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# Famous

february 2005 | volume 6 | number 2

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**OSCAR**  
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& MORE!



**KEANU**  
**REEVES** talks  
*CONSTANTINE*

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THE LATEST  
**VIDEO**  
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PAGE 42

*Cursed's*

**CHRISTINA RICCI**

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| BY EARL DITTMAN

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# Escaperoute



**F**ebruary. At the risk of sounding like a Ziggy cartoon, it really is the worst month of the year.

There are few Canadians who would dispute this point, and the ones who do are lying. (Never, ever trust a tasseled-toque wearing, ruddy cheeked athletic type who claims winter is their favourite season. Chances are it's a defence mechanism that hints at much deeper psychological problems.)

Sure, March isn't much better, but at least there's light at the end of the wind tunnel. No, it's February that — despite its blessedly short turn on the calendar

— is the bleakest of all bleaks.

So, we crave escape. We call our travel agents with tremors of desperation in our voices asking about cheap flights to Mexico or the Dominican. Nothing available? How 'bout Haiti?

Escape also comes in the form of movies — say bye-bye to historical dramas like *The Aviator* and all-too-real snippets of life like *Sideways*, and hello to pure fantasy.

Our cover girl **Christina Ricci**, famous for loving those little real-world movies like *Monster* and *200 Cigarettes*, has turned in her first out-and-out horror movie with Wes Craven's werewolf slasher, *Cursed*. As Ricci puts it in "The Girl Who Cried Wolf," page 32, "Sometimes people just want to go to the movies to be frightened for two hours, to laugh or just have a good time."

**Keanu Reeves** has dedicated himself almost exclusively to fantasy over the past few years — largely because of the *Matrix* movies. After a quick stop in the real world with *Something's Gotta Give*, Reeves is back to the sci-fi battle between good and evil in the comic book adaptation *Constantine*. Read "Hell Boy," page 28, to find out why Reeves hopes this fantasy will spawn another series.

But the ultimate in escapism has to be the **Oscars**. You've got a big, lavish awards show populated by impossibly beautiful people congratulating each other for creating the best movies of the past year, which of course are just two-hour chunks of escapism themselves.

And starting on page 16, we've got enough Oscar trivia and behind-the-scenes revelations — including an interview with **Joan** and **Melissa Rivers** about their red carpet experiences — to make you feel like you've escaped to the Kodak Theatre. Plus, watch for other Oscar coverage scattered throughout the magazine.

Good luck getting through February, concentrate on the warm glow coming from Hollywood and you'll be fine.

—MARNI WEISZ



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# CAUGHT ON FILM

THE STARS WORK, PLAY AND PROMOTE THEIR MOVIES



PHOTO BY TOM VICKERS/PHOTOGRAPHER SHOWCASE

▲ A heftier than usual James Gandolfini spends time with his five-year-old son Michael and their puppy on the Louisiana set of *All the King's Men*. Gandolfini plays the ironically named Tiny Duffy in the adaptation of Robert Penn Warren's novel about Southern politics.

◀◀◀ Lovebirds Matthew McConaughey and Penélope Cruz are spotted out for a walk in Turks and Caicos. The beautiful couple spent the holidays there with Penélope's family. Our question is, if it's so hot that McConaughey has to take his shirt off, how are Penélope's feet doing in those Uggs?

PHOTO BY GROSBY GROUP INTERNATIONAL



<<<< Here's why we love Antonio Banderas: he doesn't take himself too seriously; he smiles for the camera; when he's wearing ski pants he looks like a five-year-old. Banderas took time out to pose for a photographer before hitting the slopes in Aspen with wife Melanie Griffith and daughter Stella.

>>>> What will be the next trend in celebrity dog ownership — the cutest canine embryo? Britney Spears tends to her new Chihuahua at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas. And by "tends to" we mean adjusts the poor thing's little tutu. And for all of you who already have pen and stationary in hand, that is not her underwear peeking through — it's her slip.

✓ Brad Pitt takes a picture of himself out on his first group blind date since splitting from Jen. Nah, the single one was at the German premiere of *Ocean's Twelve* in Berlin when he borrowed a fan's camera and took a shot of himself with his adoring throng.





## Odds on Oscar

It's not that anyone here at *Famous* condones gambling, but if you were to wager on the Oscars this month then it might be wise to check in with someone like Johnny Avello, the race and sports book director for the Las Vegas casinos Bally's and Paris. For the past seven years Avello has released his Oscar odds — of

course it's solely for entertainment purposes because you can't wager on the Oscars. (It's illegal to bet on any event with a pre-determined outcome.)

So which flick does the oddsmaker think will be the big winner?

"I think *The Aviator* has a big shot for best movie," says Avello on the phone from his Las Vegas office. "The reason

a movie like *The Aviator* has a big shot to win is that it's not only a huge epic that's got everything going for it, it's probably going to be up for a lot of awards and when they look at Best Movie they look at

the complete package."

Avello has *The Aviator* listed as a 3 to 1 favourite, *Sideways* at 4 to 1 and *Million Dollar Baby* at 8 to 1. But how does he come up with these numbers?

"How do I do it? Well, my opinion carries very little weight," he says in an unmistakable New York accent.

"I'm not an expert, although I love going to the movies and I see quite a few of these movies, so I rely on insiders who speak to people who are going to be voting on the final product.

"This is more than tips we're talking about. It's guys that are really on the inside of what is going on in the industry so they know what the feelings are, what the directors, producers and actors are feeling about these movies."

Check out Avello's complete list of odds at [ballyraceandsports.com](http://ballyraceandsports.com), just click on "Johnny's Exotic Odds." —IR



Will *The Aviator*'s Gwen Stefani and Leonardo DiCaprio bring home Oscar? Inset: Johnny Avello

## OSCAR'S DIRTY LAUNDRY

For the past 11 years, *Premiere* magazine writer Steve Pond has been given unprecedented access to Oscar's back halls and meeting rooms, filling umpteen notebooks with fly-on-the-wall observations and anecdotes, only a fraction of which ever ended up in his articles.

What to do with all that leftover gossip? Write a book of course, and so last month *The Big Show: High Times and Dirty Dealings Backstage at the Academy Awards* hit the shelves.

"It started in 1994 and was just envisioned as a one-time thing," Pond explains over the phone from his L.A. home. "*Premiere* magazine contributed to the building of the Academy's library and at that point the Academy said, 'Okay, what can we give you to reflect the special relationship?' They decided to give a *Premiere* reporter access to the planning stages, the rehearsal, the whole bit."

But *Premiere* loved the piece and wanted to turn it into an Oscar tradition, and the Academy — despite the occasional embarrassing revelation — saw the merit in the publicity and kept letting Pond in.

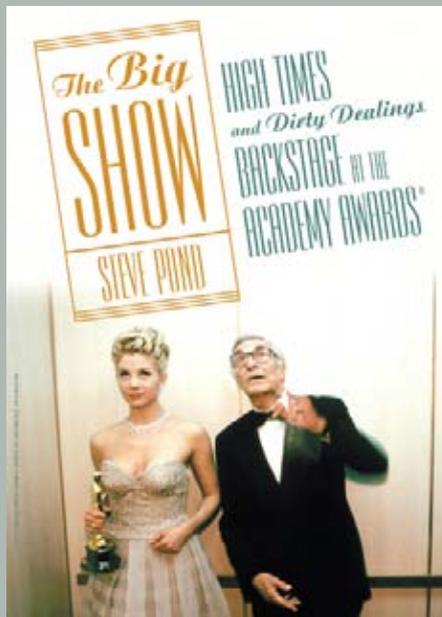
"Yeah, there's stuff in there that they would rather wasn't in there. But nobody's ever said that this didn't happen, this was wrong," says Pond.

One onstage moment recounted in the book happened at the 1999 show when director Elia Kazan — infamous for naming names at the McCarthy hearings — was given a controversial Lifetime Achievement Award. While presenting another award, comedian Chris Rock said, "It's a big, controversial night. I saw De Niro backstage. You better get Kazan away from De Niro, 'cause you know he hates rats." The comment didn't go over well, but Rock said one has to expect jokes like that when you give him a live mic.

And now, just six years later, Rock will host this year's show.

"I'm fascinated by what's going to happen. The last time [producer] Gil Cates took a chance like this it was with David Letterman, and that one didn't work too well.

"I think it's possible that [Rock] understands that this is a completely different gig, and will rise to the occasion and tone himself down and do what's necessary. And I think there's a chance that he's not going to fit any better than Letterman. I don't know." —MW



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## BOOGEYMAN

**WHO'S IN IT?** Barry Watson, Emily Deschanel

**WHO DIRECTED?** Stephen T. Kay (*Get Carter*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Hoping to finally put his traumatic childhood behind him, Tim Jensen (Watson) returns to his childhood home to spend a night in his old bedroom. Bad idea Tim, bad idea.

• HITS THEATRES FEBRUARY 4

## FEBRUARY 4

### THE WEDDING DATE

**WHO'S IN IT?** Debra Messing, Dermot Mulroney

**WHO DIRECTED?** Clare Kilner (*How to Deal*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** The thought of going to her younger sister's wedding *sans* date is out of the question for singleton Kat (Messing), so she hires a male escort (Mulroney) and passes him off as her perfect boyfriend.

## FEBRUARY 11

### POOH'S HEFFALUMP MOVIE

**VOICES:** Jim Cummings, Brenda Blethyn

**WHO DIRECTED?** Frank Nissen (debut)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Winnie the Pooh and his pals come across a mysterious creature living in Hundred Acre Wood.

### ONG-BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR

**WHO'S IN IT?** Phanom Yeerum, Pumwaree Yodkamol

**WHO DIRECTED?** Prachya Pinkaew (debut)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** This 2003 Thai martial arts flick was a huge hit in Asia, and it will now attempt to knock-out North American audiences as well. The buzz surrounding the pic centres on star Yeerum, whose acrobatic stunts ▶▶



## HITCH

**WHO'S IN IT?** Will Smith, Eva Mendes

**WHO DIRECTED?** Andy Tennant (*Ever After*)

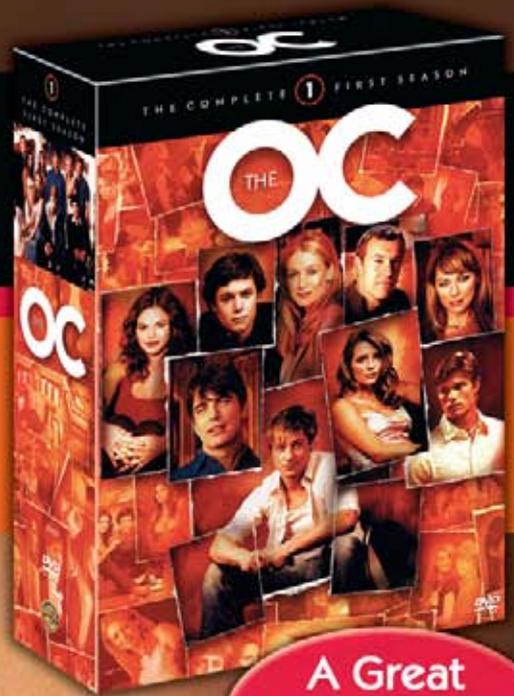
**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Smith plays New York's famous date doctor Andy "Hitch" Hitchens, who tutors clueless guys about the finer points of dating. His expertise is put to the test when a female journalist (Mendes) goes undercover to get a closer look at his technique.

• HITS THEATRES FEBRUARY 11

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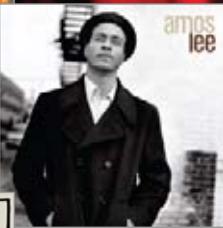
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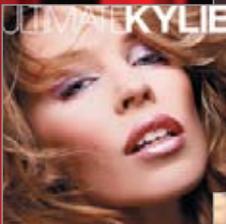
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TINA TURNER  
All The Best



AMANDA STOTT  
Homeless Heart

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### THE ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON

**WHO'S IN IT?** Sean Penn, Naomi Watts  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Niels Mueller (debut)  
**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Based on a true story, a failed furniture salesman (Penn) desperate to win back his estranged wife (Watts) and get a loan from the government so he can start his own business becomes so furious with "The Man" that he hatches a plan to hijack a plane and fly it into the White House.

