

Famous

Drew Barrymore, Jude Law
and other celebs talk about their tattoos

june 2000 | volume 1 number 6 |

canada's entertainment
lifestyle magazine

Jason Biggs

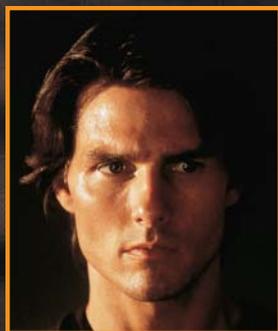
American Pie star
chats about his return
to the big screen

Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio

on *The Perfect Storm*

Spotlight on: Nic Cage
Freddie Prinze, Jr.
& Renée Zellweger

Dinosaur:
A sneak peek



Tom Cruise
in *M:i-2*
(see page 20)

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Samuel L. Jackson is super-cool P.I. John Shaft

Will Jackson
get his man
in *Shaft*?

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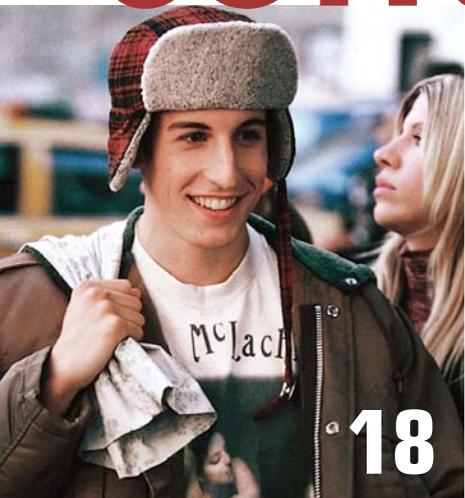
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contents

Famous | volume 1 | number 6 |



FEATURES

16 DINOSAUR:
THE EVOLUTION OF ANIMATION
The computer-generated dinosaurs in this film are so stunning they'll make *Jurassic Park* look old-school.

18 BIGG STAR
He got his first big break as Jim in *American Pie*, and now Jason Biggs has new roles in *Boys and Girls* and *Losers*. But how did he get here?
By Neil Morton

20 LET'S TAKE A CRUISE
Famous takes a look at how *Mission: Impossible 2*'s Tom Cruise became one of Hollywood's elite, and we test your knowledge with a really tough Cruise quiz
plus David Giammarco talks to the real CIA agent that *M:i-2*'s Ethan Hunt is based on

24 FAMOUS FOCUS:
MARY ELIZABETH MASTRANTONIO
The co-star of George Clooney's natural disaster film, *The Perfect Storm*, talks about life on set and off

COVER STORY

26 HE NEVER GETS SHAFTED
Through movies like *Pulp Fiction* and *Rules of Engagement*, Samuel L. Jackson has become a power player in Hollywood. Now he's turned his attention to the new *Shaft* film. As writer **Bob Thompson** finds out, he had a big say in how it turned out

DEPARTMENTS

06 EDITORIAL

08 THE BIG PICTURE
A peek at current flicks, including *The Patriot*, *Gone in 60 Seconds* and *Me, Myself & Irene*

12 THE PLAYERS
Vital bio info on Nicolas Cage, Renée Zellweger and Freddie Prinze, Jr.

14 FAMOUS TRIVIA

28 COMING SOON

29 ON THE SLATE

33 CUISEEN
Suzanne Somers lambs it up at On The Curve

34 SCOUTING LOCATIONS
Movies that will inspire you to hop on a plane — or into your car

42 FIVE FAVOURITE FILMS
Phantom Menace's Jake Lloyd makes his picks

43 ON VIDEO
New releases, including *Man on the Moon*, *The Green Mile* and *Girl, Interrupted*

45 HOROSCOPE

46 FAMOUS LAST WORDS
Drew Barrymore, Pamela Anderson and Jude Law talk about their tattoos

COLUMNS

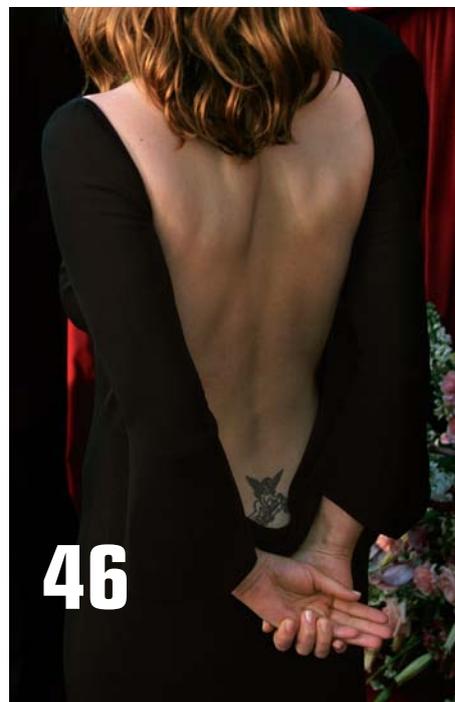
30 THINGS
"Personalized" gifts for the stars that you can get too

32 BIT STREAMING
Buy movie memorabilia on the web

36 PULP AND PAPER
New books for June

38 LINER NOTES
Julie Doiron might be Canada's best-kept secret. Just ask The Tragically Hip

40 NAME OF THE GAME
Think female gamers prefer sedate puzzle games? Think again



SPENDING TIME WITH Samuel L. Jackson



Few of us had heard of Samuel L. Jackson before his turn as the smooth-talking d.j. Mister Senor Love Daddy in 1989's *Do the Right Thing*. But as the voice of a small radio station on a hot day in Brooklyn, he also became the voice of this groundbreaking Spike Lee film. And his voice has been heard loud and clear in Hollywood ever since. Five years ago, he secured his place among acting's elite with an Oscar nomination for his role in *Pulp Fiction*, and his most recent movie, a military thriller called *Rules of Engagement*, was tops at the box office for two weeks this spring. Now, we get to see Samuel L. Jackson in a role he was born to play — John Shaft, the epitome of urban cool. Bob Thompson flew to New York to talk to Jackson about how he made this *Shaft* his own, and how he's dealing with his escalating fame. See "Shaft's Return," on page 26.

They called it crude, they called it adolescent, they called it gross. But they also called it funny. We're talking about *American Pie*, a touching movie about a boy, his virginity and an apple pie. It was a film that could have easily ended up being just another *Porky's*, but didn't, in part because it starred Jason Biggs, a 21-year-old who combines the comedic talent of a young Adam Sandler with the real-life believability of the guy sitting next to you in science class. Now Biggs has roles in two new movies — a supporting part in the Freddie Prinze, Jr./Claire Forlani romantic comedy *Boys and Girls*, and a starring role in *Losers*, a fish-out-of-water story about a small-town kid who moves to the Big Apple to attend NYU. Neil Morton spoke with Biggs about how this very regular guy ended up in Hollywood. See "Portrait of an Actor as a Young Man," page 18.

People have been oohing and ahing about the fact that Julia Roberts made \$20 million for *Erin Brockovich* and Mel Gibson took home \$25 million for *The Patriot*. But it recently came to light that way back in 1996, Tom Cruise made \$70 million for the first *Mission: Impossible* movie thanks to a big salary plus a chunk of the profits. That enormous paycheck is what allowed him to spend two years filming Stanley Kubrick's *Eyes Wide Shut* and then take a low-paying role in Paul Thomas Anderson's *Magnolia*. Now comes *Mission: Impossible 2* (aka *M:i-2*) which, buoyed by Cruise's sky-rocketing stardom, promises to be yet another smash. In "Cruise In Control," page 20, we take a look at the mystifying actor and test how much you already know about him with our really tough Tom Cruise quiz. We also fill you in on Cruise's Canadian connection, and writer David Giammarco speaks with the real CIA agent that his Ethan Hunt character in *M:i-2* was based on.

Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio made her big screen debut as Gina Montana in 1983's *Scarface*, then starred as Lindsey Brigman in 1989's *The Abyss* and Maid Marian in 1991's *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*. But since moving to London, England, with her director-husband Pat O'Connor (*Circle of Friends*) and their two young boys, she has slipped into the industry's background. This summer, however, the striking brunette appears in what promises to be one of the summer's biggest blockbusters — *Perfect Storm*, starring George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg. Read what she has to say about this thriller at sea in our "Famous Focus," page 24.

— Marni Weisz

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june 2000

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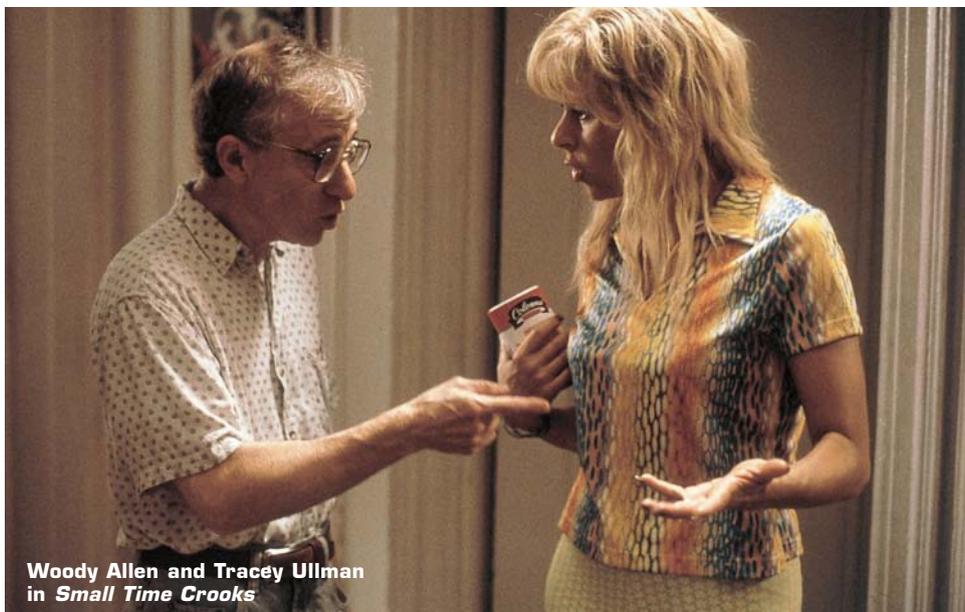
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JUNE'S ROSTER OF COMEDIES, THRILLERS AND DRAMAS



Woody Allen and Tracey Ullman in *Small Time Crooks*

Small Time Crooks (May 19)

Who's In It? Woody Allen, Hugh Grant, Tracey Ullman

Who Directed? Woody Allen (*Celebrity, Sweet and Lowdown*)

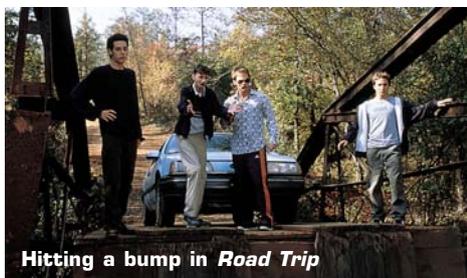
What's It About? Allen wrote, directed and starred in this light ensemble comedy. He plays an ex-con dishwasher in New York who, along with his greedy manicurist-wife (Ullman), plot the perfect bank robbery.

Road Trip (May 19)

Who's In It? Breckin Meyer, Rachel Blanchard, Tom Green

Who Directed? Todd Phillips (co-director of *Frat House*)

What's It About? In this teen road comedy, four buds have to go from a campus in Ithaca, New York, to one in Austin, Texas, to retrieve an illicit tape — of a sexual nature — that was mistakenly sent to one of the guy's girlfriends (Blanchard). Canada's wacky Tom Green takes part in the shenanigans. Produced by Ivan Reitman.



Hitting a bump in *Road Trip*

Dinosaur [animated] (May 19)

Voices of: D.B. Sweeney, Julianna Margulies, Joan Plowright

Who Directed? Eric Leighton and Ralph Zondag (debut)

What's It About? When a young orphaned iguanodon (voice of Sweeney) who is raised by lemurs learns that a giant asteroid is heading toward Earth, he finds his blood family and tries to lead them to the safety of their nesting grounds before it's too late. The dinosaur animation, together with real live-action backgrounds, is expected to be first-class. See "*Nothing Prehistoric Here*", page 16.

Mission: Impossible 2 (aka M:i-2)

(May 24)

Who's In It? Tom Cruise, Ving Rhames, Anthony Hopkins

Who Directed? John Woo (*Face/Off*)

What's It About? In this sequel to the 1996 blockbuster based on the popular TV series of the Sixties, Ethan Hunt (Cruise) and his special operatives have to track down a deadly synthetic virus that could destroy the world if released by terrorists. But, of course, things don't go smoothly for Hunt, et al. See *Tom Cruise guide*, page 20.

Shanghai Noon (May 26)

Who's In It? Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson, Lucy Liu

Who Directed? Tom Dey (debut)

What's It About? In this action thriller, Imperial Guard Chon Wang (Chan) travels to the U.S. to

rescue a kidnapped Chinese princess (Liu). But there are many obstacles in his way: a partner (Wilson) he doesn't think he can trust, a wife he doesn't want to be with and a horse he can't ride. They must be banking on this film being a hit, as plans for *Shanghai Noon 2* are already in the works.



Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson in *Shanghai Noon*

Big Momma's House (June 2)

Who's In It? Martin Lawrence, Nia Long, Paul Giamatti, Terrence Howard

Who Directed? Raja Gosnell (*Never Been Kissed*)

What's It About? An FBI agent known for his disguises goes to Georgia to protect a beautiful single mother (Long). In order to crack this case, he has to go undercover by pretending to be her crass, Southern, heavy-set granny who is known as "Big Momma".



Martin Lawrence (right) plays "Big Momma"

Gone in 60 Seconds (June 9)

Who's In It? Nicolas Cage, Angelina Jolie, Giovanni Ribisi, Robert Duvall

Who Directed? Dominic Sena (*Kalifornia*)

What's It About? In this remake of the 1974 B-movie cult classic, Randall "Memphis" Raines (Cage) is an automobile aficionado and legendary car thief who quits the illicit biz, but gets drawn back in when he needs to make enough dough to save his debt-ridden younger bro (Ribisi) from the mob. In order to do so, he has to steal 50 cars in a single night. Jolie plays Cage's love interest. ▶▶



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Jim Carrey's sensitive side in *Me, Myself & Irene*

Shaft (June 16)

Who's In It? Samuel L. Jackson, Christian Bale, Toni Collette

Who Directed? John Singleton (*Rosewood*, *Higher Learning*)

What's It About? In this contemporary update of the Seventies blaxploitation classic, a private detective named John Shaft (Jackson) must catch a murderer (Bale) before he gets to the only witness (Collette) there is to his last crime. Rapper Busta Rhymes (*Higher Learning*) plays his sidekick, Rasaan. **See Samuel L. Jackson interview, page 26.**

Boys and Girls (June 16)

Who's In It? Jason Biggs, Freddie Prinze, Jr., Claire Forlani

Who Directed? Robert Iscove (*She's All That*)
What's It About? Two UC Berkeley friends (Forlani and Prinze, Jr.) who are struggling with their respective relationships decide they should give each other a try. Biggs plays Prinze, Jr.'s womanizing friend, who gives him terrible advice on matters pertaining to the opposite sex. Also stars Heather Donahue (*Blair Witch Project*) and Alyson Hannigan, who played Biggs' love interest in *American Pie*. **See Jason Biggs interview, page 18.**

Titan A.E. (animated) (June 16)

Voices of: Matt Damon, Bill Pullman, Drew Barrymore, Nathan Lane, Janeane Garofalo

Who Directed? Don Bluth and Gary Goldman (co-directors, *Anastasia*)

What's It About? After Earth is ravished by an alien attack in 3028, a rebel teenager named Cale (Damon) has to find a legendary spacecraft called Titan, which may save mankind from an eternity of living as nomads and refugees. He'd better hurry because the deadly Drej aliens are on his tail.

Me, Myself & Irene (June 23)

Who's In It? Jim Carrey, Renée Zellweger

Who Directed? Bobby and Peter Farrelly (*There's Something About Mary*, *Dumb and Dumber*)

What's It About? Carrey plays a Rhode Island state trooper who has split-personality disorder — one is a mild-mannered nice guy named Charlie, the other a hyper-aggressive, sexually-charged guy named Hank. And both fall for the same woman (Zellweger). Carrey, who did 1994's *Dumb and Dumber* with the Farrelly Brothers, fell in love with Zellweger for real while filming this movie, and they are now a couple.

Chicken Run (animated) (June 23)

Voices of: Mel Gibson, Julia Sawahla, Miranda Richardson

Who Directed? Nick Park (*Wallace & Gromit shorts*)

What's It About? Using stop-motion claymation, *Chicken Run* tells of an American rooster, Rocky (Gibson), who goes koo-koo-koochu for a British hen, Ginger (Sawahla), at Tweedy's Chicken Farm. Then, the two lovebirds try to escape from the evil chicken farmer, Mrs. Tweedy (Richardson), who will cook them if they don't meet their egg quota. Call it Bird Farm.



The chickens make a run for it in *Chicken Run*



Action and adventure abound in *Titan A.E.*

The Perfect Storm (June 30)

Who's In It? George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio

Who Directed? Wolfgang Petersen (*Air Force One*, *Outbreak*)

What's It About? Based on Sebastian Junger's 1997 best-seller, this big-budget thriller captures the wrenching true story of the *Andrea Gail*, a swordfishing boat stranded in the North Atlantic during a massive 1991 storm (we're talking 100-foot waves). Clooney and Wahlberg, who co-starred in *Three Kings*, are reunited as members of the doomed boat's crew, while Mastrantonio plays the captain of the *Andrea Gail's* sister ship. **See our Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio interview, page 24.**

The Patriot (June 30)

Who's In It? Mel Gibson, Heath Ledger, Joely Richardson

Who Directed? Roland Emmerich (*Godzilla*, *Independence Day*)

What's It About? After having fought in the nasty French/Indian conflict, South Carolina farmer Benjamin Martin (Gibson) renounces war. That is, until the Brits come knocking at his front door during the American Revolution and threaten his family. Then off he goes with his idealistic patriot son (Ledger) to lead a rebel militia in battle. Filmmakers worked closely with the Smithsonian Institute to ensure accuracy.

