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# Famous

february 2003 | volume 4 | number 2

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**SPRING MOVIE PREVIEW | LAURA LINNEY ON *THE LIFE OF DAVID GALE***



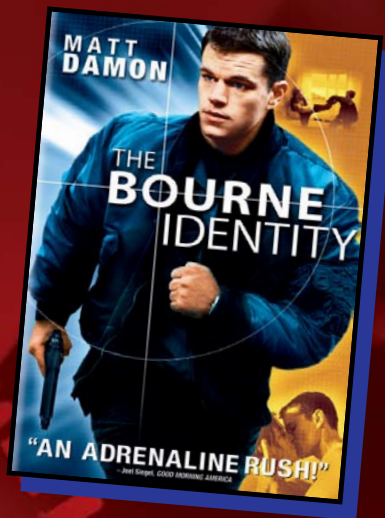
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# THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING



Every year or so Hollywood king-makers put forth a name and, without much to back up their assertion, inform us that he or she will be the next big thing. In 2000 it was *Almost Famous's* Billy Crudup, in 2001 it was *A Knight's Tale's* Heath Ledger and last year it was *Minority Report's* Colin Farrell. Sometimes the title sticks (Ledger's star is steadily rising), sometimes it doesn't (what was Crudup's last film?).

Back in 1996, the man we were told to love was **Matthew McConaughey**,

then starring in *Lone Star* and *A Time to Kill*. But in his case, it seemed as though he wasn't even in on the big scheme. He had trouble adjusting to stardom, and three years later the police allegedly caught him drunk and stoned, having a naked bongo session in his living room. After that, McConaughey became a bit of a joke, even though charges were eventually dropped.

But, being blessed as he is with some talent, and admirable cheekbones (flip back to our cover if you protest), McConaughey has managed to restore his career (*U-571*, *The Wedding Planner*, *Frailty*) while flying a few feet under the radar. In "Lost and Found," page 28, the star of this month's romantic comedy *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days* tells you why taking a step back from the spotlight suits him just fine.

On the flipside, there's **Laura Linney**, one of those actors who nobody demands you must like, but who consistently turns in fine performances in interesting projects. Then, one day, Linney gets an Oscar nomination for *You Can Count on Me* and all of a sudden everyone says, "Who's this woman, and why haven't we noticed her before?"

In "A Role to Dye For," page 24, Linney tells you about the pleasures of anonymity, and starring opposite Kevin Spacey as a murdered death-penalty protester in *The Life of David Gale*.

And on page 14, we give you our annual **Spring Preview** chock full of info about all the films coming out between now and the end of May. From the three-and-a-half-hour Robert Duvall Civil War epic *Gods and Generals*, to the Eddie Murphy comedy *Daddy Day Care* and the much-anticipated *X-Men* sequel, *X2*, it'll be an eclectic season. So clip out the guide, stick it on your fridge, and start planning the next few months of your life.

—Marni Weisz

# Famous

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*Famous*™ magazine is published 12 times a year by 1371327 Ontario Ltd. Subscriptions are \$32.10 (\$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, back issue requests and

letters to the editor 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. 40708019

500,000 copies of *Famous* magazine are distributed through Famous Players and Alliance Atlantis cinemas, and other outlets. *Famous* magazine is not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or other materials.

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Rebecca Romijn-Stamos  
in *Femme Fatale*

### SHUT UP!

I am shocked that no one has written an article on theatre etiquette. My friend and I are always checking out the latest movies and I can never understand why people leave their cellphones and pagers on. Don't they know that this is not their living room? That they are not the only ones there? There is nothing worse than trying to concentrate on the movie when someone starts talking. I am not interested in hearing about your day at work, or what you think about the movie.

**Maurie Sherman — Toronto, Ont.**

### GIVING CREDIT TO THE CREDITS

In your DVD review of *Spider-Man* in the November issue, the writer commented: "...don't you think they could've squeezed in a shout-out to the old 'Spider-Man/Spider-Man/Does whatever a spider can' song?" The song is actually in the movie, right at the very end of the film credits. Even though the movie was based on the great comic book (and not on the old corny TV cartoon show) I think that it was good that Sam Raimi included it.

**Rob Guthrie — Red Deer, Alta.**

### APPARENTLY, MATT DAMON IS CUTE

I really love your magazine! It's so cool, and one of the best ways to keep up on movies and celebrities! Every time I walk into a theatre I grab one to read in the movie theatre, and then I read it again and again at home. Each month I eagerly await the new *Famous* magazine to catch up on the news on all my

favourite celebrities. The real reason I'm writing to you is because I was wondering where I could write to Matt Damon, my absolute favourite actor! I love him. HE'S SO CUTE! I have seen all his movies at least twice, I printed off pictures of him on the internet, I read the book *The Bourne Identity* twice, and I even bought a biography of him! (I guess I'm a bit "Damonized!")

**Audrey Law — Richmond, B.C**

*Damonized? Perhaps that could be the plot of the next Exorcist movie. A young girl is taken over by a demonic spirit, but one with a really great smile and a goblin friend named Ben. You can write to Damon c/o Creative Artists Agency, 9830 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, Calif., 90212, USA.*



### JUST DISCOVERED ROMIJN-STAMOS

I went to see *Femme Fatale* last night and fell in love with Rebecca Romijn-Stamos, and I'd like to know everything about her. I would also like to know if there's an address where I can write to her.

**Francois D-Lambert — Montreal, Que.**

*Everything about her? Well, I don't know if we can fit everything into a three-inch*

*answer on a letters page, but here goes. Born: Nov. 6, 1972 in Berkeley, Calif. Heritage: Dutch. High school nickname: The Jolly Blond Giant. First career: modeling. First big break: the cover of French Elle. Has also posed for: Sports Illustrated, Christian Dior, Victoria's Secret. Married to: John Stamos, a.k.a. Blackie from General Hospital and Jesse from Full House. Favourite foods: filet mignon, tuna sashimi, Haagen-Dazs ice cream. Big-screen debut: The Bearded Lady in Bob Saget's directorial debut, Dirty Work (1998). Most Famous For: playing Mystique in the X-Men movies. First part of last name pronounced: romaine, like the lettuce. Fan mail address: Rebecca Romijn-Stamos, c/o IMG, 170 5th Ave., 10th Floor, New York, N.Y., 10013, U.S.A.*

### LETTER ABOUT LETTER

In response to the letter in the January 2003 issue of *Famous* magazine, in which J. Butler of Toronto asks in what respect is Atom Egoyan considered Canada's most important director; here are a few bits of information. Egoyan is the most celebrated filmmaker that Canada has ever produced, with the possible exceptions of David Cronenberg and Norman Jewison.... There have been retrospectives of Egoyan films in Canada, France and England, to name but a few countries. Atom Egoyan has received praise from world-renowned directors such as Wim Wenders and Mel Gibson. *Exotica* received the jury prize at the Cannes film festival, *The Sweet Hereafter* received the Palm d'or at Cannes two years later. That same year Egoyan was nominated for two Academy Awards. What's most remarkable about Egoyan is the fact that through his films, Canadians have started to embrace their national cinema. More people watch Canadian films than ever before, they are more conscious of the films that come out of this country, and are excited about watching films that challenge audiences.

**Michael Garebian — Mississauga, Ont.**

### FAMOUS WELCOMES YOUR COMMENTS

Address them to: **Letters to the Editor, Famous magazine, 102 Atlantic Ave., Suite 100, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1X9;** or fax us at **416.539.8511**; or drop us an email at **editor@fmedia.ca**.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include your full name, city of residence and contact info (phone or email).





## family affair

You often hear actors praised for “letting themselves be vulnerable” for a role. It could mean that an A-list starlet bares a nipple, or a bitter veteran sheds a tear.

For 23-year-old Vancouver actor Sonja Bennett, it meant starring in this month’s *Punch* as Ariel, a maladjusted 18-year-old who has sexual designs on her father, Sam, and punches out his new girlfriend after overhearing her call their relationship “creepy.”

But exploring a taboo subject isn’t what makes Bennett vulnerable. It’s that she did the film despite the fact that her father, who also happens to be the writer/director, claims it’s based on their own relationship.

“I was single until [Sonja] was 10, I saw her only on weekends. I adored her. She was the funniest, most charming female I knew,” Guy Bennett explains in his director’s notes. “Sam and Ariel are a projection of what my daughter and I might have become had we not made corrective measures.”

Pretty uncomfortable stuff. So why did Sonja do the movie? Because she doesn’t see their relationship that way at all. “Whatever seed of truth there is in *Punch* about my father and my relationship, it’s still that it’s his reality, not mine,” says the apparently very well-adjusted Bennett on the phone from her boyfriend’s apartment in Vancouver.

Here’s how she remembers it: She was always the centre of attention on those weekend visits. “And then one day he had a new girlfriend and all of a sudden I was sitting in the back seat of the car instead of the front. I remember feeling very hurt and quite abandoned and almost dumped,” she says with a bit of a laugh. “In my version the daughter is a very young, very vulnerable child and in his version she’s a psychotic, manipulative, violent 18-year-old. I mean...it’s a pretty big stretch.”

So did she ever ask her dad not to tell people the story was based on them? “Yeah!” Bennett exclaims. “Yes, I did. And what we have basically worked out is that he can say what he feels

and I can say what I feel and it’s okay if those things contradict.”

While *Punch* may sound like the typical depressing stuff of so many Canadian films, truth is, it’s a quirky film that borders on humorous. “That’s something that has been a big surprise to me,” Bennett says. “I always felt like we were shooting a drama and then when it came out people were calling it a black comedy. I love that. And I think the humour comes out of how desperate these characters are and then you get to a point where it’s so brutal there’s almost nothing you can do but laugh.”

Compelling performances also set it apart, and when the film played the Toronto International Film Festival last September, Bennett’s didn’t go unnoticed. After the film, Fox TV’s vice president of casting, Marcia Shulman, gave Bennett her card. “I didn’t think anything of it,” she says. “It just sat in my wallet and I really thought it was just a gesture.” But a month later Shulman tracked her down, “and she said that she hadn’t been able to stop thinking about the film and my performance and she wanted to have lunch with me.” Fox then flew her to L.A. where she was put on contract.

This month Bennett’s in *La La Land* auditioning for various pilots. “They want to use me,” she explains, “but they’re not sure for what.”

—MW



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## BENICIO'S BIG BREAK

If you see *The Hunted*, next month's Benicio Del Toro, Tommy Lee Jones thriller, watch the first scene very carefully. As Del Toro's character — an out-of-control assassin who was trained, and is now being pursued, by Jones's FBI tracker — makes his way through war-torn Sarajevo (really Oregon), try to see if he's holding his arm funny, or if he looks any different than in the scenes that follow. The opening was actually filmed seven months after the rest of the film because Del Toro broke his wrist and dislocated his hand while rehearsing a fight scene with Jones. The official word from the studio was that Del Toro “put his hand down wrong and just broke his wrist,” but there are other reports that, as both actors reached for the same knife, Jones rolled on top of Del Toro's arm, compounding the damage.

It wasn't the only weird thing to happen on the film's set. In between Del Toro's accident in June 2001, and the resumption of shooting in January 2002 a lot had changed. After the attacks of September 11th, Paramount Pictures was forced to increase on-set security by keeping filming times and locations secret. So when, on a cold January eve, the movie crew was testing special effects for a bomb scene at the same time that a couple of jets just happened to be circling Portland in search of a small plane whose pilot had claimed he might fly into a downtown building, dozens of jittery North Portland residents clogged the 911 system to report a possible terrorist attack. —MW



Payback? This time Benicio Del Toro goes after Tommy Lee Jones's wrist in a scene from *The Hunted*

## THE MYSTERIOUS GENIES

Canada's, ahem, Oscars, the Genie Awards, will be handed out in Toronto on February 13th with the Best Picture going to either *Ararat*, a modern reflection on the early 20th century's Armenian genocide, *Bollywood/Hollywood*, a stylish melodrama about a dot.commer and his romance with a high-paid escort, *Québec-Montréal*, a comedy that takes place in traffic on the highway between those two cities, *Rare Birds*, about a bird-watching scheme concocted to bring attention to a failing restaurant or *Suddenly Naked*, the story of a promiscuous writer with a creative block.

But there were at least a couple of surprises when the nominations were announced last December. For one, *Spider*, director David Cronenberg's twisted drama about a newly released mental patient, may have won Best Canadian Feature Film at the Toronto International Film Festival (beating out *Ararat* and *Bollywood/Hollywood*), but failed to get a nomination for the top prize at the Genies. This, despite having a special release in one Edmonton theatre last November, specifically so it would be eligible for this year's awards. The film opens across the rest of the country next month.

Another surprise — even though *Ararat* was nominated for Best Picture, Atom Egoyan

was notably absent from the Best Director category (or, as the Genies call it, “Achievement in Direction”). And despite taking in more than \$1-million in its opening weekend — a record for an English-language Canadian film — Genie didn't think *Men With Brooms* was one of the year's Best Pics.

