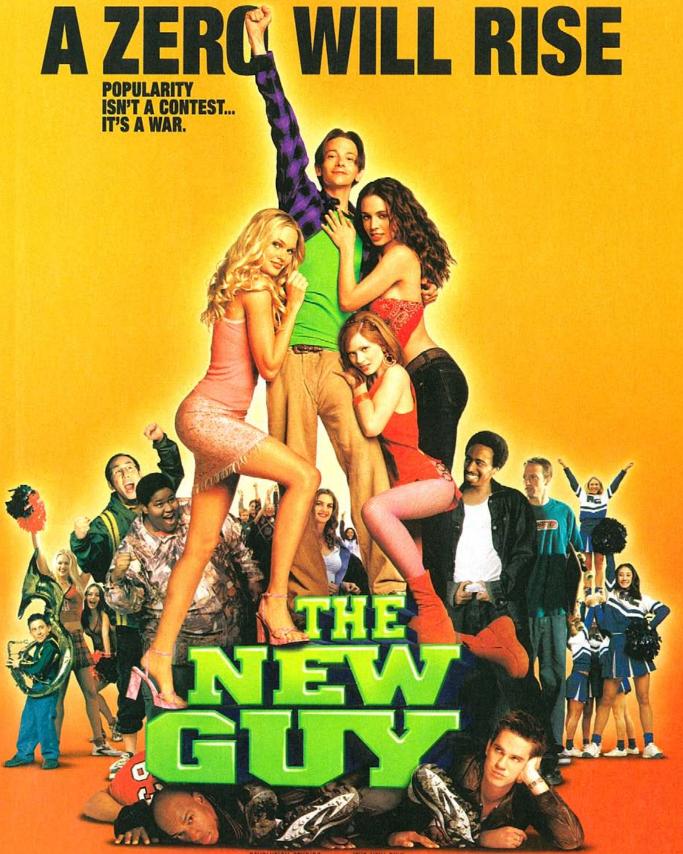


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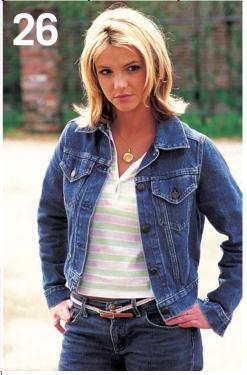
BLOCKBUSTER



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Washington's State



ey, Alexa McDonough. You might want to round up all of your right-leaning counterparts and take them to see **Denzel Washington**'s new movie, *John Q*. Why would the leader of the NDP want to treat her opponents to such a night of merriment? Because they just might learn something about the importance of universal healthcare, that's why.

The teary thriller shows what happens when a hospital refuses to perform a life-saving transplant on a young boy because his parents don't have the right kind of insurance. Washington plays the boy's father, who takes the hospital hostage and demands they fix his son.

Of course, although it was filmed in Toronto, $John\ Q$ takes place in the States where the healthcare situation is much

different than here. But, still, it's important to see where we may be heading if healthcare issues are continually ignored. In "Denzel Gets Desperate," page 32, Washington explains exactly how he feels about the power insurance companies hold over life-and-death decisions.

For years, buxom popster **Britney Spears** was both revered and reviled for looking, and acting, older than she actually was. Now 20, Brit takes a trip back in time to play a high school girl in *Crossroads*, the story of three gal-pals' journey of self-discovery...and meeting boys. In "But Can She Act?," page 26, Britney tells you what's "really *real*" about the movie, reveals why she spends so much time in her bathroom and tells you about the one thing that has finally made her feel like an adult.

So, who taught *John Q*'s mock doctors how to hold their stethoscopes? Or Britney Spears how to, ahem, sing for *Grossroads*? A technical advisor, that's who. A whole profession has sprung up around making sure Hollywood gets the details right. After all, no matter what occupation is depicted on screen, someone in the audience is going to know if it's done wrong. For "Have Gun. Will Consult," page 30, Sean Davidson talked to a trio of technical advisors about trying to minimize Hollywood's flubs and blunders.

And starting on page 16 you'll find our annual Spring Preview. Yes, we know there's still snow on the ground and ice in your eaves troughs, but that just makes a look ahead to the days of cherry blossoms and spring blockbusters (Star Wars Episode 2: Attack of the Clones, Spider-Man) all the more pleasant.

— Marni Weisz

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FAMOUS MAGAZINE IS REPRESENTED BY FAMOUS PLAYERS MEDIA INC.

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Famous⁵⁰ magazine is published 12 times a year by 1371327 Ontario Ltd. Subscriptions are \$32.50 (\$30 + GST) a year in Canada, \$45 a year in the U.S. and \$55 a year overseas. Single copies are \$3.

Back issues are \$6. All subscription inquiries and back issue requests should be directed to Famous magazine at 102 Atlantic Ave., Ste. 100, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1X9; or 416.539.8800; or editor@fpmedia.ca

Canada Post Publication Agreement: No. 1716344

500,000 copies of Famous magazine are distributed through Famous Players, Alliance Atlantis and Galaxy cinemas, and other outlets. Famous magazine is not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or other materials. No material in this magazine may be reprinted without the express written consent of the publisher. © 1371327 Ontario Ltd. 2001.



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NEW CINETINESIN

HARAEL

IN THEATRES MARCH 29



DENZEL WASHINGTON

Give a father

no options

and you leave him

no choice.

AND BIBOHD AND RAY LIOTIA ROBERT DOVALL RUNIBBIRITY BILIST JAMIES WOODS

N THEATERES FEBRUARY 15

TEMPORARY STATE OF INSANITY

I just wanted to bring to your attention an error in the December 2001 edition of *Famous*. On page 46, in the trivia quiz, question number one asks about films which Cameron Diaz has made "with city names in the title." The answer you give is *Feeling Minnesota*. Minnesota is not a city...it is a state. Just thought you should know.

Jonathan Allen - Toronto, Ont.

Oooops. Sorry about that one.

NEW YORK STORY

I am hoping you can answer a question in respect to the name of a movie.

Sometime in 1995 or 1996 I saw a preview before a feature presentation. I was looking forward to seeing the coming film, however, it seems the movie never made it to the big screen. One scene I remember is a setting somewhere in New York City: corner, convenience or junk store. The storekeeper talks to his customer or a friend and explains why and how much he likes New York, how comfortable he is in any, even rough, neighbourhood. And then he said that he would be scared in a place like Sweden or Finland. I would appreciate very much your help.

Michael Zverev - Toronto, Ont.

Okay, we DEFINITELY deserve bonus points for being able to answer this one. The movie in question is Blue in the Face (1995), an improvised Wayne Wang film that was shot with the left-over budget from the director's wordy drama Smoke (also 1995), and involved many of the same characters. The actual quote is, "I'm scared in my own apartment. I'm scared 24 hours a day. But not necessarily in New York. I actually feel pretty comfortable in New York. I get scared...in like Sweden. You know, it's kind of empty. They're all drunk. Everything works...These things scare me. New York? No." It was uttered by glamrocker-turned-actor Lou Reed who played one of many eccentric characters populating Brooklyn. The movie did play in art houses, and is definitely worth seeing if you can find a copy.

LORD OF THE WRONGS

I'm sorry to have to say it, but whoever it was who wrote the article with 54 facts about The Lord of the Rings made an elementary mistake. Sauron did not make 20 rings. True, the verse mentions nine rings for mortal men, seven for dwarves, three for elves, and the one ring, which makes 20, but the books specifically state that Sauron had no part in making the three Elven rings, which is why they and they alone are not tainted by evil. Sauron was involved in making the nine and the seven, and secretly made the One by himself. Otherwise, the article has an interesting miscellany of facts. Keep up the good work. Norman Wolf - Regina, Sask.

THE FUNNEST PART OF HARRY POTTER

I loved the movie *Harry Potter*! It was the best movie I had ever seen in my life! I just loved the hog warts school! And when Harry Potter had a hole bunch of letters comeing in his mail about hog warts! And there where lots of magic! The funnest

part was when the kid got a pig tale! The part when there was diffrent flaverd beans made me hungry. I just hope that they make another Harry Potter movie.

Stephanie Ladouceur (11 years old)
— Fort Langley, B.C.

LOOKING FOR CO-ORDINATES

I am a great admirer of Richard Gere and would like to drop him a line, but I don't have his address.

Josie D'Amico — Kelowna, B.C.

Well then, here it is: Richard Gere, c/o International Creative Management, 8942 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA, 90211, U.S.A.

Enjoy your *Famous* replies whenever I am able to pick up a copy. Is it possible to provide me with an address for Gene Hackman? Enjoy so many of his movies.

Fred Grossmith - Toronto, Ont.

You can send mail to the star of Heist and Behind Enemy Lines care of Creative Artists Agency, 9830 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA, 90212, U.S.A.

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CARLA COLLINS ON ARNIE'S SLOPE, WOODY'S DOPE AND RUSSELL'S GROPE

THE H-BONG
Pro-hemp actor
Woody Harrelson
raised a few eyebrows while giving a
recent speech at
Illinois State
University. According
to Jeannette Walls'
The Scoop. Harrelson



gave a list of reasons why the United States shouldn't be bombing Afghanistan. Coming in at #2: "Afghanistan grows great hash." What the hell was reason #1!? Oh well, that's what you get when you pay your keynote speaker in Doritos. (Mind you, Doritos are now trading slightly higher than the Canadian dollar...)

HE'S NO MOGUL Arnold Schwarzenegger has had a ski slope named after him. According to Ananova.com, Idaho's Sun Valley Resort is renaming a hill, formerly known as "The Flying Maid," "Arnold's Run." It seems like a fitting tribute — the slope should match the downward trajectory of his career. Sun Valley marketing director Jack Sibbach concurs, "Why they didn't call it 'The Terminator' I don't know. People may forget who Arnold is one of these days, but they'll always know *The Terminator*." Amen, brother.





HONEYMOONERS: THE MUSICAL? In one of the most bizarre casting decisions to come out of Hollywood since Reservoir Dogs' Michael Madsen ended up in Free Willy, Nathan Lane has been tagged to star in a new biopic of Jackie Gleason. The flamboyant Lane, who will also produce the film, tells Variety, "Jackie Gleason has been a huge influence on me since I was a child." No doubt Lane will take some artistic license. Now Ralph Kramden will bellow "To the moon Alice! Or to Holt's. There's a sale on hats!"

WEDDING BELL HELL Liza Minnelli is getting married this month to television producer David Gest in a lavish ceremony to be held at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral. According to Ananova.com, "Dame Elizabeth Taylor will be her maid of honour and Michael Jackson will give her away.... The ceremony will also feature Whitney Houston singing 'Here Comes the Bride.'" Okay, throw in a bearded woman, a couple of midgets and a strongman and you've got the world's greatest traveling freak show.

BOOGIE FIGHTS Mark Wahlberg is being sued for \$2-million by a former bodyguard who alleges that he was beat up by the *Planet of the Apes* star. Ananova.com reports that former bodyguard Leonard Taylor claims he was "maliciously and intentionally, and without just



cause or provocation assaulted, beat and bit" by the artist formerly known as Marky Mark. Okay, first up, if you can kick your own bodyguard's ass, what the heck are you paying him for? And number B, Wahlberg's like 5 foot, maybe, and weighs about a buck twenty. Who's going to be his next bodyguard? Webster?

SHE'S LOOSER THAN THE PLOT OF PLANET OF THE APES Julia Roberts is set to take it all off in Steven Soderbergh's sequel to sex, lies and videotape. The Daily Record reports that Julia "has been persuaded to do a nude scene" in the film appropriately titled Full Frontal. This means that the movie-going public will now enter the "exclusive" club of people who've seen Julia Roberts naked — joining Benjamin



Bratt, Keifer Sutherland, Dylan McDermott, Lyle Lovett, Liam Neeson, Jason Patric, Matthew Perry, a couple of personal trainers, a camerman, the patrons of Hogs 'n Heffers (the real-life Coyote Ugly bar)... Club Z is more exclusive!



WHEN RUSSELL CROWES Russell Crowe has an odd take on pillow talk. According to the London Mirror, the Lothario once pursued a starlet on the set of his 1991 film Proof. "He is said to have

seduced a young ingenue in his trailer and passersby swear that, as the passion reached a climax, Crowe shouted, 'Go, Russ, go!''
You know, I hate it when people talk about themselves in the third person at the best of times — let alone during an intimate moment. And you'd think he could have at least come up with a more appropriate cheer? How about "Gimme an O"?

SESA-MEAN STREETS After attending the launch of the Sesame Street website with his daughter Francesca, überdirector Martin Scorsese opened the door to appearing on the popular kids program. Peoplenews.com reports, "Marty enjoyed himself so much that he spoke to the CEO of the Children's TV Workshop, the company behind the much-loved series, and inquired about the possibility of getting a cameo on the show." Martin Scorsese's Sesame Street?! What will the episode be called? I'm thinking either "Goodfozzies" or maybe "Raging Bird." I hear that Big Bird's going to put on 50 pounds for the special. He's a method Muppet.



Carla Collins appears as Rusty Sinclair on the Showcase soap Paradise Falls and hosts Carla and Company on Toronto's Mix 99.9 FM.

There's more than one way to sweep a woman off her feet.



