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**RYAN
GOSLING'S
READ ON
THE NOTEBOOK**

**SPOTLIGHT
on VINCE
VAUGHN**

**VIN
DIESEL
REVISITS
RIDDICK**

**DANIEL
RADCLIFFE
BRACES
FOR HP:3**

**STEP
OUT IN
SUMMER
SHOES**

Nicole

Kidman

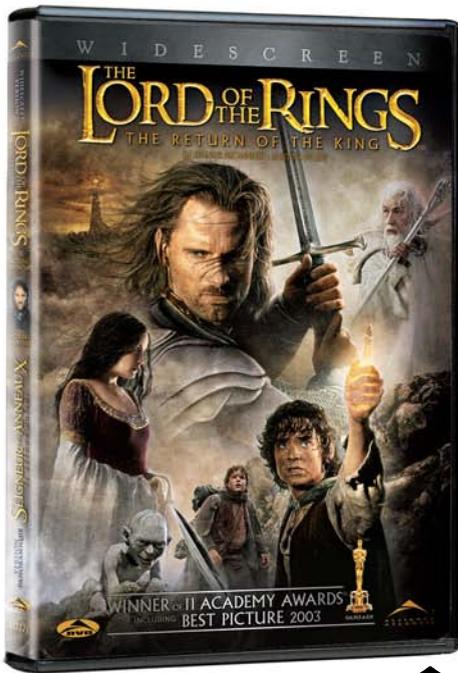
THE STEPFORD WIVES' STAR ON PAYING FOR PERFECTION

This Father's Day, you'd like

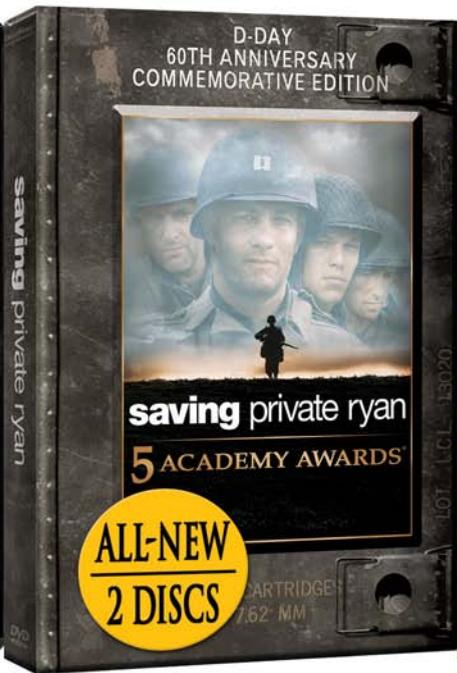


Available June 8th

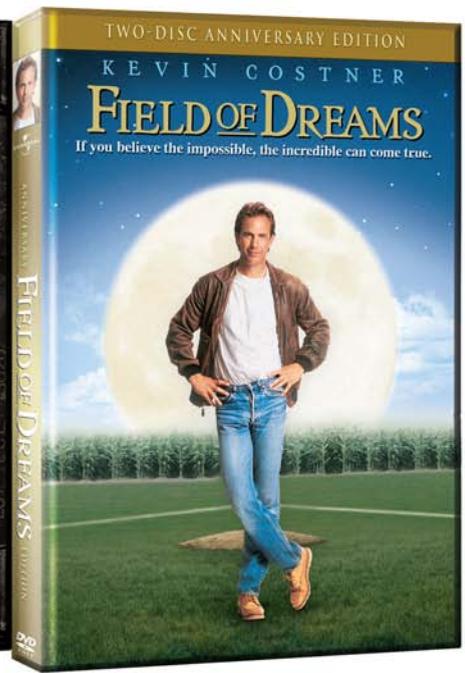
get him something to inherit.



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Movies that last more than a lifetime.

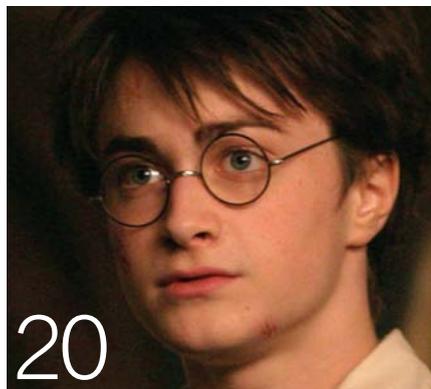
Thank Dad for all the good things he's done this year. With hundreds of titles to choose from, you'll be sure to find just the right movie for you, err... Dad, this Father's Day.



