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# Famous

july 2005 | volume 6 | number 7

**BILLY BOB THORNTON** *pitches*  
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**FANTASTIC FOUR'S**  
**JESSICA ALBA**



a **HOT DATE**  
with **WEDDING CRASHER'S**

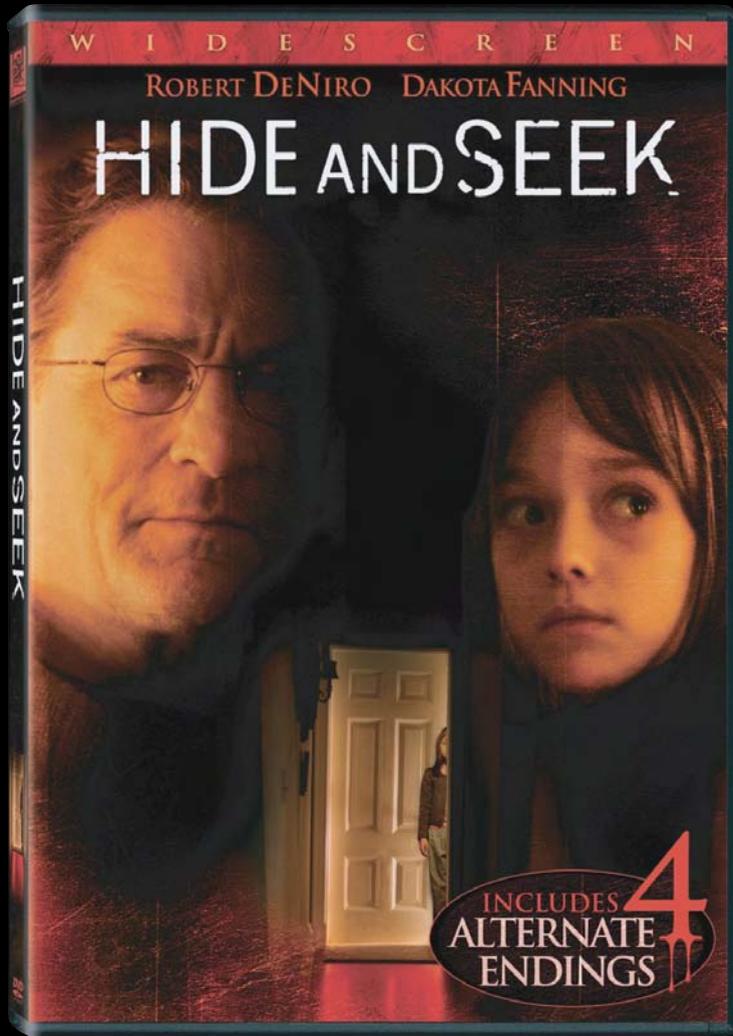
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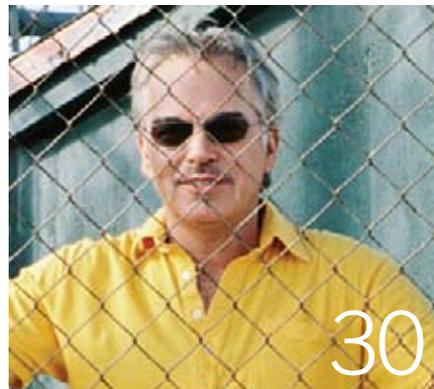
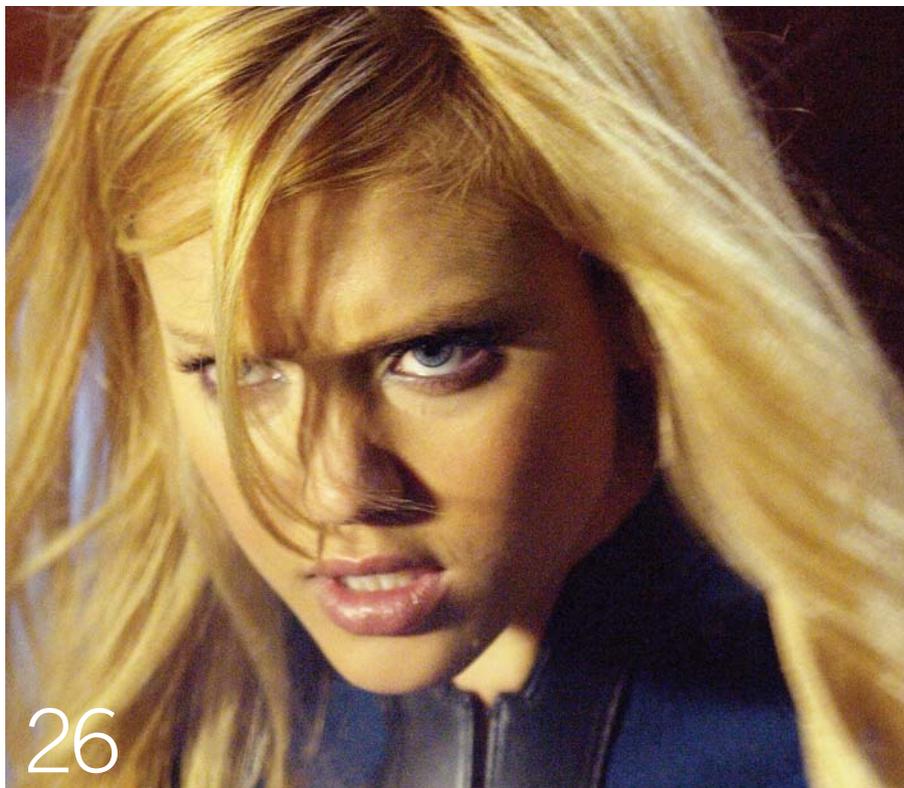
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**VINCE VAUGHN** irons his suit and brushes off his pickup lines to play a randy rogue alongside Owen Wilson in the comedy *Wedding Crashers*. It's a return to form for the lanky star of *Swingers*, but don't expect Vaughn to get too excited, it's all about the work, baby. • Plus, how to buy props from the movie online

| BY EARL DITTMAN

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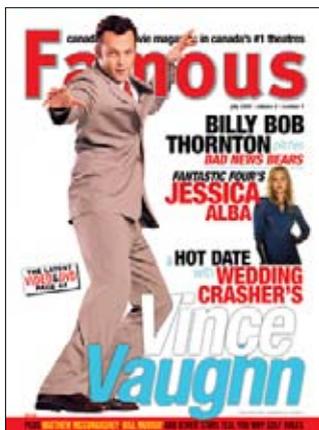
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# Tall order



**A**s I write this, another story is breaking about how Russell Crowe is a jerk. A hotel concierge says Crowe threw a phone at him because the star couldn't get through to his wife in Australia — and Crowe isn't denying it.

The exact details may still change, but there have been enough of these stories about Crowe in the past few years to bring the old “where there's smoke, there's fire” adage to mind. And that's too bad for a very specific segment of the population — smart, independent, liberated women who secretly harbour a

preference for gruff men who are a bit rough around the edges.

You see, we, I mean, uh, these particular women like guys who, while they may be a bit unpolished, are also truly good underneath. Crowe was the group's leading man for many years, but it's clearly time for a change. And it occurs to me that our cover boy **Vince Vaughn** has an outside shot.

It's been nine years since Vaughn played slick lounge lizard Trent (who we loved to hate, and hated to love) in the indie fave *Swingers*, and two years since he got a bloody nose in a real-life West Hollywood bar fight. Thanks to a fortunately placed paparazzo we still have a shot of that one etched in our collective mind's eye.

He's a big guy at 6'5". We know it's not fair, but that is a prerequisite for the position. The fact that he's so good at playing too-slick ladies' men is a surprising plus...we know he's only acting, of course. So the members of the Smart, Independent, Liberated Women who Secretly Harbour a Preference for Gruff Men Club will be watching with interest as *Wedding Crashers* opens this month.

In the partially improvised comedy, Vaughn and Owen Wilson star as a couple of smooth Lotharios who crash weddings to seduce women. If Vaughn's character turns into a *remotely* good guy by the end, he's in. And if not, there's always his next film, *The Break Up* with Jennifer Aniston. It'll be his first leading-man role in a romantic comedy and is based on a story idea of his own. Did I mention Mr. Gruff also has to be smart and creative?

In “Vince Vaughn, Still Swinging,” page 34, the Minnesota native describes how he went from being the up-and-comer studios were touting as “another Brad Pitt” in the mid-'90s to the go-to supporting guy who almost always steals the show.

Then, if you want to know why *Fantastic Four's* **Jessica Alba** found it painful to watch herself in early screenings of her new movie, turn to “Jessica Alba's Fantastic Role,” page 26.

And on page 30 we present you with “Coach of the Year,” our interview with **Billy Bob Thornton** about his part as a hipper, sexier version of Walter Matthau's Coach Buttermaker in the *Bad News Bears* remake.

Finally, on page 22, join us for a shopping spree with expert set decoration buyer Alexx Hooper as she scours Toronto in search of the perfect props for next month's Mark Wahlberg flick, *Four Brothers*.

—MARNI WEISZ



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*Famous™* magazine is published 12 times a year by 1371327 Ontario Ltd. Subscriptions are \$32.10 (\$30 + GST) a year in Canada, \$45 a year in the U.S. and \$55 a year overseas. Single copies are \$3. Back issues are \$6. All subscription inquiries, back issue requests and letters to the editor should be directed to *Famous* magazine at 102 Atlantic Ave., Ste. 100, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1X9; or 416.539.8800; or editor@fpmedia.ca

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40708019  
 Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:  
*Famous* magazine, 102 Atlantic Ave., Suite 100, Toronto, Ont., M6K 1X9

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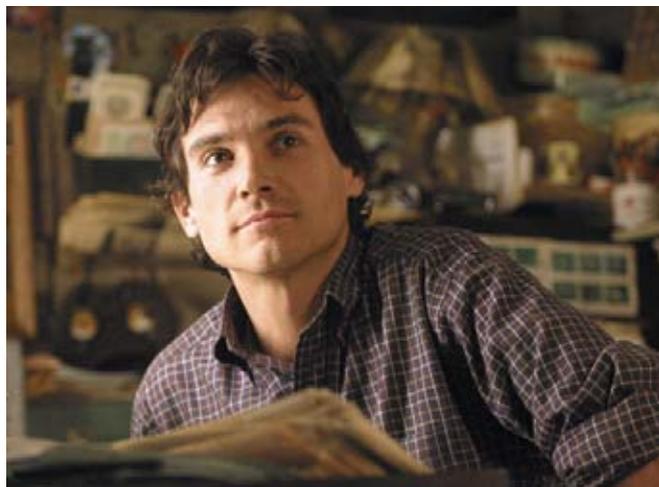
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## THE PAYCHEQUE FOR DOING ADS, PRICELESS

Hullo, you guys rock. I was watching the MasterCard commercial where the young couple stops at a gas station and I realized Mastercard Guy looks a lot like Billy Crudup. Is it him, and has he done all the other commercials on TV as well? Thanks.

**Zoe Preston — Corunna, Ont.**



Good eye. That is indeed Billy Crudup, star of *Almost Famous* and *Big Fish*, as the gas station cashier who encapsulates a young couple's purchases with the familiar MasterCard shtick: "Chips, three dollars; frozen beverage, two dollars; gas, 30 dollars. Starting a new life together, priceless." In fact, Crudup has been the unseen voice of that popular campaign since 1997. But this is the first time he's appeared in front of the camera for the credit card giant. Apparently, he's done quite a bit of commercial voiceover work in the past few years, the extra bucks allowing him to be pickier about film roles.

## LOFTY START

Thank you so much for your story on Jennifer Tilly [April 2005], my favourite actress of all time. It made me like her even more! The reporter was Mathieu Chantelois. It says he is the editor of *Famous Québec*. Correct me if I'm wrong, but could it be the same guy who was in the TV show *The Lofters*? If so, could you tell me about his life after reality TV?

**Mark Meoli — Calgary, Alta.**



Yes! Our Mathieu Chantelois is indeed the very same Mathieu who starred in the first season of the Canadian reality TV series *The Lofters*. For those of you who've wiped the U8TV experiment from your memories, eight feisty young hipsters were forced to live together in a Toronto loft for one year while cameras rolled 24/7. Hilarity ensued. Now the editor of *Famous Québec*, *Famous's* French-language sister publication available

across la belle province, Chantelois says he's relieved to be out of the loft. (Clearly he has yet to discover the hidden camera we've implanted in his phone.) Mathieu now lives in a very nice Toronto condo — not a loft, never call it a loft — with Marcelo, whom you should also remember from *The Lofters*. The two were married in July 2003.

## THE WRITE INFO

Hi, I love your magazine and can't wait every month for the next issue to appear. I'm a huge movie person and I would love to write a couple of my favourite actresses to let them know how much I appreciate their work. Do you know where I could write to Angelina Jolie? She is my favourite actress in the world! Also, do you know where I could write to Jessica Alba? Thanks so much for your help!

**Andrea Keough — Calgary, Alta.**

Well, most sites on the web will still tell you to write to Angelina Jolie at William Morris Agency, but truth is she switched over to the equally powerful CAA this past March, so your best bet is to send your letter there. Address it:

**Angelina Jolie, c/o Creative Artists Agency, 9830 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, Calif., 90212-1825.**

As for Alba, some have had success writing to her via her PR company:

**Jessica Alba, c/o BWR Public Relations, 9100 Wilshire Blvd., 6th Floor West Tower, Beverly Hills, Calif., 90212.** And be sure to check out our interview with the *Fantastic Four* star on page 26.



Angelina Jolie is waiting for your letter

## 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).

**ROB SCHNEIDER**

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**SAME HO. NEW LO.**

**AUGUST 12**



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# CAUGHT ON FILM

KATE BECKINSALE, GWYNETH PALTROW, BEN AFFLECK AND NATALIE PORTMAN

>>>> Kate Beckinsale is known in Hollywood for being a bit high-strung, but she looks relaxed and happy here as she gets a pedicure in a salon along Santa Monica's trendy Montana Avenue.

✓ When in Rome...  
✓ Looking like a somber character from a Fellini film, Gwyneth Paltrow awaits the start of the "Una notte a Roma" ("A Night in Rome") fashion show in the Italian capital's Navona Square. Paltrow sat next to her good friend Valentino, who was one of the designers being shown.