The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle (June 30)

Who's In It? Robert De Niro, Jason Alexander, Rene Russo

Voices of: Janeane Garofalo, June Foray

Who Directed? Des McAnuff (*Cousin Bette*)

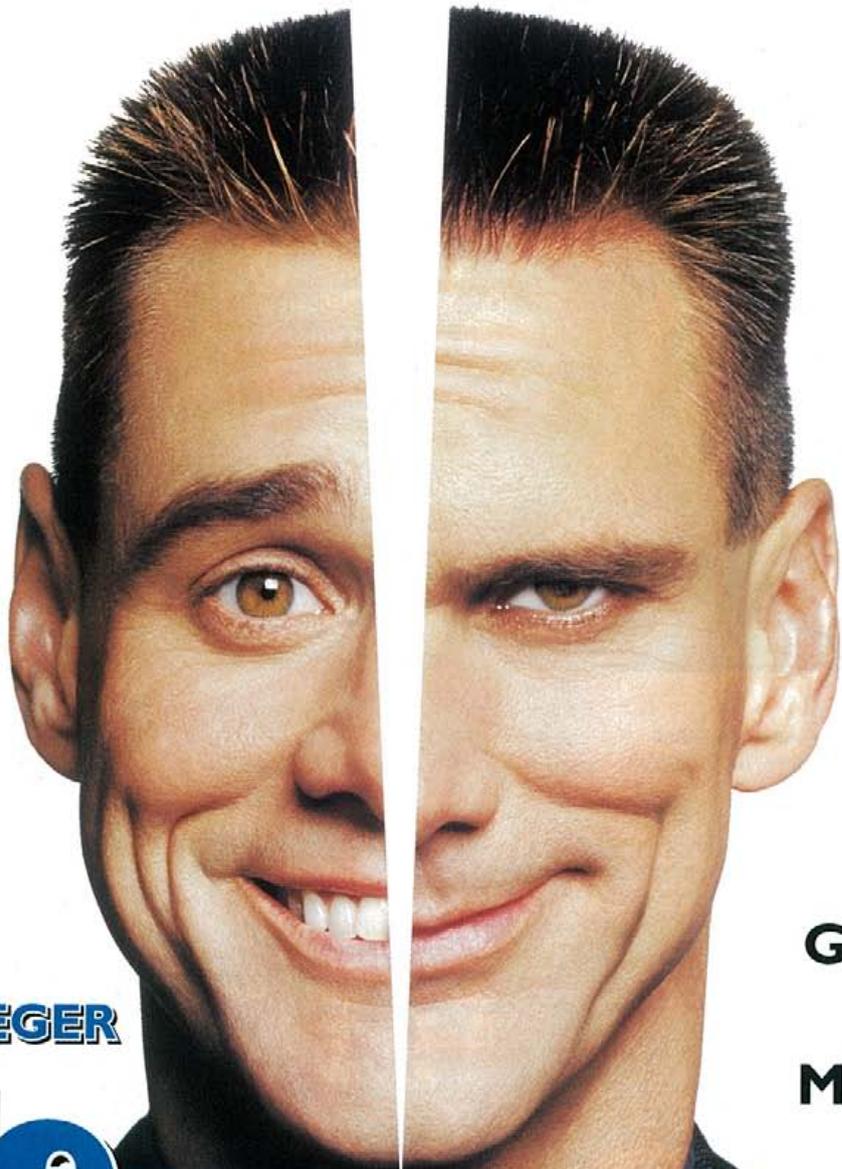
What's It About? In this cartoon/live-action comedy adventure based on the popular animated Sixties TV series, Pottsylvania villains Boris (Alexander) and Natasha (Russo) escape from their pen and ink existence to become flesh and blood, and hatch a plan to take over the world with the help of The Fearless Leader (De Niro, who also produced). It's up to Rocky (the flying squirrel) and Bullwinkle (the talking moose) — still just cartoon characters — to save the planet.

Also playing in limited release: *Hamlet* (May 26), *Running Free* (June 2), *Whipped* (June 2), *Love's Labour's Lost* (June 9), *The Butterfly* (June 30)

All release dates subject to change.

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Nicolas Cage and Angelina Jolie in *Gone in 60 Seconds*

NICOLAS CAGE

Now appearing in... *Gone in 60 Seconds*, in which he plays Randall "Memphis" Raines, a master car thief who comes out of retirement to steal 50 cars in one night to save his debt-ridden brother (Giovanni Ribisi) from the mob.

Bio bits: He was born Nicholas Kim Coppola on January 7, 1964, in Long Beach, California. His mom, Joy Vogelsang, was a choreographer, his Dad, August Coppola, a literature professor and writer. His uncle is Francis Ford Coppola (*Godfather*, *Apocalypse Now*). Cage was turned on to acting when he took a summer class as a teen at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. He then dropped out of Beverly Hills High School to go full-steam into acting. That's when he became "Nicolas Cage" to get away from his famous namesake (he took "Cage" from the comic-book superhero Luke Cage). He had bit parts in *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* (1982) and his uncle's *Rumble Fish* (1983), but it was his role as a Vietnam vet in 1984's *Birdy* that put him on the map. Then came quirky movies like Coppola's *Peggy Sue Got Married* (1986), the Coen Brothers' *Raising Arizona* (1987), David Lynch's *Wild at Heart* (1990) — Lynch has called Cage "the jazz musician of actors" — and *Honeymoon in Vegas* (1992). By this time, he was already a star, but agreed to take a huge pay cut (he made about a quarter million) to take the (Oscar-winning) role of the alcoholic screenwriter Ben Sanderson opposite Elisabeth Shue in *Leaving Las Vegas* (1995).

In the news for: The recent announcement that he and wife Patricia Arquette have been separated for several years, something that came as a surprise to everyone. Cage filed divorce papers but later withdrew them.

Sample roles: Frank in *Bringing Out the Dead* (1999); Tom in *8MM* (1999); Rick in *Snake Eyes* (1998); Castor Troy/Sean Archer in *Face/Off* (1997); Cameron in *Con Air* (1997); Dr. Stanley Goodspeed in *The Rock* (1996); Ben in

Leaving Las Vegas (1995); Jack in *Honeymoon in Vegas* (1992); Sailor Ripley in *Wild at Heart* (1990); Ronny in *Moonstruck* (1987); H.I. McDonnough in *Raising Arizona* (1987); Charlie in *Peggy Sue Got Married* (1986); Al in *Birdy* (1984); Randy in *Valley Girl* (1983); Smokey in *Rumble Fish* (1983)

Love life: Dated model Kristina Fulton in the early nineties. • Had a year-long relationship with Sarah Jessica Parker (*Sex and the City*). • Currently separated from actress Patricia Arquette (they married in April 1995)

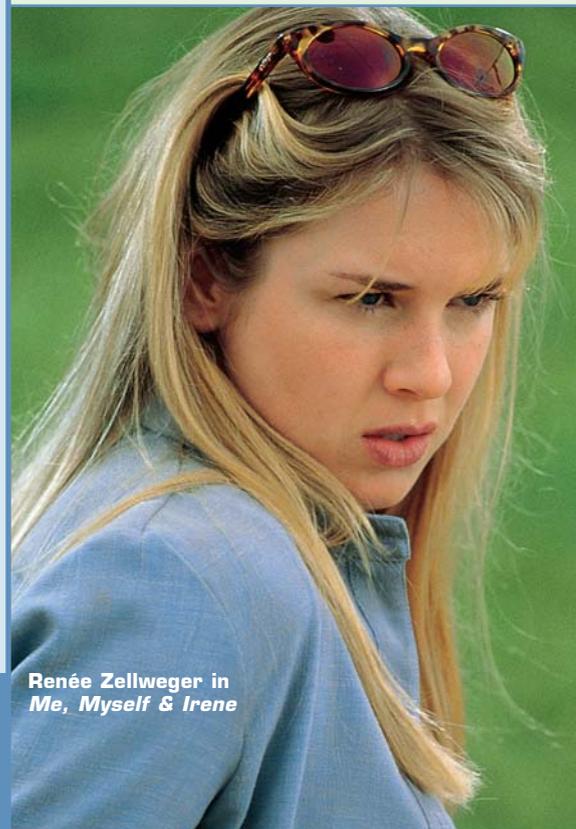
Other interesting tidbits: He was to star in Tim Burton's *Superman* (he even had costume fittings), but that project is in limbo. • Has a young son, Weston Coppola Cage, from the relationship with Fulton. • One of his brothers, Christopher, is a Hollywood director (*Palmer's Pick Up*, *Gunfighter*). • In 1998, he was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

On the morning after his 1996 Oscar win for *Leaving Las Vegas*: "I'm driving to the beach, feeling pretty good, when a cop pulls me over. And I think I'm going to get a ticket, which is what usually happens in that car, but they say, 'We just want to say congratulations.' And it was cool. And I'm walking on the beach, and surfers from, like, hundreds of yards in are going, 'Hey, Nic, congratulations!' And it was just a wild day. For one second, Los Angeles felt like a small town." — *GQ*, March 1997

RENÉE ZELLWEGER

Now appearing in... *Me, Myself & Irene* in which she plays Irene, the love interest of a sensitive cop played by Jim Carrey. But that cop has split-personality disorder, and his aggressive alter-ego is in love with Irene too. Uh-oh.

Bio bits: Born April 25, 1969, in the tiny town of Katy, Texas, to a Swiss father (Emil, an engineer) and Norwegian mother (Kjellfried, a nurse). The town was so small, in fact, that it didn't have a movie theatre (or cable TV), so Zellweger didn't see her first big screen flick until she went to the University of Texas in Austin, where she earned a BA in Radio, Television and Film. She also took some acting classes, and discovered she had a knack for pretending to be other people. After graduation she got an uncredited bit-part in Richard Linklater's *Dazed and Confused* (1993), and also had small roles in *Reality Bites* (1994) and *Empire Records* (1995). It was around this time that some in the industry suggested she change her last name, but she refused, saying that if Arnold Schwarzenegger could make it with a name like that, then she was going to make it with hers. In 1993, a fellow University of Texas alumnus named Matthew McConaughey showed her a script called *Love*



Renée Zellweger in *Me, Myself & Irene*

aring in...

BOYS AND GIRLS

and a .45. She got the part of Starlene Cheatham in that 1994 indie thriller, which earned her a nomination for Best Debut Performance at the 1995 Independent Spirit Awards. Renée now lives in West L.A. with her dog, Woof, where she's often mistaken for pop singer Jewel.

Breakthrough role: In 1996, director Cameron Crowe was trying to find a female lead for a film called *Jerry Maguire* starring Tom Cruise. When he heard the buzz about this blonde-haired beauty named Zellweger, he requested a copy of *The Whole Wide World*, a movie of hers which was then screening at Sundance. She got the role of Dorothy Boyd (Cruise's loyal assistant/love interest), the movie made \$150 million in the States alone, and her fate as one of Hollywood's young elite was sealed.

Sample roles: Anne in *The Bachelor* (1999); Ellen in *One True Thing* (1998); Sonia in *A Price Above Rubies* (1998); Elizabeth in *Deceiver* (1997); Dorothy in *Jerry Maguire* (1996); Novalyne in *The Whole Wide World* (1996); Gina in *Empire Records* (1995); Starlene in *Love and a .45* (1994); Tami in *Reality Bites* (1994); Jenny in *Return of the Texas Chainsaw Massacre* (1994)

Love life: Was involved with Joshua Pate, who directed her in 1997's *Deceiver*. • Currently dating Jim Carrey, whom she met on the set of *Me, Myself & Irene*. Those who worked on the movie have said Renée appeared to be cautious about starting a relationship with the \$20-million-man, or else she was just playing hard to get. But Zellweger insists that she didn't realize Carrey was interested in her until late in the game. Everything seems to have worked out well, and they are openly using the "L" word in interviews.

What she likes: swimming, water-skiing, hiking through canyons, horseback riding, cooking, camping, yoga, baseball, jogging

On the upside of naiveté: "I love my ignorance. I cherish it — it's like having a child's perspective on the world. You don't have preconceived notions about how things need to be. You can let it happen as it comes." — *Mademoiselle*, October 1998.



Freddie Prinze, Jr.
in *Boys and Girls*

FREDDIE PRINZE, JR.

Now appearing in... *Boys and Girls*, as a UC Berkeley undergrad who decides to give love a try with his friend (Claire Forlani) after having no luck with anyone else.

Bio bits: Born on March 8, 1976, Freddie James Prinze, Jr., was raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, by his mother. His famous dad, Freddie Prinze, star of TV's *Chico and the Man*, shot himself at 22 when Freddie, Jr., was only 10 months old. Freddie Sr. was divorced from Jr.'s mom, depressed and addicted to prescription drugs. In high school, Prinze Jr. wasn't popular — he was constantly being dumped by girls and was teased mercilessly for his fascination with comic books. He also had a wild imagination and liked to pretend he was a superhero. And while he didn't enjoy academics — he graduated "8 billionth out of a class of, like, 20" — he did like performing, and joined several theatre organiza-

tions in Albuquerque. After his high school graduation in 1994, he drove his beat-up jeep to L.A. He landed a four-line part as a gun-toting school kid in a 1995 episode of *Family Matters*, then did several afterschool specials, including 1997's *Detention: The Siege At Johnson High*, which co-starred Rick Schroder. He made his big screen debut in the sappy Michelle Pfeiffer-led *To Gillian On Her 37th Birthday* (1996) as Claire Danes' rebel boyfriend. Despite looking fit, the 24-year-old has a disdain for exercise and low-cal diets, preferring to play videogames, watch cartoons and read his comic books — now people think it's "artistic and cool," he has said.

Sample Roles: Al in *Down to You* (2000); Christopher (aka "Maverick") in *Wing Commander* (1999); Zach in *She's All That* (1999); Ray in *I Still Know What You Did Last Summer* (1998); Brad in *Sparkler* (1998); Ray in *I Know What You Did Last Summer* (1997); Anthony in *The House of Yes* (1997); Joey in *To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday* (1996)

Breakthrough role: *I Know What You Did Last Summer* really got him recognized — particularly among hordes of teen girls. The movie, about four teens who accidentally hit a young boy with their car, also co-starred young Hollywood up-and-comers Sarah Michelle Gellar, Ryan Phillippe and Jennifer Love Hewitt.

Love Life: Lived with long-time girlfriend, actress Kimberly McCullough (formerly Robin Scorpio on *General Hospital*). But, lately, he's been seen being awfully chummy with Sarah Michelle Gellar, whom he met while doing *I Know What You Did Last Summer*.

Recent awards: One of *People's* 50 Most Beautiful People in 1999. • Won 1999 Blockbuster Entertainment Award for Favorite Supporting Actor (horror) for *I Still Know What You Did Last Summer*.

On growing up: "My mom raised me in New Mexico at the foot of the mountains, far away from any fast lifestyle. I was an only child, with zero friends, whose life was about comic books, cartoons and snowboarding. I've kissed more girls in movies than I have in real life." — *Movieline* (March 1999)

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famous trivia

1 Julianna Margulies, who lends her voice to the new animated film *Dinosaur*, turned down \$27 million to extend her stay on the hit show *ER*. What was the name of the nurse she played?

2 Hugh Grant, who stars in Woody Allen's new comedy *Small Time Crooks*, is the longtime companion of model/actress Elizabeth Hurley. But in 1995, he was arrested for lewd conduct after being caught, in his car, with a prostitute. What was the name of that now well-known woman of the night?

3 In 1998, Owen Wilson, who stars in the new Jackie Chan action thriller *Shanghai Noon*, wrote and produced a critically-acclaimed movie that starred Bill Murray. Can you name that movie?

4 Christian Bale, who plays bad guy Walter Williams in *Shaft* and serial killer Patrick Bateman in the recent *American Psycho*, made his big screen debut as an innocent young boy named Jim in a 1987 World War II classic directed by Steven Spielberg. Name it.



5 *Titan A.E.*'s Matt Damon was recently dumped by Winona Ryder. But a few years ago, on *Oprah Winfrey*, he was doing the dumping to another actress. Who was she?

6 Speaking of *Titan A.E.*, Drew Barrymore provides the voice of Akima in that sci-fi animated feature. Drew first made her mark at age seven as adorable Gertie in *E.T.* But in which screen adaptation of a Stephen King book did she burn up the screen two years later?

7 Mel Gibson is busy this month with two roles — Rocky the Rooster in *Chicken Run* and the heroic Benjamin Martin in *The Patriot*. The suave thespian was raised in Australia from a young age, but in which city was he born?

8 Before *Boogie Nights* or *Three Kings*, Mark Wahlberg, who stars in *The Perfect Storm*, was the loudmouth rapper Marky Mark. He was also briefly a member of an Eighties pop band alongside his older brother Donnie. Name that band.

ANSWERS

- 1) Carol Hathaway
 2) Divine Brown
 3) Rushmore
 4) *Empire of the Sun*
 5) Minnie Driver
 6) *Firestarter*
 7) Peekskill, N.Y.
 8) New Kids on the Block

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nothing prehistoric here

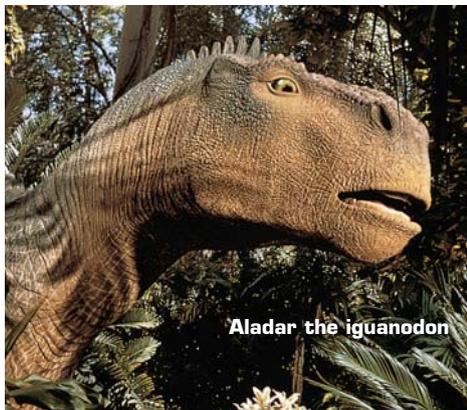
Disney's new animated feature, *Dinosaur*, combines eye-popping effects with a sweet storyline

if you were lucky enough to have caught the four and a half minute trailer (one of the longest in history) for Disney's *Dinosaur*, then you know that this animated feature is going to be like nothing that's come before. That sizable sneak-peek left audiences who'd come to see *Toy Story 2* in awe, which was appropriate since *Dinosaur* promises to do for animated films what the original *Toy Story* did for them in the Nineties — take them to the next level.

Although the dinosaurs in this movie are computer-generated, they're set against digitally-enhanced live-action backgrounds, which

creates a startling animation hybrid. But just because the dinosaurs look more realistic than those in *Jurassic Park*, don't expect them to be mindless beasts running amok. This is a Disney film remember, which means that character is as important as the visuals. Kids will fall in love with Aladar, the iguanodon (voice provided by D.B. Sweeney) who is raised by lemurs (small nocturnal mammals) from the time he hatches. When he discovers a meteor is heading toward Earth, Aladar helps a group of migrating dinosaurs search for a safe nesting ground. Other celebs lending their vocal talents include Julianna Margulies (*ER*), Joan Plowright (*Tea with Mussolini*), Alfre Woodard (*Mumford*), Ossie Davis (*Do the Right Thing*) and Keifer Sutherland (*A Time to Kill*).

If you missed that trailer, you can download it from the movie's really cool official website, <http://disney.go.com/disneypictures/dinosaur/dinomain.html>. The site also has info about all the dinos in the film, from the massive iguanodon to the little velociraptor. Best of all, you can send a personalized "d-card" to a friend.



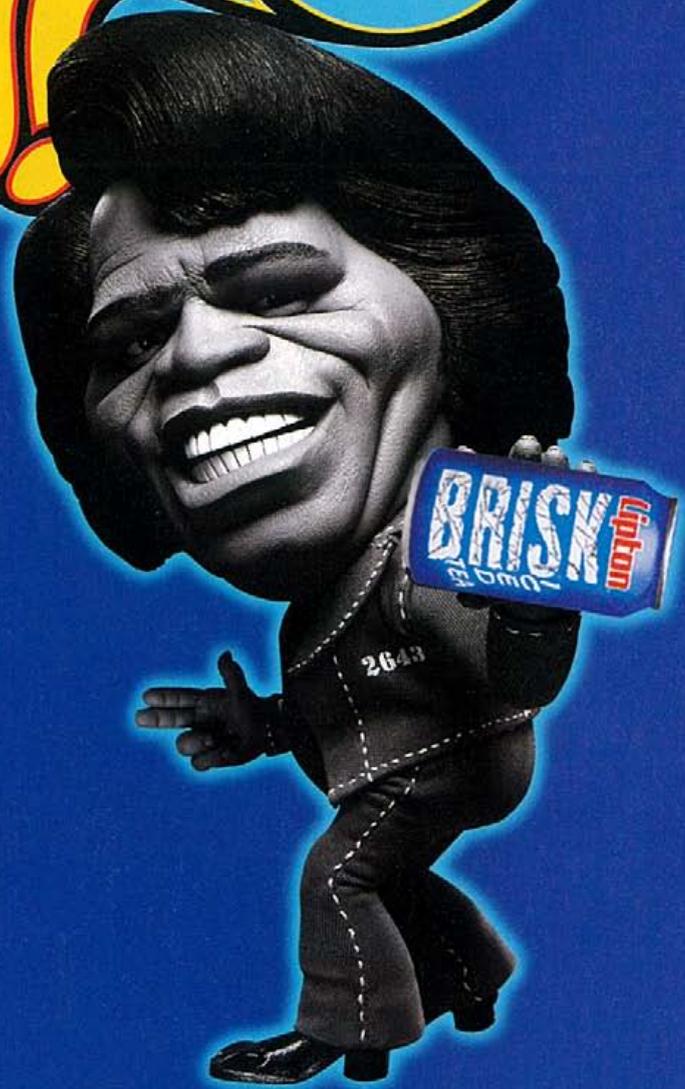
Aladar the iguanodon

DINO FILMOGRAPHY

The dinosaurs in this movie may be cutting edge, but committing the massive beasts to film is nothing new. Dozens of movies have represented these mysterious creatures, and they've used a variety of techniques to do so — from traditional illustration, to dressing humans in dino costumes. Here are just a few:

- 1914 *Gertie the Dinosaur* — animation drawn on paper
- 1919 *Adam Raises Caine* — silhouette cut-out animation
- 1925 *The Lost World* — live-action with stop-motion dinosaurs
- 1948 *Unknown Island* — live-action with lizards as dinosaurs
- 1951 *Jungle Manhunt* — live-action with people in dinosaur costumes
- 1955 *King Dinosaur* (in 3D) — live-action with lizards as dinosaurs
- 1960 *Dinosaurus!* — live-action with stop-motion dinosaur
- 1975 *The Land that Time Forgot* — live-action with people dressed as dinosaurs
- 1980 *Dinosaur* — stop-motion claymation
- 1988 *The Land Before Time* — animation on celluloid
- 1993 *Jurassic Park*, and *Jurassic Park*, *The Lost World* (1997) — computer graphic and mechanical dinosaurs
- 1994 *The Flintstones*, and *The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas* (2000) — computer graphic and mechanical dinosaurs

Wendy's BRISK BABY!



portrait of an actor as a young man

He was made famous by his role in last year's *American Pie*. Now come his first two follow-ups — the romantic comedy *Boys and Girls*, out this month, and *Loser*, which hits the big screen in July. If Jason Biggs' rise to fame could be broken into small chapters, they would go something like this

By Neil Morton

I

A SOAP OPERA KEEPS HIM FROM QUITTING

If not for *As the World Turns*, this story could be about a guy from, say, St. Petersburg, Florida, or Flint, Michigan, who got the role of Jim in *American Pie*, which led to the role in *Boys and Girls* and so on — not this 21-year-old Jason Biggs kid from a small borough in New Jersey called Hasbrouck Heights.

