



# Famous

UMA THURMAN, KEVIN KLINE  
AND OTHER STARS DEFINE THE DIVINE

january 2002 | volume 3 | number 1

canada's entertainment lifestyle magazine

ANNIE PROULX TALKS  
*THE SHIPPING NEWS*

GWYNETH PALTROW ON  
*THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS*

*BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*  
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RUSSELL  
CROWE

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By Earl Dittman

Plus, on page 26, *A Beautiful Mind* extra Paula Pacilio reports from the set, and gets within "Can I have your autograph?" reach of the Aussie star

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# Celebrating our silver anniversary with Russell

**t**his issue marks *Famous* magazine's 25th anniversary. Okay, so it's not 25 years. But, since launching in November 1999, we have published 25 editions of what we hope you find a fun, informative, substantial and creative magazine.

For the staff here at *Famous*, it's not until we see those 25 covers arranged row by row, as on the preceding page, that we're struck by how much we've accomplished. Glancing at any one of them brings back a flood of memories — friendly battles over which photo to put on the cover, stories coming in way past deadline, frantic last-minute changes when a movie's release date is postponed just before press time.

You'll notice that with this issue, **Russell Crowe** becomes the first celebrity to appear on the cover of *Famous* for a second time. That seemed appropriate since the issue on which he first appeared — May 2000 for *Gladiator* — was by far our most popular. To this day, we still get calls and letters from people searching for old copies. It's also the article most often pilfered and posted on fan websites.

Crowe fans will have a couple of articles to savour this time. First, for "Psyche Drama," page 24, Earl Dittman spoke with the hunky actor about transforming himself into real-life schizophrenic math genius John Forbes Nash Jr. for *A Beautiful Mind*. Believe it or not, Dittman even got Crowe to open up a bit about his

now-defunct relationship with Meg Ryan. Then, on page 26, you'll find the diary of a woman who served as an extra on the film, complete with a couple of dreamy brushes with the Aussie star.

It's hard to believe that we've gone 25 issues without talking to **Gwyneth Paltrow**, but "A Healthy Attitude," on page 20, marks a first. The star of the quirky comedy *The Royal Tenenbaums* reveals the one thing she found incredibly difficult about filming the movie, and how her last film, *Shallow Hal*, made her re-evaluate the inflexible concept of female beauty in Hollywood.

Eight years ago the world got a better look at

our chilly province of Newfoundland thanks to American novelist **Annie Proulx's** *The Shipping News*. This past spring, the movie version was filmed in Trinity, Newfoundland, starring Oscar-calibre actors Kevin Spacey and Julianne Moore. For "News Writer," page 16, I spoke with Proulx about how it felt to hand over control of her characters and story.

And, finally, the video will never be the same for those kids lucky enough to catch the re-release of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* on gigantic IMAX screens this winter. In honour of the really big show, we take a look back at the first animated feature ever nominated for a Best Picture Oscar. Check out "Numbers of the Beast," on page 19.

We hope you've enjoyed the first 25 issues of *Famous*. Stay tuned for many, many more.  
— Marni Weisz



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### FAMOUS WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK. WRITE TO US.

- by email: editor@fpmedia.ca
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  - by fax: 416.539.8511
- Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include your full name, city of residence and contact info (email or phone).



# DON'T GOOD THINGS COME IN THREES?

I was just wondering if there would be a *Rush Hour 3* and a *Scary Movie 3*. Thanks!

**Boris Zemlo — Toronto, Ont.**

*There is a third Rush Hour movie in the early stages of development, but there isn't even a script yet. Chris Tucker has made comments about wanting to take the characters to Africa next, and Jackie Chan has suggested Egypt. As for a Scary Movie 3, there don't seem to be any plans. Hey Boris, do you ever see any movies that aren't sequels?*

# MOMMY ARTIST

I have searched high and low for information regarding the work of artist Katia Smirnova, that you use for your horoscope. I admire her work in your magazine and I would love to see more. I have looked on the internet and in art catalogues but to no avail. Please help. Thank you very much.

**Susan Bowlby — Brampton, Ont.**



*Katia Smirnova (left) is a self-taught Russian artist who worked as an illustrator and photographer in Moscow before moving to Toronto in January 1999. Unfortunately (or fortunately for us), Famous is the only place you can see her work right now, as she's concentrating most of her energy on raising her eight-year-old son, Max, and baby girl, Rita.*

# LOOKING FOR CO-ORDINATES

I went to see *Monsters, Inc.* and I thought it was the best movie I ever saw. In fact, I liked it so much I saw it two times!! I thought Billy Crystal was the best in it. I was wondering, could you tell me where I could write him? Thanks.

**Nick Arial — Ottawa, Ont.**

*What you, the reader, don't get to see is that this letter was written in the cutest little grade-school scrawl, leading us to believe that Nick is, oh, about eight or nine. That, or this is one of those letters we should put in our "Keep for Police Reference" file. Assuming the former, here's your address Nick: Billy Crystal Fan Mail, c/o Creative Artists Agency, 9830 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA, 90212.*

I absolutely love movies and go see at least one every weekend at the Coliseum Famous Players in Calgary. Many good movies came out this summer, including one that shot to the top of my list, becoming one of my three favourite movies...*Original Sin*. Angelina Jolie is my all-time favourite actress and her performances blow me away every single time. I was wondering if you would provide me with an address with which I could write her and express my wonderment of her acting abilities.

**Andrea Keough — Calgary, Alta.**

*Wonderment, eh? Write the pouty-lipped actress c/o William Morris Agency, 152 El Camino Dr., Beverly Hills, CA, 90212, U.S.A.*

# SEEKING SIN

I would like to know why certain movies, despite being advertised on TV and in movie theatres, are neither being shown in theatres nor available in video stores.... The one I'm writing about is *Original Sin* with Antonio Banderas. There have been previews of this movie in theatres and on TV (being recommended) and an article in the newspaper about it, and yet the movie seems to have disappeared.

**Eva Beley — Peterborough, Ont.**

*The short(ish) answer is that studios always have high hopes when they release a trailer, but, sometimes, by the time they're ready to release the movie it's clear that it's a clunker, or at least a film that won't have as wide an appeal as they'd thought. Most of these movies do come out eventually, but often only in major markets (ie. Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver), and only for a very short time. Original Sin's release date was pushed back twice, but it did finally come out in August 2001 (albeit briefly), as you can see by the above letter. Most of the films are available at major video stores, but probably not a little local shop. No video release date has been set for Original Sin, but stay tuned to Famous and we'll let you know.*

# 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](mailto: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).

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## CARLA COLLINS ON WHERE TO BUY MEL'S HAIR, WHY MADONNA SHOULDN'T HAVE SAMPLED VANILLA AND HOW RUSSELL AND COURTNEY FOUND THEIR RHYTHM

### Who will reach the big O?

After her stellar performance hosting the Emmys, Ellen DeGeneres has been pegged as a leading candidate to host the next Academy Awards. When confronted with the rumour by



TVGuide.com, a spokesman for the Oscars would only say, "We won't be ruling anybody out — or in," which is funny because Ellen had the same thing embroidered on a pillow following her break-up with Anne Heche.

### Love's story

It's taken a while but Courtney Love has finally come clean about what went on between her and Russell Crowe after last year's Golden Globes. The woman who put the "ho" in Hole confessed to PeopleNews.com, "We went somewhere private and we cried together...we didn't really even talk. We wrote weird poetry and cried." I understand the weeping — they probably just watched *Proof of Life* — but I didn't get the poetry part until I came across a haiku signed by an R. Crowe: Courtney's rack, so hot/Talk about your Golden Globes/Meg, who? I wonder.

### Hockey-hair today, gone tomorrow

Mel Gibson is reportedly bewitched, bothered and bewildered by news that Britain's Sky digital channel will be auctioning off his *Lethal Weapon* mullet wig. Mel's agent told PeopleNews.com, "He's not upset, just a little disturbed by this turn of events. He's intrigued though, and has hinted he may even tune in to see how much the hair goes for." Also paying close attention to the auction will be Billy Ray Cyrus, Gino Vanelli and the penalty-killing unit of the Buffalo Sabres — all of whom will be calling their barbers and wig makers if the bidding gets high enough.



### The winner by a nose

Michael Jackson has set his sights on winning an Oscar. Canadian Bryan Michael Stoller, who will co-direct *Home of the Angels* with the single-gloved freak in Toronto and Ottawa next summer, revealed to the *Toronto Sun*, "He's never won an Academy Award and he feels this material could attract Academy attention." I have one favour to ask of the academy — please give him an Oscar now. I don't care what for, just give it up. Every time MJ gets interested in something he calls his plastic surgeon and somehow morphs into its likeness. (See Diana Ross and Liz Taylor.) I don't think I can handle the image of a bald, naked, gold Michael Jackson dancing around with nothing but a long sword and epaulettes. Again.



### Don't call me Dick, the name's Richard

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone's Richard Harris says he will never try Viagra again —

because it works too well. The 71-year-old curmudgeon told Ananova.com of his experience with the anti-impotence drug: "I was taking this woman out to dinner afterwards and I couldn't zip up my trousers." That must have made for some awkward table talk. ("No, that's not a bread stick, but I am happy to see you...") All was not lost however, as Richard later impressed his date by winning her a stuffed teddy bear at a three-legged race.



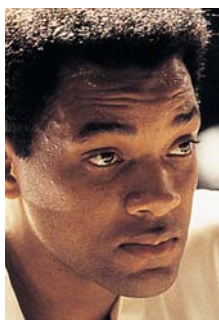
### Ice Capades

Madonna may finally have a hit movie on her hands. The material girl's one-time beau Vanilla Ice has revealed that a sex tape of the couple may lurk

somewhere. The hip-hop has-been coyly told Launch.com, "It could, could possibly, absolutely, it could possibly exist. It's hard to say this — I got my friends, you know." Two things. First, why would any guy even consider releasing a sex tape after Tommy Lee's epic, um...tour de force. And second, if you have Vanilla's tape, please rewind it before returning it — all the way back to the early nineties when he had a career.

### Will-ing and able

Will Smith is bragging that he's constantly been getting his freak on since buffing up to play Muhammad Ali. The now poppin'-fresh prince tells Ananova.com, "I'm human Viagra. I'm Willagra. I'm a sex



machine now. I'm raring to go every second of the day." Please! How does this differentiate him from any other hot-blooded young man? Oh yeah, he's married. (Sigh.)

### Home sweet homewrecker

Helena Bonham Carter has spilled the deets on her *Everybody Says I Love You* co-star Woody Allen. It seems the Woodman, who has been casting young hotties as his love interests since the Nixon administration, has very specific instructions for kissing scenes. Bonham Carter tells PeopleNews.com, "No exchange of liquid is permitted. Absolutely no tongue encounter. His mouth is a no-go area...it's like kissing the Berlin Wall." You can understand why he's cautious around Helena. After she broke up Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson's marriage, and the 10-year relationship between *Planet of the Apes* director Tim Burton and Lisa Marie, Soon-yi must have been threatening Woody to seek adoption elsewhere.

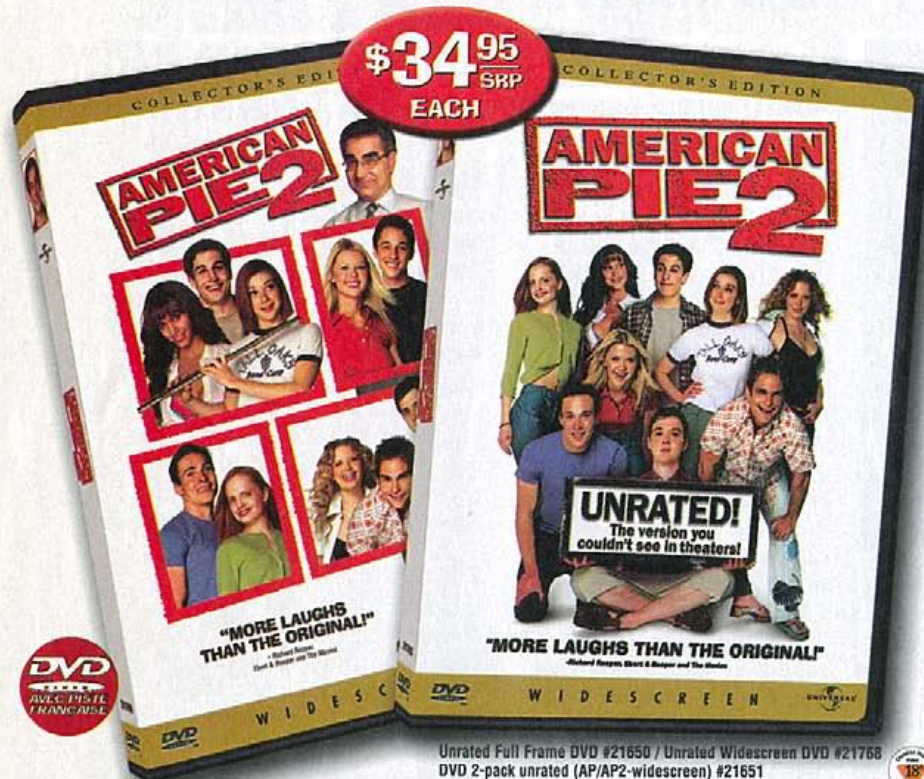


Carla Collins appears as Rusty Sinclair on the Showcase soap *Paradise Falls* and hosts Carla and Company on Toronto's Mix 99.9 FM.