• HITS THEATRES FEBRUARY 11



### BRIDE AND PREJUDICE

**WHO'S IN IT?** Aishwarya Rai, Martin Henderson  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Gurinder Chadha (*Bend it Like Beckham*)  
**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Lalita (Rai) is on the lookout for a lover and finds an unlikely candidate in Californian Will Darcy (Henderson). Director Chadha brings a Bollywood sensibility — complete with dance numbers and warbling love songs — to her adaptation of Jane Austen's classic tale of love and marriage.

• HITS THEATRES FEBRUARY 18

▶▶ and impressive fighting skills have people comparing him to Jet Li. The story follows country kid Boonting (Yeerum) as he travels to the big city of Bangkok to try to retrieve Ong-Bak, a sacred Buddha statue stolen by an unscrupulous businessman.

### FEBRUARY 18

#### CONSTANTINE

**WHO'S IN IT?** Keanu Reeves, Rachel Weisz  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Francis Lawrence (debut)  
**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** The mysterious suicide of her twin sister leads a cop (Weisz) to the door of paranormal investigator John Constantine (Reeves), who's on a first-

name basis with Hell's demons and Heaven's angels. Tilda Swinton and Djimon Hounsou co-star in this adaptation of the *Hellblazer* comic book. **See Keanu Reeves interview, page 28.**

#### BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE

**WHO'S IN IT?** AnnaSophia Robb, Jeff Daniels  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Wayne Wang (*Maid in Manhattan*)  
**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** This adaptation of Kate DiCamillo's prize-winning book stars newcomer Robb as a lonely girl who adopts an orphaned dog. Together, the friendly duo breathe life back into a sleepy Florida town.





## MAN OF THE HOUSE

**WHO'S IN IT?** Tommy Lee Jones, Kelli Garner

**WHO DIRECTED?** Stephen Herek (*Rock Star*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** After five University of Texas cheerleaders witness the murder of a drug lord they are put under the 24-hour surveillance of a gruff Texas Ranger (Jones) who has to masquerade as their coach and move in with them.

• HITS THEATRES FEBRUARY 25

## PHIL THE ALIEN

**WHO'S IN IT?** Rob Stefaniuk, Nicole de Boer

**WHO DIRECTED?** Rob Stefaniuk (debut)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** This Canadian comedy stars writer/director Stefaniuk as Phil the Alien, whose spaceship crashes near a small Northern Ontario town. Left to his own devices Phil develops a drinking problem, gets tossed in jail, becomes a Christian and, eventually, the lead singer for the local bar band.

• HITS THEATRES FEBRUARY 25



FEBRUARY 25

## CURSED

**WHO'S IN IT?** Christina Ricci, Jesse Eisenberg

**WHO DIRECTED?** Wes Craven (*Scream 3*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Originally slated to open in the summer of 2003, this tale of werewolves loose in Los Angeles shut down production to deal with various problems. But the addition of new cast members and a major reshoot has presumably created a much better version of this horror flick that hits the big screen this month. **See Christina Ricci interview, page 32.**

## SON OF THE MASK

**WHO'S IN IT?** Jamie Kennedy, Alan Cumming

**WHO DIRECTED?** Lawrence Guterman (*Cats & Dogs*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** When his infant son gets hold of the Mask of Loki, new dad Tim Avery (Kennedy) has to deal with an insanely naughty baby, not to mention the irritable god Loki (Cumming), who wants his mask back.

• HITS THEATRES FEBRUARY 18



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Joan (left) and Melissa Rivers  
at last year's show

# can we



Personally, we'd be terrified. But — believe it or not — **JOAN** and **MELISSA RIVERS** say most celebs line up to be judged by them on Oscar night. *Famous* spoke with the red carpet fashion police about the best and worst outfits of all time, how they prepare for the show and why they left E! for TV Guide | **BY MARNI WEISZ**

**N**o one knows what it's like to be down on the red carpet better than Joan and Melissa Rivers, the acid-tongued mother and daughter team infamous for picking apart unfortunately dressed souls on Oscar night.

Having covered the event on E! for the past nine years, the Rivers women are moving over to TV Guide Channel this year, which we don't get north of the border. As of press time, no Canadian station had committed to picking up TV Guide's coverage, so this interview with the much-loved/much-hated duo may be all you have to quench that thirst for Oscar-night blood come Feb. 27th.

Joan was in New York working on a Broadway play about her life, and Melissa was in Los Angeles getting ready to take her four-year-old son Cooper to karate class, when they spoke to *Famous* by phone.

#### Why are you leaving E!?

**Melissa** "E! became very, 'routine' is the wrong word, but we all got very comfortable in what it was. And now it's a chance to really shake the whole thing up."

#### How much do you prepare for the show and how much is by the seat of your pants?

**Joan** "Oh, I'm a great preparer so it's total preparation. I get books on who they are, what they've done, what they're nominated for and their backgrounds. It's like studying for the SATs. And then the ones that you remember don't show up, and there's Tom Cruise suddenly and you go, 'Oh my God, nobody gave me anything because they didn't think he was going to be here.'"

#### How do Oscar-night nerves compare to standup?

**Joan** "I'm always very nervous before a show, whether it's standup, whether it's anything. I've learned not to be quite as nervous because after a while you just go, 'What's the worst that's going to happen?' Television knocks off the great highs and the great lows."

#### Do you find most celebrities want to talk to you?

**Joan** "Oh yes, it's wonderful. It's like a giant cocktail party. We've all known each other for years, and the smart ones get what these shows are really about — it's their great big photo op. Those are the ones you want to talk to. And those who take themselves so seriously, who wants them anyhow? If you haven't got the humour who needs you?"

#### So they're not scared of being skewered?

**Melissa** "No, not at all. They wait to talk.... No one really leaves the house thinking they look crappy. So most people stand and wait, they want to do it, it's sort of a tradition."

#### Do you have wranglers out on the red carpet?

**Joan** "Oh yeah, everybody does, it's a free for all out there. It's *Entertainment Tonight's* people coming to blows with Oprah's people coming to blows with our people, it's very intense."

#### Last year you were standing next to Canada's Ben Mulroney on the red carpet.

**Joan** "And we know each other socially, I love his parents, they're sensational. He was very generous, the guy on the other side from the BBC took Nicole Kidman from me. It was like, 'Now wait a minute, I just gave her to you [laughs]!'"

#### You've known the Mulroneys for a long time?

**Joan** "I met [Mila] when I was doing one of my talk shows and she was the

Prime Minister's wife. She's so charming and so smart and so beautiful, then she's the Prime Minister's wife? This is okay."

#### When did you realize Ben was their son?

**Joan** "Well I've been hearing from them, we're not *frieeeennds*, but we're friends. And they were telling me that Ben wants to go into the business, and then she called me and told me that Ben is going to be on at the Oscars."

#### What's your all-time favourite Oscars outfit?

**Melissa** "Oh God, you're asking about nine years, that's a lot of material. I think the most important one was Nicole Kidman in the green because it really ushered in women doing couture."

**Joan** "It runs into one big blur. You just remember that Sharon Stone looked wonderful in something, that Julia Roberts looked great in a black dress, I remember that Nicole Kidman walked in in an opal dress that was the same colour as the opals [she was wearing] and it took your breath away."

#### Anything that jumps out as really awful?

**Joan** "Oh, awful is easy. Awful is Bjork [in the swan dress], awful is Courtney Love in a garbage bag, awful is Cher when she wore that stupid hat."

#### Why is awful so much easier to remember?

**Joan** "Because everybody looks good, but you always remember the unusual, that's what makes you watch an actor too." ▶▶



Nicole Kidman in her opal dress



Swan song: Bjork in her swan dress



Hats off, Cher

PHOTO BY FRED PROUSIER/REUTERS

►► Is there a part of you that has some respect for the fact that Bjork is just trying to reflect her off-beat personality in what she's wearing?

**Joan** "Oh, I think respect is a word that you do not use next to fashion. Fashion is fun and it's camp and it's the moment and have a good time with it. I think Bjork was not stupid and Bjork knows exactly what she's doing. Bjork is [living] with [artist] Matthew Barney who, if you know anything about his work, the two of them know exactly what they're doing."

What about the men?

**Melissa** "The men, when they're in a classic tuxedo they know what they're doing. George Clooney always looks great, Mel Gibson always looks great."

Have you ever spotted anyone wearing jewellery from the Joan Rivers Collection on the red carpet?

**Joan** "A lot, but I can't say. But a lot of women mix it up."

You can't say because you don't want to embarrass them?

**Joan** "Oh no, I'd be thrilled, but I usually haven't noticed until later. They'll come up to me at a party and say, 'You didn't even know I was wearing your earrings.' I am so intent on what I'm doing."

Do you think any of them wear it hoping you'll see it and be kind to them?

**Joan** "No, no, no. I think a lot of them wear it because even if you have two diamond bracelets you stick one in the middle and it looks like you have three diamond bracelets."

When you pick your own dress do you worry about what other people are going to say?

**Melissa** "You know, that's part of the job,

but I just really go with what I like. It's like anything, you walk into a store and you like some things and you don't like others. And, remember, I'm also in a dress that I'm working in, so I need something that I'm not going to fall out of."

Do you have a favourite of the dresses you've worn?

**Melissa** "I love the one I wore last year, that was Elie Saab. Some people loved it, some hated it, but I loved it. It had a big kind of print on it that some people didn't like.... You have to go with what you feel great in, and, trust me, when someone's making \$20-million a picture they don't really care what we think."

Really?

**Melissa** "They know it's entertainment."

When the red carpet portion is over do you go inside and watch the show?

**Melissa** "No, we have the fashion wrap-up the next day, which is live and I'm the producer of that show. So after it's over we start crashing that show because we have to be back on air less than 24 hours later with a completed show."

Where do you do that?

**Melissa** "We usually go back to either a suite in a hotel nearby, or back to the offices and we start crashing that show. And then my mom and I will try to go to some of the parties."

Do you have the awards on TV in the background?

**Melissa** "Absolutely."



The professionally coiffed Adrien Brody

Are you movie fans? Do you go to the theatre a lot?

**Joan** "I am. Melissa actually goes to the theatre a lot more than I do. I'm the type that waits for it on DVD or prays that someone will send you the critic's cut."

Are there any movies that you really hope get an Oscar this year?

**Joan** "The one about Ray Charles, right now that's the one that is head and shoulders above everyone else. You never know, I remember one year everyone thought they knew who was going to win and then at the last minute we all saw *The Piano* and everybody went 'wait a second....' Adrien Brody was a genius in that.... Melissa's hairdresser had done his hair that day [laughs], it always makes me laugh when a man gets his hair done, and I said, 'Well, then he has a shot.'"

Why does it make you laugh when a man gets his hair done?

**Joan** "Oh, I don't know. I just wouldn't think that a man would have a hairdresser come to the house...obviously they do."

On stage you say that the worst thing in the world is to be ugly and then in real life you say it makes you laugh when a man gets his hair done.

**Joan** "Yeah, I know. But the worst thing in life, unfortunately, in our society is not to be attractive. That's your ticket in and if you don't have that ticket, then you find another ticket. But how wonderful to be born with a ticket in your hand.... What I'm saying is don't deny that they're not lucky. You know, I always get very angry when a model says, 'Men only look at me because I'm beautiful.' I want to say, 'Just enjoy it you idiot. I'm sitting here trying to lose three pounds, I get my hair bleached and I'm plucking my chin, so shuuuuut up!'"

I recently saw you perform in Toronto and you were still doing the same 9/11 jokes that you were criticized for in the States. A lot of people would have taken them out, but you just barrelled ahead.

**Joan** "The only good thing about age is it has all been done to me, it has all been said about me. So about five years ago I said I'm going to do and say what I want at this point in my life. And I've had such a good time since, and such success since, that now I'm kicking myself that I didn't start doing it when I was 40." **E**

ADRIEN BRODY: PHOTO COURTESY AMPAS

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## LAST YEAR'S LOOKS

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Diane Keaton tred familiar territory with a tailored suit; Kelly Lynch was a vision in taffeta; Uma Thurman's kimono-inspired frock wasn't a popular choice; Jennifer Garner was one of the year's standouts in a vintage orange dress by Valentino; Alec Baldwin proved classic is best when it comes to tuxedos; and Oprah Winfrey hammed it up in a gown by Gianfranco Ferré. All photos courtesy AMPAS.



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# AND THE OSCAR

**Y**our office pool ballot is sitting on the coffee table in front of you. You've stocked up on treats. Your finger is poised over the mute button ready to silence the red carpet coverage, and you've planned your pee breaks to synch with the show's wretched musical numbers.