You see, just before his sixteenth birthday, Biggs told his mom, Angela, who was serving as his manager, that he'd had it with acting — something he'd been doing since starting in commercials at age five. Three years earlier, in 1991, the 13-year-old had a part in the Dabney Coleman TV series *Drexell's Class*, and a role opposite Judd Hirsch in the Broadway play *Conversations with My Father*, but things had cooled off since then. And, besides, he just wanted to be a "normal" kid. "I'm done with this — over it," he told mom.

His two sisters had made the same life-affirming decision about acting, never to return. But not Jason. Like a scene from a soap, he got a call from *As the World Turns* just minutes after telling Mom he was done. He auditioned and got the part — "And I was like, okay, I'm back." From 1994 to 1995, he played Pete Wendall, and even garnered a Daytime Emmy nomination for his work — "You know, it was a great experience... I don't like panning anything I've done. It's daytime television. It's a different kind of writing."

II

THE MOVE TO LA LA LAND

After high school in Hasbrouck Heights, after graduating fifth out of a hundred people (his specialties were math and sciences — he's right-handed), after winning a state championship in tennis, 18-year-old Jason Biggs was between acting jobs again. He did a short stint at NYU — but not in film; he was pondering finance — then took a semester off and headed to a small Jersey school, Montclair State University, as a psych major.

A mere three weeks later, however, he dropped out because he landed a role on ABC's *Total Security*, a Stephen Bochco (*Hill Street Blues*, *NYPD Blue*) TV series to be shot in L.A., and to star Jim Belushi. He said bye to his parents (Angela, also a pediatric nurse; and Gary, a manager for a shipping company), bye to his sisters (Chiara and Heather), bye to his friends, bye to Jersey.

III

TIME TO RETURN TO JERSEY?

Total Security was canned after just half a season and, with it, his role as Robbie Rosenfeld. Soon after, Biggs got another shot at TV with a James Burrows (*Taxi*, *Cheers*, *Dharma & Greg*) NBC sitcom called *Advances in Chemistry*. But that show never even made it past the pilot stage.

What to do now?

Will he return to Jersey? Back to Montclair?

IV

SAVED BY THE "UNTITLED TEENAGE SEX COMEDY WHICH STUDIOS WILL PROBABLY HATE BUT WE THINK YOU'LL LOVE THAT CAN BE MADE FOR UNDER \$10 MILLION"

Or that's how Biggs sums up the phone call he got from his agent in June 1998. Two auditions later, he landed a plum role in the movie that came to be called *American Pie*. "We all knew of its potential and were psyched," Biggs recalls. "On paper, it was hilarious. And there was all this buzz around it. It could be the next *this*, it could be the next *that*. It could do *that* well. But it certainly exceeded all of our expectations."

V

AN APPLE PIE MAKES HIM FAMOUS

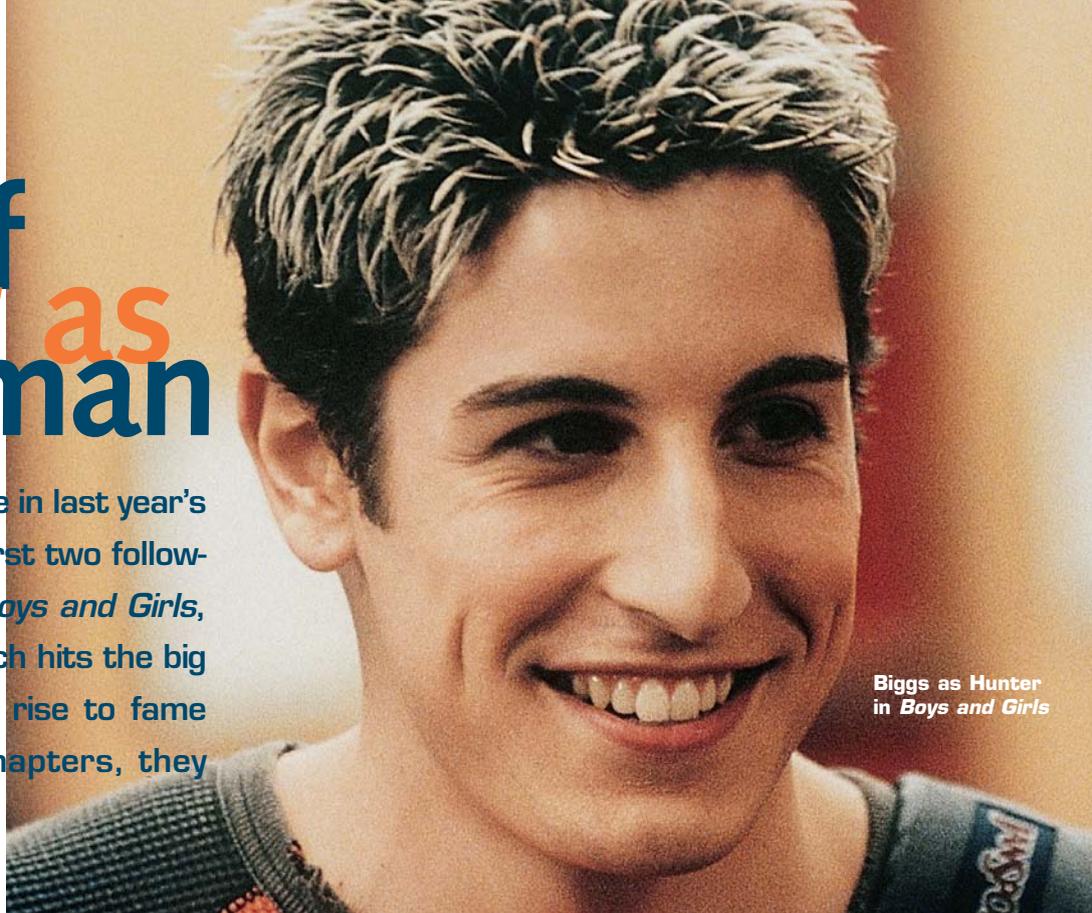
Jason Biggs' career took off after his big studio debut in last year's hit *American Pie*, about four high school buddies who set out to lose their virginity before prom night is done. He received kudos from audiences and critics alike for his sweet, comic performance, but what cemented it is what we would call a Movie Moment — and it happened after this short exchange about sex between Biggs' character, Jim, and his buddy.

Jim: "What exactly does third base feel like?"

Chris: "Like warm apple pie."

Jim: "McDonald's or homemade?"

So Jim goes home and tests Chris's theory with a freshly baked apple pie he finds on the



Biggs as Hunter in *Boys and Girls*

kitchen counter. Then, in walks Dad (Eugene Levy). "I don't think that scene will be forgotten," Biggs says. "No one forgets Tom Cruise sliding across the floor in his boxers and sunglasses [in *Risky Business*]. I only hope that, like Tom Cruise, I keep making movies that people like so that they're not only thinking of me as the guy with the apple pie."

VI

THE DILEMMA: HOW DO YOU FOLLOW-UP AMERICAN PIE?

Since *American Pie*, Biggs has been getting "offers for dramatic roles, other comedies, older roles." The first two he's picked are romantic comedies — *Boys and Girls*, out this month, in which he plays a womanizer who gives his buddy (Freddie Prinze, Jr.) bad advice about how to land the woman of his dreams; and *Loser*, due out next month, where he plays a geeky, good-natured New York college student who is ridiculed by his roommates. (See **Plotlines** at right for more.)

"Will *Boys and Girls* and *Loser* end up making a \$100 million each like *American Pie* did?" asks Biggs. "Who's to say? I'm not expecting it to happen, just like I didn't expect it with *American Pie*. I got kind of spoiled out of that — for that movie to open No. 1 and end up making what it did. All my managers and agents would congratulate me, but say, 'Doesn't always happen like this. Don't be expecting this to happen all the time.' And it's true, I can't."

VII

JASON BIGGS: THAT'S MR. BIGGS NOWADAYS

The money: He plans to buy a house with his Santa Monica roomy, who owns a winery in the Napa Valley (a spare closet in their apartment is chock full of the vineyard's finest). "I'll be the first to admit that I'm making more than any normal 21-year-old, but if money was going to affect me, it probably already would have," says Biggs. "I've always made more than anyone my age because of acting. But I'm not like, 'Okay, I just got another movie, what should I get myself? Oh, I think I'll go get a Porsche.' I live pretty simply. I have food, decent clothes, a cool apartment, an SUV [a year-old Toyota 4-Runner], good friends and I get to travel."

The new look: If you live in L.A. you gotta look good. When Biggs first got out here, it was McDonald's for breakfast, lunch and dinner. But then he realized (he insists it was self-imposed, not agent-imposed), I'm in sunny L.A. and the Santa Monica mountains are right here. So he started to eat better, took up mountain biking, snowboarding and running, and *Voilà!* has shed about 20 pounds and added some tone. A few

pounds may return while he rehabs from a recent boarding mishap at nearby Mount Bali. "It was knee-deep powder — conditions were sick," says Biggs, who also boarded at Whistler last New Year's. "My last run of the day, I just went into a turn, put my arm down, and popped my shoulder right out of its socket. They knocked me out in emergency and put it back in."

The fame: He's recognized on a daily basis, and mobbed at public events, where it's like, "Jason! Jason!" As for his old Jersey boys: "Well I grew up acting and they had seen me on TV, but *American Pie* was just huge. Everyone is coming up to them at their frat houses, going 'Yo, your boy. He did *American Pie*.'"

But he's not *always* recognized. "I was at a

car wash recently. I was bored and was sitting there bouncing some little rubber ball that you get at those 25 cent machines, and this guy was looking at me like I was a punk — he didn't recognize me at first. It was Eugene Levy. I hadn't seen him since the [*American Pie*] premiere."

VIII

SO CAN JASON BIGGS STILL EAT APPLE PIE?

If I'm with someone, I can't have a piece of pie without hearing about it from them. But yeah, I eat apple pie. But who doesn't like apple pie!? *Who doesn't like apple pie?* I love apple pie so why should I stop eating apple pie because of what happened?" **F**

plotlines

BOYS AND GIRLS

Two UC Berkeley undergrads, Ryan (Freddie Prinze, Jr.) and Jennifer (Claire Forlani), have known each other since grade-school. When they met as 12-year-olds they disliked each other; when they reconnected as teenagers they hated each other. But now, when they meet up again at college, they form a friendship that eventually turns into something else. "It's pretty much a Freddie Prinze, Jr./Claire Forlani love story," says Biggs. "I play Freddie's best friend, Hunter, who's always giving him advice about women, but it's often misguided because I really don't know what I'm talking about."

Boys and Girls was directed by Robert Iscove, and also features Heather Donahue (*The Blair Witch Project*), Amanda Detmer (*Final Destination*) and Alyson Hannigan, who re-unites with Biggs — they shared a hilarious sex scene at the end of *American Pie*.

Much of the movie was shot on the Berkeley campus — but only after officials approved a script that didn't make the university look bad. And even then, it was shot on Fridays and weekends so as not to disturb the students and faculty.

LOSER

Biggs plays the central character, Midwesterner Paul Tannek — a bookwormy type whose "hip" roommates at NYU (although much of the film was shot in Toronto) can't accept him because he doesn't dress right, doesn't use the right lingo, doesn't do anything cool. Biggs says he was never a "loser" in real life, but can relate to his character: "Here's this guy who comes from small-town Wherever to NYU and really



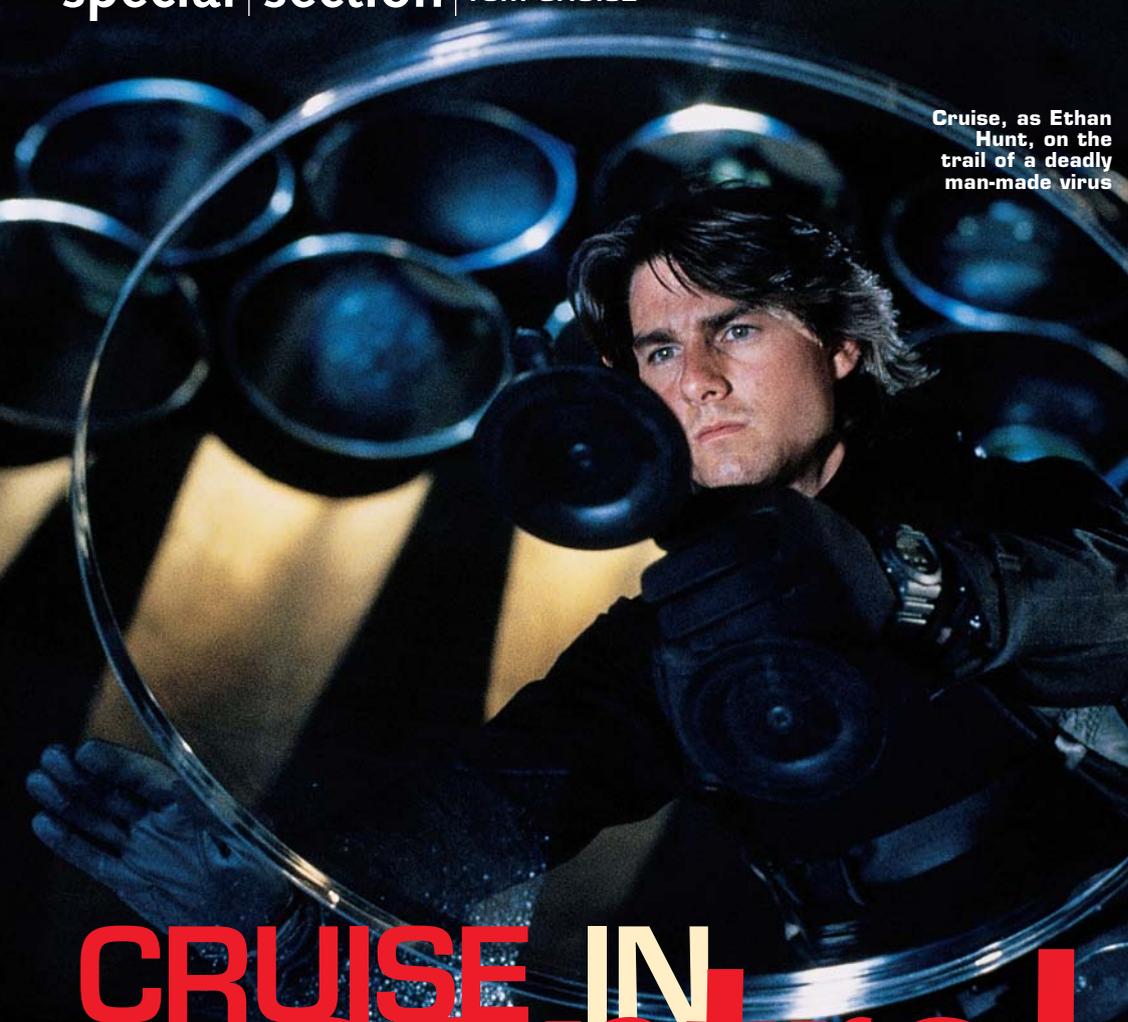
Biggs with Mena Suvari in *Loser*

has no friends. I remember when I went from Jersey to NYU, it's kinda intimidating."

Paul Tannek turns to another alienated student, Dora (Mena Suvari, from *American Beauty* and *American Pie*), who befriends him and, eventually, falls in love with him. "They find in each other hope and confidence," says Biggs, who describes the overriding message of the movie as this: "Who is a loser? What makes a loser? Why is this person a loser? *Because everyone else brands him a loser?*"

Loser was written and directed by Amy Heckerling, who launched Sean Penn's career with the teen classic *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* (1982) and Alicia Silverstone with *Clueless* (1995). "She's just so open to everything we have to say — our ideas about youth," says Biggs, whose career has already launched. "To stay on top of how young people act and what's going on in their lives, she talks to them — as you can tell from *Fast Times* and *Clueless*. That's her specialty."

Biggs, too, is in touch with "what the kids are doing." While filming in Toronto, he took in a Limp Bizkit concert. He also squeezed in a trip to the CN Tower ("Man, that glass floor on the bottom was trippy"), a Raptors game and a Leafs game.



Cruise, as Ethan Hunt, on the trail of a deadly man-made virus

CRUISE IN control

Tom Cruise's new movie, *Mission: Impossible 2* (aka *M:i-2*), is the follow-up to his immensely popular (it grossed \$180 million) 1996 screen adaptation of the 1960s TV series. For this sequel, Cruise's character, Ethan Hunt, must track down and destroy a deadly man-made virus before it falls into the wrong hands. In this special section we tell you some things you probably didn't know about the megastar, and test the things you do know with our really tough Tom Cruise quiz.

For a guy who's appeared in such accessible films as *Top Gun* and *Risky Business*, Tom Cruise certainly has an air of mystery about him. That's probably because he's never been a fan of doing interviews, and does less and less as his star rises higher and higher. There are certain things we all know about Cruise — he's married to actress Nicole Kidman (they own homes in L.A., N.Y., Colorado and Sydney, Australia); and he likes to alternate between action films (*Mission: Impossible* and *Top Gun*) and art films

(*Magnolia* and *Eyes Wide Shut*).

But there are a few things you might not know: His real name is Thomas Cruise Mapother IV; if not for an ankle injury in high school, he may have become a professional wrestler; when he was 14 he enrolled in a Franciscan seminary with thoughts of becoming a priest; he suffered from dyslexia throughout his school years; and he's only five foot seven.

Tom Cruise was born on July 3, 1962, in Syracuse, New York, to a mother who was an aspiring actress, and a father who was an elec-

trical engineer. His parents divorced when he was 12, and he and his sisters (Marian, Lee Anne and Cass) didn't have much contact with their father after that. However, when dad was dying of cancer in 1983, all four visited him on his deathbed.

In a 1986 *Rolling Stone* article, Cruise said of that emotional meeting: "It cleared up a lot of the kind of fog that I had about the man. I think that he felt remorse for a lot that happened. He was a person who did not have a huge influence on me in my teens; the values and motivation really came from my stepfather. But he was important. Really important. It's all sort of complex. There wasn't *one* thing I felt."