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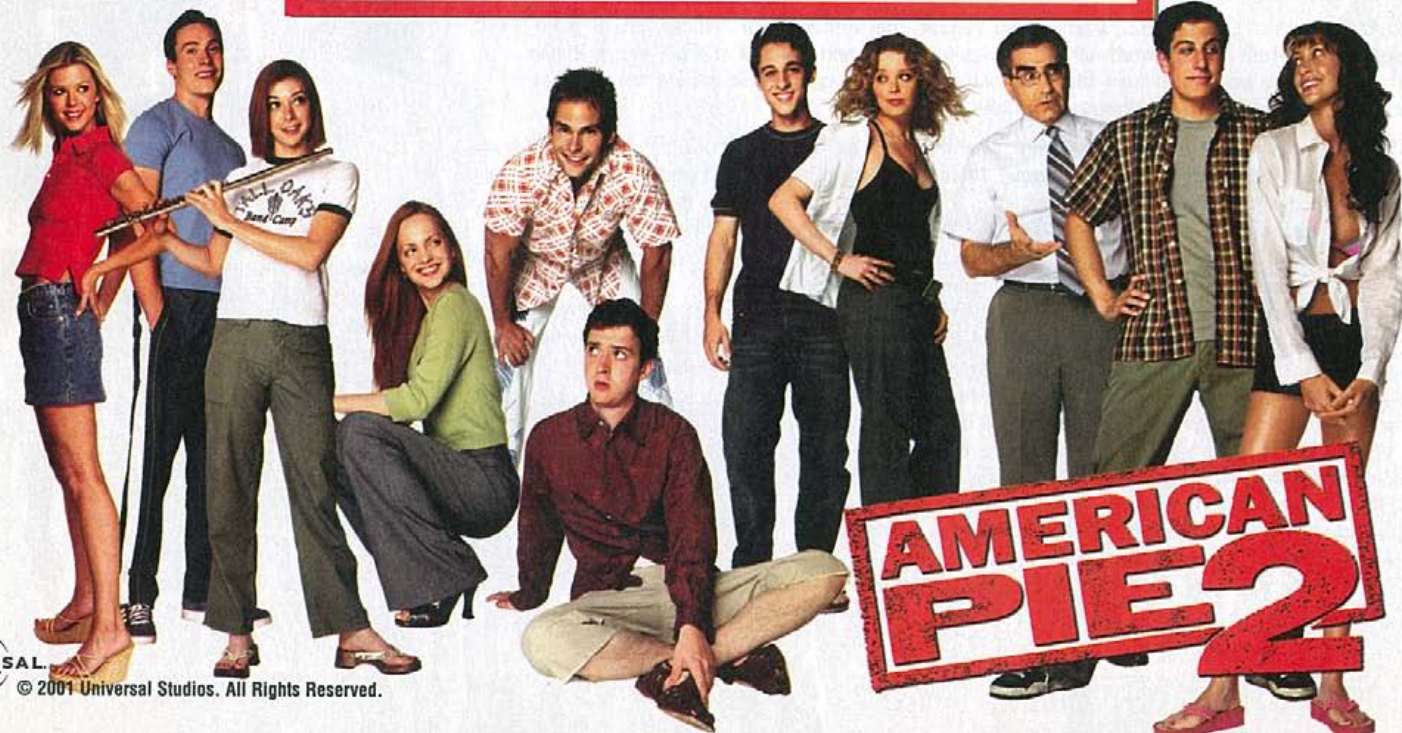
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# CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM

**F**or Kathy Kay, it's all about "curb appeal." The secret to building a successful indie film festival is showing movies that — even though they're not from a major studio or headlined by a \$20-million star — will still manage to bring the popcorn-munching masses in off the street.

"A lot of people are just exposed to mainstream movies.... They don't get a broad enough spectrum of the arts and culture in film," says Kay, director of the **Victoria Independent Film & Video Festival**, on the phone from her West Coast office. "Our mandate is to expose and educate people."

It worked last year, when record-breaking crowds came to the VIFVF to see Javier Bardem re-enact the life of Cuban poet Reinaldo Arenas in *Before Night Falls*, and again when they crammed in to get an early look at Ed Harris in *Pollock*. Kay hopes the fest will set new highs again when it returns to the Capitol 6 Theatre and Cinecenta on the University of Victoria



campus this year from **February 1 to 10.**

Launched in 1994, and overhauled in '98, the annual fest brings more than 130 features, shorts and documentaries to the provincial capital from across Canada and around the world. At press time, the schedule hadn't been finalized, but Kay was quick to talk up two local movies that made the cut.

*Lola*, a "wonderful film" by director Carl Bessai, is about an abused, down-trodden woman who gets a chance at a new life when

she saves a stranger from a car wreck. And in *Mile Zero*, B.C. filmmaker Andrew Currie tells the story of an emotionally fragile father's desperate efforts to hold his family together. The VIFVF is also hoping to land the new Jean-Luc Godard movie *Éloge de l'amour* and award-winner *Monsoon Wedding*, although, Kay admits competition on the festival circuit can be tough. This year's festival also includes a spotlight on Austrian cinema, with special attention to the films of Fritz Lang.

**Tickets go on sale January 12 at 250.398.0444.**

## BIG WINNER!

Congratulations to Langley, B.C.'s **Janice Whiskeyjack**, the winner of our "Whose Line is it Anyway?" contest. The prize? A year's worth of free movies for Janice and a friend at any Famous Players.

Janice's name was drawn from the scores of entrants who correctly identified the actor, and movie, associated with the following 10 quotes:

1. "I'm just a commodity to you, aren't I? I could be anything, right? Anything worth putting on between commercials."  
—Russell Crowe, *The Insider*

2. "No, no. Psychopaths kill for no reason. I kill for money. It's a job."  
—John Cusack, *Grosse Pointe Blank*

3. "I came home to raise crops and, God willing, a family. If I can live in peace, I will."  
—Mel Gibson, *Braveheart*

4. "I'll have a half double decaf-feinated half-caf, with a twist of lemon."  
—Steve Martin, *L.A. Story*

5. "Well, what if there is no tomorrow? There wasn't one today."  
—Bill Murray, *Groundhog Day*

6. "I would stay asleep my whole life, if I could dream myself into a company of players."  
—Gwyneth Paltrow, *Shakespeare in Love*

7. "The guy in the hat killed the other guy in the hat."  
—Danny DeVito, *Throw Momma from the Train*

8. "How am I supposed to recover when I don't even understand my disease?"  
—Winona Ryder, *Girl, Interrupted*

9. "This isn't life, it's just stuff. And it's become more important to you than living. Well, honey, that's just nuts."  
—Kevin Spacey, *American Beauty*

10. "Can we talk about something other than Hollywood for a change? We're educated people."  
—Tim Robbins, *The Player*

Thanks to everyone who entered, and watch for more great contests in upcoming issues of *Famous!*

## MADE IN CANADA FILMS SHOOTING ACROSS THE COUNTRY THIS MONTH

### THE CORE

**Location:** Vancouver, B.C.

**Director:** Jon Amiel (*Entrapment*)

**Cast:** Aaron Eckhart, Hilary Swank  
*There's no problem that can't be solved with a nuclear device, including the impending implosion of the Earth in this sci-fi slice of eye candy, now in the middle of a four-month shoot on soundstages in British Columbia. In between trips to Whistler, Swank and Eckhart play scientists drilling to the centre of the planet to save us all from certain death.*

### THE FARM

**Location:** Toronto, Ont.

**Director:** Roger Donaldson (*13 Days*)

**Cast:** Colin Farrell, Al Pacino  
*Ontario stands in for rural Virginia in this thriller set on a secret CIA training camp known only as "The Farm." Farrell plays a greenhorn secret agent who suspects his trainer, Pacino, of being a spy for China. It's expected to wrap this month and should be in theatres by October.*



Pacino will come calling in Toronto

### BEYOND BORDERS

**Location:** Montreal, Que.

**Director:** Martin Campbell (*Vertical Limit*)

**Cast:** Angelina Jolie, Clive Owen  
*Owen is a globetrotting disaster-relief worker and Jolie is the wealthy philanthropist who loves him in this long-delayed romance, which finally got going last month after two years of negotiations with a parade of would-be principals. Beyond Borders will be in town through February and in theatres by the fall.*

—SD



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in *I Am Sam*

DECEMBER 25

## THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS

**Who's In It?** Ben Stiller, Gwyneth Paltrow  
**Who Directed?** Wes Anderson (*Rushmore*)  
**What's It About?** Three siblings and off-the-scale geniuses (Stiller, Paltrow and Luke Wilson) are reunited with their wayward father (Gene Hackman) at the family home in New York. See Gwyneth Paltrow interview, page 20.

## ALI

**Who's In It?** Will Smith, Jon Voight  
**Who Directed?** Michael Mann (*The Insider*)  
**What's It About?** Smith floats like a butterfly, stings like a bee, as rhyming heavyweight

## THE SHIPPING NEWS

**Who's In It?** Kevin Spacey, Julianne Moore  
**Who Directed?** Lasse Hallström (*Chocolat*)  
**What's It About?** Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning Annie Proulx novel, failed New York newspaperman Quoyle (Spacey), and his daughter Bunny, move to his ancestral home in coldest, rockiest Newfoundland after his cruel, cheating wife (Cate Blanchett) leaves him, and a mysterious aunt shows up. See Annie Proulx interview, page 16.

## A BEAUTIFUL MIND

**Who's In It?** Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly  
**Who Directed?** Ron Howard (*The Grinch*)  
**What's It About?** Look out, Ludwig von Mises.

John Forbes Nash Jr. is the new pretty boy of economics, thanks to this bio-pic with Crowe as the MIT mathematician who took home the Nobel Prize for his paper on "Game Theory" after a long battle with schizophrenia. See Russell Crowe interview, page 24, and our on-set extra's report, page 26.

JANUARY 1

## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

**Who's In It?** Paige O'Hara, Robby Benson  
**Who Directed?** Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise (*Atlantis: The Lost Empire*)  
**What's It About?** Disney re-releases its 1991 Oscar winner — about a beauty, her beast and his dancing cutlery — to IMAX theatres with a new six-minute musical number. See *Beauty and the Beast* story, page 19.

JANUARY 4

## THE ACCIDENTAL SPY

**Who's In It?** Jackie Chan, Kim Min  
**Who Directed?** Teddy Chan (debut)  
**What's It About?** Chan is an exercise equipment salesman caught up in an international conspiracy. Smart money says there's at least one fight scene involving dumbbells, the seated benchpress or an Abdominizer.

JANUARY 11

## I AM SAM

**Who's In It?** Sean Penn, Michelle Pfeiffer  
**Who Directed?** Jessie Nelson (*Corrina, Corrina*)  
**What's It About?** Penn plays a mentally disabled man — he's got the brain wattage of a seven-year-old — fighting for custody of his young daughter, with lawyering help from Pfeiffer.

## ORANGE COUNTY

**Who's In It?** Colin Hanks, Jack Black  
**Who Directed?** Jake Kasdan (*Zero Effect*)  
**What's It About?** Tom Hanks' son makes his starring debut in this comedy about a straight-A student who goes through hell when he's mistakenly turned down by Stanford University. Yeah, cry us a river, egghead.



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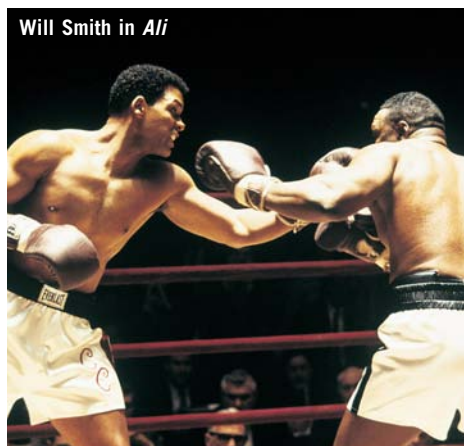
Ice Cube (left) and Mike Epps  
 in *All About the Benjamins*



JANUARY 18

#### BLACK HAWK DOWN

**Who's In It?** Josh Hartnett, Tom Sizemore  
**Who Directed?** Ridley Scott (*Hannibal*)  
**What's It About?** Scott and producer Jerry Bruckheimer adapt the non-fiction bestseller about the disaster-plagued Battle of Mogadishu for the big screen — with dog-faces Hartnett (*Pearl Harbor*) and Sizemore (*Saving Private Ryan*) on Somalia's front lines. Ewan McGregor (*Moulin Rouge*) also stars.



Will Smith in *Ali*

#### SNOW DOGS

**Who's In It?** Cuba Gooding, James Coburn  
**Who Directed?** Brian Levant (*Beethoven*)  
**What's It About?** A fish-out-of-ice comedy about a city slicker (Gooding) who relocates to Alaska when he inherits a team of dog sled huskies.

#### ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS

**Who's In It?** Ice Cube, Mike Epps  
**Who Directed?** Kevin Bray (debut)  
**What's It About?** Cube's bounty hunter is hot on the trail of Epps' bail jumper. But when they both stumble into the middle of a diamond heist, they team up to stop the robbers.

JANUARY 25

#### A WALK TO REMEMBER

**Who's In It?** Mandy Moore, Shane West  
**Who Directed?** Adam Shankman (*The Wedding Planner*)  
**What's It About?** The jaded teenage son of a wealthy family (West) falls for the minister's daughter (Moore) during the town Christmas pageant.

All release dates are subject to change.  
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Julianne Moore and Kevin Spacey  
in *The Shipping News*



# News writer

**Novelist Annie Proulx constructed her Pulitzer Prize-winning book *The Shipping News* word by word, detail by detail. So was it hard to hand her masterpiece over to its new owner and watch it launch without her? Apparently not**

BY MARNI WEISZ

**I**n 1993, and at the age of 58, American writer Annie Proulx published her second novel, *The Shipping News*.

It's about a bumbling New York newspaperman named Quoye whose philandering wife, Petal Bear, leaves him for another man, then adds insult to injury by selling their two daughters to a child pornographer. After retrieving the girls, Quoye gets a visit from a mysterious aunt who convinces him to start over by moving to his ancestral home in coldest, rockiest Newfoundland. There, the process

of becoming whole and finding his independence begins, as he gets a job at the local paper and meets single mom Wavey, whom he'd like to date, if only they could both get over their previous relationships.

The book earned the sophomore novelist a Pulitzer Prize.

After more than six years of book rights, options, revolving studios and changing actors (at one point John Travolta was supposed to star), the movie version was finally shot in tiny Trinity, Newfoundland,

last spring, with Kevin Spacey as Quoye, Judi Dench as aunt Agnis, Cate Blanchett as Petal Bear, Julianne Moore as Wavey and Lasse Hallström directing.

As for Proulx, who lives in Wyoming but also has a house on Newfoundland's remote Great Northern Peninsula, once she signed over the rights, she didn't give much thought to the project. Unlike novelists John Irving (*The Cider House Rules*) and J.K. Rowling (*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*), the no-nonsense, somewhat irascible, writer wanted nothing to do



with turning her book into a film.

Proulx hadn't seen the film when we spoke last November, but was supposed to attend a screening in Denver a few days later. When asked how she felt about finally getting to see it, she said, "I don't have any feeling. It's just an inconvenience that I have to go to Denver."

Here we delve into the mind of one of those rare people clearly not affected by Hollywood's attention.

**[q] WAS IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO GIVE UP CONTROL OF THESE CHARACTERS AND THIS STORY THAT YOU'D CREATED, AND HAND THEM OVER TO SOMEONE ELSE?**

**[a]** When a book is finished for me it's finished. I really don't think about it again. I'm on to something completely different. So I don't have that strange feeling. As I said, I haven't seen anything yet. I didn't visit the set, although I was asked. All I've seen are some stills, which look very beautiful. They did remove some characters that I was sorry to see go. Quoyale's old newspaper friend Partridge, the black man who liked to cook, got the axe. And one of the daughters is gone. They felt they couldn't deal with the youngest one on the set, so they've only got the one child.

**[q] THEY CUT HER BECAUSE IT WAS JUST EASIER?**

**[a]** Easier for them, yeah. On paper, you know, kids aren't a disturbance. But in filmmaking, having a little kid rushing around in cold winter and having problems and sicknesses and earaches, I'm sure would have been a nightmare.

**[q] APPARENTLY, THEY'VE ALSO TONED DOWN PETAL BEAR'S OFFENSE. IN THE BOOK SHE SELLS THE DAUGHTERS TO A CHILD PORNOGRAPHER, BUT DESCRIPTIONS I'VE READ OF THE FILM'S PLOT SAY IT'S JUST AN ILLEGAL ADOPTION AGENCY. HAD YOU HEARD THAT?**

**[a]** No. I hadn't.

**[q] WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?**

**[a]** Well, I don't know since I just heard about it seconds ago. I haven't had time to digest it. Like I say, movie producers believe that audiences have a different sensibility than novelists do. And a lot of my writing is known for having very grim or horrifying bits in it. I'm sure that's not palatable to them. So I'm not surprised.

**[q] WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE CASTING?**

**[a]** I thought it was extremely interesting. All of those actors are good actors, and I look forward to seeing what they do with the characters.

**[q] IN THE BOOK, QUOYLE IS VERY HEAVY, WITH A BIG CHIN AND RED HAIR, VERY UNLIKE KEVIN SPACEY. BUT SPACEY DID GAIN A LOT OF WEIGHT AND DYED HIS HAIR FOR THE PART. YET I'M STILL SURPRISED BY THE CHOICE OF GLAMOROUS JULIANNE MOORE FOR WAVEY. DID YOUR WAVEY HAVE ANY GLAMOUR IN HER?**

**[a]** No. Not at all. She had goodness, but not glamour.

**[q] THE RECURRING IMAGE WAS OF HER BEING VERY DRY, PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.**

**[a]** Yeah, I saw her more as a Newfoundlander, which is not what you think of when you think of glamour. But it is right up there on the goodness list.

**[q] WHO WOULD YOU HAVE CAST IN THAT ROLE?**

**[a]** I'm sorry, I couldn't answer that.

**[q] YOU SAID YOU WERE INVITED TO THE SET. WHY DIDN'T YOU GO?**

**[a]** I couldn't. I was in Ireland [on business and for readings] for a good deal of the

**"I know writers love to go to the set but I just figured it was really none of my business. Let them get on with it. They don't need me there," says**

time that they were shooting, and I simply couldn't get away, fly to Newfoundland, visit the set, turn around, go back to St. John's, catch a plane back to Ireland, and then back to the States. It was just too much rushing around.

**[q] WERE YOU DISAPPOINTED THAT YOU COULDN'T VISIT THE SET?**

**[a]** Well, not bitterly, no. I know how I'd feel if I were doing something with a piece that someone else wrote, whether it was a film or a play or whatever, and they came to visit me and hung over my shoulder. I think it would not be a really pleasant thing. I know writers love to go to the set but I just figured it was really none of my business. Let them get on with it. They don't need me there.

**[q] YOU'RE JUST ABOUT THE LEAST AFFECTED PERSON INVOLVED WITH A MOVIE THAT I'VE EVER INTERVIEWED. ARE YOU AT ALL EXCITED ABOUT THIS?**

**[a]** Minimally, really. Because writing is my thing.... I've written it, it's done.

**[q] STILL, YOU CREATED THIS THING, AND NOW IT'S TAKING ON A NEW LIFE.**

**[a]** I did not create the movie. Here's the thing — a lot of people feel that a book is not a success unless it's been made into a movie. I don't buy that.

**[q] WHAT INSPIRED *THE SHIPPING NEWS*?**

**[a]** This particular book was written from a very specific point of view. The first book I ever published, *Postcards*, people kept coming up to me and saying, "It's great, but it's so dark." So I decided to construct a book with this illusion of a happy ending, which is really the absence of pain.

**[q] AND WHAT ABOUT THE PLOT? WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?**

**[a]** Well, I wanted to write about Newfoundland, and I had for a long time been wanting to write about a newspaper and a newspaperman, and it just seemed to fall together — the rural situation, the displaced, unhappy Quoyale.

**[q] WHY NEWFOUNDLAND?**

**[a]** I went to Newfoundland for the first time in the 1980s with my friend Tom [on a fishing trip] and it occurred to me that it would be a



Spacey (left) and Gordon Pinsent in *The Shipping News*



►► marvelous setting for a book I wanted to write about a newspaper.

**[q] AND WHY HAD YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO WRITE ABOUT A NEWSPAPER?**

**[a]** It just came together. There had been a nascent germ of a story about a newspaper man somewhere some day, and when I went to Newfoundland it just all clicked and I thought, "Okay. Here. Now."

**[q] DO YOU THINK THE FACT THAT IT WON THE PULITZER IS WHAT TURNED HOLLYWOOD ONTO THIS BOOK?**

**[a]** Probably. Who knows? I can't second guess on that one. But it does seem like an unlikely kind of story for Hollywood. I think the thing is not only that it won the prize but also that it was very popular with readers. Readers liked that book a very great deal. So I think that had more weight with Hollywood than the Pulitzer.

**[q] THERE AREN'T A LOT OF BIG HOLLYWOOD FILMS SET IN CANADA, SO IT DOES SEEM TO HAVE BROKEN SOME BARRIERS.**

**[a]** Well, I do understand that Newfoundland comes off very well in the film. The producer says that it's just gorgeous. And I've seen a dozen of the stills and it certainly looks that way.

**[q] DOES IT LOOK AS YOU'D ENVISIONED IT?**

**[a]** Yeah. The cinematographer did a marvelous job. Although, I'm just judging from a dozen stills.... It's very handsome, if nothing else.

**[q] WHAT WAS THE MOST REMARKABLE THING ABOUT YOUR BRUSH WITH HOLLYWOOD?**

**[a]** The lack of decisiveness on power

## Sail away

If *The Shipping News* has turned you on to Newfoundland, you may want to check out the works of Newfoundland-born artist David Blackwood, whom Annie Proulx discovered just about the time she finished writing the book. She chose one of his etchings for the cover, now collects his pieces and even wrote the preface for his latest book, *David Blackwood: Master Printmaker*.



"They typify an historical past in Newfoundland, a recent past that is now just about completely gone," says Proulx. "What comes out of his pencil and pen is something that's connected with his childhood.... The days of the cod and the mariners and so forth. So what you're seeing in a Blackwood is the essence of the old Newfoundland. And if you want the new Newfoundland, I think you might have to go to Calgary or Toronto or Halifax or some other place and look up a few Newfoundlanders who are no longer at home."

"June Visit Home" (top) and "Barbour's Seabird Leaving Newtown" (left)



players' parts, the slowness of the process, the lack of logic. And that's about it.

**[q] IS IT SOMETHING YOU'D WANT TO DELVE INTO AGAIN?**

**[a]** Not really. I mean, I don't care. I haven't really been involved. My part in it has been absolutely minimal. It's no skin off my nose. I'm not suffering the tortures

of the damned from dealing with people. I'm sure it's very different for someone like John Irving who does do the screenplays and gets involved. Lots of writers love getting involved with these things. I don't know, they fancy themselves directors and whatever else, but it's not my thing. I'm a writer. Period. **F**



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# NUMBERS OF THE BEAST

This month Disney re-releases its 1991 musical hit *Beauty and the Beast* in IMAX theatres across North America, with an additional six-minute musical number that didn't make the cut in the original. Here's a quick look at some of the data, dollars and details for the singing and dancing fairy tale.

BY SEAN DAVIDSON



Year in which Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont published *La Belle et la Bête*: **1757**  
Bible passages quoted in the original text: **11**  
Number of feature and short film adaptations made worldwide: **15**

Number of those that are silent: **6**

Number that are in French: **4**

Number that credit Leprince de Beaumont: **1**

Cost of a *Beauty and the Beast* animation cel on eBay: **\$39.95 (U.S.)**

Cost of a Donald Duck cel: **\$750 (U.S.)**

Budget of *Beauty and the Beast*: **\$30,000,000**

Budget of *Dinosaur*, Disney's most expensive

animated movie to date: **\$127,500,000**

Official budget of DreamWorks' *Shrek*:

**\$45,000,000**

Rumoured actual cost: **\$170,000,000**

Average cost to produce one foot of 35mm non-computer animated film: **\$3,000**

Estimated cost to produce one foot of *Beauty and the Beast*: **\$3,968**

Estimated gross profit, per foot of film: **\$46,428**

Runtime of one foot of 35mm film: **0.6 seconds**

Date *Beauty and the Beast* first opened in theatres: **November 22, 1991**

Number of Academy Awards it won: **2**

Date the *Beauty and the Beast* musical opened on Broadway: **April 18, 1994**

Hours of rehearsal logged by cast: **1,040**

Number of Riccola cough drops consumed: **234,000**

Pounds of human hair used to create the Beast costume: **20**

Number of Tony Awards it won: **1**

Movie for which Sherri Stoner, the body model for Belle, is best known: *Reform School Girls*

Movies that Paige O'Hara, the voice of Belle, had done before *Beauty and the Beast*: **0**

Movies she's done since: **0**



## Beauty of reading

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*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was the last film to be part of

the curriculum, and now the re-release of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* — based on the 1757 tale *La Belle et la Bête* — gets with the program.

Starting January 1, the only animated film ever nominated for a Best Picture Oscar will play on IMAX screens at the Paramount in Montreal, Paramount and Colossus in Toronto, Coliseum Mississauga, SilverCity West Edmonton Mall, Paramount Chinook in Calgary and the Colossus Langley.

Teachers wanting to take part should call Famous Players' sales and events co-ordinator at 416-368-6089 x225, or email [groupsales@famousplayers.ca](mailto:groupsales@famousplayers.ca).



