fast enough to play such broadband content. A quick surf of the web's top film sites (particularly iFilm.com and AtomFilms.com) turns up dozens of these semi-witty cross-pollinations and pun-based shorts. There's an *American Beauty* send-up (*American Beauty X*) and two for *American Pie* (*American Jedi* and *American Pi*). *The Blair Witch Project*'s conceits are aped in at least four other films, including *The Oz Witch Project* and an oh-so-precious *Making of the Blair Witch Project* subtitled — what else? —

*The Blair Witch Project Project*. And then there's *Being Erin Brockovich*, *Saving Ryan's Privates*, *Foreskin Gump*, *Charlton's Angels*, and so on.

But *Spoof!*'s film-within-a-film is also an understated dig at the quality of these satirical shorts. About midway through the film, *Eyes Shagged Shut*'s director meets with short film auteur Joe Nussbaum. In real life, Nussbaum's film *George Lucas in Love* — a *Shakespeare in Love* send-up set at the USC film school in the 1970s — gained enough notoriety to move him into the offline world of Hollywood agents and development deals. His impending promotion to theatre-near-you status is the unstated goal behind nearly every online short film project, satire or otherwise. But in *Spoof!*, Nussbaum doesn't like what he sees in the novice's script: There's not much action, the characters are painfully underdeveloped and there's no real plot. The rookie looks momentarily deflated, then perks up. "What about the title?" he asks with a trace of defiance.

"It's a great title," the auteur concedes.

It's not hard to guess why so many of the net's Spielberg wannabes make these kinds of films. Satire is well-suited to short running times as the characters and plots are already well known. And a gag title or premise, with the promise of a quick laugh, is often enough to get people to click on links in forwarded emails during coffee breaks. This is, after all, why films like Nussbaum's *George Lucas in Love* and the laugh-out-loud funny *Troops* (a *Star Wars*-meets-*Cops* spoof that is the godfather of the genre) find an audience online.

What these filmmakers don't seem to realize though, is that while doing satire may be easy, doing *good* satire is anything but. Many of the net's satirical movies barely get past the jokes contained in the

## GET SHORTIES

### Icebox

[www.icebox.com](http://www.icebox.com)

Flash animation at its best, much of it by A-list cartoonists and writers from *The Simpsons*, *Ren and Stimpy* and Letterman's *Late Show*. Watch two- and three-minute episodes of oddball cartoons with names like *Hard Drinkin' Lincoln*, *Queer Duck* and *Zombie College*.

### FilmsOn

[www.filmson.com](http://www.filmson.com)

Your one-stop shop for online shorts and features — whether it's a documentary about Olympic weight lifter Anne Lehman or episodes of the animated series *Space Puppies*. The site links to various other movie sites (atomfilms.com, wildbrain.com, etc.) as well, so you can access oodles of movies from one place.

### MediaTrip

[www.mediatrip.com](http://www.mediatrip.com)

Expansive site partnered with Revolution Studios that screens Flash cartoons, shorts and even a few full-length movies. The shorts in the Film on Demand section include the usual cheap laughs (*Film Club*, *George Lucas in Love*) and some slightly higher-minded fare. Too bad about all the pop-up ads.

### LikeTelevision

[www.liketelevision.com](http://www.liketelevision.com)