EXCHANGE OF NAMES



or years it was the Canadian film industry's equivalent of having two CFL teams named the Roughriders. There was the Local Heroes film festival in Edmonton, which concentrated on domestic and international feature films, and its offshoot, the Local Heroes film festival in Winnipeg, where the spotlight was on Canadian shorts.

The confusion ends this year with the separation of the two festivals, and a new name for the Winnipeg event: FilmExchange — NSI's Canadian Film Festival, with NSI standing for the National Screen Institute, the country's oldest national training school for filmmakers. For 18

years the institute ran out of offices in both Edmonton and Winnipeg, but this year things were streamlined by moving all operations to the Peg. The Local Heroes moniker was left for the Edmonton fête, which will be produced by the Edmonton International Film Festival Society next month, and Winnipeg was re-branded with the new name.

"There's more of a commitment to market it nationally now," says John Pineau, FilmExchange's director of marketing and communications. "It was more of a regional festival before. We want to market the talents of the people we have at home."

This year's lineup of 100 percent Cancon

consists of 40 short films and 12 features. They include celebrated Winnipeg director Guy Maddin's *Dracula: Pages from a Virgin's Diary*, based on the Royal Winnipeg Ballet production; Robert Cuffley's *Turning Paige*, the story of a would-be writer who fictionalizes her own life (Cuffley won two awards at the Vancouver International Film Festival for this movie, including the Telefilm Canada Award for Best Emerging Director in Western Canada); and Dwayne Beaver's *The Rhino Brothers*, a tale of three hockey-playing brothers driven mad by their obsessive "hockey mother from hell."

■ The event runs February 23 to March 2, with screenings at various locations in downtown Winnipeg. The complete schedule is posted at www.nsi-canada.com, and you can get tickets by calling 1.800.952.9307 or 204.956.7800.

-MW



PIECE WORK

t's amazing what they're doing with coloured plastic bricks these days. Over at www.lego.com, the Danish toy manufacturer has posted a shot-for-shot animated remake of the popular "Camelot" musical number from the 1975 film Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

The song and dance — which features such oft-quoted lyrics as "We're opera mad in Camelot/We sing from the diaphragm a lot" — was made using only traditional stop-motion animation and off-the-shelf Lego pieces. (The likeness of Terry Jones came from a 1978 pirate set. John Cleese was recreated by crossing a Norman knight with a ninja.)



It's online to promote the company's new MovieMaker playset, a high-end assortment of pieces, software and computer video equipment designed to teach the basics of filmmaking and animation to Legomaniacs and marketed in partnership with Steven Spielberg. With the playset, and online tutorials, kids learn about camera angles, lighting, sound and how to tell "macguffins" from "mid-shots."

Once it's in the can, a short can be submitted to the Lego site and just might get posted alongside the Monty Python mini-classic. Other shorts currently online include Dino Cop, the story of a crime-fighting tyrannosaurus, and The Dead Musketeer, wherein two pirates duke it out with a skeleton.

The Lego & Steven Spielberg MovieMaker Set retails for \$249, and Spielberg is donating his share of the profits to the Starbright and Shoah Foundations. Check out www.lego.com/eng/studios/screening to see all the shorts.

—SD



PRINCESS PRIDE

hat's next? A patch for making candles out of ear wax? Enterprising young Girl Scouts will be sporting two new patches this year, both in honour of Princess Fiona, the complex heroine of last year's offbeat animated comedy *Shrek*. Without giving too much away, the seemingly ravishing princess has an "ugly" secret, and in grappling with that dilemma she learns a lesson about which characteristics really matter. Scouts can earn the "Girls Are Great Patch" by doing activities that foster a positive self-image, and the "Connections Patch" by not judging others, especially by their appearance.

Here, the San Fernando Valley chapter of the Girl Scouts present Cameron Diaz, who voiced



the princess, with the patches backstage before an appearance on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*. If only this idea had caught on earlier, the revoltingly ugly Diaz might have been able to

FILMS SHOOTING ACROSS THE COUNTRY THIS MONTH

ECKS VS. SEVER

Location: Vancouver, B.C.

Director: Wych Kaosayananda (Fah)
Cast: Antonio Banderas, Lucy Liu
It took him a year longer than expected,
but Thai director Kaosayananda has
finally started shooting his North
American debut. Not in Toronto, like he
planned, but out on the West Coast. And
not with Wesley Snipes and Jet Li, nor
Vin Diesel and Sylvester Stallone, all of
whom had been in talks to star. Instead
he's got Liu and Banderas as two rival
spies out to kill each other. With luck,
it'll wrap sometime next month.

CHICAGO

Location: Toronto, Ont.

Director: Rob Marshall (debut)

Cast: Richard Gere, Renée Zellweger

It should take about four months to
shoot this adaptation of the lauded Bob
Fosse musical — a blink of an eye
compared to the 15 years it's been in
development. And if the editing crew
sticks to its guns, we could see
Zellweger as a murderous showgirl and
Gere as her shiftless lawyer singing and
dancing on the big screen by Christmas.



CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND

Location: Montreal, Que.

Director: George Clooney (debut)

Cast: Sam Rockwell, Drew Barrymore

Clooney and crew are in Montreal until

April shooting this bio-pic, based on the

life story of Gong Show host Chuck

Barris and the various wild claims he

made (ie. being a CIA assassin) in his

book of the same name. Can Clooney

direct? Or will he get gonged?

—SD

TWINKLE, TWINKLE

LITTLE OPRAH

companies and, often, celebrities.

"Memorials are big," says vice president Rocky Mosele from his office in Chicago, recalling the waves of business that follow celebrity deaths. "When Princess Di passed away, people named about a dozen stars after her. And then JFK [Jr.] had about seven or eight."

"Interestingly enough," he says, laughing, "Dale Earnhardt had about two dozen stars named after him. He beat Princess Di."

Other big names shining down on us include Nicole Kidman, Oprah Winfrey, the Queen Mother, James Gandolfini, Dolly Parton, the *Star Trek* crew and Billy Ray Cyrus. And at least a few celebs, including repeat customers Kurt Russell and Billy Baldwin, have bought heavenly bodies for their friends and Hollywood cohorts.

A cute gift? Sure. Just don't expect an actual astronomer to use these names. Neither the ISR nor its many imitators have the authority to name anything up in the sky. So the star you christen "Gandalf" will still be called something like "NGC 10020" by the rest of the world.

Mosele concedes that the names have no official standing. "It's not practical for use. When an astronomer is looking at the sky trying to chart the stars it's going to be a lot easier to use a listing of numbers."

And if you do buy someone a star as a gift, be sure to also give them a telescope or a good pair of binoculars. Stars visible



ook really hard and you'll see Elvis somewhere up in the night sky. You'll also catch sight of Madonna, Mick Jagger, Sammy Davis Jr., William Shatner and a plethora of Princess Dianas — all of whom have had stars named after t h e m by adoring friends and fans via the International Star Registry, a company that, for 20 years, has been selling novelty naming rights to the billions of stars across the Milky Way.

For \$90 (U.S.) customers can attach whatever moniker they want to one of those anonymous dots in the night sky. Stars get named after pets, loved ones,

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FEBRUARY 1

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Who's In It? James Caviezel, Guy Pearce Who Directed? Kevin Reynolds (Waterworld) What's It About? Working from the oft-adapted 19th-century novel, Reynolds re-tells the story of a sailor, wrongly imprisoned for treason, who escapes, amasses great wealth and takes revenge on the men who betrayed him.

SLACKERS

Who's In It? Jason Schwartzman, Devon Sawa Who Directed? Dewey Nicks (debut) What's It About? After he's caught cheating on schoolwork, college ne'er-do-well Dave (Sawa) is blackmailed into helping a geeky classmate (Schwartzman) win the heart of a campus hottie. But Dave's in love with her too. Will he tell her and risk being expelled?

BIRTHDAY GIRL

Who's In It? Nicole Kidman, Ben Chaplin Who Directed? Jez Butterworth (Mojo) What's It About? Original Sin, with laughs. Kidman (The Others) plays a Russian mailorder bride who wreaks havoc in the home of an English banker (Chaplin).

FEBRUARY 8

BELOW

Who's In It? Bruce Greenwood, Matt Davis Who Directed? David Twohy (Pitch Black) What's It About? As if the Nazi fleet wasn't enough trouble, the crew of a U.S. submarine realize that there's Something Horrible under the water with them. Twohy works from the thriller script penned by Requiem for a Dream's Darren Aronofsky.

BIG FAT LIAR

Who's In It? Frankie Muniz, Amanda Bynes Who Directed? Shawn Levy (debut) What's It About? When a greedy L.A. producer steals his idea and turns it into a hit movie, a junior high student (Malcolm in the Middle's Muniz) and his best friend (The Amanda Show's Bynes) go to Hollywood for revenge.

COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Who's In It? Arnold Schwarzenegger, Elias Koteas Who Directed? Andrew Davis (The Fugitive) What's It About? Der Arnold's latest punch-up has him as a firefighter out to kill the terrorist no-goodniks who car-bombed his wife and kid.

FEBRUARY 15

CROSSROADS

Who's In It? Britney Spears, Zoe Saldana
Who Directed? Tamra Davis (Billy Madison)
What's It About? Spears plays a straight-A high
schooler on a cross-country road trip — with
her two best friends — to Los Angeles. See
Britney Spears interview, page 26.

FEBRUARY 8

ROLLERBALL

Who's In It? Chris Klein, LL Cool J Who Directed? John McTiernan (*The Thomas* Crown Affair)

What's It About? Not a movie in desperate need of a remake but...Klein (American Pie) stars in the new version of Norman Jewison's 1974 future noir sports flick, set in the distant year 2005 when lethal "rollerball" games are all the rage on TV. Taking over the lead from James Caan, Klein is a star athlete chasing cash and glory in the arena with his best friend and partner, played by LL Cool J



(Deep Blue Sea). But it turns out their shiftless team owner, Jean Reno of Mission: Impossible, is orchestrating player deaths to boost ratings. And oddsmakers say they're next. Model-turned-action figure Rebecca Romijn-Stamos, last seen streaking in blue body paint through X-Men, also stars.

SUPER TROOPERS

Who's In It? Jay Chandrasekhar, Marisa Coughlan Who Directed? Jay Chandrasekhar (Puddle Cruiser)

What's It About? Four Vermont State Troopers, fearing budget cuts will cost them their jobs, scramble to crack a drug-smuggling ring operating across the Canadian border.

HART'S WAR

Who's In It? Colin Farrell, Bruce Willis Who Directed? Gregory Hoblit (Primal Fear) What's It About? Sitting out World War Two in a Nazi prison camp, a former law student (Farrell) has to defend a fellow inmate against murder charges.

PETER PAN 2: RETURN TO NEVERLAND

Who's In It? Corey Burton, Harriet Owen Who Directed? Ian Harrowell (debut) What's It About? Disney sequels usually go straight to video, but Return to Neverland, wherein Wendy's niece is kidnapped by Captain Hook and Peter Pan charges to the rescue, beat the odds with this full theatrical release.

JOHN Q

Who's In It? Denzel Washington, Robert Duvall Who Directed? Nick Cassavetes (She's So Lovely) What's It About? Cassavetes and company were in Toronto two autumns ago to shoot this hostage drama about a desperate father (Washington) who, unable to pay for his son's operation, seizes an emergency room full of doctors and nurses. Ironically, if the character actually lived in Canada, he wouldn't have this problem. See Denzel Washington interview, page 32.

FEBRUARY 22

DRAGONFLY

Who's In It? Kevin Costner, Kathy Bates Who Directed? Tom Shadyac (Patch Adams) What's It About? He sees dead people too. Costner plays a doctor convinced that his dead wife is trying to communicate with him through his patients' near-death experiences.

THE NEW GUY

Who's In It? DJ Qualls, Eliza Dushku, Who Directed? Ed Decter (debut) What's It About? A high school loser (Qualls) gets expelled and winds up in prison, where his cellmate teaches him how to re-invent himself as a cool kid.

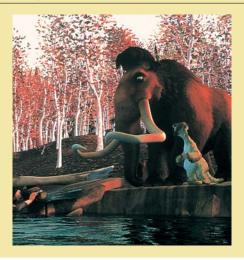
QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Who's In It? Aaliyah, Stuart Townsend
Who Directed? Michael Rymer (In Too Deep)

MARCH 15

THE ICE AGE

Who's In It? Ray Romano, John Leguizamo Who Directed? Chris Wedge (debut) What's It About? Box-office meltdown of Titan A.E. notwithstanding, Fox pushed ahead with a second computer-animated feature — replacing space-faring teens with prehistoric critters on a trek across the tundra to reunite a human baby with his tribe. Sitcom vukster Romano heads up the cast, putting his voice behind a wooly mammoth. He's joined at the mic by Leguizamo (Moulin Rouge) as a sloth and Denis Leary (The Thomas Crown Affair) as a sabre-toothed tiger. This is Wedge's first feature film, and follows his 1998 Oscar for the animated short Bunny.



What's It About? More sexy, singing undead from the mind of Anne Rice. Eight years after Interview with the Vampire comes this considerably more modest adaptation of her third book about the walking dead — with late R&B star Aaliyah as the all-powerful bloodsucker out to conquer the world and Lestat's heart.