Paltrow's troubled genius  
in *The Royal Tenenbaums*



# A healthy attitude

**Yoga, a macrobiotic diet and meditation changed Gwyneth Paltrow's body and soul. Finally, she felt healthy, clean and spiritually grounded. But would her role in the off-beat comedy *The Royal Tenenbaums* destroy all that? | BY EARL DITTMAN**

**W**hen Gwyneth Paltrow discovered she would have to do "it" several times in *The Royal Tenenbaums*, she had second thoughts. She felt uncomfortable. It wasn't something she did in her personal life and it seemed gratuitous. But the director refused to write it out of the script. If she wanted the part, she would

have to do it. After many sleepless nights, she finally decided she loved the script enough to go ahead and just get it over with. So when the day came on set, she mustered all her strength, took a deep breath and...lit a cigarette.

"It was really weird lighting up again, I think having to do a nude scene would have been easier," the 29-year-old health

nut says with a laugh. "When I started yoga and my macrobiotic diet, I swore I was never going to smoke again. I mean, I had been smoking since high school and it was hell finally stopping. But they said it was essential to my character. So I did it. Of course, I started to smoke all over again off the set. I knew that was going to happen, but I managed to stop. But then I started to gain weight. My butt got bigger! It was a nightmare."

A nasty smoking habit, a crisis of conscience and a larger posterior — apparently being an Academy Award-winning actress is risky business.

"Okay, I know I could have it a lot worse by doing more dangerous films. It's not exactly like I'm Jackie Chan jumping off a speeding boat," she jokes, glancing at the pier outside her Marina del Rey hotel room. It's a sunny Southern California morning and 1998's Best Actress is decked out in a white, silk designer pant suit. "But I'm really starting to question doing things in films that put my health at risk. I've really gotten into keeping myself healthy and clean. I don't eat meat, sugar, wheat or drink coffee or caffeine. And I'm up every morning at 6 a.m. to go to my yoga classes. I don't do it to stay thin. I do it to stay spiritually and physically clean and to help me keep my feet on the ground."

"You won't catch me doing very many action films, that's for sure," she adds.

And yet *Tenenbaums*, by oddball filmmaker Wes Anderson (*Bottle Rocket*, *Rushmore*), is a bit of a departure for Paltrow, best known for costume dramas like *Shakespeare in Love* and *Emma*, or grisly thrillers like *Seven* and *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. The ensemble comedy revolves around the sudden, unexpected reunion of a dysfunctional family of geniuses — father Royal (Gene Hackman), mother Etheline (Anjelica Huston) and their three children, financial whiz Chas (Ben Stiller), tennis pro Richie (Luke Wilson) and playwright Margot (Paltrow). The wintertime gathering forces each member of the unusual clan to come to terms with two decades of betrayal, failure and disaster.

"I enjoyed everything about *The Royal Tenenbaums*, especially not having to wear any corsets or speak in a British accent," says Paltrow, smiling. "I've done several romantic films and a couple of comedies, but this one really touched me in a way that the others didn't. The emotions and feelings in it are so real. Although it's a comedy, its heart speaks to all of us. We might not all be super smart, but we know





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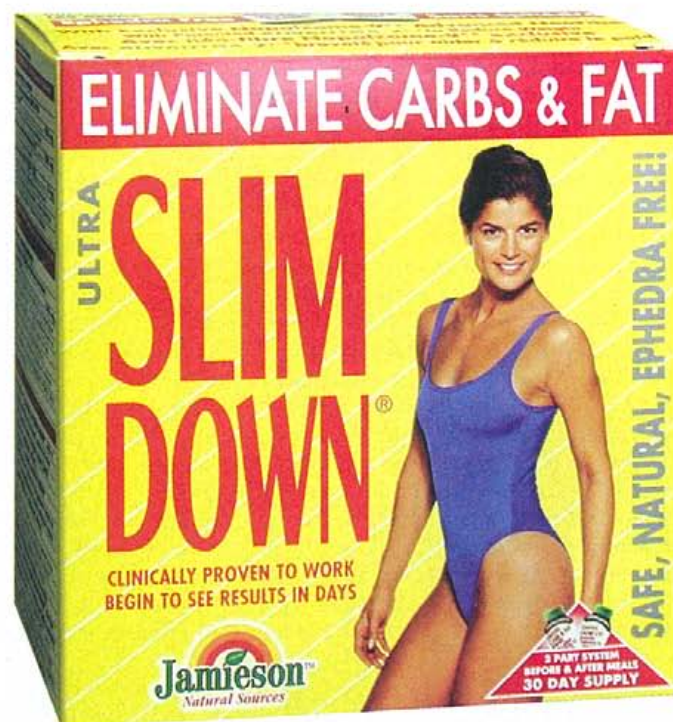
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*The Royal Tenenbaums: A family portrait*

► what it's like to deal with the problems and craziness of other family members."

Like Margot, Paltrow also grew up in a talented family. The daughter of actress Blythe Danner and producer/director Bruce Paltrow spent her first 10 years in Los Angeles, watching her parents build careers in television and motion pictures. And when they moved to Manhattan's elite Upper East Side, young Gwyneth was sent to a prestigious all-girls academy. Although she excelled in languages (she speaks fluent Spanish and French), she wasn't exactly a straight-A student and had no clue what to do when she graduated.

After participating in a summer stock production of *As You Like It* — during one of her family's annual summer jaunts to Williamstown, Massachusetts — Gwyneth decided she wanted to follow in her mom's footsteps. Her father wasn't exactly thrilled with the decision and begged her to give college a try, at least for a year. Family friend Michael Douglas even pulled a few strings and got her into the University of California, but Paltrow barely lasted one semester, much less an entire year. When another friend of the family, director Steven Spielberg, offered her the part of Wendy in his retelling of the Peter Pan tale, *Hook*, her academic days were over for good.

A small but much applauded part in 1993's *Flesh and Bone* springboarded her to bigger and better movies, capped by her Oscar-winning turn in *Shakespeare in Love*.

She was also lucky in love, to a point, dating *Seven* castmate Brad Pitt for two years before it all ended shortly before their planned wedding.

Although Paltrow and Pitt don't talk about their aborted nuptials, many have speculated that the constant media

"Recently in the *New York Post*, there was this article that said I was getting fat from my macrobiotic diet," says Paltrow. "It said I was retaining water and that my body was no longer as good as it was"

scrutiny became too overwhelming. The paparazzi were also blamed for sinking her romance with actor Ben Affleck. But despite the havoc the press may have wreaked on Paltrow's personal life, she harbours little ill will.

"Interfacing with the press just seems like it is part of my job," she concedes. "It is your job to put the movie out there and talk about it." But for some reason, she says, the media has written things about her that were "way off base."

"Sometimes there will be things in the press that makes it sound like I had a relationship with somebody when that really wasn't the case," she complains. "I feel like going, 'Can't I even get to first base before I'm marrying them in Switzerland?'"

But she still talks to reporters, and dates actors, despite the hassles. "Actors can be kind of difficult, but they also understand my lifestyle as an actress," she says. "They know what it's like to be chased by photographers all day or to have so-called journalists criticize every part of your body."

Her recent appearance as a 300-pound woman in *Shallow Hal* has motivated Paltrow — certainly one of the most beautiful women in Hollywood — to question Tinsel

Town's obsession with physical perfection.

"I was just reading an article in *W* on Liv Tyler where they were suggesting that she was not thin enough. That disgusts me, and it should disgust everyone else," she says. "And recently in the *New York Post*, there was this article that said that I was getting fat from my macrobiotic diet. It said I was retaining water and that my body was no longer as good as it was. So if that's being written about myself and Liv Tyler, then you can imagine how women who might be just 10 pounds overweight must feel. I'm sick of studios and corporations trying to make us feel bad about ourselves."

She speaks from experience, recalling the shoot for 1998's *A Perfect Murder*. "Before the film started I quit smoking. But then I started to gain some weight from not smoking and my skin was breaking out from the detoxification. The producers were really concerned about it," she says. "They were constantly going, 'Be very careful. Don't gain any weight.' They even sent me to a dermatologist to clear up the skin. I felt terrible about myself. They even suggested I started smoking again, can you believe it? That's one of the reasons I was so torn-up about smoking again in *The Royal Tenenbaums*. I didn't want to have to deal with that crutch in my life again."

She's now able to deal with the pressures of stardom without smokes. But she understands why someone like ex-beau Ben Affleck, for example, would turn to booze under the strain of appearing perfect in the public eye.

"Fame and fortune makes it worse," she says. "The more success, the more money and the more recognition you get, the more it juxtaposes the success with the fact that you feel so terrible about yourself and so undeserving. So people turn to things to anesthetize the way they feel about themselves. Unfortunately, a lot of people do it with drugs and alcohol. For me, I went the other way. I do yoga every day, I don't eat sugar or wheat and I meditate. Some people think that's weird. But you have to do something sort of extreme to balance the fact that you live this extreme life. But now that I'm getting ready to hit the big 3-0, even smoking seems extreme to me. I guess that's just the way it is for an old, water-retaining, chain-smoking, college drop-out broad like me." **F**

*Earl Dittman is a Houston-based entertainment writer. He also interviewed Russell Crowe for this issue of Famous.*



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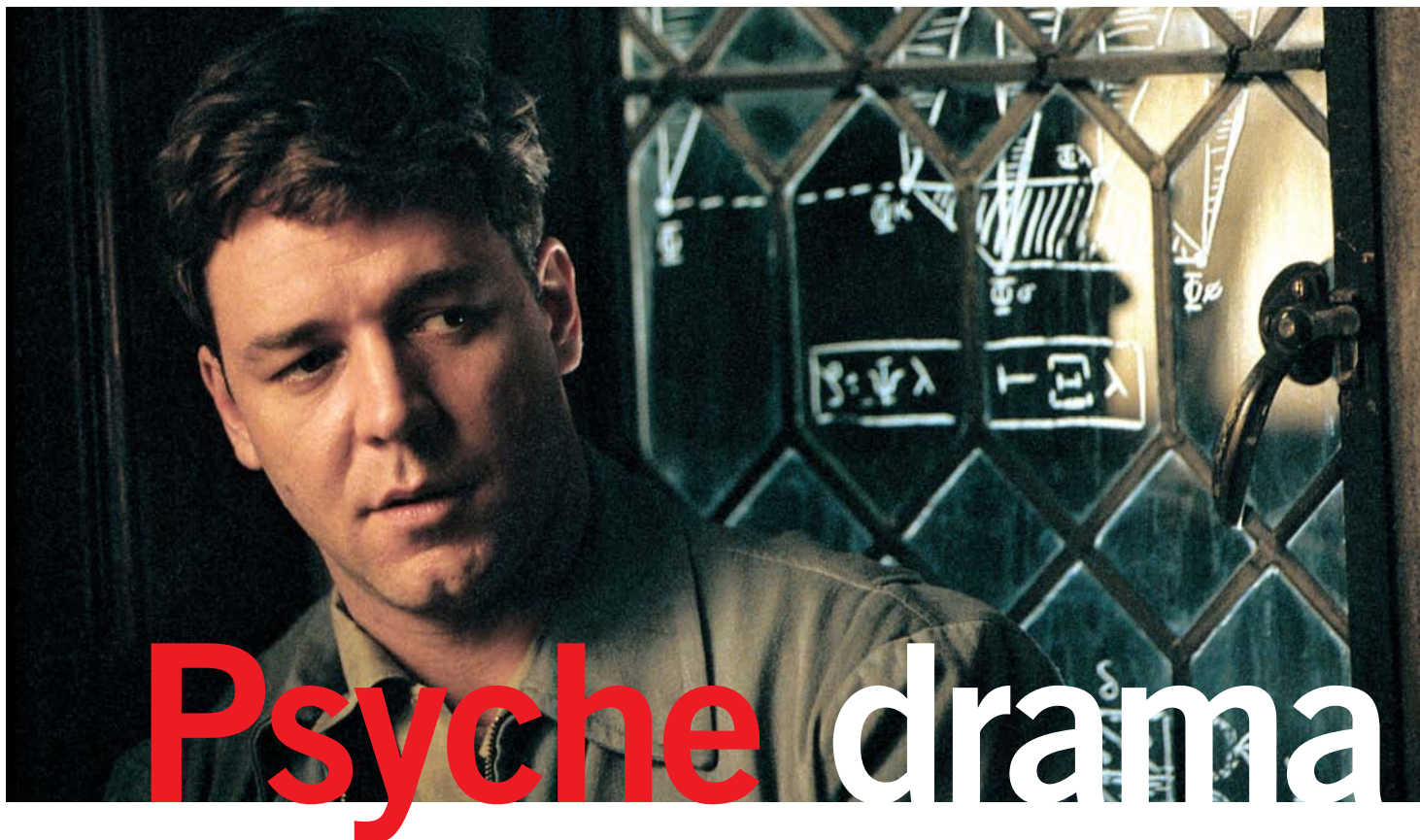
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# Psyche drama

**A *Beautiful Mind*'s Russell Crowe talks about playing a schizophrenic math genius, explains how to get inside the head of a real-life character and looks back on his "wacky" relationship with Meg Ryan** **BY EARL DITTMAN**

**W**inning the Best Actor Academy Award for his performance in *Gladiator* last year was a satisfying achievement for Russell Crowe. But, according to the superstar from Down Under, life with Oscar has also altered his own life in ways he never anticipated. Not that he was surprised it transformed him into an international matinee idol and upped his per-picture asking price, it's just that he wasn't prepared for the demands the trophy would place on his off-camera existence.