Make It a BLOCKBUSTER Night

contents

Famous | volume 5 | number 6



FEATURES

20 DANIEL'S BOON

Daniel Radcliffe is Harry Potter, but he's also a regular 14-year-old kid who's into punk music and hanging with friends. Radcliffe tells us all about the perils of being Harry, and why the third Potter pic rocks

| BY EARL DITTMAN

24 NO MICKEY MOUSE ACTOR

Ryan Gosling's gone from *The New Mickey Mouse Club* to scaring the bejesus out of audiences with his intense dramatic performances. Here, the Canadian actor opens up about his troubled childhood and playing his first romantic lead in *The Notebook* | BY EARL DITTMAN

28 A VIN-VIN SITUATION

He's planned each step of his career, but can Vin Diesel orchestrate the toughest move of all, keeping his past a secret? We pump the muscle man for personal info and get the lowdown on *The Chronicles of Riddick* | BY BARRETT HOOPER

DEPARTMENTS

6 EDITORIAL

8 SNAPS

The cutest picture of Jude Law, ever

10 SHORTS

Dusan Dukic lands in *The Terminal*, and debating the merits of dodgeball

14 THE BIG PICTURE

Darkness lights up the screen

18 SPOTLIGHT

Vince Vaughn is so money

22 TRIVIA

Which Wayans was supposed to play Robin?

34 COMING SOON

36 ON THE SLATE

Harrison Ford is right for *The Wrong Element*

38 THINGS

Stilettos, pumps and thongs, oh my!

40 NAME OF THE GAME

Doin' damage with *StarCraft: Ghost*

41 LINER NOTES

Margo Timmins pipes up

42 VIDEO AND DVD

Monster and *Mystic River* on the small screen

44 HOROSCOPE

46 FAMOUS LAST WORDS

Celebs love life abroad

COVER STORY

32 TROPHY WIFE

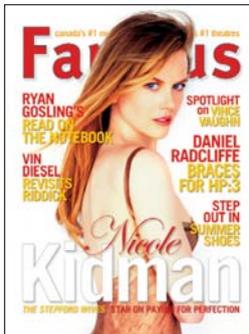
Oscar-winner Nicole Kidman was tired of playing tragic figures, so she signed on to star in the tongue-in-cheek remake of *The Stepford Wives*. Here, she opens up about the joys of making a comedy, finding the right man and wanting it all

| BY EARL DITTMAN



I'm not a diva, but I play one on TV.

DOMO ARIGATO MRS. ROBOTO



In 1975, when Ira Levin's book *The Stepford Wives* — about a town where the men replace their spouses with flawless, subservient androids — was first made into a movie, North America was choking on robot paranoia. Seven years earlier, *2001: A Space Odyssey's* HAL 9000 had sweated the palms of anyone who owned even a garage-door opener, and in 1973 *Westworld* created a theme park where patrons paid to live out their fantasies with the help of freakishly

life-like animatrons which, of course, turned murderous.

People feared their jobs were going to be taken over by computers, and the next logical step was that their neighbours and co-workers would be too.

Flip forward almost 30 years to the world into which the remake of *The Stepford Wives* will be released. We've come to terms with computers. Most of us work side-by-side with them every day, and we've realized that they create as many jobs as they obliterate.

So now we're turning the robotization of humanity inward. And that's even scarier. Where in *The Stepford Wives*, the women are swapped for robots, the recent explosion of shows like *Extreme Makeover*, *The Swan*, and even *Plastic Surgery: Before and After* on the very reputable Discovery Health Channel have made inserting artificial chins, breasts, cheeks and butts into completely acceptable bodies the new normal.

All of a sudden, casting the physically exquisite **Nicole Kidman** as an imperfect wife who needs a bit of sprucing up (her hair is brown for God's sake!) doesn't seem quite so implausible. In "It's a Wonderful Wife," page 32, Kidman talks about why she actually finds the film's concept so funny, and why human perfection bores her.

So far in his career, **Vin Diesel** has avoided sequels like the plague, turning down the *Fast and the Furious* follow-up because of a contract dispute, and dropping out of the XXX sequel to "pursue other projects." But this month he appears in *The Chronicles of Riddick*, the second chapter in the tale that began with 2000's *Pitch Black*. Does this bode well for the story of his space-faring criminal mutant? Well, Diesel's already talking about turning Riddick into an Indiana Jones-like franchise, if that means anything. Read all about it in "Mr. Universe vs. the Aliens," page 28.

At 14, **Daniel Radcliffe** is a veteran of the movie franchise concept, having starred in the first three Harry Potter movies. Now, as *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* hits theatres, Radcliffe tells us why he's dreading the instant resurgence of celebrity that will inevitably follow in "Deconstructing Harry," page 20.