Anyone who's seen *Magnolia* will recognize a lot of the Frank T.J. Mackey character (who had a similar experience with his father) in that quote.

While in his senior year at Glen Ridge High School in New Jersey, Cruise had no idea what he wanted to do with his life. Then his glee-club instructor suggested he try out for the school musical, *Guys and Dolls*. He got the role of gambler Nathan Detroit (the part played by Frank Sinatra in the 1955 movie) and, at 16, Tom Cruise was hooked. After his triumphant performance he came home and told his mother and stepfather that he wanted 10 years to take a crack at this acting thing. Although they had reservations (his stepdad figured he'd be supporting the kid the whole time), they encouraged Tom because he had finally found something he was excited about.

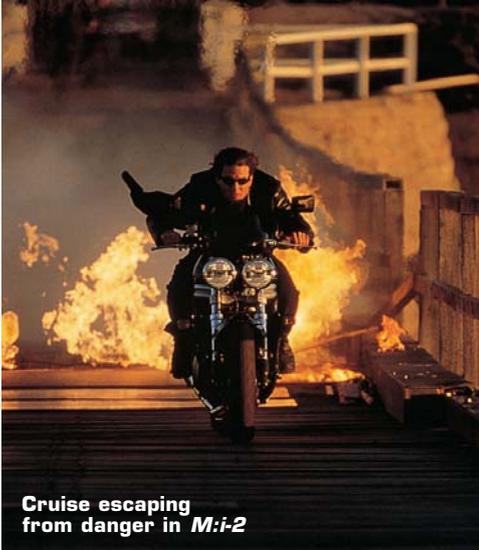
At 18, Cruise dropped out of high school and moved to New York to search for stardom. He got his first role in...wait a minute, we can't tell you that — it's the first question in the Tom Cruise quiz to the right.

— Marni Weisz

Cruise's Canadian Connection

Tom's family moved around a lot when he was a kid in order to accommodate his dad, an electrical engineer who couldn't seem to stay in one place. When Tom was 12, they settled in Beacon Hill, just outside of Ottawa, for about three years. There, Tom attended Robert Hopkins Primary School and Henry Munro Middle School. That's where he realized he could skate backwards as well as any of his Canadian hockey-playing peers. His love of hockey followed him to the States, where he played with a team in Louisville, Kentucky in the mid-Seventies.

Beacon's Hill was also where Tom's mom and dad sat their four kids down and told them they were getting a divorce. After that, his mom took the kids back to the States where they hit a few more cities before settling in Glen Ridge, New Jersey.



Cruise escaping from danger in *M:i-2*

YOUR MISSION

TEST YOUR TOM CRUISE KNOWLEDGE WITH OUR REALLY TOUGH QUIZ

Category: Money

- 1 For which film did Cruise make an astounding \$70 million dollars (a combination of his salary and a back-end deal that gave him a percentage of profits)?
- 2 Rank the following Tom Cruise movies based on how much they made at the box office (domestic gross):
Jerry Maguire ___
The Firm ___
Eyes Wide Shut ___
Far and Away ___
Interview With the Vampire ___
Mission Impossible ___
Days of Thunder ___
A Few Good Men ___

1 *Mission: Impossible* (\$180,903,202);
 2 *Mission Impossible* (\$180,903,202);
The Firm (\$158,340,292);
Jerry Maguire (\$153,658,439);
A Few Good Men (\$141,340,178);
Interview With the Vampire (\$105,264,608);
Days of Thunder (\$82,663,996);
Far and Away (\$58,883,840);
Eyes Wide Shut (\$55,655,882)

Category: The Movies

- 1 In which movie did Tom Cruise make his big screen debut?
- 2 Cruise has been nominated for three Academy Awards. What were the roles?
- 3 Which song was playing in the background as Cruise slid across the floor in his underwear in *Risky Business*? And who sings it?
- 4 In which movie did Tom play a "Greaser" alongside Rob Lowe, Emilio Estevez, C. Thomas Howell and Matt Dillon?

1 *Endless Love* (1981) 2 Frank T.J. Mackey in *Magnolia*, *Jerry Maguire* in *Born on the Fourth of July* 3 "Old Time Rock & Roll" by Bob Seger 4 *The Outsiders*

Category: Love and Marriage

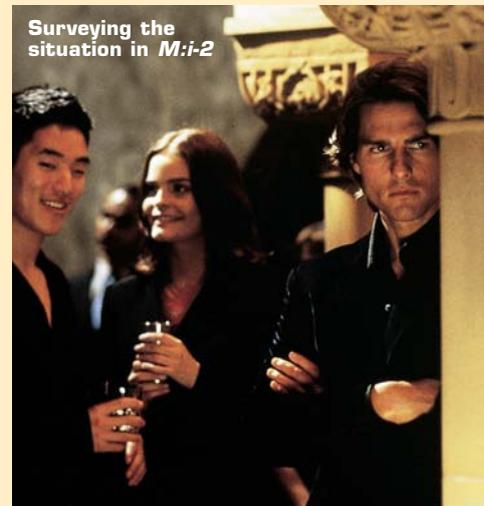
- 1 Which *Risky Business* actress did Tom have a relationship with?
- 2 Everyone knows Tom is now married to actress Nicole Kidman. But he was married to another actress from 1987 to 1990. Who is she?
- 3 Where did Cruise and Kidman meet?
- 4 How many children do Tom and Nicole have?

1 Rebecca DeMornay 2 Mimi Rogers — a boy named Connor and a girl named Isabella. They were both adopted.
 3 On the set of *Days of Thunder* 4 Two

Category: What could have been

- 1 Which role that eventually went to Leonardo DiCaprio did Cruise lose because the director thought he was too old?
- 2 Tom Cruise played the title role in Cameron Crowe's *Jerry Maguire*. But Crowe originally wrote that role for another well known actor named Tom. Who is he?
- 3 Cruise passed on playing a lawyer in a 1996 reality-based court drama because he felt he'd already done a trial movie with *A Few Good Men*, and had played a lawyer in *The Firm*. That role eventually went to Alec Baldwin. What was the movie?

1 Jack in *Titanic* 2 Tom Hanks 3 *Ghosts of Mississippi*



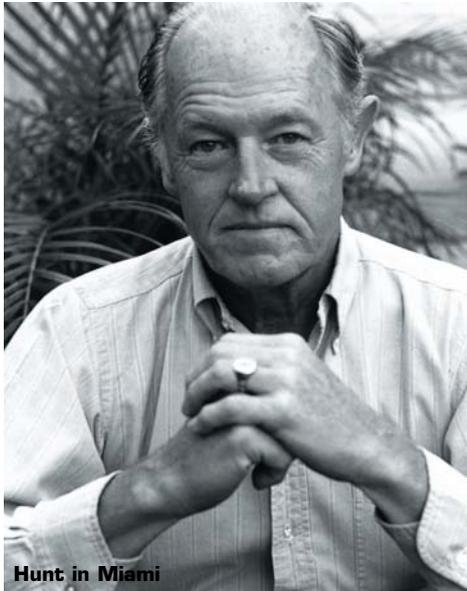
Surveying the situation in *M:i-2*

Category: Match the role with the movie

- Brian Flanagan
- Ron Kovic
- Vincent Lauria
- Charlie Babbitt
- Lieutenant Daniel Kaffee
- Frank T.J. Mackey
- Maverick
- Lestat de Lioncourt
- Dr. William Harford
- Joseph Donnelly
- Cole Trickle
- Joel Goodson

- Interview With the Vampire*
- Far and Away*
- A Few Good Men*
- Days of Thunder*
- Eyes Wide Shut*
- Cocktail*
- Born on the Fourth of July*
- Risky Business*
- The Color of Money*
- Rain Man*
- Magnolia*
- Top Gun*

- Lestat de Lioncourt — *Interview With the Vampire*
- Joseph Donnelly — *Far and Away*
- Lieutenant Daniel Kaffee — *A Few Good Men*
- Cole Trickle — *Days of Thunder*
- Dr. William Harford — *Eyes Wide Shut*
- Brian Flanagan — *Cocktail*
- Ron Kovic — *Born on the Fourth of July*
- Joel Goodson — *Risky Business*
- Vincent Lauria — *The Color of Money*
- Charlie Babbitt — *Rain Man*
- Frank T.J. Mackey — *Magnolia*
- Maverick — *Top Gun*



Hunt in Miami

he joined Richard Nixon's White House Intelligence Unit and the agency did not come to his rescue after his arrest as a co-conspirator in the Watergate break-in. (Hunt was played by Ed Harris in Oliver Stone's *Nixon*.)

"If you remember the *Mission: Impossible* intro: 'If caught, the Secretary will disavow any knowledge' — well, that's what they did," the 81-year-old Hunt explains over lunch in his Miami home. Suddenly, Hunt's real name, photograph and CIA background were exposed and his carefully-cloaked identity was unmasked.

"My covert connection was revealed after 30 years of building up a cover... they gave me away like that!" he says, snapping his fingers. "They, in effect, turned over all my files, everything else, and said, 'Yeah, he was a CIA officer.'"

All told, 58 people were charged with Watergate-related crimes. Twenty-two of them went to jail, and Richard Nixon became the first president in American history to resign the

THE REAL ETHAN HUNT (SORT OF)

By David Giammarco

If you thought the international intrigue and death-defying exploits of Tom Cruise's *Mission: Impossible* character, Ethan Hunt, were Hollywood fantasy, think again. The real Mr. Hunt — E. Howard Hunt — has led a life of globe-trotting espionage that no Hollywood scribe could possibly conjure.

The real Mr. Hunt? That's right. Although the producers of the 1960s TV series weren't allowed to acknowledge it at the time, E. Howard Hunt (the E stands for Everette, not Ethan) was the inspiration for Jim Phelps, the character played by Peter Graves in the series. They couldn't use his name back then because Hunt was still in the CIA. But when screenwriter David Koepp and director Brian DePalma made the first *Mission: Impossible* movie in 1996, they acknowledged that Hunt was the man the daring agent was modeled after, and even changed the character's name from Phelps to Hunt as an homage to him.

As a 27-year veteran of the CIA and its forerunner, the OSS (Office of Strategic Services), Hunt was one of the Cold War's most infamous operatives, running ultra-secretive operations inside the Far East, Europe, the Balkans, the U.S. and Latin America. From the CIA's Guatemalan coup of 1954, to the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961, this shadowy figure secretly affected some of the 20th century's most pivotal historical moments.

And Hunt would have remained anonymous if it wasn't for a little incident called Watergate. Hunt was officially retired from the CIA when

White House. Hunt pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges and was sentenced to 35 years in prison, but served only 33 months before being paroled in 1977.

Given his public exposure, Hunt has managed to keep a relatively low profile. He's still indulging in espionage escapades and political capers, but in a much less-hazardous manner: He writes spy novels — his latest is *Sonora*, published by Forge Books. "In a sense, my books are educational," muses Hunt. "I bring a good deal of personal experience to them, aside from whatever insights I might have from foreign relations with the United States and the world. I put that in an entertaining, fictional context with different backdrops, whether India, China or Latin America. I've traveled widely and lived what a lot of people consider an interesting life."

That said, Hunt hopes the high-octane action of Tom Cruise and his IMF team in the *Mission: Impossible* films doesn't unduly glamorize the world of espionage. "It takes a long time to train an agent...and many young people don't want to put that kind of time into learning a career," he explains, adding with a chuckle, "But who wants to go through all that misery for a government salary unless he is super-dedicated? Bright people would like to join the CIA, but can't afford to because they can start out at IBM, or some other place, with an entry level much better."

Or, the lucky ones can become actors like Tom Cruise, and earn tens of millions for playing a CIA agent on the big screen. **E**

BRIEFING ON MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE 2

Mission: IMF agent Ethan Hunt must track down a deadly synthetic virus before terrorists use it for evil.

Mission Director: John Woo

Previous missions: *Face Off* (1997), *Broken Arrow* (1996), *Hard Target* (1993)

Mission was written by: Robert Towne
Previous missions: *Love Affair* (1994), *The Firm* (1993), *The Two Jakes* (1990), *Shampoo* (1975), *Chinatown* (1974)

OPERATIVES:

Tom Cruise as Ethan Hunt

Previous missions: *Magnolia* (1999), *Eyes Wide Shut* (1999), *Jerry Maguire* (1996), *Mission: Impossible* (1996)

Anthony Hopkins as Swanbeck

Previous missions: *Titus* (1999), *Instinct* (1999), *Meet Joe Black* (1998), *Amistad* (1997)

Ving Rhames as Luther Stickell

Previous missions: *Bringing Out the Dead* (1999), *Entrapment* (1999), *Out of Sight* (1998), *Con Air* (1997)

Thandie Newton as Nyah Hall

Previous missions: *Beloved* (1998), *Beseiged* (1998), *Gridlock'd* (1997),

Dougray Scott as Sean Ambrose

Previous missions: *This Year's Love* (1999), *Ever After* (1998), *Deep Impact* (1998)

Rade Serbedzija as Dr. Nekhorvich

Previous missions: *Stigmata* (1999), *Eyes Wide Shut* (1999), *Mighty Joe Young* (1998), *Polish Wedding* (1998)

Brendan Gleeson as McCloy

Previous missions: *My Life So Far* (1999), *Lake Placid* (1999)

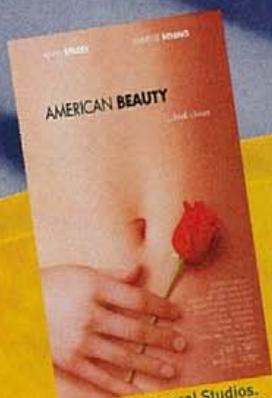
John Polson as Billy Baird

Previous missions: *Idiot Box* (1996), *Back of Beyond* (1995) *Stitched* (1995)

END OF BRIEFING: YOU'RE READY TO WATCH THE MOVIE

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PICTURE PERFECT

Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio talks about her new movie, *The Perfect Storm*

Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio is passionate about acting, but not *passionate*. Her two boys, age 7 and 3, have grounded her — literally and figuratively — but the London, England, resident has always been fairly laid-back about her craft, going right back to her New York days. So yes, there was *Robin Hood* with Costner, *Color of Money* with Cruise, *Abyss* with Ed Harris, *Consenting Adults* with Spacey and now *Perfect Storm* with Clooney, but you could count on two hands the rest of the films this Illinois-bred actress has done since debuting in 1983 with *Scarface*.

While in San Francisco on a business trip with her husband (director Pat O'Connor, who did *Circle of Friends*) and the kids, the 42-year-old called *Famous* to talk about life in England, and playing Linda Greenlaw, the captain of the *F/V Hannah Boden* fishing boat, in Wolfgang

Peterson's *The Perfect Storm*. The movie, which re-unites *Three Kings*' George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg, is based on the harrowing true story of six fishermen from the village of Gloucester, Massachusetts, who, in 1991, sailed their boat — the *Andrea Gail* — into the epicentre of a freak storm in the Grand Banks off Newfoundland.

ON HOW SHE GOT THE SCRIPT "I was on a holiday with my family in Nova Scotia the day it was faxed to me in some little village. I don't even remember the name of it — we weren't exactly in the third world, but it wasn't easy to find a shop with a fax machine that could receive 120 pages. Anyway, I had just been at some Maritime museum, where I just happened to be reading about the Grand Banks and learning all about boats — I was even in a wheel house; I had not known what a wheel house

was before this. I had an idea of the script, but no idea what it was actually about. And here we were literally reading about the Grand Banks and all the lives lost."

ON THE FILMING "I was only on set for about nine or 10 days. Most of my scenes were in Gloucester and a few in L.A. [where a mammoth water tank was used] for the special effects part. I actually did twice as much work in Gloucester as I was slated for because the weather would change. We shot the storm scene, but then Hurricane Floyd came through and Wolfgang said, 'We're going to redo it.' The day after Floyd was at its full tilt, we still had the swells, and he said, 'We really need *this* sea.'"

ON HER CHARACTER, LINDA GREENLAW, AND THE STORY "She's on the *Andrea Gail*'s sister boat [*Hannah Boden*]. She was in contact with Billy Tyne [captain of the *Andrea Gail*, played by Clooney], and she knew the character of the man. She knew what he was up to. If they needed something from each other, it was like, 'Where are you? I need this. Can we swing by?' And he wasn't having a good season. That's what drove him out so far — to get the

I'm mature enough to know that it shouldn't

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fish. He went further and further out and they're getting all these warnings about the weather changing. Well, Linda Greenlaw is a very bright woman and a risk-taker, but she's not feckless — especially with other people's lives. And she reads the charts; she applies science to her instinct, and then takes a very educated, informed guess. So when she sees him going and she's getting these warnings, she says, "This is not a decision I would agree with."

ON HOW THE GLOUCESTER TOWNSFOLK GOT INVOLVED WITH *PERFECT STORM* "On the *Hannah Boden*, we didn't need actors, but we did need fisherman [as extras], and I actually had the brother of one of the chaps who was lost on the *Andrea Gail* [Bobby Shatford, played by Wahlberg]. He had some haunting moments. He was very young when it happened — something like 14. And the woman who portrayed Shatford's mother in the film was actually wearing the hair ornament that his real mother wore to his funeral."

ON CO-STARS GEORGE CLOONEY AND MARK WAHLBERG "They're very easy to be with. Mark, I hardly saw at all. I just saw him go



Mastrantonio as
Captain Linda Greenlaw

by in the golf-cart. As for George, we're on the radio to each other in the movie, and only have about two scenes where we're actually standing next to each other. George is naturally gracious and polite. He really likes the business. He's kind of goofy. He's a great enthusiast. He had his playmate on set in Mark."

ON HOW LIVING IN LONDON AFFECTS HER ACTING "I've lived there 10 or 11 years. I kind of thought my career was a moveable feast — I

was wrong, it's not. It definitely did suffer. But I never felt that I would live healthfully in L.A. It makes me feel vulnerable and self-conscious in a way that I'm not generally. I'm pretty grounded. I kind of shoot from the hip. I'm kinda sassy. And I have two children, I have a husband, I have a whole life away from acting. Never in my career has it occurred to me to give it the attention that it really needed to be a massively huge career. It was just not something in me."

—Neil Morton



matter that I have cellulite... but I still wish I didn't.



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Shaft's Return

Samuel L. Jackson steps into the role of Shaft — the hip, urban detective who tracks down killers and looks good along the way. Bob Thompson talks to him about how he made the part his own

He's not his usual hyper self, lounging quietly on a sofa in the Regency Hotel penthouse suite as New York's Park Avenue traffic rushes by down below.

Samuel L. Jackson has reason to be laid back and enjoy some downtime. He's been a busy guy. He just finished the supernatural thriller *Unbreakable* in Philadelphia with director M. Night Shyamalan, whose *Sixth Sense* earned Oscar nominations for Best Picture and Best Director at this year's awards. Before that, Jackson was in Toronto doing *The Caveman's Valentine*, a drama about a schizophrenic that was directed by friend Kasi Lemmons (they did *Eve's Bayou* together in 1997). And soon, he'll

start shooting the second George Lucas *Star Wars* prequel in Australia — at just about the time his *Shaft* hits North American theatres this month.

His Shaft? That's right, because this is no remake of the 1971 film that starred Richard Roundtree as private detective John Shaft, who's hired by a Harlem gang leader to find his kidnapped daughter. Roundtree's status as a pop culture icon was sealed by the movie's Oscar-winning title tune written by Isaac Hayes, now best-known as the voice of Chef on *South Park*. Subsequent follow ups — *Shaft's Big Score* and *Shaft In Africa* — never matched the original *Shaft* in style and content. Neither did a 1973-74 TV series showcasing Roundtree

in a tamer incarnation.

But Jackson doesn't simply play an updated version of the old *Shaft* in this new movie directed by John Singleton (*Boyz N the Hood*). In this latest *Shaft* incarnation, written by Richard Price, he plays the nephew of Roundtree's Shaft. And although it was a plum role for Jackson, it was one that he wanted re-written.