Here are the nominees in the other top categories.

### Achievement in Direction:

**Jean Beaudin**, *Le Collectionneur*  
**Ricardo Trogi**, *Québec-Montréal*  
**Sturla Gunnarsson**, *Rare Birds*  
**David Cronenberg**, *Spider*  
**Anne Wheeler**, *Suddenly Naked*

### Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role:

**David Alpay**, *Ararat*  
**Christopher Plummer**, *Ararat*  
**Colin Roberts**, *Flower & Garnet*  
**Luc Picard**, *Savage Messiah*  
**Philip DeWilde**, *Turning Paige*

### Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role:

**Arsinée Khanjian**, *Ararat*  
**Deborah Kara Unger**, *Between Strangers*  
**Molly Parker**, *Men With Brooms*  
**Polly Walker**, *Savage Messiah*  
**Isabelle Blais**, *Savage Messiah*



*Spider* (starring Ralph Fiennes) won big at the Toronto International Film Festival, but didn't rate a Genie nod for Best Picture

### Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role:

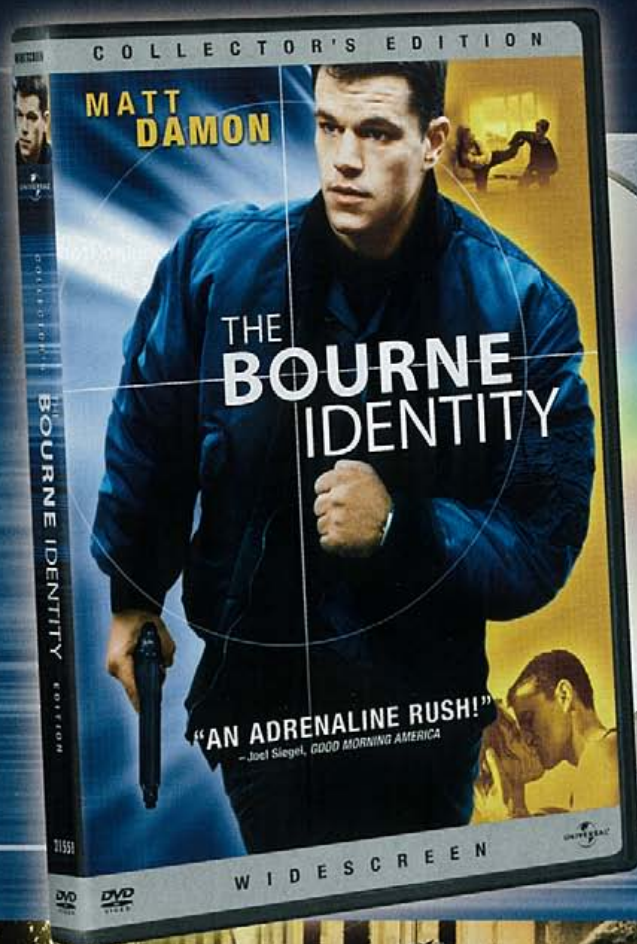
**Elias Koteas**, *Ararat*  
**Ranjit Chowdhry**, *Bollywood/Hollywood*  
**Dominic Darceuil**, *Histoire de pen*  
**Gabriel Gascon**, *Le Marais*  
**Brendan Fletcher**, *Turning Paige*

### Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role:

**Dina Pathak**, *Bollywood/Hollywood*  
**Moushumi Chatterjee**, *Bollywood/Hollywood*  
**Rachel McAdams**, *Perfect Pie*  
**Brigitte Bako**, *Saint Monica*  
**Pascale Montpetit**, *Savage Messiah* —MW



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# CAUGHT ON FILM

*The stars shop, play and party*



Awww...kitties. **Eartha Kitt**, the original Catwoman from TV's *Batman*, poses with a posse of pussies at New York City's W Hotel. She was there to raise awareness for the North Shore Animal League of America's cat adoption program.

No, that's not **Dustin Hoffman** on the set of his latest flick about a regular Joe who has to do his own shopping. It's really Hoffman doing his own shopping. Santa Monica's Whole Foods market was just one of his stops that afternoon. He also went to a pet store with his two daughters, and bought a puppy.



PHOTO FROM PHOTOGRAPHER SHOWCASE



Ethan Hawke and his little girl Maya sit on a Venice, California sidewalk and confer about their chalk-drawing creation.



PHOTO FROM PHOTOGRAPHER SHOWCASE

Drew Barrymore and boyfriend, Strokes drummer Fabrizio Moretti, shop for jewellery at Barney's New York. Drew's latest, the comedy *Duplex* with Ben Stiller, comes out next month.



PHOTO BY JEFF KRAVITZ/FILMMAGIC

Looks like Sam Rockwell (in the vest and white shirt) was a bit overshadowed at the after-party for his latest, *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*. That shrinking violet in the foreground is Aisha Tyler, former host of E!'s hilarious but unfortunately defunct *Talk Soup*. *Ali*'s Jamie Foxx enjoys the view.



PHOTO BY ALECSEY BOLDESKU/PHOTOGRAPHER SHOWCASE



# spring preview

IT MAY STILL BE BLUSTERY OUTSIDE BUT, WE PROMISE, THE GREEN GRASS OF SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER — AS ARE THE VERNAL SEASON'S BIG RELEASES, LIKE THE ODD PAIRING OF ADAM SANDLER AND JACK NICHOLSON IN **ANGER MANAGEMENT**, AND THE LONG-AWAITED SEQUELS TO **X-MEN** AND **THE MATRIX** | BY JOHN KENNEDY



Kurt Russell  
in *Dark Blue*

to the jungle, despite the protests of his girlfriend Shanti, and ends up face to face with his old nemesis, Shere Khan.

## DAREDEVIL

**Who's In It?** Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner

**Who Directed?** Mark Steven Johnson (*Simon Birch*)

**What's It About?** Affleck plays a New York lawyer with secret powers who spends his nights in a pair of fabulous red tights and a horned mask fighting bad guys.

FEBRUARY 21

## DARK BLUE

**Who's In It?** Kurt Russell, Scott Speedman

**Who Directed?** Ron Shelton (*Tin Cup*)

**What's It About?** Two cops (Russell, Speedman) investigate a racially charged, deadly robbery during the week before the 1992 Rodney King trial verdict. Can't we all just get along?

## OLD SCHOOL

**Who's In It?** Luke Wilson, Will Ferrell

**Who Directed?** Todd Phillips (*Road Trip*)

**What's It About?** Three guys in their early 30s (Wilson, Ferrell and Vince Vaughn) decide to relive their wild college days by ▶▶

FEBRUARY 7

## HOW TO LOSE A GUY

**Who's In It?** Kate Hudson, Matthew McConaughey

**Who Directed?** Donald Petrie (*Richie Rich*)

**What's It About?** A ladies man (McConaughey) makes a bet with his pals that he can make any girl fall in love with him — but the girl he picks (Hudson) has her own reasons for trying to shake him off almost immediately. Filmed partly in Toronto. **See Matthew McConaughey interview, page 28.**

## THE QUIET AMERICAN

**Who's In It?** Michael Caine, Brendan Fraser

**Who Directed?** Phillip Noyce (*The Saint*)

**What's It About?** Set in Vietnam during the country's battle for liberation from France, it's the story of a love triangle involving an opium-addicted British journalist (Caine), a young Vietnamese woman (Do Hai Yen) and an American CIA agent (Fraser).

## PUNCH

**Who's In It?** Sonja Bennett, Michael Riley

**Who Directed?** Guy Bennett (debut)

**What's It About?** After the death of her mother, an angry girl (Bennett) maintains an uncomfortably close relationship with

her father, scaring away his new girlfriend. **See Sonja Bennett interview, page 8.**

FEBRUARY 14

## THE JUNGLE BOOK II

**Voices:** John Goodman, Haley Joel Osment

**Who Directed?** Steve Trenbirth (debut)

**What's It About?** You've waited 35 years to find out how little Mowgli adapts to life in the village. Not too well. So the kid returns

FEBRUARY 7

## SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

**Who's In It?** Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson

**Who Directed?** David Dobkin (*Clay Pigeons*)

**What's It About?** The mismatched duo that entertained us in 2000's *Shanghai Noon* is back, this time to kick butt all over the British capital. At the turn of the century, Chon (Chan) and Roy (Wilson) come to the rescue of Chon's sister (Fann Wong) who has travelled from China to London to avenge the death of her father. There, she uncovers a plot to destroy the royal family but can't get anyone to believe her. So, with the help of his buddy Roy, a Scotland Yard inspector and a mischievous 10-year-old street kid, Chon tries to save everyone — and keep an amorous Roy away from his sis. Expect lots of hilarious escapes and wacky adventures as Chon and Roy do for old London what they did for the Old West in the first movie.





# FORECAST

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Bruce Willis, middle, in *Tears of the Sun*

moving into a big house near their old campus. But they didn't plan on it becoming an unofficial frat house and didn't expect hilarity to ensue.

### THE LIFE OF DAVID GALE

**Who's In It?** Kevin Spacey, Laura Linney  
**Who Directed?** Alan Parker (*Evita*)  
**What's It About?** A Texas anti-death penalty advocate (Spacey) talks to a reporter (Kate Winslet) from death row, where he sits after being convicted of the rape and murder of another anti-death penalty activist (Linney). Now *that's* ironic. **See Laura Linney interview, page 24.**

FEBRUARY 28

### CRADLE 2 THE GRAVE

**Who's In It?** DMX, Jet Li  
**Who Directed?** Andrzej Bartkowiak (*Exit*)

*Wounds*)

**What's It About?** Yet another one of this month's releases that was partly shot in Toronto. Inspired by Fritz Lang's 1931 German thriller *M*, it follows the search for the kidnapped daughter of a gang leader (DMX) by police, a government agent (Li) and the gang honcho's thugs.

### THE GUEST

**Who's In It?** Ashton Kutcher, Tara Reid  
**Who Directed?** David Zucker (*Naked Gun*)  
**What's It About?** A guy (Kutcher) thinks he's got it made when his boss asks him to housesit, giving him a chance to seduce the big guy's daughter (Reid).

MARCH 7

### BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE

**Who's In It?** Queen Latifah, Steve Martin

**Who Directed?** Adam Shankman (*The Wedding Planner*)

**What's It About?** A lonely man (Martin) meets a woman (Latifah) online but doesn't know she's in prison. So imagine the chaos she causes in his life when she breaks out just to be with him.

### TEARS OF THE SUN

**Who's In It?** Bruce Willis, Monica Bellucci  
**Who Directed?** Antoine Fuqua (*Training Day*)  
**What's It About?** Willis leads a team of U.S. Navy SEALs into the jungle to search for a doctor (Bellucci). But when they find her she refuses to leave unless she can bring 70 refugees with her. Can the Americans get them all out before they're discovered by African soldiers? Come on, it's a Bruce Willis movie.

### IRREVERSIBLE

**Who's In It?** Monica Bellucci, Vincent Cassel  
**Who Directed?** Gaspar Noé (*I Stand Alone*)  
**What's It About?** The boyfriend (Cassel) of a rape victim (Bellucci) sets out into the Paris night to find her attacker.

MARCH 14

### AGAINST THE ROPES

**Who's In It?** Meg Ryan, Omar Epps  
**Who Directed?** Charles S. Dutton (debut)  
**What's It About?** Based on the true story of Jackie Kallen (Ryan), a Jewish woman from Detroit who became a pro-boxing manager, the film focuses on her relationship with one boxer (Epps).

### JOHNNY ENGLISH

**Who's In It?** Rowan Atkinson, John Malkovich  
**Who Directed?** Peter Howitt (*AntiTrust*)  
**What's It About?** Mr. Bean meets James Bond in this comedy about an incompetent low-ranking British diplomat who is mistaken for the country's most infamous spy.

### THE HUNTED

**Who's In It?** Tommy Lee Jones, Benicio Del Toro  
**Who Directed?** William Friedkin (*Jade*)  
**What's It About?** A nutcase who hunts down deer hunters in the woods of Portland (Del Toro) is pursued by the FBI tracker (Jones) who trained him to kill.

MARCH 21

### AGENT CODY BANKS

**Who's In It?** Frankie Muniz, Angie Harmon  
**Who Directed?** Harald Zwart (*Hamilton*)  
**What's It About?** Vancouver's Simon Fraser University doubles as CIA headquarters in

FEBRUARY 21

### GODS AND GENERALS

**Who's In It?** Robert Duvall, Billy Campbell  
**Who Directed?** Ron Maxwell (*Gettysburg*)  
**What's It About?** Grab yourself a big bucket of popcorn because this historical epic runs about three-and-a-half hours. Based on Jeff Shaara's book of the same name, it's a prequel to 1993's *Gettysburg* and takes place in the days leading up to — and the early days of — the U.S. Civil War. It tells the true stories of the battles of 1st Manassas (the Battle of Bull Run), Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville using both real and fictional characters. The ensemble cast (there are more than 150 speaking roles) includes Robert Duvall, C. Thomas Howell, Mira Sorvino and Jeremy London. But much of the movie focuses on General Stonewall Jackson (Stephen Lang) and his tragedy at Chancellorsville.





this action comedy about Cody Banks (Muniz), a teen who's recruited as a secret agent. But all the physical training and cool gadgets can't turn Banks into Bond because, like most guys his age, he's a bumbling idiot around the opposite sex. This makes his mission — to get close to a teenaged girl (Hilary Duff) whose father is developing deadly nanobots for an evil organization — a lot more difficult.