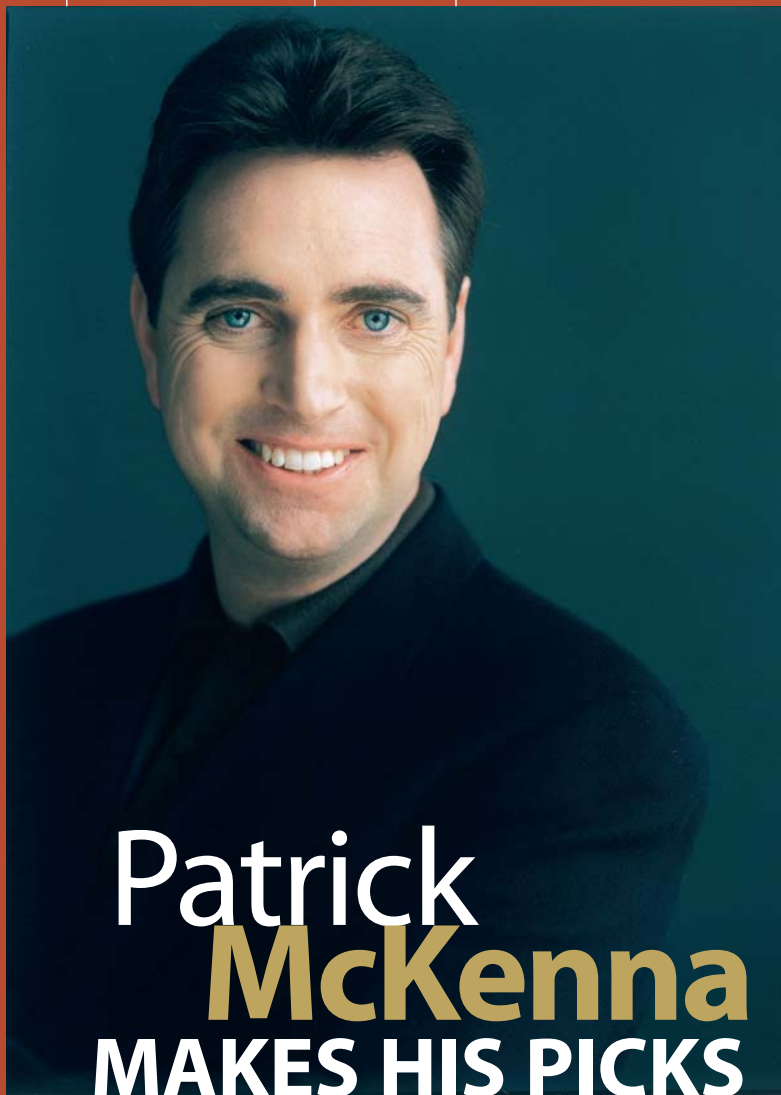
Nothing new or original, but this site can't be beat for its collection of old TV shows and movies. Goof off at work watching re-runs of *Bonanza*, *Dragnet* and old Charlie Chaplin shorts. There's also an impressive collection of full-length movies, including Hitchcock's *The Man Who Knew Too Much* and Steve Reeves in *Hercules Unchained*.

titles (*Saving Ryan's Privates* doesn't even try). And even a more professional production like Nussbaum's relies on sight and vocal gags that riff on *Star Wars* — a professor who speaks in Yoda's inverted grammar, for example — for most of its laughs.

Here's a good benchmark for aspiring online filmmakers: The funniest thing about *This is Spinal Tap* is *not* the title.

Chris Turner is a Toronto-based writer.





**P**atrick McKenna has come to be known as one of Canada's most versatile actors. Back in the mid-'90s, the amiable Second City alumnus surprised everyone when he decided to split his time between playing Harold, the terminally nerdy nephew on *The Red Green Show*, and obnoxious, high-rolling stockbroker Marty Stephens on TV's *Traders*. But now McKenna has turned his attention to movies. There's a *Red Green* film in the works, and when McKenna did this interview he was on hiatus from shooting *Punch and Judy*, a romantic comedy from Ottawa-based Distinct Features, which stars Graham Greene and Brigitte Robinson as an unlikely pair who find true love. McKenna plays Judy's unsavory ex-boyfriend who refuses to give her up. And if that wasn't enough to keep him busy, McKenna has just sold his first film, a comedy called *Those Guys*, which he wrote for himself and fellow Canuck Colin Mochrie. "We call it *Abbott and Costello meets The Fugitive*," he says. Here McKenna shares his most-beloved flicks, talks about the new movies and what he's doing for Valentine's Day.