"The original script was a cop story," says the 51-year-old, who's dressed all in black and wearing his trademark Kangol black cap backwards. "It was simple. You can't have Shaft being a cop. That just isn't what Shaft is all about."

Jackson was adamant that Price's screenplay be revamped, and he was prepared to wait until it was. So that's what he did last summer, inviting speculation from industry cynics that *Shaft* might never be made. They were wrong.

"So now he starts out on the police force," Jackson explains of his character, "but he doesn't end up there." In fact, he ends up getting caught between the police, the crooks and a compromised justice system.

Jackson also made sure that the now 57-year-old Roundtree was brought back to play John Shaft once again. "Richard is there as Shaft, so he's still the black private dick who's a sex machine with all the chicks. I'm learning from him," Jackson says.

But that doesn't mean Jackson's Shaft is turning into a soft, sensitive lady's man. "I'm still wisecracking, tough, angry, mean, all those things," he assures. And the coolest thing Jackson says in *Shaft*? "I think, 'Freeze, mother#@&*^*,'" he says, teasing. "That might be it."

You've gotta be tough when you live in Shaft's world. This new movie sees him trying to track down a spoiled, rich white kid named Walter Williams (played by *American Psycho*'s Christian Bale), who is suspected of killing a black man. Shaft also has to find the one woman who witnessed the murder — a waitress played by Toni Collette (who recently earned an Oscar nomination for her role in *The Sixth Sense*).

But Jackson is the star of this movie — and despite his popularity over the past decade, plus an Oscar nomination for his role in 1994's *Pulp Fiction*, *Shaft* marks the first time he has played the title character in a major motion picture.

Samuel L. Jackson (the L. stands for Leroy) was born on December 21, 1948, in Washington, D.C., but was raised by his mother and grandmother in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He attended Atlanta's Morehouse College in the late Sixties and early Seventies. That's where he met his wife, LaTanya Richardson, who has stuck by him through all of his ups and downs, including his well-publicized drug and alcohol addiction.

In 1969, Jackson, who was becoming involved in the black power movement, was expelled for protesting the absence of blacks on Morehouse's board of trustees by locking several board members in a building for two days. After his expulsion, he attended a performance by the Negro Ensemble Company and was inspired to return to Morehouse to study acting. He graduated in 1972, then moved to New York where he performed in stage productions of August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson* and Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage*, among others. After a series of bit movie parts with billings like "Gang Member No. 2" in *Ragtime* (1981) and "Black Guy" in *Sea of Love* (1989), Jackson finally found his place on the screen in Spike Lee's early films — first as Leeds in *School Daze* (1988), then as Mister Senor Love Daddy in the groundbreaking *Do the Right Thing* (1989).

In the past 11 years, Jackson has been a force, earning praise for most of his 37 movies — which is a remarkable total, but one that doesn't impress Jackson.

"Really, is that all?" he says, looking a little disappointed but recovering. "Well, I guess what that number means is that I like to work, and I do. I enjoy my job. But I guess I probably didn't make what Jim Carrey made in a year, doing all my films in all that time. But that's neither here nor there."

So no, he's not pulling in Carrey-esque cheques (the Canadian comic became the first

actor to break the \$20 million mark with 1996's *The Cable Guy*), but he is inching toward the \$10 million per picture mark. And according to Blair Underwood, one of his co-stars from the recent military thriller, *Rules of Engagement*, he deserves it.

"He's on set every day doing it with everybody else, no complaints and ready to get the job done," Underwood reports. "Once Sam gets committed, there's nothing stopping him in his quest to make things better. And his suggestions, when he makes them, are right on the money."

In the Nineties, Jackson's pictures made more than \$1.3 billion, and two of them earned him impressive honours — for Spike Lee's *Jungle Fever* (1991), in which he played strung-out dope fiend Gator Purify, he won Best Supporting Actor at Cannes; and for Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* (1994), where he played mobster Jules Winnfield, he got an Oscar nomination. ▶▶



Vanessa Williams (as Shaft's friend, Carmen) with Jackson in *Shaft*

"I love acting, and I'm at a point now where I can choose roles that are theatrical enough that I'm able to expand as an actor," Jackson says

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

SAMUEL L. JACKSON

John Shaft, *Shaft* (2000)
 Colonel Terry L. Childers, *Rules of Engagement* (2000)
 Russell Franklin, *Deep Blue Sea* (1999)
 Jedi Master Mace Windu, *Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace* (1999)
 Charles Morritz, *The Red Violin* (1998)
 Lt. Danny Roman, *The Negotiator* (1998)
 Harry Adams, *Sphere* (1998)
 Ordell Robbie, *Jackie Brown* (1997)
 Mitch Hennessey, *The Long Kiss Goodnight* (1996)
 Carl Lee Hailey, *A Time to Kill* (1996)
 Rev. Fred Sultan, *The Great White Hype* (1996)
 Zeus Carver, *Die Hard 3* (1995)
 Kadar Lewis, *Losing Isaiah* (1995)
 Jules Winnfield, *Pulp Fiction* (1994)
 Big Don, *True Romance* (1993)
 Ray Arnold, *Jurassic Park* (1993)
 Robby Jackson, *Patriot Games* (1992)
 Greg Meeker, *White Sands* (1992)
 Gator Purify, *Jungle Fever* (1991)
 Stacks Edwards, *GoodFellas* (1990)
 Mister Senor Love Daddy, *Do the Right Thing* (1989)

▶▶ Ironically, he finally kicked his drug habit just weeks before Lee cast him as the addict Gator in *Jungle Fever*.

Jackson is very thankful for everything he has — and for the fact that he can now work for himself — which means no studio deals. He quickly learned what traps they are, and how destructive they can be to his “freelance gunslinger” attitude.

“When I first got to Hollywood, I had a three-picture deal with Morgan Creek and then I had another two-picture deal with Universal,” he remembers. “I never did any of those pictures. I realized that they put you in this box so you can’t work for other people. It’s kind of like being a farmer and being paid not to grow stuff.”

He has always been wary of the biz side of the show stuff. Indeed, Jackson’s not laughing when he says: “It’s a funny business — I try not to get caught up in that.”

Neither the movie industry politics nor the abundant greed have turned him off what he does for a living. “I still love the things that I

do,” he says. “I love the creative process, I love acting, and I’m at a point now where I can choose roles that are theatrical enough that I’m allowed to expand as an actor, and do something different from the last thing I did — challenge myself in very specific ways. It doesn’t matter if it’s an independent film or a studio film, as long as there’s something there that makes me want to do it aside from the dollar figures.”

Like *Shaft*. “Exactly like *Shaft*,” he says, acknowledging he’ll likely have three sets of fans after its release. “I’ll have *Shaft* fans, *Pulp Fiction* fans and *Star Wars* fans.” Not that he’s complaining about his increasing popularity, even if it does make it hard to walk down the street without being recognized.

“Most of the time people tell me they enjoy my work, and it’s

nice that they don’t specifically say, ‘I like you.’ They go, ‘I like your work, and the things you do.’ I must admit now I’ve got a whole new audience base. I can walk down the street and there are 10-year-old kids going, ‘Oh,’ and then left speechless, especially now with *Star Wars* going on.” Jackson shrugs like it’s no big deal. “I understand the fact that people are kind of amazed sometimes when they see you in places that they don’t expect to see you. And, you know, interestingly enough, I actually walk around the streets some days just to see how many people will notice.”

An actor who admits it.

“Honestly, I think a lot of them do. I actually think that actors who say, ‘I hate watching myself on screen,’ should stop lying,” says Jackson, smiling.

“The whole time I was doing plays, I was like, I wish I could watch this play with me in it. The one thing that I always wanted to do was watch myself perform.”

As the Seventies Shaft might’ve said, Right on! **F**

Bob Thompson is a movie writer for The Toronto Sun.



coming soon

Numbers (July)

Stars: John Travolta, Lisa Kudrow, Tim Roth

Director: Nora Ephron

Story: From the director of *You’ve Got Mail* comes this crime caper about a weatherman (Travolta) who comes up with a scheme to defraud the state lottery. Kudrow plays his girlfriend, who just happens to be the TV personality who picks the winning numbers.

Thomas and the Magic Railroad (animated) (July)

Voices of: Alec Baldwin, Mara Wilson, Peter Fonda, John Bellis

Director: Britt Allcroft

Story: This animated kids’ feature is based on the TV series about a talking train named Thomas. Bellis provides the train’s voice, Alec Baldwin the conductor’s and Wilson that of the 11-year-old girl taking Thomas to visit her lonely grandfather (Fonda).

Nutty Professor II: The Klumps (July)

Stars: Eddie Murphy, Janet Jackson, Larry Miller

Director: Peter Segal

Story: In this sequel to 1996’s *The Nutty Professor*, Dr. Klump (Murphy) attempts to rid himself of his “Buddy Love” alter-ego once and for all by extracting Love’s DNA from his body. But mayhem ensues when Love somehow becomes his own person. Janet Jackson plays Klump’s (or is it Buddy Love’s?) love interest, Denise.



Coyote Ugly (August)

Stars: Piper Perabo, Tyra Banks, John Goodman

Director: David McNally

Story: Based on a *GQ* article, this movie is about an aspiring songwriter named Violet (Perabo) who moves to New York to find

fame and fortune. To pay the bills, she gets a job as a barmaid at a rather unique hotspot called Coyote Ugly, where the sexy waitresses do all sorts of strange things to entertain diners.

Space Cowboys (August)

Stars: Clint Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones, James Garner

Director: Clint Eastwood

Story: With a cast that boasts more testosterone than a WWF match, this sci-fi thriller revolves around a trio of old astronauts (Eastwood, Jones and Garner) who are brought back into the limelight (and sent into space) to fix an errant satellite that was launched back in their era — the early Sixties.

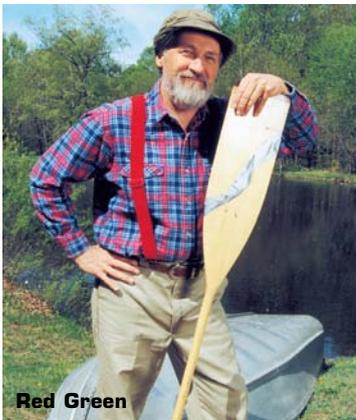
Bedazzled (August)

Stars: Brendan Fraser, Elizabeth Hurley

Director: Harold Ramis

Story: This remake of the 1967 romantic comedy will have to be pretty good to live up to its hilarious predecessor that starred Dudley Moore and Peter Cook. Fraser plays Moore’s old character — a suicidal technical advisor who sells his soul to the devil (Hurley, in the role originally played by Cook) in order to win the love of a woman. The devil gives him seven wishes to accomplish that feat — but none of them seem to work out the way the lovelorn techie planned.

SPACEY REUNITES WITH HIGH-SCHOOL CHUM, WE MAY SCREAM AGAIN, AND LEO WEIGHS OPTIONS



Red Green

BIG SCREEN RED GREEN

Could **Red Green** be leaving his cabin in the woods and moving to Hollywood? Probably not, despite the fact that the backwoods Canadian icon just signed a deal to make a feature film, *Red Green's Duct Tape Forever*. British Columbia's Red Sky Entertainment and S&S Productions Inc., are doing the flick, which is based on the popular TV show created by Steve Smith (Red Green's alter-ego). The story will follow Red and his geeky nephew Harold (*Trader's* **Patrick McKenna**) as they try to stave off some disaster that threatens to destroy their beloved Possum Lodge. Shooting is scheduled to begin in Ontario this fall.

A SPACEY COMEDY

Fresh off his Best Actor Oscar for playing middle-aged suburbanite Lester Burnham in *American Beauty*, **Kevin Spacey** and his old high-school bud, Hollywood producer **Dean Devlin**, are teaming up to do a romantic comedy (it still doesn't have a title) about a theatre director (Spacey) who is told to bring in a big Hollywood star or else his play won't go to Broadway. The movie will start shooting later this year, but first they need a director. Two words: **Sam Mendes**.

SCREAM 4? 5? 6? 7?

Wes Craven recently told *Famous* that he had no interest in doing another *Scream*. "I don't want to corrupt the ideas that are in the *Scream* films by milking the series," he said. Well, that doesn't mean someone else isn't going to. Rumour is, Miramax is thinking about keeping the franchise going. They've already acquired the web domains for *Scream 4* and *5*, and now it's been confirmed — just go into Register.com — that they've bought all of them up to *Scream 10*. It's doubtful **Neve Campbell**, **David Arquette** or any of the other Woodsboro gang would return though — well, maybe for a *Scream 10* reunion. But don't hold out for *Scream 11* — at press, scream11.com was available.

LORD OF (WEB) RINGS

The film isn't due out until December 2001, but *Blair Witch*-esque hysteria is already developing on the web for the first installment of *Lord of the Rings*, based on the trilogy of fantasy books by **J.R.R. Tolkien**. When New Line Cinema put a two-minute chunk of the movie trailer for *The Fellowship of the Ring* on their website, it was downloaded 1.7 million times in the first 24 hours, a new record, surpassing a similar downloadable sneak-peek at last year's *Phantom Menace*. The trilogy, which is being shot in New Zealand, will star **Elijah Wood**, **Ian McKellen**, **Liv Tyler**, **Cate Blanchett** and **Ian Holm**. *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King* will open in 2002 and 2003.



Spacey

FIRTH IMITATING ART

The best-selling **Helen Fielding** novel *Bridget Jones's Diary* is being adapted for the big screen, and casting includes a neat twist. You see, the character Bridget Jones is a binging, chain-smoking reporter who is obsessed with the TV-version of **Jane Austen's** *Pride and Prejudice* — particularly with British actor **Colin Firth's** portrayal of the gallant Mr. Darcy. Well, Colin Firth himself has signed on to the Bridget Jones project to play Bridget's love interest, named Mark Darcy. Freaky, eh? Jones will be played by **Renée Zellweger**, fresh off her turn as Irene opposite real-life beau **Jim Carrey** in *Me, Myself and Irene*. **Hugh Grant** has also signed on as Daniel, a creep who sleeps with our heroine, then dumps her for a prettier girl.



DiCaprio

DICAPRIO DOING SCI-FI?

It's always a big deal when **Leonardo DiCaprio** decides on his next project — remember the uproar around *American Psycho*? Word is he may join the cast of a sci-fi thriller about a world where a drug is administered to citizens to prevent them from expressing emotion. **Taye Diggs** was originally pegged as the star, but that may no longer be the case. And if you were hoping to see Leo in the role of young Anakin Skywalker in the next *Star Wars* movie, forget it. His spokesperson, Ken Sunshine, recently told *USA Today* that Leo "met with **George Lucas**, but he is definitely unavailable."

B R I E F L Y

Spike Jonze, who co-starred in *Three Kings* and directed *Being John Malkovich*, is considering taking a cameo role in *Hannibal*, the *Silence of the Lambs* sequel that will star **Julianne Moore**. ■ The only thing holding up *Be Cool*, the sequel to 1995's *Get Shorty*, is the return of **John Travolta**. Money could be one factor — his asking price has gone up dramatically. But Travolta is also tired. Poor guy. ■ It looks like *Men in Black 2* is a go despite *MiB* co-star **Linda Fiorentino's** assertion that the studio (Columbia) didn't have enough money to bring **Will Smith** and **Tommy Lee Jones** back. The studio has officially announced the sequel and Smith is reportedly happy enough with the script that he wants in. No word yet on whether Jones will return.

GIFT BASKETS FOR the rich and famous

L.A.-based Star Treatment is in the business of sending nifty gifts to celebrities like Sandra Bullock, Julia Roberts and Eddie Murphy BY NEIL MORTON

It's not enough for studios to simply hand A-list actors big fat cheques and say, Get to work. No, that's impersonal. The goal is to make them feel as welcome as possible on set, which gives them extra incentive to perform. To accomplish this, more and more studios are turning to Marnie Lerner and Cynde Cassel at Star Treatment Gift Services, who have staked out a niche for themselves in Hollywood by providing "personalized" gifts to celebs. This means Jack Nicholson

and Meg Ryan don't just get a bottle of the finest bubbly when they arrive on set anymore.

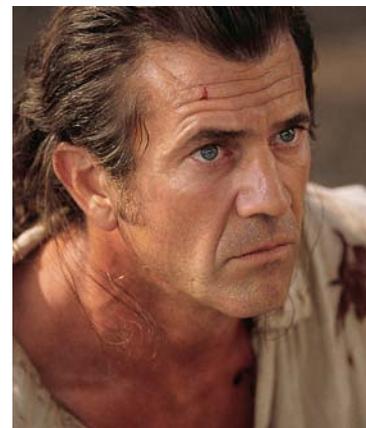
For example, the first baskets Lerner and Cassel prepared for a studio went to the cast of Universal Pictures' drama *Snow Falling on Cedars*. Ethan Hawke, Sam Shepard, et al, each received a leather suitcase containing a silver flask, brass picture frame, cashmere sweater, wool socks, a leather bound journal embossed with the film's title, cedar scented wood chips and leather gloves.

Lerner, 27, a former entertainment journalist with a Spanish-language weekly in L.A., and Cassel, 30, a former personal shopper at Bloomingdale's in Manhattan, have been giving gifts to celebs for three years. Their business has already attracted the attention of *The New York Times*, NBC news, *Good Morning America*, *People* magazine, *Donnie and Marie* and even the *Oprah Winfrey* show ("We gave Oprah a custom-made Eric Javitz hat to fit her head," says Lerner).

They also gave \$20-million-man Adam Sandler an oak toy chest filled with squirt guns, a Magic 8 Ball, a Slinky and Silly Putty when he made *Big Daddy*, and \$20-million-woman Julia Roberts Alba botanical sun cream, Kiehl's soothing lotion and Oliver Peoples glasses when she did *Erin Brockovich*.

And for this month's new DreamWorks' release, *Road Trip*, Tom Green and his co-stars were given Igloo coolers filled with G-shock watches, leather-bound maps of the U.S., an album by the Deftones featuring the song, "Be Quiet and Drive," and assorted junk food.

So are the studios going too far to please their stars? Nope, says Lerner: "Great stars mean big box office, which means their treatment is relative." The gifts, which are bought at wholesale and sold at retail (Star Treatment's warehouse is chock full of goodies purchased in Beverly Hills and New York, and on websites such as eBay), generally cost between \$200



WHAT MEL GIBSON GOT
Mel Gibson and his co-stars in the American Revolution pic, *The Patriot*, each received a Tommy Hillfiger "American Stars & Stripes" quilt, a glass snow globe containing a platinum eagle, a replica pistol and tomahawk, and a leather messenger bag.

and \$2,000. In Lerner's estimation, one of the loveliest so far was a necklace, earring and bracelet set for Angelina Jolie after her Oscar win for *Girl, Interrupted*. "I can't give you the price," says Lerner. "High, high end."

And don't tell Lerner that it's hard to buy for celebs who already have everything. "Nobody has everything — luxury items are as seasonal as fashion," she says. "There is always the newest great thing. We do tech stuff for both genders, and as far as pampering items go, we do as much for men as women."

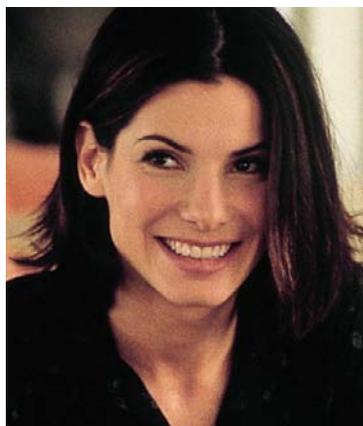
CELEBRITIES WHO RECEIVED THE STAR TREATMENT INCLUDE...