And, finally, we tell you the surprising story of Cambridge, Ontario, native **Ryan Gosling**. Not shy to talk about being brutally bullied as a child, Gosling has found intense acceptance within the ranks of Hollywood's elite — Kevin Spacey raves about him, writer Terrence Malick cast him in his upcoming movie *Che*, and rumours persist that he was even involved with his *Murder by Numbers* co-star Sandra Bullock. Will Gosling's new romantic drama *The Notebook* turn this serious actor into a matinee idol? And is that even what he wants? Find out in "Looking for Love," page 24. —Marni Weisz

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CAUGHT ON FILM

THE STARS WORK, PLAY AND PROMOTE THEIR MOVIES

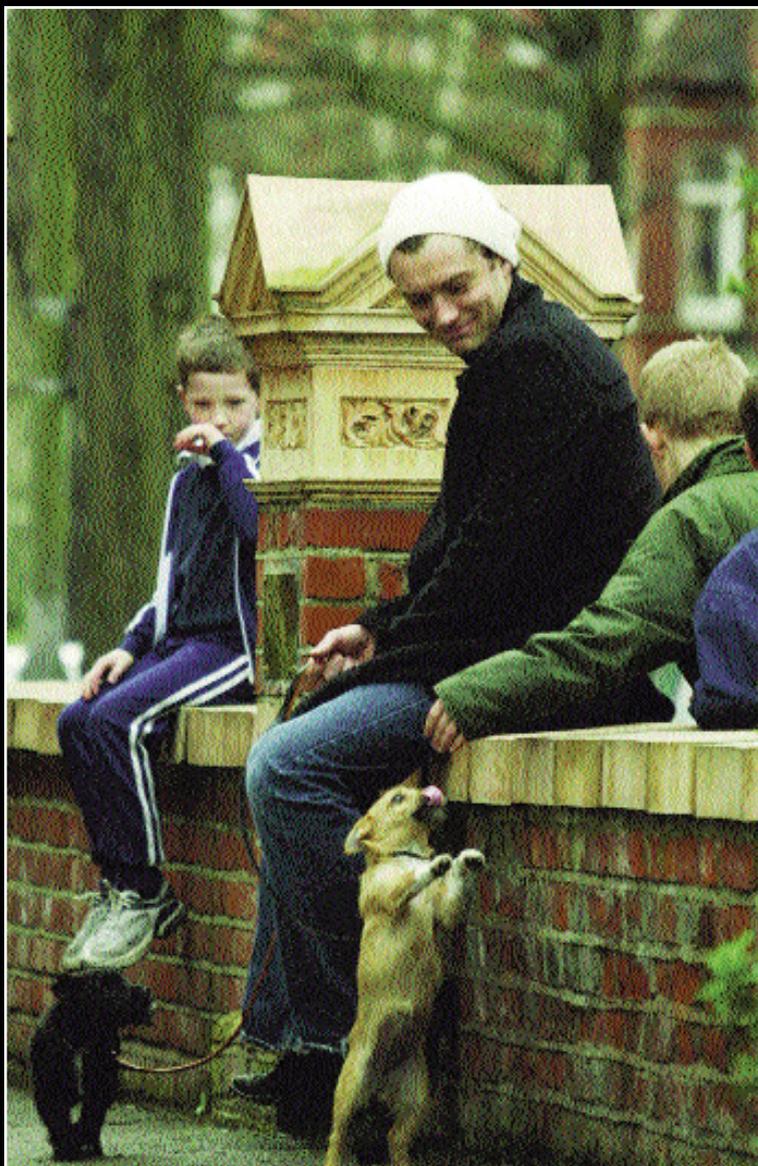


PHOTO BY LEON MCGOWRAN/KEYSTONE

^ It's hard to say who's cuter — Jude Law, the pups or the kids. The star of the upcoming remake *What's it All About, Alfie?* was out walking girlfriend Sienna Miller's two dogs on the streets of London when he stopped to let some schoolboys pet the pooches.

>>> In case you were wondering, Ashley Judd's T-shirt was making a statement about being a feminist, not an eminent, which we're guessing would be someone who's into all things eminent, or "superior in position, fame or achievement." Being a feminist worked better for the event anyway — the 2004 March for Women's Lives in Washington, DC. Cybill Shepherd and Camryn Manheim also attended the rally in support of welfare reform, pro-choice rights and other women's issues.