#### WHAT ARE YOUR FIVE FAVOURITE FILMS?

"Number one is *Goodfellas* [1990]. I love it because it's like Hamilton [Ont.] in the late Seventies, which is where I grew up. For me it really captured an era and a style of person and character that I was very familiar with. There was a big mob presence in Hamilton — the Hamilton-Buffalo-Montreal circuit. And I think

De Niro gave the strongest performance I've seen him give, charismatic and yet scary. • Number two is *The Ghost and Mr. Chicken* [1965]. It's a comedy with Don Knotts about a guy who's dared to stay in a haunted house overnight. It's a Sunday afternoon movie that I used to watch as a kid and I see it now and laugh, going 'I remember that movie.' It's like a Scooby-Doo adventure. • Number three is *The In-Laws* [1979] with Peter Falk and Alan Arkin. I really love stories where an Everyman is dragged into an extreme situation, and that's what happens to Alan Arkin when he meets the father of his son-in-law-to-be [Falk] who drags him to Central America on this crazy mission. • Number four is *Lady and the Tramp* [1955]. It was the first film that I saw my son, Brendon, laugh at, and that kind of stuck with me. He was about three at the time. We both found that Peggy Lee made a very hot dog, and we both laughed at the same parts, which was kind of cool. You realize that a sense of humour is in the genes. • Number five is *A Night at the Opera* [1935], the Marx Brothers movie. A family goes from Europe to New York on this steamship at the same time as this opera company is coming across. They're all stow aways who try and hide amongst the passengers. It's just the Marx Brothers at the height of their zaniness. And the great music. You've got opera and the Marx Brothers — you've gotta laugh."

#### OF ALL THE CHARACTERS YOU'VE PLAYED, WHICH IS CLOSEST TO YOUR PERSONALITY?

"Ahhh...probably Marty from *Traders*. I think it's again that Everyman quality in a sort of a world where you're not sure you fit in. I'm like that with acting a little bit — I'm kind of a practical kind of a guy and it's more of an artsy type of environment. Sometimes I find I'm out of sync with it."

#### BECAUSE YOU COME FROM A COMEDY BACKGROUND?

"Yeah, I think that's a big part of it. I learned to act through [*Traders*]. I didn't bring those tools with me. So it was a learning curve where I always felt on the outside 'cause I had to be myself as much as I could — certainly exaggerated — but there were times when it just had to be me."

#### YOUR PUNCH AND JUDY CHARACTER IS DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS MATERIAL AS "SLEAZY." DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT?

"Yeah, he's a manipulator. He takes his power and uses it for evil instead of good. He's one of those people I loathe. Anyone who has status over someone and they abuse it, I hate that. So that's what made me think it would be fun to play. If you loathe them then that's a strong enough emotion that you can buy into. I don't have to agree with it, but I can play it."

#### TELL ME ABOUT THE RED GREEN MOVIE.

"Harold and Red go on a road trip to a duct tape contest to try and save the lodge. I think the script is all finished and we start shooting the first week in May and then we'll wrap up about the second week of June. It will be a theatrical release, then Steve [Smith, who plays Red Green] says it'll go straight to video. So if you don't catch it in that one theatre where it's airing it will be on video for Christmas."

#### WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?

"Valentine's Day is the day I asked my wife to marry me so we like to have a winter picnic at the place where we first got engaged."

—Marni Weisz



# new RELEASES

MEET DR. T, GET WHIPPED OR DISCOVER WHAT LIES BENEATH

## What Lies Beneath (Jan. 30)

**Stars:** Harrison Ford, Michelle Pfeiffer

**Director:** Robert Zemeckis (*Forrest Gump*)

**Story:** The wife (Pfeiffer) of a college professor (Ford) is totally freaked out when she starts seeing the ghost-like apparition of a young woman. To make things worse, it turns out the woman is her husband's dead mistress returned from the grave.



Ford and Pfeiffer  
in *What Lies Beneath*

## Dr. T. and the Women (Feb. 6)

**Stars:** Richard Gere, Farrah Fawcett

**Director:** Robert Altman (*Cookie's Fortune*)

**Story:** Gere plays a Dallas gynecologist who is surrounded all day long by women — his wife (Fawcett), daughters and patients. Problem is, he doesn't understand them one bit and is sinking into a mid-life crisis. He tries to recover by spending a whole lotta time at his country club, where he meets one more woman, a golf pro played by Helen Hunt.