MARCH 1

40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS

Who's In It? Josh Hartnett, Shannyn Sossamon Who Directed? Michael Lehmann (Heathers) What's It About? Boy and girl break up. Boy swears off sex. Girl schemes to get boy back. Boy squirms.

WE WERE SOLDIERS

Who's In It? Mel Gibson, Sam Elliott
Who Directed? Randall Wallace (The Man in
the Iron Mask)

What's It About? Vietnam was not a fun place in 1965, as evidenced by this mostly true story of U.S. troops caught in a bloody, month-long shoot-out with the Viet Cong. Gibson produces and stars, under direction from the writer of Braveheart.

MARCH 8

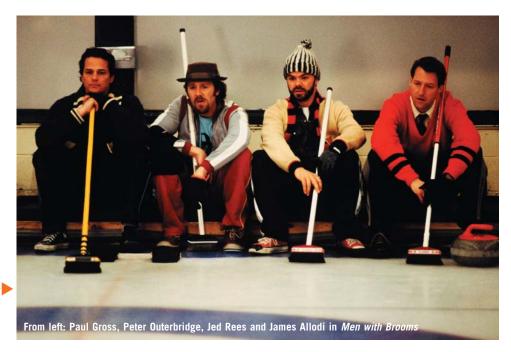
LONE STAR STATE OF MIND

Who's In It? Joshua Jackson, James King Who Directed? Dave Semel (debut)





spring | preview |



What's It About? Jackson (The Skulls) plays a mechanic trying to save a slow-witted relative from the mob.

THE PANIC ROOM

Who's In It? Jodie Foster, Kristen Stewart Who Directed? David Fincher (Fight Club) What's It About? How will Fincher bend the laws of narrative and probability this time? A mother (Foster) and daughter run and hide for their lives, in their own home, when a trio of burglars break in looking for a hidden stash of cash.

THE TIME MACHINE

Who's In It? Guy Pearce, Mark Addy
Who Directed? Simon Wells (The Prince of Egypt)
What's It About? H.G. Wells' great-grandson
adapted his seminal sci-fi story — about a
19th-century inventor who sends himself
hurtling 800,000 years into the future —
only to drop out partway through with a case
of "extreme exhaustion." Director Gore
Verbinski (The Mexican) finished the job.

UNDISPUTED

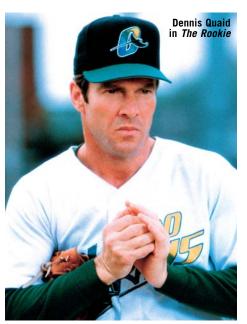
Who's In It? Ving Rhames, Wesley Snipes Who Directed? Walter Hill (Last Man Standing) What's It About? Rhames and Snipes knock each others' teeth in, as two jailhouse boxers in a bout for the prison heavyweight championship.

FULL FRONTAL

Who's In It? Julia Roberts, Blair Underwood Who Directed? Steven Soderbergh (Traffic) What's It About? Among the many last-minute changes in Hollywood after September 11 was that Soderbergh renamed his latest — a movie-within-a-movie sequel to 1989's sex, lies and videotape — from How to Survive a Hotel Room Fire. Beyond that, details about the story are scarce.

MEN WITH BROOMS

Who's In It? Paul Gross, Molly Parker Who Directed? Paul Gross (debut) What's It About? Having exhausted all his jokes about the RCMP, Gross (Due South) looks for new comic material in the world of



curling — directing himself and three other Canucks as a team out to win the trophy for their dear, departed coach.

MARCH 15

CLOCKSTOPPERS

Who's In It? Jesse Bradford, Miko Hughes Who Directed? Jonathan Frakes (Star Trek: First Contact)

What's It About? Frakes, formerly the second banana on Star Trek, sticks with sci-fi and directs this kids' comedy about an invention gone haywire that slows down time.

DEATH TO SMOOCHY

Who's In It? Edward Norton, Robin Williams Who Directed? Danny DeVito (Matilda) What's It About? Will we still take Norton seriously after seeing him in a giant purple rhinoceros costume? The star of The Score and Fight Club plays a Barney-like kiddieshow host marked for death by his arch-rival (Williams). DeVito steps in as his agent, Catherine Keener is the girlfriend.

MARCH 22

E.T.: THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL

Who's In It? Henry Thomas, Debra Winger Who Directed? Steven Spielberg (A.I.) What's It About? Sci-fi fans and shareholders of Reese's Pieces rejoice at the re-release of Spielberg's 1982 insta-classic about a stranded alien with a taste for bite-size candied peanut butter.

MARCH 29

BLADE 2

Who's In It? Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson Who Directed? Guillermo del Toro (Mimic) What's It About? The 1998 surprise hit gets the sequel treatment, with Snipes back as the vampire-killing superhero who, this time, has to team up with his undead enemies.

THE ROOKIE

Who's In It? Dennis Quaid, Rachel Griffiths Who Directed? John Lee Hancock (debut) What's It About? Never mind that he only lasted 16 games, the point is that Little League coach Jim Morris (Quaid) tried out for the majors at the comparatively ancient age of 35, and actually made the team, becoming one of the oldest rookies in baseball history.

SHOWTIME

Who's In It? Robert De Niro, Eddie Murphy
Who Directed? Tom Dey (Shanghai Noon)





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 EXCLUSIVE CAST 6 CREW INTERVIEWS BEHIND-THE-SCENES FEATURETTE

Written by ALAIN GODARD & JEAN-JACQUES ANNAUD . Directed by JEAN-JACQUES ANNAUD

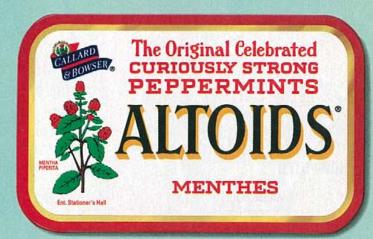


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What's It About? Who'd have thought these two would ever work together? De Niro is a tough-as-bullets L.A. cop partnered with a flamboyant loudmouth (Murphy, of course) and forced to work on a reality cop show.

THE SWEETEST THING

Who's In It? Cameron Diaz, Christina Applegate Who Directed? Roger Kumble (Cruel Intentions) What's It About? Diaz's club-hopping party girl must learn how to woo a man when she meets Mr. Right.

APRIL 5

BIG TROUBLE

Who's In It? Tim Allen, Janeane Garofalo Who Directed? Barry Sonnenfeld (Wild Wild West) What's It About? Based on the chaotic debut novel by syndicated columnist Dave Barry, it's an ensemble comedy about how a nuclear bomb hidden in a suitcase changes the lives of 10 strangers. Joining Allen and Garofalo in the cast are Tom Sizemore, Rene Russo, Seinfeld's Patrick Warburton, former talk show sidekick Andy Richter and MTV's crash test dummy Johnny Knoxville.

APRIL 19

THE SCORPION KING

Who's In It? Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Michael Clarke Duncan

Who Directed? Chuck Russell (The Mask) What's It About? Being the top actor in the WWF is kind of like being the top surfer in Iqualuit. But, for what it's worth, Johnson looks like he's the new big kahuna on this particular snow-bound beach, riding, as he is, the success of last spring's The Mummy Returns into a starring role in the third Mummy movie. The cockeyed mountainoid



plays a peasant lad in ancient Egypt out for revenge against an evil warlord and the army that keeps raiding his village. Along the way he becomes the first pharaoh of Egypt.

HIGH CRIMES

Who's In It? Ashley Judd, Morgan Freeman Who Directed? Carl Franklin (One True Thing) What's It About? Judd (Double Jeopardy) is a lawyer defending her husband against a court martial, with help from a former military attorney, played by Freeman.

RESIDENT EVIL

Who's In It? Milla Jovovich, Eric Mabius Who Directed? Paul Anderson (Mortal Kombat) What's It About? Evil dead abound, yet again, this spring (see Queen of the Damned, Blade 2), as sometime-model Jovovich (Million Dollar Hotel) guns down skin-eating zombies in an adaptation of the splatteriffic videogame.

SHAOLIN SOCCER

Who's In It? Stephen Chow, Lee Wai Who Directed? Stephen Chow, Lee Lik Chi (God of Cookery)

What's It About? Can an imported soccer





LET THE NEW GUY TAKE YOU TO THE MOVIES

Want to win free movies for a year? Just send us your answer to this skill-testing question about The New Guy star Eliza Dushku and we'll enter it in a draw. If we pick your name (and you get the answer right), you and a friend can leave your wallets at home every time you go to a Famous Players theatre

for a full year! Fifty runners-up will win CDs of the movie's soundtrack.

At the tender age of 21, Eliza Dushku has already spent a full decade working in movies. Which 1992 film marked her big-screen debut?

Sony Music

You can find the answer somewhere in this issue of Famous.

Send this entry form to:

The New Guy Contest, c/o Famous magazine, 102 Atlantic Ave., Suite 100, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1X9 All entries must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2002.

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comedy succeed in North America? No? How about if the players use high-flying kung fu to win games? In Cantonese with subtitles.

APRIL 12

NATIONAL SECURITY

Who's In It? Martin Lawrence, Steve Zahn Who Directed? Dennis Dugan (Big Daddy) What's It About? Someone not only greenlighted a comedy about racist police brutality, but agreed to pay Lawrence \$20-million for his time. The Black Knight star plays a thinly veiled version of Rodney King, who teams up with the white ex-cop accused of beating him.

CHANGING LANES

Who's In It? Ben Affleck, Samuel L. Jackson Who Directed? Roger Michell (Notting Hill) What's It About? A car accident involving a businessman (Jackson) and a lawyer (Affleck) escalates into an all-out feud.

APRIL 19

A VIEW FROM THE TOP

Who's In It? Gwyneth Paltrow, Christina Applegate Who Directed? Bruno Barreto (One Tough Cop) What's It About? Paltrow (Shallow Hal) turns out another comedy, as a blue-collar gal with big dreams of seeing the world as a stewardess.

APRIL 26

DEUCES WILD

Who's In It? Fairuza Balk, Stephen Dorff Who Directed? Scott Kalvert (Basketball Diaries) What's It About? A tale of teen street gangs and star-crossed love in 1950s Brooklyn. Balk (The Waterboy) plays the leader of a tough all-girl gang who falls for the alpha male of a rival gang. Expect switchblades, poodle skirts and Brill-Creem.

MAY 16

STAR WARS EPISODE 2: ATTACK OF THE CLONES

Who's In It? Hayden Christensen, Natalie Portman

Who Directed? George Lucas (The Phantom Menace)

What's It About? Yes, the title is quite possibly the worst idea since Greedo shooting first. And details about the latest Star Wars are scarce, except that the story takes place many

years after *The Phantom Menace*. Anakin Skywalker, now played by Toronto's Hayden Christensen, is a full-grown Jedi under the tutelage of McGregor's Obi-Wan Kenobi, and both are assigned to protect Padme (Natalie Portman) when her life is threatened by a violent political faction. The rest is speculation but, doubtless, the evil Darth Sidious is still plotting to overthrow the Republic and slaughter the Jedi. Perhaps by attacking with, say, some clones?





FRANK MCCLUSKY, C.I.

Who's In It? Dave Sheridan, Joanie Laurer Who Directed? Arlene Sanford (Welcome Home) What's It About? Scary Movie's Sheridan plays an incompetent insurance investigator who goes undercover to crack a fraud case.

MAY 3

HOLLYWOOD ENDING

Who's In It? Woody Allen, Téa Leoni Who Directed? Woody Allen (Small Time Crooks) What's It About? Allen directs himself as a director forced to make a movie with his ex-wife, played by Leoni.

MAY 10

JUWANNA MAN

Who's In It? Miguel A. Nunez Jr., Vivica A. Fox Who Directed? Jesse Vaughan (debut) What's It About? Tootsie meets He Got Game. When an NBA bad boy (Nunez) is banned from the league, he dresses up like a woman and joins the WNBA.

UNFAITHFUL

Who's In It? Richard Gere, Diane Lane Who Directed? Adrian Lyne (Lolita) What's It About? Gere re-heats a 1969 French thriller as a husband who kills his wife's lover in a fit of rage. But she's bizarrely turned on by his flash of passion and, now wanting to save her marriage, agrees to help him cover up the crime.

PROZAC NATION

Who's In It? Christina Ricci, Jason Biggs
Who Directed? Erik Skjoldbjærg (Insomnia)
What's It About? Elizabeth Wurtzel's bestseller
comes to life with Ricci (Sleepy Hollow) as a
bright-eyed college freshman whose life
unravels in a cloud of depression and prescription drugs. Side effects may include
impaired judgement, loss of libido and an
urge to write tell-all memoirs.

MAY 3

SPIDER-MAN

Who's In It? Tobey Maguire, Willem Dafoe Who Directed? Sam Raimi (A Simple Plan)

What's It About? Ten years of development hell later, the wall-crawling superhero makes his hotly anticipated big-screen debut — with Maguire (Wonder Boys) as nerd-turned-crimefighter Peter Parker and a slumming Willem Dafoe (Shadow of the Vampire) as his arch-nemesis, the Green Goblin. Little is known about the plot, except that it charts the origin and earliest adventures of the Marvel Comics webslinger, including his brief stint as a wrestler and love for his high school sweetheart, played by Kirsten Dunst. Will it repeat the success of X-Men? Or the flops of Fantastic Four and The Punisher?