PHOTO BY KEYSTONE



PHOTO BY ALESSIA PIERDOMENICO/REUTERS

>>> Two months after our first glimpse of Natalie Portman bald we still think she looks stunning. The shaved head is for her role in *V for Vendetta*, a futuristic thriller about terrorists battling a totalitarian Great Britain after Germany wins a new World War. The film was shot in London and Berlin this past spring — this shot was taken in the latter while Portman and a friend spent a day shopping.

✓ Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner hydrate themselves in Vancouver where Jen's filming *Catch and Release*, about a woman who discovers her fiancé's secrets after his death. Surprisingly, it's a romantic-comedy. The pair was then off to see a movie.



PHOTO BY PHOTOGRAPHER SHOWCASE



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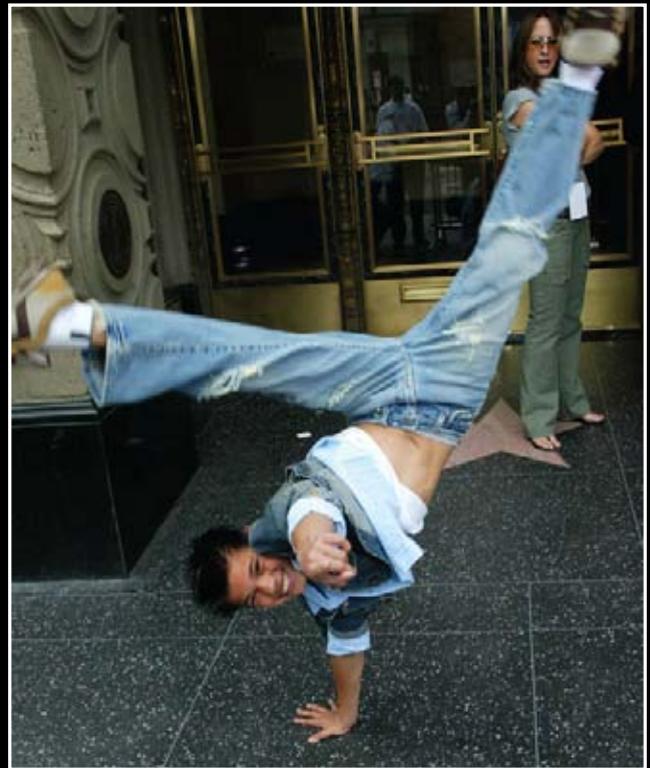


PHOTO BY MICHAEL BUCKNER/REUTERS

▲ Now *that's* how you should act at the premiere of your new movie — a little spunk, a little energy... Thirteen-year-old Taylor Lautner busts a move at the L.A. premiere of his new film *The Adventures of Shark Boy & Lava Girl in 3-D*. Lautner, who plays Shark Boy in director Robert Rodriguez's latest, has won three Junior World Championships in martial arts and is a member of L.A. Hip Kids, a hip-hop dance performance group.

## Rob Zombie wants you to feel conflicted about his new movie

He looks as if he's related to Charles Manson, he used to front the schlock-metal band White Zombie and he makes exceedingly gruesome horror movies. But underneath Rob Zombie's Goth exterior is a movie geek of the highest order.

The director of 2003's cult hit *House of 1000 Corpses* and its sequel, *The Devil's Rejects* (opening July 22), grew up in a carny family (the entire clan worked for fairs and freak shows), but the thing Zombie remembers most about his childhood is movies.

"I would literally sit in front of the TV all day," he says on the line from his Los Angeles office. "From noon 'til two

I'd watch *The Great Escape*, from two 'til four I'd watch *For a Few Dollars More*, from four 'til six I'd watch *A Night at the Opera* and from eight 'til 10 I'd watch *Frankenstein*. It was all day long."

You can see Zombie referencing movies such as *Bonnie & Clyde* and *Badlands* in *The Devil's Rejects*, which sees the sadistic and psychotic Firefly family from *House of 1000 Corpses* continue their killing spree until an obsessed lawman sets out to stop them.

What does Zombie want viewers to feel when they step out of this graphic horror flick?

"I want people to feel conflicted," he



says. "That's what movies used to be like for me, like say the first time I saw *Taxi Driver*. I saw the movie and it's like, 'How do I feel about what I just saw? I'm shocked by it and I just sort of have to live with it for a while.' Now, most of the time when you come out of the movie you go, 'Let's eat.' It doesn't leave any lasting effect." —IR

## Jennifer Love Hewitt: Queen of Getting Stuff



**July 31, 2004:** Decked out in Juicy at a garden party to celebrate the launch of Juicy Couture Beach.



After years of watching young celebs drooling over tables of handbags, costume jewellery and sparkly lipsticks, we've decided it's time to name Jennifer Love Hewitt as the Queen of Getting Stuff.

You see, in between making movies and lunching at The Ivy, young Hollywood passes the time at parties where product is the main event — whether a fundraiser, a pre-awards show gift buffet, store opening, or just the launch of a new clothing line. Often, they walk away with an armful of free stuff, a fancy new pedicure or even a gift for their tiny pooch. Although the competition was fierce — with Lacey Chabert and Mena Suvari coming in second and third — Love Hewitt pulled ahead just last month when she nabbed a pair of Yoga Grip Gloves at an L.A. affair. —MW

**TOP: September 19, 2003:** With her new Yellow Cake bag at the Silver Spoon Beauty Buffet, a pre-Emmy graft-fest sponsored by *Allure* magazine.



**MIDDLE: December 29, 2003:** Helping chairman Mohamed Al Fayed kick off Harrods' winter sale.



**BOTTOM: April 3, 2004:** With a bag of Neutrogena swag backstage at Nickelodeon's 17th Annual Kids Choice Awards.



**RIGHT: June 2, 2005:** Modeling a pair of Yoga Grip Gloves at Kari Feinstein PR's Style Lounge to benefit Project Angel Food.



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# can't wait for...

**3001, SYRIANA AND SERENITY** | BY MARNI WEISZ

**3001 (August)** Before TV's *The Office* there was *Office Space*, the 1999 big-screen comedy written, directed and produced by *Beavis and Butt-Head* creator Mike Judge (also the voice of *Beavis and Butt-Head*, by the way).

Aside from possibly the *Dilbert* cartoons, *Office Space* became the quintessential depiction of life at a depressing, cubicle-based company. The mere utterance, "Someone has a case of the Mondays," or "If they take my stapler then I'll set the building on fire," still elicits knowing cackles from aging Gen Xers.

It was assumed that *Office Space* would catapult Judge from animated TV to the mucky-muck world of live-action movies, but he got busy with TV's *King of the Hill* and only now — six years later — returns to the big screen with this quirky film starring Luke Wilson.

In the interests of full disclosure, some online fan reviews of an early, rough cut

of the film weren't great. But our fingers are still crossed.

Categorized as a sci-fi/adventure/comedy, *3001* doesn't seem to resemble *Office Space* in anything but its satire of idiots. Wilson plays an average guy who volunteers for a hibernation experiment that goes

horribly wrong. When he wakes up 1,000 years later he finds that the entire population has been so dumbed-down that he's now the smartest man on Earth...

This is the point where we all shake our fists heavenward and yell "*Paris Hilton, what hath you wrought!!!*"



**Syriana (September)** In 1999, George Clooney starred in the first mainstream movie about the first Gulf War, *Three Kings*. Now he's doing the same for the war on terror with *Syriana*, based on former CIA agent Robert Baer's book *See No Evil: The True Story of a Ground Soldier in the CIA's War on Terrorism*.

Truthfully, the movie isn't about what we currently refer to as the "war on terror," but the mess that led to it. Baer (played by Clooney in the film) was a CIA spy from the mid-1970s until 1997, and watched as the agency's funding was cut, politics led to bad decisions and warning signs about the Middle East were ignored. Matt Damon plays an oil executive and Stephen Gaghan, who won a screenwriting Oscar for 2000's *Traffic*, writes and directs.

**Serenity (September)** Personally, we've never seen an episode of *Firefly*, but most of those who have, swear it was one of the best TV shows in recent memory. Created by Joss Whedon (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Angel*), the 2002 sci-fi series consisted of 13 episodes, only nine of which ever aired.

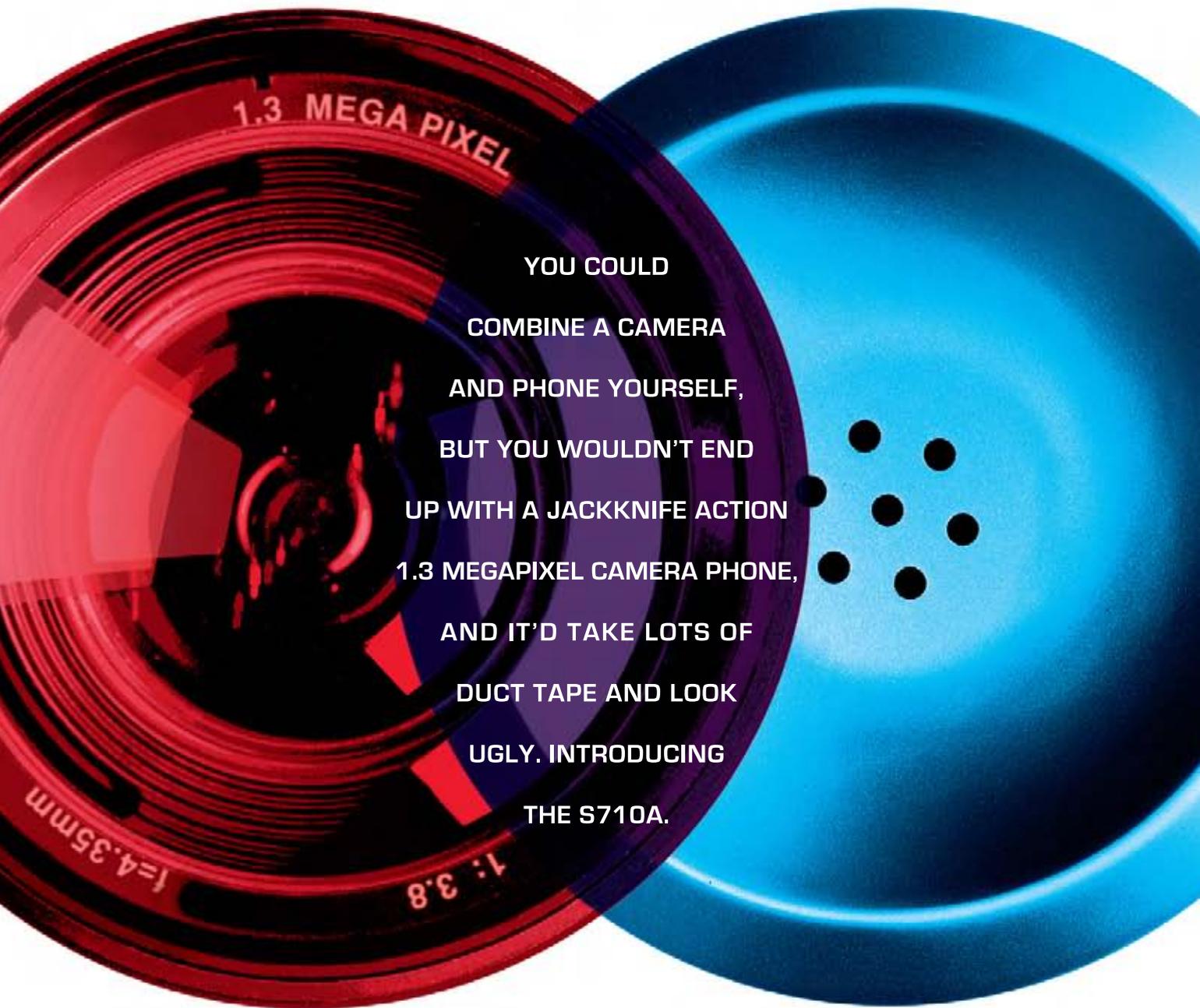
Now Whedon turns *Firefly's* plot into a full-length feature, with original cast member Nathan Fillion as the hardened captain of a spaceship-for-hire (think of Han Solo or Rick Blaine) whose bickering, but loyal, crew makes the mistake of taking on a couple of dangerous passengers.





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# David Richmond-Peck

## ON THE ART OF PREP

David Richmond-Peck is a nice guy, but don't tell that to *The Thing*. In this month's sci-fi comic book adaptation *Fantastic Four*, the Vancouver actor plays a snotty art gallery patron who helps shatter the fragile self-esteem of the malformed superhero played by Michael Chiklis.

"It's a fairly small role," concedes the actor on the line from his Vancouver home. "There are these series of events that take place to alienate *The Thing*, that make him feel not so good about himself, especially after what I do when I take a look at him."

Shot in Vancouver and Surrey, B.C., last fall, *Fantastic Four* helped energize the West Coast's flagging film industry and provided Richmond-Peck with the chance to work on a big-budget movie.

"It was just a massive, massive set, a whirlwind of a machine and one of the biggest films to come through Vancouver in some time," says Richmond-Peck.

"The production quality and the costumes were amazing, especially *The Thing's*, it's one of the most amazing costumes I've ever seen. [Chiklis] spent hours and hours and hours in the makeup chair. He's got a heat vent just above the crown of his

head and a vent that blows cool air in to cool him down. This costume fits so perfectly it's a work of art. Standing six inches away it's hard to tell it's not real."

If you think the fair-haired actor looks familiar you may have seen him in *Robson Arms*, the set-in-Vancouver dramedy presently airing on CTV, in which he plays the cancer-stricken tenant Geoff McAlister. Or, you may have caught him last month in the Steven Spielberg-produced epic miniseries *Into the West*, in which he played a brutal American soldier. And in September the Canadian film *The Zero Sum*, in which he co-stars as the beleaguered brother of a thief, is expected to screen at The Toronto International Film Festival.

Richmond-Peck has worked steadily since graduating from Langara College's theatre program in Vancouver almost four years ago. In a profession where most of the rank and file remain unemployed, how does he explain his success?

"Preparation," he says simply. "The way I look at it is the moment the call comes in for the audition, even though I'm not

getting paid for it, I'm on the job because I will get paid for it eventually.

"For example, I just auditioned for P.T. Anderson's [*Boogie Nights*, *Magnolia*] next film. In an interview I read on the internet when I was researching anything I could about the film, I found out that his script was based on a book. The book was written in the '20s and the only available copy I found after three days of looking for it on the internet was in Alberta. But I got a call the next day from a dealer in Vancouver who had a copy in his basement. I got the book and spent the next two weeks reading the book a dozen times and the script a dozen times before creating the character. I taped the audition and it was shipped off.