"For a while, it was like I was complete public property, because everyone wanted to know every single bit of information about this 'Academy Award-winning actor.' My life was no longer my own," an unshaven Crowe, dressed in jeans, a T-shirt and leather jacket, says with a shrug. "It wasn't like I shouldn't have been used to all the scrutiny, because I've been the media's whipping boy for a while now. It

just seems like their interest in every aspect of my life was heightened to an infinite degree. I felt like I couldn't pick my nose in public without it being reported on."

Almost in the same breath, though, Crowe admits he's proud to wake up at his 560-acre cattle farm, seven hours north of Sydney, and see the gold-plated statuette glimmering on his fireplace mantle.

"On the other side of the coin, winning it has been great, because it has helped me live the fantasy of my life. Because of it, I am getting to work at the highest level of my craft with the best people in the business. That has made dealing with all the other crap worth it," he says, searching his Beverly Hills hotel suite for an ashtray.

And who knows? The outspoken, sometimes surly, 37-year-old may have to live through the perils of Oscar all over again if the Academy takes a shine to his portrayal of Nobel Prize-winning mathematician John Forbes Nash Jr., in the Ron Howard-

directed *A Beautiful Mind*.

The mere mention of taking home another Academy Award prompts Crowe — who is in a surprisingly cheerful mood — to grab his head and shake it in mock terror. "Just the thought of it makes me crazy," he shouts. "Look, I'm not greedy, I got mine last year and a nomination the year before [for *The Insider*] — that will do me for the rest of my life. The award season that happens in this country goes on and on and on forever. I'd rather spend some time with my cows in Australia than campaigning for another Oscar here in the States."

For *A Beautiful Mind*, Crowe's biggest challenge was to turn Nash — an economics professor and schizophrenic — into a sympathetic and compelling character.

"It was easy making him lovable, especially since it's an action film about schizophrenia," he says excitedly. After a few seconds of waiting for a reaction, Crowe smiles, lights a cigarette, and says,



"That was a joke."

Nash's story is a complicated one. In 1949, he wrote a paper on the "Game Theory" of economics, which eventually won him a Nobel Prize. But the intervening years were plagued by debilitating mental illness, stints in psychiatric hospitals and work with the U.S. Department of Defense, which coveted him for his code-breaking skills. *A Beautiful Mind* also follows the love story between Nash and his wife, Alicia (Jennifer Connelly). Partly told through her eyes, the film illustrates the couple's intense efforts to maintain a "normal" marriage in the midst of one partner's descent into madness.

To prepare for her role as Alicia, Connelly (*Requiem for a Dream*) spent a great deal of time with her real-life counterpart (who divorced Nash in 1963, only to remarry him this past summer), both before filming and on set. But Crowe decided not to seek advice from the real Nash, although he would occasionally bump into the Nobel laureate when Nash accompanied Alicia to the New York set. Instead, Crowe studied films and photos of Nash and read everything about the man he could get his hands on. For Crowe, it was an essential step in ensuring his performance was more than just a carbon copy of the real Nash.

"It's not acting when all you do is mimic someone, whether they are real or not," Crowe explains. "There's a danger when you get to meet a real person that you are going to play. In your mind, you try too hard to act like them or to move like them. Watching them in old films or seeing them in pictures gives you just enough information."

**B**orn in New Zealand, Crowe moved to Australia as a child. His love for acting started on television and film sets where his caterer parents worked. He nabbed his first acting gig at the age of six, and was hooked. "I found it so exciting pretending to be someone else and making people believe it," he remembers. "It was fun, even for a young bloke who didn't understand what he was feeling."

As a teen, Crowe discovered musical theatre, landing roles in *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Blood Brothers* and *Grease*. He also fronted his own rock 'n' roll garage band, a passion that continues to this day. His current band, 30 Odd Foot of Grunts, released their second album last year, and are recording a follow-up.

By his mid-20s, Crowe was delivering



acclaimed performances in such Australian hits as *The Crossing*, *Proof*, *The Sum of Us* and *Romper Stomper*. But American audiences still knew nothing of his immense talent. His role as a gun-slinging preacher in the Sharon Stone vehicle *The Quick and the Dead* was supposed to change this, but the neo-western bombed at the box office, and Crowe was back to square one.

**"Playing a real person can be really weird, especially if they are still around to judge your work," Crowe says**

When director Curtis Hanson decided to cast Crowe as a tough, 1940s Los Angeles cop in his film noir *L.A. Confidential*, studio heads balked at the idea of giving such an important role to a virtual unknown. Hanson stood his ground, though, and when the film became a hit with both critics and North American audiences, Crowe's ticket to stardom was issued.

"I wouldn't be where I'm at today if it wasn't for the faith of Curtis Hanson, he's my American godfather," Crowe says.

Despite his reputation for being difficult ("I think any time someone has an opinion they are automatically branded a troublemaker in Hollywood," he sneers), everyone wanted Crowe in their movies. And for every cinematic misstep he made (*Mystery, Alaska*) there were incredible artistic triumphs (*The Insider*, *Gladiator*).

The tabloid media, though, was far more interested in Crowe's personal life. Rumours of romantic liaisons with many of Tinsel Town's leading ladies made him a regular topic in the tattle sheets. And when news broke that Meg Ryan had left hubby

Dennis Quaid for Crowe while in Ecuador filming the thriller *Proof of Life*, the love-birds were plastered across the front pages of practically every newspaper and magazine on the planet. Crowe didn't even realize their coupling had become such a major news item until he returned to civilization.

"When we were in Ecuador, for four months, we didn't have to worry about the paparazzi very much. I don't know why, but they didn't choose to fly to Ecuador," he says with a laugh. "So basically, I was under a complete...I was going to say blanket, but you'll use that in the wrong f-cking way. Come on, you can laugh if you want!.... It wasn't until we got back to England that I realized that life had probably changed a little bit."

Living under siege might have been one of the reasons he and Ryan became so close. "Misery does love company, so I suppose it did have an affect on the way we reacted to one another," he explains. "Look, mate, once we all left Ecuador and moved to England to film was when it all became kind of wacky. But we were just focused on getting the film made, completing the characters and doing the best that we could."

His relationship with Ryan would be short-lived. By the time he leapt on stage to accept his Oscar for *Gladiator*, their affair was over. And although he has nothing but kind words about working with her, he refuses to discuss the details of their time together or what led to their break-up.

"I have my own personal priority list, so I think I'll keep its contents to myself. Sorry, mate," he says. "But Meg is a fantastic actress and a great talent. I'm just glad I had the chance to act alongside her."

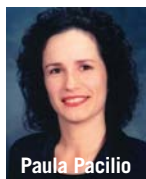
These days, Crowe is happy his love life has taken a backseat to his career accomplishments, particularly his work in *A Beautiful Mind*. Despite not getting to know John Nash personally, Crowe believes he was able to capture the true essence of the mathematical genius.

"Playing a real person can be really weird, especially if they are still around to judge your work," he says. "But I think Nash will be content with how I played him. I feel like I did him, and his life's work, justice. I'm very proud of what I did in the film, and I hope audiences get into his story and learn from it the way that I did." **E**

*Earl Dittman is a Houston-based entertainment writer. He also interviewed Gwyneth Paltrow for this issue of Famous.*



# A short encounter with Russell



For the true-life drama *A Beautiful Mind*, Hollywood's resident chameleon Russell Crowe turned into John Forbes Nash Jr., a brilliant mathematician who spent decades battling schizophrenia before finally winning a Nobel Prize for his work in 1994. Paula Pacilio, a 34-year-

old transcriptionist from Chalfont, Pennsylvania was an extra for a scene that took place in the late '60s. Here, she shares her on-set diary.

June 2001. Princeton, New Jersey

**8:30 a.m.** Arrive with curlers in hair, no makeup, check in, get voucher to make sure get paid.

**9:30** Hear beckoning from above, "1969, everyone for 1969 hair and makeup!" Hair not working, lady wants to trim it. Sure, go ahead! Hair flat on top, flip on bottom. Ick. What were they thinking back in 1969?

**10:00** Go into wardrobe area, get dressed in outfit Bill the wardrobe guy picked out for me last week. Brownish-orange plaid wool dress down to my knees. Go out and wait for approval from costume designer, Rita Ryack.

**10:15** Rita: "Oh, NO! What did they do? That's waaay too long. You can't wear that. This is 1969!" Uh-oh. Okay, Rita takes bottom of dress, sticks a pin in it, tells seamstress to hem it up.

**10:45** Dress hemmed, change again. Uh-oh. Really, really short! Back is level with my butt cheeks. But, okay, must tough it out. Go to Bill for approval. Bill says, "That's really short, we better wait for Rita to see this." Waiting for Rita...

**1:00 p.m.** They herd us outside for lunch. I can't eat. All the extras are saying, "Wow. That's really short." Yeah, I know.

**2:00** Wardrobe assistant sees me and smiles, "Oh, Did Rita come check you out?" "No." "You're really uncomfortable, aren't you?"



"Yes, I really am."  
"Okay, let's see what else we can find."  
WOO-HOO!  
Find a white frilly top and a brown patchwork leather miniskirt. I feel much better.

**2:15** Run back up to hair lady, get hair touched up. Oh no, they're calling all the 1969 women! I make it into the lineup. Bill looks over at me. "Oh, no. That won't do!" Back to wardrobe. "She can't wear this. It's terrible!" I thought it was cute, but who am I? "If you can't find anything else, then she can't be in the shot." I quickly pipe in, "I'll put the other dress back on!" They lower it a couple of inches.

**2:45** Go back out to lineup area. Everyone's gone. Go down to holding. Uh-oh. I'm not going to be in this.

**3:30** Everyone comes back in. They have one more 1969 scene to do. Well, what do you know? Rita's here. She says, "Oh, they hemmed it up. It looks good." Ugh. If she only knew... Bill tells seamstress, "Make sure she's in the next shot. Put her in the front." WOO-HOOOO!

I follow a group of extras out to a small stone courtyard. An assistant director is placing people. One of the crew from inside begins to tell her, "This is the girl..."

The scene: spring or fall 1969. Russell (as Nash) walks through the courtyard in a schizophrenic state, while three male

students are walking behind him, mocking him. The people standing around the courtyard all stare at him and laugh. I'm talking to two other people and I am to turn around to see what they're looking at when Russell comes in.

"Places."

I make sure I'm standing with my shoulders back and my stomach in!

"Rolling." My friends and I start talking.

"Action." We're talking, and they look over when they hear laughter. I turn to my left and there's Russell, well, Nash, in his 40s but looking older, shirt untucked, holding a briefcase up to his chest, looking around at the people laughing at him. He's shaking, nervous, paranoid. Then he looks at me, stares directly into my eyes, and holds that stare for a full three to four seconds, while I'm laughing at him. (Sorry mate! That's my job.) Then he walks quickly through the archway. "Cut!" He comes back through, throws his briefcase cheerily to a guy waiting and walks back to do the scene again. We did the scene three times. It was amazing to watch, and even more amazing to be the person on whom he chose to focus. I don't know why he chose me, maybe they told him the camera was facing that way?

**6:30** We're wrapped. Go to wardrobe, back to normal garb. Yay! Get vouchers signed so we can get paid. Another extra and I go out to watch them filming another scene. We ask Russell's chief of staff if Russell could come over and sign some things. He said that normally he would, but then the whole crowd would come over and when he has to leave (he had a 7:30 appointment) "everyone will say he's a prick." But, he added, if we know which way he came in, we could catch him on his way out.

At that very moment the scene finished and Russell started walking back. We went around and out another entranceway and, along with a bunch of other people, caught up to him.

He signed whatever people handed him. When he got to me, I gave him the *BLOC (Bastard Life Or Clarity)* CD jacket, the latest album from his band 30 Odd Foot of Grunts. He looked at me and I said, "Paula." He said, "Paula?" Then I couldn't think of anything else to say! Duh! He signed it, "To Paula. Russell." He looked up at me, handed it back, and in a soft voice said, "Cheers, mate." **E**

*Thanks to the webmaster at [murphsplace.com](http://murphsplace.com) for helping us get in touch with Paula. You can find more Russell Crowe fan encounters there.*



# J.LO PLAYS MAID, TRAVOLTA RETEAMS WITH JACKSON AND DAY-LEWIS RETURNS TO MOVIES, YET AGAIN

BY SEAN DAVIDSON



Lopez

## HOW J.LO CAN YOU GO?

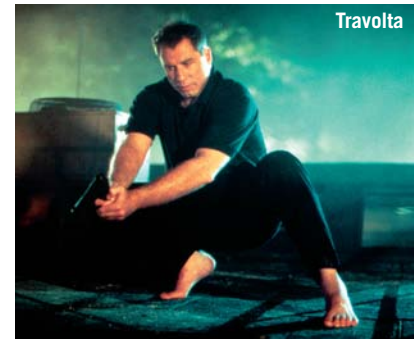
Stepping in where **Hilary Swank** and **Sandra Bullock** dropped out, **Jennifer Lopez** (*The Wedding Planner*) will star as a modern-day Cinderella in director **Wayne Wang**'s light comedy *The Chambermaid*. The former Fly Girl plays a downtrodden maid at a posh hotel who falls head over heels for a moneyed English bloke. This is a bit of a departure for Wang, the high-minded helmer who last drew the attention of censor boards and sex-starved dot-commers with his racy nerd-meets-stripper picture *Center of the World*. **John Hughes** (*Ferris Bueller's Day Off*) was supposed to direct this one, but also bailed at the last minute.