## Bless the Child (Feb. 13)

**Stars:** Kim Basinger, Christina Ricci

**Director:** Chuck Russell (*The Mask*)

**Story:** The members of a satanic cult kidnap a six-year-old girl because they think she has supernatural powers that are tied to a Biblical prophecy. It's up to the girl's aunt (Basinger) and a police detective (former *NYPD Blue* cast member Jimmy Smits in a familiar role) to rescue her.

## Mad About Mambo (Feb. 13)

**Stars:** Keri Russell, William Ash

**Director:** John Forte (debut)

**Story:** *Felicity*'s Keri Russell made this well-received indie film back before she cut her long, luxurious ringlets and invited the scorn of fashionistas everywhere. When a teenage soccer player (Ash) realizes that he has to improve his rhythm if he wants to be a great like Pelé, he

enlists a beautiful young mambo dancer (Russell) to help him out.

## Whipped (Feb. 13)

**Stars:** Amanda Peet, Brian Van Holt

**Director:** Peter M. Cohen (debut)

**Story:** Four buddies get together every Sunday to have brunch and talk about women. One of them is married, while the other three jump from bed to bed, always careful not to get too attached to any one gal pal. But then along comes their dream girl Mia (Peet) who dates all three and insists that she couldn't possibly choose between them.

## Woman on Top (Feb. 13)

**Stars:** Penélope Cruz, Murilo Benicio

**Director:** Fina Torres (debut)

**Story:** Isabella (Cruz), a beautiful Brazilian woman with a flare for cooking, has a terrible problem with motion sickness. The only way she can keep her stomach from getting queasy is to be in control: When she's in a car, she has to drive. She takes the stairs rather than the elevator. And when she's having sex, she has to be on top. But being so out of control in the sack leads her husband to cheat on her, so Isabella flees to the U.S. where she shacks up with her transvestite friend (Benicio) and hosts a cooking show.

## Beautiful (Feb. 20)

**Stars:** Minnie Driver, Hallie Kate Eisenberg

**Director:** Sally Field (debut)

**Story:** A young woman (Driver) obsessed with winning the Miss America Miss beauty pageant must hide the fact that she has an illegitimate daughter (Eisenberg). The movie marks actress



Spader in *The Watcher*



Cruz in *Woman on Top*

Sally Field's feature film directing debut, and was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival.

## The Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2 (Feb. 20)

**Stars:** Tristen Skylar, Jeffrey Donovan

**Director:** Joe Berlinger (debut)

**Story:** A few years after the original group of witch-seekers disappeared, a new group of teens sign up for a tour of the Black Hills — one of the many tourist attractions to spring from the events of the first *Blair Witch* movie. But after they spend the night camped out next to a certain old house in the woods, the kids realize that big chunks of time have disappeared from their memories.

## Highlander: Endgame (Feb. 20)

**Stars:** Christopher Lambert, Bruce Payne

**Director:** Douglas Aarniokoski (debut)

**Story:** Like its immortal main character, the *Highlander* series refuses to die. After amassing the supernatural strength of more than 600 immortals, the villain Jacob Kell (Payne) tries to become the most invincible immortal ever by killing our hero, Connor MacLeod (Lambert).

## The Watcher (Feb. 20)

**Stars:** Keanu Reeves, James Spader

**Director:** Joe Charbanic (debut)

**Story:** A police detective (Spader) gives up his eight-year search for a serial killer (Reeves) and moves to another city, only to find that his nemesis has followed him and is continuing his killing spree in their new home town.

## Lost Souls (Feb. 27)

**Stars:** Winona Ryder, Ben Chaplin

**Director:** Janusz Kaminski (debut)

**Story:** A seminary teacher (Ryder) has to convince a New York crime writer (Chaplin) that he's the target of a satanic conspiracy which, if it succeeds, will allow Satan to walk on Earth. Although this is Kaminski's directing debut, he is the award-winning cinematographer behind such films as *Schindler's List* and *Amistad*.