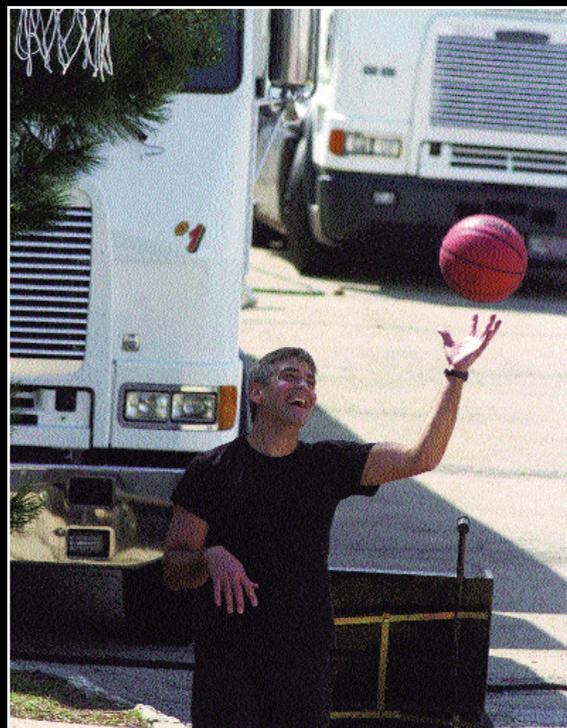


PHOTO FROM IPHOTO

^ George Clooney plays some hoop with crew members and local police officers during a break from shooting *Ocean's 12* in Chicago. Clooney has always been athletic, but his best sport as a kid was baseball. He even earned a tryout with the Cincinnati Reds before becoming an actor.