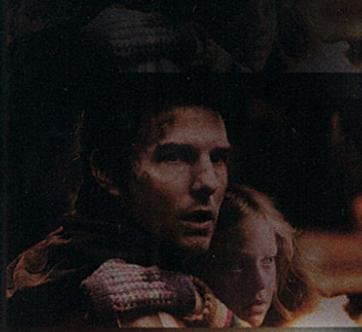
"For me it's fun. It's kind of like a game. How well can you get into the story? How well can your character tell that story? The more information you can collect and process, the better prepared you are in actually creating the character when you step in front of the camera."

—INGRID RANDOJA

**"It's kind of like a game. How well can you get into the story? How well can your character tell that story? The more information you can collect and process, the better prepared you are...when you step in front of the camera"**



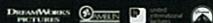
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| BY INGRID RANDOJA



## REBOUND

**WHO'S IN IT?** Martin Lawrence, Wendy Raquel Robinson  
**WHO DIRECTED?** Steve Carr (*Daddy Day Care*)  
**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** When college basketball coach Roy McCormick (Lawrence) is fired for accidentally killing a hawk (an opposing team's mascot), he returns to his former middle school to coach their sub-par squad.

• HITS THEATRES JULY 1

JULY 8

## DARK WATER

**WHO'S IN IT?** Jennifer Connelly, Ariel Gade

**WHO DIRECTED?** Walter Salles (*The Motorcycle Diaries*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** This remake of the acclaimed Japanese horror flick stars Connelly as a divorced mom who may want her security deposit back after she moves into an apartment and discovers her new digs are haunted.

## FANTASTIC FOUR

**WHO'S IN IT?** Ioan Gruffudd, Jessica Alba

**WHO DIRECTED?** Tim Story (*Taxi*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Four astronauts get fried by cosmic rays and return to Earth with super-powers. Based on the comic book, which in turn based the group's powers on the four elements found in Greek mythology — water (free-flowing Mr. Fantastic), wind (The Invisible Woman), fire (The Human Torch) and earth (The Thing). **See Jessica Alba interview, page 26.**

JULY 13

## HUSTLE & FLOW

**WHO'S IN IT?** Terrence Dashon Howard, Ludacris

**WHO DIRECTED?** Craig Brewer (debut)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** A Memphis pimp (Howard) who dreams of becoming a legitimate rapper hounds a visiting rap star (Ludacris).

JULY 15

## CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

**WHO'S IN IT?** Johnny Depp, Freddie Highmore

**WHO DIRECTED?** Tim Burton (*Big Fish*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Little Charlie Bucket wins the chance to tour the factory of mysterious candy maker Willy Wonka. Roald Dahl's popular children's story is sure to attract viewers, but it's Burton's acid-trip visuals and Depp's "Haight-Ashbury" wardrobe that earn the film a "must-see" tag. **Also presented in IMAX where available.**

## WEDDING CRASHERS

**WHO'S IN IT?** Owen Wilson, Vince Vaughn

**WHO DIRECTED?** David Dobkin (*Shanghai Knights*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** John (Wilson) and Jeremy (Vaughn) are a couple of divorce mediators who crash weddings to pick up emotionally vulnerable and/or drunk chicks. But their shtick crumbles when John falls for Claire (St. Thomas, Ontario's Rachel McAdams), leaving Jeremy to deal with the psychotic Gloria (Isla Fisher). **See Vince Vaughn interview, page 34.**



## THE ISLAND

**WHO'S IN IT?** Ewan McGregor, Scarlett Johansson

**WHO DIRECTED?** Michael Bay (*Bad Boys II*)

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Lincoln Six-Echo (McGregor) and Jordan Two-Delta (Johansson) escape from their seemingly idyllic compound after realizing they are clones manufactured to provide spare parts for their human counterparts.

• HITS THEATRES JULY 22

# There & back.



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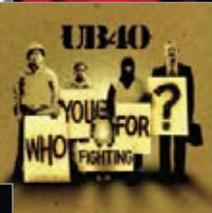
BILLY BOB THORNTON  
Million In Prizes  
The Anthology



GORILLAZ  
Demon Days



FAITH EVANS  
First Lady



UB40  
Who You Fighting For?



PAT BENETAR  
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▶▶ JULY 22

### BAD NEWS BEARS

WHO'S IN IT? Billy Bob Thornton, Sammi Kraft

WHO DIRECTED? Richard Linklater (*Tape*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? In this remake of the 1976 not-just-for-kids baseball comedy, it's a grim Billy Bob Thornton who steps into the role of the grumpy coach (originally played by Walter Matthau) who's saddled with a team of misfit players. **See Billy Bob Thornton interview, page 30.**

### THE DEVIL'S REJECTS

WHO'S IN IT? Sid Haig, Bill Moseley

WHO DIRECTED? Rob Zombie (*House of 1000 Corpses*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The deranged Firefly family (first introduced in *House of 1000 Corpses*) goes on a cross-country killing spree. **See Rob Zombie interview, page 12.**

JULY 29

### SKY HIGH

WHO'S IN IT? Michael Angarano, Kurt Russell

WHO DIRECTED? Mike Mitchell (*Herd*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Will Stronghold (Angarano)

### STEALTH

WHO'S IN IT? Jamie Foxx, Josh Lucas

WHO DIRECTED? Rob Cohen (*XXX*)

WHAT'S ABOUT? In his first role since

winning the Oscar for *Ray*, Foxx teams with Lucas and Jessica Biel to play a trio of hotshot pilots looking to shut down a plan controlled by a rogue computer before it drops a load of bombs.

• HITS THEATRES JULY 29

is the teenage son of superheroes Captain Stronghold (Russell) and Josie Jetstream (Kelly Preston). But he hasn't developed any powers of his own, and that makes him the laughing stock of Sky High (the high school for children of superheroes).

### MUST LOVE DOGS

WHO'S IN IT? Diane Lane, John Cusack

WHO DIRECTED? Gary David Goldberg (*Dad*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A divorced teacher (Lane) who has no great love for canines borrows a dog so she can reply to a personal ad written by a guy who says any interested party "must love dogs."



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# CAREER SHOPPER

**Famous** spends a day with set decoration buyer **ALEXX HOOPER**

**H**ow many times have you come out of a movie thinking, “Well, that sucked, but I would kill to have that Mission sofa!”

And that’s music to the ears of set decoration buyer Alexx Hooper, whose job is to furnish movie sets. A buyer spends her day (and we say her because almost all film/television/commercial buyers are women) either on a set placing objects, on the phone arranging rentals and purchases or rushing around to various stores looking for, well, just about anything.

“People say, ‘I can’t believe you get paid to go shopping!’ But they don’t see all the work and stress that’s involved in doing the job,” says the 30-something Hooper, a top-notch buyer who’s spent the past 12 years honing her craft in Toronto. You’ve seen her handiwork in movies such as *The Pacifier*, *Resident Evil: Apocalypse* and *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*.

We joined Alexx on a typical busy day to get a glimpse into the life of a buyer. Her latest gig has her working on director John Singleton’s new movie, *Four Brothers*, which stars Mark Wahlberg as one of four adopted siblings who return to their childhood home to find the men who murdered their mom. It opens next month.

**| PHOTOS AND TEXT BY INGRID RANDOJA**

**9:15 a.m.**

Alexx takes the first of the day’s many phone calls while visiting the Toronto studio that houses *Four Brothers’* interior sets (the exterior scenes are being shot in Hamilton, Ontario).

She checks out Evelyn’s bedroom. “Evelyn is the mother of the brothers,” she explains. “The guys come back here, spend Thanksgiving and do all the remembering here...and then there’s a big shootout,” she says with a laugh. “All this stuff [pillows/bedding] is stuff that will be blown up. It has to be approved by special effects. They wanted these kind of pillows because they explode really well. We have six of each. Usually, if it’s a blow-up scene, we get stuff we know we can buy in bulk. We usually buy out all the box stores.”



**9:50 a.m.**

A visit to Home Depot to pick up 16 boxes of light bulbs, 11 work lights and a blind. The work lights and blind will be sent to the art department to be aged and made to look grimy, and then placed inside the “crack house” set. Total cost: \$289.40.

When it comes to making things look crappy, Alexx and her fellow art department staffers are pros. “A high-end office or really beautiful house, that’s so easy, just go to a beautiful store and get beautiful things and put them in there. But what’s hard, and what we are really good at, is making things look ugly and horrible.”





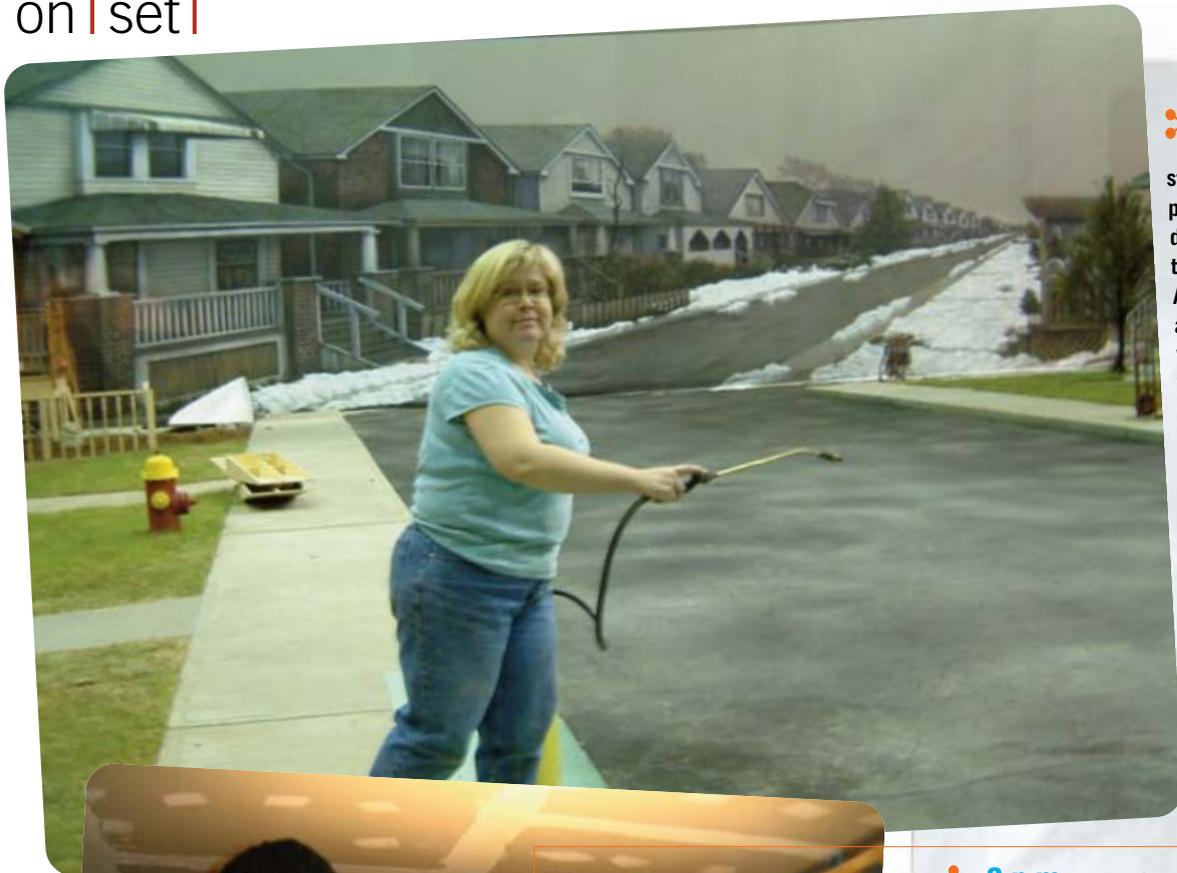
**11:30 a.m.** Canada Food Equipment is a wholesale restaurant company that also profits from renting out equipment to production companies. "We need to get some rolling background for a chase scene that's going to go through a restaurant kitchen," Alexx explains inside the huge warehouse. She picks out three large metal carts, 20 or so trays and fills five trays with salt shakers, sugar containers and other things you'd find inside an eatery. "You think you're getting so much stuff, but once this is on set you realize, 'Oh my God, the set looks so empty!'" She spends 90 minutes here to find things that might, just might, be glimpsed on screen for a few seconds.

**10:35 a.m.** It's time to drop by Toronto's biggest props supplier, The Lock-Up. Here buyers can find almost everything they need to dress a set, from garbage cans, purposely dented for alleyway scenes, to a brain-in-a-jar for that hard to dress "mad scientist" set.

Alexx is checking out the selection of Christmas lawn ornaments. Director Singleton has decided to shoot a scene from another angle, which means the house across the street will appear in the shot. As the scene takes place during the holidays, the filmmakers realize the lawn is lacking appropriate Christmas ornaments and it's Alexx's job to find some.



**1:25 p.m.** The production designer spotted some artwork he wants to use in the drug dealer's mansion. Alexx drops by the Queen Street studio of Toronto artist Hollis Baptiste to pick up the still slightly damp painting. Alexx admires the painting and I ask if she ever wants to buy things for herself while shopping. "I have a rule," she says, "I do not do my own shopping while I'm working because all I'm doing is throwing money at stuff all day, so your concept of money gets really fu--ed up. You go, 'Oh, \$2,000 for that, that's a great deal.' And then you go home and go, 'No, I'm just a little person trying to make a living, \$2,000, what the...' It's crazy."



**1:45 p.m.** Back to the studio to drop the painting off at the art department. On the way to grab a quick bite Alexx runs into scenic artist Janice Cormack, who is busy spraying the studio's concrete floor black so it will look like asphalt. Notice the matte painting behind her. Although the painted street and houses look odd from this angle, the brothers' house is across the street, and looking at it from that perspective, the painted background flows seamlessly into the street.



**3 p.m.** Off to find funky lighting. Alexx stops by Koma Designs to pick up seven large, round lights that look like they came from a 1970s rec room. They'll look perfect in that drug dealer's mansion. Koma sales assistant Matt Calvert takes Alexx to the basement to pick out the lights that will be rented for a week at a cost of \$300 to \$400 each.

The Koma guys are great to work with. "We only work with people we like," says Alexx. "If I have a bad experience somewhere I won't go back because there are enough places in town to get stuff. Nothing is so rare that you can't find it somewhere else, and rather than dealing with some sexist bastard, I'll have it flown in if I have to," she says with a laugh.

Last year, when Toronto's film industry was sluggish, Alexx contemplated going into another line of work — interior design — but quickly figured out it wasn't for her.