# 10 stars

## DEBUNK MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THEMSELVES

*X-Men's* Famke Janssen at the film's  
U.K. premiere



BY SUSAN GRANGER

**FAMKE JANSSEN** "I do not have a brother. I do not have a brother who speed-skates. It's just the same name, no relation." (In reference to American speed-skater Dan Jansen)

**JAMIE LEE CURTIS** "There seems to be this assumption that I'm cruising through life in a convertible, wearing a miniskirt, with tan legs and no lumps on my body. Hey, I have problems putting on a pair of friggin' sunglasses without feeling self-conscious about it. People just have this idea that I was raised on movie sets with Carrie Fisher. And why do people think that's glamorous anyway? I grew up watching *Batman* and eating grilled cheese sandwiches like everyone else."

**ANTHONY HOPKINS** "People keep asking me about the art of making movies. Bullsh-t! I do it because of the money. I think I've got a good perspective on it. I give 115 per cent of myself. I learn my lines, know what I'm saying and I'm very good at what I do. I come, I do it and go home. The cheque is in the bank and that's it. People say that's a cynical attitude, but it's not. It's practical."

**MICHAEL DOUGLAS** "There was a lot of tabloid journalism about my supposed sex addiction. Bullsh-t! I mean, come on. I never pretended to be a saint. But give me a break!"

HARRY HEUTS/REUTERS



**DAVID DUCHOVNY** "My making the 'Best Dressed' list was really funny. I mean, it's silly. I care very little about clothes. Usually, I wear jeans and a T-shirt. I do like to be dressed nicely — like a little doll — when I go out in public and am going to be photographed, but it's such an ordeal to get dressed up."

**DAVID SCHWIMMER** "That I'm just a sweet, naive puppy. But that's fine — it does me more good than bad."

**WOODY ALLEN** "There are still people who think that Mia [Farrow] and I were married. That we lived together. They refer to her as my ex-wife. It's an odd thing. We weren't and we didn't. I can laugh about it now, but several years ago it was really harmful to me in my [child] custody proceedings."

**TOM SELLECK** "When the *Globe* tabloid published a story intimating that I was gay several years ago, I couldn't live with it. Within seven days, they apologized. What concerned me most was that the rumours, which still surface today, could hurt my child. I couldn't care less whether people who are gay would like me to be gay. Hey, I play a gay man in *In and Out*. But I am not gay. It isn't anti-gay to say you are heterosexual and to want to set the record straight."

**JENNY MCCARTHY** "I am not America's Official Bimbo. Obviously it hurts when I hear people say that. I've never portrayed myself as stupid. There's much more to me than meets the eye."

**DAVID BOWIE** "That I hate gossip. I love gossip. It's the way we gauge our moral place within society; it's integral to the way we measure each other. It doesn't matter if it's based on fact or fiction."

David Duchovny, looking like a little doll, at the Edinburgh premiere of *Return to Me*



REUTERS PHOTO ARCHIVE



# stargazing

By Dan Liebman

## AQUARIUS

January 21-February 19

A period of personal growth begins with the full moon on the 8th. New interests, a new friendship and even a new career direction are all strong possibilities. All in all, it's an excellent time for reviewing long-term goals. Valentine's Day may leave your partner in a giving mood, but a surprise expense could force you to tighten your money belt.

## PISCES

February 20-March 20

February turns into a month-long balancing act. That new assignment is anything but straightforward, guests are high maintenance and kids vie for your attention. If there's any trick to coping, it's to stay fit. That shouldn't be such a problem, since your partner is in a physical mood.

## ARIES

March 21-April 20

It's a switch, but you're about to take a supporting role while your partner, in romance or business, enjoys centre stage. In fact, the month is rich in new experiences. You may explore new destinations, either nearby or faraway. Or you could sign up for a course — a language? pottery? — that's strictly for fun.