## IDENTITY

**Who's In It?** John Cusack, Jake Busey

**Who Directed?** James Mangold (*Kate & Leopold*)

**What's It About?** Ten strangers try to make the best of a bad situation when they are stranded together at a remote motel during a vicious storm. But when some of them show up dead the rest turn on each other in a desperate fight to figure out who the killer is. Let's hope the producers of *Survivor* are watching.

MARCH 28

## WHAT A GIRL WANTS

**Who's In It?** Amanda Bynes, Colin Firth



## ANGER MANAGEMENT

**Who's In It?** Adam Sandler, Jack Nicholson

**Who Directed?** Peter Segal (*Nutty*

*Professor II: The Klumps*)

**What's It About?** A low-key businessman (Sandler) is sentenced to anger management counselling for a crime he didn't commit. He soon discovers that his instructor (Nicholson) is a nutbar with his own bag of anger management issues — and it's enough to make him lose his temper.

Marisa Tomei plays Sandler's girlfriend in an all-star cast that includes Heather Graham, Woody Harrelson, Lou Rawls, John C. Reilly, John Turturro, Harry Dean Stanton and Kevin Nealon. Keep your eyes peeled for a number of celebrity cameos, including baseball great Roger Clemens and former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani.

**Who Directed?** Dennie Gordon (*Joe Dirt*)

**What's It About?** If you've never seen *The Reluctant Debutante* starring Sandra Dee then you'll think this movie is the bee's knees. It's about a teenaged girl (Bynes), raised in New York City by her mom (Kelly Preston), who sets out to London to find her long-lost father (Firth), only to disrupt his aristocratic life.

## HEAD OF STATE

**Who's In It?** Chris Rock, Bernie Mac

**Who Directed?** Chris Rock (debut)

**What's It About?** The Democrats pick a D.C. city councillor (Rock) to replace the party's presidential candidate, who died in the middle of the election campaign. He, in turn, picks his rather unsophisticated brother (Mac) to be his running mate.

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Eddie Murphy  
in *Daddy Day Care*



## THE CORE

**Who's In It?** Aaron Eckhart, Hilary Swank  
**Who Directed?** Jon Amiel (*Entrapment*)  
**What's It About?** This one was originally set to land in theatres last November but its producers weren't happy with the special effects so sent it back for some tinkering. Shot in Vancouver, it's about a group of "terranauts" led by a geophysics expert (Eckhart) who must travel to the earth's core and set off a nuclear blast to keep the planet spinning. Swank plays the pilot of the experimental ship that takes them down.

APRIL 4

## DREAMCATCHER

**Who's In It?** Morgan Freeman, Jason Lee  
**Who Directed?** Lawrence Kasdan (*Mumford*)  
**What's It About?** Based on the Stephen King novel, this is the story of four longtime

friends (Lee, Thomas Jane, Damian Lewis, Timothy Olyphant) who go on a hunting trip in northern Maine (um, it's actually Prince George, B.C., but use your imagination). The guys soon find themselves fighting off an alien force, prompting a military official (Freeman) and a soldier (Tom Sizemore) to come figure it all out.

## A MAN APART

**Who's In It?** Vin Diesel, Timothy Olyphant  
**Who Directed?** F. Gary Gray (*The Negotiator*)  
**What's It About?** This testosterone-filled flick is about a mysterious guy named Diablo who takes over a mighty drug cartel after his ex-boss is sent to prison. But all hell breaks loose when Diablo's former boss teams up with a Drug Enforcement Agency cop (Diesel) and his partner (Larenz Tate) to take Diablo down. A great date movie...if you're dating Xena.

MAY 2

## X2

**Who's In It?** Patrick Stewart, Halle Berry  
**Who Directed?** Bryan Singer (*X-Men*)  
**What's It About?** Say the title really fast and it sounds like you're sneezing. But this effects-laden sequel to the 2000 blockbuster *X-Men* promises to be nothing to sneeze at. Plot details are as guarded as the Caramilk secret, but we know that the mutants are forced to step up damage control after a spectacular attack renews political and public outcry for a Mutant Registration Act. Adding to their woes is a rich former Army commander named William Stryker (Brian Cox) who is leading an anti-mutant movement that includes an attack on Xavier's (Stewart) mansion. Meanwhile, Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) searches for clues about what makes Stryker tick and Magneto (Ian McKellen) — recently escaped from his plastic prison — suggests joining forces with the X-Men to defeat Stryker.



Alan Cumming as  
Nightcrawler

APRIL 11

## TIMELINE

**Who's In It?** Paul Walker, Billy Connolly  
**Who Directed?** Richard Donner (*Assassins*)  
**What's It About?** Shot in Montreal, it's based on the Michael Crichton novel about a technology company that creates a way to travel back in time. When a history professor (Connolly) is trapped in early 12th-century France, three of his students (including Walker) set out to rescue him. But this is France in the 1300s so they must endure plenty of awful things like war, disease...and escargots.

## INTOLERABLE CRUELTY

**Who's In It?** George Clooney, Catherine Zeta-Jones  
**Who Directed?** Joel Coen (*Fargo*)  
**What's It About?** A woman (Zeta-Jones) seeks revenge on the divorce lawyer (Clooney) who represented her ex-husband, by plotting to marry him and then take him for everything he's got. But her plan is jeopardized when she falls in love with the guy. Kind of like what happened in her real life, we're guessing.

## DOWN WITH LOVE

**Who's In It?** Ewan McGregor, Renée Zellweger  
**Who Directed?** Peyton Reed (*Bring it On*)  
**What's It About?** An homage to the sickly sweet romantic films of Doris Day and Rock Hudson (you know, back before we knew that Hudson wasn't into the ladies). Set in New York City in the '60s, it depicts the love affair between a playboy journalist (McGregor) and a feminist advice columnist (Zellweger). Tony Randall, who appeared in all three original Day/Hudson flicks, shows up in this one, too.

## SHAOLIN SOCCER

**Who's In It?** Stephen Chow, Wong Yut Fei  
**Who Directed?** Stephen Chow, Lee Lik Chi (*The King of Comedy*)  
**What's It About?** Dubbed into English from its original Cantonese, this film follows the members of an underdog soccer team that use their kung fu skills to defeat their opponents. Cue the gong.

APRIL 16

## BULLETPROOF MONK

**Who's In It?** Chow Yun-Fat, Seann William Scott  
**Who Directed?** Paul Hunter (debut)  
**What's It About?** A mysterious monk (Yun-Fat)



who travels the world protecting an ancient scroll must find someone worthy of being its next guardian. Enter a mouthy street kid (Scott) who happens to look a lot like Stifler. The two team up to protect the scroll from its enemy with a little help from a sexy young woman (Jaime King). Yep, those are the streets and rooftops of Toronto.

APRIL 18

## MALIBU'S MOST WANTED

**Who's In It?** Jamie Kennedy, Bo Derek  
**Who Directed?** John Whitesell (See *Spot Run*)

**What's It About?** Based on a sketch from TV's *JJK: The Jamie Kennedy Experiment*. Kennedy plays Brad Gluckman, a rap wannabe from Malibu who pretends he's one of the boys from the 'hood. His father (Ryan O'Neal), who's running for governor, hires two actors (Anderson and Taye Diggs) to pose as real gangstas to take Brad to Compton in hopes of scaring the faux-gangsta attitude out of him. Yo', we're down with that.

## A MIGHTY WIND

**Who's In It?** Christopher Guest, Eugene Levy  
**Who Directed?** Christopher Guest (*Best in Show*)

**What's It About?** The members of a '60s folk trio (Guest, Levy, Michael McKean, Harry Shearer) decide to reunite for a comeback tour as long as the gigs are within a day's drive from their homes. This movie will no doubt do to folk music what *Best in Show* did to dog shows and *Spinal Tap* did to heavy metal — poke fun at people who take themselves just a little too seriously.

## BASIC

**Who's In It?** John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson  
**Who Directed?** John McTiernan (*Rollerball*)  
**What's It About?** Travolta plays a Drug Enforcement Agency officer who is enlisted by a pal (Andy Garcia) to investigate the disappearance of several Army Ranger cadets and their drill instructor (Jackson) in Panama. Harry Connick Jr. and Giovanni Ribisi also star.

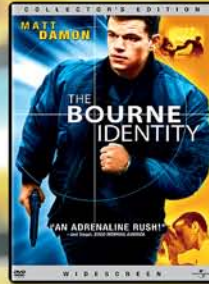
## LIKE HELL: JEEPERS CREEPERS 2

**Who's In It?** Jonathan Breck, Ray Wise  
**Who Directed?** Victor Salva (*Jeepers Creepers*)

**What's It About?** A victory celebration ▶▶



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by a group of young basketball players, their coaches and cheerleaders takes a turn for the worse when their bus is stranded on a deserted road and they're attacked by the ancient flesh-eating Creeper (Breck). Hey, a guy's gotta eat.

## HOW TO DEAL

**Who's In It?** Mandy Moore, Trent Ford  
**Who Directed?** Clare Kilner (debut)  
**What's It About?** A teenager (Moore) is cynical about love after her parents divorce. She changes her mind, though, when she meets someone (Ford) who could be the perfect guy. Honey, there's no such thing!

APRIL 25

## IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY

**Who's In It?** Michael Douglas, Kirk Douglas  
**Who Directed?** Fred Schepisi (*Roxanne*)  
**What's It About?** Three generations of Douglases share the screen for the first time in this story about a dysfunctional family living in New York. Michael's real-life offspring Cameron plays one of his sons (the other is played by Rory Culkin) and his real-life mom plays Kirk's wife.

MAY 2

## BLUE CAR

**Who's In It?** Agnes Bruckner, David Strathairn  
**Who Directed?** Karen Moncrieff (debut)  
**What's It About?** A teenaged girl from Ohio (Bruckner) who was abandoned by her father and neglected by her mother turns to her English teacher (Strathairn) for guidance and support. But what starts out as a mentoring relationship quickly becomes much more serious and ambiguous.

## OWNING MAHOWNY

**Who's In It?** Philip Seymour Hoffman  
**Who Directed?** Richard Kwietniowski (*Love & Death on Long Island*)  
**What's It About?** Based on the true story of the largest one-man bank fraud in Canadian history, this one follows a Toronto bank manager (Hoffman) who stole millions of dollars to support his gambling addiction.

MAY 9

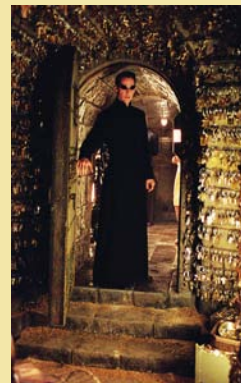
## DADDY DAY CARE

**Who's In It?** Eddie Murphy, Lacey Chabert  
**Who Directed?** Steve Carr (*Dr. Dolittle 2*)  
**What's It About?** A father loses his high-

MAY 15

## THE MATRIX: RELOADED

**Who's In It?** Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss  
**Who Directed?** Andy Wachowski, Larry Wachowski (*The Matrix*)  
**What's It About?** This is the first half of the sequel to 1999's *The Matrix* (the second half will be released as *The Matrix: Revolutions* later this year) and picks up about six months after the first one ended. Plot details have been kept mostly under wraps but we know that Neo (Reeves) continues his journey into a greater understanding of the world and his own superhero abilities. There's also an attack on Zion, the refuge for human beings, by machines. And we find out that Agent Smith (Hugo Weaving) is more egomaniacal than ever and able to replicate himself. Our patriot hearts swell with pride because the two stars (Reeves, Moss) are both Canucks...but everyone knows the real stars of *The Matrix* flicks are the special effects.



paying high-tech job and faces financial ruin...until he and a group of pals decide to open a male-run day care centre. Of course, this doesn't sit well with the owner of a rival centre (Anjelica Huston).

## THE SHAPE OF THINGS

**Who's In It?** Paul Rudd, Rachel Weisz  
**Who Directed?** Neil LaBute (*Nurse Betty*)  
**What's It About?** Based on LaBute's Off-Broadway play, it's about an English student/museum security guard (Rudd) who unwittingly becomes the inspiration for an unusual project by an art student (Weisz).

MAY 16

## HAIRY TALE

**Who's In It?** Seth Adkins, Matthew Modine  
**Who Directed?** Gene Quintano (*National Lampoon's Loaded Weapon*)  
**What's It About?** Hoping to satisfy the public demand for yet another monkey movie, this furry-knee-slapper's about a kid (Adkins) who befriends a chimp and his second banana (Modine). After teaching the primate martial arts, the trio hits the road for some wacky hijinks. Maybe they should find Modine's agent and kick his butt.