"I realized I'd hate it because we do things at a pace that no one else in the world does. To just stand beside someone as they go, 'Hmmm, I don't know which colour...' I would have it picked out in three seconds and have already gone to the store and bought it by the time they decided. I don't think I could stand that. It's like people plan their big Italian wedding in a year, I can do one in four days." **F**



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# Jessica Alba's fantastic role

She's cute, she's never been more popular and she looks great in

spandex, so the last thing you'd want to do with **Jessica Alba** is make her invisible — unless, of course she's playing *Fantastic Four's* The Invisible Woman

BY BOB THOMPSON

**P**retending to be all things to all people is an occupational hazard in Hollywood. But Jessica Alba is learning that to get ahead she has to be herself. She has been lately. And it's about to pay off in a big way.

TV's former *Dark Angel* is ready to embark on a bright future with a role that will make her as rich as it will famous if the movie spawns a franchise. The 24-year-old portrays Sue Storm, a.k.a. The Invisible Woman, in the film version of the Marvel comic book about the first family of crime fighting, *Fantastic Four*.

For those who don't read comics, the four superheroes evolved after an accident. On a secret space mission, scientist Sue Storm, her younger brother pilot Johnny (*Cellular's* Chris Evans), physicist and inventor Reed Richards (*King Arthur's* Ioan Gruffudd), Reed's childhood protector Ben Grimm (Michael Chiklis, TV's *The Shield*) and billionaire Victor Von Doom (Julian McMahon, TV's *Nip/Tuck*) have their lives changed forever when their spaceship veers wildly off course and inadvertently travels through a cosmic storm. They return to Earth having barely survived, only to discover that all five have been altered dramatically, the storm having triggered mutagenic changes to their minds and bodies.

Sue has transformed into The Invisible Woman, Reed, now Mr. Fantastic, can bend and stretch into unbelievable shapes and forms, hot-headed Johnny is The Human Torch and Ben Grimm becomes The Thing, a grotesque but incredibly strong and protective creature of force.

The four unite their superpowers to battle the forces of evil, and particularly Von Doom whose space-makeover turned him into Dr. Doom, a horribly twisted mass of confusion dedicated to destroying Earth and the Fantastic Four while

hiding behind a frightening mask and suit of armour.

Directed by Tim Story, the man behind 2002's surprise hit *Barbershop* and last year's terrible flop *Taxi*, the special-effects blockbuster was shot in and around Vancouver last year. It's a straight-ahead action-adventure pic with a few life lessons thrown in for good comic book measure.

A mainstream family film, it's certainly a stark contrast to Alba's last movie, Robert Rodriguez's dark, bloody *Sin City*, in which she played a lasso-wielding stripper.

"Yeah, *Fantastic Four* couldn't be more different," says a smiling Alba at a Beverly Hills Hotel. "From a wild stripper to a scientist who has a problem expressing her emotions so when her DNA's altered she expresses her feelings then goes invisible."

How odd is that? Let Alba count the ways. "When she screams she goes invisible," she says. "When she's having a meltdown and completely frustrated, she goes invisible. And when she's in love but gets completely ignored, she goes invisible."

Alba, who is often self-deprecating, admits she's not sure that she pulled off the daunting task of playing a character with an alter ego. But she says she did enjoy the early screenings of the movie.

"I like everybody else in it, but I'm so critical of myself," Alba says. "So I'm always waiting for my part to be over so that I can get on with enjoying the film. It's just the way I am and the way I've always been."

Plus, there's the added pressure of kicking off what could turn into a major film franchise.

"We all understand that pressure," admits Chris Evans in an interview a few months before Alba's. "It makes you work just a little harder and a little longer each day, which is basically what we did."

"It is a very big deal," agrees Alba. "Not just for the main actors, but for everybody involved. So sure there's a lot of pressure."

But preparation helps her handle the stress. She rehearsed her lines as often as she trained at the gym, and the physical demands of the *Fantastic Four* shoot encouraged her to be even more focused. But as Alba says, "I work out anyway because it's healthy and because women in my family have health problems."

Born in Pomona, California, in 1981, Alba was obsessed with acting by the time she was five. And while her Mexican-American Air Force dad moved the family from California to Biloxi, Mississippi, to Del Rio, Texas, then back to Southern California within 10 years, Alba continued to obsess over acting.

She was finally allowed to take acting classes when she turned 11, then quickly made her film debut in 1993's *Camp Nowhere*, although it wasn't until she played the snob on Nickelodeon's *The Secret World of Alex Mack* that she caught the entertainment industry's attention. That ►►



Iain Griffiths as Reed Richards



Michael Chiklis as The Thing

**"I like everybody else in it, but I'm always so critical of myself," says Alba. "I'm always waiting for my part to be over so that I can get on with enjoying the film"**



Chris Evans as The Human Torch

# interview | JESSICA ALBA

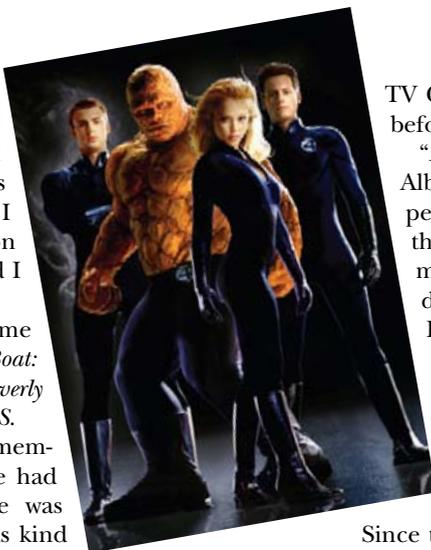
▶▶ performance led to her role on the syndicated series *Flipper* from 1995 to 1996.

And then to underscore how devoted she was, Alba enrolled in David Mamet's Atlantic Theater Company. "And that's all I did for a summer," recalls Alba, "go on these little stages and imagine things, and I loved it."

For the next two years Alba bided her time in such forgettable productions as *Love Boat: The Next Wave*, a two-part episode of *Beverly Hills 90210* and the comedy dud *P.U.N.K.S.*

As it turned out, Robert Rodriguez remembered Alba from a series of auditions he had conducted in the mid-1990s, when he was impressed but with reservations. "She was kind of dorky," recalls the director while doing press for *Sin City*. "But there was something about her, so I was watching her from then on and hoping that she would still be around when the time was right."

In 1999, Alba also caught director James Cameron's attention playing a snotty high school student in the Drew Barrymore film *Never Been Kissed*. A year later Alba's career kicked into high gear when she was cast as genetically perfect Max on Cameron's highly stylized series *Dark Angel*, which earned her a Golden Globe nomination and the



TV Guide Award for Breakout Star of the Year before the series was cancelled in 2002.

"*Dark Angel* was very important to me," says Alba. "I've always thought that we're all just people living in this society, and I never thought about being Latino until some people made me think about it — and this industry definitely made me think about me being a Latin girl up until I was 18," she says.

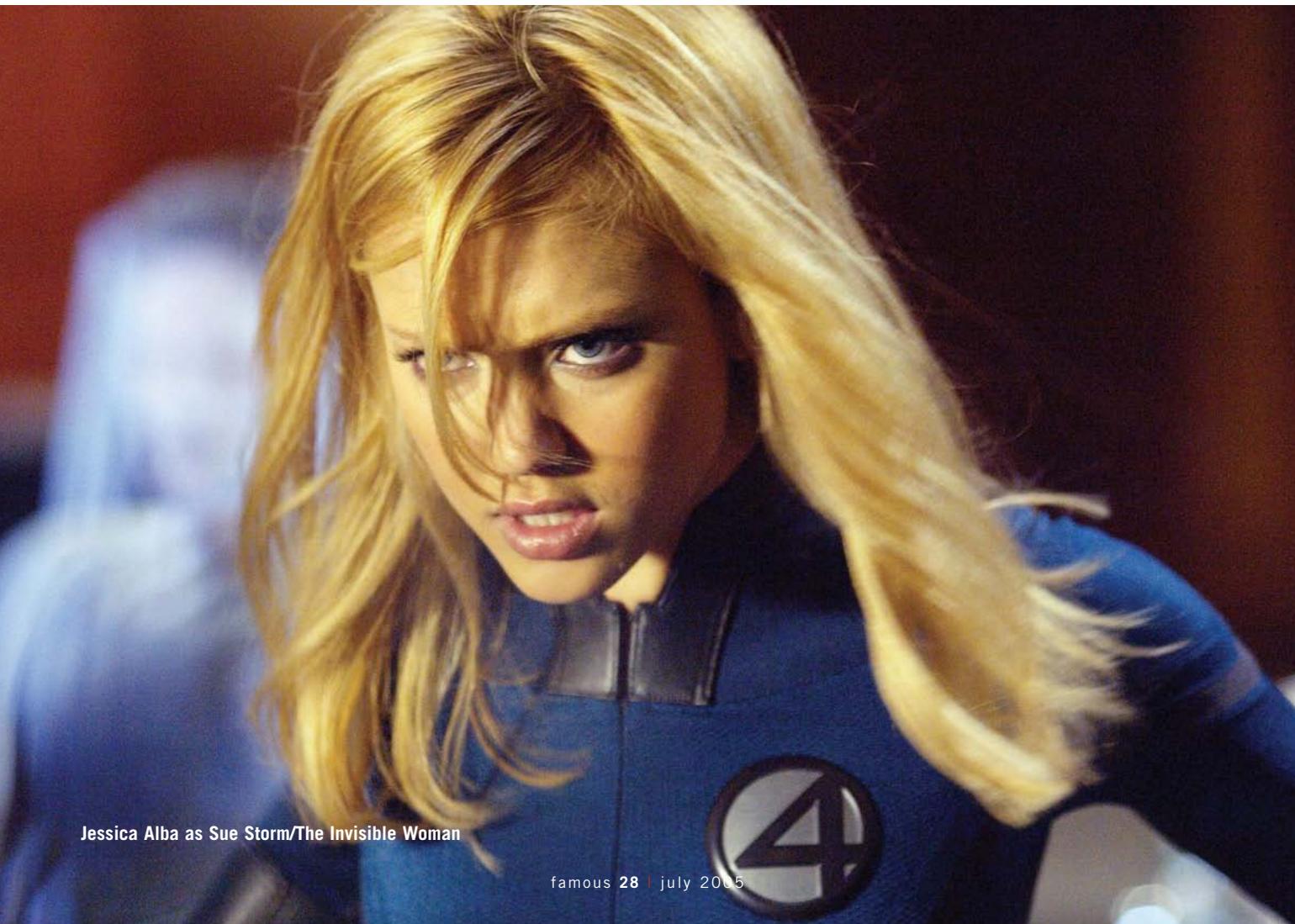
"And then I did *Dark Angel* and Jim [Cameron] basically said, 'You're not Latino, you're the future.' And what he meant was I'm a mixture, a human being going through the struggle of whatever comes my way."

Since then, movies like *Sin City* and *Fantastic Four* have given her the chance to play roles that have absolutely nothing to do with her ethnic background.

"Yeah, it's a whole lot different these days, and very liberating," Alba says. "I only used to get called for the role of Maria, the janitor's daughter messing around with the white kid. It was such a classist, bizarre kind of thing, because, y'know, I grew up in the United States."

Apparently, as she says, the film industry is slowly learning. **E**

*Bob Thompson writes about movies for the National Post.*



Jessica Alba as Sue Storm/The Invisible Woman

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**SHIFT**\_limits

# Coach of the year

**BILLY BOB THORNTON** plays his second of three coaches in a row in this month's *Bad News Bears*. Here the irreverent Arkansan explains why he may be genetically predisposed to play these parts | **BY BOB STRAUSS**

**H**ollywood rarely comes up with good, original ideas these days. But some of its retro notions can be inspired. Billy Bob Thornton in the old Walter Matthau role of *The Bad News Bears*' inappropriate Little League coach sounds like one of them.

"I'm not usually big on remakes, but when they approached me with this, it was like, me, *The Bad News Bears* and the writers from *Bad Santa* made sense to me," says Thornton, casually decked out in an unbuttoned shirt, offering a view of several necklaces and chest tattoos. "I think we made a very funny movie that's updated but still keeps the spirit of the old movie."

Thornton brings more than just a proven ability to behave badly on camera to the project, which is directed by the eclectic Richard Linklater (*School of Rock*, *Before Sunset*). The new coach is a former Major League player and a lot sexier than Matthau's cranky drunk from the 1976 version, and five-times

married Thornton (most recently — and humorously, in its Goth eccentric way — to Angelina Jolie) has the real-life athletic and romantic experience to put that across the plate.

But there are other, more sensitive, facets to the Thornton mystique.

Every bit the down-to-earth Arkansan, he's also a serious, often sensitive artist. That's been evident since his breakthrough film, *Sling Blade*, for which he directed, starred and wrote the Oscar-winning script. And before his criminal Kris Kringle act made him an unlikely box-office draw, critics were praising the varied and challenging performances Thornton gave in films ranging from *Primary Colors* and *A Simple Plan* to *The Man Who Wasn't There* and *Monster's Ball*.

You don't have to spend much time with Thornton to realize that he doesn't need to act bad to be hilariously funny, often at his own, self-deprecating expense.

**Your dad was a high school basketball coach. You played a high school football coach in your last movie, *Friday Night Lights*, you're a Little League coach in *Bad News Bears* and you'll be a sadistic gym teacher in your next movie, *Mr. Woodcock*. Should we be consulting a therapist about this, or what?**  
"It's so wild. I started thinking, wow, I'm playing all these coaches after never having played one in my life. But the thing is, *Bad News Bears* is, obviously, very irreverent. I'm basically playing the guy I did in *Bad Santa*, only with baseball. And *Mr. Woodcock* is another comedy."

**Sports must have been a very important part of your relationship with your father.**

"That was really the only place that we connected, in sports. If I didn't talk about sports with him, there was nothing else for us to talk about. But my dad was a good coach. And in these roles I've developed a kind of a sense of pride, like I admire my dad some. It's been very cool."

**But you didn't play hoops.**

"I was a baseball player, actually kind of a local baseball hero, a pitcher."

**You wanted to throw pro, right?**

"They had tryouts for the Kansas City Royals. I went to that camp, was there for just a few minutes, just trying to warm up, and I got hit with a ball that broke my collarbone. That was it. When I was recuperating I ended up working as a roadie and never played again. I still throw, just with my friends and stuff. But yeah, I was an athlete, it was what I was gonna do. Really, all I wanted to do was to pitch for the St. Louis Cardinals."