ABOUT A BOY

Who's In It? Hugh Grant, Toni Collette Who Directed? Chris Weitz, Paul Weitz What's It About? Grant stars in the adaptation of the Nick Hornby (*High Fidelity*) novel, as a wealthy ne'er-do-well who grows attached to the 12-year-old son of his current girlfriend.

MAY 24

ENOUGH

Who's In It? Jennifer Lopez, Noah Wyle Who Directed? Michael Apted (Enigma) What's It About? Unable to escape her marriage, and fearing for her daughter's life, an abused mother (Lopez) sets out to kill her husband.

INSOMNIA

Who's In It? Al Pacino, Hilary Swank Who Directed? Christopher Nolan (Memento) What's It About? Pacino (The Insider) plays a lawman who accidentally kills his own partner, and Swank (Boys Don't Cry) is the cop called in to investigate in this re-do of the 1997 Norwegian thriller.

SPIRIT: STALLION OF THE CIMARRON

Who's In It? Bryan Adams
Who Directed? Kelly Asbury, Lorna Cook
What's It About? Canadian popster
Adams narrates this animated tale of a
wild horse, captured by the U.S. Cavalry,
and trained as a mount.

MAY 31

THE BOURNE IDENTITY

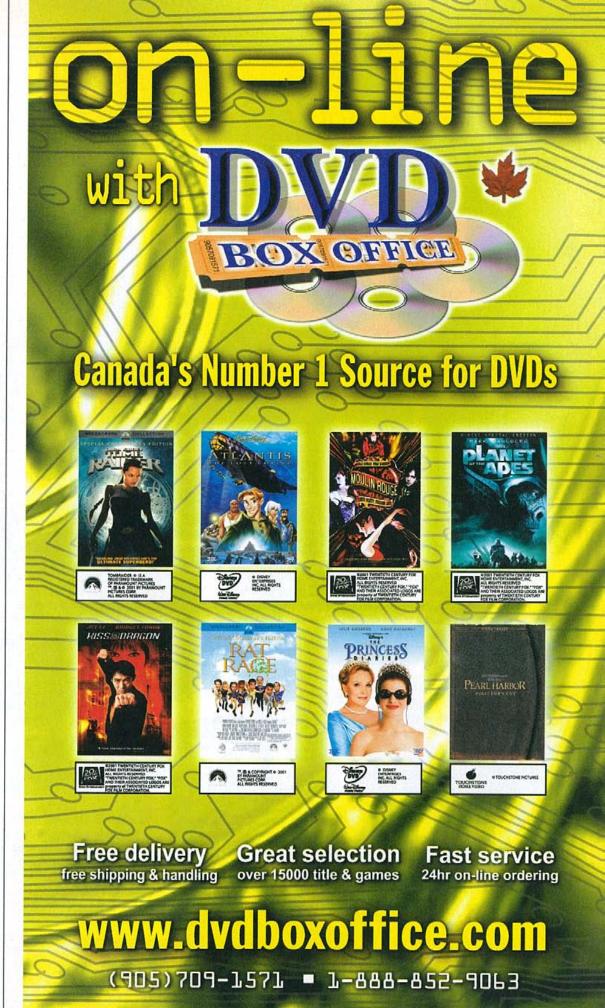
Who's In It? Matt Damon, Franka Potente Who Directed? Doug Liman (Go) What's It About? The movie version of the Robert Ludlum spy thriller has Damon as a mystery man who washes up on the shores of the Mediterranean with no memory and a chest full of bullets.

MASTER OF DISGUISE

Who's In It? Dana Carvey, Jennifer Esposito Who Directed? Perry Andelin Blake (debut) What's It About? Carvey wrote, and stars in, this comic adventure about the last in a long line of...well...masters of disguise.

All release dates are subject to change. Some films play only in major markets.

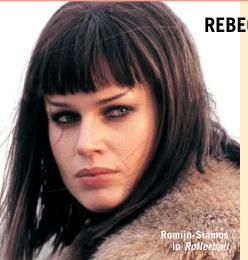
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ROLLERBALL





REBECCA ROMIJN-STAMOS

Now appearing in...the sci-fi sports flick Rollerball as Aurora, the mysterious and deadly teammate of Chris Klein and LL Cool J.

Bio bits: Her parents, both hippie nudists lived — where else? — in Berkeley, California, where Rebecca Romijn was born on November 6, 1972. Jaap Romijn, her Dutch-born dad, made custom furniture and her mom was an author and ESL teacher. The family was poor, so Rebecca and her little sister Tamara grew up eating a lot of granola and wearing — when they wore anything at all — ragged

hand-me-downs from aging flower children. She never used makeup, hardly ever combed her hair and wore PJs and long johns to school.

An early love of hip-hop (she's a big Beastie Boys fan) nudged her toward becoming a performer. At the University of California at Santa Cruz she majored in music, but quickly got bored with the drudgery and poverty of campus life. Then a friend recommended the 5-foot-10, blond, blue-eyed beaut to a San Francisco modeling agency. Two months later, she dropped out of school, got on a plane to Paris and started posing in haute threads by Escada and Christian Dior. In 1996, she showed up in her first of many Victoria's Secret catalogues and appeared on several pages of the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue.

In 1988 she took over Cindy Crawford's old job as host of MTV's House of Style, and broke into acting. Her try-out for a role on Friends caught the attention of a producer from the NBC sitcom Just Shoot Me and she was hired for a four-episode run as David Spade's love interest.

After that, a few movie walk-ons lead to her first real film role, that of the shape-shifting bad girl Mystique in X-Men. Sure, she didn't have very many lines, but her seemingly naked, blue-painted body was a big hit with all those comic book fans. She's expected to return for the sequel in 2003.

Sample roles: Mystique in X-Men (2000), Herself in The Intern (2000), Herself in Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me (1999), Bearded Lady in Dirty Work (1998)

Trivia: Her high school nickname was "The Jolly Blond Giant." • Has a tattoo on her left ankle with the initials of her three best friends.

Love life: Met actor John Stamos at a Victoria's Secret fashion show, dated for four years, and got married in September 1998.

On going to Paris: "I didn't speak one word of French. I didn't know anything about the industry I was getting myself into. I didn't know one person living in Paris. I didn't have anywhere to live. I just got on a plane and flew there with no money and sort of trusted that everything would be okay." — Mr. Showbiz, June 2000

ELIZA DUSHKU

Now appearing in... The New Guy as love interest to DJ Qualls' (Road Trip) geeky high schooler who gets a crash course in being tough thanks to a short prison stint.

Bio bits: Think Eliza Dushku is a kick-ass, tough-as-steel-toe-boots tomboy? Well, you're right. But she comes by it honestly. Shortly after Eliza was born — December 30, 1980, in Boston, Massachusetts — her parents divorced and her university professor mother had to raise Eliza and her three



older brothers alone. Not realizing she was any different than the boys, Eliza grew up wearing boys' clothes and playing football.

She literally fell into acting. Simply along for the ride when her older brother went to an audition, Eliza tripped walking up the stairs and broke her nose. The big screaming fit that followed caught the attention of the casting agents, who hired her to be in a commercial.

Her first big-screen role came in the Juliette Lewis drama That Night, then she starred opposite Robert De Niro in This Boy's Life and with Arnold Schwarzenegger in True Lies. Eliza had a tough time adjusting to the limelight, though, and admits she was a total brat for a while. She credits her brothers with keeping the size of her head in check.

She landed the role of troubled vampire slayer Faith on TV's Buffy the Vampire Slayer just as she was about to head off to Suffolk University, where her mom teaches political science. Even though her dorm room was waiting and she'd already been through orientation, the part was too good to pass up. Roles as a hard-edged gymnast-turned-cheerleader in Bring it On and a bitchy jewel thief in Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back further reinforced her bad girl image.

Love life: Says she avoids talking about boyfriends in interviews because by the time the story comes out the situation has usually changed. But reports are, she dated Ralph Lauren model Colby.

Sample roles: Annabel in Soul Survivors (2001), Sissy in Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back (2001), Missy in Bring it On (2000), Cindy in Race the Sun (1996), Emma in Bye Bye, Love (1995), Dana in True Lies (1994), Pearl in This Boy's Life (1993), Alice in That Night (1992)

Trivia: Dushku was legally emancipated from her mother when she was a teen to get around labour laws that limit the hours a minor can work.

• Her Mormon grandmother called agent Mike Ovitz to complain after seeing Eliza's sex scene on an episode of Buffy.

On why she gets so many tough-girl roles: "I think it's the dark hair. You don't see a lot of blond-haired, blue-eyed girls playing the tough, edgy character roles." — TV Guide Online, August 2001

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BUT CAN SHEET

ACT

Britney Spears has proven herself a triumphant pop goddess, a shrewd marketing genius and a drool-worthy sex symbol for the high school set. This month we find out whether the bare-bellied one's charisma translates to the big screen for her acting debut, *Crossroads* | BY DAVID GIAMMARCO

t was a royal coronation, of sorts, when Madonna — the Queen of Pop herself — officially crowned the Princess of Pop by appearing in concert wearing a Britney Spears T-shirt.

"When I first heard about it, I was like, 'Oh! My! *Gawd*!" enthuses Spears of her music idol's very public tribute. "I was in absolute shock. I mean, I've looked up to her my whole life...it was *soooo* cool."

Madonna's validation was perhaps the last jewel needed to complete Spears' pop diva tiara, which the 20-year-old wears with the same ease as those midriff-exposing, cleavage-flaunting outfits that so delight the media. "It's so weird when people make such a big deal out of me," says an incredulous Spears as she relaxes in her L.A. hotel room, dressed down today in a sweatshirt and low-rise jeans. "It can be totally surreal. But I'm just like anybody



else. I mean, it does feel like I'm living a dream right now, and every night I just want to pinch myself. I thank God every night for this."

"But everything I've done so far," she adds, "I've taken my time doing it, and on my own terms, so I'm really proud of everything that's happened to me...it's much more than I ever imagined could happen."

And Spears, who turned 20 this past December, is just as proud of her latest step toward adulthood: the purchase of her first house. "Forget everything else when you own your own home is when you really feel like a grown-up," she says of her spacious Hollywood Hills digs. "Especially 'cause I'm here by myself, so I have the whole independent feeling and being in control of what I want to do.

"And no parents around," she adds with a giggle. "It's pretty cool."

But behind those innocent-sounding giggles is an astute performer determined to control her future and maintain her longevity as she slowly dissolves any teenybop stigma. Her third album — which came out in November - had a decidedly edgier, more sexual groove. "When you grow as a person, you grow as an artist too, so it's just an inevitable evolution," she says.

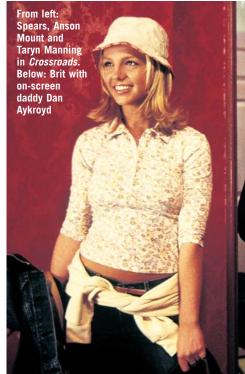
This month Spears makes her feature film debut in Crossroads, about a trio of small-town childhood friends who have grown apart.

Spears plays over-achieving shy girl Lucy, Zoe Saldana (Get Over It) is Kit, a tooperfect cheerleader, and Taryn Manning (Crazy/Beautiful) steps in as Mimi, a hardedged burn-out. When Mimi meets a guy (Anson Mount) who will drive her all the way to California, the other two decide to join her. Along the way they try to earn some much-needed cash by entering a karaoke contest, and heart strings are tugged when Lucy drops in on the estranged mother (Sex and the City's Kim Cattrall) she hasn't seen in years.

"The thing I really love about this movie is it's really real," Spears says. "It's a teen movie, but it's talking about real issues that teenagers go through all the time. Like, one of the girls, she was date-raped, and one of the other girls has an eating disorder..."

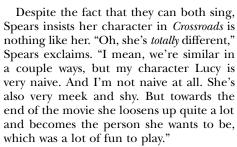
So it's obviously not a comedy.

"Well there are funny moments," she says, laughing. "There's lots of funny stuff that we just improvised on the slide, stuff that just accidentally happened. But it all comes from a really good place, and it's really heartfelt."





"The minute someone tells me to be a certain way, or 'do this' or 'do that,' I shut them out," Spears says. "It's like, I've got to do my own thing and they have to just let me be"



Though Spears says music will always be a part of her life, she's eager to explore an acting career, following in the footsteps of her patron saint Madonna. "Having done this movie, I really want to go back again and keep challenging myself as an actress, to go further out there," says the Kentwood, Louisiana native.

At age 11, she got her start on the Disney Channel's Mickey Mouse Club alongside then fellow-unknowns Christina Aguilera, Keri Russell (Felicity), and *NSYNC's lead singer Justin Timberlake (Spears' current beau). Six years later, her debut album Baby One More Time spawned Britneymania worldwide, with 12 million copies sold in 1999 alone. Spears, however, says the adulation has taken some getting used to.

"I really have to laugh when I see the big thing people make out of me, the ruckus that happens when some people meet me," she says with a grin. "It's very flattering, but



interview



▶▶ I'm just like, 'I'm just like you...we aren't that different, you know.' It's just so funny sometimes."