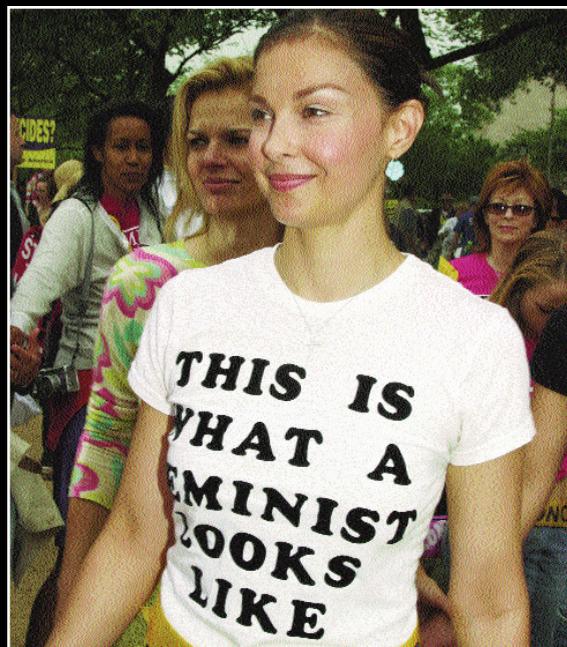


PHOTO BY JEN LOMBARDO/FILMAGIC

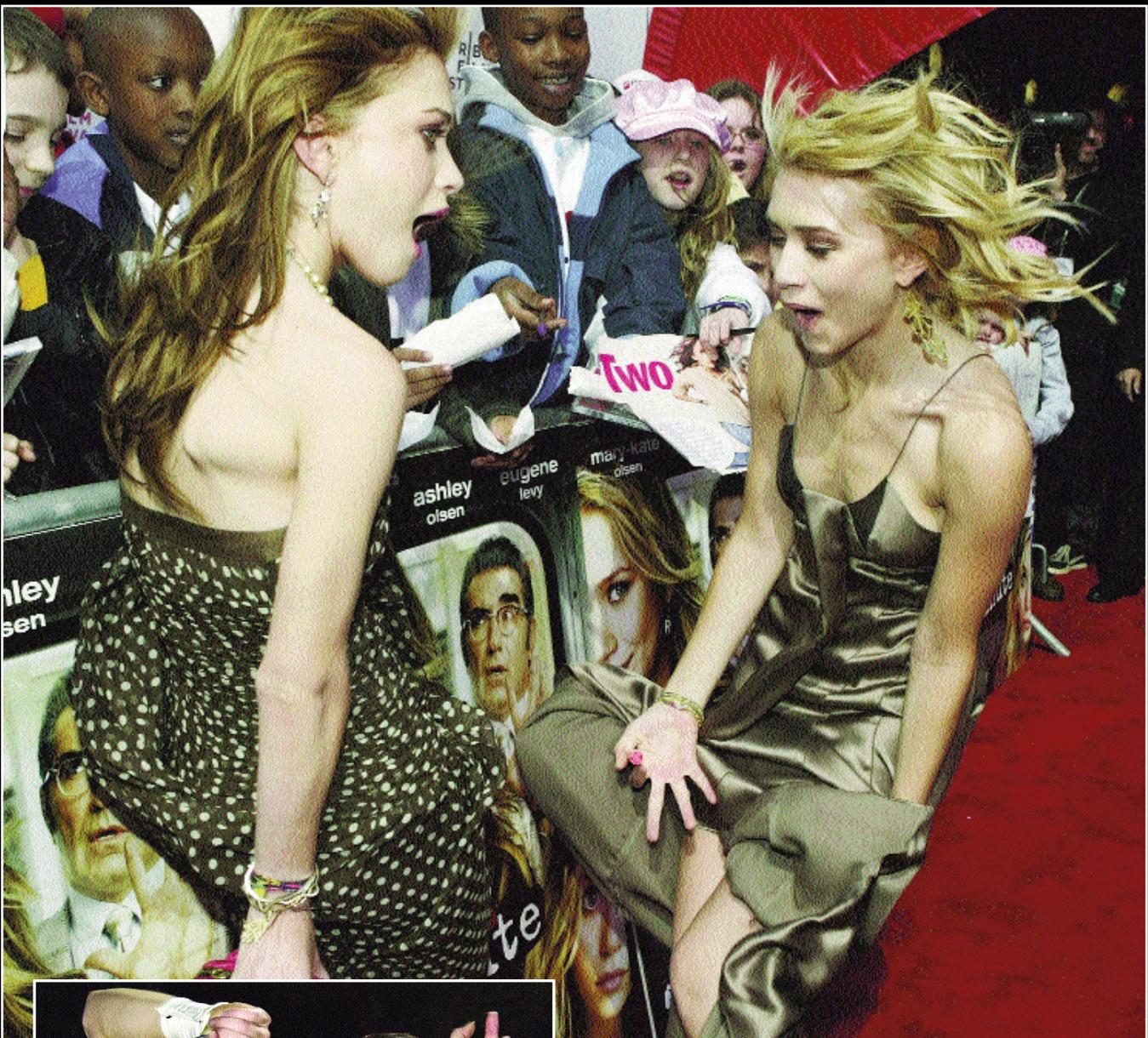


PHOTO BY MARK WANZ/GETTY



PHOTO BY MIKE GUASTELLA/WIREIMAGE

^ Whoops! The Olsen twins' remarkable talent for striking sexy, ^ mannered, come-hither poses is blown away by a gust of wind at the Tribeca Film Festival's premiere of *New York Minute*.

<<< Sometime actor, sometime singer, always kooky Juliette Lewis performs with her punk band The Licks at The Troubadour in West Hollywood. On the band's official website (julietteandthelicks.com) Lewis writes, "I live for the sweat I drip on stage in front of the people and my banged up knees.... My goal is to give everything, all the energy I possess and inject the audience with it. I want them to release through me. I have no fear of rejection or humiliation, I thrive on it."

Extreme acting

Within the past year, Canadian actor Dusan Dukic has experienced the film industry from two extremes. Last December, he got to be a tiny part of a huge Hollywood production when he shot a scene for Steven Spielberg's *The Terminal*. And a couple of months ago, he was a huge part of a tiny — but fascinating — homegrown production, when he filmed *L'Énigme James Brighton*. Based on the true story of an amnesiac who grabbed Montrealers' attention a few years back, *L'Énigme James Brighton* should be released sometime within the next year.

Born in Belgrade, in the former Yugoslavia, Dukic moved with his family to Hamilton, Ont. in 1980. He had always wanted to be an actor, and in 1999 moved to Montreal to attend the National Theatre School of Canada. He now lives in Toronto, but returned to Montreal to appear in *The Terminal*. If you're familiar with the secrecy that always surrounds Spielberg projects, you won't be surprised that Dukic refuses to provide details about his role.

What we do know is that Spielberg, having recently shot parts of *Catch Me if You Can* in Montreal, returned to Mirabel airport to shoot some footage for the largely L.A.-filmed project.

Although Dukic only got to watch Spielberg in action for one day, it was enough to inspire him. "It was great to see a

very well-oiled machine," Dukic says. "Spielberg is a very human director. He talks to everybody: the extras, the crew...it was just amazing to watch."

The Terminal, which opens on June 18, tells the story of Viktor Navorski (Tom Hanks), an Eastern European who is traveling to New York City. While en route, Navorski discovers that his homeland has undergone a coup. Landing in New York with an invalid passport, he is unauthorized to enter the United States and is stranded in the terminal lounge for the duration of his country's war.

"It gave me a little taste of what my career could be," Dukic says jokingly.

At the other end of the spectrum, the starring role in *L'Énigme James Brighton* gave Dukic the chance to display his acting chops — and to speak French for the first time on film. Directed by Denis Langlois, the script was inspired by Matthew Hays (whose name was changed for the film), a young man who was discovered naked and apparently suffering from amnesia in a Montreal parking lot in 1998.

Interestingly, the only thing that Hays knew for sure, was that he was gay. Where *The Terminal* is the most expensive film Dukic has ever been involved with, *L'Énigme James Brighton* is "the project where the budget has been the lowest in my experience," he says.

If you're in Toronto from June 17 to July 31 you can catch Dusan Dukic as Conrad in the Soulpepper Theatre Company production of *Nathan the Wise*.