**That injury must have been devastating. Was that what made you turn to the arts?**

"I was 18 or 19 years old and I was like, 'Oh well, I'm injured for a while and I'll do this later.' I didn't think my career was over as a baseball player. I'd always been into music and my band was playing more, and then I got an opportunity ▶▶



Are we having fun yet?  
From left: Sammi Kane Kraft,  
Billy Bob Thornton and Timmy Deters  
in *Bad News Bears*

**"I'm basically playing the guy I did in *Bad Santa*," says Thornton, "only with baseball"**



PHOTO BY NICK WALL/WIREIMAGE



▶▶ to work as a roadie for a lot of famous people. So by the time I recuperated, I still loved baseball but I thought, 'Well, I don't want to cut my hair anyway and you've gotta go to bed early and stuff.' So I ended up on the road with the rock band, and working for the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and a lot of people like that. And that's a whole other story!"

**Just how raunchy is the *Bears* remake going to be, compared to the original?**

"In its time, *The Bad News Bears* was pretty racy, you know? And you know what's ironic? These days, life is way more wide open than it was when they made *The Bad News Bears*. But in the arts, you could get by with more back then. There were lines the kids said back then — at the time that we heard that, it was just a line in a movie. Now, we would be killed for some of those lines, there's just no way you could say it. In *Bad Santa*, we could say whatever we wanted, but that was a different type of thing. Here, we're dealing with a team of kids and it's a PG-13 movie. So there's so much that you can't do now that you could back in '76, and it seems like it should be the other way around."

**You became a father again last year. Has that changed you very much?**

"This is a girl, and I think I was a little more nervous this time. You have to sort of rethink the whole dad thing a little bit. But my sons are so happy it's a

girl. They just didn't want the competition around."

**Any plans to marry the girl's mother [special effects artist Connie Angland]?**

"No, no. Not marrying again, not gonna do that again. A lot of it is I just don't want to see it in print: NUMBER SIX! I just don't want to see it."

**Happy together, though?**

"Oh absolutely. Everything's great. She's a regular person. She's not, like, an actress or anything like that. She's just a girl and a really, really good person. For me, it's not what I'm used to. She's stable and normal, and that's what I need."

**What's up next? Not another sports movie...**

"Next I do a movie called *Fade Out* which is about a schizophrenic screenwriter who's married to an actress. Not a lot of research there, y'know what I mean? [Laughs.]"

**So, when are we going to see another movie written by Billy Bob Thornton?**

"I'd like to, but I get lazier as a writer all the time. I mean, with every moment that I don't write, I get lazier. My problem is not once I've started writing; my problem is getting kicked off. I just sit around . . . I'll find any excuse in the world not to write." **F**

*Bob Strauss is a Los Angeles-based entertainment writer.*

# THE DISABLED LIST

Billy Bob Thornton isn't the only star to have his athletic aspirations derailed due to injury. Here's a look at some of Hollywood's most famous ex-jocks.

**ACTOR: BURT REYNOLDS**

**SPORT: FOOTBALL**

**INJURY:** Reynolds was a second-year, all-star halfback playing for Florida State University when a serious knee injury and a car accident put him on the sidelines. The NFL's Baltimore Colts drafted him anyway, but by then he had dropped out of school to pursue acting.



Burt Reynolds (left) with Chris Rock and Adam Sandler in *The Longest Yard*

**ACTOR: KURT RUSSELL**

**SPORT: BASEBALL**

**INJURY:** Playing second base for the AA El Paso Angels (the farm team of the California Angels) Russell was turning a double play when he collided with the runner coming to second and tore his rotator cuff. He retired from pro ball in 1973 and returned to Hollywood.

**ACTOR: LIAM NEESON**

**SPORT: BOXING**

**INJURY:** Liam started boxing at the age of nine and by 16 had won the Youth Heavyweight Championship of Ireland three years in a row. But the physical punishment was taking its toll with Liam experiencing memory loss and blacking out after one of his fights. At 17 he stepped out of the ring and hooked up with a local amateur theatre troupe.



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# VINCE VAUGHN, STILL SWINGING

It's been 10 years since *Swingers*, but in many hearts **Vince Vaughn** is still predatory ladies' man Trent. Vaughn tries to tap into that old sleazy magic one more time as a relentless skirt chaser in *Wedding Crashers* | **BY EARL DITTMAN**

In his breakthrough movie, 1996's *Swingers*, Vince Vaughn played a hyperactive lounge lizard awkwardly trying to nurse his best friend through a bad breakup. It's an unlikable role, his character treats women like conquests and forces his friend (played by the film's writer, Jon Favreau) into painful situations. But Vaughn played it with such style that Steven Spielberg declared him "a new movie star — an American icon to be."

After receiving the gold seal of approval from Hollywood's most powerful filmmaker, Vaughn could have caved under the pressure to prove it was no fluke. But the Minnesota-born actor refused to believe the hype.

"When you're 25, and you have someone of Spielberg's calibre calling you a movie star on the strength of this little indie movie you made, you kind of go into this shock," the 35-year-old recalls with a laugh as he sprawls out on the couch of his Los Angeles hotel suite.

"I did magazine covers and late-night talk shows when *Swingers* broke because the studios and everyone else thought they had another Brad Pitt on their hands. But that's not the way I wanted to move ahead in the business."

Instead, Vaughn was determined to

build a solid career by turning in stand-out performances in art house films like *Clay Pigeons*, in which he played a cowboy serial killer, *Return to Paradise*, an ethical drama in which his character goes to prison to help a friend, and *Made*, Favreau's follow-up to *Swingers*. And when he did do more mainstream pictures like *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*, *Old School*, *Anchorman*, *Dodgeball*, *Starsky & Hutch* and *Be Cool*, he often gave so-so movies a much-needed shot of charisma.

"Even when I did *Swingers*, I had been around Hollywood long enough to know that there are a ton of potential flavours-of-the-month in town, and I wasn't going to be one of them," the 6'5" actor recalls, taking a slug from a litre of mineral water.

"The biggest mistake you can make when you are put in that position is to try and make every big studio movie that comes your way — without even reading the script — and ignore the really small, touching indie pictures you really want to make.

"In the beginning, I did *The Lost World*, and that was about the only gigantic studio picture I did for a while," he continues. "I did the films I wanted, regardless of how big they were. I mean,



Vince Vaughn charms the ladies in *Wedding Crashers*

I didn't start out in this business planning to be an icon-in-training or whatever, I just wanted to do the best movies I could so I could become a better actor. I'm not the richest guy in Hollywood, but I'm one of the happiest because I love everything I do."

"Vince is one of the smartest guys I know and have had the privilege to work with," Owen Wilson told me in an earlier interview. Wilson, who co-stars with Vaughn in this month's *Wedding Crashers*, also shared the screen with the big guy in last year's *Starsky & Hutch*.

"He's one of the few actors I know who doesn't let their ego rule their acting decisions," says Wilson. "Vince doesn't always have to star in the leading-man role or have his name on top of the movie poster, he just wants the role



Vaughn and Wilson looking for a good reception

**"[They] are two desperate guys who'll do anything to get into these wedding receptions, and in bed with a couple of fine chicks," says Vaughn**

that intrigues and challenges him the most. Look at his work in *Starsky & Hutch* and *Be Cool*. They were supporting roles, but you probably remember his performances in both movies more than those of the stars — and I was one of them in *Starsky & Hutch*! With Vince, it's all about the movie and making it better and making himself better."

Wilson says the desire to "make the movie better" led to some experimentation on the set of *Wedding Crashers*. "Instead of sticking to the script the entire time, we tried some improvisation to see what we could come up with. And we came up with some great stuff," he says. "When Vince or I would come up with some great improv lines, he'd get this big smile on his face, and go, 'That was pretty cool, wasn't it?'"

A bawdy comedy directed by David Dobkin (who helmed *Shanghai Knights* with Wilson and *Clay Pigeons* with Vaughn) and filmed in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., *Wedding Crashers* is the story of two late-thirtysomething D.C. divorce mediators who spend their weekends sneaking into wedding receptions in search of free food, free booze and, most importantly, free, non-committal sex.

"[They] are two desperate guys who'll do anything to get into these wedding receptions, and in bed with a couple of fine chicks," Vaughn explains. "They'll even pretend to be related to someone next to them, just so they can meet some girls.... The last thing that Jeremy, my character, wants is to be committed to any one woman, he just wants to be a playboy the rest of his life, and John is a great partner to go to these weddings with because he



Tag team: Owen Wilson (left) and Vince Vaughn

feels the same way. But then Jeremy's worst nightmare comes true — John starts to have feelings for a gal he meets at a reception."

The woman John falls for (Rachel McAdams) happens to be the daughter of the very conservative U.S. Treasury Secretary (played by Christopher Walken) and an old-fashioned mom (Jane Seymour). Worse, she has a sister (Isla Fisher) who's in love with Jeremy and demands they all double date.

"It's a hilarious story, you'll laugh the entire time," Vaughn promises. "But more than that, it's a moral tale about growing up and learning to take responsibility and the real meaning of loyalty to your best friends."

The wedding reception scenes were where director Dobkin really encouraged

Vaughn and Wilson to let loose and just be funny. In fact, Wilson says one of the reasons he was anxious to do the movie was the chance to act in a film that relied partly on improvisation.

"I liked the idea of doing a movie where we just 'winged' part of it," Wilson says. "But you have to have confidence in the people you work with in order to feel comfortable even trying it. I was the first person to sign onto *Wedding Crashers*, and I signed on hoping that Vince was going to play the other guy. That was sort of important to me. Then, once he signed on, his role kind of became bigger because we were kind of playing off of each other, and the ideas that we had grew directly from working with each other. It was one of the most interesting and exciting acting experiences I've ever had."

Vaughn agrees that you can't improvise with just anyone. "Since David had directed both me and Owen in other movies, and the two of us had worked together, we really trusted each other to come up with some great stuff," he says. "We were all extremely collaborative when we were trying to get the script right. It's fun to do comedy with other people I respect doing comedies with. The writers had a funny story, and then we just added more personal, funnier stuff, and hopefully improved on what was there." **F**

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



# RAIDING OWEN WILSON'S CLOSET

Wardrobe, props and cars are all up for grabs on New Line's auction site

If you think you'd look good in that argyle sweater worn by Owen Wilson in *Wedding Crashers* then go ahead, treat yourself, buy it.

At the New Line Cinema Auction site ([www.auction.newline.com](http://www.auction.newline.com)) you can bid on clothes, props and jewellery used in the studio's various films. From the green elf costume worn by Will Ferrell in *Elf* to the 1965 Corvette Convertible driven by Felicity Shagwell

The site was started in 1999 during the dotcom boom and was initially envisioned as an online marketing tool for the studio. However, it quickly grew into its own entity and a money-maker for New Line (although a portion of the proceeds are distributed between three charities).

For Williams, the fun part is seeing what items sell and why.

"You never know what an item's going to go for," she says. "Like Hilary Duff, her stuff from *Raise Your Voice* has done really well, and Rachel McAdams' things from *The Notebook* are hugely popular. She's an up-and-coming actress and if people think that an actor is going to stay around a while they see their purchase as an investment."

You have to wonder whether Williams herself has snapped up a few items here and there.

"I have not," she says a little proudly. "It was exciting at first, it was like Christmas all the time, going through the boxes, looking at stuff and maybe trying on a jacket, like, 'Wow, it's a Gucci jacket!' But now it's a job. I've been doing it for five years and I'm just like a robot. I pull stuff, photograph it, steam it, inventory it and send it out." —IR



Owen Wilson in argyle



Will Ferrell's Elf costume went for \$2,755 (U.S.)

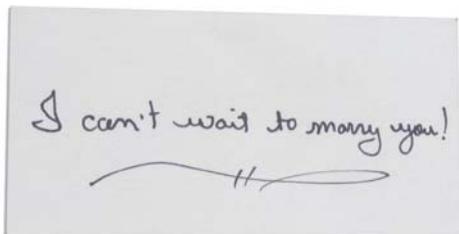


Rachel McAdams outfit from *The Notebook* pulled in \$762 (U.S.)

(Heather Graham) in *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*, there's a plethora of items available.

"People just want to touch Hollywood, they want a piece of Hollywood," says Carrie Williams, New Line's Director of Online Auctions on the line from her L.A. office. It's her job to go see a movie before it's released and make note of items she thinks people would be interested in buying. Surprisingly, they are not always the most obvious things.

"There is this piece of paper from *Monster-in-Law* that Michael Vartan leaves on a pillow for Jennifer Lopez that says, 'I can't wait to marry you!' I just thought it was cute, and it was used in a cute part of the movie, and women are romantic in that sort of way, so I picked it out. It sold for \$47 (U.S.)."