## TAURUS

April 21-May 22

Taking the initiative leads to a series of successes in your professional life. Valentine's Day is perfect for popping an important question — but the weeks before and after the 14th work equally well. If you've been avoiding an unpleasant financial matter, it's time to face it head on.

## GEMINI

May 23-June 21

Old friends, perhaps even a trio of them, may get in touch with you this month. In fact, renewal is February's theme. You rediscover a favourite hobby or a one-time interest, which could have a profitable angle. As well, a book that once had special meaning could prove just as important today.

## CANCER

June 22-July 22

Intuition is your strong suit through the early part of the month and energy is high in the latter half. When these two trends overlap — from the 12th through 19th — it's the ideal time for acting on your hunches. In friendship or romance, opposites may attract, but only briefly. Common interests, however, lead to long-term fun.

## LEO

July 23-August 22

The month offers many interesting opportunities — from meeting a hero to forming an alliance with a former adversary. You may also find yourself invited to an A-list soirée. A favour or two may be returned by the 19th. And it's time for a style change — you'd do well to consider switching to warmer shades.

## VIRGO

August 23-September 22

Recent upsets at work or at home can be reversed thanks to the month's overall calming effect. Finance demands a more assertive approach, especially if you're trying to collect a debt. A romantic partner is less dour. Plans in general, and midmonth travel plans in particular, need confirmation.



KATIA SMIRNOVA

## LIBRA

September 23-October 22

A surprisingly competitive you emerges as the month advances. Being proactive rather than subtle could help you win a plum assignment. And suddenly you find everything from card games to sports more challenging. One caution, however. In romance, you want to emphasize your gentler side.

## SCORPIO

October 23-November 21

A romantic partner reveals a quirky side, colleagues are supportive and entertainment plans change by the day. In short, it's a month loaded with surprises — and sprinkled with fun. On the serious side, prepare to make some tough decisions that relate to your extended family. And don't put off meetings with financial advisors.

## SAGITTARIUS

November 22-December 22

Sagittarius is wearing several hats this month. You're a troubleshooter, motivator and partygoer. Spotting a problem at work and fixing it calmly is a major achievement. Coaxing a friend out of a rut is nothing short of miraculous. And getting yourself invited to the party of the season is your well-earned reward.

## CAPRICORN

December 23-January 20

It's a month to think about selling over buying, originality over tried and true, and which offers a wonderful opportunity for reconciliation. Health and fitness should be top priorities. Travel plans may be modified. And toward the end of the month, pets seem to find you entirely irresistible.

## FEBRUARY birthdays

1st Pauly Shore	15th Matt Groening
2nd Christie Brinkley	16th Ice-T
3rd Morgan Fairchild	17th Rene Russo
4th Natalie Imbruglia	18th John Travolta
5th Jennifer Jason Leigh	19th Jeff Daniels
6th Zsa Zsa Gabor	20th Cindy Crawford
7th Chris Rock	21st Kelsey Grammer
8th Nick Nolte	22nd Drew Barrymore
9th Joe Pesci	23rd Peter Fonda
10th Robert Wagner	24th Billy Zane
11th Sheryl Crow	25th George Harrison
12th Christina Ricci	26th Johnny Cash
13th Stockard Channing	27th Elizabeth Taylor
14th Florence Henderson	28th Bernadette Peters

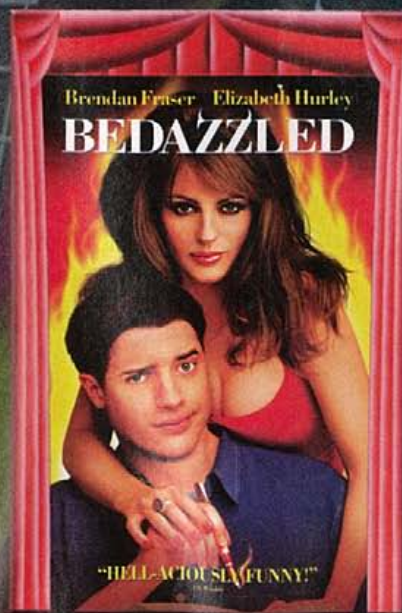


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