Yes, Oscar night is upon us, and we here at *Famous* just love this special evening. Once a year, gorgeous, wealthy and well-dressed



## WENT TO?

Hollywood types come together to congratulate one another for making movies while we sit in our jammies watching and feeling utterly unattractive, but strangely excited, by the whole thing.

Part of the Oscar ritual includes the completion of the Oscar quiz, and we have doozy for you. So...how well do you know Oscar?

BY INGRID RANDOJA

**3** Which of *The Deer Hunter*'s cast walked away with an Oscar?

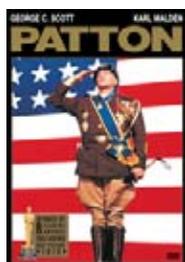
- A Christopher Walken
- B Robert De Niro
- C Meryl Streep
- D John Savage

**4** Alfred Hitchcock never won a Best Director Oscar.

- A True
- B False

**5** The tagline "Collide with Destiny" belongs to which Best Picture winner?

- A *Braveheart*
- B *Bridge on the River Kwai*
- C *Forrest Gump*
- D *Titanic*



**6** George C. Scott hated the Oscars and declined his Best Actor award for *Patton*. How did he spend his Oscar-winning night?

- A He stayed home and watched hockey.
- B He played clarinet in a jazz club.
- C He served meals at a veteran's hospital.
- D He performed on Broadway.

**7** After her name was announced, this Oscar-winning actress gave her brother a smoldering kiss that raised the eyebrows of millions of viewers.

- A Shirley MacLaine
- B Angelina Jolie
- C Jane Fonda
- D Jodie Foster

**8** In what year were the Oscars first telecast in colour?

- A 1956
- B 1960
- C 1963
- D 1966



**9** Which of these is a former Oscar category?

- A Dance Direction
- B Camera Movement
- C Animal Performance
- D Visual Spectacle

**10** Who holds the record for gaining the most weight for his/her Oscar-winning role?

- A Robert De Niro for *Raging Bull*
- B Benicio Del Toro for *Traffic*
- C Charlize Theron for *Monster*

**1** Some really crappy tunes have managed to snag the Best Original Song Oscar. But which one of these terrible tunes was *not* a winner?

- A "Fame"
- B "Take My Breath Away"
- C "Eye of the Tiger"
- D "Flashdance...What a Feeling"

**2** Who is the youngest performer to win a non-honourary Oscar?

- A Ricky Schroder
- B Tatum O'Neal
- C Haley Joel Osment
- D Anna Paquin

# BEST PICTURE: THE LAST 25 YEARS

- 2004: *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*
- 2003: *Chicago*
- 2002: *A Beautiful Mind*
- 2001: *Gladiator*
- 2000: *American Beauty*
- 1999: *Shakespeare in Love*
- 1998: *Titanic*
- 1997: *The English Patient*
- 1996: *Braveheart*
- 1995: *Forrest Gump*
- 1994: *Schindler's List*
- 1993: *Unforgiven*
- 1992: *The Silence of the Lambs*
- 1991: *Dances with Wolves*
- 1990: *Driving Miss Daisy*
- 1989: *Rain Man*
- 1988: *The Last Emperor*
- 1987: *Platoon*
- 1986: *Out of Africa*
- 1985: *Amadeus*
- 1984: *Terms of Endearment*
- 1983: *Gandhi*
- 1982: *Chariots of Fire*
- 1981: *Ordinary People*
- 1980: *Kramer vs. Kramer*



**11** Name the Best Picture winner that was shot in 28 days for a paltry \$1-million.

- A *Marty*
- B *Annie Hall*
- C *Rocky*
- D *Driving Miss Daisy*

**12** Which actor's simple "Thank You" stands as the shortest Oscar acceptance speech?

- A Clark Gable
- B Joe Pesci
- C John Wayne
- D Robert Duvall

**13** *Gone with the Wind* holds the record as the longest Best Picture winner. What is its running time?

- A 190 minutes
- B 205 minutes
- C 233 minutes
- D 250 minutes

**14** An Oscar is a welcome addition to the family, and if you also happen to be expecting it's an added bonus. Which one of these Oscar-winning actresses was *not* pregnant when she picked up her award?

- A Marcia Gay Harden
- B Meryl Streep
- C Catherine Zeta-Jones
- D Susan Sarandon

**15** Which one of these father/daughter pairs have both won Oscars?

- A Tony Curtis/Jamie Lee Curtis
- B Francis Ford Coppola/Sofia Coppola
- C Roberto Rossellini/Isabella Rossellini
- D Tony Richardson/Natasha Richardson

**16** Which Oscar-winning movie contains the line "A relationship, I think, is like a shark. You know? It has to constantly move forward or it dies. And I think what we got on our hands is a dead shark."

- A *American Beauty*
- B *Terms of Endearment*
- C *Annie Hall*
- D *It Happened One Night*

**17** For which film did Humphrey Bogart win his only Oscar?

- A *The African Queen*
- B *Casablanca*
- C *The Caine Mutiny*
- D *The Petrified Forest*



**18** Bing Crosby hosted the Oscar ceremony in 1936.

- A True
- B False

**19** Whose Oscar acceptance speech included the line "I've loved being hated by you."

- A Kathy Bates
- B Louis Gossett Jr.
- C Louise Fletcher
- D Rod Steiger

**20** For which Oscar-winning film were a total of 19,000 extras used?

- A *Lawrence of Arabia*
- B *Ben-Hur*
- C *Around the World in Eighty Days*
- D *The Last Emperor*

- 20 D
- 19 C
- 18 B
- 17 A
- 16 C
- 15 B
- 14 D
- 13 C
- 12 A
- 11 C
- 10 A
- 9 A
- 8 D
- 7 B
- 6 A
- 5 D
- 4 A
- 3 A
- 2 B
- 1 C

1 Tatum O'Neal was 10 years old when she won Best Supporting Actress for *Paper Moon*.

2 TRUE. He was nominated five times for *Rebecca*, Christopher Walken won Best Supporting Actor, *Lifeboat*, *Spellbound*, *Rear Window* and *Psycho*, but never won.

3 In 1935 Clark Gable said "Thank You" and left the stage after winning Best Actor for *It Happened One Night*.

4 FALSE. Director Frank Capra acted as master of ceremonies.

5 In 1976 Louise Fletcher made the remark while accepting her Best Actress Award for her turn as Nurse Ratched in *The Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

## ANSWERS:

# What you **don't** see

We all know what happens for the three-and-a-half, maybe four, hours that the Oscar telecast goes live — but what about before and after?



## Before...

Scenic artists Gayle Etcheverry (in the white sweatshirt) and Dena D'Angelo (in the Santa hat) give the giant Oscar statues that will be used for the 77th Academy Awards a fresh coat of gold paint.



# OSCAR 411

The 77TH ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS air SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup> on ABC. The pre-show, including red-carpet arrivals, begins at 8 p.m. EST, with the real deal starting at 8:30 p.m.



## After...

As soon as Best Picture has been announced the stars leap from their seats and head for...well, probably the washroom first...but then it's on to the Governors Ball which is held in the same Hollywood and Highland complex that houses the Kodak Theatre.

For the 11th year in a row, foodie to the stars Wolfgang Puck will serve as Governors Ball chef. Last month, Puck and his team prepared a preview of the exact meal that will be served to Oscar winners and losers after the big show.

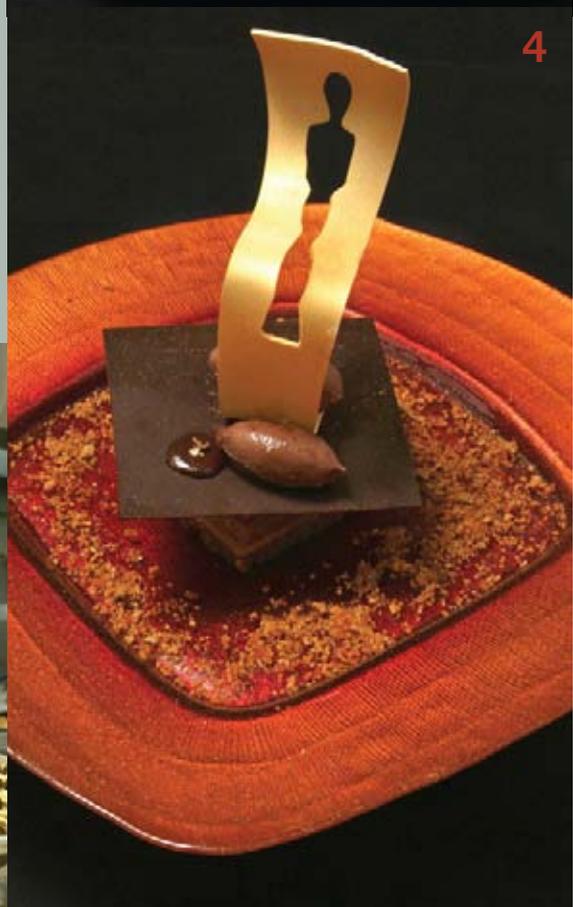
**CLOCKWISE:** 1 Chilled Potato Leek Soup with Iranian Osetra Caviar 2 Sweet Maine Lobster "En Croute" with Black Winter Truffles from Perigord 3 Slow Braised Kobe Beef Shortribs with Wild Mushroom Crust and Kabocha Squash Puree 4 "The Oscar I Love" Chocolate Dessert



**LEFT:** Cymbidium orchids will brighten the tables at this year's gala dinner. According to the event's producers the décor "seeks

to combine the opulence of old Hollywood with the contemporary motif of a modern-day dinner club."

**BELOW:** Wolfgang Puck and his pastry chef, Sherry Yard, airbrush edible 24-karat gold onto miniature chocolate Oscars that will end the fabulous meal.



# Awards wrap

Nothing gives a diehard movie fan more pleasure than winning the office Oscar pool. But to earn your crown you have to do your homework. Here's a handy list of the 2004 critics' picks to help you make those agonizing choices



Paul Giamatti (left) and Thomas Haden Church in *Sideways*

## Toronto Film Critics Association

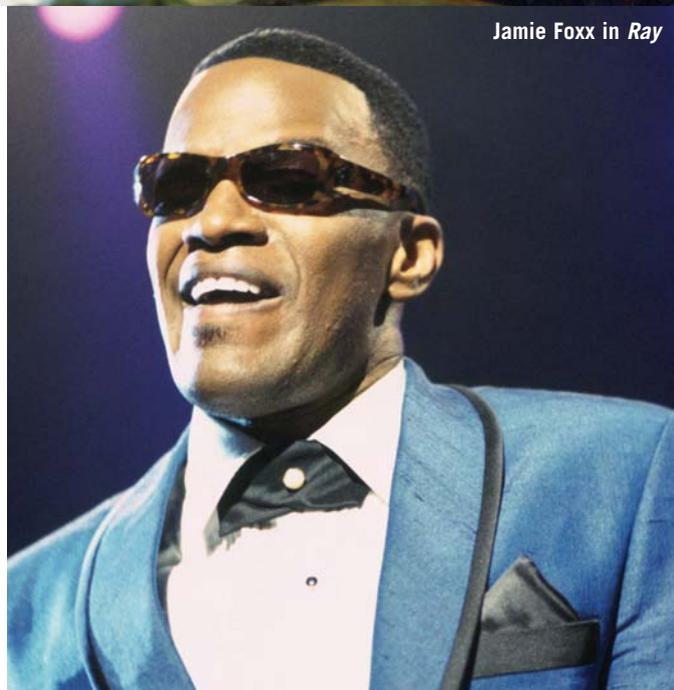
- Best Picture:** *Sideways*
- Best Director:** Michel Gondry (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*)
- Best Performance, Male:** Paul Giamatti (*Sideways*)
- Best Performance, Female:** Imelda Staunton (*Vera Drake*)
- Best Supporting Performance, Male:** Clive Owen (*Closer*)
- Best Supporting Performance, Female:** Virginia Madsen (*Sideways*)

## New York Film Critics Circle

- Best Picture:** *Sideways*
- Best Director:** Clint Eastwood (*Million Dollar Baby*)
- Best Performance, Male:** Paul Giamatti (*Sideways*)
- Best Performance, Female:** Imelda Staunton (*Vera Drake*)
- Best Supporting Performance, Male:** Clive Owen (*Closer*)
- Best Supporting Performance, Female:** Virginia Madsen (*Sideways*)