MAY 23

## BRUCE ALMIGHTY

**Who's In It?** Jim Carrey, Jennifer Aniston  
**Who Directed?** Tom Shadyac (*Liar Liar*)  
**What's It About?** When chronic complainer Bruce Nolan (Carrey) curses God (Morgan Freeman) for the world's woes, the Almighty challenges him to make the

world a better place in the next 24 hours or else He will unleash an apocalyptic cataclysm not seen since, well, *Ishtar*.

## THE WEDDING PARTY

**Who's In It?** Michael Douglas, Albert Brooks  
**Who Directed?** Andrew Fleming (*Dick*)  
**What's It About?** This remake of the 1979 Alan Arkin/Peter Falk comedy *The In-Laws* follows a CIA agent (Douglas) and a podiatrist (Brooks) whose children are about to get married. But before that happens, the two dads become entangled in a mysterious adventure.

MAY 30

## FINDING NEMO

**Who's In It?** Alexander Gould, Erica Beck  
**Who Directed?** Andrew Stanton (*A Bug's Life*)  
**What's It About?** An animated feature about a fish named Marlin who must work with other sea creatures to rescue his son Nemo from an aquarium in a dentist's office.

## THE ITALIAN JOB

**Who's In It?** Mark Wahlberg, Edward Norton  
**Who Directed?** F. Gary Gray (*The Negotiator*)  
**What's It About?** In his third straight remake Wahlberg stars as the leader of a group of thieves who try to make off with a safe full of gold stolen from his double-crossing ex-partner (Norton). It's an updated version of the 1969 British comedy starring Michael Caine, Benny Hill and Noel Coward.

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

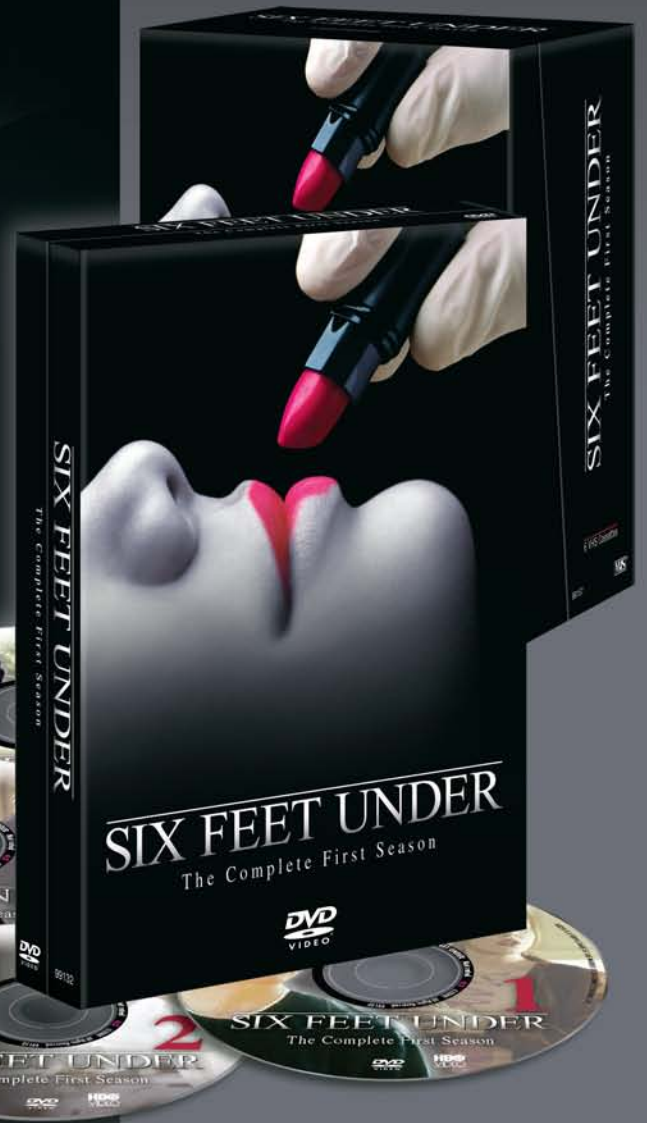
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Jennifer Garner  
in *Daredevil*

# JENNIFER GARNER

**NOW APPEARING IN...** *Daredevil* as Elektra, a young woman trained in the martial arts who seeks revenge on the man (Ben Affleck) whom she believes is responsible for her father's death.

**BIO BITS:** The second of three girls born to Pat, a retired teacher, and Bill, a chemical engineer, Jennifer Anne Garner came into the world on April 17, 1972 in Houston, Texas. She was raised in Charleston, West Virginia, where she studied ballet for many years and got a taste of how it felt to perform.

But she hung up her ballet slippers to follow in her father's footsteps, enrolling as a chemistry major at Ohio's Denison University. It didn't take long, however, for her to realize that she lacked a passion for studying substances and their elements. Garner switched to drama, earning a theatre degree in 1994.

After a season of summer stock in Atlanta, Garner decided to pursue her dreams in New York City, where — like so many others — she took a job in a restaurant while hunting for acting gigs. Her determination paid off when she started landing guest spots on TV

series like *Law & Order*, *Spin City*, *Time of Your Life* and *The Pretender*, and roles in various TV movies. Her breakthrough, though, was the recurring role of Hannah Bibb on *Felicity*, where she met and fell in love with co-star Scott Foley.

Garner made such an impression on the small screen that movie offers started to come her way — including small parts in *Deconstructing Harry*, *Washington Square* and *Mr. Magoo*, all in 1997.

But it wasn't until 2001 that Garner ensured she'd never have to go back to waitressing when she landed the lead in the popular TV series *Alias*, playing kick-butt secret agent Sydney Bristow.

Next summer she'll shoot *13 Going on 30* about an unpopular teen who magically finds herself almost 30 and popular.

**LOVE LIFE:** Married actor Scott Foley, whom she met on the set of *Felicity*, in October 2000.

**SAMPLE ROLES:** Sandra in *Pearl Harbor* (2001), Wanda in *Dude, Where's My Car?* (2000), Stacey Sampanahoditra in *Mr. Magoo* (1997).

**TRIVIA:** Owns two dogs and a cat. • Enjoys cooking, gardening, hiking and kickboxing. • Was named the #1 sexiest woman of 2001 by *Maxim* and one of the 50 Most Beautiful People by *People* in 2002.

**ON HER HUSBAND'S LOVE SCENES:** "On the night before our wedding, I turned on the TV and there was the *Felicity* episode in which Tyra Banks straddles Scott and thrusts her ta-tas in his face. He was like, 'Tyra Banks is hot.' I thought, 'Oh, how nice.' But what can you do? She is hot — I'd kiss her." —JK  
[*Movieline*, 2001]





# LUKE WILSON

**NOW APPEARING IN...**the comedy *Old School* as Mitch Martin, a 30-something man who tries to relive his wild college days with some pals (Will Ferrell and Vince Vaughn).

**BIO BITS:** Luke Cunningham Wilson was born in 1971 in Dallas — the youngest of three boys. (Brother Owen is a successful actor/writer/producer and Andrew is an actor with a résumé full of mostly small parts.)

For a while it looked like Wilson would make a name for himself as an athlete. At the prestigious St. Mark's School of Texas he excelled at track and field, nabbing top-five times in the 400m and 800m. But his interest in track waned when he decided to take a theatre course at L.A.'s Occidental College.

Bitten by the creative bug, Wilson teamed with his brother Owen in 1992 to co-write and co-star in *Bottle Rocket*, a 13-minute film about two restless Texans. It got the attention of industry types during its run on the festival circuit and was made into a feature-length movie in 1996. Few moviegoers bothered to see it, but some key Hollywood decision-makers did — and doors started to open.

Wilson capitalized on the acclaim for *Bottle Rocket* with parts in several small and independent films including *Telling Lies in America* (1997) starring Kevin Bacon, *Best Men* (1997) and *Home Fries* (1998) with Drew Barrymore, and *Dog Park* (1998) opposite Natasha Henstridge. That same year he appeared in *Rushmore*, which was co-written by brother Owen and directed by *Bottle Rocket's* Wes Anderson.

More small roles followed until 2000, when he showed up in yet another Barrymore project, *Charlie's Angels*. The following year he really broke out with high profile parts as Reese Witherspoon's love interest in *Legally Blonde* and in *The Royal Tenenbaums* (which he co-wrote with Owen).

Wilson has also dabbled in TV, playing Sheriff Hartwell in a 1998 episode of *The X-Files* and taking the recurring role of Casey Kelso on *That '70s Show* last year.

Wilson's eclectic career continues with a string of movies this year. In addition to reprising his roles in the sequels to *Charlie's Angels* and *Legally Blonde*, he stars opposite Kate Hudson in *Loosely Based on a True Story* as



Luke Wilson in *Old School*

an author with a gambling problem, and as part of an all-star cast in *Masked & Anonymous*.

**SAMPLE ROLES:** Richie in *The Royal Tenenbaums* (2001), Emmett in *Legally Blonde* (2001), Pete in *Charlie's Angels* (2000), Dink in *My Dog Skip* (2000), Carlson in *Blue Streak* (1999), Dr. Flynn in *Rushmore* (1998), Anthony in *Bottle Rocket* (1996)

**LOVE LIFE:** Dated Drew Barrymore (1997-98) and Gwyneth Paltrow (2001-02).

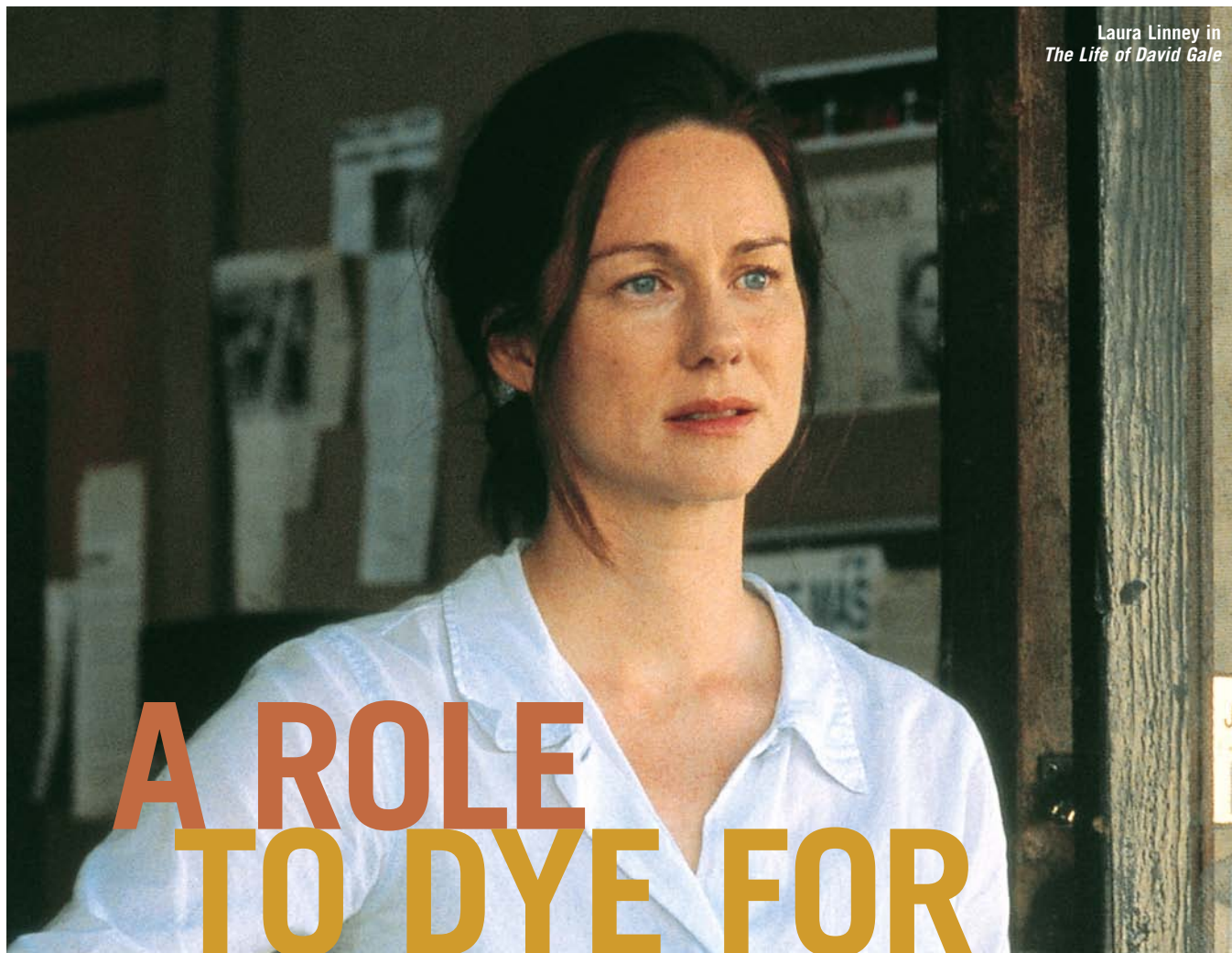
**TRIVIA:** Shows up in *Stab*, the horror film with-in *Scream 2*. • Appears in the video for Willie Nelson's "Maria (Shut Up and Kiss Me)." • His brother Owen also has the middle name Cunningham.