But Spears admits she suffered her own case of hysteria when she finally met Madonna backstage at a concert in Philadelphia. "Oh my gosh," she enthuses, "I was a complete wreck! You have no idea. First, her little girl Lola [the nickname for Madonna's first child, Lourdes] walks in, and she was so cute and shy, and she started telling me how she has all my CDs and posters and my dolls and my watches. It was so adorable. And then they were like, 'Do you want to meet Madonna?' And I was like, 'Oh, okay.' Usually, I'm really cool when I meet people. But something just came over my body, and I was sooooo nervous. I mean, really, really nervous. I walked in and, oh my gawwd, I became such a stupid retard! I literally stood there and said, 'Oh, I feel like I should hug you!' And so I hugged her and I just felt like such a dork!"

So now, three years after her record-breaking debut, with 40 million CDs sold, not to mention innumerable posters, T-shirts, and concert tickets, Spears insists she's still able to keep a semblance of normalcy in her life. "I make sure it doesn't get too crazy, man," she says. "I mean, the first year I did this, I was just going off

pure adrenaline. I was just so excited all the time, but then after a while you realize that you need breaks. So whenever I want time off, I just take it. It's important for me to maintain my self and serve my soul."

And Spears' favourite diversion? "You're gonna think this sounds stupid," she laughs, "but just taking a relaxing bubble bath does it for me. That, hanging out with my friends, shopping...I mean, I love to just freakin' organize my bathroom! I love doing just really simple, stupid things.

Believe it or not, just coming home and watching TV is really fun to me."

After her world tour this year, Spears says she has no definite plans, but whatever she chooses to do, she will do it on her own terms. She's been accused of being a "packaged" pop star, but Spears adamantly denies that anyone controls her career. "To be honest, the minute someone tells me to be a certain way or act a certain way, or 'do this' or 'do that,' I shut them out," she states. "It's like, I've got to do my own thing and they have to just let me be."

Spears is currently looking at scripts for a second movie, but if she had her wish, there's one film she would love to remake. "Grease," she says without hesitation. "I love that movie so much. It would be so cool."

In fact, she recently got to belt out some *Grease* songs for Olivia Newton-John herself, when the two happened to run into each other at an L.A. karaoke bar. "It was her kid's 16th birthday, and they were getting up and singing my songs," says Spears. "So I got up there and sang 'You're the One That I Want.' And Olivia Newton-John looks exactly the same as then. I mean, she's aged a little bit, but she looks *gorgeous*, absolutely stunning. And her daughter did 'Hit Me Baby' and 'Crazy' and stuff like that."

"When things like that happen to me," she adds, "it can be pretty mind-blowing. I mean, I'm just this kid from Louisiana." •

Based in Toronto and Los Angeles, David Giammarco writes for The Globe and Mail and Cigar Aficionado. He interviewed Raquel Welch for the July issue of Famous.

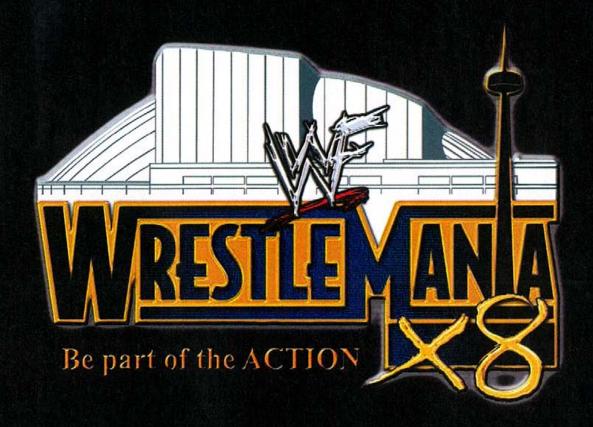
Actor, singer, blue chip stock?

f only, like David Bowie, she would sell shares in her music, Britney Spears could make a killing in the stock market. According to *Forbes* magazine and its Top 100 Celebrity List for 2001, the scantily clad pop star was the fourth most powerful force in the entertainment industry, placing just behind frontrunners Tom Cruise, Tiger Woods and The Beatles.

The storied Wall Street monthly ranked the world's celebs based on earnings, news coverage, web traffic and magazine covers. Although Spears, at \$38.5-million, made far less than the likes of Oprah Winfrey (\$150-million) and George Lucas (\$250-million) her high web traffic and off-the-scale media coverage propelled her to the top of the list.

Bruce Willis was the next most powerful actor, coming in at number five, and Spears' closest musical competitors were the Backstreet Boys and *NSYNC at numbers seven and eight, respectively. Steven Spielberg clocked in at number 14, followed by Julia Roberts at 16 and *Harry Potter* scribe J.K. Rowling at 20. — SD

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Have gun. Will consult.

Someone has to teach all those Hollywood types how to act and talk like real cops. Or soldiers. Or doctors. And as movie audiences get more demanding, directors turn to technical consultants to make sure they get the details right | BY SEAN DAVIDSON

wo detectives are in a kitchen with the body of a 400-lb man, which is lying face down in a plate of spaghetti with its hands and feet tied together. The lights are off as both move slowly around the oil-black room, silently pointing out evidence, cans of food and roach-ridden plates with their flashlights. Everyone else — the uniforms, forensics, the doctor — waits outside.

The older cop crouches for a look under the table, then gets up and leans in to examine the body, testing the mottled skin on the back of the neck with his pen. His partner tucks his tie into his shirt and, moving the flashlight under his arm, starts to jot notes on a clipboard. He's careful not to touch anything.

"A homicide is the most sterile of crime scenes," says Randy Walker, explaining the scene from *Seven*. "You don't want a bunch of people tromping around in there. You want to preserve the evidence." Unlike what goes on in many movies, he says, real murder investigations don't get mobbed by cops, photographers and "twenty guys taking fingerprints." Only a few people are allowed in the room. Real detectives will tuck in their ties, use a pen to avoid touching evidence and, this one's important, won't hold a flashlight in their gun hand.

It was Walker's job, as technical advisor for the grisly 1995 thriller, to point out these little details to director David Fincher and to coach stars Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman how to act like real homicide cops. And Walker knows what he's talking about — he was a police officer in Los Angeles for 27 years and served with the city's SWAT team. Now retired, he

and the company he co-founded, Call the Cops, provide expertise about law enforcement dos and don'ts to movies and TV shows. They read the scripts, correcting bad dialogue or procedure, and are on set during shooting just in case someone doesn't know how to hold a gun or cuff a suspect. In business for 10 years, Walker and his crew have worked on cop-heavy movies like *Speed*, *Terminator 2*, *L.A. Confidential, Rising Sun* and *The Negotiator*.

"As time goes by, more and more people are familiar with how police walk, talk and act," he says, on the phone from California. "We try to inject as much authenticity as [the filmmakers] will allow." Getting the details right, he says, is the best way to make something believable.

"When people go to the movies they don't say, 'Wow, these people sure had great technical advisors.' What they do is look at the actors and say, 'I believe those people as homicide detectives."

As audiences, directors and actors have become more demanding about little details, the business of technical consulting has grown — not just for big-time Hollywood productions, but also made-for-TV movies and TV shows. *ER* keeps two doctors on the payroll, while NBC's *The West Wing* has former Bill Clinton press secretary Dee Dee Meyers vetting their scripts. And in Toronto, the recent boom in movie and TV production has brought a lot of business to consulting company Medicine in Film.

"I filled a niche that was previously unfilled," says owner Daphne Bailie, a registered nurse who, before getting into show biz, worked at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. Her company rents out nurses and a physician to the many series (*Psi Factor, Earth: Final Conflict*), movies-of-the-week (*The Day Reagan Was Shot*) and feature films (*Bless the Child*) that shoot in Hollywood North.

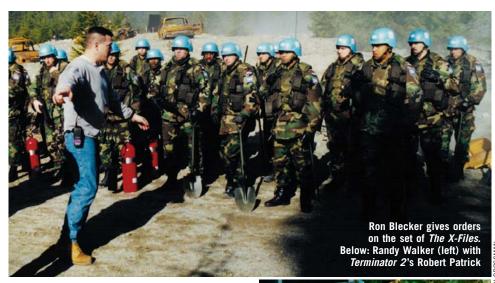
She founded the company four years ago — after seeing a movie in which doctors were reading a patient's X-rays upside down — and quickly went from moonlighting on movie sets to running a full-time business.

Consultants, she says, have to work with the cast and director to find a workable balance between what is technically correct and what makes for good drama. But she adds, "If you really pay attention to the small medical things that make it look real you don't have to give up any drama."

On set, she and the director watch the action on a TV monitor. "I'm watching the actors to see how real they look. Do they look relaxed? Do they look efficient? When I see it on screen I want to feel like I'm standing in my own ER."

Heart attack scenes are the hardest to get right, she says, and always require multiple takes. "It's extremely difficult to choreograph because there are so many players in the scene. It's pandemonium. You've got maybe 10 actors and extras all with a very specific role that they've never done before and they have to do it with extreme accuracy."

Full-time companies and recognized experts like these are a welcome change to a side-industry that, for many years, was plagued by imposters. Productions, especially those that need police or military experts, are still on the lookout for poseurs



"AS TIME GOES BY, MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE FAMILIAR WITH HOW POLICE WALK, TALK AND ACT," RANDY WALKER SAYS. "WE TRY TO INJECT AS MUCH AUTHENTICITY AS THE [FILMMAKERS] WILL ALLOW"

and wannabes trying to pass themselves off as seasoned vets.

"If I had a dollar for every Navy SEAL or Green Beret or Army Ranger I'd met up here I'd be a zillionaire," says Ron Blecker, a 14-year veteran of the U.S. Army Rangers and Special Forces who now lives and works as an on-set military advisor in Vancouver. "These guys will sit down at a computer and whip up a resumé that makes Rambo look like a wimp. And then you see the guy, and he's 110 pounds overweight and unshaven and he can barely walk across the street."

Blecker got his first consulting job (on *The X-Files*) because he walked out of the job interview — refusing to answer a question about how many people he'd killed while in the army. "I lost my mind," he says. "I got very upset and stormed out of the office." It wasn't until the interviewer ran after him that he realized it was a trick question intended to weed out phonies. A real vet, Blecker explains, wouldn't answer such an unprofessional question.

Blecker worked on X-Files for several

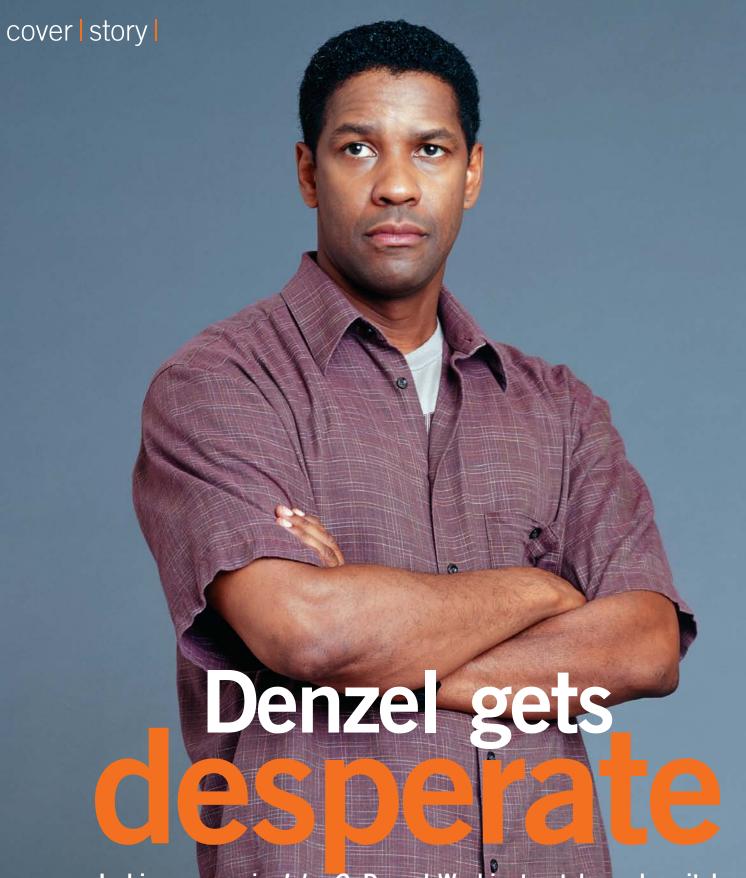


seasons and is now the hired gun for James Cameron's series *Dark Angel*. He has also called the shots, so to speak, on movies such as *Along Came a Spider* and *The Pledge*, and co-owns a casting company/small army called DefCon 5 which provides extras to movie and TV productions, all 150 of which, he says, get rigorous training.

"We put them through basic training — boot camp, SWAT tactics, how all the equipment works, how to handle weapons," he says. "We hold them to a very high standard. We have no qualms about firing someone on the spot if they screw around or don't handle a weapon properly."

If he's harsh on his rent-a-troops, it's because the film business is just as unforgiving. The hardest and most important thing about getting established as an advisor, he says, is convincing the filmmaking community that you're not a fake.

"If you lie once, it's over," he says. "Word gets around like wildfire. If you stub your toe on *Dark Angel* everyone knows about it on *Stargate* in about three hours."