—JEAN-FRANÇOIS LÉGARÉ

PHOTO: JOCELYN MICHEL



THE WIVES OF STEPFORD HAVE A SECRET



The Stepford Wives

NICOLE
KIDMAN

MATTHEW
BRODERICK

BETTE
MIDLER

CHRISTOPHER
WALKEN

FAITH
HILL

AND
GLENN CLOSE

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DREAMWORKS PICTURES EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DON BOZMAN KERI LYNN SELIG BASED UPON THE BOOK BY IRA LEVIN SCREENPLAY BY PAUL RUDNICK PRODUCED BY SCOTT RUOIN DONALD DE LINE EDGAR J. SCHERICK GABRIEL GRUNFELD DIRECTED BY FRANK OZ

StepfordWives.com



IN THEATRES THIS SUMMER

READ THE NOVEL
FROM HARPERCOLLINS



MUMMY DOLES OUT PUNISHMENT

Sure, the picture may look cheesy, but Universal Studios' new *Revenge of the Mummy — The Ride*, which launches this month at Universal Studios Hollywood and Universal Orlando, represents the latest stage in high-tech, indoor roller coaster technology.

Based on the *Mummy* movies directed by Stephen Sommers — who's also responsible for this summer's creature feature flick *Van Helsing* — the *Mummy* ride is located inside a sound stage built to resemble Imhotep's tomb. The coaster whips



around 1,800 feet of track and not only features your regular plunges and jolts, but incorporates CGI technology to create an intense trip through ancient Egypt.

"Our ride combines the coaster experience with 'dark ride scenes' in a way that's new," says the attraction's creative director John Murdy on the line from Universal Studio's Hollywood theme park.

"Dark ride scenes" are the frights played out around the coaster, and Murdy has included some doozies, including four warrior mummy animatrons (weighing 450 pounds each) that free-fall 20 feet in the air to stop just inches from passengers' heads. Another cool feature is that as the coaster goes deeper into Imhotep's netherworld, blinding, split-second, ultraviolet black light images of his minions appear, leaving an "after-burn" effect that remains on the retina — and in the mind's eye.

But didn't the last *Mummy* movie come out in 2001? Why the three-year lag? "We spent a decade working on this ride," says Murdy. "Even before Stephen Sommers started to work on the first *Mummy* film, he met with us to discuss a possible ride."

So does that mean we'll be seeing a *Van Helsing* ride in the future?

"It's possible," Murdy says coyly. "We met with Stephen before he started writing *Van Helsing*. But you have to be careful, you don't want to spend millions on a ride based on a film that people forget within a few years."

Ironically, the most popular draw at both Universal Studios theme parks is the *Waterworld* ride.

"Yeah, it's funny," says Murdy with a laugh, "the movie that no one went to see turns out to be our number one attraction." —IR

FRIENDLY FIRE?

Forget *The Passion of the Christ* — if you want to talk about pain, suffering and controversy, then let's talk dodgeball!

Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story opens on June 18 and it's sure to bring back painful memories for many; memories of being hit — splat — in the face with a menacing red ball thrown by an evil kid in puke-coloured gym shorts. Or maybe you were that kid, the one who felt a rush every time you nailed some slow-moving classmate.

Either way, the game elicits strong emotions, to the point where it's been banned by some school boards across North America. In a post-Columbine world, a school sport that includes "human targets" makes some educators uneasy.

But according to Rusty Walker, the CEO and president of the International Dodge-Ball Federation (IDBF), the game should be celebrated, not condemned.

"Dodgeball is a sport where girls can truly compete against boys, heavy kids can compete against light kids, short kids can play with and against tall kids — it really doesn't matter," says Walker. "When they are on the court within their classification level, they all have the same chance to have fun."

The IDBF, located in Gulfport, Mississippi, has standardized the many dodgeball rules — although they seem to be the only group to



Dodgeball's deranged Ben Stiller

hyphenate the word *dodgeball* — and it was its rules and regulations the *Dodgeball* filmmakers used in making the movie.

"Not a week went by during production without phone calls from cast or crew about how something was played, or how something was done," says Walker. "We think the movie will really help further promote the sport. Of course, we don't play the game the way the movie portrays it. The movie is, of course, a movie." —IR



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HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN

WHO'S IN IT? Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint

WHO DIRECTED? Alfonso Cuarón (*Y tu Mamá También*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? In this the third *Harry Potter* film, Harry is hunted by escaped con Sirius Black (Gary Oldman), who seems to know a thing or two about Harry's dead parents. And, are those sparks we see flying between Ron and Hermione? Newbie *Potter* director Cuarón should bring the right mix of dread and nascent teen sexuality to the pic. **See Daniel Radcliffe interview, page 20.**

HITS THEATRES JUNE 4

GARFIELD: THE MOVIE

WHO'S IN IT? Breckin Meyer, Jennifer Love Hewitt

WHO DIRECTED? Peter Hewitt (*The Borrowers*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Bill Murray provides the voice of CGI kitty Garfield, who comes to the rescue when nitwit pooch Odie is kidnapped.