## DAY IN, DAY OUT

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

## JOHNNY, GET YOUR GUN

First, the bad news: **John Travolta** is making another movie. The upside? He's reteaming with *Pulp Fiction* co-star **Samuel L. Jackson** and taking his orders from action virtuoso **John McTiernan** of *Die Hard* and *The Hunt for Red October* fame. The trio have signed on to make *Basic*, a military thriller with Travolta (*Swordfish*) as a DEA agent sent to investigate the disappearance of an army drill instructor played by Jackson. Filming is already underway in Florida and Panama, with Jackson splitting his time between this project and his spy movie *XXX*.



Travolta

## THE DEVIL AND LIAM NEESON

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



Neeson

## THE REAL KIM SHADY

**Kim Basinger** has agreed to play the most-dissed mom since **Susan Smith** in the still-untitled bio-pic about rapper **Eminem**. The sex kitten-turned-Oscar alum (*9½ Weeks*, *L.A. Confidential*) will co-star with the bleach-blond enfant terrible in a fictionalized retelling of his early days on the mean streets of Detroit. Rounding out the cast are **Mekhi Phifer** (*O*) and **Brittany Murphy** (*Don't Say a Word*). No word yet if the script will include Mrs. Em's much-rapped child neglect, drug abuse or \$10-million defamation suit.

## B R I E F L Y

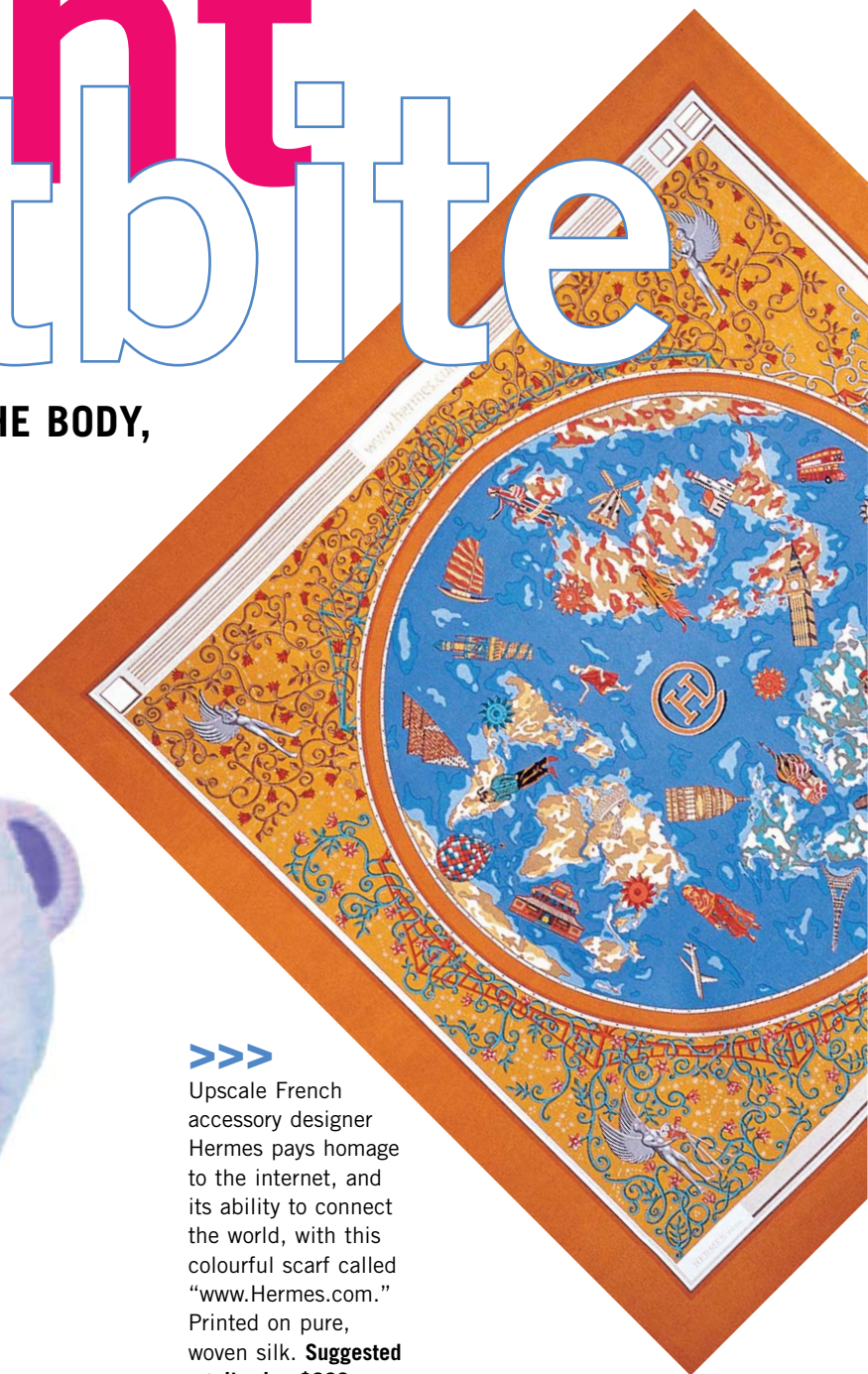
**Nicolas Cage** (*The Family Man*) will play DC Comic's occult anti-hero in the thriller *Constantine*. ■ **Steve Martin** (*Novocaine*) falls for a hell-raising jailbird, played by Queen Latifah, in the romantic comedy *In The Houze*. ■ **Richard Gere** (*Dr. T and the Women*) has joined **Catherine Zeta-Jones** and **Renée Zellweger** in the movie version of *Chicago*. ■ **Julianne Moore** (*Hannibal*) will play the mother of a dysfunctional 1950s family in the drama *Far From Heaven*. ■ Man-of-a-thousand-movies **Michael Caine** has signed to appear in *Austin Powers 3: Goldmember*.



things |

# fight frostbite

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AND THE SPIRIT, THIS SNOWY SEASON**



Upscale French accessory designer Hermes pays homage to the internet, and its ability to connect the world, with this colourful scarf called "www.Hermes.com." Printed on pure, woven silk. **Suggested retail price \$360.**

**Available at Hermes boutiques and Holt Renfrew**



Could a hat be any cuter? One size fits all with this teddy bear chapeau in knit acrylic trimmed with faux Sherpa-style fur. Too cute? Try it in black. Yeah, that'll make a big difference. **Suggested retail price \$16 (U.S.). Available from online retailer Delias, at [www.delias.com](http://www.delias.com)**





Soft, bright, fun. A simple pattern is given a delicious twist with these chunky cable-knit woolies. Don't you just want to reach out and touch 'em? **Suggested retail price for sleigh scarf \$40, for sleigh hat \$25.**

**Available at The Gap**



So you're more of a Gore-Tex and fleece kind of winter warrior? There are bold, colourful options for you too. Both of these seriously warm lids feature two-part construction combining a tough outer shell with a comfortable cloth inner lining. **In red, it's the Powder Hat 3. Suggested retail price \$22. The blue, dubbed Outdoor Research Hat for All Seasons, will set you back \$66.**

**Available at Mountain Equipment Co-op**



They're back! You didn't think bell bottoms would return either, so why be surprised that candy-striped toe socks — the staple of '70s roller palaces throughout the free world — are hot again? **Suggested retail price \$6.**

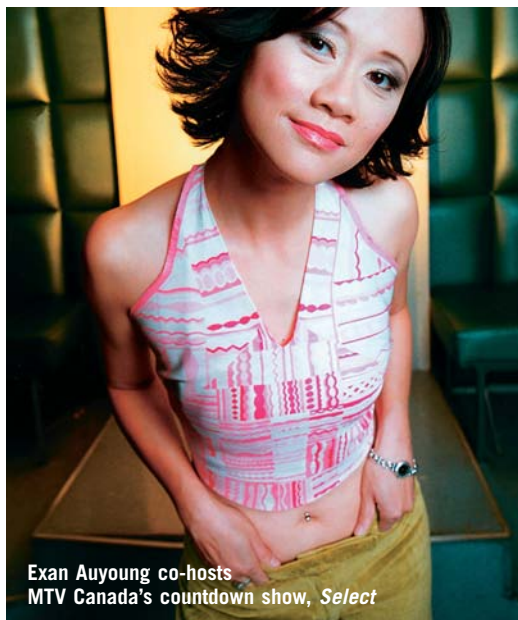
**Available at Winners**





# CANADA TUNES IN

MTV CANADA HAS BEEN UP AND RUNNING FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS. SO WHY HAVEN'T WE HEARD MUCH ABOUT IT? | BY MICHAEL WHITE



Exan Auyoung co-hosts MTV Canada's countdown show, *Select*

It popularized the music video, and forever changed the multibillion dollar music industry. Now MTV — 20 years old and seen in 141 countries via 35 channels and 19 websites in 17 different languages — has finally come to win over our country.

MTV Canada quietly slipped onto satellite and digital cable on October 18, 2001. But if you hadn't heard about it before now, you aren't alone.

"The roll-out of MTV Canada is being based on word of mouth," says vice president Wayne Sterloff. "One of the important reasons for that is we want the service to be highly reflective of the local community. We want the earlier [viewers] to feed back to us — what they think is cool, what they think is lame — before we do our consumer-level advertising." The first ad campaign is expected to get going sometime this month.

This is a surprisingly cautious approach for such a proven media powerhouse. More surprising, though, is that MTV Canada isn't the product of years of planning, but an accident of unrelated negotiations between MTV's parent company, Viacom, and the Calgary-based Craig Broadcast Systems, which now operates the north-of-the-border version.

Sterloff says both companies were working to develop other channels, most notably a Canadian

youth lifestyle magazine when it "sort of dawned on them" that MTV was a perfect match.

"Lifestyle" is the key term to understanding how MTV Canada seeks to position itself within a rapidly growing cable universe. You'd think that MuchMusic, our country's own 17-year-old music channel, would be threatened by such heavyweight competition. Yet the newcomer stresses that the two are too different to be considered rivals.

"I think it's a totally different entity," says Exan Auyoung, co-host of *Select*, MTV Canada's daily interactive video countdown show — one of the station's few music-centred programs. Auyoung adds that only about 10 percent of the channel's daily programming will be music videos. The rest will be "youth culture" fare, such as the extreme sports shows *Fusion 2001* and *The Ride Guide*, and the equally successful and controversial MTV show *Jackass*, on which host Johnny Knoxville and his cohorts perform dangerous stunts and pranks — like jumping in front of cars or setting themselves on fire to cook meat.

"[MTV Canada] isn't a music channel; it's a lifestyle channel, and it's dedicated to youth," says Sterloff. "It really reflects the entire culture, not just one part of it."

But lest you fear that MTV Canada represents further encroachment of American culture onto our airwaves, Sterloff says fear not. Up to 65 percent of the station's programming will be Canada-made. And the station will actively seek out new, homegrown talent to produce original MTV programs, including feature-length films. *Wasted*, a gritty true-life drama about heroin addiction among teenagers, will air early this year. It was shot in Calgary.

"The reason that MTV is the largest global network — larger than any other television network — is because it's local," Sterloff says. "It's because they're not just taking a signal out of New York and beaming it into Argentina or London or Ottawa."

As MTV Canada begins to make itself widely known in the coming weeks via its first advertising blitz, those who are old enough might remember that, back in 1983, "I want my MTV" became an American buzz-phrase. With plans for up to half a dozen spin-off channels already afoot, time will tell if the Canadian masses are finally ready to join in the chant.