# GAMES OF THE MONTH

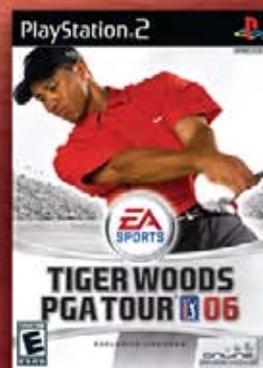
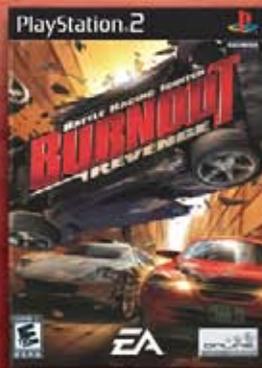
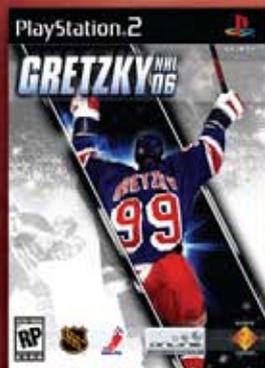
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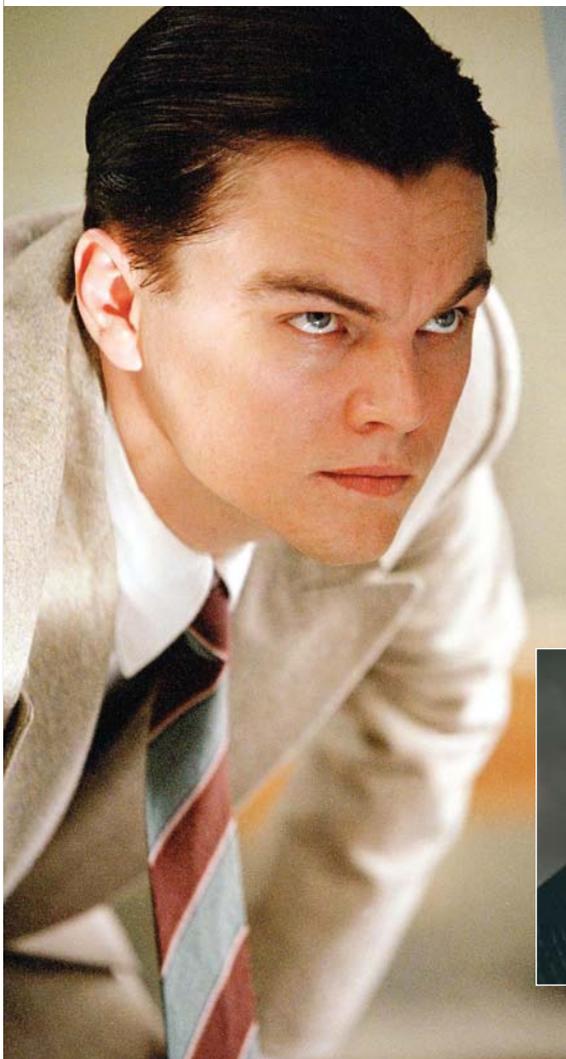
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# DICAPRIO UNCOVERS GOVERNMENT SECRETS, STALLONE REVS UP FOR RAMBO, AND WINSLET STEWS IN THE SUBURBS | BY INGRID RANDOJA

## LEO SIGNS OFF ON *MANUSCRIPT*

Every so often *The Pelican Brief*, based on the **John Grisham** book, pops up on the tube and you can't help but get sucked in. And why not, you've got **Julia Roberts** fighting for her life 'cause she knows about a document that reveals government secrets. Hey, if it's good enough for Julia, it's good enough for Leo. **Leonardo DiCaprio** has agreed to star in the similarly themed *The Chancellor Manuscript*, based on a 1977 bestseller by another purveyor of pulp, **Robert Ludlum**. The story revolves around a novelist (DiCaprio) whose soon-to-be-published thriller about U.S. politicians being blackmailed into supporting official policies (and the government agents who set out to silence him) hits very close to home. The late Ludlum — who passed away in 2001 — is finding much success in Hollywood after his death (the *Bourne* flicks are based on his books), Paramount Pictures paid a whopping \$4-million for the rights to the 28-year-old *Manuscript*. No word yet on a director or other cast members.



## Winslet does desperate housewife

**Kate Winslet** continues to mix edgy roles with conventional parts, a career path that's working like a charm for the four-time Oscar-nominated actor. *The Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* and *Finding Neverland* star will be seen later this year in the heavyweight drama *All the King's Men* opposite **Sean Penn**, but then she'll push the envelope as a feminist wife and mother dealing with a toddler, a porn-addicted hubby and a lover in the suburbs-bashing drama *Little Children*, based on the novel by **Tom Perrotta**. The film, due out next year, will be helmed by *In the Bedroom*'s **Todd Field**.

## SLY GETS ARTY, THEN GOES RAMBO

Stars hate the term "comeback," but what else can you call **Sylvester Stallone's** creative surge? First he helped create the reality show *The Contender*, and later this fall he'll direct *Poe*, based on his own script, which recounts the final days in the life of famed 19th-century horror writer **Edgar Allan Poe**. And then, as if in an effort not to get too artsy-fartsy, Stallone travels to Bulgaria in January 2006 to begin work on *Rambo IV*. The newest *Rambo* flick (also penned by Stallone) finds John Rambo moving to the country to avoid work pressure, and wouldn't you know it, white supremacists kidnap his family and he has to rescue them.

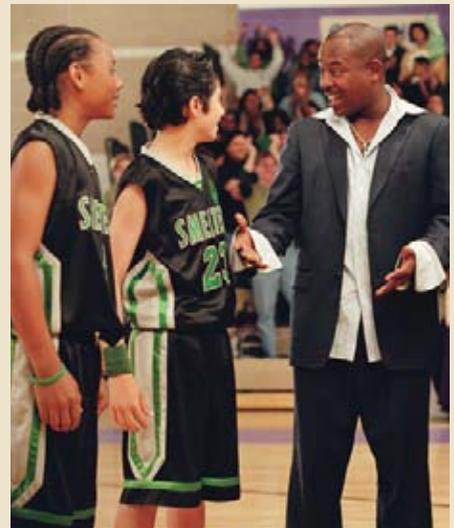


## BRIEFLY

- **Rosario Dawson** will star as a traumatized woman out for revenge in *Descent*.
- In *The Gilmores of Beverly Hills*, **Chris Rock** plays a limo driver who moves his family into the moneyed neighbourhood.
- **Paul Walker** will play a released convict masquerading as a dead drug dealer in *The Death and Life of Bobby Z*.
- A whole new generation of babysitters will be traumatized when the remake of *When a Stranger Calls*, starring **Camilla Belle** (*The Ballad of Jack and Rose*), is released later this year.

# famous trivia

- 1 Actor Johnny Depp teams with director Tim Burton for this month's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. They've worked together five times now, including the upcoming animated film *The Corpse Bride*. Name their first joint project.
- 2 Which star of the military thriller *Stealth* is also a noted playwright, having won the 1979 Pulitzer Prize for *Buried Child*?
- 3 Terry Gilliam directs Matt Damon in the upcoming fantasy film *The Brothers Grimm*. Which famous British comedy troupe was Gilliam a member of?
- 4 Diane Lane, who plays a single gal looking for love in this month's *Must Love Dogs*, has been nominated for an Oscar only once. Name the film.
- 5 Billy Bob Thornton stars as Coach Buttermaker in the *Bad News Bears* remake. Who played Buttermaker in the 1976 original?
- 6 Which star of *Wedding Crashers* is Canadian, hailing from St. Thomas, Ontario (just outside of London)?
- 7 Since 2000, Marvel Comics writer Stan Lee has had cameos in five movies adapted from his comic books, including one as a mailman in this month's *Fantastic Four*. Name the 2000 movie in which he made his first cameo.
- 8 Martin Lawrence hopes to get his career back on track with the basketball comedy *Rebound*. Do you remember the name of Lawrence's early-'90s sitcom?
- 9 Name the movie that *War of the Worlds* director Steven Spielberg executive produced under the name Steven Spielrock.
- 10 Which star of the superhero comedy *Sky High* appeared in the Elvis movie *It Happened at the World's Fair* when he was just 10 years old?
- 11 One of the stars of the new thriller *The Island* shot 1999's *Eye of the Beholder* in Montreal, where he would pass his free time playing guitar in a Crescent Street pub. Name that actor.
- 12 This month's horror-thriller *Dark Water* is based on the Japanese film *Honogurai mizu no soko kara*. Which one of the following films released in the past few years was not based on a Japanese movie — *The Grudge*, *Collateral*, *Shall We Dance*, *The Ring*?



## answers

1. *Edward Scissorhands* 2. Sam Shepard 3. Monty Python 4. *Unfaithful* 5. *The Flintstones* 6. Rachel McAdams 7. *X-Men* (he played a hot dog vendor) 8. *Martin* 9. *The Flintstones* 10. Kurt Russell 11. Ewan McGregor 12. *Collateral*

# Riviera chic

White Capri pants, a bright top, big sunglasses, and any one of us could pass for a star hiding out along the Côte d'Azur

BY LIZA HERZ

This may be news to viewers of shows like *Wild On Ibiza*, but women who live in hot climes don't necessarily run around, day and night, in bathing suits. They still need stylish clothes for those hours *not* spent doing body shots and dancing in nightclubs.

We can take inspiration from their carefree island lifestyle even if we don't have our own yacht tucked away in the garage beside the gas mower and folding lawn chairs.

After too many summers of droopy tanks and low-slung cargo pants, the fashion world is ready for something a little more polished without looking preppy or stiff. That's why we're turning to professional glamourpusses like Elizabeth Hurley for inspiration.

The idea is infectious, especially for those of us from slightly less, uh, skin-friendly climates. Which is why Hurley has launched her own line of beachwear. "I grew up in a rainy country where I was brought up never to leave the house without a cardigan and umbrella," Hurley said upon the launch. "I used to dream of glamorous, sunny places like St. Tropez and St. Bart's, and in my dreams, I was wearing clothes remarkably similar to these!"

Actually, as a look, it's remarkably easy to pull together. The only essential is a pair of white (true, a very high maintenance colour, but deal with it) Capri pants and a bright, ornate top — as cheap or as luxe as your wallet will allow.

To complete the illusion of an indolent, island lifestyle, apply bronzer or shimmer powder to all exposed body parts. Makeup artist Scott Barnes, who created his "Body Bling" shimmer for J.Lo, bluntly uses one word to describe this look: "expensive." He goes on to explain, "it's a look that says 'I don't work. I got a massage and then I slipped into this Missoni dress and now I'm going to a party.'"

So find a patio, put on your "Don't Look at Me" oversized sunglasses, order something cold in a tall glass and then look off as if searching for your yacht on the horizon. Done.



**Red Earth Bronzing Potion** (\$26, **Shoppers Drug Mart Beauty Boutiques**) goes on like molten copper for a sun-kissed glow.



**Gucci Envy Me Cologne** (\$80, **The Bay**) is a summer cocktail of flowers (peony and jasmine) and tropical fruits (lychee, pomegranate and pineapple) created to evoke summer on your skin.



**White Capri Pants** (\$120, **Penguin**) are the one "must have" item this summer. Well, that and a really trashy novel to read on the beach.



These big **Sunglasses** (\$155, **Tommy Bahama**) tell the world, "Please don't ask me for an autograph, I'm feeling very fragile today." Plus they make an effective sunblock.

This **Kitten Heel Thong** (Transit, \$40) may not be perfect for running on the sand, but looks great poised on the footrest of a barstool.



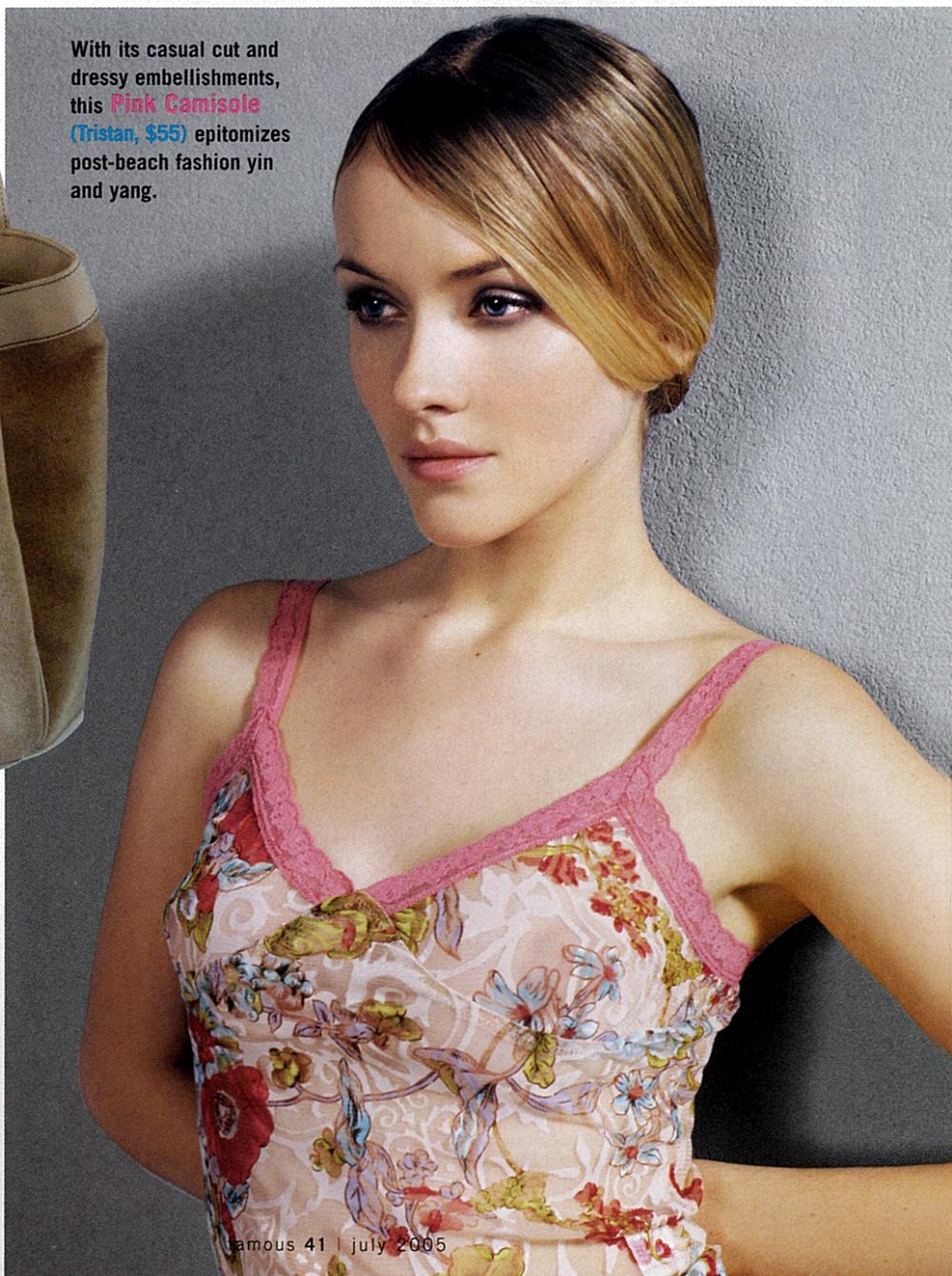
Nothing ruins an effortless glam look faster than smeared makeup. New Almay **TLC Lipcolour** (\$13, drugstores) seals colour with a clear topcoat so your pout stays put.

With its casual cut and dressy embellishments, this **Pink Camisole** (Tristan, \$55) epitomizes post-beach fashion yin and yang.

This white leather and linen **Tote Bag** (Roots, \$168) will make you feel like Jackie O. on the island of Capri, even if you never make it past city limits.



Revlon **Color Beam Sheer Nail Enamel** (\$5.50, drugstores) is a perfect highlight for tanned fingers and toes. The exclusive "Optical Brightener Complex" reminds us a lot of the opalescent nail polish we wore in the '80s, but it does give a subtle touch of magic to otherwise simple nails.



# CRAVING chocolate?

*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* inspires this simple recipe for Chocolate Mousse Cake with Blueberry Sauce | BY MARNI WEISZ

**S**ales of Pinot Noir went through the roof last year after novice wine lovers developed a taste for the dry red while watching *Sideways*.