In his new movie John Q, Denzel Washington takes a hospital hostage to save his son's life. Here, the father of four talks about making tough decisions and trying to find time for his own kids

ad events transpired a little bit differently, Denzel Washington might not be one of this planet's biggest film stars. Instead, the son of a Pentecostal preacher and a beautician mother could very well have been one of the thousands of Americans currently stationed in Afghanistan.

"I almost joined the army when I was about 18 years old, a lot of people don't know that," the 48-year-old reveals. "I seriously thought about joining, but fate stepped in and stopped me."

Although moviegoers have seen Washington in military regalia several times on screen — Courage Under Fire, Crimson Tide, Glory, A Soldier's Story — off screen, it's difficult to imagine him in anything but an expensive designer suit like the one he's wearing today.

Holed up in Toronto's swank Four Seasons hotel on a break from some lastminute shooting for his latest, John Q, Washington laughs when asked what, exactly, he found alluring about being part of America's armed forces. "There was nothing alluring about it, I just needed a place to stay," he says, recalling how his mom encouraged him to enlist. "Basically, I wasn't doing so well in school. So my mother said, 'Look, that's it buddy. You're on your own.' It was really a strange time for me."

Denzel took a semester off, but eventually went back to school and managed to graduate, still not having completely discounted the idea of joining the army. After high school, though, he got into Fordham University where he started to act in student productions. It soon became clear he had talent and, upon graduation, was accepted to San Francisco's American Conservatory Theater. After only one year he knew he wanted to act professionally.

"That's when I said 'Adios' to any notions of going to the army. I have the utmost respect for those who join the armed forces," he adds, "but I just knew that it wasn't a place for me. And my mom was just trying to help find my place in life. I think that's why she suggested me going in the first place."

Even though he never joined the armed forced, Washington has often chosen roles that allow him to play real-life freedom fighters - from South African activist Steven Biko in Cry Freedom (1987), to

 $Malcolm\ X\ (1992)$, to wrongly imprisoned boxer Rubin "The Hurricane" Carter taking on the justice system in The Hurricane (2000).

Formidable roles to be sure. Yet, surprisingly, Washington says his part as a parent in John Q is, in many ways, just as heroic. "Here is this law-abiding father, who is really a good man, and he is forced to decide whether he is willing to sacrifice his life to save his son. To me, he's a hero," Washington says.

Directed by Nick Cassavetes (the son of legendary filmmaker John Cassavetes and

who has four kids of his own - John David, Katia and twins Malcolm and Olivia. "I think what makes the movie so poignant is that it is a situation that could happen to anyone.... Insurance companies now have the power over life and death, and it's all about money."

Washington doesn't necessarily think what his character does is right, just that many parents in the same situation would consider doing the same thing. "Would I do it? Maybe," he says. "Luckily, though, I've come along far enough in my profession where money is not a big problem.



renowned actress Gena Rowlands) and featuring a cast that includes Robert Duvall, James Woods, Anne Heche and Ray Liotta, John Q is a cautionary tale about how far one man will go to save his child's life. Washington plays John Q. Archibald, an unassuming, good-natured man whose nine-year-old son is in desperate need of a life-saving transplant. But his medical insurance won't cover the costs and Archibald gets desperate. In a last-ditch effort to save his child's life, he takes the medical staff and patients of a hospital emergency room hostage, with the ransom being to perform his son's operation.

"If you're a parent, you are always saying, 'I'd do anything for my kids,' and John Q pretty much asks the question, 'Okay, how far would you really go?" says Washington,

But what if it didn't have to do with money? That would be a tough decision to make."

Off screen, the actor is a devoted father who cares about all children. Having been a part of the non-profit Boys Club in his native New York from the time he was six to the time he was in college (first as a camper, then as a counsellor) he is still involved with the newly re-christened Boys and Girls Club.

"What we've done is put clubs in inner-city housing projects — in empty recreational rooms that people were afraid to use because of violence," he says. "They did some research in Chicago and Tampa and found that when they put the clubs in these places crime went down 25 percent within a couple of months. Drug abuse



cover | story |

went down 25 percent.... It gave lifeblood back to the community."

And yet there's no denying that Washington has chosen a profession that is not always beneficial for his own children. "It takes me away from my kids a lot," he concedes with a hint of sadness in his voice.

So how does he make up for the time spent away from home?

"How does anybody make up for the time you miss with them?" Washington answers rhetorically. "It's time that is gone — for good. But you can't constantly feel like you have to make up for something, because that just doesn't work. You just have to try and be realistic about it.... One of the reasons that I've chosen a lot of films that I've done recently is to be able to stay home more. I do the things that are good for me and my family. Luckily, I'm at a place in my career where I'm allowed to do that."

His next project, *Finding Fish*, will also be his first in the director's seat. "I can't wait to begin shooting, even though I'm excited and scared at the same time," he jokes. "It's a wonderful script. It's inspired by a true story, so I figure that's something that I know a little bit about. It's about a relationship between this wonderful young man, Antwone Fisher, and his psychiatrist. Antwone is an unusual and fantastic young man, and I'm just glad to be a part of telling this story."

Although he had no plans to act in *Finding Fish*, studio politics made it necessary.

"I found this young kid, Derek Luke, an unknown, to play Fisher, but the studio wouldn't give me any money unless I got a bigger name to do the role," he explains. "So I told them I would play the psychiatrist. Now, don't tell them I said this but I'm going to cut most of myself out of the movie. At least, I'm going to try to, because it's not about my character, it's about Fish. I'm really up for it, because I feel like I'm on a good roll."

And he might just hit the jackpot soon. His performance as an egomaniacal killer cop in last fall's *Training Day* has studio reps lobbying the Academy for an Oscar nomination. Washington, however, tries not to get caught up in the Oscar buzz.

"As an actor in this business, I really have only one responsibility," he says, "and that's to do the best work that I can in the best projects out there. I haven't always been successful, but I think that I've learned from my mistakes. In my case, I think that, eventually, practice will one day make somewhere in the general vicinity of perfect, and that has nothing to do with winning awards."

Earl Dittman is an entertainment writer based in Houston, Texas. His last piece for Famous was an interview with Russell Crowe in the January issue.

Crazy from the heat

Those fascinated by the workings of the human brain will be watching Anne Heche's performance in *John Q* with added interest. Heche plays the hospital administrator who must tell Denzel Washington's character that his insurance won't cover the transplant his son needs to survive. In real life, Heche was released from hospital just two days prior to landing in Toronto for the shoot, following her much-publicized trip into the desert.

For those with short-term memory disorder, after breaking up with girlfriend Ellen DeGeneres, Heche showed up at a stranger's house in Fresno, California, rambling incoherently and appearing drugged. Frantic publicists tried to put their spin on the situation, claiming their client was



simply suffering from heat stroke, and was certainly not on drugs. But a few months later Heche (*Psycho*) came clean about her delusions of being God's lesser-known child, Celestia, and zipping into the desert because there was a space ship she had to catch. Oh yeah, and there was a tab of Ecstasy involved.

The actress has since acknowledged that having to get right back up on the horse to film John Q was a good thing, telling The Toronto Sun, "Thank God for that iob."

And Heche's next role? She'll play a psychiatrist, of all things, in the Christina Ricci movie Prozac Nation.

—MW

famous Trivia

- In which movie did late actress/singer
 Aaliyah who stars in this month's
 Queen of the Damned make her
 big-screen debut as a modern-day
- John McTiernen directed the new remake of 1975's dystopian thriller Rollerball. Which Canadian director helmed the original?
- The new Guy Pearce movie The Time Machine is based on a novel by H.G. Wells. Which of the following movies was not based on a Wells work: The Island of Dr. Moreau, The Invisible Man, Around the World in 80 Days or The War of the Worlds?
- Count of Monte Cristo star Richard
 Harris has never won an Academy
 Award but has twice been nominated.
 The first time was for 1963's The
 Sporting Life. For which 1990 film
 did he get his second nomination?
- Bill Paxton directs, and acts alongside, fellow Texan Matthew McConaughey in the upcoming thriller *Frailty*. Name the only other film the pair has done together.
- Which singer once said of *Dragonfly* star Kevin Costner, "Neat?' Anyone who says my show is neat has got to go"?
 - To whom is *Waking Up in Reno* star Natasha Richardson married?
 - Which star of *Collateral Damage* was accepted into the prestigious Lee Strasberg Actor's Studio but only got to study with Strasberg for one day before the celebrated acting coach died?

ANSWERS

I Romeo Must Die 2 Norman lewison 3 Around the World in 80 Days 4 The Field 5 U-571 6 Madonna 7 Liam Neeson 8 John Leguizamo

RYAN PONDERS MARRIAGE, DICAPRIO FREAKS OUT AND HANKS MISSES HIS FLIGHT

BY SEAN DAVIDSON



LAYOVER: THE MOTION PICTURE

Take the script for Cast Away, replace the words "island" and "volleyball" with "airport" and "carry-on luggage" and you've got the new Tom Hanks movie Terminal. The two-time Oscar winner and overpaid everyman will again play a man without a country in the DreamWorks drama about a Balkan refugee stranded in an airport for years because of visa problems. While there, presumably living off fast food and duty-free liquor, he falls in love with a stewardess. This one appears to be based on the true story of Merhan Karimi Nasseri, an Iranian expat and real-life urban legend who has been cooling his heels in Charles de Gaulle Airport since 1988.

MEG-LOCKED

Meg Ryan (You've Got Mail), grande dame of romantic comedies for 10 years now, looks ready to re-tread familiar ground, this time partnering with the mainstay of mid-life crisis movies, Richard Gere (Dr. T and the Women, Autumn in New York). Both are in talks to star in Wedlocked, the comic tale of two divorce lawyers whose marriage hits the rocks and, in a last-ditch effort to reconcile their differences, are finger-cuffed to each other for 48 hours. If both sign on. filming could start this summer, just as soon as Gere finishes work on the adaptation of Chicago.

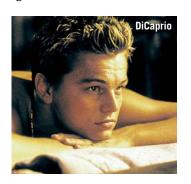


THE DEVIL AND LIAM NEESON

You'd think Phantom Menace would have scared him away from prequels, but Liam Neeson has thrown caution to the wind and inked a deal to be in the next Exorcist movie, starring as a younger version of the devil wrasslin' holy man previously played by Max Von Sydow. Director John Frankenheimer (Ronin) and author-turned-screenwriter Caleb Carr (The Alienist) will lift material from the regrettable Exorcist 2 to tell the story of how Father Merrin first locked horns with Satan as a young missionary in post-war Africa. Watch for it in theatres sometime in 2003, and in your nightmares through 2005.

LEO AND HOWARD

After laying low for a few years,
Leonardo DiCaprio (he was in something called *Titanic*, perhaps you've
heard of it) has suddenly signed on
to star in not one, not two, but three
movies, all of them life stories. First
up, he will play against type in the
dual role of 1930s circus freak
Johnny "Half-boy" Eckhardt and his
twin brother in *Johnny Eck*. That will
be followed with the lavish



history piece Alexander the Great, for which DiCaprio will re-team with his Gangs of New York director Martin Scorsese, starring as the Bronze Age overachiever who conquered most of the known world in his 20s. He has also agreed to work with director Michael Mann (The Insider, Ali) on a bio-pic about eccentric millionaire Howard Hughes.

DAY IN, DAY OUT

Few people have dropped in and out of movies as much as Daniel Day-Lewis, who fell off the Hollywood map after 1993's In the Name of the Father and again after The Crucible in 1996. But the British De Niro will be back on film when he stars in the adaptation of The Ride Down Mount Morgan, the acclaimed play by his father-in-law Arthur Miller. Day-Lewis will take over the role — popularized by Patrick Stewart on Broadway — of a man reflecting on his life after a nearfatal car crash. Milos Forman (Man on the Moon) is being courted to direct by producer Michael Douglas.

BRIEFLY

Nicolas Cage (*The Family Man*) has signed to play DC Comic's occult anti-hero in the thriller *Constantine*. ■ A serious version of the TV sitcom *Hogan's Heroes* will star Russell Crowe (*A Beautiful Mind*) as the American colonel penned up in a Nazi prison camp. ■ Aussie wildlife wrangler Steve Irwin will star as himself in the comic bio-pic *Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course*. ■ Arnold Schwarzenegger (*End of Days*) will be paid an unprecedented \$30-million to make *Terminator 3: The Rise of the Machines*. ■ Wes Craven wants Joan Collins (*Dynasty*) to play a vampire in his remake of the 1963 schlocker *Black Sabbath*.

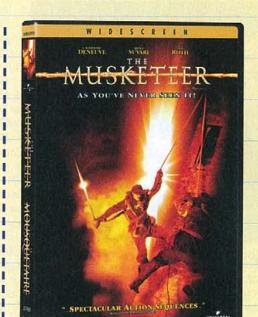
film stud



CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN

- Commentary by director John Madden
- Deleted scenes
- Russell Satson: "Ricordo
 Ancor" music video
- Production notes
- Cast and filmmaker bios

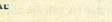


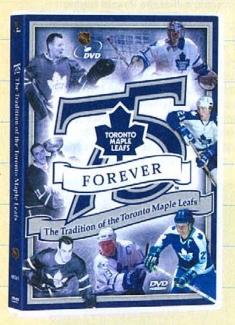


THE MUSKETEER

Tim Roth, Mena Suvari and Catherine Deneuve star in the dazzling action-adventure that weds the classic swordplay and chivalry of Alexandre Dumas' "The Three Musketeers" with the gravity-defying dazzle of Hong Kong action choreography.