## Los Angeles Film Critics Association

- Best Picture:** *Sideways*
- Best Director:** Alexander Payne (*Sideways*)
- Best Performance, Male:** Liam Neeson (*Kinsey*)
- Best Performance, Female:** Imelda Staunton (*Vera Drake*)
- Best Supporting Performance, Male:** Thomas Haden Church (*Sideways*)
- Best Supporting Performance, Female:** Virginia Madsen (*Sideways*)



Jamie Foxx in *Ray*

### National Board of Review

- Best Picture:** *Finding Neverland*
- Best Director:** Michael Mann (*Collateral*)
- Best Performance, Male:** Jamie Foxx (*Ray*)
- Best Performance, Female:** Annette Bening (*Being Julia*)
- Best Supporting Performance, Male:** Thomas Haden Church (*Sideways*)
- Best Supporting Performance, Female:** Laura Linney (*Kinsey*)

### Boston Society of Film Critics

- Best Picture:** *Sideways*
- Best Director:** Zhang Yimou (*House of Flying Daggers*)
- Best Performance, Male:** Jamie Foxx (*Ray*)
- Best Performance, Female:** Hilary Swank (*Million Dollar Baby*)
- Best Supporting Performance, Male:** Thomas Haden Church (*Sideways*)
- Best Supporting Performance, Female:** Sharon Warren (*Ray*) and Laura Dern (*We Don't Live Here Anymore*)

### San Francisco Film Critics Circle

- Best Picture:** *Sideways*
- Best Director:** Alexander Payne (*Sideways*)
- Best Performance, Male:** Paul Giamatti (*Sideways*)
- Best Performance, Female:** Julie Delpy (*Before Sunset*)
- Best Supporting Performance, Male:** Thomas Haden Church (*Sideways*)
- Best Supporting Performance, Female:** Virginia Madsen (*Sideways*)

### Chicago Film Critics

- Best Picture:** *Sideways*
- Best Director:** Clint Eastwood (*Million Dollar Baby*)
- Best Performance, Male:** Paul Giamatti (*Sideways*)
- Best Performance, Female:** Imelda Staunton (*Vera Drake*)
- Best Supporting Performance, Male:** Thomas Haden Church (*Sideways*)
- Best Supporting Performance, Female:** Virginia Madsen (*Sideways*)



Imelda Staunton in *Vera Drake*



*Kinsey's* Liam Neeson



*Closer's* Clive Owen



## THE GOLDEN GLOBES

Despite the fact that those who vote on the Golden Globes — members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association — hold dubious credentials as journalists, their picks are often the best indicator of who will win Oscar gold. So here's a look at the top champions at this year's event.

- Best Picture (Drama):** *The Aviator*
- Best Picture (Comedy/Musical):** *Sideways*
- Best Director:** Clint Eastwood (*Million Dollar Baby*)
- Best Actor (Drama):** Leonardo DiCaprio (*The Aviator*)
- Best Actor (Comedy or Musical):** Jamie Foxx (*Ray*)
- Best Actress (Drama):** Hilary Swank (*Million Dollar Baby*)
- Best Actress (Comedy or Musical):** Annette Bening (*Being Julia*)
- Best Supporting Actor:** Clive Owen (*Closer*)
- Best Supporting Actress:** Natalie Portman (*Closer*)

# HELLBOY

He may be done with the *Matrix* movies, but **KEANU REEVES** can't seem to escape the role of tortured-soul-turned-saviour. Now, instead of computers, its angels and demons that haunt his days in the comic book-inspired *Constantine* | **BY EARL DITTMAN**

**W**hen Ewan McGregor finished filming the third and final episode of the *Star Wars* prequel trilogy, he openly admitted he was relieved that eight-year-period of his career was finally over. Conversely, after spending six years of his life (much of it in Australia) filming *The Matrix* trilogy, Keanu Reeves isn't one bit sorry he committed so much of his late-30s to

the mind-bending movies.

"I don't have any regrets at all because I think that they're wonderful films and I'll speak about them until I croak — I loved them," says the now-40-year-old Reeves, even though the second and third films didn't quite live up to expectations.

"Did I really spend six years on *The Matrix*? Good God, maybe Ewan and

I can go to the hotel bar and reminisce about being in trilogies. We can sit around going, 'Oh my God, can you believe it? Were we crazy or something?'"

In fact, Reeves hopes his latest film, *Constantine*, spawns some sequels of its own. "If I'm lucky, I'll be portraying Constantine a couple more times on film in the next few years," says the Beirut-born, Toronto-raised actor, dressed in a sleek black suit and sitting in a hotel room not far from the Burbank soundstages where much of *Constantine* was shot.

"You have to make a good film and tell a compelling story. If people respond to the story, much like I really enjoyed playing the character, then they'll want to see more. If we've made a good film that movie audiences love, that is really going to dictate whether or not we continue telling stories about John Constantine."



Based on the DC comic *Hellblazer*, *Constantine* marks the big-screen debut for director Francis Lawrence, whose credits up till now consisted of music videos for Britney Spears, Will Smith and Canada's own Sarah McLachlan.

The film follows bitter, hard-drinking detective of the supernatural, John Constantine, who was born with the unfortunate ability to see the angels and demons who walk the Earth disguised as humans. Desperate to escape this torturous existence, Constantine tries to kill himself, but fails. Now all he can do is try to battle the demons in an attempt to earn salvation and a way out.

He is approached by a skeptical police woman, Angela Dodson (Rachel Weisz), who is investigating the death of her twin sister (also played by Weisz) seemingly at the hands of otherworldly forces. And as the two battle demons



*Constantine's* Keanu Reeves and Rachel Weisz

## "I'm playing a character who's damned and he's trying to escape Hell," explains Reeves



From left: Reeves, Djimon Hounsou and Shia LaBeouf

and enlist the help of angels that live under the streets of Los Angeles, Angela discovers Constantine's dark past.

"I'm playing a character who's damned and he's trying to escape Hell, and he goes to Gabriel [played by Tilda Swinton] and he's like, 'Come on, I'm taking demons out of little girls. Who's that for?'" Reeves describes. "Gabriel is saying, 'Well, you don't believe.' I go, 'I believe for Christ sake.' [Gabriel] goes, 'No, you don't. You don't have faith.' So, he's a guy who's got anger and ambivalence. There's a line in it that goes, 'God has a plan for all of us, some people like it, some people don't.' That's kind of the Constantinian take on it. Some people like it and John Constantine doesn't like it, but he likes it. He's angry and confused with God."

In the *Hellblazer* comic book, Constantine's anger and crisis of faith develop after he's excommunicated from the priesthood. Reeves is vague when asked if his version of John Constantine is an ex-priest. "I don't know if he is, it depends on what story you're telling," he says in reference to the many different plotlines explored in the comic book. "In this one, he wasn't, because he'll do just about anything. In one scene, you see my character with scratches on his back and he's drinking

some whiskey and he's just made love to the demon. We're trying for a PG-13, so my feet are on the floor [beside] the bed, but he's still under the covers."

Reeves first became interested in doing *Constantine* while he was finishing up the last of *The Matrix* movies. "I was working in Australia, doing *Revolutions* and just trying to develop work for afterwards and this script came along," he recalls. "I did a little work on the script and worked with Warner Brothers and some of the execs there. Akiva Goldsman [who won an Oscar for *A Beautiful Mind*] came on as one of the producers and he did some writing on it. So the movie is just based on the comic — the script is a lot different in terms of the storyline."

To capture Constantine's personality, Reeves says he just stuck closely to the script, but adds, "I looked more at the comics for the shapes of the drawings and character and kind of just connected to his primal point of view."

After filming *Constantine*, Reeves re-teamed with Swinton for the indie dramedy *Thumbsucker*, about a 16-year-old boy obsessed with his own mouth. Swinton plays the teen's mother and Reeves is his orthodontist in this film that debuted at last month's Sundance Film Festival, and should have a limited theatrical release sometime this year.

And the actor has just wrapped the Richard Linklater-directed adaptation of Philip K. Dick's sci-fi novel *A Scanner Darkly*, about a society that has lost the

►► war on drugs. Reeves plays an addicted, split personality (one of the drug's side effects) undercover agent opposite the ironic casting of a couple of notorious substance aficionados, Woody Harrelson and Robert Downey Jr.

"I'm always looking for good material that's different than what I've done before," Reeves says of the two films. "I like diversity in the material because I love acting and portraying so many different types of characters."

But, apparently, when a character has been good to him, Reeves also likes to return to that old, familiar well. That's why he's hoping *Constantine* will be what *Thumbsucker* surely won't — a blockbuster.

"I want to do more films with him as the main character," he says. "You know, a lot of people think that doing sequels is a bad thing. For me, *The Matrix* movies proved that theory wrong.

"Honestly, I don't think there are any cons with doing sequels. With *Constantine*, we're telling a righteous story. And something that I think is cool about adjusting one's place in the world is being able to use your talent and luck to make a film in order to entertain enough folks that they dig it and want more and get somebody at a studio to say to me, 'Keanu, do you want to do that again?'" **F**

*Earl Dittman is a movie and entertainment writer based in Houston, Texas.*



## KEANU KA-CHING!

Okay, so he speaks like a slacker and his wardrobe often looks as if it came from the dollar-a-pound bin at the thrift store, but Keanu Reeves knows a thing or two about making money.

Reeves, the star of the mega-successful *Matrix* trilogy, is the only big-name star of the entertainment world to land on *Canadian Business* magazine's 2004 list of the 100 wealthiest Canadians. That means he's richer than Celine Dion or even Jim Carrey.

The 40-year-old Reeves, whose net worth is reported to be \$336-million, squeezed onto the list at number 100 thanks largely to the fact he brokered a deal for 15% of the gross profits from the last two *Matrix* movies. He would have landed higher on the list, but Reeves gave more than \$50-million back to the trilogy's special effects artists, costumers and designers, and donated millions to charity. —IR

## coming soon

### BE COOL (March)

**Stars:** John Travolta, Uma Thurman

**Director:** F. Gary Gray (*The Italian Job*)

**Story:** With neither a "2" in the title, nor an unbearably long name separated by a colon or a dash, this latest Travolta crime flick is indeed still a sequel. It's the continuation of 1995's *Get Shorty* in which Travolta played Chili Palmer, a mob thug who travels to Hollywood to break some bones only to discover that his talents are perfectly suited for the movie business. In *Be Cool*, Palmer realizes his skills are also well-suited to the music industry. Aside from Travolta, Danny DeVito is the only returning cast member, but the new crew includes Uma Thurman, *The Rock* and Vince Vaughn.

### SIN CITY (April)

**Stars:** Bruce Willis, Micky Rourke

**Directors:** Frank Miller and Robert Rodriguez

**Story:** Robert Rodriguez has been an agitating force in Hollywood ever since he proved you can make a great movie with just \$220,000 (1992's *El Mariachi*). For his latest film he quit the powerful Director's Guild so he could give a co-directing credit to Frank Miller, author of the graphic novels on which the film's based. For some reason, the guild allows only one director to be credited for any film. The movie takes place in violent, corrupt Sin City, where the murder of a beautiful woman sends the man she just slept with (Rourke) on a quest to find the killer.

### THE AMITYVILLE HORROR (April)

**Stars:** Ryan Reynolds, Melissa George

**Director:** Andrew Douglas (debut)

**Story:** According to Reynolds, this isn't so much a remake of the terrifying 1979 horror flick starring James Brolin and Margot Kidder as it is a retelling of the Jay Anson book. Either way, Reynolds plays a young father who thinks he found a great deal on a big old house. What he doesn't know is that it's been on the market a while because an entire family was murdered there (cue the score from *Psycho*). Cast members claim weird things — like lights turning on automatically, and people falling down for no reason — abounded on set. But since Jim Caviezel was struck by lightning while filming *Passion of the Christ*, it takes more than that to freak us out.

### STAR WARS EPISODE III: REVENGE OF THE SITH (May)

**Stars:** Hayden Christensen, Natalie Portman

**Director:** George Lucas (*Phantom Menace*)

**Story:** We meet up with Anakin, Padme and Obi-Wan just as the three-year-long Clone Wars are subsiding. Padme, now pregnant with Anakin's baby, is in hiding, and evil Chancellor Palpatine is becoming more powerful. This, of course, is the episode where we finally catch our first glimpse of the formerly gangly Jedi as the imposing Darth Vader. It was with a huge sigh of relief that *Star Wars* fans watched the film's gripping trailer. But that sneak peek borrowed heavily from the original trilogy, giving it a huge boost from sheer nostalgia factor. Let's hope the film is as good.