Similarly, we're betting the chocolate river, candy trees and everlasting gobstoppers in Tim Burton's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* will leave you with a

wicked craving for something sweet.

So, we offer this recipe for Chocolate Mousse Cake with Blueberry Sauce courtesy of Dufflet Rosenberg, one of Canada's foremost cake makers. The blueberry sauce is, of course, in honour of the bratty gumaholic Veruca Salt, who turns into a giant blueberry after chomping

down on a piece of gum that's still in the experimental phase.

Dubbed the "Queen of Cake," Rosenberg has two retail shops in Toronto, supplies more than 500 restaurants and shops with her sinful desserts, and has even prepared a birthday cake for Mick Jagger.

She says this flourless chocolate mousse cake is easy to make because the cake and the mousse are all one recipe, and offers this crucial advice: "Make sure you serve it at room temperature because it brings out all the flavour of the chocolate."

For more information on Rosenberg's stores and products go to [www.dufflet.com](http://www.dufflet.com).

## Chocolate Mousse Cake with Blueberry Sauce

### INGREDIENTS

- 1lb** premium bittersweet chocolate, chopped
- 1lb** unsalted butter, cut into cubes
- 16** egg yolks
- 1 cup** granulated sugar
- 10** egg whites
- 1/2 to 1lb** semi-sweet chocolate, melted and formed into rectangular block 1/2" thick
- 2 tbsp** icing sugar to dust

### METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Grease and flour 10" baking pan or springform pan. Line with a parchment paper circle.
3. Melt the bittersweet chocolate and butter over a double boiler. Stir until melted and remove from heat.
4. Combine the egg yolks and sugar in the bowl of an electric mixer. Whip on medium speed until the mixture is light and lemon coloured.
5. Add the chocolate mixture to the egg mixture by hand, stirring to blend thoroughly.
6. In a separate bowl, whip the egg whites until stiff but not dry.
7. Add some of the whites to the chocolate mixture and blend thoroughly.
8. Fold in the remaining whites gently.
9. Pour 3/4 of the mixture into the prepared pan. Set the remaining mixture aside to set in a cool place.
10. Bake cake for one hour until it is set and puffed up.
10. Remove from oven and let cool. Cake will sink in the middle. Remove from pan.
11. Place cake on serving platter. Ice the cake with the reserved chocolate mousse. Scoop the remaining mousse on top of the cake and mound in the centre to create a smooth surface.
12. Using a vegetable peeler, peel the room temperature semi-sweet chocolate block to make a curl. If the chocolate is too cold, place in a warm place before peeling or microwave for a few seconds. Refrigerate curls until firm.

Cover the top and sides of the cake with the curls and dust lightly with icing sugar.

13. Store refrigerated; bring to room temperature before serving with a spoonful of blueberry sauce.

### Blueberry Sauce:

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1lb** frozen blueberries
- 2 tbsp** fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 cup** sugar

#### METHOD:

1. Combine the ingredients in a saucepan.
2. Cover and cook over medium heat until berry juices are released, about one to two minutes.
3. Stir to moisten all of the berries, cover and cook three more minutes.
4. Uncover and bring to a boil for one minute. Cool. Adjust flavours if necessary. Store refrigerated.





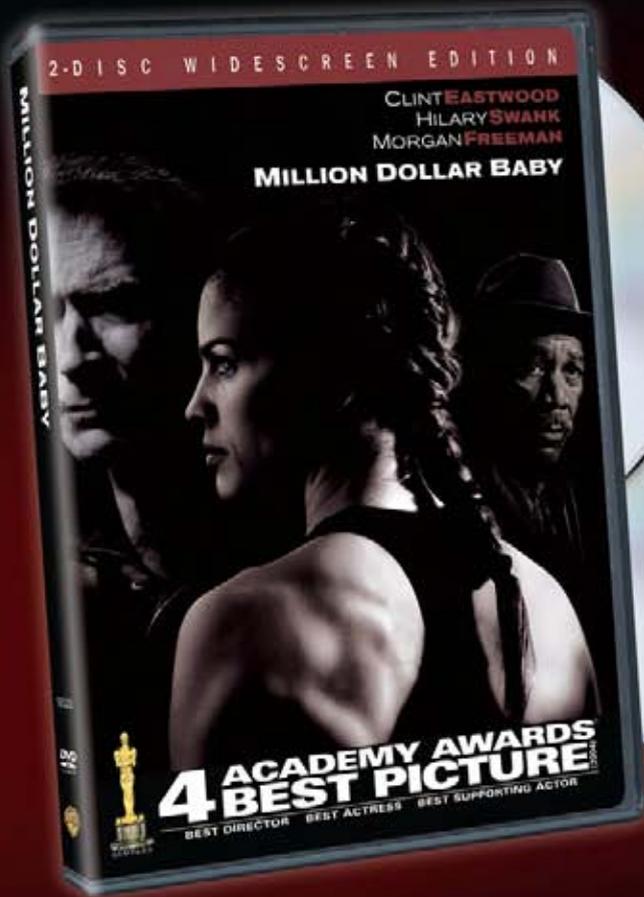
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 IN ASSOCIATION WITH LAKESHORE ENTERTAINMENT A MALPASO/RUDDY MORGAN PRODUCTION CLINT EASTWOOD HILARY SWANK MORGAN FREEMAN "MILLION DOLLAR BABY" EDITED BY JOEL COX, A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGN BY HENRY BUMSTEAD  
 DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY TOM STERN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS GARY LUCCHESI ROBERT LORENZ PRODUCED BY ALBERT S. RUDDY TOM ROSENBERG PAUL HAGGIS BASED UPON STORIES FROM "ROPE BURNS" BY F.X. TOOLE SCREENPLAY BY PAUL HAGGIS  
 PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY CLINT EASTWOOD



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# FOUR POWERS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

You'll have to stretch, scorch, smash and disappear if you want to save the day in *Fantastic Four* | BY SCOTT GARDNER

## FANTASTIC FOUR

GC, PC, PS2, XBOX

This third-person action game puts you in the blue spandex of comicdom's first family. Based on the new big-screen adaptation (opening July 8), the game follows the general storyline of the movie, but is rounded out with additional locations, battles and baddies.

For the uninitiated, the Fantastic Four have been around in comic book form since 1961. The team consists of Mr. Fantastic, who can elongate his body like a rubber band; his main squeeze The Invisible Woman, who can also shoot force fields; The Human Torch, who flies and manipulates fire; and The Thing, a super-strong and nearly indestructible rock-like fella.

Over the course of the game you must develop the skills of all four team members. Once you master each superhero's individual power you graduate to the real donnybrooks where you have to switch between players on the fly or combine their abilities to launch more powerful attacks. Each character is capable of 40 moves, and you need them all to take on classic comic book rivals like Dr. Doom, Annihilus, Diablo and Puppet Master.

You'll also need all of the characters' skills to navigate through the environments, solve puzzles and play mini-games. In fact, the majority of the game is played with two, three or all four heroes working together.

Besides the single-player game, there are several multiplayer options. A two-player co-op mode lets you replay the entire game with a partner or, if you're in a less cooperative mood, there are a number of head-to-head arena fights.

And no matter how well-adjusted you think you are, nothing compares to the joy of stretching your arm into a giant ball-peen hammer and bashing your best friend in the choppers before he can activate his force field.



## GEORGE ROMERO'S CITY OF THE DEAD

PC, PS2, XBOX



Presented by the horror auteur who invented the modern zombie movie (*Night of the Living Dead*, 1978's *Dawn of the Dead*), this first-person shooter keeps it simple — kill a lot of zombies, preferably as messily as possible.

Like the monsters in George Romero's movies these zombies are slow and stupid, but they attack relentlessly and only a direct shot in the head will kill them.

As well as the story mode, *City of the Dead* features bonus "one-shot" levels that give the shooter just one bullet to take out as many zombies as possible. The challenge is to shoot something in the environment that starts a cadaver-crunching chain reaction. Rubber boots and raincoat not included.

## COLOSSEUM: ROAD TO FREEDOM

PS2

Borrowing the basic story arc from 2000's big-screen *Gladiator* (minus the tear-jerking character stuff) *Colosseum* is an action/role-playing game that plops you into dusty arenas filled with burly warriors or hungry tigers.

As the game begins you're sold into slavery, and the only way to win your freedom is to buy it back from your master with your winnings in the colosseum. Before you earn any silver, however, you have to pick weapons and armour and train, train, train or it'll be curtains on your first outing.

Once you've finally built up your strength and skill in tutorials and mini-games it's on to the main events: team battles, battles royal (where you have to single-handedly kill a whole pack of gladiators), hunting games that pit you against



vicious beasts, and duels, which see you going toe-to-toe with your most vexing, top-ranked opponents.

## 25 TO LIFE

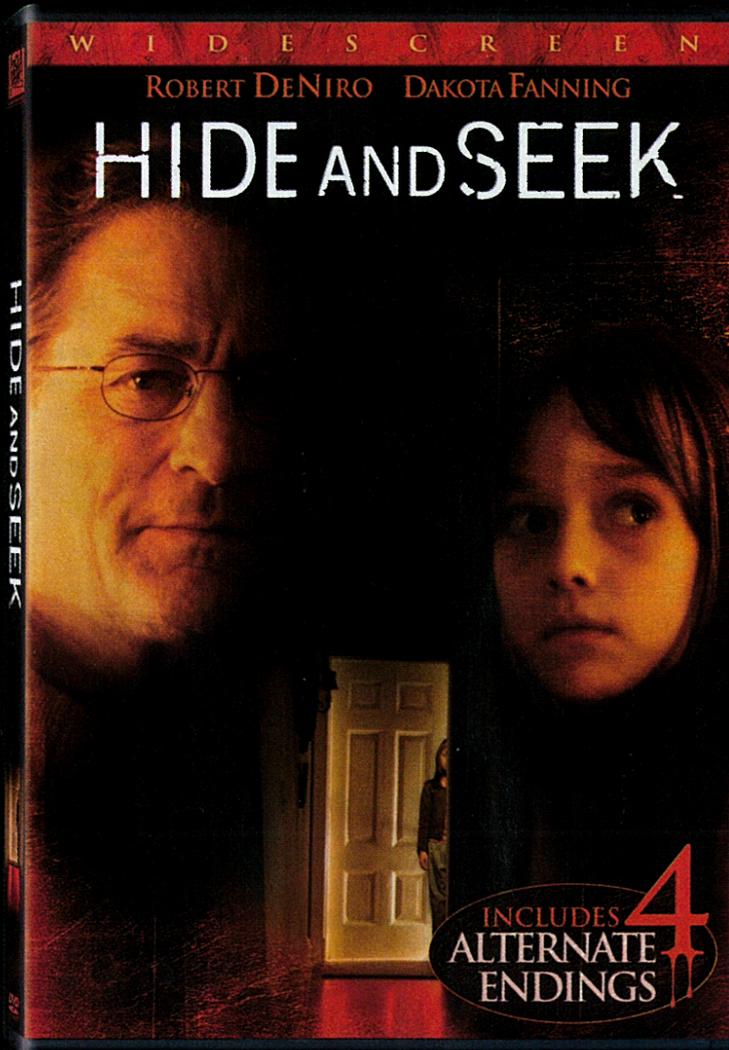
PC, PS2, XBOX

This gritty, third-person shooter is set in the heart of a modern city and features a Hollywood-style storyline populated by narcs, informers, thugs and drug lords. The twist: you can play as either a gangster or as one of the cops who's trying to take him down.



In addition to the single-player game, both the PS2 and Xbox versions support up to 16 players online, each with a unique character.

Written and co-produced by the former executive editor of hip-hop magazine *The Source*, *25 to Life* is serious about its urban stylings, and the soundtrack features Ghostface, DMX and other hip-hop artists.



Available: July 5th

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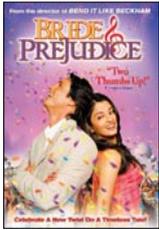
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# new releases

GO HOME WITH **CONSTANTINE**, **ICE PRINCESS** OR **MAN OF THE HOUSE** | BY SCOTT GARDNER

JULY 5



## BRIDE & PREJUDICE

**Stars:** Aishwarya Rai, Martin Henderson  
**Director:** Gurinder Chadha (*Bend It Like Beckham*)  
**Story:** Bollywood-style spectacle merges with

Jane Austen's classic tale in this lively musical. Will the witty young Lalita (Rai) and the handsome Mr. Darcy (Henderson) fall in love or be defeated by pride, prejudice and a comedy of errors? **DVD Extras:** director's commentary, deleted scenes, extended songs

## DANIEL AND THE SUPERDOGS

**Stars:** Matthew Harbour, Jan Rubes  
**Director:** André Mélançon (*Asbestos*)  
**Story:** In this family tale, lonely 11-year-old Daniel (Harbour) adopts a stray dog named Gypsy. Now he has to keep his four-legged pal out of the pound while training him for the big Superdogs show.



## DEAR FRANKIE

**Stars:** Emily Mortimer, Gerard Butler  
**Director:** Shona Auerbach (debut)  
**Story:** For years Frankie's single mum (Mortimer) has been sending him

letters from a make-believe father away at sea. But when his "father's" ship docks in their Scottish town, she must choose between telling Frankie the truth or finding someone to play Frankie's father for just one day.



## HIDE AND SEEK

**Stars:** Robert De Niro, Dakota Fanning  
**Director:** John Polson (*Swimfan*)  
**Story:** After her mother dies, a young girl

"Charlie," an imaginary friend. But as Charlie gets less and less friendly her father (De Niro) wonders just who

— or what — he is. **DVD Extras:** four alternate endings, 14 deleted or extended scenes, making-of featurette



## IN MY COUNTRY

**Stars:** Juliette Binoche, Samuel L. Jackson  
**Director:** John Boorman (*Hope and Glory*)  
**Story:** A pair of journalists — one American

(Jackson) and one Afrikaner (Binoche) — fall in love while reporting stories of courage and compassion from South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

JULY 12

## MILLION DOLLAR BABY

**Stars:** Hilary Swank, Morgan Freeman  
**Director:** Clint Eastwood (*Unforgiven*)  
**Story:** In 2004's most honoured film, Eastwood stars as a down-on-his-luck former boxing manager who takes on one last fighter, a confident young woman

## TV on DVD

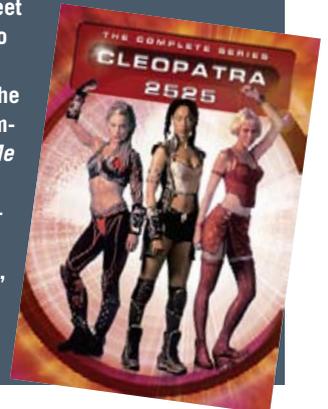
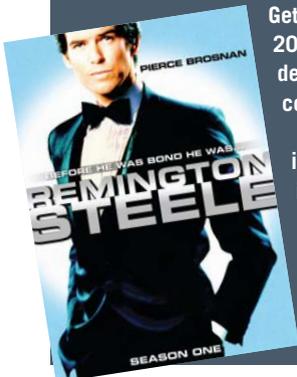
Emmy-winning *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart finally makes its DVD debut with *Indecision 2004* (June 28), a three-disc collection of the best damn fake news you'll see anywhere. Highlights include the team's live election night coverage, Stephen Colbert's ultra-exclusive "Interviews I Could Get" and reports from 2004's various debates and political conventions.