**ON OWEN:** "People always ask if we're competitive with each other professionally, but I feel that he's kind of on another level than I am. He's a really good writer and has produced a few movies. I look up to him more than anything else. If it weren't for him and Wes, I wouldn't be getting to do what I'm getting to do right now." [*Seattle Times*, January 2002] —JK



...with co-star Vince Vaughn

Laura Linney in  
*The Life of David Gale*



# A ROLE TO DYE FOR

**Laura Linney talks about sacrificing her private life, working with Kevin Spacey, and going brunette to play a murder victim in *The Life of David Gale* | By Earl Dittman**

**W**hile the usually golden-haired Laura Linney wholeheartedly agrees with the old adage that blondes have more fun (“I’m sure it’s gotten me an extra perk or two,” she says with a laugh), the 38-year-old native New Yorker admits she’s beginning to fancy the darker locks she’s still sporting from her role in this month’s *The Life of David Gale*.

“Usually, I don’t get too excited about things I have to change for a movie, especially my hair,” Linney says. “Ordinarily I think, ‘If you become too attached to it, it’s going to change in the next movie anyway, so why put myself through it?’ But I’m really starting to like the darker look, because

people don’t really know if it’s me. It’s made me a little more anonymous. And I kind of like that. At least, for the moment, anyway.”

These days, however, it’s getting much more difficult for Linney to walk the streets of the Big Apple — or any major metropolitan city — without being stopped by strangers seeking autographs or congratulating her for scoring a Best Actress Oscar nomination for her dazzling turn in 2000’s *You Can Count on Me*.

“I’m always surprised when people recognize me, because I’m not that unusual looking that I can’t disappear in a crowd,” Linney says. “It’s nice, but it blows my mind. I mean, I can understand why people would be excited to

shake hands with some of the big guys I’ve worked with like Richard Gere [*Primal Fear*, *The Mothman Prophecies*] or Jim Carrey [*The Truman Show*]. But I’m just Laura Linney. I’m fairly low on the celebrity rating scale.”

If her Oscar nod or recent Tony Award nomination (for the Broadway revival of *The Crucible*) didn’t do the trick, then Linney’s performance in director Alan Parker’s *The Life of David Gale* might just turn her into a household name. Kevin Spacey, who plays the film’s title character, says he’s one acting peer who is happy to see Linney’s days as a relatively unknown character actor coming to a close.

“Laura’s talent has been sorely underrated, because she’s been great in everything she’s done,” says Spacey. “She totally loses herself in every role. I don’t think people realize that she is nothing like the characters she’s played. She makes acting look effortless. And that’s not easy to do.” ▶▶



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►► *The Life of David Gale* tells the story of a college professor (Spacey) who fights to end capital punishment, only to find himself convicted of rape and murder and ultimately sentenced to death. “It’s an incredibly moving and thought-provoking film,” says Linney. “I play an anti-death penalty activist who runs an organization called Death Watch with David Gale, who is a co-founder. We are both University of Texas professors and great friends. But my character is found murdered and he’s accused of killing her. Ironically, he is given the death sentence. Three days before his execution, he is interviewed by a reporter [Kate Winslet]. And during those interviews you find out what happened, why it happened and if it happened. It is a really powerful film. I knew it would be from the moment I first read the script.”



Linney with Kevin Spacey in *The Life of David Gale*

In addition to a well-written screenplay by newcomer Charles Randolph, Linney was drawn to *The Life of David Gale* because it offered her the chance to work with Spacey and Parker. “You always have this mental wish-list of people you would like to work with and those two guys were high on my list,” she says. “Kevin is the ultimate actor’s actor. You learn so much from just watching him. And he’s a very gracious and giving person. Alan Parker...or should I say, Sir Alan Parker, is a legend. He’s made some of the greatest films of our generation [*Angela’s Ashes*, *The Commitments*, *Mississippi Burning*]. And, like Kevin, he’s a great guy in person. I mean, you have to spend anywhere from three to six months with these people, usually in a place far from your own home. So you want to be with people that are not only talented but are nice folks to be around.”

If there is a downside to becoming a

“movie star,” she says it’s the difficulty of trying to balance a personal life with an increasingly busy work schedule. “The more successful you are, the more roles you’re offered — it’s a simple equation,” says Linney, who has been romantically linked to actor Eric Stoltz.

“I’m not complaining. This is what I’ve worked towards all my life,” she continues. “I’m glad people want me to be in their movies. But you have to sacrifice a lot in exchange, especially a private life. You get to a point where you go, ‘I have to see my friends. I love the people I’m working with, but I’d like to see someone I’ve known for more than six weeks. I need to have a real conversation with my mother or I need to go by and see my neighbour!’ When you get to a certain age, you want to make sure that you have a relationship with someone that’s fulfilling. You don’t just drop out of someone’s life because you’re busy.”

In the same breath, though, Linney admits getting the Best Actress nomination for *You Can Count on Me* made the pressures of stardom a little more bearable. Although the award went to Julia Roberts, Linney says she will always remember the night of the 2001 Oscar ceremonies “with wonderment and glee.”

“It’s nice to be recognized, for people to say that your work was worthy,” she says. “When it happens, it’s pretty nice. But, at the same time, you can’t hang on to it as the most important thing that’ll ever happen in your life. It’s not about that. Everyone was saying to me, ‘Are you upset that you lost?’ I was like, ‘No, there was nothing there to lose. It’s not like it was mine and I lost something.’ People talked about it in this grieving way. I was like, ‘You’re all insane.’ The repercussions of a nomination are different for every person who is nominated. For some people, it does nothing at all. For other people, it changes their life. For me, it let a lot more movie fans and industry people know that I’m one blonde who is pretty decent at what I do for a living. You can’t hope for anything better than that.”

*Earl Dittman is an entertainment writer based in Houston, Texas. He also interviewed Matthew McConaughey for this issue of Famous.*

## famous trivia

- 1 **Gods and Generals** star C. Thomas Howell became famous in *The Outsiders* (1983), but can you name the 1982 family film in which he made his big-screen debut?
- 2 Which Oscar-winning star of *The Life of David Gale* won a Tony Award for *Lost in Yonkers* in 1991 and starred in *The Iceman Cometh* on a London stage in 1998?
- 3 *Dark Blue*’s Scott Speedman was born in England, but in which Canadian city was he raised?
- 4 Which movie tough guy who appears in *Daredevil* spent two seasons on the TV soap *Bold and the Beautiful* — Jon Favreau, Michael Clarke Duncan or Colin Farrell?
- 5 With which former U.S. presidential candidate did *The Hunted*’s Tommy Lee Jones live while in college?
- 6 The father of one of the stars of *Old School* was the longtime keyboardist for the Righteous Brothers. Whose dad was it — Luke Wilson’s, Will Ferrell’s or Vince Vaughn’s?
- 7 The actor who provides the voice of Baloo in *The Jungle Book 2* appeared on *Sesame Street* in 1969. Can you name him?

## ANSWERS

- 1 E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial 2 Kevin Spacey
- 3 Toronto 4 Michael Clarke Duncan
- 5 Al Gore 6 Will Ferrell
- 7 John Goodman



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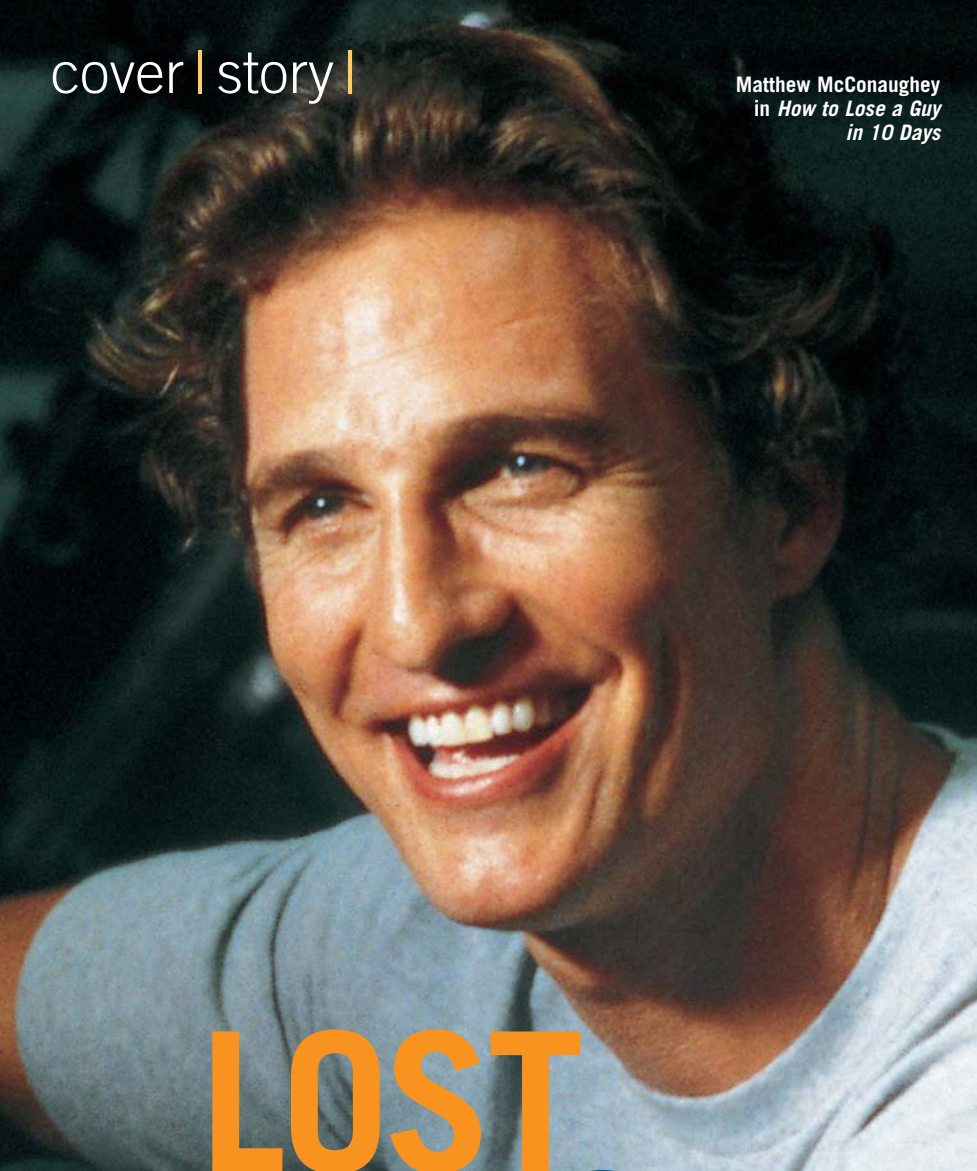
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LIVE IN YOUR W@RLD.  
PLAY IN OURS.



Matthew McConaughey  
in *How to Lose a Guy  
in 10 Days*



# LOST AND FOUND

HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS STAR  
MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY ON HOW HIS TIME AWAY  
FROM HOLLYWOOD GAVE HIM A NEW PERSPECTIVE  
AND THE WILL TO RETURN | BY EARL DITTMAN

**F**ame came fast and furious to Matthew McConaughey.

In the blink of a Hollywood producer's eye (that's roughly 18 months to mere mortals), the Texas-born actor was transformed from a nobody into a bona fide leading man in big hits like *A Time to Kill* (1996) and *Contact* (1997).

But something unexpected happened to McConaughey on his way to the top. His refusal to play the Hollywood fame game brought things to a screeching halt, and, before anyone even realized,

he'd performed a curious disappearing act, virtually dropping off the superstar radar.

Apparently, becoming an "overnight sensation" had exacted a toll on the shy, laid-back heartthrob from the Lone Star State. According to Sandra Bullock, his co-star from *A Time to Kill* and all-around best gal-pal, McConaughey's problems adjusting to stardom prompted him to walk away from his fame and reassess his priorities.

"This business is based so much on illusion and hype, and the most impor-

tant thing you have to understand about Matthew is that he is nothing like that — he's completely down-to-earth," Bullock explained in an interview last year. "In the beginning, his first reaction to all the hoopla was to get away from it. After finishing a movie, all he'd want to do was fly back to Austin or Houston and leave all that other mess behind. He'd try to get away from it as fast as he could. I mean, the whole concept of being 'a star' is tough for anyone to adapt to. It's especially hard for someone as genuine as Matthew. But I think he's finally made a truce with fame, and he's finally at peace with the whole celebrity side of what he loves to do, which is act."