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# THE GIRL WHO CRIED WOLF

After a string of serious art-house films **CHRISTINA RICCI** decided it was time to simply make people scream. The anything-but-mainstream actor talks about being vulnerable, growing up famous and battling werewolves in the new Wes Craven horror *Cursed* | BY EARL DITTMAN

**T**urning just 24 this month, tiny, wide-eyed Californian Christina Ricci has made more than 35 movies since her 1990 debut in the Cher/Winona Ryder coming-of-age story *Mermaids*. In that time she has solidified her reputation as someone who chooses projects that are daring and provocative over those that are simply lucrative. Seven of her last 10 films, including *Monster*, *I Love Your Work* (written and directed by her boyfriend Adam Goldberg) and *The Man Who Cried*, were indie pics.

You'd think such a record would belong to a risk-taker, someone who isn't afraid to fall on her face. But, strangely, Ricci's attraction to "out-there" movies has more to do with her fear of being vulnerable, than being brave.

"Early on, I realized that if you make movies just to become a star, then you're setting yourself up for failure and you can get yourself eaten up alive," explains the five-foot actor dressed casually in jeans and a T-shirt as she sits in a Manhattan hotel suite.

"If all you are looking for is box-office success in your work, that makes you vulnerable," she continues. "You don't really want to be vulnerable in your workplace. And, generally in the world, you don't want to walk around with any sort of vulnerability. Usually people like that are very easily taken advantage of."

Knowing that Ricci has such a fear of vulnerability, her latest picture may seem like a bit of an odd choice. She plays a werewolf hunter/victim in the new horror movie *Cursed*, from director Wes Craven (*Scream*, *A Nightmare on Elm Street*) and writer Kevin Williamson (*Scream*, *I Know What You Did Last Summer*) — two men who've made their livelihoods off movies that prey on our collective sense of vulnerability.

"Wes is a genius when it comes to directing thrillers, monster movies and horror films, so I'd never pass up the chance to make a movie with him," Ricci says with a smile. "I mean, these

are the guys who made the *Scream* movies, I had to do it."

*Cursed's* plot may seem a bit familiar to fans of the surprise 2000 Canadian hit *Ginger Snaps*. In that film, two sisters bit by a werewolf have to find the offending beast before the lycanthrope's blood can take over their own bodies. In *Cursed*, it's a brother and sister — played by Ricci and Jesse Eisenberg — who have to chase down the hairy beast who's preying on young victims. Their list of co-stars includes Joshua Jackson, Shannon Elizabeth, pop star Mya, *Arrested Development's* Portia de Rossi and *Smallville's* Michael Rosenbaum. Former late night TV host Craig Kilborn and *Joanie Loves Chachi's* Scott Baio even make cameos

**"These are the guys who made the *Scream* movies, I had to do it," says Ricci**

as themselves — that is, if their parts remain in the final cut.

Truth be told, the film has had its share of problems. Originally set for release last year, the project reportedly suffered from a curse of its own. Although details are sketchy, script rewrites and recasting due to scheduling conflicts all contributed to the delay. But while other actors came and went, Ricci remained loyal to Craven from day one. The final product is reported to be a campy horror — not as satirical as the *Scream* movies, just good ol' fashioned gory fun.

"It was really important for me to do this movie because there are so many cynical, sad films being released, and I think moviegoers just want to have fun sometimes," she says. "Sometimes people just want to go to the movies to be

frightened for two hours, to laugh or just have a good time."

Although this is Ricci's first out-and-out splatterfest, she certainly hasn't shied away from movies with dark themes. Tim Burton's 1999 take on *Sleepy Hollow* and the 1991 adaptation of TV's *The Addams Family* both had a gothic-horror edge. Plus, movies like 1997's *The Ice Storm*, the bleak Ang Lee movie in which Ricci played a teen nymphet, 1998's *Buffalo '66*, in which she was the teen squeeze of a skanky ex-con, or even last year's *Monster*, where she was the girlfriend of real-life serial killer Aileen Wournos, weren't barrels of laughs.

Charlize Theron won an Academy Award for her portrayal of Wournos in that film, and the Oscar buzz couldn't help but spread to the rest of the cast. But when the film's creators started campaigning for Ricci to get a nomination, the young actor's sense of vulnerability once again reared its head. "It was the first time I really saw what goes into those campaigns," she says. "It was interesting, but it seemed dangerous to me because if you commit too much to campaigning, then if you're not nominated, you feel like a failure."

"Now, if you just didn't commit anything to campaigning to begin with, you wouldn't know that you failed at anything at all," she continues. "It's like you're failing something that didn't even exist to begin with. It's strange. You could just be pleased with a good performance, but instead you have this other level of pressure. Instead of feeling proud of yourself, you feel like you failed."

Despite all of her success, it shouldn't really be a shock that Ricci has such insecurities. After all, since she made her debut as *Mermaid's* quirky product of a scattered home life, we've watched Ricci battle the size and shape of her own body.

It was no surprise when she admitted she had an eating disorder. Years later, in a March 2004 *Observer* article Ricci

►► explained that the disease was inspired by something she saw on the tube: “At the time that I was starting to diet and stuff, I saw this TV movie, and I thought, ‘Ooh, anorexia. I could probably do that.’ And so I attempted. And I succeeded!”

Years of therapy have apparently helped, but you still worry about Ricci every time you see a shot of her, once again, looking rather thin. For what it’s worth, she blames her insecurities on simply growing up, and seems to have put it all behind her.

“I think I feel more comfortable now, more confident, just calmer about everything,” she says. “I think I’ve gone through different phases in my feelings about Hollywood because I started when I was really little, so I don’t know that I had a sense of being guarded then or doing anything less than just [being] a child.

“Then, I think I got more guarded in an adolescent way,” she continues, “because even in adolescence you feel like everyone’s out to get you anyway. So I think I’ve just taken the normal ups and downs of growing up. But I’m excited about the future and what else I can find stimulating and exciting to do.”

Ricci is currently filming the war drama *The White Rose* with co-stars

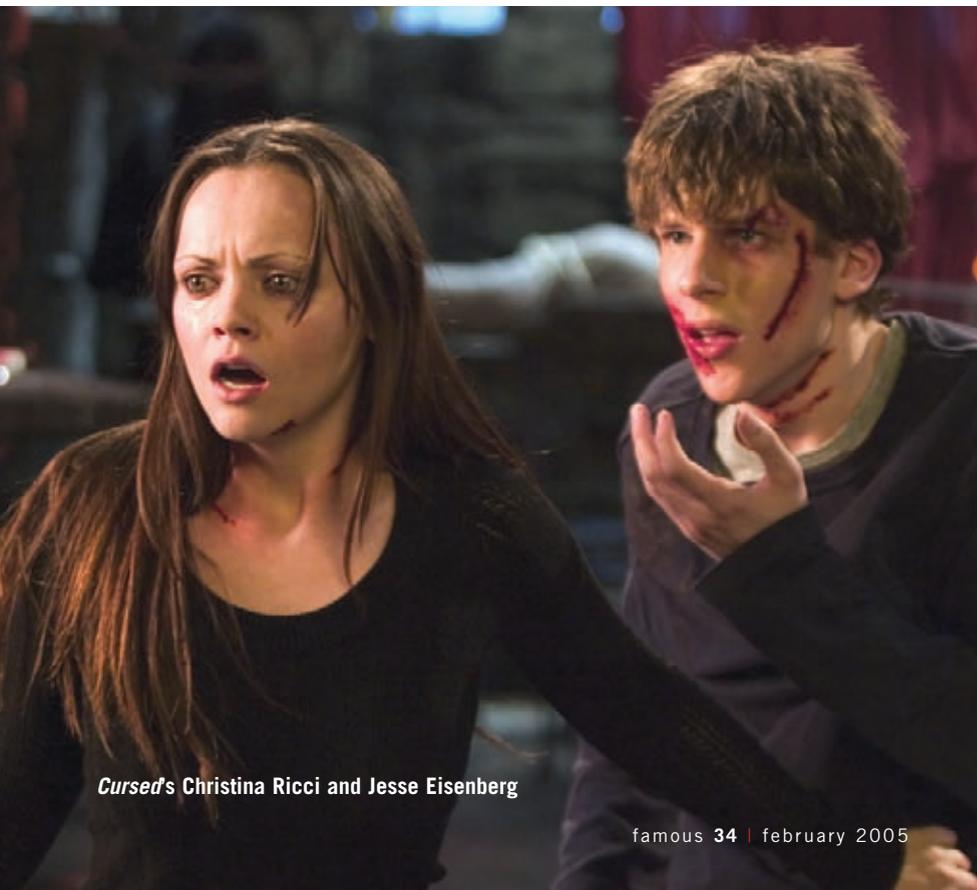
Albert Finney, Liam Neeson and Tim Robbins. The movie, which is being directed by Ricci’s *Addams Family* and *Buffalo ’66* co-star Anjelica Huston, is as independent as they get, produced by UK-based Navidi Wilde Productions.

Still, there’s no denying that despite all of the edgy and original films Ricci has made over the past 15 years, there will always be a large pocket of society that recognizes her most for her portrayal of sullen Wednesday Addams in *The Addams Family* and its 1993 follow-up, *Addams Family Values*.

“It doesn’t bother me when the only thing people remember me doing is the character Wednesday because I loved playing her,” Ricci insists. “I loved her and she’s always going to be, like for me, one of the coolest characters I’ve got to play.

“Now, if it were something really embarrassing, like I was *Raggedy Ann* or something, I don’t think I would be like that,” she continues, reiterating her preference for dark themes. “Of course, I wish people would have seen me in *Buffalo ’66* or *Monster*, but hey, I’ve had a great career, and a lot more of it to go. So I’m not going to complain.” **E**

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



*Cursed*'s Christina Ricci and Jesse Eisenberg

## famous TRIVIA

**1** Lucy Lawless, formerly TV's Xena: Warrior Princess, stars in the new horror *Boogeyman*. In which 2004 film did she play Madame Vandersexxx?

**2** Which rootsy rock singer, originally from South Africa, makes the jump to the big screen in the family flick *Because of Winn-Dixie*?

**3** West African actor Djimon Hounsou appears in this month's *Constantine*. He was nominated for a Best Supporting Actor Oscar last year. Name the movie that earned him the nod.

**4** *Bride & Prejudice*, an East Indian twist on Jane Austen, is directed by Gurinder Chadha. Name Chadha's 2002 surprise hit about culture clash, love and soccer.

**5** In which 2004 Ben Affleck movie did *Hitch* star Will Smith make a cameo as himself and play a central role in the film's plot?

**6** Tommy Lee Jones is a Texas Ranger living with the cheerleaders he's protecting in *Man of the House*. Which one-time presidential hopeful did Jones live with while they were both at Harvard?