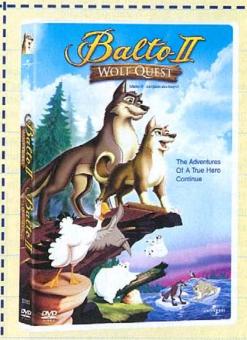




75 FOREVER: THE TRADITION OF THE TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

Through highlights, exclusive interviews with Maple Leaf greats and never-beforeseen footage, "75 Forever" tells the story of a team and a city; 75 seasons, 11 Stanley Cups and countless memories cast in blue and white





BALTO II: WOLF QUEST

The courageous canine returns with his daughter to lead a fun-filled quest for adventure in this all-new, feature-length sequel to Balto, featuring the voices of David Carradine, Mark Hamill and Peter MacNicol

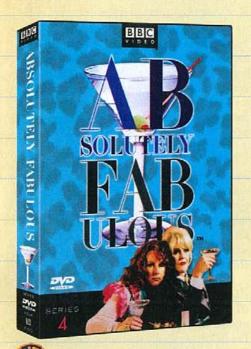




UNIVERSAL



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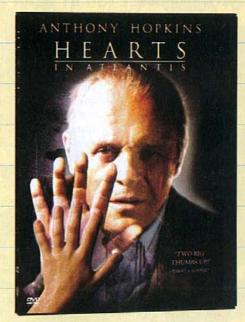
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- Outtakes
- Who's Who guide to the stars of Ab Fab



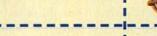


HEARTS IN ATLANTIS

- Commentary by director
 Scott Hicks
- Stills gallery 50 pages of entertainment outtakes
- Interview with Anthony Hopkins by director
 Scott Hicks
- English and French 5.1
 Dolby Sound







Commentary by producer
 David L. Wolper, cast
 and crew

ROOTS: THE MINISERIES

- "Remembering Roots" behind-the-scenes documentary
- Interactive Roots family tree with website links
- Commentary video highlights





THE TIME MACHINE

- Behind-the-scenes documentary, "Time Machine: The Journey Back," hosted by Rod Taylor and featuring Alan Young, Whit Bissell and others involved in the film
- Soundtrack remastered in Dolby Digital 5.1
- Filmographies of Rod Taylor,
 Yvette Mimieux, Alan Young
 and director George Pal
- Original theatrical trailer







JUST WATCH THEM

THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERA PLAYERS HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY. AND IT'S WRITTEN ON GIANT CARDBOARD SHEETS I BY SEAN DAVIDSON



n the platform of the Astor Place subway station in Manhattan, a man and woman, both giggling and clad in black bodysuits, take turns bonking each other on the head with bowler caps. Around their necks hang giant nametags that read "Vladimir" and "Estragon." Across town at Seventh Avenue and 14th Street, a guy wearing a skull mask holds up a placard that asks "2+2=?" in front of a security camera. Next to him, a man labeled "6079 Smith, W." holds up another that answers "5." And in Times Square, a webcam's view of a bustling, neon intersection is blocked by two signs that read "We know you are watching" and "Mind your own business."

Protest? Oddball theatre? Actually, it's both. This is the work of the Surveillance Camera Players [www.nothored.org/the-scp.html], a troupe of guerilla actors and pranksters who have a big problem with Big Brother and the proliferation of video cameras and webcams in public places.

On the go since 1996, they perform very short, impromptu, and often absurd plays in front of the 5,000-or-so electric eyes that watch New York City's streets, parks and subway stations — entertaining passersby and enraging security guards with adaptations of *The Raven, Waiting for Godot* and slightly heavier fare like George Orwell's

1984 and Wilhelm Reich's *The Mass Psychology of Fascism*.

Their message? That cameras invade privacy, do not deter crime and violate the provision against "unreasonable search" in the U.S. Constitution.

"That is the essential aspect of what liberty is," says 41-year-old co-founder Bill Brown, "free assembly and the right of free movement."

"If you're going to watch us," he adds, "we're going to give you messages you might not expect."

Since few surveillance cameras can pick up sound, dialogue and other, more direct, messages ("We will be free") are spelled out with magic marker on big cardboard sheets. The plays are short, 10 minutes at the most, but are often interrupted by the arrival of guards or New York's finest.

"It's almost comic how completely wound up security guards get when they see us," he says, recalling run-ins with the plastic badge brigade. "They think we're going to put anthrax in the water supply...but when the police arrive they say, 'They're not doing anything wrong.'"

Even in the wake of September 11, and widespread calls for heavier public surveillance, the Players stand by their policy. "The best time to defend your rights is when they're attacked. You don't give up when they're attacked or it becomes difficult," says Brown. Like many civil libertarians, they are also concerned about the potential mis-use of face-recognition software, a new and suddenly in-demand technology designed to spot criminals or terrorists in crowds.

But despite the rhetoric, Brown explains that the four or five main members are not "hard-core political people." Nor do they have any real background in theatre. They caper in front of cameras because it's fun. Using satire and playfulness, he says, gives them a chance to protest without turning into "rock-throwing anarchists."

"You should be able to be creative or even oppositional without having to make your point through police barricades," he says.

WATCH WORDS

Are you paranoid? Or not paranoid *enough*? To learn more about surveillance, privacy and who might be spying on your life, read on:

Big Brother Awards

www.privacyinternational.org/bigbrother

Operating out of London and Washington, the advocacy group Privacy International keeps tabs on privacy issues and abuses around the world, and every year hands out these dubious honours to governments, police forces or corporations caught snooping on the citizenry.

Visionics Corp.

www.visionics.com

Makers of the controversial Facelt facerecognition system, which the City of Tampa, Florida is using in conjunction with 36 public video cameras to scan crowds for wanted criminals. Silver bullet against crime? Or a police state for Windows 2000?

Privacy Commissioner of Canada

www.privcom.gc.ca

The RCMP put up a surveillance camera in downtown Kelowna, B.C. last year, only to have it knocked down by federal privacy watchdog George Radwanski, who ruled that it violated the Privacy Act. Read the site's fact sheets and FAQs for the finer points of privacy in the Great White North.

The website — which includes photos, movies and scripts of their many performances — encourages people to start their own troupes, and other Surveillance Camera Players have recently sprung up in Arizona, California and across Europe. Brown hopes someone will also start a chapter in Canada.

So maybe they have a point about privacy and anonymity. And, yes, they've got a sense of humour. But aren't they also a little paranoid? "The people who are truly paranoid are the people who are putting up all the cameras," Brown retorts, "the people who so distrust the American or Canadian public that they want to have cameras everywhere. *That's* paranoid."

Sean Davidson is the deputy editor of Famous magazine.





THE FUTURE IS HERE

SEQUEL TO AWESOME BUT UNDERPLAYED GRAFFITI GAME LEADS MONTH'S NEW RELEASES | BY MARK MAGEE

JET SET RADIO FUTURE >>Xbox

Someone once said that only a handful of people bought the first Velvet Underground album when it came out — but everyone who did went on to form a band. In other words, you don't always have to sell big to be a big influence.

Case in point: the brilliant-but-ignored Dreamcast game *Jet Grind Radio*. Released in 2000, the point of *JGR* was to inline skate your way around a huge city and spray paint your graffiti "tag" in as many locations as you could. Along the way, you had to do battle with gangs of rival graffiti artists and avoid grumpy cops. It was a simple game that was both astounding to look at and truly addictive.

Unfortunately, not too many people played it. Dreamcast owners were few and far between, and many of them assumed *JGR* was nothing more than a cheap *Tony Hawk Pro Skater* knock-off. But those lucky few who gave it a try quickly declared it a triumph of innovation.

Perhaps this sequel for the more popular (so far) Xbox will give the series the attention it so deserves. Not wanting to mess with a good thing, Sega decided to make *Jet Set Radio Future* very similar to the original. The game is set further in the future (Tokyo,

2024) but your job is the same. However, this new version allows you to pull off way bigger jumps and crazier tricks — all in much larger environments.

And the graphics, which were mindblowing in the original, are even better in JSRF, with the game's unique visual style resembling an American comic book filtered through Japanese anime by way of junk food packaging.

HERDY GERDY >> Playstation 2

Finally, someone has made a game for the goat herder in all of us. Meet Gerdy, a resident of an island that values herding so much, they put the best herder in charge of everything. Unfortunately, the isle's top wrangler — Gerdy's dad — has been put



under a spell by his power-hungry rivals. So now it's up to Gerdy to save his pop and the island. How's he gonna do it? By herding animals, of course!

CIRCUS MAXIMUS >>Xbox

Tired of those boring old driving games and their played-out motorized vehicles? Then get behind the wheel of a chariot! Racing goes ultra-old school in this Romanera game that pits you and your horses against a bunch of other wannabe Ben Hurs. Of course, using your sword to help even the odds is not only allowed, it's expected.

COMMANDOS 2 >> Playstation 2

This real-time tactical combat game puts you in charge of an elite group of Allied soldiers, dropped behind enemy lines to pull off stealth attacks on German and Japanese forces. A surprisingly complicated and challenging World War Two game that earned great acclaim when it was released for the PC last year.

IMPOSSIBLE CREATURES >>PC

Who hasn't walked through a zoo and thought, "I wonder what a gorilla crossed with a praying mantis would look like?" Thankfully, you no longer need a degree in biology and a secret underground lab to find the answer. Just fire up this game — which lets you build an army of mutated animal warriors — and see the twisted results for yourself. Our favourite? The pirahna-bat.

COMMAND & CONQUER: RENEGADE >>PC

The venerable real-time strategy game finally gets morphed into a first-person shooter, giving fans of the series a chance to see what the action looks like from a grunt's point of view. The single-player mode and its many missions are fun, but the real treat here is the multiplayer mode, which allows you and your pals to go head-to-head in the heavily detailed C&C universe.

VIRTUA FIGHTER 4 >> Playstation 2

Everyone's favourite coin-op beat 'em up comes home on the PS2, and looks almost as good as in the arcade. The usual gang of tough guys are back, along with a huge collection of punches, kicks, grabs, throws and assorted special moves. So, go ahead, hurt somebody.

Mark Magee is the associate editor of Premiere Video Magazine.

CHRISTIAN LAROUCHE & GINETTE PETIT présentent/presents

MAUDE GUÉRIN LAWRENCE ARCOUETTE CHARLES-ANDRÉ BOURASSA

LUC PICARD



Un film de/A film by Jean Beaudin

Le COLLECTIONNEUR

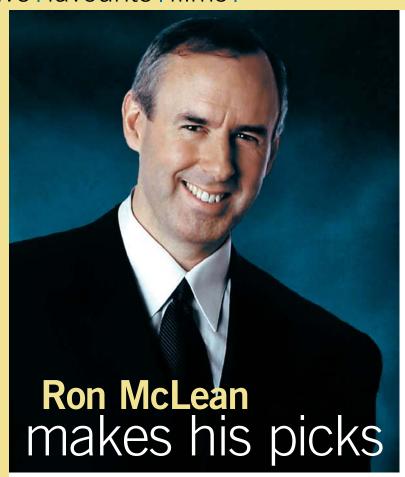
Maud Graham enquête

Maud Graham investigates

À l'affiche en version française au Québec le 22 février 2002 Original French Version with English Subtitles across Canada COMING SOON TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU!



five | favourite | films |



anadians know him best as Don Cherry's jocular sidekick on Hockey Night in Canada. But since the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, Ron MacLean has also been an integral part of the CBC's Summer and Winter Olympic games coverage.

This month, the native of Red Deer, Alberta makes his sixth trip to the world's ultimate competition of strength and endurance, which inevitably turns into an endurance test for the journalists as well. "The Olympics is a total blur," MacLean says. "You work for 16 hours straight and then you go home and can't remember a thing."

The 41-year-old was doing some research in his Oakville, Ontario home office when he took a break to tell us about his best-loved films, heading to Salt Lake City and who he'd pick to play him in the movie of his life.

WHAT ARE YOUR FIVE FAVOURITE FILMS?

"Number one would be **Scarface** [1983]. I just loved the cinematography and [Al] Pacino was terrific. Just how this guy gets to realize the American Dream and realizes there is a fine line between career goals and corruption. • Number two is **Reds** [1981], an account of the Bolshevik revolution that follows a young reporter [Warren Beatty] who's torn between a romance with Diane Keaton and this romantic notion of communism. But what really appealed to me were the performances. Nicholson [as playwright Eugene O'Neill] was at his terrible best, and I've always loved Warren Beatty. • For number three I'm going to give Robert Redford a good one and say **Out of Africa** [1985]. It has got one of my favourite scenes in a movie, where he plays Mozart for a group of monkeys — for the first manmade sound they hear, he decides it should be a recording of Mozart. I just loved that idea. • Number four is **The Dresser** [1983] with Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay. It's all dialogue, just these

two guys — Albert Finney is an actor and Tom Courtenay is his dresser who's trying to keep him on track. It takes place backstage over the course of one stage play, and Courtenay is just trying to hold Finney together. It's just superbly acted. • And five would be Leaving Las Vegas [1995] with Nicolas Cage. There's something about Route 66 that's always appealed to me, driving from Los Angeles into the desert. And anything with a dark side appeals to me."