Dressed in a pair of worn jeans and a white T-shirt, and sipping a cup of strange-smelling herbal tea, McConaughey smiles when asked to comment on Bullock's assessment. "She hit the nail right on the head, because when I first started out I really couldn't handle all the attention," says the 33-year-old star of this month's romantic comedy *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*. "Not only was it scary, but I felt it was really intrusive."

McConaughey was particularly perturbed by the sensational headlines generated by his October 1999 arrest for possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia and resisting transportation (after police reportedly found him dancing naked and playing bongos in his Austin home).

"All that made the front page and the news shows was the arrest," he recalls in that distinctive Texan drawl. "But when all the charges were dropped, barely anybody mentioned it. It was no longer big news. I was just becoming an excuse to sell papers and commercial time on TV shows. I didn't like it at all."

McConaughey was even more incensed when the same critics and journalists who had touted him as Hollywood's latest "It Guy" just one year before, began referring to him as a has-been.

"When I started reading stories about being all washed-up because I had a couple of movies that didn't do bonzo business, I thought about giving this all up," he confesses. "I thought, 'One day they think you're the best and the next you suck. I just don't need this. It's all gone haywire and it's out of control.' It just wasn't fun anymore."

But instead of throwing in the towel, McConaughey retreated to his Austin



home for several months to begin putting his career and life back in order.

"Sitting out in my backyard and garden finally gave me the time and clarity I had lost," he says. "I began to look back at the library of work I'd done, and tried to understand exactly why I did everything I had. I basically recustomized myself, for lack of a better word. I thought, 'Maybe I can't tell you exactly what it is I do want and need or exactly what is right or true for me. But I can sure as hell put my finger on what I don't want, what I do disagree with or what goes against my grain.'"

After several months of heavy-duty soul searching, McConaughey was ready to map out his future. "I realized that all I needed to do was pick projects that feel true to me, are still a challenge and that I can grow on," he explains. "I decided I had to stop doing movies that were supposed to be good for my career or my public image. They were never fulfilling for me in the first place. I wanted to do films I believed in, otherwise, why keep on acting? As cliché as it sounds, I just needed to get back to my roots."

By 2001, McConaughey was back and starring in smaller, critically acclaimed motion pictures such as the eerie psychological thriller *Frailty* and the ensemble dramady *13 Conversations About One Thing*, which was a hit on the film festival circuit.

"Doing those two films was like, 'You know what man? I got to get my hands back in the clay,'" he says. "Going and doing *Frailty* and *13 Conversations* felt like I was back in college making student films again. I loved it because we went in there and just did it, quick and with passion. They were just what I needed before I jumped into making big-studio films again."

He returned to big-studio films as a buff dragon-slayer in last year's *Reign of Fire*, and then realized he was aching to do another romantic comedy. "I sure do enjoy funny love stories, and I've been told people think I'm pretty good at 'em," he says. "And, why not? I love comedy, and I love being around women. So, in a romantic comedy, you get the both of them. Luckily, I found *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*, one that fits the bill perfectly. You can't get any better comedy director than Donald Petrie [*Miss Congeniality*] or a much prettier lady than [co-star] Kate Hudson."

In the film, which is loosely based on

the book *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days: The Universal Don'ts of Dating*, McConaughey plays a ladies man who bets his friends that he can make any woman fall in love with him. In an unlucky twist of fate, though, the woman on whom he chooses to test his theory (Hudson) is trying to dump a guy using some of the rules spelled out in the *How to Lose a Guy* manual.

"It's got such a great premise, I can't believe no one has done a movie like it before," he says. "It's classic. My character's got to get a woman to fall in love with him, and Kate's character has got to lose me. So you've got my joke that you're in on, and you've got her joke that you're in on. And then you get the pleasure of sitting there watching and knowing the third joke that both of us don't know. You get to watch me squirm, and watch Kate wonder why the hell I'm not getting the hell out of there yet. So you get three really funny situations going on. It's really hilarious."

**"I SURE DO ENJOY FUNNY LOVE STORIES, AND I'VE BEEN TOLD PEOPLE THINK I'M PRETTY GOOD AT 'EM," SAYS MCCONAUGHEY**

And, more than anything else, I had a great and rewarding time making it."

Filmed primarily in Toronto last summer, McConaughey says he became enamored with the city and its inhabitants almost immediately. "I've been to Toronto before, for things like the film festival, but I never have had the chance to stay in the city for an extended period of time," he says. "I'm glad I did, because it's beautiful and the people are so nice and friendly. They're kind of cool and laid-back, just what a Texas boy like me is used to."

Having just completed *Tiptoes* with Gary Oldman, a film he describes as "a dwarf love story," McConaughey says that, in retrospect, he's happy he didn't pack it in and call it day. He has a new-found respect and love for movie-making that he hopes never to lose.

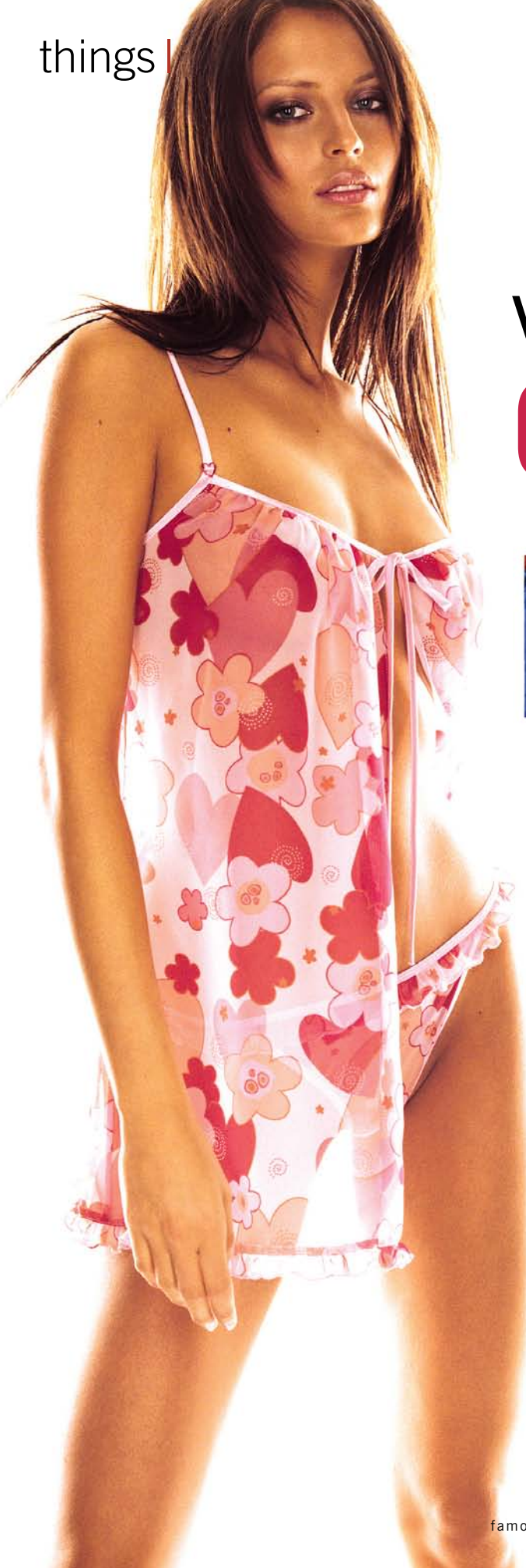
"These days, I'm much more comfortable knowing that, 'Hey, people do give a damn what I do, what I say, how I act, how I treat them and the projects that I choose,'" he says. "I may not be able to please everyone all the time, but real failure is the act of trying to please everybody all the time. I'm just going to stick with my gut instincts and pray they're right. Plus, I've got a cool job, and I'm too old to start looking for a new profession." **E**

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



McConaughey with co-star Kate Hudson





## have a heart

Want to make your sweetie smile *and* help Variety Club? This **Gold Heart Pin**, featuring characters from *Shrek*, will only set you back \$3, but it really adds up for the children's charity. Last year's campaign raised \$170,000, which was used to fund sports facilities, coaching and rehabilitation.

Available at Famous Players theatres.



# VALENTINE'S GIFT IDEAS



## shorts but sweet

Looking for the ultimate selection of men's boxers? Go no further than your computer and **Webundies.com** where you'll find shorts with movie themes, (like the "**Austin Powers Swinger**"), pop culture motifs (like the "**Silk Super Shield**") or just stick to the classic Valentine's sentiment and get your boy a pair of "**Happy Hearts.**"

Prices range from \$12 to \$16 (U.S.).

## covered in kisses

You can't get much more lovey when it comes to clothes than Peach Berserk's raw silk **JezaBelle** ensemble (dress, \$325, coat, \$349) covered in lips and flirty phrases. Buy it for yourself for that Valentine's dinner, or get it for your partner as a gift.

Available from **Peach Berserk** in Toronto, or online at [www.peachberserk.com](http://www.peachberserk.com).



## love those jammies

Lingerie always makes a great Valentine's gift. But why get your sweetie that same old red lacy number when you can be creative with the frilly little **Love Pop Babydoll** (\$30). Or, if your partner likes to be alluring and comfy at the same time, try the **Sweet Tart Cami/Capri Set** (\$30). Available from **La Senza**.



# DAMHNAIT DOYLE TAKES A CUE FROM THE MOVIES, AND CANADIAN RECORD LABELS TAKE ON MUSIC THIEVES | BY JOHN KENNEDY



Damhnait Doyle

## OUT THIS MONTH

### Lyle Lovett | *Smile* >> FEBRUARY 4

A collection of songs that Lovett has composed for movies, including tracks heard in *Kissing Jessica Stein*, *Quiz Show*, *Mumford* and *Toy Story*.

### Various Artists | *We're a Happy Family* >> FEBRUARY 11

This tribute to The Ramones is made up of covers of the band's classic tracks performed by artists like Red Hot Chili Peppers, Rob Zombie, Marilyn Manson, U2, Kiss, Garbage and Green Day.

### Appleton | *Aloud* >> FEBRUARY 25

This is the debut release from Canadian-born Natalie and Nicole Appleton, who are one-half of the defunct pop group All Saints. The first single from the now-U.K.-based sisters is called "Fantasy."

## INSPIRED BY CAMERON

**M**ovies can move people in different ways. Newfoundland-born singer **Damhnait Doyle** had such a visceral reaction to 2001's *Vanilla Sky* that she penned a rather creepy song called "Sinkin' Stone."

"It really threw me for a loop, especially the Cameron Diaz character, because she was so convincing as this complete psycho," explains Doyle over seafood linguini at Toronto's La Forchetta restaurant. "It really disturbed me for days afterwards. So I wrote this song from the perspective of her character — a jealous, obsessive woman who at the end of the song decides that if this man doesn't submit to her, she will kill him."

The song shows up in three parts on Doyle's new CD *Davnet* (the phonetic spelling of her first name). It's her third album, a pop-rock follow-up to 2000's *Hyperdramatic* and, she insists, her best.

"I wanted to make a record where it was irrelevant if I was male, female, a band, a solo artist — so I really spent the time to get the best songs possible," Doyle explains. "My desire to go out there and sell this record is a million times bigger because I feel it's just way more representative of me."

A new resolve to take ownership of her public image, and a steady romance, have

made Doyle stronger and more confident. The new CD has songs about lost love (including the first single "Another California Song"), songs about bad relationships and even a tribute to late American musician Jeff Buckley, who drowned in 1997.

"This is the record you want to play when you are in your room getting ready to go out, you're having your second tequila sunrise and you want something that'll make you grit your teeth," she says. "It's honest. It's not underestimating people's intelligence."

Asked if there is any joy on the album, Doyle takes a long pause and scans the track listing. "Wow. I don't know about joy," she says finally. "I find I get a lot more pleasure from darker movies, darker albums ... my mother was always on me about this. 'Why can't you write any happy songs?' and I would tell her that's not the way it works." Doyle says she tends to write lyrics when she's angry or upset. Besides, she figures, people don't want to hear songs about someone reveling in their own happiness.

"You want someone who is like-minded and you want something that's going to cheer you up," she adds, "and what cheers me up is someone who's maybe a little bit more edgy than I am. So there is joy in there. It's just hidden."

## FIGHTING PIRACY

**I**llegally downloading music from the internet and sharing it with others has been going on since the arrival of the digital age. Music lovers — particularly young ones — have been largely unmoved by complaints from major labels about the impact of this piracy.

Last year the U.S. music industry enlisted hundreds of artists like Britney Spears and Eminem to urge their fans, in a series of ads, not to steal music. The thinking was that teens are more likely to sympathize with their favourite singers than big corporations.

Now a similar campaign is being launched in Canada. Starting this month, the Value of Music project will use ads, point-of-sale marketing and a website to emphasize that illegal downloading most hurts the people who make the music. Of course, the initiative is being financed by the Canadian Recording Industry Association — an organization made up of major record labels and CD manufacturers.