Antonio Banderas, Warren Beatty, Cate Blanchett, Nicolas Cage, Jim Carrey, George Clooney, Brendan Fraser, Mel Gibson, Goldie Hawn, Anne Heche, Elizabeth Hurley, Elton John, Jack Nicholson, Gwyneth Paltrow, Chris Rock, Meg Ryan, Steven Spielberg, Denzel Washington, Bruce Willis, Renée Zellweger



WHAT EDDIE MURPHY GOT

When Eddie Murphy was in Montreal this past April to shoot director Ron Underwood's sci-fi comedy/adventure *Pluto Nash*, Warner Brothers got on the phone to Star Treatment. The movie, due out next year, is about a nightclub owner on the Moon circa 2087 who becomes a hero for the lunar independence movement. So Star Treatment sent Murphy celestial "moon" music and a Sony CD Walkman to play it on, moon pies, moon muck (a gooey toy), a guide book to the moon, *Star Cookies* and a portable planetarium.



WHAT SANDRA BULLOCK GOT

When Sandra Bullock arrived on the set of *28 Days*, about life in a rehab center, she was given a nylon bag filled with a waffle weave robe, an ABBA CD, Kiehl's bubble bath, a leather journal, Illume candles, an Italian mug and "detox" Ayurvedic tea.

YOU, TOO, CAN GET THE STAR TREATMENT

It's not only the stars who are getting the star treatment. While the majority of Star Treatment's business comes via the studios and other corporate clients such as Bank of America and *People* magazine, Lerner says they have received orders from individuals in countries like Italy, Australia — and Canada. "We're doing wedding gifts for a lady in Canada right now," says Lerner, "for her father and the bridal party." If you want Star Treatment to design an original gift basket for you, call them at 1.818.781.9016 and let them know what you're looking for. Or, for more information, log onto www.startreatment.com.



MOVIE TREASURES buried online

Use the web to buy Johnny Depp's scythe
or Clint Eastwood's gun

By Trent Ernst

Looking for the perfect outfit for that special occasion? How about a green-gold shirt with a black collar and stylized triangle insignia on the left breast? Only \$10,000 American.

Fans of *Star Trek* will recognize the description as Captain Kirk's tunic. Collectors will recognize the price tag as not unusual for a tunic actually worn on-screen by self-described "homo-saurus" William Shatner. The shirt is just one of the items to be found at STARticles (www.starticles.com), a Canadian site that sells movie props and memorabilia.

When STARticles went virtual five years ago, it was one of the first sites on the internet dedicated to the buying and selling of these cinematic gems. The site is the online presence for the Toronto showroom of the same name, and owner Zan Gowrali says it has become one of the best means for reaching an international clientele. "We used to send catalogues to people all over the world," she says, "but it's too slow of a process. Items sell too quickly. By the time people would get the catalogues, most of the items would be sold." Now, potential buyers just link to the website, which is updated monthly.

Today, STARticles is one of many sites that sell props and wardrobe items online. From overcoats to underwear, from a futuristic laser pistol to a Roman soldier's sword, if it appeared on-screen chances are you can buy it online.

Private collectors, antique shops and specialty stores often sell pieces through online auction sites such as eBay (www.ebay.com), the largest of its kind. A check on this day revealed more than 16,000 items on eBay, including the baseball bat that Bruce Willis used in *Pulp Fiction*, the scythe Johnny Depp brandished in *Sleepy Hollow*, Clint Eastwood's gun from *Unforgiven*, a gorilla guard outfit from *Planet of the Apes* and one of Burt Reynolds' shirts from *Boogie Nights*.

Rather than pay a set price, buyers bid on items that are on the auction block for a certain time period. High bid at the end takes the lot, but the seller can reserve the right not to sell if a minimum bid isn't met. (A recent auction of Drew Barrymore memorabilia, for example, failed to meet any minimum bid.)

There are dozens of auction sites to choose from besides eBay — and tens of thousands of bits of memorabilia available. But not all of the items are legit, nor are all dealers reputable. There are numerous horror stories about people getting ripped off online. Part of the problem is not being able to inspect the item: It's hard to tell from that small, blurry picture if the item is the real deal.

At eBay, an updated version of frontier rules helps protect collectors. Buyers comment on the honesty — or lack thereof — of a particular seller, and these comments can be viewed by potential bidders. If the seller has a reputation for passing shoddy merchandise, he is quickly drummed out of Dodge.

Many items come with a letter of provenance from the prop department, or continuity photos from the movie featuring the item — though even these can be faked. Buyers still need to put the time and effort into research, which could involve asking for better quality pictures, watching the movie to see where the item appears and inquiring about the dealer on collector-based newsgroups. And don't buy from any dealer that doesn't have a return policy.

Above all else: Buyer beware.

Trent Ernst is an entertainment, travel and technology writer based in Chilliwack, B.C.

OTHER MEMORABILIA SITES

Reel Clothes

www.reelclothes.com

"From socks to suits, lamps to lamp posts, if it's seen on the screen, we sell it to you," its homepage reads. They claim everything is obtained directly from the studios or production companies when a film wraps, so you know it's the real McCoy.

Movie Prop

www.movieprop.com

Not very well written or organized, but nonetheless it's run by a hardcore collector and is one of the best sites for movie prop lovers — particularly of the sci-fi genre — with useful info on authenticating props, as well as a great list of links.

The Big Picture

www.big-pix.com

Offers original movie posters, buttons and various movie theatre tie-ins and collectibles from American and foreign movies. Items date back to the Sixties.

CineBid.com

www.cinebid.com

A great movie auction site where you can get anything you need pertaining to film. Well-organized and full of neat merchandise, right down to vintage pressbooks and kits.

Celebrity Collectables

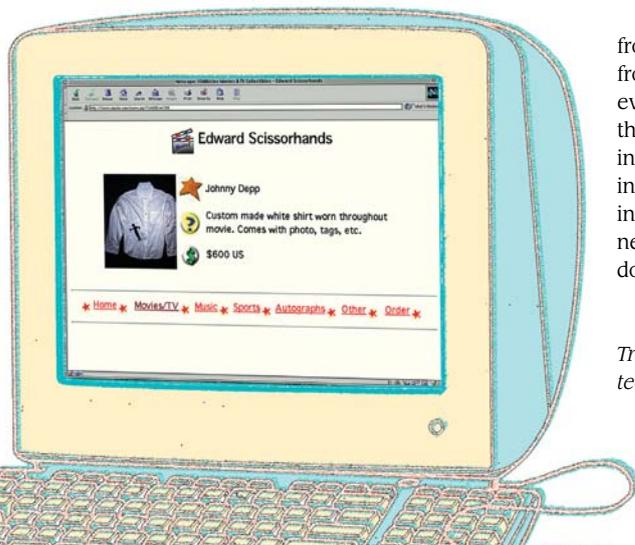
www.celebritycollectables.com

Focuses on memorabilia from dead Hollywood film greats — including true copies of the Last Will & Testaments of about 400 notables. Copies of death certificates and funeral info also available in some cases.

ShopHeaven.com

www.shopheaven.com

Very well-organized and thorough — has T-shirts and the like from recent movies.





SUZANNE SOMERS goes on the lamb

Former *Three's Company* star enjoys New Zealand treat at Mississauga restaurant

Alan Hamel (*The Alan Hamel Show*, *Man Trap*, *Anniversary Game*), her manager and a bunch of business associates.

Best known as bubbly blonde Chrissy Snow from *Three's Company*, Somers resurrected her career several times after leaving that show over a salary dispute in 1980. In the late Eighties she played Sheriff Hildy Granger on *She's the Sheriff*, in the early Nineties she was Carol Foster on the TV series *Step by Step*, in the mid-Nineties she hosted *The Suzanne Somers Show* and in the late Nineties served as co-host of *Candid Camera*. But these days, most people associate Somers with her collection of home exercise equipment, which includes the Torso Track and the now infamous Thighmaster. On this day, she was in Mississauga, Ontario, promoting the equipment on The Shopping Channel, whose offices are near On The Curve.

"She looked just stunning," Meikle recalls. "Her hair was just to perfection. And she was just so nice."

And if you think that the 53-year-old Somers stays looking that good by eating celery and lettuce, you're wrong. At this meal, she started with the barbecue chicken flatbread with goat cheese, then chowed down on a half rack of lamb served with French green beans and potato and onion tart (she skipped the tart because she doesn't mix her proteins and carbohydrates,

but slipped off the wagon with the flatbread). She finished the meal with a chocolate desert made with strawberries that had been marinated in Grand Marnier and sugar.

By the time Somers was ready to leave, there was more than a foot of snow on the ground, which made for treacherous walking. So her manager brought their car around to the front of the building.

"And being star-struck, we were all looking out the window as they left," says Meikle. "Alan bent down, she jumped up on his back and he piggy-backed her to the car. It was so cute to see her little feet dangling." —Marni Weisz

For reservations at On The Curve, call 905.804.9582

It started with a phone call from a Texan on a stormy day in February. He said he had a celebrity client who was looking for a place to have lunch, and wanted to know what sort of restaurant this On The Curve was.

Manager Lily Meikle told him it was a relaxed place with comfy booths and a fireplace in the middle of the room. The Texan said "Great," and reserved a booth right next to the fireplace. End of conversation. Five minutes later, he called back to tell Lily that the celeb coming to knock on her door was none other than Suzanne Somers, and she had company, too — her husband, Canadian talk-show host



On The Curve executive chef Steve Bennis says his rack of lamb has a delicate taste. "The mint flavour is a lot more subtle than most places. It's for a distinguished palate, someone who's eaten out a lot," he says. "We wanted all of the flavours to work together so you can taste each one."

He marinates New Zealand lamb for about a day in a concoction of Dijon mustard, rosemary, thyme, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, cracked black pepper, red wine vinegar and canola oil. The only trick to the marinade is that you have to add the oil last, and when you do, whisk it in slowly.

Then sear the lamb (bone side up) in a very hot pan until golden, and place it in a 350°F oven for 10 to 30 minutes, depending on how you like it done. After removing the lamb from the oven, let it stand for five minutes before carving.

For the rosemary and mint jus that tops the dish, sauté shallots, garlic, rosemary and mint in a pan until golden brown. Add the red wine and reduce by half, then add the demi-glace and reduce by one quarter. Add the butter and season with salt and pepper.

The fine French green beans (Bennis says, "they're longer and have more of a crunch than regular green beans") are cooked in salted boiling water for about a minute and then sautéed in a hot pan with minced shallots, butter, salt and pepper.

For the potato and onion tart, cut the onions into 1/4 inch thick rings and sauté them with butter or canola oil in a heavy pan until golden brown. Slice potatoes very fine. Combine all ingredients and place in a pre-baked pie crust. Cook in a 350°F oven for 20 to 30 minutes.

ingredients

Lamb 1 rack

MARINADE

Dijon mustard 50 grams
 Dry rosemary 15 grams
 Dry thyme 8 grams
 Worcestershire sauce 2 dashes
 Finely-chopped garlic 1 clove
 Cracked black pepper 2 grams
 Red wine vinegar 10 grams
 Canola oil 45 grams

MINTED ROSEMARY JUS

Garlic 1 clove
 Shallot 1/4
 Fresh rosemary 1 twig
 Fresh mint 8 leaves
 Red wine 60 millilitres
 Demi glace 75 millilitres
 (you can use canned stock)
 Butter 30 grams
 Salt and pepper to taste

POTATO AND ONION TART (SERVES 6)

Yukon gold potatoes 6
 Spanish onion 240 grams
 Chopped parsley 15 grams
 Parmesan cheese 120 grams
 35% cream 90 grams
 9 inch pre-baked pie shell 1

FRENCH GREEN BEANS

French green beans 120 grams
 Shallots 10 grams
 Butter 10 grams
 Salt and pepper to taste

TOP: COURTESY OF THE SHOPPING CHANNEL; BOTTOM: KEITH HOUGHTON

Shirley Valentine
and her lover enjoy
a seaside drink
on Mykonos in
Shirley Valentine



LET MOVIES BE YOUR travel guide

Whether you're a twentysomething student slipping a backpack over your shoulders and heading to Europe, or an adventurous parent loading the kids into the mini-van to tour across the States, movies can help you figure out where to go. They're also a great way to get in the mood for a place once you've decided. Here's a sampling of flicks that capture popular vacation destinations.

THINKING GREECE?

Try: *Shirley Valentine* (1989)

Director: Lewis Gilbert

A middle-aged, unappreciated Liverpool housewife named Shirley Valentine (Pauline Collins) sneaks off to Greece with a girlfriend. Her friend quickly abandons her for a guy she met on the plane, but what could have turned into a disastrous trip for Shirley becomes a life-changing experience as she has a fling of her own with a local (played by Tom Conti), and learns to love herself all over again. The movie was shot on Mykonos, and if the warm locales — which range from a seaside restaurant, to a romantic boat trip in the Aegean Sea, to a colourful fruit and vegetable market — don't get you in the mood for a Grecian excursion, then what will?

THINKING IRELAND?

Try: *The Matchmaker* (1997)

Director: Mark Joffe

Marcy Tizard (Janeane Garofalo) is a young publicist working for Senator John McGlory (Jay O. Sanders) during his re-election campaign in Boston. But the race isn't going well, so off Marcy goes to Ireland to dig up some heart-warming information about the Senator's ancestors in the hopes of winning brownie-

points with Boston's Irish residents. Big-city to the core, Marcy is slow to warm to the tiny town of Baile Na Graw in Ireland, but pastel houses, locals singing Celtic standards in the pubs and a rocky shoreline that would melt even the most urban of hearts eventually suck her in, as does an Irishman named Sean (David O'Hara). You see, Marcy has arrived smack-dab in the middle of Baile Na Graw's Matchmaking Festival, so she didn't stand a chance. The film was shot in the village of Roundstone in County Galway, Ireland.

THINKING SPAIN?

Try: *Barcelona* (1994)

Director: Whit Stillman

Although many called *Barcelona* a dialogue-driven film, one of the main characters in this movie doesn't have a speaking role — the city of Barcelona. Ted (Taylor Nichols), a repressed American sales rep based in this lusty metropolis on the east coast of Spain, is visited by his fun-loving cousin Fred (Christopher Eigeman), a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. They meet up with a group of girls working at the Trade Centre, have fun and see the city as only visitors can. But things get serious when the anti-American sentiment in Barcelona puts Fred in real danger. Filmed entirely on location in Barcelona.

THINKING NEW YORK?

Try: *Manhattan* (1979)

Director: Woody Allen

Described as Allen's "ode to Manhattan", the plot revolves around Isaac Davis (played by Allen), a famous TV writer who wants to pen a serious book. Chapter One is supposed to describe his love for Manhattan, but he can't seem to put his feelings into words. That's what the rest of the movie is for. Of course, being a Woody Allen film, there are lots of pained relationships — Davis has just divorced his wife and is having an affair with a 17-year-old girl (Mariel Hemingway), and his best friend Yale (Michael Murphy) is married but having an affair with a neurotic urbanite named Mary Wilke (Diane Keaton). The soundtrack is full of George Gershwin, who was born in Brooklyn and spent most of his life in New York. Shot in Manhattan and New York City.

THINKING ITALY?

Try: *A Room With a View* (1986)

Director: James Ivory

This movie not only introduced the world to Helena Bonham Carter (as Edwardian ingenue Lucy Hornchurch), but also a new generation of travelers to Florence, Italy. In classic Merchant-Ivory style (Ivory directed, Ismail Merchant produced), the drama is gorgeously filmed, displaying the gems of the Italian landscape from Florence's Renaissance architecture to the idyllic Tuscan countryside. The story follows young Lucy and her chaperone Charlotte Bartlett (Maggie Smith) on their trip from England to an inn in pre-First World War Florence where they are aghast to find that they've been given a room without a view. But don't worry — you do get a view of Florence, including locations like the Piazza della Signoria and the Santa Croce church.

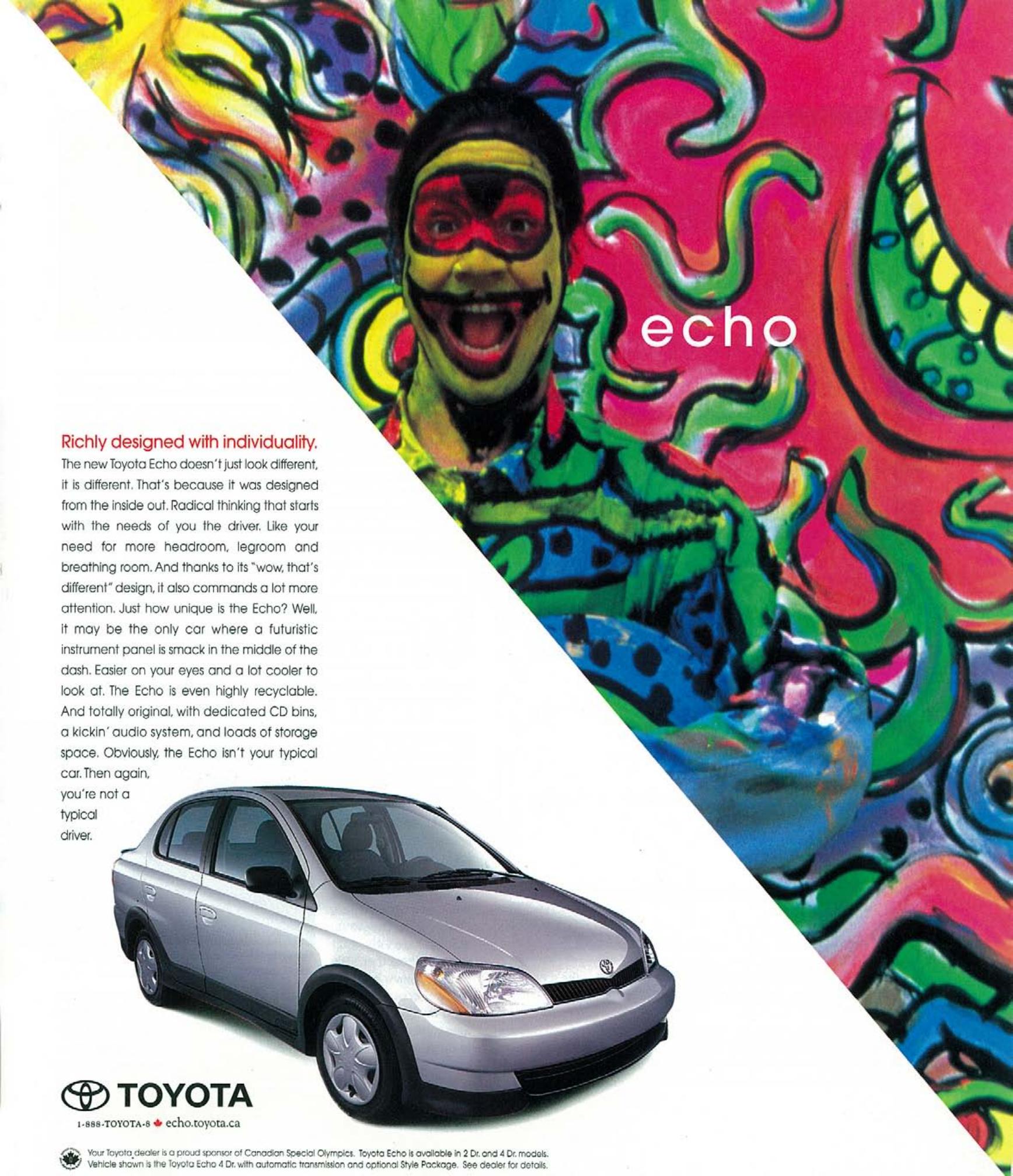
THINKING CALIFORNIA?

Try: *L.A. Story* (1991)

Director: Mick Jackson

Steve Martin plays Harris Telemacher, the "Wacky Weather" presenter for a Los Angeles TV station who falls in love with Sara (played by Martin's then-wife, Victoria Tennant), a writer who's come from London to write a piece about L.A. If there's one scene you're familiar with from this movie, it's Harris and his friends sitting at a café ordering coffee — one orders a decaf, the next a decaf espresso, then a double decaf cappuccino, followed by a double decaf-feinated half-caf with a twist of lemon, etc. What more needs to be said about this movie's ability to capture Los Angeles? Plus, you get to see a lot of the sites — like the Los Angeles County Museum of Art where Harris likes to do some indoor rollerskating. Shot entirely in L.A.