Michael White is the music editor of The Calgary

## out THIS MONTH

**Artist:** Jordy Birch  
**Title:** Jordy Birch's Fun Machine  
**Label:** Virgin Music Canada

**Artist:** Rory Block  
**Title:** I'm Every Woman  
**Label:** Rounder/Universal

**Artist:** Fieldy's Dreams  
**Title:** Rock N Roll Gangster  
**Label:** Epic/Sony

**Artist:** Funkmaster Flex  
**Title:** Volume  
**Label:** Loud/Sony

**Artist:** Pat Green  
**Title:** Three Days  
**Label:** Universal

**Artist:** Hoobastank  
**Title:** Hoobastank  
**Label:** Island

**Artist:** Montell Jordan  
**Title:** Montell Jordan  
**Label:** Def Jam/Universal

**Artist:** Glen Lewis  
**Title:** World Outside My Window  
**Label:** Epic/Sony

**Artist:** Lowest of the Low  
**Title:** Nothing Short of a Bullet  
**Label:** Yesboy/Universal

**Artist:** Heather Myles  
**Title:** Sweet Talkin' Lies  
**Label:** Rounder/Universal

**Artist:** Nine Inch Nails  
**Title:** And All that Could Have Been  
**Label:** Nothing/Interscope

**Artist:** Colin Raye  
**Title:** Can't Back Down  
**Label:** Epic/Sony

**Artist:** West Coast Bad Boyz  
**Title:** Poppin' Collars  
**Label:** Universal

**Artist:** X-Ecutioners  
**Title:** Built From Scratch  
**Label:** Loud/Sony





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# MAINTAINING THE FANTASY

FINAL FANTASY X LEADS THE CROP OF JANUARY'S RELEASES | BY MARK MAGEE



Final Fantasy X  
hero Tidus

## FINAL FANTASY X

Playstation 2

The venerable *Final Fantasy* series may be one of the most popular franchises of all time, but it's also one of the most divisive. To fans, *Final Fantasy* games are the epitome of videogaming — compelling stories filled with well fleshed out characters and beautiful scenery. To everyone else, playing means little more than staring at pretty eye candy for hours on end while pressing the “skip dialogue” button over and over and over and over again.

If you're among the latter, *Final Fantasy X* ain't gonna do anything to change your opinion. But if you're one of those who can't get enough of the *FF* games, then — to put it simply — you *must* own this game.

The story is typical. You, professional “blitzball” athlete Tidus, are thrust into the

middle of an epic saga concerning a mysterious mystical force that could destroy the entire world. Plot twists occur, battles are fought and eventually you get to save humanity.

A number of elements have been tweaked for this outing — combat works a little differently and your characters gain experience in an entirely new way — but on the whole, this is still very much a *Final Fantasy* game. Albeit a *Final Fantasy* game that looks, sounds and plays way better than any that have gone before.

## STATE OF EMERGENCY

Playstation 2

Ever wanted to run wild in a violent street riot? Well, thanks to the people who brought you the morality-free *Grand Theft Auto* games, you can indulge all your anti-social tendencies from the safety of your own living room. This game dumps you into the middle of a raging city-wide battle between protesters and an evil, faceless

corporation. Your job is to stay alive and throw as many bricks at the pigs as possible. Think of it as training for the next WTO conference.

## MEDAL OF HONOR FRONTLINE

Playstation 2

The popular *Medal of Honor* series continues with yet another round of WW2 first-person shoot-'em-up action. Once again, you take on the role of Lt. Jimmy Patterson, the one-man army who can apparently defeat the Nazis single-handedly. Historical realism aside, this new offering promises to be just as tense and fun as the original.

## NFL 2K2

Xbox

The 20-or-so people out there who own Dreamcasts can attest to the fact that, when

it comes to sports games, Sega is the champ. And now that they're concentrating solely on making software, those of you with Xboxes can discover one of the best-kept secrets in the gaming world — *NFL 2K2*.

## SUPER MARIO WORLD

Game Boy Advance

Mario and Luigi go to Dinosaur Land for a vacation (guess Club Med was all booked up), but that pesky Bowser is up to his old tricks. So it's up to the plumber brothers — with a little help from the petite dino Yoshi — to save the princess...again. You'd think she'd have learned to take care of herself by now.

## NBA COURTSIDE

GameCube

Nintendo has never really been known for their sports titles, but the fluid gameplay of their b-ball *Courtside* games has won over many skeptical hoops fans. So if you're a new GameCube owner, and if you know your Vines from your Spuds, then pick this one up pronto. It just might surprise you.



## HOT SHOTS GOLF 3

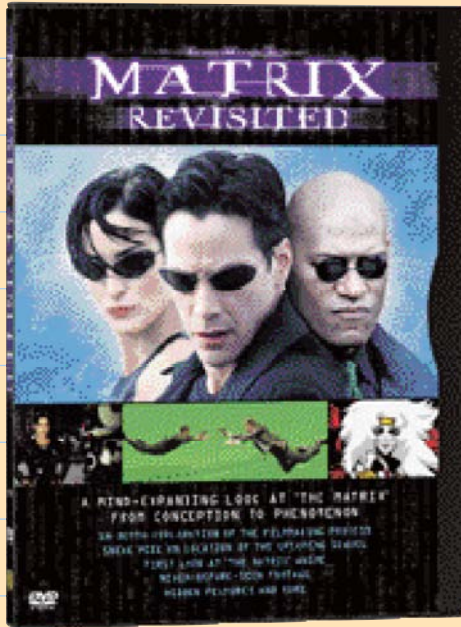
Playstation 2

The goofy, giant-headed golfers are back for another round. *Hot Shots* is easily the most light-hearted links series out there, and fans will be pleased to hear that this new version still serves up all the strange details and over-the-top celebrations you've come to expect from this heavily Japanese-influenced game.

Mark Magee is the associate editor of Premiere Video Magazine.



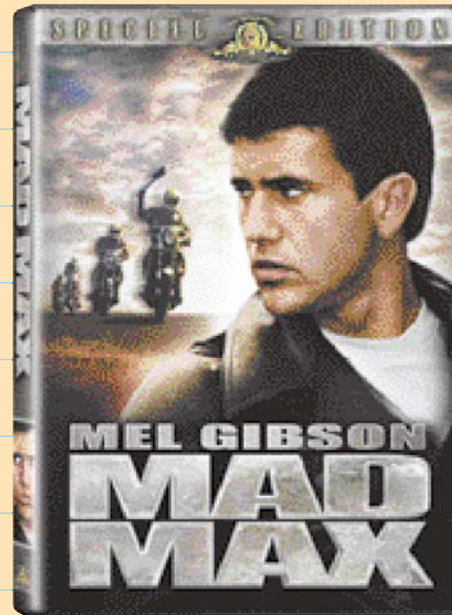
# film studios 101



## MATRIX REVISITED

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- Behind-the-Scenes Training Footage with the Stars of The Matrix sequel
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- Loaded with Special Hidden Features on the DVD
- Subtitles: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Thai and Korean
- For DVD-ROM PC Users: Links to [whatisthematrix.com](http://whatisthematrix.com) Website for the Latest Updates and for Future Online Events

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## MAD MAX

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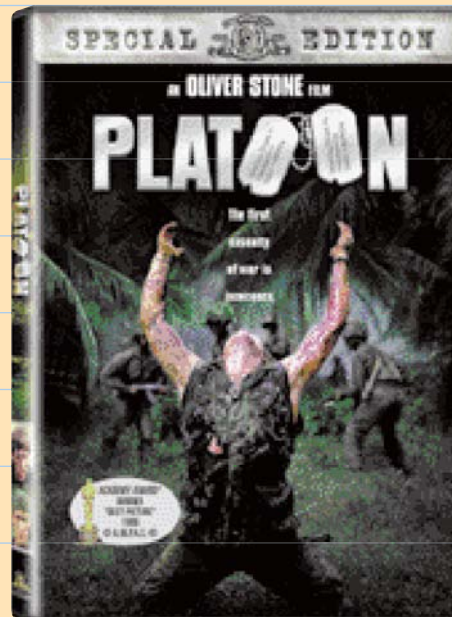
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# VINCE CARTER makes his picks

**W**e've been running our "Five Favourite Films" column for more than two years now and, for our 25th issue, Vince Carter becomes the first person unable to name five films he likes. So, we'll just have to live with four.

If you're a regular reader of this column you also know that the celebrities' picks are usually followed by about 25 words on each film, explaining why they liked the movie, describing what it's about, who stars, etc. But Vince proved to be a very minimalist film critic, choosing not to expand on his answer.

Regardless, here the six-foot-six star of the Toronto Raptors reveals his five, uh, we mean four, favourite films, talks about living in Canada and what he'd be doing if he'd been born a foot shorter.

## WHAT ARE YOUR FIVE FAVOURITE FILMS?

"My favourite films are usually all comedies. I guess the list would have to be *Coming to America* [1988], *Friday* [1995], *Life* [1999] and *House Party 3* [1994]."

## DO YOU THINK HOLLYWOOD HAS DONE A GOOD JOB OF PORTRAYING BASKETBALL ON FILM?

"Of course, everything is going to be a little dramatized, but generally they have done a pretty good job of showing how important the game can be to a young person growing up, no matter what walk of life they're from, whether it's a farm town in Indiana like in *Hoosiers*, or a young person from a ghetto struggling to make something of their life in *Finding Forrester*."

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

"I'd say either Denzel Washington or Samuel L. Jackson. They are both basketball fans and I think would be able to relate better to the game."

## DO YOU WANT TO FOLLOW SOME OF YOUR FELLOW BASKETBALL PLAYERS INTO MOVIES?

"Yes, I'm definitely interested in doing some work in film. I like the thought of expanding on one's talents. It would be a tough process trying to find a first script, but I'd be looking for something that I could relate to instead of something too far-fetched. Something like Ray Allen was able to do in *He Got Game*. It would be much easier to learn a new skill like acting in an environment that you're already comfortable."

## HAVE YOU EVER BEEN APPROACHED ABOUT BEING IN A MOVIE?

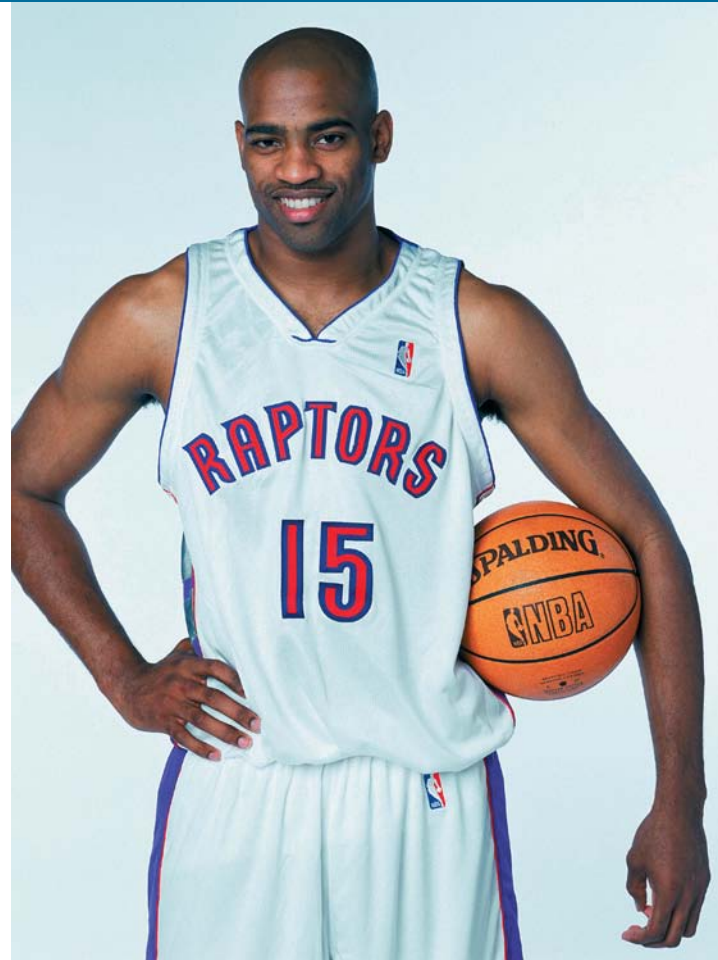
"I've been approached about a few things, but I don't want to get into a feature role unless I'm confident it's going to be the right project. I'm friends with Eddie Griffin and I did a cameo this past summer for one of his upcoming movies."

## IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"It would have to be flying. That would definitely come in handy at playoff time!"

## DESCRIBE HOW IT FEELS WHEN YOU'RE AT THE HEIGHT OF YOUR HIGHEST JUMP.

"So much of it happens so quickly that it's difficult to describe. I don't have time to think about it. Most of it is based on the move-



ment of others and what I need to do to complete the play by making a pass or shooting or dunking."

## WHAT'S SURPRISED YOU MOST ABOUT LIVING IN CANADA?

"I hadn't been to Canada before I came to my workout with the Raptors, but I was immediately impressed with the people, and later I was proud how quickly our fans became very knowledgeable about the game of basketball. They're some of the best fans in the league now."

## BEING FROM FLORIDA, WHEN DID YOU FIRST ENCOUNTER SNOW?

"I think I first saw snow when I was in college [North Carolina], my sophomore year. It was a neat experience, but I could do without the cold. Everybody says that though."

## DO YOU THINK YOU'D STILL BE A PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYER IF YOU WERE ONLY FIVE-FOOT-SIX?

"Probably not. I'd either be a professional football player or a musician."

## WHAT SORT OF MUSIC WOULD YOU PLAY?

"I'd probably be either a jazz or R&B performer in a club. I played the saxophone in my high school band and really enjoy all aspects of music."

## WHEN ARE YOU HAPPIEST?

"I'm happiest when I'm on the court playing basketball."