Adam Duritz, lead singer of Counting Crows, weighed in on the piracy issue in a recent interview with *Famous*. "You're just saying art has no value," he said. "Tires have value, TVs have value, VCRs have value, rubber bands have value and Pop Tarts have value but art has no value. And I think that's wrong."



# TRIVIAL *pursuits*

BY MARNI WEISZ

If you're a real movie fan, you love the fun little details — the trivia, the minutiae, the behind-the-scenes stories, the legendary gaffes, the inside scoop, the universal truisms and clichés. Here are three amusing sites to satisfy your cravings.

## THE '80S MOVIE GATEWAY

[www.fast-rewind.com](http://www.fast-rewind.com)

If you enjoy films from the decade when snaps replaced buttons and hair gel outsold sliced bread, you'll have fun trolling around this extensive site. More than 400 titles each have their own homepage, complete with synopsis and info about filming locations (the high school in *The Breakfast Club* is now the Illinois State Police Station). But the best part is the trivia. Here's a taste: In the original script for *Back to the Future*, the time machine was not a DeLorean, but a re-tooled refrigerator. Director Robert Zemeckis and producer Steven Spielberg made the change because they were afraid kids would get trapped in fridges while trying to emulate Marty McFly. • Extra footage from the opening scenes of *The Shining* (when Jack and his family are driving up to The Overlook) was used for the closing scenes of *Blade Runner* (when Decker and Rachel are flying away in the hover car). You should be able to see Jack's yellow car far below. • And, apparently, David Letterman screen-tested for the role of Ted Striker in *Airplane*.

## MOVIE CLICHÉS

Although "spam" — funny lists, photos and jokes emailed en masse — has become a dirty word for most, some of the most entertaining examples of spam are the collections of movie clichés. If you haven't already found one of these lists in your inbox, there are plenty of places to find them on the web. The following are some of the better URLs, and samples of what you'll find there.

■ **HARRIS ONLINE: THE GREAT LIST OF MOVIE CLICHÉS** ([www.harrisonline.com/heard/cliches.htm](http://www.harrisonline.com/heard/cliches.htm)) "A detective can only solve a case once he has been suspended from duty."

■ **THORNLEY SCIENCE SYSTEMS' MOVIE CLICHÉS** ([http://rthornley.tripod.com/humor/movie\\_cliches.html](http://rthornley.tripod.com/humor/movie_cliches.html)) "When you turn out the light to go to bed, everything in your bedroom will still be clearly visible, but slightly blue."

■ **MOVIE CLICHÉS** (<http://people.zeelandnet.nl/picard/humor/movies.htm>) "People are often exact duplicates of remote ancestors, or of their parent at the same age."

■ **VEHICULAR MOVIE CLICHÉS** ([www.hotrodscustomstuff.com/humor-07.html](http://www.hotrodscustomstuff.com/humor-07.html)) "Movie characters driving in the city will get to park wherever they like when they get to their destination."

■ **40 MOVIE CLICHÉS** ([www.chiprowe.com/articles/cliche.html](http://www.chiprowe.com/articles/cliche.html)) "Evil geniuses who build bombs are always thoughtful enough to include a visible time display."



## WHOOOPS! MOVIE GOOFS

[www.dlc.fi/~frog/goofs/](http://www.dlc.fi/~frog/goofs/)

This is where eagle-eyed filmgoers go to post goofs, anachronisms and sloppy filmmaking. Go straight to the "Top Goofy Movies" section, where there are more than 100 films with eight or more recorded blunders. Sure, most of them are submitted by anal cinephiles who think seeing a pulse in a dead character's neck is a reason to revoke the director's membership to the guild, but there are some pretty funny ones. Like the stagehand in blue jeans who pops up in a *Gladiator* scene. Or Kate Winslet's disappearing/reappearing mole in *Titanic*. Of course, many things that seem to be flubs to one person have perfectly good explanations to another. And the best part of this site is that readers can add comments and corrections to others' postings. A good example is the debate over a flurry of activity in the corner of a few frames of *The Wizard of Oz*: "If you look very closely in the scene where Dorothy and the scarecrow find the tin man, and then start skipping down the yellow brick road, you can see one of the munchkins actually hanging himself in the background of the trees."/"It was really a worker who fell off a ladder and his neck got caught in a rope and he hung himself."/"It really is a munchkin hanging himself because there is a website dedicated to him that his parents made."/"Huh? His parents made a website for him? *Wizard of Oz* was made in 1939, so his parents would be pretty old by now."/"Laws of physics prove that it wasn't someone committing suicide. The body could not have swung only once and then stopped."/"The hanging person in the background is only a bird. I watched it 276 times."



# La belle. cuisine

STARS LIKE PAUL NEWMAN CIRCLE THE GLOBE  
RESTAURANT IN MONTREAL | BY JOHN KENNEDY

There's a restaurant in Montreal renowned for its fresh food, friendly service and charming atmosphere. Bright, spacious and decorated with colourful floral arrangements, Globe offers cozy banquettes as well as several window-side tables overlooking the hustle and bustle of Saint-Laurent Boulevard.

In the kitchen is chef David McMillan, a stickler for buying local food and wine, who loves to whip up special meals for his customers — and the stars who frequent his restaurant. His passion stems from a stint at Sooke Harbour House, a world-class hotel and restaurant on Vancouver Island, where he took advantage of the bounty of live fish, fresh berries, local wines and organic vegetables.

"I realized I had to come home and innovate with our products, our farmers, our livestock and so on," he says. The result is a menu filled with salmon, duck, veal and rabbit.

Film legend Paul Newman, who knows a little something about ingredients — he has his own line of gourmet dressings, sauces, salsas, popcorn and lemonade — is among the celebrities who have been drawn to Globe several times. McMillan says Newman has always dined with his wife, actor Joanne Woodward.

"The Newmans are health freaks," he explains. "Everything they eat has to be organic — the vegetables and meat. If they want chicken it has to be naturally raised and grain-fed."

No problem there. McMillan served the famous couple roast chicken breasts with mushrooms, spinach and mashed potatoes. But Newman was particularly fond of Globe's hot goat cheese appetizer with tomato confit, yellow potatoes and tomato broth (see recipe, right).

So enamoured was the couple that

Woodward asked McMillan to autograph a copy of the menu because "she collects menus from her favourite restaurants."

Newman and Woodward aren't the only Hollywood heavyweights to feast at Globe.

A carnivorous Ben Affleck, in town working on *The Sum of All Fears*, couldn't get enough of the restaurant's Angus steak — cooked medium rare and washed down with a French bordeaux. Charlie Sheen, shooting a U.S. cable movie in Montreal, ordered his main course and dessert at the same time so he could eat them together. "One night he mixed his steak with crème brûlée," says McMillan.

Speaking of special orders, vegetarian Ashley Judd, in Montreal to star in *Eye of the Beholder*, had her assistant call Globe to ask the restaurant to prepare her favourite dish — angel hair pasta in a tomato basil sauce. "I don't normally offer pastas but since she came here a lot we made sure we had lots in the kitchen," McMillan recalls.

He says Robert De Niro, who shot *The Score* in the city, was obsessed with an imported mozzarella cheese made with buffalo milk. "He'd eat it at room temperature on a salad with tomatoes and olive oil," recalls McMillan. "He also liked our bread but his hair/makeup assistant Ilona wouldn't let him eat it because she was worried about his weight. I wrapped a couple of slices in foil so he could eat it back at his hotel room."

Even De Niro's pooch, Fluffy, got a taste of Globe's food, enjoying some lamb stew. "[De Niro] said it was good for his coat," McMillan explains.

■ For reservations, call 514.284.3823.

—with files from Pascale Marcotte



David McMillan

## HOT GOAT CHEESE APPETIZER

SERVES 2

- 2 Yukon gold potatoes
- 200 g fresh goat cheese
- 6 Italian tomatoes
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 1 tbsp chopped chives
- 1 tsp sugar

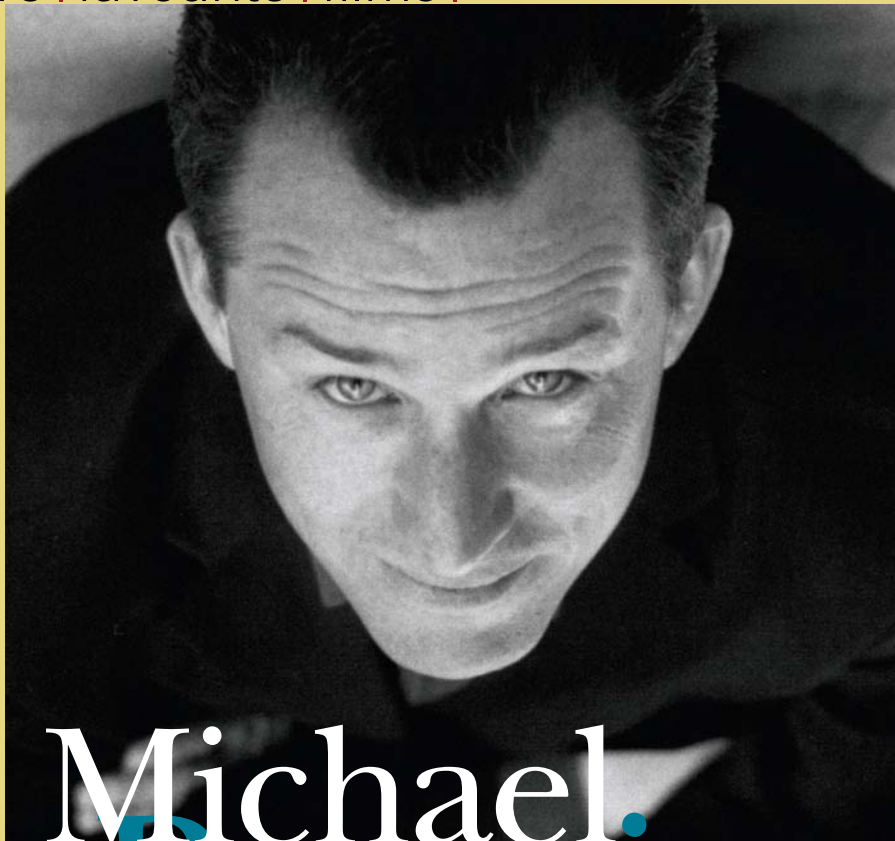
On a non-stick pan place tomatoes, peeled, cut in half and coated in olive oil, a little sugar, salt and pepper to taste. Oven roast on very low heat for 6 hours. Cook the potatoes in a 350 degree oven, then let them cool to room temperature.

Crush the potatoes with a fork while seasoning with olive oil, chives and salt and pepper.

Prepare appetizer in a metal ring (or use a large empty can open at both ends) covered in wax paper. Place the ingredients in separate layers: one layer of potatoes on the bottom, a layer of tomatoes in the middle and a layer of goat cheese on top. Heat lightly in the oven. Place in a small bowl and serve with spicy tomato broth and toast.



PHOTO OF DAVID McMILLAN: PASCALE MARCOTTE



# Michael Beattie makes his picks

**C**anadian actor Michael Beattie can boast about being a part of one of the biggest movies of all time, *Spider-Man*. Alright, he doesn't actually appear in last summer's Tobey Maguire blockbuster — but he does provide the voice of Shocker in *Spider-Man: The Movie Game*, a popular videogame based on the flick.

Aside from a handful of spots on TV series and straight-to-video features, doing voices and commercials has kept food on Beattie's table since he moved to Los Angeles in 1989.

Born in Ottawa, he spent the first four years of his life in Montreal and was raised in Toronto. He performed at the Stratford Festival and played Stanley in the Canadian premiere of Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. But his biggest break came two years ago when director Guy Ritchie picked him to play Madonna's manager in a short film called *Star*. That led to a part in Ritchie's box-office bomb *Swept Away* (also starring Madonna), as half of one of three couples who set out on a yacht trip between Greece and Italy.

Nursing a bad case of bronchitis, he spoke to *Famous* from his home in Los Angeles.

#### WHAT ARE YOUR FIVE FAVOURITE FILMS?

"Number one is *Henry V* [1989]. It's a great film because Kenneth Branagh made the transition from a stage play to a film in a very unique and creative way. One of the things he did in that movie is he used sections of the play *Henry IV, Part II* as flashbacks, which I thought was brilliant. • Number two is *A Fish Called Wanda* [1988], one of the few movies that when I saw it in the

theatre — I was sitting in the aisle seat — I literally fell into the aisle laughing. I was pounding the carpet. • When I first saw my third pick, *Chariots of Fire* [1981], it was a particular time in my life where it was a movie that I needed to see. It encouraged me. I loved the contrast of the two runners and the evocation of a period piece. And the music. • Number four is *The Princess Bride* [1987] because all the heroism

and the romance is played for real which makes the humour that much funnier to me. • For number five, I love the original *Star Wars* flicks and *The Empire Strikes Back* [1980] is my favourite of the three. You get all the swashbuckling, the space cowboy adventure stuff, but Luke's got to face his dark side in that one so it was the most interesting of the three."