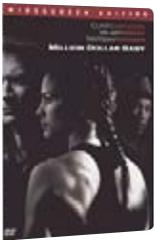
The less politically inclined can indulge in the guilty pleasure of *3rd Rock from the Sun: Season One* (July 26), and presumably someone will enjoy



*The Nanny: The Complete First Season* (July 12). And before Pierce Brosnan was issued his license to kill as the impossibly handsome 007, he was an impossibly handsome con artist turned private investigator in 1982's *Remington Steele: Season One* (July 26).

On a bittersweet note, there's also the second and final season of the clever black comedy *Dead Like Me* (July 5), and the complete collection of two more deceased shows, *Cleopatra 2525* and *Earth 2* (both July 19).





(Swank). As she rises through the ranks, the unlikely duo form a touching bond that will eventually face a terrible test. **DVD Extras:** Roundtable with Eastwood, Swank and Freeman, behind-the-scenes featurette, the Eastwood-composed CD soundtrack



### A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

**Stars:** Audrey Tautou, Gaspard Ulliel  
**Director:** Jean-Pierre Jeunet (*Amelie*)  
**Story:** As World War One draws to an end, Mathilde

(Tautou) receives word that her fiancé is missing in no-man's land. But certain he is still alive, she embarks on an incredible journey to find him.

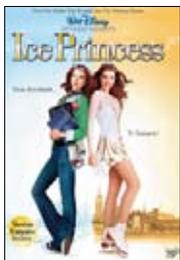
**JULY 19**



### CONSTANTINE

**Stars:** Keanu Reeves, Rachel Weisz  
**Director:** Frances Lawrence (debut)  
**Story:** Based on the comic book series *Hellblazer*, John Constantine (Reeves)

is a supernatural agent who patrols the Earthly border between Heaven and Hell. Together with a skeptical police officer (Weisz) he investigates a demonic plot being hatched in contemporary L.A. **DVD Extras:** 18 minutes of deleted scenes, commentary by the director, producer and screenwriters, four featurettes, an alternate ending



### ICE PRINCESS

**Stars:** Michelle Trachtenberg, Kim Cattrall  
**Director:** Tim Fywell (*I Capture the Castle*)  
**Story:** A brainy, misfit high school student (Trachtenberg) discov-

ers her hidden passion for salchows, axels, toe loops and lutzes in this figure skating comedy from Disney. **DVD Extras:** cast commentary, alternate opening, deleted scenes, two music videos



### MAN OF THE HOUSE

**Stars:** Tommy Lee Jones, Cedric the Entertainer  
**Director:** Stephen Herek (*101 Dalmatians*)  
**Story:** A tough Texas

Ranger (Jones) has to babysit a squadron of college cheerleaders after they inadvertently witness a gangster's murder. And believe it or not, his no-nonsense ways clash with their fun-filled lifestyle!



### SPACE STATION

**Narrator:** Tom Cruise  
**Director:** Toni Myers (*L5: First City in Space*)  
**Story:** Narrated by

Cruise, this stunning IMAX movie follows dual missions to the International Space Station: one from Florida's Kennedy Space Center, and a second from Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome. **DVD Extras:** director and astronaut commentary, featurette about movie-making in space, astronaut-guided tour, photo gallery



### THE UPSIDE OF ANGER

**Stars:** Joan Allen, Kevin Costner  
**Director:** Mike Binder (*Indian Summer*)  
**Story:** In this snappy

comedic drama, a suddenly single mother (Allen) clashes with her four teenage daughters while developing an offbeat relationship with her neighbour and drinking buddy (Costner), a former baseball star.

**JULY 26**



### XXX: STATE OF THE UNION

**Stars:** Ice Cube, Samuel L. Jackson  
**Director:** Lee Tamahori (*Die Another Day*)  
**Story:** With the U.S.

government under threat, NSA agent Augustus Gibbons (Jackson) activates a new XXX "outsider" agent: Darius Stone (Cube). A thrill-seeking troublemaker and former Navy SEAL, he's just the man to land a speeding boat on a bridge, fight a tank battle on an aircraft carrier or race a bullet train.

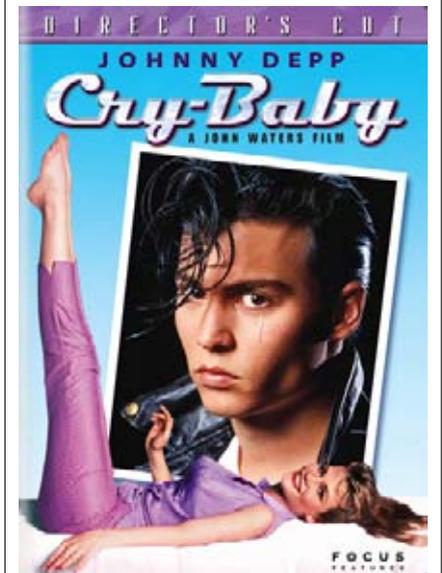
**NEW to DVD**

# CRY-BABY

**DIRECTOR'S CUT (1990)**

Rockin' 'n' rollin' onto DVD for the very first time, this send-up of 1950s teen melodramas is one of cult director John Waters' most mainstream movies. Of course, when the auteur behind *Pink Flamingos* and *Pecker* does mainstream it's still pretty offbeat.

Johnny Depp stars as Wade "Cry-Baby" Walker — the coolest, toughest hood in his Baltimore high school and leader of the Drapes. His ability to shed one single, glistening tear drives all the girls wild, especially Allison Vernon-Williams (Amy Locane), a beautiful, rich "Square" from the right side of the tracks.



Soon Allison is eagerly inhaling the evil influences of rockabilly music and fast cars, but her star-crossed romance with Cry-Baby sets off a rumble between the Drapes and the Squares that lands our pretty hero (Depp, that is) in reform school.

Like 1988's *Hairspray*, Waters' other stab at a sorta-normal movie, *Cry-Baby* is chock full of musical numbers, and the supporting ranks are packed with his usual parade of eccentrics, including Patty Hearst, Mink Stole, Iggy Pop and former porn star Traci Lords.

For its DVD premiere, Waters has added seven minutes of never-before-seen footage, and the bonus material includes "It Came from Baltimore," an in-depth making-of doc with new interviews from John Waters and cast.

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# July 2005

HOROSCOPE | BY DAN LIEBMAN

## Cancer

June 22 ☆ July 22

You don't need a compass to know which direction a relationship is headed. This month you learn just where things stand. July also involves training sessions, assorted visitors and an opportunity to regain some of the self-respect you recently lost.

## Leo

July 23 ☆ August 22

You'll meet people from all walks of life and may connect with someone who's never before been your type. July marks the start of an extended period of efficiency. If handling family finances or arranging an event, you tackle the job with vigour.

## Virgo

August 23 ☆ September 22

There's a tendency to drop a project right before it's finished — but try to see it through. With increased assertiveness comes a gain in self-confidence. A deep desire for knowledge can be fulfilled by month's end.

## Libra

September 23 ☆ October 22

After a sluggish phase, you enter a period of high motivation. Look forward to personal or professional accomplishments. Your sign is famous for taste, but not this



Sorry, we have to tell...  
Sandra Bullock turns 41  
on July 26

month. Bring along a consultant if decorating, buying clothes or changing your hairstyle.

## Scorpio

October 23 ☆ November 21

Guests — invited or unexpected — arrive throughout July. If dealing with new lawyers or other professionals, be sure to check their qualifications. Enhance your wardrobe with bright hues.

## Sagittarius

November 22 ☆ December 22

It's an intellectually stimulating time. You'll explore different cultures through travel or discussions with people from various backgrounds. Be skeptical about claims made by "experts." Look forward to renewing a friendship on or after the 20th.

## Capricorn

December 23 ☆ January 20

This is a month of coincidences and unexpected travel opportunities. You're quite persuasive, so expect to take the lead in family discussions. You may be faced with an ethical dilemma — and now is your chance to learn from past mistakes.

## Aquarius

January 21 ☆ February 19

July marks the end of a drought. Long-

awaited apologies, invitations and kudos finally come your way. Avoid taking sides in a late-month dispute between two good friends. Be ready to adopt a more conservative approach to practical matters such as finance.

## Pisces

February 20 ☆ March 20

It's a good month for communicating. Catch up on correspondence, ask for favours and start a personal journal. Someone who's hard to reach is accessible around the middle of July. Friends show their generosity in both tangible and intangible ways.

## Aries

March 21 ☆ April 20

You're less impulsive and less extravagant than usual. It's an excellent month to make decisions that involve a thoughtful weighing of pros against cons. A slow-starting relationship builds momentum. You finally figure out someone who's been hard to read.

## Taurus

April 21 ☆ May 22

Don't rush to any conclusions — as the month develops, you'll hear several versions of the same story. New acquaintances may be able to provide important clues to a mystery. A rocky family situation begins to show signs of stability.

## Gemini

May 23 ☆ June 21

Tempers may flare early in the month, but things calm down by the 31st — and nobody's the worse for the fireworks. You finally resume work on a stalled project. It's a good month to take up photography, drawing or another hobby that involves visual expression.

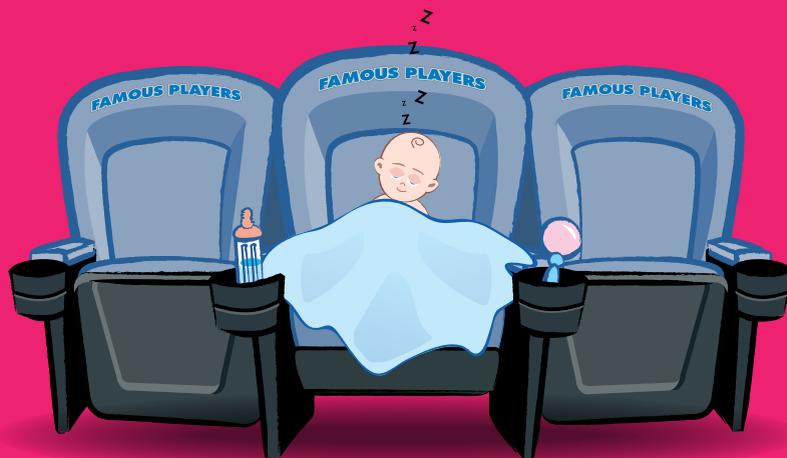
## JULY BIRTHDAYS

1st: Pamela Anderson	12th: Bill Cosby	23rd: Daniel Radcliffe
2nd: Lindsay Lohan	13th: Harrison Ford	24th: Jennifer Lopez
3rd: Tom Cruise	14th: Harry Dean Stanton	25th: Matt LeBlanc
4th: Neil Simon	15th: Forest Whitaker	26th: Sandra Bullock
5th: Edie Falco	16th: Will Ferrell	27th: Maya Rudolph
6th: Geoffrey Rush	17th: Molly Parker	28th: Sally Struthers
7th: Shelley Duvall	18th: Vin Diesel	29th: Geddy Lee
8th: Kevin Bacon	19th: Anthony Edwards	30th: Lisa Kudrow
9th: Tom Hanks	20th: Frank Whaley	31st: Wesley Snipes
10th: Jessica Simpson	21st: Robin Williams	
11th: Sela Ward	22nd: Danny Glover	

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**BILL MURRAY** "I worked as a caddie growing up and that paid my tuition to Loyola — unlike Kevin Costner, Randy Quaid and Joe Pesci — actors who have had enough time off to take lessons. Now I am golf royalty!"

**10**  
**STARS**  
**TALK**  
**ABOUT**  
**GOLF**  
| BY SUSAN GRANGER

PHOTO BY JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO/KRT



**SEAN CONNERY** "I met my wife in a golf tournament in Morocco many years ago. She won the women's and I won the men's."

**CELINE DION** "It's bizarre. You hit a ball. You run after it. You hit it again. You run after it. But, to me, it's like show business. It's like focusing, and you are not in competition with the world. You are only in competition with yourself. You want to beat your last performance, your last score."

**MICHAEL DOUGLAS** "I'm a golf fanatic. I started playing several years ago but I'm so gone that it's ridiculous. Catherine [Zeta-Jones] is now playing too. Her dad's a golfer so she had played a bit before. She's doing so good now. It's a sport we can do together. That's important."

**CLINT EASTWOOD** "Those who want, can play. And those who don't are candy asses."

**SAMUEL L. JACKSON** "It's my new drug of choice. I'm nuts about golf, and I'm getting really good. I get invitations to play at some great courses. My handicap is that my movie jobs get in the way of my golf game."

**KEVIN COSTNER** "I learned the game when I played a golf pro in *Tin Cup*. Now I love it and I realize I play better when I focus. That's helped me win tournaments."

**MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY** "I've played golf all my life, it's the greatest. The best thing about having money is I can lose golf balls and not care. I can buy Titleist Balata 100s in the pro shop."

**EWAN MCGREGOR** "I love golf. I've always played when I had nothing else to do, but I've started watching golf on television recently, and I really enjoy it."

**JACK NICHOLSON** "Golf is my obsession. I don't play the [senior] yellow tees yet. I ran into Sidney Poitier on the course and he said you get a huge burst of energy at 70, so I'm waiting for that, hanging on by my fingernails."

**WILL SMITH** "Love it? I have my own golf hole! I get to play against the most fierce competition on the planet — and that's myself. There's no place I'd rather be than on a golf course. I keep a book of golf anecdotes on the coffee table."

**MARK WAHLBERG** "I play golf very seriously. I'm addicted — in fact, 90 percent of my wardrobe is golf attire."

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