HITS THEATRES JUNE 11

JUNE 11

THE STEPFORD WIVES

WHO'S IN IT? Nicole Kidman, Matthew Broderick

WHO DIRECTED? Frank Oz (*The Score*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A couple (Kidman, Broderick) move to the small town of Stepford, Connecticut, where all the women are glamorous, husband-abiding drones. This remake of the '70s feminist thriller sports an awesome supporting cast, including Bette Midler, Glenn Close and Christopher Walken. **See Nicole Kidman interview, page 32.**

THE CHRONICLES OF RIDDICK

WHO'S IN IT? Vin Diesel, Judi Dench

WHO DIRECTED? David Twohy (*Below*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Diesel reprises his role from *Pitch Black*, playing escaped convict Riddick, who's captured by a race of religious fanatics — the Necromongers — determined to destroy the Elemental race (governed by Dame Dench). **See Vin Diesel interview, page 28.**

JUNE 18

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

WHO'S IN IT? Steve Coogan, Jackie Chan

WHO DIRECTED? Frank Coraci (*The Waterboy*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The second big-screen version of Jules Verne's globetrotting tale stars Coogan (*24 Hour Party People*) as the British inventor Phileas Fogg, who bets he and his sidekick Passepartout (Chan) can traverse the planet in 80 Days. Check out the fun interactive website at www.80daysmovie.com.

THE TERMINAL

WHO'S IN IT? Tom Hanks, Catherine Zeta-Jones

WHO DIRECTED? Steven Spielberg (*A.I.*)





WHITE CHICKS

WHO'S IN IT? Shawn Wayans, Marlon Wayans

WHO DIRECTED? Keenen Ivory Wayans (*Scary Movie 2*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Two FBI agents (the Wayans brothers) disguise themselves as the white Wilton sisters, hotel heiresses who are in mortal danger after they inadvertently mess up a drug bust.

HITS THEATRES JUNE 23

TWO BROTHERS

WHO'S IN IT? Guy Pearce, Christian Clavier

WHO DIRECTED? Jean-Jacques Annaud (*Enemy at the Gate*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Set in the Cambodian countryside during the '20s, this heartwarming tale follows twin tigers — one shy, one bold — who are separated as cubs, only to be reunited as enemies when they reach maturity.

HITS THEATRES JUNE 25

▶▶ **WHAT'S IT ABOUT?** Hanks stars as an Eastern European immigrant whose passport is deemed invalid, thus forcing him to stay put inside a New York City airport. Some of the film's scenes were shot at Montreal's Mirabel airport.

DARKNESS

WHO'S IN IT? Anna Paquin, Lena Olin

WHO DIRECTED? Jaume Balagueró (*The Nameless Sin*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A teenager (Paquin) and her family start to go mad when they move into a haunted house in the Spanish countryside.

DODGEBALL: A TRUE UNDERDOG STORY

WHO'S IN IT? Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller

WHO DIRECTED? Rawson Marshall Thurber (debut)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A gaggle of losers enter a Las Vegas dodgeball tournament to earn the moolah needed to save their grungy gym.

JUNE 25

THE NOTEBOOK

WHO'S IN IT? Rachel McAdams, Ryan Gosling

WHO DIRECTED? Nick Cassavetes (*John Q*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Southwestern Ontario natives McAdams and Gosling team up for this two-hankie weeper about a pair of young, star-crossed lovers in the American Deep South. Co-starring James Garner and Gena Rowlands, and directed by Rowlands' son, Cassavetes. **See Ryan Gosling interview, page 24.**





DE-LOVELY

WHO'S IN IT? Kevin Kline, Ashley Judd

WHO DIRECTED? Irwin Winkler (*Life as a House*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Gay composer Cole Porter (Kline) finds sexual satisfaction with men, but is inspired musically by his wife, Linda Lee (Judd). Pop stars Robbie Williams, Alanis Morissette, Elvis Costello and Sheryl Crow lend their vocal talents to this musical.

HITS THEATRES JUNE 25

SPIDER-MAN 2

WHO'S IN IT? Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst

WHO DIRECTED? Sam Raimi (*Spider-Man*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Peter Parker, a.k.a. Spidey, is now a college student who pines for lost love Mary-Jane (Dunst) while having to do battle with the tentacled Doctor Octopus (Alfred Molina). The budget for this sequel nudged over the \$200-million mark, but when you consider the first movie made \$114-million over its three-day opening weekend, it's likely the producers will recoup their investment.

HITS THEATRES JUNE 30



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any given
moment. I
want to be
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Who doesn't?