#### HOW DID YOU HOOK UP WITH GUY RITCHIE?

"I read for *Star* when the script was still in a rough form and the manager role that I was reading for only had one line. So the guy who was running the camera at the session, a bald guy named Marvin, said, 'Michael, do you want to do some improv?'.... Marvin played Madonna — so imagine a 50-year-old bald-headed Madonna — and he kind of slapped me around. I ended up getting the job and the first thing Guy said to me when I met him was, 'Everything that you did in the audition, I want to do in the film.' Four months later I got a phone call asking me if I wanted to do *Swept Away*."

#### WHAT WAS IT LIKE WORKING WITH MADONNA?

"I know this is spiel and I can't really say anything else...but I really enjoyed her a lot. Madonna was pretty funny. The first time I walked over to meet her, I shook her hand and said, 'Hi, I'm Michael Beattie, how are you doing?' and the first thing she does is go, 'Ow! You're fired!' I started to leave and then I found out she was yanking my chain. I laughed and we went from there."

#### DO YOU MISS CANADA?

"I go back to Toronto frequently. Usually my family has a reunion every summer in Owen Sound. We didn't make it last year but we'll be back next summer. I love Canada. Living in L.A., you go back to Toronto in the summertime and it's so incredibly green."

#### WAS *SWEPT AWAY* YOUR BIGGEST PART TO DATE?

"*Swept Away* is the highest profile thing I've done. I mean, I've been blessed. I'm thankful. I've worked consistently and made a good living and supported the family and everything but it's real exciting to have a film that's on the map a little bit more."  
—John Kennedy



# new RELEASES

SWEET HOME ALABAMA, CITY BY THE SEA  
AND ROAD TO PERDITION ON THE SMALL SCREEN

FEBRUARY 4

## SWEET HOME ALABAMA

**Stars:** Reese Witherspoon, Josh Lucas  
**Director:** Andy Tennant (*Anna and the King*)  
**Story:** An up-and-coming NYC fashion designer (Witherspoon) gets engaged to the mayor's dreamy son. But before she can get hitched, she must head back to her hometown in Alabama and get a divorce from her estranged hillbilly hubby.

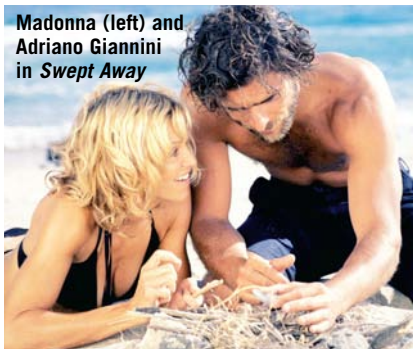
FEBRUARY 11

## FULL FRONTAL

**Stars:** David Duchovny, Julia Roberts  
**Director:** Steven Soderbergh (*Solaris*)  
**Story:** The hardest working man in film — Steven Soderbergh — returns to his roots with this unofficial "sequel" to his debut *sex, lies and videotape*. The story follows a diverse group of Hollywood people whose lives intersect while making a movie.

## MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING

**Stars:** Nia Vardalos, John Corbett  
**Director:** Joel Zwick (*Second Sight*)  
**Story:** A frumpy Greek woman (Vardalos) falls for a decidedly non-Greek fella (Corbett), and the subsequent romance causes all kinds of ethnic-flavoured shenanigans within her nosy family. The most successful indie film of all time.



Madonna (left) and Adriano Giannini in *Swept Away*

## SWEPT AWAY

**Stars:** Madonna, Adriano Giannini  
**Director:** Guy Ritchie (*Snatch*)  
**Story:** What happens when a no-talent director gets married to the Typhoid Mary of cinema? They join forces to make the worst movie of the year! Well, aside from that *Ecks vs. Sever* abomination...

FEBRUARY 18

## CITY BY THE SEA

**Stars:** Robert De Niro, Frances McDormand  
**Director:** Michael Caton-Jones (*The Jackal*)  
**Story:** De Niro takes a break from his endless stream of self-parodies to anchor this gritty potboiler about a cop who discovers that the murderer he's pursuing just might be his own son (James Franco).

## THE FOUR FEATHERS

**Stars:** Heath Ledger, Kate Hudson  
**Director:** Shekhar Kapur (*Elizabeth*)  
**Story:** In 1998, a British officer (Ledger) resigns his post just before he's supposed to head out to battle rebels in the Sudan. Understandably, his pals and fiancée (Hudson) call him a yellow-bellied



Tom Hanks (left) and Tyler Hoechlin in *Road to Perdition*

coward. So he heads out on a secret mission to win back his honour.

## SPY KIDS 2: ISLAND OF LOST DREAMS

**Stars:** Antonio Banderas, Carla Gugino  
**Director:** Robert Rodriguez (*Spy Kids*)  
**Story:** The pint-sized secret agents return to save the world again. This time, they must infiltrate a mysterious island filled with genetically modified animals in order to stop an evil scientist.

FEBRUARY 25

## ROAD TO PERDITION

**Stars:** Tom Hanks, Paul Newman  
**Director:** Sam Mendes (*American Beauty*)  
**Story:** Tom Hanks plays against type as a hard-nosed hitman who goes on the run with his young son — who just found out his daddy's a killer — to get revenge for the murder of the rest of his family.

## new to DVD

### AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER >>February 4

Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr star in this classic 1957 weepy about two already-engaged people who meet and fall in love while on a cruise from Europe to New York City. Upon arriving in America, they agree to meet at the top of the Empire State Building six months later. But, as is so often the case in romances, things don't go quite as planned...



### EL MARIACHI >>February 4

Director Robert Rodriguez made his mark with this ultra-low budget tale about a gun-slinging guitar player on a rampage. He later made two sequels, 1995's *Desperado* and the upcoming *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*. This disc contains audio commentary from Rodriguez, his short film *Bedhead* and his "10 Minute Film School" featurette.

GO TO WWW.BLOCKBUSTER.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

# february

H O R O S C O P E | BY DAN LIEBMAN

## aquarius

January 21 >>> February 19

You win praise for taking control of a tricky family situation. Socializing is a big theme in February, with offbeat and last-minute events scattered throughout the month. Platonic relationships are in the forefront, ironically right around Valentine's Day.

## pisces

February 20 >>> March 20

Your influence is broadening, thanks to the wise advice you've been handing out. You also have a knack for motivating the people you care about. Make sure to give yourself private time — especially late in the month — to plot out some important goals.

## aries

March 21 >>> April 20

You're at your most persuasive from the 10th through the 21st. But after the 22nd, acquaintances may try to take advantage of your generosity. Romance and travel blend well all month. And you could find yourself taking up a new winter sport.

## taurus

April 21 >>> May 22

Taurus shows a flair for the theatrical — which is putting it mildly. It's easy to turn simple family discussions into major dramas. On the other hand, it's a great month for public speaking or auditioning. And wherever you go, you steal the show.

## gemini

May 23 >>> June 21

Simplification is the key in a month that sees you getting rid of both material and emotional clutter. Late February finds you developing a new area of interest. You may briefly be in the odd position of having surplus cash and nothing to spend it on.

## cancer

June 22 >>> July 22

Conduct polls before you move ahead on a costly project. If looking for a Valentine's present, go for traditional over oddball.

## leo

July 23 >>> August 22

You have an eye for bargains and an ear for languages. So beat the February blahs and combine shopping with travel — or at least visits to exotic shops. In the realm of romance, it can be a Valentine's month if you steer clear of controversial topics.

## virgo

August 23 >>> September 22

This is a month for reversals. The project that seemed a bust? There's sudden interest in it. And the friendship that seemed to be on the skids? It's back on track.

## libra

September 23 >>> October 22

"Inquiring minds want to know" is your motto of the month. There's so much happening in the lives of friends that you feel



KATIA SMIRNOVA

it's your duty to get all the goods. Happily, you approach work or school with a similar intensity, strong will and nosiness.

## scorpio

October 23 >>> November 21

Simplicity is the answer — whether you're looking for the perfect Valentine's present or decorating your living space. On or around the 19th, you may be asked to sign a confidential agreement. Be absolutely sure you're aware of all the implications.

## sagittarius

November 22 >>> December 22

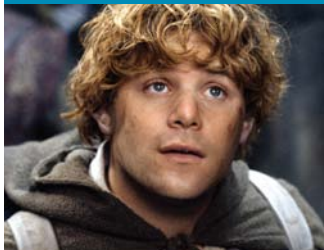
It's time to think more in terms of "we" and to make decisions based on shared goals. If looking for a guru, seek out an older friend or relative. February can be a month of great creativity.

## capricorn

December 23 >>> January 20

The emphasis now is on familiar things. If planning a special dinner, opt for comfort foods over concoctions. A friend's late-month confession clears up a misunderstanding. Family-related health concerns benefit from a review of the options available.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



1st Lisa Marie Presley  
2nd Farrah Fawcett  
3rd Morgan Fairchild

4th Alice Cooper  
5th Barbara Hershey  
6th Natalie Cole  
7th Chris Rock  
8th Seth Green  
9th Mia Farrow  
10th Laura Dern  
11th Jennifer Aniston  
12th Christina Ricci  
13th Stockard Channing  
14th Gregory Hines  
15th Jane Seymour

16th LeVar Burton  
17th Rene Russo  
18th Matt Dillon  
19th Jeff Daniels  
20th French Stewart  
21st Jennifer Love Hewitt  
22nd Drew Barrymore  
23rd Peter Fonda  
24th Billy Zane  
25th Sean Astin  
26th Erykah Badu  
27th Joanne Woodward  
28th Bernadette Peters





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# 10 STARS ON HOW THEY STAY THIN

| BY SUSAN GRANGER

**JENNIFER ANISTON** “Brad [Pitt] and I both use The Zone as a way of life.... It consists of 40 percent complex carbohydrates, 30 percent protein and 30 percent favourable (mostly unsaturated) fats. Basically, you reduce sugars, breads and starches while increasing meat and vegetables. For example, for breakfast you can have eggs, yogurt or sweet-potato pancakes. Lunches are salads and dinners can be chicken or fish, little beef.... Pasta and breads are gone.”

**RENÉE ZELLWEGER** “When I had to lose all that weight after *Bridget Jones’s Diary*, I went on a low-carbohydrate diet. I also exercise a lot and take yoga classes. I guess it helps that I don’t have a sweet tooth. I don’t drink a lot. I don’t like ice cream and I don’t like cookies, except for once a month when a Reese’s Peanut Butter Cup is my reason for living.”

**WHITNEY HOUSTON** “If I stick to steamed lobster and vegetables I stay thin and the very thought of eating them makes me hungry and happy.”

**MADONNA** “Essentially, I’m a vegetarian. I eat a lot of raw — but not many cooked — vegetables. I love Italian food but when I go to an Italian restaurant, I most often have minestrone soup and Caesar salad.”



Elizabeth Hurley signs autographs at the *Serving Sara* premiere in Beverly Hills

PHOTO BY MARIO ANZUONI/FLASH NEWS

**ANGELA BASSETT** “I’ve done them all — from shakes to the Atkins diet. Now I’m trying to become a raw foodist. That means I eat lots of raw, uncooked organic fruits, vegetables, seeds and nuts and take vitamins. I’ve been told that heating food above 120 degrees kills enzymes that aid digestion and that eating primitively and naturally is the key to staying young and healthy.”

**CATHERINE ZETA-JONES** “I’ve had success with the Atkins diet, drastically cutting carbohydrates, limiting vegetables and fruit. That means I can have steak, sausage, bacon, cheese, butter, eggs and a glass of wine with dinner — but no starchy vegetables and potatoes.”

**PAULA ABDUL** “I was a sugarholic, and since my father was in the meat-packing business, I’ve eaten enough red meat to last several lifetimes. I don’t want to sound like a health-food advocate, but I’ve changed my eating habits. I’m on a no-sugar diet. I avoid red meat. I’m into salads, especially with Chinese sausage. And I’ve never felt better.”

**ELIZABETH HURLEY** “A few years ago I lost an astounding amount of weight on the Blood-Type Diet. I’m O-positive which, according to *Eat Right 4 Your Body Type*, means I’m descended from hunter-gatherers and should concentrate on a meat-heavy diet, exercise rigorously and avoid dairy products. Suits me.”

**BERNADETTE PETERS** “I eat lots of sushi. I’m a vegetarian, but I like lean fish. Salads and fruits make up the rest of my diet. No oils, fats or stimulants of any kind. And I feel terrific. My way of eating helps me bring happiness to people by giving me the gift of health.”

**CHRISTINA APPLIGATE** “I’m a vegetarian. I use soy products and no animal fats. Exercise is a part of my life since I’m a dancer. But I never want to go back to the frenzy that my body-image created for me as a teen on *Married...With Children*. Approximately 70 percent of my free time was spent frantically working out and dieting to get into that skin-tight wardrobe.”



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