**7** Which star of *Cursed* was born in Vancouver — Scott Foley, Joshua Jackson or Jesse Eisenberg?

## answers

1. *EuroTrip* 2. Dave Matthews 3. *In America* 4. *Bend It Like Beckham* 5. *Jersey Girl* 6. Al Gore 7. Joshua Jackson

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# ONE TREE HILL

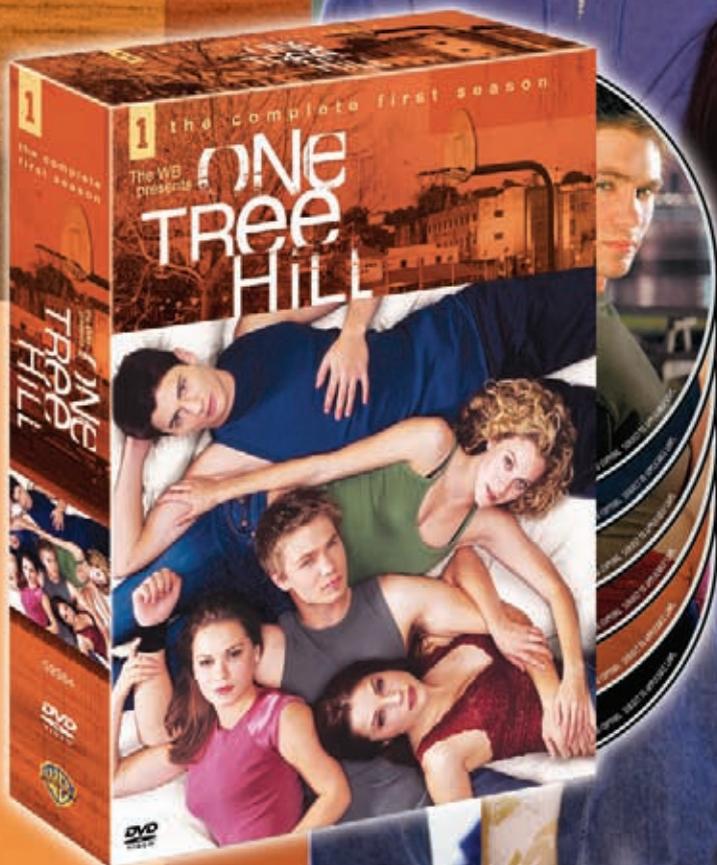


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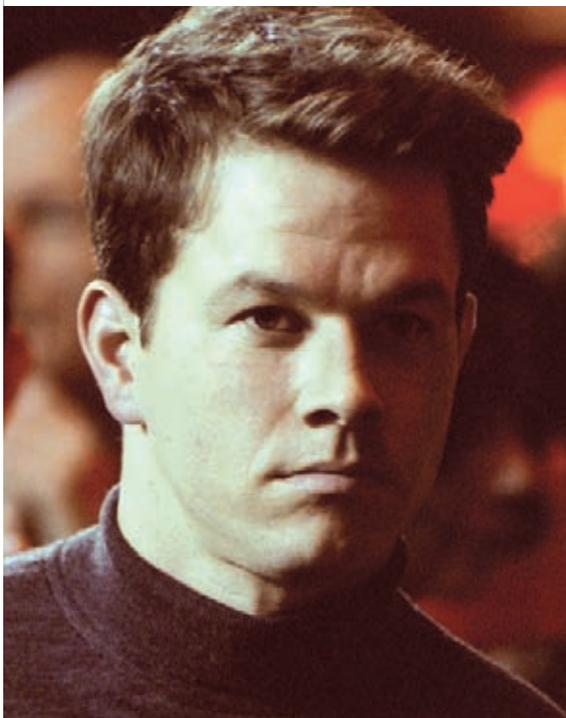
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# TRAVOLTA JOINS *LONELY HEARTS CLUB*, BASINGER'S A BETTING WOMAN AND WAHLBERG CO-STARS WITH *ANDRE 3000* | BY INGRID RANDOJA

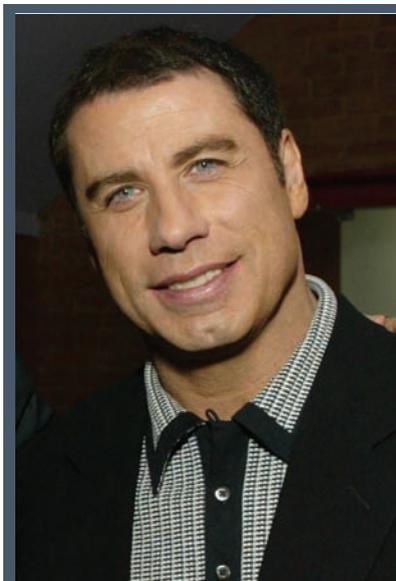
## WAHLBERG WANTS REVENGE

If you live in Toronto keep your eyes peeled for the eclectic foursome of **Mark Wahlberg** (*The Italian Job*), **Tyrese Gibson** (*2 Fast 2 Furious*), **Garrett Hedlund** (*Friday Night Lights*) and **Andre Benjamin**, otherwise known as Outkast's outlandish crooner, Andre 3000. The quartet are in town shooting director **John Singleton**'s currently untitled action drama about four adopted brothers searching for the man who murdered their mother.



## BETTING ON BASINGER

Sports movies have become hot commodities in Hollywood. Due out in the near future are *The Longest Yard* (football), *Rebound* (basketball), *Lords of Dogtown* (skateboarding), and some off-the-wall flicks like Johnny Knoxville's Special Olympics comedy, *The Ringer*, and the Pro Bowlers Tour documentary *A League of Ordinary Gentlemen*. One of the more highly touted jock flicks is *Jumpshot*, due out later this year, which focuses on three people involved with gambling on a college basketball game. **Kim Basinger**, hot off her thumbs-up turn in *Cellular*, stars as a woman who bets her family's entire savings on the game, **Danny DeVito** checks in as a bookie who's trying to go straight and **Nick Cannon** suits up as a player who plans to throw the game to help his gambling-addicted brother. The movie is being helmed by **Mark Rydell** (*Intersection*, *For the Boys*).



## Officer Travolta

When you take a close look at **John Travolta**'s resumé you start to wonder how he's managed to hang onto his superstar status. Within the past five years he's appeared in the clunkers *The Punisher*, *Basic*, *Domestic Disturbance*, *Swordfish*, *Lucky Numbers* and *Battlefield Earth*. Whoa. But he's looking to change his luck with next month's ultra-hip *Be Cool*, and the recently announced project *Lonely Hearts*, which chronicles the real-life story of the two cops (Travolta and **James Gandolfini**) who arrested the Lonely Heart Killers. The serial killers — Raymond Fernandez and his accomplice Martha Beck — were big news in the late 1940s when they preyed on lonely women via personal ads. Documentary filmmaker **Todd Robinson** will direct.

## BRIEFLY

- **Hugh Jackman** has signed a deal with Disney to star in and produce at least three musicals.
- *The Office* creator and star **Ricky Gervais** is eyeing a role in *Mission: Impossible III*.
- **Rob Schneider** and **David Spade** are set to star in *Bench Warmers*, about three men who take on Little League baseball teams.
- **Rachel Weisz** will star in *James Miranda Barry*, about a woman who, in 1814, disguised as a man, graduated from medical school and became a doctor. She continued to pass as a man for more than 40 years and the truth was only revealed after she died.

# MARK 1939 ON YOUR CALENDAR



Packaging not exactly as shown.

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# Valentine's Day: Single or Paired Up, You Deserve a Present

| BY LIZA HERZ

**F**irst of all, they're wrong. Valentine's Day is not a Hallmark Holiday created to foist saccharine greeting cards on a gullible public.

Nor is it an occasion to recall the St. Valentine's Day massacre, although there are the love-scarred among us who might find a useful metaphor in all that gangland carnage.

No. Valentine's Day is a chance to eat chocolate and focus on sensual pleasures at a time of year when hedonistic distractions are few. Regardless of your romantic status, you may as well enjoy it. After all, your next crack at wanton celebration isn't until St. Patrick's Day, and frankly, we'll take chocolate and jewellery over green beer and soda bread every time.

I ask you, When is candy ever more essential than in the middle of February? Ingesting good dark chocolate (over 70 percent cocoa solids) will boost your serotonin levels for an immediate feeling of well-being, which, in turn, will put you in the proper mood for getting it on with Cupid.

If you're an old-fashioned girly-girl who craves loot from her sweetie, a smart way to nudge the boy along is to promise *him* a gift. Is he a gamer? Then how about *Halo 2* (if he's one of the three people on the planet who haven't yet bought a copy). Or maybe a cool DVD? Check out the new releases on page 42 for inspiration.

Then, leave your copy of *Famous* open to this page (we've thoughtfully furnished a picture of supermodel Karolina Kurkova wearing La Senza to put him in the mood), and casually point to the item you'd like. Or circle it with a deep red marker. No extra points for subtlety here.

Oh, and if you're not paired up for Valentine's, take heart (pun intended) and go for the "auto-gift," a present to oneself. After all, it's the only way you can be sure of getting exactly what you want.

The **Love Bunny Babydoll (\$29.50, La Senza)** is a classic shape with peekaboo cutouts to reveal the waist, an alluring but often-neglected bodypart.



Create a mood that's part *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and part romance with Origins' richly fragranced **Cocoa Therapy Love Candle (\$30 at selected Bay stores across Canada)**. Plus, we all look better by candlelight.

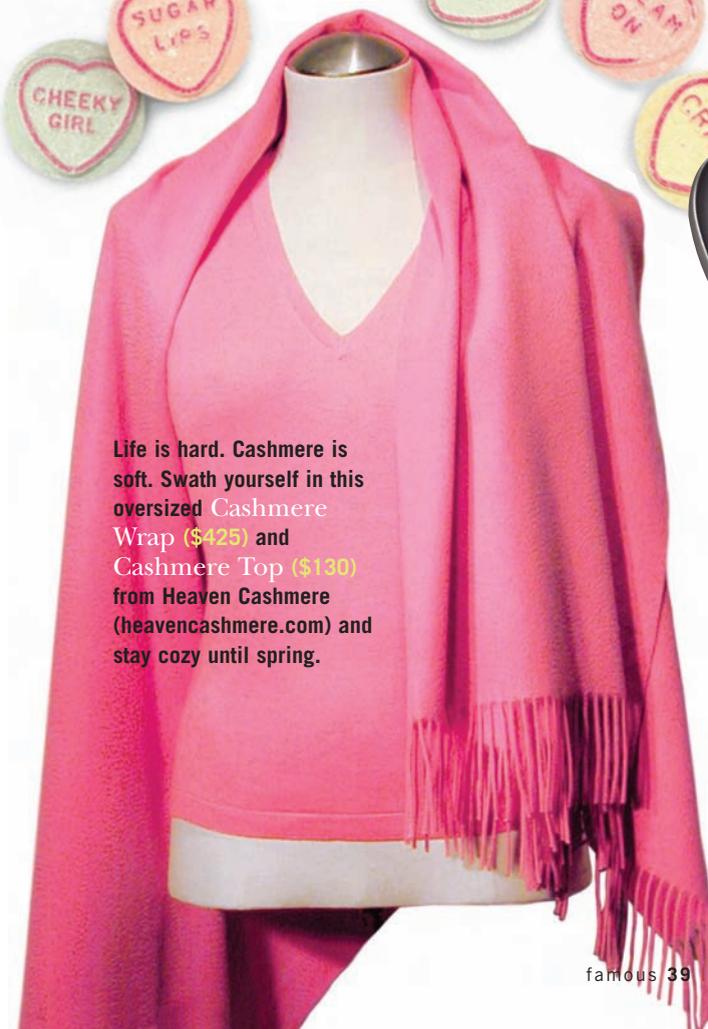
The **Polaroid Image 1200 (\$170)** has a preview LCD viewfinder but, unlike a digital camera, still offers that old-school thrill of watching the picture develop in front of you. Not to mention that classic white Polaroid frame with the thick band at the bottom. Can't figure out the connection to Valentine's Day? Think harder.



How can a fragrance be subtle but still deeply hypnotic? Kiehl's **Original Musk Eau de Toilette (\$77 for 100 ml. at Kiehl's Toronto and Vancouver)** suits both sexes so you can give or receive.



Wear your heart on your wrist with this romantic yet gutsy **Sterling Silver Bracelet**. And when gifting, don't forget the swoon-inducing impact of that pale blue Tiffany box (**\$255, tiffany.com**).



Life is hard. Cashmere is soft. Swath yourself in this oversized **Cashmere Wrap (\$425)** and **Cashmere Top (\$130)** from **Heaven Cashmere (heavencashmere.com)** and stay cozy until spring.

**Benefit's Gettin' Steamy Body Wash**, (**\$29 at selected Bay stores across Canada**) promises moisturizing suds to soften weather-beaten skin and prep you for the most delicate lingerie.



# GRAN TURISMO 4'S IN THE LEAD

New York and the Grand Canyon among new rubber-burning locales | BY SCOTT GARDNER

## GRAN TURISMO 4 PS2

With its gorgeous cars, endless customizing options and numerous courses, *Gran Turismo 3: A-Spec* was the jewel in PlayStation 2's crown. Since July 2001 it has sold almost 13 million copies worldwide, and turbo-powered early sales of the PS2 console.

*GT4* pulls into stores this month and, happily, Sony and developer Polyphony Digital have gone the "if it ain't broke" route. That means more cars, more tracks, sharper graphics and no fiery wrecks. Don't get me wrong — dangling bumpers and cartwheeling coupes are sweet, but they belong in the over-the-top *Burnout* games, not the coolly professional *Gran Turismo* series with its authenticity and attention to detail.

Like past editions, *GT4* includes a "Career Simulation Mode" where you start at the bottom and compete in more than 200 championship matches to earn money, buy new cars and upgrade parts. And of course there's still an "Arcade Mode" where you just hop in a Beetle or a Lotus and start burning rubber.

But the biggest change under *GT4*'s hood is the new "B-Spec Mode," which focuses on strategy rather than actual driving. With an outside-the-car point of view, you can adjust your driver's level of aggressiveness and give specific instructions, like telling him to pass other cars. But if you push your little pixelated pal too hard he can get flustered and make mistakes.