IS THE CBC TAKING SPECIAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AT THIS OLYMPICS IN THE WAKE OF SEPTEMBER 11?

"Not really. We had a seminar two weeks ago and talked about what to do in the event of an incident, how we would handle it, but more how we would cover it as a news story. [Reporter] Allen Abel is always there. He's our go-to guy in situations like that.... But this has nothing to do with September 11. From a security perspective the Olympics have always been a target."

HAVE THE GAMES CHANGED SINCE YOU STARTED COVERING THEM BACK IN 1988?

"Not one bit. The rights fees have gone up, but the games themselves have been identical. Each one takes on the identity of the host...but generally you see a lot of athletes under tremendous pressure to win."

HAS YOUR APPROACH TO COVERING THE GAMES CHANGED?

"Definitely. My first Olympics I tried to be up to speed on everything beforehand. Now it's a lot easier because of the internet, you can do a lot of the research on the fly. But I've learned to just react, not to know so much about the athletes, to leave that for the commentators at the various events, and just to keep setting the table, talking about what's already happened and what's to come."

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR BIGGEST ON-AIR OLYMPIC THRILL?

"The nicest moment would have to be Albertville 1992, when Karen Lee-Gartner won the women's downhill and she and her husband [and coach] Max Gartner came into the set a couple hours later and we connected them with Karen's parents in B.C. I asked the parents what they thought of Max and they just lost it, then I asked Max what he thought of the parents and he broke down. Everyone was crying. It just gave it a nice human touch."

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR STRANGEST ON-AIR OLYMPIC MOMENT?

"That would also be at Albertville when I was almost mowed down by a Zamboni. I was on the ice with Eric Lindros, and our cameraman Jim, doing an interview in between periods. Well that Zamboni driver wasn't going to stop for anyone and mowed right into us, almost killed our cameraman. Lindros turned to me and said, 'Are we actually on air?'"

IF YOU COULD BE ANY OLYMPIC ATHLETE, LIVING OR DEAD, WHO WOULD IT BE?

"I'd be either Robert Reichel, the Czech who scored the goal that beat Canada in the semi-final game in Nagano. [Czechoslovakia went on to win the gold.] Or Peter Forsberg when he scored the winning goal for Sweden in the gold-medal game against Canada [1994 in Lillehammer]."

WHO WOULD YOU WANT TO PLAY YOU IN THE MOVIE OF YOUR LIFE?

"Tom Hanks makes sense, because in *Cast Away* he finds himself stranded on an island with no one to talk to but a volleyball full of hot air."

—Marni Weisz

newreleases

FIND ATLANTIS, TAKE HOME CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN OR MEET THE MUSKETEER

JANUARY 29

ATLANTIS: THE LOST EMPIRE

Stars: Michael J. Fox, James Garner Directors: Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise (Beauty and the Beast)

Story: An animated feature about a team of adventurers hired by a reclusive billionaire to find the legendary city of Atlantis. They succeed, only to find that the city's rulers ain't so happy about their new guests.

THE CURSE OF THE JADE SCORPION

Stars: Woody Allen, Helen Hunt
Director: Woody Allen (Small Time Crooks)
Story: An insurance company's top investigator
(Allen) and his arch-nemesis, an efficiency
expert (Hunt), get hypnotized by a nightclub
performer who uses his powers to make them
fall in love and steal diamonds.

FEBRUARY 5

GHOST WORLD

Stars: Thora Birch, Steve Buscemi
Director: Terry Zwigoff (Crumb)
Story: Two intelligent misfits and best friends
(Birch and Scarlett Johansson) graduate from
high school, only to discover that they're
moving in different directions. One wants a
"real life," while the other finds solace in
the company of an older, obsessive record
collector (Buscemi).

CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN

Stars: Nicolas Cage, Penélope Cruz
Director: John Madden (Shakespeare in Love)
Story: On a Greek island during World War
Two, an invading Italian officer (Cage) meets,
and falls in love with, the town's most beautiful and intelligent woman (Cruz). Too bad
she's already engaged to a soldier who's off
fighting the Italians and Germans. Based on
the novel.

FEBRUARY 12

HARDBALL

Stars: Keanu Reeves, Diane Lane Director: Brian Robbins (Varsity Blues) Story: A compulsive gambler (Reeves) gets in too deep with his bookie, and the only way he can earn the cash to pay him off is to coach an inner-city baseball team in Chicago. Of course, while the kids learn to play ball, both they and their coach learn all sorts of valuable lessons about life and stuff. Based on a true story.

FEBRUARY 19

DON'T SAY A WORD

Stars: Michael Douglas, Brittany Murphy Director: Gary Fleder (Kiss the Girls)
Story: The daughter of a wealthy psychiatrist (Douglas) has been kidnapped, and she won't be returned until her father can pry a six-digit number out of the stubborn head of a mental patient (Murphy). Trouble is, he's only got until five o'clock to deliver the number.

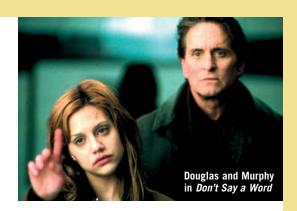
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Stars: Mekhi Phifer, Julia Stiles
Director: Tim Blake Nelson (The Grey Zone)
Story: In this high school update of
Shakespeare's Othello, the paranoid Moor is
replaced with a jealous basketball star (Phifer)
who is convinced by his sneaky pal (Josh
Hartnett) that his sweetie (Stiles) is stepping
out with someone else. She's not, but that
doesn't stop the tragedy from unfolding.

FEBRUARY 26

HEIST

Stars: Gene Hackman, Danny DeVito
Director: David Mamet (State & Main)
Story: After bungling a jewellery store robbery,
a burglar (Hackman) decides it's time to quit.



But he can't get out of the game unless he agrees to steal a ton of gold from a grounded Swiss airplane. Of course, the plan doesn't go exactly as expected.

BONES

Stars: Snoop Doggy Dogg, Pam Grier Director: Ernest R. Dickerson (Blind Faith)
Story: In this hip-hop horror outing, the always-styling Dogg comes back from the dead as the most pimpin' ghost of all time to deal with the punks who want to turn his old crib into a nightclub.

JAY AND SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK

Stars: Kevin Smith, Jason Mewes
Director: Kevin Smith (Dogma)
Story: Smith's anti-hero duo travel to Hollywood
to put a halt to the movie that's based on the
comic that's based on their life. Along the way,
crude gags are cracked, blunts are smoked and
endless metadramatic in-jokes occur.

THE MUSKETEER

Stars: Tim Roth, Justin Chambers
Director: Peter Hyams (End of Days)
Story: Who needs three old-fashioned musketeers when you've got one who can leap through the air like a Hong Kong action hero? Chambers plays the fourth musketeer, D'Artagnan, trying to make his way into the king's elite guard in this samurai-meets-swashbuckler update of the Alexandre Dumas novel.

With files from *Premiere Video Magazine*. All release dates subject to change.



february HOROSCOPE I BY DAN LIEBMAN



aquarius

January 21 >>> February 19

You benefit from the input of those close to you. Whether it's financial planning or the arts, you show an aptitude in areas that don't usually interest you. Your parties become the talk of the town.

pisces

February 20 >>> March 20

The key is to keep things moving. This is not the month for ignoring correspondence. Secrecy is normally associated with your sign — but an open-book approach can help recharge a sluggish relationship.

aries

March 21 >>> April 20

Changes in your partner's tone have more to do with outside influences than with your relationship. Staying abreast of community happenings works to your advantage. The last week of the month may find you on centre stage. The big surprise is the person with whom you share top billing.

taurus

April 21 >>> May 22

Permit yourself to be pampered. Your eye for talent should work to your financial advantage. And you find that youngsters are unusually receptive to your suggestions.

gemini

May 23 >>> June 21

Separate your private from your professional life as much as you can. Spontaneity and a less structured approach should make this a winning time in romantic matters.

cancer

June 22 >>> July 22

Relatives are more supportive — emotionally and/or financially — thanks to your latest efforts to win them over. And after a frustrating delay, you get the go-ahead on a major project at work.

leo

July 23 >>> August 22

Family members are more responsive to your suggestions, and community work provides opportunities for forming a new relationship. It's also a good month for creating a different image. But be on high alert — especially around the 15th — for run-ins with difficult neighbours or devious co-workers.

virgo

August 23 >>> September 22

It's the ideal month for making health and fitness resolutions. Enjoy a bit more zing in your romantic life and a little more order in your domestic environment. Get guarantees in writing — no matter how trivial they seem. Late-month settings inspire major creativity.

libra

September 23 >>> October 22

A partner is more willing to talk openly, so make every effort to provide the right atmosphere. Your career is marked by several small but significant advances.

scorpio

October 23 >>> November 21

Pluto, your ruling planet, is related to the hidden, and this month emphasizes tasks that involve investigative work. You're also intuitive or psychic, depending on how you view such things.

sagittarius

November 22 >>> December 22

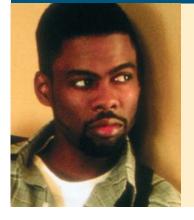
Being a mutable sign, your chief characteristics include adaptability. Lucky for you, since the month finds you coping with touchy friends and unpredictable bosses.

capricorn

December 23 >>> January 20

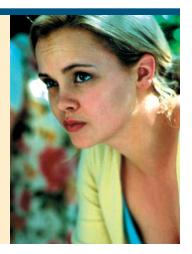
No February blahs for you. In fact, nearly every day from the 14th on will be Valentine's. Tensions with another Earth sign (Taurus, Virgo or fellow Capricorn) may come to a head toward the 12th. The social scene is lively, with lots of new friendships.

FEBRUARY **BIRTHDAYS**



1st	Lies Marie Presley
151	Lisa Marie Presley
2nd	Christie Brinkley
3rd	Morgan Fairchild
4th	Alice Cooper
5th	Barbara Hershey
6th	Robert Townsend
7th	Chris Rock
8th	Nick Nolte
9th	Mia Farrow
10th	Laura Dern
11th	Jennifer Aniston
12th	Christina Ricci
13th	Stockard Channing

14th	Meg Tilly
15th	Harvey Korman
16th	LeVar Burton
17th	Rene Russo
18th	Matt Dillon
19th	Jeff Daniels
20th	Cindy Crawford
21st	Kelsey Grammer
22nd	Drew Barrymore
23rd	Peter Fonda
24th	Billy Zane
25th	Téa Leoni
26th	Erykah Badu
27th	Elizabeth Taylor
28th	Bernadette Peters







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STARS REVEAL WHAT THEY REGRET

BY SUSAN GRANGER

SINEAD O'CONNOR

"I don't have any regrets. I've learned an awful lot and I'm quite proud of myself. Although, I have no desire to create trouble anymore, you know? I'm now the mother of two. I take antidepressants. And I have hair on my head. My days of writing songs of angst are over. I'm into writing nice love songs that aren't tragic or miserable. That's a reflection of my life."

BILLY BOB THORNTON

"In 1975, at the age of 20, I went bowling one night and ended up married. It was one of those deals. We were only married for two years — and had a daughter, Amanda. I had no involvement with her upbringing and we are not close. I regret that. I want to get things more on track with her."

CHER

"I regret that I reacted badly when I learned that my daughter [Chastity Bono] is a lesbian. I just didn't have a very Cher-like reaction. I was really upset. I did all the stuff that parents



MIA FARROW

"All those years of psychoanalysis! And I don't think there are any results. It's a business, never forget that! I think psychotherapy seduces the sickest elements in our society. Some people genuinely do want to help people. But most therapists are deeply disturbed. It's the only profession I can think of that is virtually ungoverned in terms of power. It's the most vulnerable people who are going to psychiatrists, and there's this person with absolute power in their lives. And, wherever there's power, there's absolute abuse of power."

do — feel guilty and question 'What did I do?' and, 'I'm Cher. What will this do to my image?' You are totally full of [it] in those moments."

JAMIE LEE CURTIS

"I've made errors in the past of trying to somehow use a public forum for airing private matters, but I don't do that anymore. As jaded and world-wise about show business as I am, I succumbed to talking about my personal life and my family, feeling it was an obligation. But now I realize that's a myth. It was a hard lesson to learn."

DREW BARRYMORE

"I do regret my marriage to [bar owner] Jeremy Thomas. I only married him so that he could get a green card. It was in 1994...he's Welsh and wanted American citizenship. It's the only thing I've ever done in my life that was untruthful to myself."

KEANU REEVES

"I'm sorry my existence is not very noble or sublime."

JULIETTE LEWIS

"When I was going with Brad Pitt, I regret that I made the mistake of being too open about it because I wanted people to get that we were in love and stuff. We had a great time but it's very hard with two actors together. It's easier if one person isn't in the business."

KATE MOSS

"A photographer took a really nice picture of me but I happened to be smoking a cigarette. Now I'm being blamed not only for anorexia but for lung cancer!"

JANE FONDA

"There are a few things that I did that were thoughtless and that hurt Vietnam veterans. If my apology will help heal those wounds, it's easy for me to do it. My only regret is that my apology might come off like I was apologizing for being against the war. I don't apologize for that, just for the things that hurt the soldiers, because I never blamed the war on the soldiers."



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