—Marni Weisz



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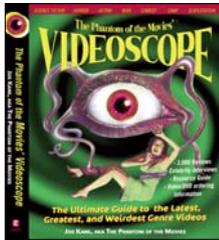
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A weird movie guide, Jack Kerouac's affair in letters and a surprising look at Groucho



The Phantom of the Movies' Videoscope: The Ultimate Guide to the Latest, Greatest, and Weirdest Genre Videos

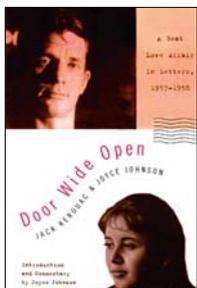
By Joe Kane
(\$38, Times Books)

So, you've got your Leonard Maltin video guide and another by Roger Ebert, but neither speak to your peculiar taste. Well, *New York Daily News* writer Joe Kane has just the book for you. For Kane, B-movies represent a world of mystery. "You never know what you'll find, and my investigations have yielded some real gems," he says. "I find the best of them are less dictated by Hollywood formula, test-marketing and a mega-corporate mentality [than mainstream movies] — a combo that usually translates, for me anyhow, into boring product." His guide contains more than 3,000 reviews ranging from well-known horrors like *Bram Stoker's Dracula* to complete obscurities like *Creation of the Humanoids*. Aside from reviews, the guide has interviews with John Carpenter, Jackie Chan, Pam Grier, Guy Madden and the king of camp, John Waters (*Pecker*). And don't worry about the movies being too obscure to find — "If it's on video," Kane says, "you can actually track it down using my book."

Door Wide Open: A Beat Love Affair in Letters, 1957-1958

By Joyce Johnson
(\$35, Viking)

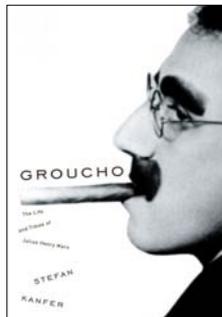
When author Joyce Johnson was Joyce Glassman, a 21-year-old New York wanna-be writer, her friend Allen Ginsberg set her up with a 35-year-old named Jack Kerouac. She and the man who defined the "Beat Generation" soon started an open relationship that spanned about two years. During that time, the soon-to-be famous Kerouac often escaped for journeys to places such as San Francisco, Florida and Mexico — during which he would write to Glassman and she would write back. Joyce held on to Kerouac's letters through the years and when, in 1998, she received a package of her letters from Kerouac's estate, she decided to weave them together into this book. The letters paint a picture of a relationship that seemed simply like a security blanket for Kerouac — it's clear that he was the one who put "open" in their open relationship. *Door Wide Open* is a voyeuristic read, but an intriguing one for anyone interested in Kerouac or the psychology of one-sided relationships.



And a footnote to Joyce's story: She went on to publish stories in *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair* and *Harper's*, as well as three novels. And her memoir, *Minor Characters* (1983), earned her the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Groucho: The Life and Times of Julius Henry Marx

By Stefan Kanfer
(\$45, Knopf)



Although Groucho Marx seemed to be "laughing on the outside," as the cliché goes, he was not always a happy man. Or so former *Time* writer Stefan Kanfer finds out in this look at one of the 20th century's most influential

comedians. But difficult relationships with his wives and children, plus a career that went up and down like a yo-yo, couldn't dampen Groucho's comedic genius. This biography follows Marx and his brothers, Chico and Harpo, as they launch their careers in vaudeville, take their act to Broadway and finally land in Hollywood, where they star in numerous movies and where Groucho eventually becomes host of the TV show, *You Bet Your Life*. The book also introduces you to Groucho's intriguing circle of friends, which included T.S. Eliot and members of the Algonquin Round Table. If this book whets your appetite for Groucho, you might want to pick up *The Essential Groucho: Writings by and for Groucho Marx*, a collection of articles, books excerpts and script passages written by the comedian; it was edited by Kanfer and is being released by Vintage Books this month in paperback (\$17.95). —Marni Weisz

outthismonth

Is That a Gun in Your Pocket? Women's Experience of Power in Hollywood

By Rachel Abramowitz

Female producers, actors, directors and agents tell *Premiere's* Rachel Abramowitz about their experiences in male-dominated Hollywood. Barbra Streisand, Cybill Shepherd and Penny Marshall are among the celebs who spill their guts.

He's Just My Dad: Portraits of Celebrity Athletes and Their Children

By Diane Long

The wife of former NFL star turned Fox football analyst Howie Long provides the text for this collection of portraits (snapped by photographer Sam Abell) that depict sports stars — including Wayne Gretzky, Joe Montana and Yogi Berra — in personal moments with their kids.

China Chic

By Vivienne Tam

Fashion designer Vivienne Tam (featured in *Cosmo*, *Elle*, *Vogue*, et al) tells you how to combine the traditional aesthetics of the East with a modern Western edge. It works for her — she was chosen as one of *People* magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People."

Lady Day: The Many Faces of Billy Holiday

By Robert O'Meally

There have been other books written about jazz great Billy Holiday but most focus on her personal tragedies. Not here — O'Meally concentrates on her musical genius, including work with Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman.

No Goodbyes

By Elaine Kagen

This novel sees the daughter of an Oscar-winning actress trying to reprise her late mother's triumphant role. But the new job evokes complicated feelings of grief. Author Kagen is also an actress, having appeared in *Goodfellas*, *ER* and *Chicago Hope*.

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Juno-winning singer/songwriter **Julie Doiron** is one of Canada's best-kept secrets. Could **The Tragically Hip** change all that?

By **Lezlie Lowe**

When you hear a haunting female voice on *Music@Work*, The Tragically Hip's new album, don't be alarmed. Lead singer Gord Downie has not been replaced by Sarah MacLachlan or anything. The CD, out June 13, still finds Canada's best-loved band hard at work, but this time they've enlisted a little help from a Canadian singer/songwriter named Julie Doiron.

Doiron, the 27-year-old former vocalist/bassist for Canadian indie rock legend Eric's Trip, met The Hip when they invited her old band to perform at their 1995 music festival, Another Roadside Attraction. Doiron and her new collaborators, Ottawa's Wooden Stars, next joined the band for their New Year's Day 2000 concert at Toronto's Air Canada Centre. Just a week after the ACC gig, Downie asked Julie to sing backup on the new album, and she obliged.

Anyone familiar with The Hip's lyrics knows that Eric's Trip had a significant influence on Downie — the song "Put It Off," for example, from 1996's *Trouble at the Henhouse*, includes the line, "I played 'Love Tara' by Eric's Trip on the day that you were born."

Still, it was surprising that The Hip asked Doiron for help, given that when vocal backups are needed for Downie's heady poetry, they're usually supplied by the band's own members.

But Doiron insists her involvement doesn't signal a major shift for the band. "They're definitely *their* songs," she says, "Gord seems to like what I do and I know he was curious to see how my voice would sound with his." He must have liked it — three Doiron-backed songs made it to *Music@Work's* final cut. "One is rock," she says. "The others are slow, but not slow like mine."

Indeed, it's difficult to imagine Doiron's brand of sparse guitar, stop and start rhythms and plaintive



JON CLAYTOR

lyrics melding with The Hip's quirky rock anthems. On the alternative rock spectrum, she's closer to a controlled PJ Harvey than Melissa Etheridge. But more than a new sound for The Hip, *Music@Work* is a study in what a new voice can add. And when the album is released, many more Canadians will be hearing that new voice — which is about time.

In the past year, Doiron, a Moncton native who now lives in Montreal with her artist-husband Jon Claytor, has published a book of photography titled *The Longest Winter*, recorded a solo EP called *Will You Still Love Me?* and the self-titled disc, *Julie Doiron and the Wooden Stars*. In March, Doiron and the Wooden Stars collected a Juno for Best Alternative Album, beating better known acts Danko Jones and Thrush Hermit. Finally, Doiron's reputation as solo artist is eclipsing her six successful years with Eric's Trip. "I would have to say I'm *slightly* more popular this year than the last," she says earnestly.

This summer, she will record a song for a Joni Mitchell tribute album and finish a video for "Dance Music," off the Juno-winning CD. She'll also tour Sweden and the U.S., take more photographs and prepare for another musical venture — an all-French album that will be recorded in the fall. "I'm reading French novels. I'm hung up on French grammar and getting it correct," she says. "In English, you take liberties; in French, if my grammar isn't really good, people will think I just don't know how to speak French."

Doiron has come to terms with the fact that, whatever else she does, she'll probably always end up being known for her music. "It's a terrible thing when musicians try to do visual work, they're not taken seriously," she says.

But there are worse things than being a Juno winner, cherished by The Tragically Hip and a celebrated photographer. And Doiron knows it. "I guess I just want people to like me," she says. "That's all."

Halifax-based Lezlie Lowe is music editor at The Coast.

outthismonth

Artist: Anastacia
Title: Not That Kind
Label: Epic/Sony

Artist: Bon Jovi
Title: Crush
Label: Island/Universal

Artist: Eric Clapton & B.B. King
Title: Ridin' With The King
Label: Warner Bros.

Artist: Joe Cocker
Title: No Ordinary World
Label: Eaglerock/EMI

Artist: Holly Cole
Title: Romantically Helpless
Label: Alert/Universal

Artist: Duran Duran
Title: Pop Trash
Label: Hollywood/Universal

Artist: Steve Earle
Title: Transcendental Blues
Label: Epic/Sony

Artist: Johnny Favourite
Title: The Tonight Album
Label: Alert/Universal

Artist: Iron Maiden
Title: Brave New World
Label: EMI/UK

Artist: k.d. lang
Title: Invincible Summer
Label: Warner Bros.

Artist: Lucy Pearl
Title: Hey Dawn
Label: Beyond/EMI

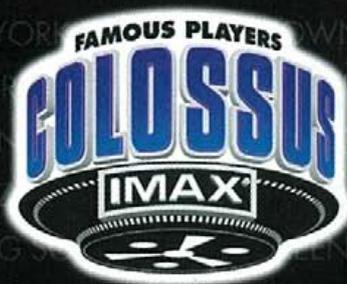
Artist: Matchbox Twenty
Title: Mad Season By
matchbox twenty
Label: Atlantic/Warner

Artist: Motley Crue
Title: New Tattoo
Label: Beyond/EMI

Artist: Willie Nelson
Title: Milk Cow Blues
Label: Island/Universal

Artist: The Tragically Hip
Title: Music@Work
Label: Universal

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GIRL POWER

Goodbye Solitaire, hello 3D shooters:
Today's female gamers are femme fatales

By Marc Saltzman

There is a fresh breed of virtual killers on the loose. They're lurking in the darkest corners of cyberspace, waiting to pounce on their next unsuspecting victim in a heated round of *Quake III: Arena* or *Unreal Tournament*. But before you conjure up a visual of relentless psychopathic hitmen, keep in mind these savvy computer gamers are not even men at all. They're women — a new generation of femme fatales who comprise one of the fastest growing demographics in the mega-popular "3D shooter" phenomenon.



Battling for survival
in *Unreal Tournament*

For the uninitiated, 3D shooters are games that pit the player against other opponents on the net — each of whom is armed with a deadly arsenal of weapons. In that cyberforum, they fight for their lives from a first-person perspective, meaning the action is viewed from the "eyes" of the character.

Although boys and men still represent the majority of PC and videogame players, the gender gap is closing. In 1998, women made up 31 percent of TV-based console gamers and 38 percent of PC gamers, according to the Interactive Digital Software Association (IDSA). While 1999 stats aren't yet available, the IDSA predicts the numbers will be even higher. And you can toss out the perception that women gravitate to puzzle, adventure and more traditional games like Solitaire — retailers report that they're scooping up more action titles than ever.

"Games like *Quake* are a great way to release aggression from stuff you've been ticked off about all day," says Stephanie "Bobbi" Bergman, a 26-year-old New York-based member of the all-female *Quake* association, Clan PMS (er, that's Psycho Men Slayers, by the way). "But when you're exchanging pipe bombs, gender doesn't become an issue — survival does."

Mirroring Bergman's sentiment is the No. 1 female player in the world, Kornelia Takacs, a 22-year-old from L.A. who says there is no sex barrier. "I'm the same group of jumping little pixels as everyone else," says Takacs. "I'm on a *Quake* server to play — not to find a date." And Takacs is cashing in on her skill in a big way. She's sponsored by both the Cyberathlete Professional League (www.cyberathlete.com) and the Professional Gamer's League (www.pgl.net).

Stevie "Killcreek" Case, an Austin, Texas, gamer who was recruited to become a level designer for ION Storm, says gender won't be a story for long. "Being a female gamer attracts a lot of attention, both positive and negative," she says, "but the interest will surely fade with time as more women take

up gaming and the community becomes more diverse." Until then, she'll take advantage of the allure she has as a female gamer — for starters, she has a spread in *Playboy* this summer.

Is it so surprising that more women are flocking to violent videogames? Carolyn Klein, a psychologist with the Lester B. Pearson School Board in Montreal, who deals primarily with young women, says the trend isn't as shocking as one would think. "In some cases it may be that very feminine women may use this forum to get down and dirty as it were," she says, "getting out their energy, frustration and aggression in a shielded, gender-neutral environment."

So move over Lara Croft, and make room for a new sisterhood of gun-totin' assassins.

Marc Saltzman is the author of Game Design: Secrets of the Sages (BradyGAMES: MacMillan Publishing).

outthismonth

Space Channel 5 (Sega Dreamcast)

This groovy adventure takes place in the 25th century where you get to play the hip Ulala, a space goddess who must rescue human hostages after their space station has been invaded by nasty aliens. Ulala has to mimic the aliens' dance moves in order to send them away.

Shogun: Total War (PC)

This epic real-time wargame takes place in a period of Japanese history when rival factions, led by their Daimyo (feudal warlord), battled for military supremacy. You play a Daimyo who has to deal with assassins, peasant revolts, warrior monks, spies and natural disasters such as earthquakes and famine. Good luck.

Motocross Madness 2 (PC)

Compete against a field of AI opponents for prize money, racing titles and sponsorship dollars in outdoor events ranging from an Arizona trailer park to a deserted airfield in Costa Rica. A newly redesigned downloadable track editor allows you to create your own 3D tracks. Nice.

Starcraft 64 (Nintendo 64)

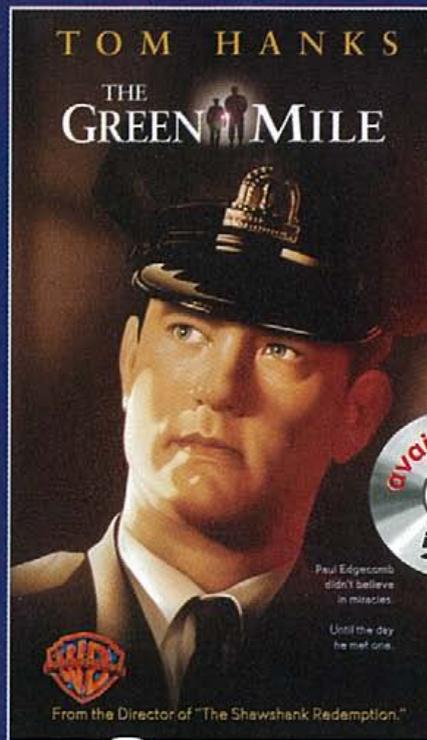
Since its release in 1998, the real-time strategy game *Starcraft* has been one of the best-selling PC games. And now comes its debut console release with 60 missions, including ones not available on the original. *Starcraft* revolves around three races who struggle to take control of the galaxy while working out internal conflicts of their own.

Kirby 64: The Crystal Shards (Nintendo 64)

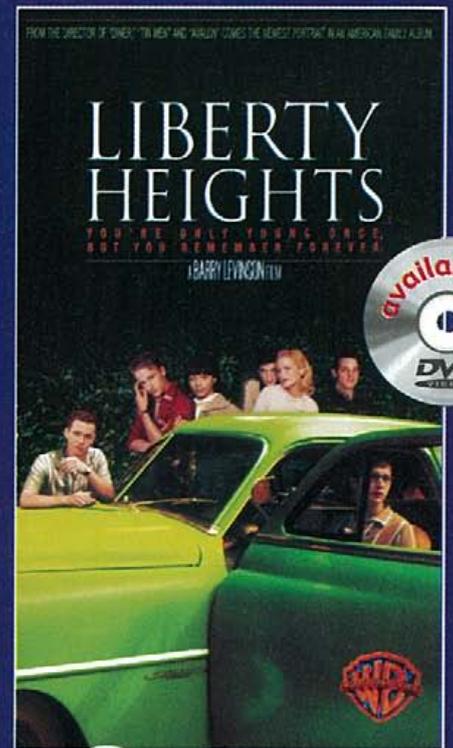
Kirby, a marshmallow-like creature first seen in *Super Smash Bros.*, now has his own game. He and his buddies must rescue fairy folk from Dark Matter — and it helps that Kirby can inhale enemies, acquire their attacks and then unleash them in brilliant ways. Comes with three mini-games that allow for up to four players.

on video

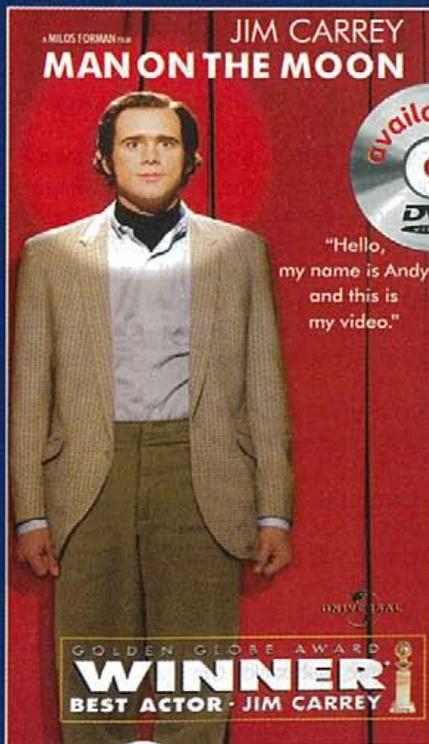
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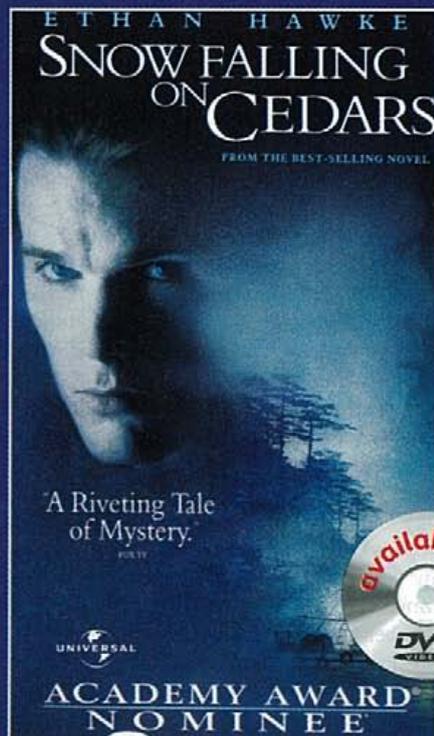
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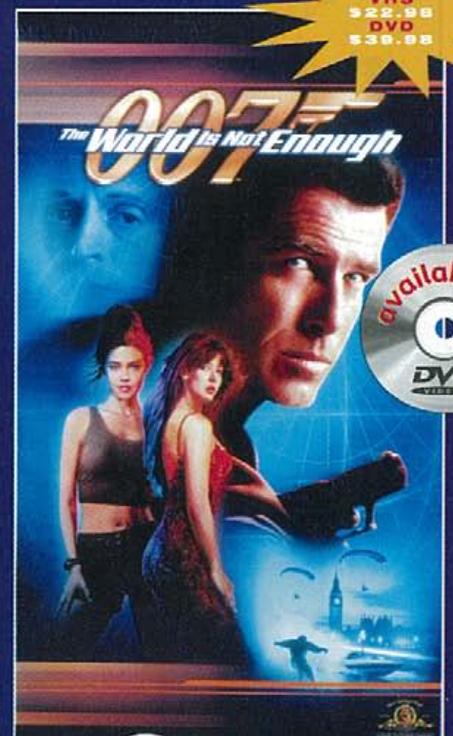
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JAKE LLOYD

makes his picks

He was only six years old when he first auditioned for the role of Anakin Skywalker in George Lucas's *Star Wars: Episode 1 — Phantom Menace*, and he turned eight just before filming started. Now, at age 11, Jake Lloyd is one of the most recognizable child actors of his generation. His image appears on more products (soap, sheets, posters, dolls) than there are battle droids on Naboo, but he says he doesn't know how much money he makes in royalties — his mom and dad take care of all that. He still lives in Colorado (with his parents and little sis) where he's home-schooled by his "Nanny Josh," whom he describes as a "big hairy bear." Aside from the plum role of the young Darth Vader in *Star Wars*, Jake played Jamie in *Jingle all the Way* (1996) with Arnold Schwarzenegger and has had spots on TV's *E.R.* and *The Pretender*. Here, he talks about his five favourite films, playing the videogame based on his character from *Phantom Menace* and what made him want to become an actor.