A few more vital stats: *GT4* includes more than 500 cars from 80 car makers, with models dating from 1886 (yes, that's 1886) to 2004, and all vehicles are fully customizable. Among the 100 courses, notable additions are a photorealistic New York City and a sun-baked rally course in the Grand Canyon. The game also features Dolby Pro-Logic II sound support, and some poor audio tech actually went out and re-recorded all-new engine noises.

One final achievement: the writing of this story was marred by a mere three car/driving puns.



## BROTHERS IN ARMS

PC, PS2, XBOX

Based on a true story, this WWII tactical shooter drops gamers (literally) into the gritty, uncensored and emotionally charged battle for Normandy. As the leader of a squad of paratroopers, you must lead your soldiers through real battlefields recreated

from aerial reconnaissance images and eyewitness accounts.

Set during the famous parachute assault that preceded the D-Day invasion, the (fictional) Sgt. Matt Baker and his squad of (real) 101st Airborne Paratroopers have missed their drop point and are scattered over the French countryside.

The botched drop means you begin the 21 single-player missions alone, but soon start re-acquiring your men and quickly learn some squad-combat techniques. That's because the sounds, story and images in this game are so intense, you'll be highly motivated to look out for your grunts, and feel a twinge every time one of them goes down.

## AREA 51 GC, PS2, XBOX

Anyone who knows anything about UFOs knows that somewhere in the Nevada desert lies the fabled Area 51 — the U.S. government's top-secret research facility.

But — surprise, surprise — something inside the compound has gone awry and the automated quarantine procedures have locked down all personnel. Now Ethan Cole's Special Forces HAZMAT unit has been sent to assess the situation, quarantine

the area and contain the problem.

That's when *Area 51* turns into a first-person shooter, crossing the military style of *Halo* with the science-lab-from-Hell setting of *Half-Life*. Even better, Cole is voiced by the *X-Files*' David Duchovny, and rocker Marilyn Manson — clearly in danger of being typecast — plays the "gray alien."

When not gunning down hideous space monsters, Cole uncovers the truth behind various conspiracy theories as he finds the remnants of the extraterrestrial crash at Roswell, alien autopsies and sets used to fake the Apollo landing.



## MORTIFILIA

PC, PS2, XBOX

Leafmore High's walls are rotting, its books are outdated and its teachers have lost their faith. After a series of mysterious disappearances, a group of students decides to investigate. They are about to discover that

their high school doesn't just feel like Hell — it is Hell.

The survival-horror game (already released as *Obscure* in Europe) features cooperative multiplayer adventuring, with gameplay and an atmosphere reminiscent of the *Resident Evil* games. Each of the five kids has their own special aptitude and they must stick together if they want to throw light on the dark and sordid history of their school.

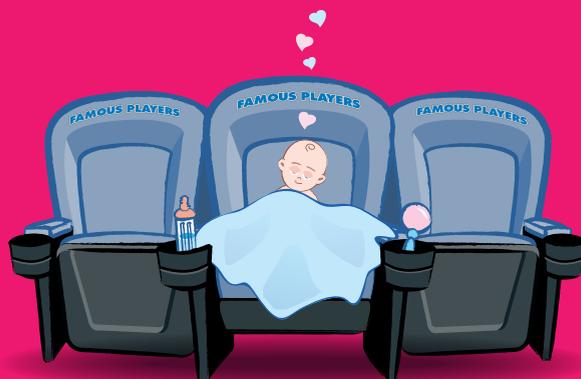
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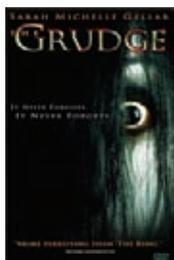
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# new releases

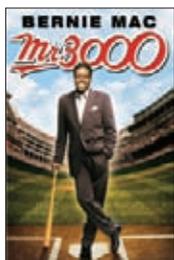
GO HOME WITH **RAY**, **MR. 3000** OR **THE NOTEBOOK**

## FEBRUARY 1



### THE GRUDGE

**Stars:** Sarah Michelle Gellar, Jason Behr  
**Director:** Takashi Shimizu (*Ju-on: The Grudge*)  
**Story:** Gellar discovers there are demonic powers in Japan (in addition to those in Sunnydale, U.S.A.) where she battles a vengeful spirit that spreads from person to person like a virus. **DVD Extras:** a five part making-of doc, cast and crew commentary, a featurette about the psychology of fear



### MR. 3000

**Stars:** Bernie Mac, Angela Bassett  
**Director:** Charles Stone III (*Drumline*)  
**Story:** An obnoxious retired baseball star (Mac) who has turned his nickname

"Mr. 3000" into a lucrative business suddenly discovers he didn't quite reach the 3,000-hit mark that nickname is based upon. Now he's got to get back in shape and back to the big leagues to salvage his record. **DVD Extras:** outtakes, deleted and extended scenes, the actors' journey through spring training



### RAY

**Stars:** Jamie Foxx, Regina King  
**Director:** Taylor Hackford (*Proof of Life*)  
**Story:** Foxx is brilliant and electrifying as Ray Charles, the one-of-a-kind innovator of soul

who overcame blindness and drug addiction to become a music legend. **DVD Extras:** the two-disc "Special

Edition" DVD features an extended cut, 14 deleted scenes, uncut musical performances and two featurettes. A two-disc "Limited Edition" includes an additional 20 minutes of uncut musical performances, a "Filmmakers' Journey" documentary and photo book



### SHALL WE DANCE

**Stars:** Richard Gere, Jennifer Lopez  
**Director:** Peter Chelsom (*Serendipity*)  
**Story:** A bored lawyer (Gere) takes up ballroom dancing and rekindles

his, and his loved ones', passion for life. Golly that's nice...but imagine how happy and passionate they'd be if he'd tried skydiving or bullfighting. **DVD Extras:** commentary, deleted scenes, featurette on ballroom dancing

## FEBRUARY 8

### THE NOTEBOOK

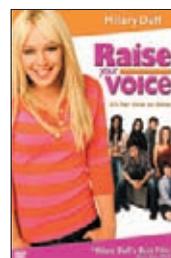
**Stars:** Ryan Gosling, Rachel McAdams  
**Director:** Nick Cassavetes (*John Q*)  
**Story:** It's romance with a capital "R" when a young couple experiences the true power of love on the eve of WWII. And when their story concludes decades later in a nursing home, you'll need a whole case of tissues.



### P.S.

**Stars:** Laura Linney, Topher Grace  
**Director:** Dylan Kidd (*Roger Dodger*)  
**Story:** In this unconventional romance, a thirtysomething

woman gets down with a young art student. The twist? He bears an uncanny resemblance to her one true love, a young art student who died 20 years earlier.



### RAISE YOUR VOICE

**Stars:** Hilary Duff, John Corbett  
**Director:** Sean McNamara (debut)  
**Story:** An adorably naïve, blond, unpierced and untattooed small town singer (Duff) spends the summer at a performing arts high school in L.A. Will this little star learn to shine in the big city? **DVD Extras:** a behind-the-scenes featurette, outtakes, deleted scenes, a music video, orchestra sequence, and an "interactive menu jam" that allows viewers to compose their own songs



### SAW

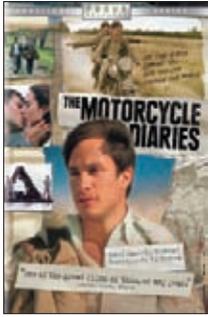
**Stars:** Cary Elwes, Danny Glover  
**Director:** James Wan (debut)  
**Story:** A sadistic serial killer abducts morally wayward people and forces them to play horrific games for their own survival. Like Pictionary? Please, please, please don't let it be Pictionary!



### SHARK TALE

**Voices:** Will Smith, Robert De Niro  
**Directors:** Bibo Bergeron (*Road to Eldorado*), Nicky Jenson (*Shrek*)  
**Story:** This animated feature has all the elements you could hope for in a family movie: cute fishies, bright colours, big stars, pop culture jokes and, most importantly, a ruthless organized crime boss plotting multiple murders. **DVD Extras:** audio commentary, three featurettes, goofs, meet the cast segments, games and DVD-ROM features

FEBRUARY 15



### THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES

**Stars:** Gael García Bernal, Rodrigo de la Serna

**Director:** Walter Salles (*Central Station*)

**Story:** This acclaimed foreign-

language film is based on the journals of Ernesto "Ché" Guevara, future leader of the Cuban revolution. In 1952, Ché and a pal travel across South America looking for chicks, fun and adventure, but end up discovering much more.

FEBRUARY 22

### GOING THE DISTANCE

**Stars:** Christopher Jacot, Jason Preistley

**Director:** Mark Griffiths (*Beethoven's 5th*)

**Story:** This proudly made-in-Canada cross

between *Road Trip* and *American Pie* highlights the natural splendour of this country's beaches, prairies, backwoods and, uh, hitchhiker chicks.

### I ♥ HUCKABEES



**Stars:** Jason Schwartzman, Jude Law

**Director:** David O. Russell (*Three Kings*)

**Story:** After experiencing an alarming series of coincidences, a young man (Schwartzman)

hires a screwy pair of "existential detectives" (Dustin Hoffman and Lily Tomlin) to help him discover the meaning of life. You'll probably laugh, but don't expect to have any clue what's going on. **DVD Extras:** commentary by director and stars, 10 featurettes, 22 deleted and extended scenes, outtakes

# NEW to DVD

## GET SHORTY COLLECTOR'S EDITION (1995)

This new edition of *Get Shorty*, based on Elmore Leonard's hilarious wiseguy novel, arrives just before the March 4th theatrical debut of its sequel, *Be Cool*.

John Travolta won a Golden Globe for his portrayal of Chili Palmer, a Miami loan shark who arrives in L.A. to collect on a bad debt from trash-movie producer Harry Zimm (Gene Hackman).

But Chili is also a movie buff, and when he's done talking tough he pitches Harry a script idea that launches him into the life of a producer. And guess what? He discovers his underworld skills are just what it takes to succeed in Tinseltown.

Along the way, he romances a B-movie scream queen, schmoozes superstars, scores reservations for the hottest restaurants in town, beats the stuffing out of James "Tony Soprano" Gandolfini (twice) and navigates a sea of double- and triple-crosses.

The two-disc set offers a new high-def transfer, commentary by director Barry Sonnenfeld, two new featurettes, a deleted scene, outtakes, a wrap party reel, Bravo's "making-of" special, a photo gallery, four Easter eggs, a sneak peek at *Be Cool* and more. —SG



### TV on DVD

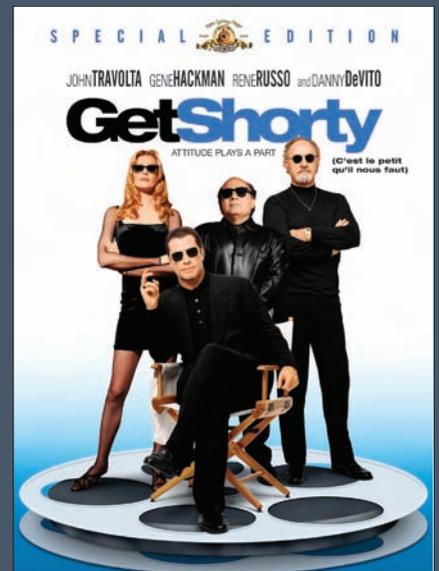
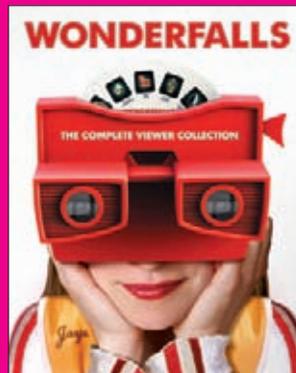
The cops. The cars. The clothes. On Feb. 8th it all comes back when *Miami Vice: Season One* — the explosive, groundbreaking detective series that defined a decade — finally arrives on DVD.

Launched in 1984 by producer Michael Mann (*Ali*, *Collateral*), the show focuses on Miami's Metro-Dade police "Vice" department and its never-ending battle against the city's underworld of drugs, prostitution and firearms.

Although the show's trendsetting fashions are often the first thing that leap to mind, *Vice* was also one of TV's most innovative and powerful cop shows. When detectives Crockett and Tubbs (Don Johnson, Philip Michael Thomas) went undercover they were both tempted and tortured by the world they policed. TV-friendly happy endings were few, and those bright colours and sunny locales made *Vice's* darkness and violence even more jarring.