—Marni Weisz



# new RELEASES

JOIN THE RAT RACE, ENTER THE GLASS HOUSE  
OR MEET BUBBLE BOY

JANUARY 2

## THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS

**Stars:** Paul Walker, Vin Diesel

**Director:** Rob Cohen (*The Skulls*)

**Story:** The secret world of illegal street drag racing is exposed in this hard-driving action flick about a cop (Walker) who goes undercover to bust up a ring of truck hijackers.

## WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?

**Stars:** Danny DeVito, Martin Lawrence

**Director:** Sam Weisman (*The Out-of-Towners*)

**Story:** When a millionaire (DeVito) catches a burglar (Lawrence) breaking into his mansion, he tells the police that the thief's "lucky" ring really belongs to him. The enraged criminal then embarks on an increasingly comical quest to steal the ring back.

## BROTHER

**Stars:** Kitano Takeshi, Omar Epps

**Director:** Kitano Takeshi (*Fireworks*)

**Story:** When a powerful Yakuza crime boss — Japanese action hero Kitano "Beat" Takeshi in his U.S. debut — is put out of business he moves to L.A. where his brother has established contacts with a small-time drug gang.

## THE GLASS HOUSE

**Stars:** Leelee Sobieski, Diane Lane

**Director:** Daniel Sackheim (debut)

**Story:** When her parents are killed in a car accident, Ruby (Sobieski) and her little brother are sent to live with family friends in their big glass house. But something's not quite right, and Ruby's determined to figure out what's really going on in this paint-by-numbers thriller.

JANUARY 8

## JEEPERS CREEPERS

**Stars:** Justin Long, Gina Philips

**Director:** Victor Salva (*Powder*)

**Story:** Two bickering siblings are on their way home from college when they spot a mysterious cloaked figure dumping a blood-stained sheet. They investigate, only to become the prey of a shape-shifting monster with a taste for human flesh.

JANUARY 15

## GLITTER

**Stars:** Mariah Carey, Max Beesley

**Director:** Vondie Curtis-Hall (*Gridlock'd*)

**Story:** A young singer (Carey) comes to the big city, where a DJ named Dice takes her under his questionable wing. Predictably, she ends up becoming a huge star. She also gets reunited with her long-lost mother.

## AMERICAN PIE 2

**Stars:** Shannon Elizabeth, Jason Biggs

**Director:** James B. Rogers (*Say it isn't So*)

**Story:** The boys are back together after their first year at university, and decide to make the most of the summer by renting out a sweet pad on the beach. Not surprisingly, many sexual shenanigans ensue.

## BUBBLE BOY

**Stars:** Jake Gyllenhaal, Marley Shelton

**Director:** Blair Hayes (debut)

**Story:** When Jimmy discovers that the girl next door plans to marry a jerky rocker, he travels cross-country to stop the wedding. The only problem is, he has no immune system, so has to wander around in a gigantic plastic bubble.

JANUARY 22

## KISS OF THE DRAGON

**Stars:** Jet Li, Bridget Fonda

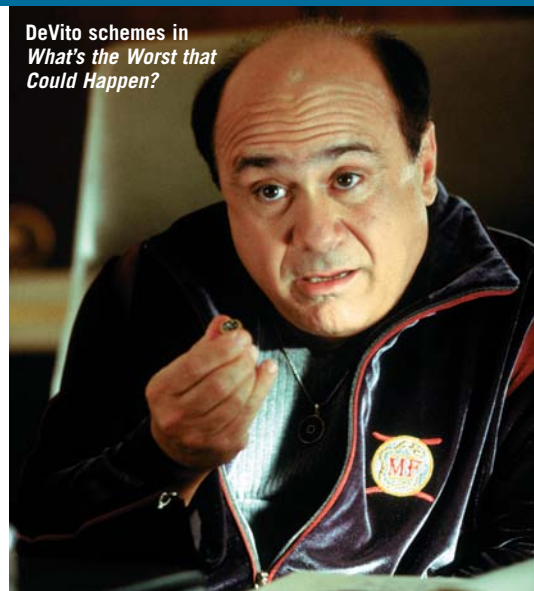
**Director:** Chris Nahon (debut)

**Story:** Hong Kong hero Li plays a spy sent to Paris to arrest a mob boss, only to be framed for murder by a dastardly cop. Tons of way-cool action scenes ensue, as he races to clear his name.



Biggs (left) and Eugene Levy in *American Pie 2*

DeVito schemes in *What's the Worst that Could Happen?*



## RAT RACE

**Stars:** John Cleese, Cuba Gooding Jr.

**Director:** Jerry Zucker (*Airplane!*)

**Story:** A Las Vegas casino owner (Cleese) sends eight strangers on a race to find \$2-million, simply so that he and his buddies can have something new on which to gamble.

## ROCK STAR

**Stars:** Mark Wahlberg, Jennifer Aniston

**Director:** Stephen Herek (*Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure*)

**Story:** The lead singer of a heavy metal tribute band (Wahlberg) gets booted by his bandmates, only to be offered the position of frontman for his all-time favourite group. At first, the new life of a rock star is like a dream come true. But soon enough, the sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll begin to take a toll.

## MVP 2: MOST VERTICAL PRIMATE

**Stars:** Scott Goodman, Jacqui Kaese

**Director:** Robert Vince (*MVP*)

**Story:** The only thing kids love more than a monkey who thinks he's people is a monkey who can ride a skateboard like nobody's fool. In this family comedy, Jack the hockey playing chimp straps on the skates for another season.

JANUARY 29

## THE PRINCESS AND THE WARRIOR

**Stars:** Franka Potente, Benno Fürmann

**Director:** Tom Tykwer (*Run Lola Run*)

**Story:** An imaginative fairy tale about the power of coincidence and destiny — wherein the lives of a nurse (Potente) and a small-time crook become entwined after a car accident.

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



# january

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

## capricorn

December 23 >>> January 20

You've proved your point, Capricorn. Yes, you're independence personified. No, you don't need to lean on a soul. But now it's time to find a partner who complements your traits.

## aquarius

January 21 >>> February 19

Continue looking for sensible investment opportunities and you could see positive results by month's end. Introspection and meditation can lead to an important family-related decision. Right now your willpower's so strong that this year's resolutions may actually stick.

## pisces

February 20 >>> March 20

The powers that be are willing to take a risk on some of your wilder ideas. But you have to do your part, which means longer hours and some personal sacrifices. Try to get a handle on that paperwork which is about to bury you. And look forward to a minor, but pleasant, financial surprise.

## aries

March 21 >>> April 20

A period of small but meaningful career advances starts just after the middle of the month. The social scene is unexpectedly active. Small rifts with a romantic partner can get out of hand, so damage control is a must.

## taurus

April 21 >>> May 22

This is a good time for long-term planning, particularly in the areas of health and finance. Creative energies are strong, and you may find yourself dabbling in abstract painting or free verse.

## gemini

May 23 >>> June 21

On a scale of 1 to 10, relationships cover just about every digit this month, winding up at around 7 or 8. Informal gatherings provide some good opportunities for schmoozing with influential people.

## cancer

June 22 >>> July 22

If you're not already in the hospitality field, you should be. This month highlights your talent for making people feel comfortable and content. It's also a good time for planning trips to new destinations, resuming a fitness program and dealing with any phobias.

## leo

July 23 >>> August 22

On the one hand, enthusiasm and confidence can help you cement friendships and achieve goals. On the other, self-centredness could bring you down a couple of notches. January is the perfect time for presenting small but meaningful gifts.



KATIA SMIRNOVA

## virgo

August 23 >>> September 22

Your role at work is better defined, while your standing in a personal relationship remains somewhat vague. A new approach makes it easier to cut through red tape.

## libra

September 23 >>> October 22

A platonic friendship may evolve into something deeper in a month characterized by the unexpected. Other possibilities: the sighting of a long-lost relative, acknowledgement of appreciation for your hard work, and — sorry — the arrival of an unusually high bill or two.

## scorpio

October 23 >>> November 21

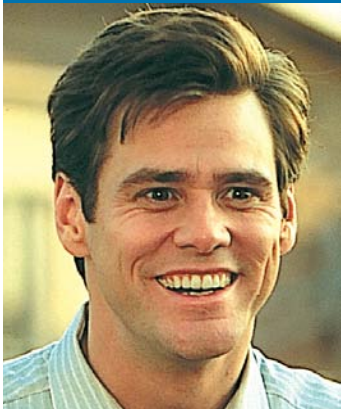
Avoid conflict as much as you can in January, and you can set the scene for a year marked by harmony and reconciliation. The time you recently spent working with a youngster begins to show results.

## sagittarius

November 22 >>> December 22

Your current tenacity gives you better-than-expected odds for achieving a goal, but the route will include some interesting turns. Older relatives are stubborn, but not closed-minded.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



1st	Paul Thomas Anderson
2nd	Cuba Gooding Jr.
3rd	Mel Gibson
4th	Dyan Cannon
5th	Diane Keaton
6th	Rowan Atkinson
7th	Nicolas Cage
8th	David Bowie
9th	Joely Richardson
10th	Rod Stewart
11th	Amanda Peet
12th	Howard Stern
13th	Julia Louis-Dreyfus

14th	Faye Dunaway
15th	Mario Van Peebles
16th	John Carpenter
17th	Jim Carrey
18th	Kevin Costner
19th	Dolly Parton
20th	David Lynch
21st	Geena Davis
22nd	Diane Lane
23rd	Jeanne Moreau
24th	Nastassia Kinski
25th	Dinah Manoff
26th	Ellen DeGeneres
27th	Bridget Fonda
28th	Elijah Wood



29th	Heather Graham
30th	Gene Hackman
31st	Minnie Driver



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# 10 STARS TALK ABOUT RELIGION

BY SUSAN GRANGER

## NATALIE PORTMAN

"I am an Israeli-born Jew but my identity is more Israeli than Jewish. My family isn't really religious at all. I believe in God and a lot of the Jewish laws, but some of it — especially the stuff about 'Thank God I'm not a woman' — makes me cringe."

## UMA THURMAN

"I grew up in a mostly Buddhist environment. My father, when very young, was the first American to be ordained as a Buddhist monk. He now teaches Indo-Tibetan studies at Columbia University and is regarded as this country's foremost authority on Buddhism. When the Dalai Lama comes to America, it's my father who is his host. When asked if I consider myself Buddhist, the answer is: Not really. But it's more my religion than any other because I was brought up with it.... Buddhism has had a major effect on who I am and how I think about the world."

## ALICIA SILVERSTONE

"I had a Bat Mitzvah when I was 13, but I'm still not quite convinced about the existence of God. I mean, I try not to think too much about religion or intellectualize it, because what is spiritual is not what's in the brain. It's what's inside. Religion is honesty. Being truthful. Not

just speaking the truth but living your life as completely and as fully as possible.... But I do love Manischewitz wine at Shabbat time."

## KEVIN KLINE

"Since I was educated by Benedictine monks in Catholic schools in my hometown of St. Louis, I once — very briefly — considered entering the priesthood. But it was a bit on the abstemious side for my taste. While my late father was Jewish, my mother was from a working-class Irish Catholic family. My real name is Kevin Delaney Kline."

## LISA MARIE PRESLEY

"Scientology has been a great help for me. It gives me spiritual guidance. It's a self-help philosophy, yet it's not evaluative. It doesn't tell you what your problems are — but helps you figure it out for yourself."

## RICHARD GERE

"In my faith [Buddhism], one wishes to become evolved. 'One who has gone thus' is a Biblical way of saying it. That would entail an element of cleansing and an element of expansion. It would be cleansing one's mind of all negativity and of all anger and hatred. It may not be possible to actually get rid of all that stuff but you can break your attachment to them so that they do not run you."



## KIRSTIE ALLEY

"When I read L. Ron Hubbard's *Dianetics*, it changed my life by making me take responsibility for myself. I thought, 'Okay, this is either the world's biggest scam or it's fabulous.' I stopped working, quit my job and I drove my car [from Wichita, Kansas] to California to be a Scientologist. I've been a member since I was 26. Unlike many things that are said, Scientologists are not sheep. They buck the system.... I don't know why people don't see the good in Scientology."

## JOAQUIN PHOENIX

"My parents moved all over the West Coast and then into Mexico, Puerto Rico and South America as members of the religious cult Children of God. As kids, we were sent out onto the street to perform and sing. My family left the cult in 1977, took the name Phoenix, and moved to Hollywood. But we still used to go into Westwood at Christmastime and sing on the streets for money. No matter what, the teenage years are strange. In comparison to what

other people went through, I think I had it f-cking easy. I have a wonderful family who was always supportive. The religion? I don't know. But no more cults, okay?"

## DAVID ARQUETTE

"I think God is a giant vibrator in the sky...a pulsating force of incredible energy."

## NICOLAS CAGE

"I do not have a religion in my life. I wasn't raised that way. I kind of wish I had some religion."

KIRSTIE ALLEY AT THE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR HER NEW SCIENTOLOGY LEARNING CENTRE. PHOTO BY RUSS EINHORN/STAR MAX



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