ON HIS FIVE FAVOURITE FILMS "My first favourite is *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (1975). I think it's the funniest I've ever seen. I particularly liked the scene where the guy's pushing a cart through the town yelling — 'Bring out your dead,' and one of the bodies shouts, 'I'm not dead yet.' • No. 2 is *Tombstone* (1993). It's an awesome film. It's about Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday. It has some of the coolest camera work I've ever seen. There's one particular sequence in the movie where they go around hunting down all the cowboys — I like that. • For No. 3, I like the Wallace and Gromit films [claymator Nick Park's series about a lovable Brit and his dog]. I think they've got a really good sense of humour. And I just like claymation too. My favourite one is *A Grand Day Out* (1992), where they go to the moon. • No. 4 is *UHF* (1989). We rented it last night. It was my nanny's choice. It's a film that Weird Al Yankovic did and it's just corny and funny. Last October I went to a Weird Al concert and I got to get up on stage and sing 'Yoda' with him. It's a play on [The Kinks'] 'Lola' but it's all about Yoda and *Star Wars*. • And No. 5 is *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me* (1999). I like both of the

Austin Powers movies, because I can do all of the accents, but I like the second one better because there's more about Dr. Evil, who I really like. I don't know why, I guess 'cause I am actually evil. [Laughs.] I'm an 11-year-old kid, I'm gonna have a little evil in me."

ON THE FIRST FILM HE EVER SAW

"It was *Lethal Weapon 2* (1989), but I don't remember it. The first one I actually remember seeing was *Terminator 2* (1991). And that was what made me want to get started in the business, because I saw Arnold Schwarzenegger and I wanted to be in a movie with him."

ON THE FIRST TIME HE SAW THE ORIGINAL STAR WARS TRILOGY

"I was about five or six years old — it was right before I auditioned for *Phantom Menace*. My mom was a huge *Star Wars* fan, and the three-pack was on sale at Blockbuster for about 10 bucks."

ON ALL OF THE PRODUCTS THAT BEAR HIS LIKENESS

"I just saw some body-wash with my face on it, and my head was the cork on a bottle of bubbles. The weirdest part is when people walk up right next to you and pick up the bottle of bubbles and then look at you and realize it's your picture. But I'd

say the underwear with my picture on it has to be the strangest. I don't really want to get a wedgie with my face on it."

ON HOW HE FEELS ABOUT BEING HOME-SCHOOLED BY HIS NANNY

"I don't really miss regular school. I have a lot of friends, and I'll call them over and we'll hang out. We play videogames. My favourite is the Pod Racer game [*Star Wars: Episode 1: Racer*]. But I don't usually choose my own character. I like to play Sebulba, he's cool. It's great because everyone else wants to be me, so I get to blow myself up."

ON WHAT'S NEXT FOR HIM

"I just shot a movie called *Madison* about hydroplanes. It should be out this fall. I'm not sure what I'm going to do this summer. I'd like to just spend it snowboarding. If it were up to me I'd go snowboarding all year round. I just started this past New Year's Eve and I love it. I don't know whether or not I'm going to be in the next *Star Wars* movie. An older actor will be playing Anakin, but there might be some flashbacks. George Lucas hadn't even written the script for *Phantom Menace* until we did the table reading, so there is always a chance." —Marni Weisz

NEW releases

MAN ON THE MOON, GIRL, INTERRUPTED AND THE GREEN MILE AMONG MONTH'S BEST VIDEO FARE

Man On The Moon (May 30)

Stars: Jim Carrey, Danny DeVito, Courtney Love
Director: Milos Forman

Story: No one could ever quite figure out what world comedian/actor Andy Kaufman (*Taxi*) inhabited on or off stage, but Milos Forman tries to get inside of it in this bio-pic starring Jim Carrey. Carrey received a Best Actor Golden Globe for his attempt to capture the talented, but often irritating, Kaufman.



Ethan Hawke

Snow Falling on Cedars (May 30)

Stars: Ethan Hawke, Rick Yune, Youki Kudoh
Director: Scott Hicks

Story: In post-WWII Washington State, where anti-Japanese sentiments are still running high, a Japanese-American fisherman (Yune) is accused of murdering a

white fisherman. Hawke plays the journalist who has evidence that could acquit the defendant — but he's been in love with the fisherman's wife (Kudoh) for years. Will he come forth with the crucial info?

Next Friday (June 6)

Stars: Ice Cube, Mike Epps
Director: Steve Carr

Story: This follow-up to 1995's *Friday* sees Craig Jones (Cube) moving from the drugs and guns of South Central L.A. to the manicured lawns of the burbs to live with his uncle, who won a lottery. But how long can the fantasy last?

Girl, Interrupted (June 6)

Stars: Angelina Jolie, Winona Ryder, Jared Leto
Director: James Mangold

Story: Based on a true story and considered to be a "girlie" version of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Girl, Interrupted* takes place in 1967 and tells the tale of Susanna Kaysen (Ryder), a young woman who wonders whether a renown psychiatric institution she's been placed in is actually making her worse off. Jolie won the Golden Globe and the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her work as the out-of-control patient, Lisa.



Jodie Foster

Anna and the King (June 6)

Stars: Jodie Foster, Chow Yun-Fat
Director: Andy Tennant

Story: This oft-told story gets yet another facelift. This time, Jodie Foster

plays the part of Anna Leonowens, a British governess who is hired by the King of Siam (Yun-Fat) to educate his, count 'em, 58 children. But they end up educating each other on the virtues of love and respect.



Tom Hanks

The Green Mile (June 13)

Stars: Tom Hanks, Bonnie Hunt, Michael Clarke Duncan
Director: Frank Darabont

Story: A retired prison guard (Hanks) recalls a close relationship he had with a deathrow inmate (Clarke Duncan) who seemed to possess

supernatural powers that enabled him to ease people's pain. Based on a Stephen King serial, this movie was nominated for Best Picture at the Oscars.

Bicentennial Man (June 13)

Stars: Robin Williams, Sam Neill, Oliver Platt
Director: Chris Columbus

Story: Williams plays a robot butler named Andrew who is supposed to be a monotone maid, but over the course of two centuries develops human thoughts and feelings. Based on a book by sci-fi novelist Isaac Asimov. Williams and Columbus also did the hilarious *Mrs. Doubtfire* together.

Play It To The Bone (June 13)

Stars: Woody Harrelson, Antonio Banderas, Lucy Liu
Director: Ron Shelton

Story: Two washed-up welterweight boxers, Harrelson and Banderas, get one last shot at reviving their careers with an undercard fight in

Vegas. The catch is, these two buddies have to fight each other. *Ally McBeal*'s Lucy Liu plays Lia, a troublesome hitchhiker.

Sweet and Lowdown (June 20)

Stars: Sean Penn, Uma Thurman, Gretchen Mol
Director: Woody Allen

Story: In this comedic bio-pic, Penn plays the eccentric, irresponsible, arrogant, alcoholic Thirties jazz guitar great Emmet Ray. What's his problem? Ray can't accept the fact he's only the second best jazz guitarist in the world. Penn was nominated for a Best Actor Oscar for his work here.

Gun Shy (June 20)

Stars: Liam Neeson, Oliver Platt, Sandra Bullock
Director: Erik Blakeney

Story: A stressed-out New York City detective (Neeson) working undercover to nab some mobsters turns to a doctor to help him relieve his anxiety. But it's the good doc's free-spirited nurse (Bullock) that does him the most good.

Liberty Heights (June 20)

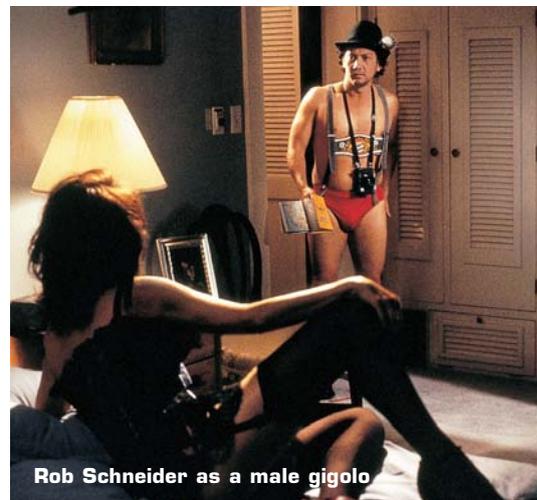
Stars: Joe Mantegna, Richard Kline
Director: Barry Levinson

Story: The civil rights movement and the threat of nuclear war provide the backdrop for this story about life at a Baltimore school, circa 1954. The movie marks the fourth installment in director Levinson's "Baltimore series." The others were *Diner*, *Tin Men* and *Avalon*.

Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo (June 20)

Stars: Rob Schneider, William Forsythe
Director: Mike Mitchell

Story: Deuce Bigalow (Schneider) is a bored-out-of-his-mind fish-tank cleaner who decides to try his hand as a gigolo after taking a job fish-sitting for a respected, and much better looking, male escort. Enter Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo.



Rob Schneider as a male gigolo

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inthestars

By Dan Liebman



GEMINI

May 23-June 21

Avoid impulsive actions where cash is involved — those hot tips coming your way around the 14th need verification. In the area of friendship, however, your instincts are bang on. Work relationships improve by the 22nd, and your romantic outlook brightens thanks to a platonic friend's interventions.

CANCER

June 22-July 22

It's an excellent month for launching a beautification program and, remember, a little panache goes a long way. Mid-month finds you bumping into interesting people on street-corners and at the movies. A late-month shakeup at the office works to your advantage, given your knack for seizing opportunities.

LEO

July 23-August 22

You finally find the kind of incredible bargain that other people always brag about. A brief cameo appearance by an older relative has unexpected meaning. Simplifying your life — especially around the kitchen — is liberating. After all, does anyone but James Bond need that many gadgets?

VIRGO

August 23-September 22

You're suddenly looking at things with a whole new perspective. That pushy friend? Well he's now well-meaning. The insensitive co-worker? Merely distracted. With the new moon of the 2nd, you're focusing attention on career goals and pursuing them with inspirational intensity. By late-month, romance is in full swing — so don't plan on catching many zzzzzs.

LIBRA

September 23-October 22

Early June is the perfect time to host a four-star soirée since your sense of style *and* sense of humour are in sync. You benefit from criticism — regardless of how it's expressed. Late June marks the start of a period of reconciliation.

SCORPIO

October 23-November 21

If traveling, be wary of misleading information and outdated maps. The 15th marks the start of a period that finds you the life of the party — and there are parties galore. But remember to devote more time to fitness so you can keep up with your fast-paced lifestyle. Late month finds you returning to a childhood haven.

SAGITTARIUS

November 22-December 22

Relationships could use an element — just an element — of surprise. Watch out for your tendency to overwhelm, especially during the weekend of the 10th. Thinking about writing? Be it technical stuff or sci-fi, there couldn't be a better time than mid-month. Toward the end of June, you're fretting over an ethical question.

CAPRICORN

December 23-January 20

Battling the bulge? Trying to meet an impossible deadline? No worries: Self-discipline is strong all month. But be careful not to be too overbearing or a temporary pushy streak could make you rather unpopular. If doing any late-month traveling, expect an interesting detour.

AQUARIUS

January 21-February 19

Back to nature is June's theme. Whether gardening or enjoying long walks along the beach, you do your best thinking in your own private Eden. Self-esteem gets a nice boost around the 14th, but be sure to acknowledge your partner's accomplishments, too. Come the 30th, you could be the recipient of a friend's generosity.

PISCES

February 20-March 20

Got the doldrums? You'll soon find they're as forgotten as the winner of last year's Best Supporting Actress Oscar. June finds you forging ahead with a new project that could lead to a new source of income. Guests arrive in pairs, and they're so lively that, for once, you don't miss your privacy. Try catching your breath.

ARIES

March 21-April 20

While June's first week brings unexpected guests, hassles at work and misunderstandings on the homefront, there is calm after the storm. By the 12th you're taking charge of bringing a major task to completion. And late-month travel will lead to discovery.

TAURUS

April 21-May 22

You should use a lighter touch when it comes to romance — which is easier said than done for possessive, protective Taurus. Around the 14th, you hear murmurings about changes of some sort. Do some investigating to find out more. Tone down an overly-energetic streak surfacing near the 20th or you'll burn yourself out. You will make key professional contacts by the 30th.

june birthdays by date	
1st	Marilyn Monroe
2nd	Dana Carvey
3rd	Tony Curtis
4th	Bruce Dern
5th	Mark Wahlberg
6th	Sandra Bernhard
7th	Liam Neeson
8th	Joan Rivers
9th	Natalie Portman
10th	Judy Garland
11th	Gene Wilder
12th	Vic Damone
13th	Malcolm McDowell
14th	Boy George
15th	Helen Hunt
16th	Laurie Metcalf
17th	Joe Piscopo
18th	Isabella Rossellini
19th	Kathleen Turner
20th	John Goodman
21st	Juliette Lewis
22nd	Meryl Streep
23rd	Frances McDormand
24th	Nancy Allen
25th	Carly Simon
26th	Chris O'Donnell
27th	Julia Duffy
28th	Mel Brooks
29th	Gary Busey
30th	Lena Horne

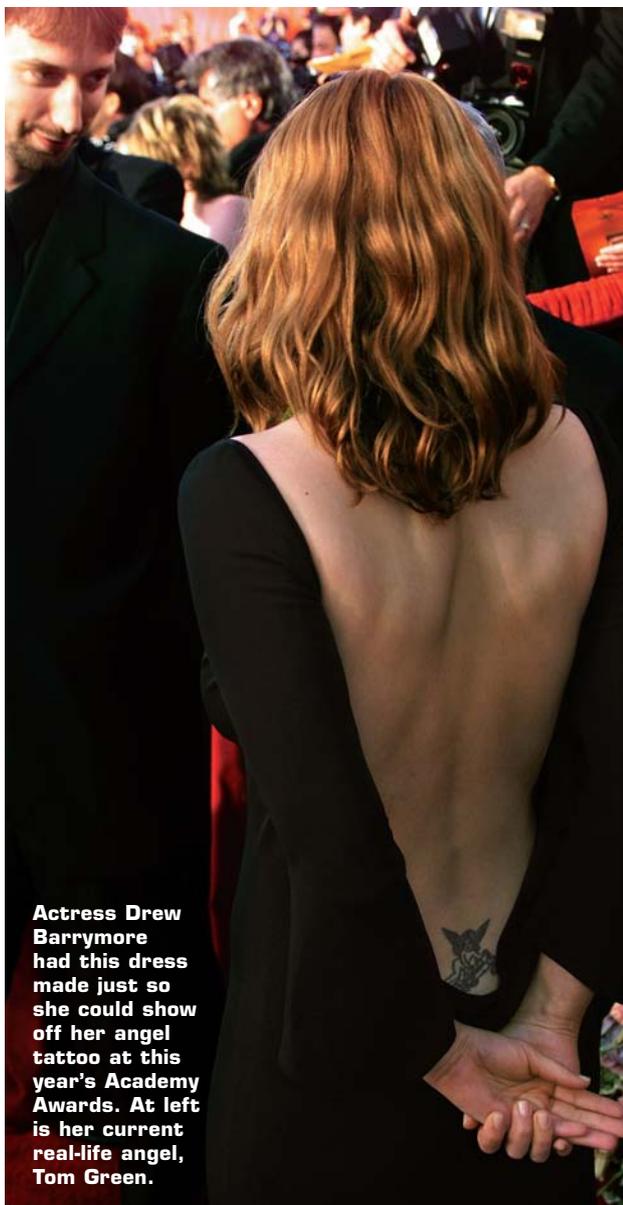
10 STARS TALK ABOUT tattoos

By Susan Granger

Drew Barrymore "I have several tattoos. God, that pain is like nothing else in the world. And it's so sexual, too. I mean, after it's done, you just want to go and drive a car off a cliff or something, you know? I've never done body piercing, though. That really scares me. I think our orifices are just too sacred."

Gillian Anderson "I got my first tattoo in a very innocent place — my inner right ankle. It was very painful. I got it done in Tahiti, the birthplace of tattooing. It's a tribal design — maybe two inches long and an inch wide. This fabulous Polynesian guy called George, who's tattooed over half his body, did it. He's made his own equipment — it was like a sewing needle attached to an old electric razor with a ball-point pen casing and a shish kebab stick through it. He plugs it into this battery pack. It felt like I was at the dentist and he was drilling into my bone. But he's very fast. It only took about 10 minutes. I kept thinking, 'Why the f--- am I doing this?' But when it was done, I wanted another one immediately. It is so addictive!"

Pamela Anderson "My brother's entire back has been tattooed for years. He got it done in Tahiti. I have a tattoo on the instep of my right foot that I got there — the old-fashioned way with the mallet and the little pin. I fainted halfway through it. I don't know how my brother did it — it took seven days to do his back. I love that kind of art work."



Actress Drew Barrymore had this dress made just so she could show off her angel tattoo at this year's Academy Awards. At left is her current real-life angel, Tom Green.

Tom Arnold "I had that tattoo of Roseanne's name removed from my rear. You get about 3,000 of those laser shots, it burns the skin, and the ink steams out of it. I've also had a Grateful Dead one taken off my arm. I love the Dead but when you meet someone else and that's what they're looking at, that can ruin some special moments — and I don't need any help doing that."

Nicolas Cage "When I was in my 20s, I had an eight-inch lizard tattooed on my back. Then, after thinking about it, I went back and had the tattooist give the lizard a top hat, a cane and a flute. I thought the lizard was too serious."

Johnny Depp "I have the name of my mother, Betty Sue, tattooed inside a heart on my left arm. On my right arm, there's an Indian head and there are three diamonds on my left ring finger."

Charlize Theron "I like tattoos. I have a flower on my foot and a fish on my ankle."

Jude Law "I have my initials in Gothic letters on my arm. I also have a Beatles lyric: 'You came along to turn on everyone, sexy Sadie.' That's for Sadie, my lady, Sadie Frost. She's my wife and the mother of my young son Rafferty. When I make movies, these little statements of who I am have to be covered up. I kind of like that."

Tony Danza "I've got to come clean about my Keep On Truckin' tattoo. One day I woke up and it bothered me. So I started having laser treatments about two years ago, and it's all but done. It takes a long time, but it does go away."

Sean Connery "I have tattoos on my right and left shoulders that read 'Mum' and 'Dad.' It seemed a good thing at the time — but that was many years ago."

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