Also out on Feb. 8th is *Deadwood: The Complete First Season*, HBO's take on the Western. Set in 1876, Deadwood, South Dakota, is a lawless sinkhole of crime and corruption inhabited by a colourful array of outlaws, entrepreneurs, prostitutes and city slickers.

And for a break from cussin' and shootin' there's the charming *Wonderfalls: The Complete Viewer Collection* (Feb. 1). This short-lived 2004 series is a quirky one-hour family dramedy about an underachieving twenty-something (Montreal's Caroline Dhavernas) who works in a Niagara Falls souvenir shop and hears messages from objects in her store that guide her to help those in trouble. —SG



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# February 2005

HOROSCOPE | BY DAN LIEBMAN

## Aquarius

January 21 >> February 19

You start to click with a new acquaintance. It's also a good time to get in touch with someone who's been very much on your mind. Late month finds you launching a clean-up campaign. Just don't get carried away and toss out sentimental items.

## Pisces

February 20 >> March 20

Current accomplishments are of more of a personal than professional nature. You get a psychological lift from meaningful compliments scattered throughout the month. Don't hesitate to ask questions, offer suggestions or put a little more pressure on loved ones.

## Aries

March 21 >> April 20

You shift gears, going from a hectic to a more leisurely schedule yet accomplishing a great deal. A friend may be touchy around the 16th, so watch that you don't cross the line between concern and meddling. Overall, it's a good month to promote your ideas.

## Taurus

April 21 >> May 22

Right now you're anything but apathetic. It's an excellent month to get involved in causes and campaigns. Self-esteem strengthens, along with motivation. If renewing or building a relationship, it shouldn't be hard to find areas of common ground.

## Gemini

May 23 >> June 21

For someone bored with the familiar, February is a rewarding time. You're likely to meet people from diverse backgrounds, and you could be travelling to new destinations. It's also a good month to build trust and make friends feel good about themselves.

## Cancer

June 22 >> July 22

Relatives may be unexpectedly supportive and generous. You'll know by the 28th whether strings are attached. Watch out for an uncharacteristically reckless streak that may surface at any time. Overall, it's a good month for long-term financial planning.

## Leo

July 23 >> August 22

The month is all about beginnings. You may start an important project, tackle a new sport, or start a relationship. In any case, don't be unrealistically demanding of yourself. There are also surprises as a friend reveals an unexpected quality.

## Virgo

August 23 >> September 22

You recognize a challenge when you see one. This month you not only see it, but you meet it head on. At the same time, you reconnect with a pastime that you enjoyed long ago. Friends are less rebellious, and a small windfall may come your way by the 28th.

## Libra

September 23 >> October 22

Enjoy some unexpected displays of affection, especially from Valentine's Day onward. Hammer out differences with others while there's still room for negotiation. And try to tackle your papers before they rise to insurmountable heights.

## Scorpio

October 23 >> November 21

A visit to your home should be an interesting excursion. Surprise guests, impromptu parties and a renovation or reorganization project keep you hopping. You also play the part of mentor, providing encouragement to those who see you as a role model.

## Sagittarius

November 22 >> December 22

The month is like a blast of February air. You find a novel solution to an old dilemma, and a high-maintenance individual finally gives you breathing room. You're also inclined to take risks, so be extra cautious — especially in the areas of health and recreation.

## Capricorn

December 23 >> January 20

This is a good month to experiment with everything from new foods to new forms of expression. Mystery-solving is another theme. You may be researching your family history, or investigating some odd happenings. Don't hesitate to accept invitations.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



- 1st: Pauly Shore
- 2nd: Brent Spiner
- 3rd: Morgan Fairchild
- 4th: Alice Cooper
- 5th: Christopher Guest
- 6th: Natalie Cole
- 7th: Ashton Kutcher
- 8th: Nick Nolte
- 9th: Mia Farrow
- 10th: Laura Dern

- 11th: Jennifer Aniston
- 12th: Christina Ricci
- 13th: Stockard Channing
- 14th: Meg Tilly
- 15th: Matt Groening
- 16th: LeVar Burton
- 17th: Paris Hilton
- 18th: John Travolta
- 19th: Jeff Daniels
- 20th: Lili Taylor

- 21st: Kelsey Grammer
- 22nd: Drew Barrymore
- 23rd: Peter Fonda
- 24th: Billy Zane
- 25th: Sean Astin
- 26th: Erykah Badu
- 27th: Elizabeth Taylor
- 28th: Bernadette Peters

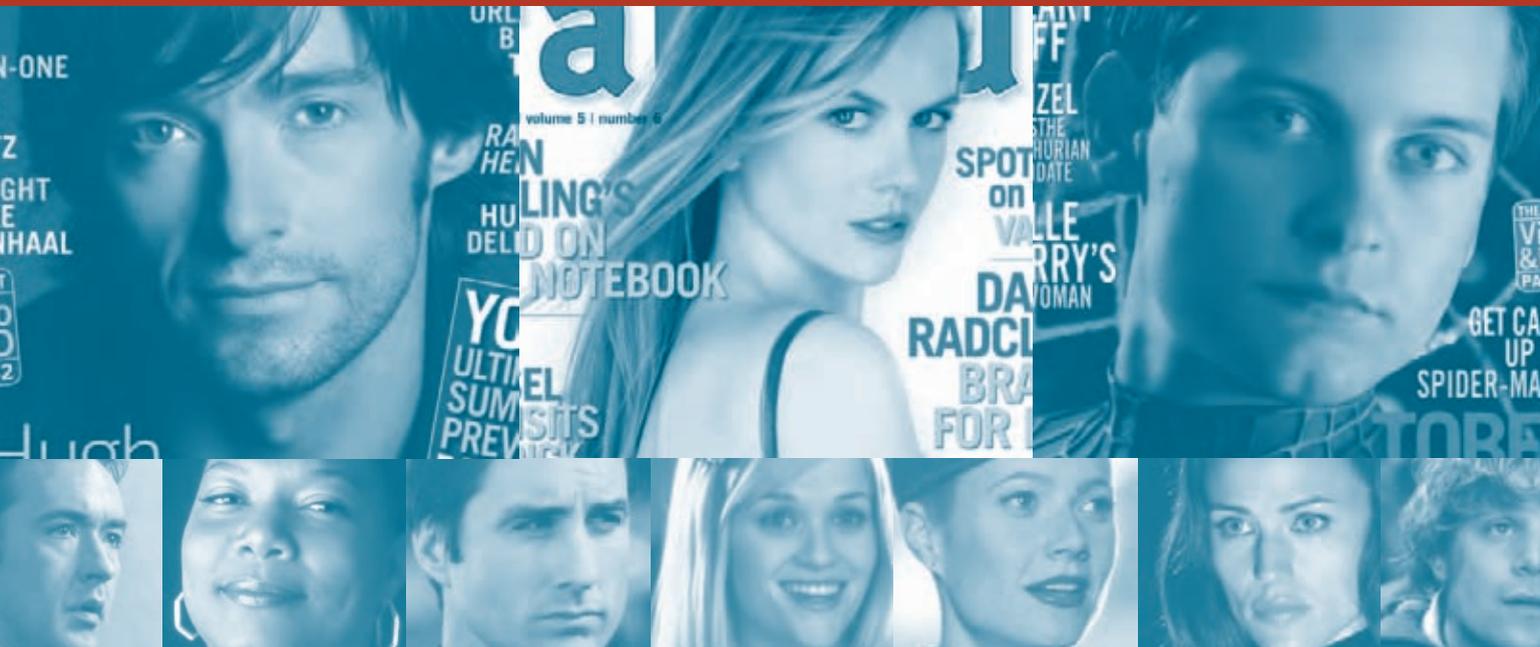


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# 10 stars TALK ABOUT THE Oscar curse

| BY SUSAN GRANGER

**MIRA SORVINO** [Best Supporting Actress, 1995's *Mighty Aphrodite*] "I've been working, [but] I haven't been offered material comparable to *Mighty Aphrodite*."

**LINDA HUNT** [Best Actress, 1982's *The Year of Living Dangerously*] "To casting directors, I'm still Billy Kwan in *The Year of Living Dangerously*."

**JULIE CHRISTIE** [Best Actress, 1965's *Darling*] "After I won the Oscar I found that I was far more interested in politics and farming."

**F. MURRAY ABRAHAM** [Best Actor, 1984's *Amadeus*] "Some call it a curse, but what it does is help you find work for the rest of your life. For me, it had always been hand-to-mouth, so that changed completely. Anyone who suggests it is bad luck is a damn fool."

**LOUISE FLETCHER** [Best Actress, 1975's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*] "After *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* directors saw me only as Nurse Ratched."

**MARISA TOMEI** [Best Supporting Actress, 1992's *My Cousin Vinny*] "After I won there was this terrible rumour that Vanessa Redgrave, supposedly, won for *Howard's End*, but Jack Palance called my name by accident."

**CHER** [Best Actress, 1987's *Moonstruck*] "After I won for *Moonstruck* my movie career turned sour."

**LUISE RAINER** [Best Actress, 1936's *The Great Ziegfeld* and 1937's *The Good Earth*] "I won Best Actress twice and nothing much happened afterward, so I went to live in London. The industry seemed to feel that having an Academy Award winner on their hands was sufficient to overcome bad story material. The Oscar is not a curse. The curse is once you have an Oscar, they think you can do anything. They give you bad scripts that are hard to act."

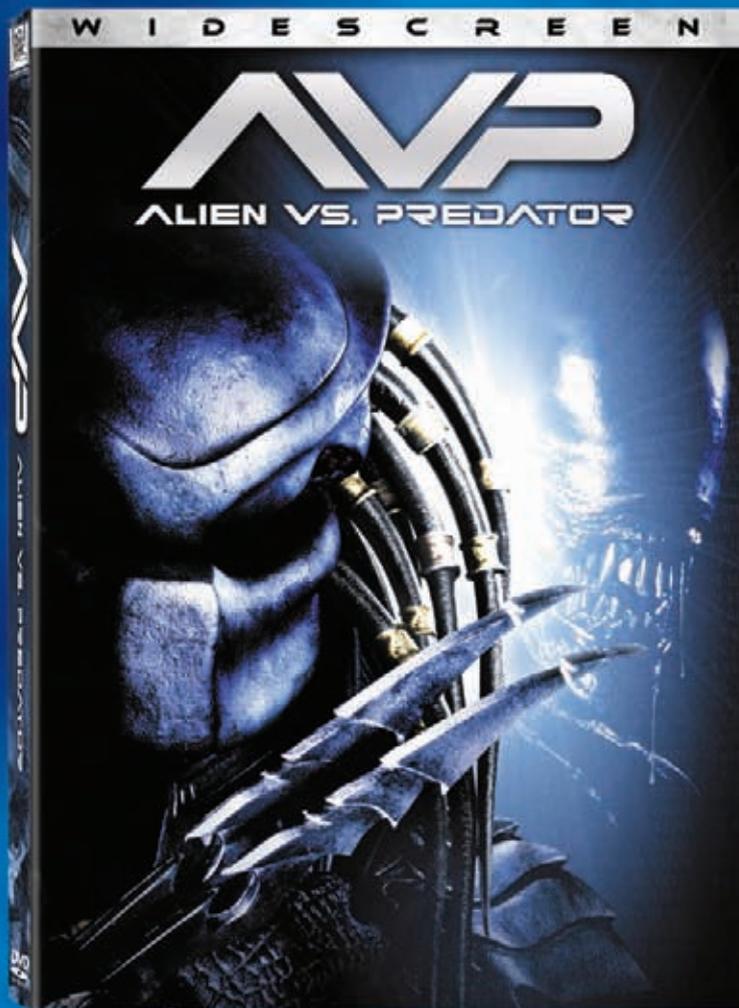
**HILARY SWANK** [Best Actress, 1999's *Boys Don't Cry*] "After I won for playing a woman passing as a man I wasn't exactly inundated with offers. I wonder why."



PHOTO OF ANGELINA JOLIE JUST BEFORE SHE WON HER OSCAR IS COURTESY OF AMPAS

**ANGELINA JOLIE** [Best Supporting Actress, 1999's *Girl, Interrupted*] "If I ever thought that it was going to solve things and make me happy and satisfy me, I was quickly disillusioned. It didn't, and that was that. I realized I needed something more to nourish my soul."

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