- Julia



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Vince VAUGHN

NOW APPEARING IN... *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story* as a hapless gym owner who enters a team in a dodgeball tourney to save his business from being bought out by a freaky fitness nut (Ben Stiller).

BIO BITS: “You’re so money.” With that phrase Vince Vaughn ensured his place in the pantheon of smarmy movie heroes. Playing the creepy, but oh-so funny, lounge lizard Trent in *Swingers*, the then-26-year-old actor manifested a retro cool vibe and a self-deprecating charm that had Hollywood insiders talking about can’t-miss stardom. But that’s not exactly how things have worked out for Vaughn.

He was born in Minneapolis on March 28, 1970, but grew up in the upper-class suburb of Lake Forest, Illinois. His dad, Vernon, was a salesman while his mom, Sharon, worked in real estate. Vaughn claims it was his father’s obsession with westerns that got him interested in performing — his dad would make young Vince act out all the parts while they were watching on TV. Vaughn’s mom involved her high-energy child in local community theatre and he was hooked. His first paying job was for a national Chevrolet “Heartbeat of America” commercial (he caught a set of car keys at the end). It paid \$50,000, and with that wad of cash,

and riding his first blush of success, the 18-year-old Vaughn packed up his car and drove out to Hollywood thinking he was going to be a star.

Flash forward seven years to find Vaughn scratching by as a mostly unemployed actor working on TV shows such as *China Beach*, *Doogie Howser, M.D.* and *21 Jump Street*. He had a bit part in the 1993 movie *Rudy*, and it was on that set that he met aspiring actor/writer/director Jon Favreau. They became pals, and when Favreau’s script *Swingers* was put into production, Vaughn was cast as the mouthy Trent.

Steven Spielberg loved *Swingers*, and Vaughn in particular, and cast the relative unknown in his massive *Jurassic Park* sequel, *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*. Getting the Spielberg stamp of approval meant Vaughn was offered prime scripts, but he didn’t want to be pigeonholed as a comedian or action star, so he made a string of character driven films such as *A Cool, Dry Place*, *Return to Paradise*, *Clay Pigeons* and the remake of *Psycho*.

Vaughn, who brings an acerbic, nasty edge to his roles, has proven he can act, but audiences seem to like him more as a funny guy than as a brooding character actor. Beginning in 2001, when he reunited with Favreau for the mob comedy *Made*, Vaughn has returned to comedies, taking parts in *Zoolander*, *Old School*, *Starsky and Hutch*, *Dodgeball* and the upcoming *Anchorman*.

SAMPLE ROLES: Peter in *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story* (2004), Reese in *Starsky and Hutch* (2004), Beanie in *Old School* (2003), Ricky in *Made* (2001), Agent Novak in *The Cell* (2000), Norman in *Psycho* (1998), Nick in *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* (1997), Trent in *Swingers* (1996)

LOVE LIFE: Has been linked to actor Ashley Judd, Janeane Garofalo and Anne Heche. Lived with Joey Lauren Adams.

TRIVIA: His elementary school sent the hyperactive Vaughn to a psychiatrist, who recommended he take Ritalin, but his parents refused to give it to him. ● Elected class president of his high school. ● Was arrested in 2000 after a bar scuffle in Wilmington, N.C. ● His mother grew up in Brantford, Ontario.

ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SHOOTING *SWINGERS* AND *LOST WORLD*: “Yeah, it was different. Filming *Lost World* was legal — we had permits.” [*Calgary Sun*, June, 1997] —IR



Vaughn (centre) and his misfit jocks in *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story*



GAMES OF THE MONTH

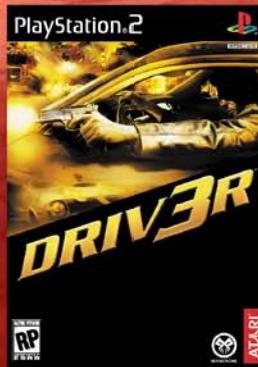
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Deconstructing Harry

Four years ago **Daniel Radcliffe** was introduced to the world as a Harry Potter clone. Now, with the glasses gone and his hair grown out, the real Radcliffe is emerging. We check in with the teen actor as the third, and darkest, Harry Potter movie is released | **BY EARL DITTMAN**

Dressed in a pair of stonewashed jeans and a faded Sex Pistols “God Save The Queen” T-shirt, wearing contacts and sporting shoulder-length hair, 14-year-old Daniel Radcliffe now only vaguely resembles Harry Potter, the young wizard whose magical adventures captivated millions of moviegoers in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone* and *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*.

Surprisingly, while both adaptations of the J.K. Rowling books have become cultural phenomena, many of the star-seeking Times Square tourists who are blindly bumping into Radcliffe don’t seem to realize they’ve just brushed up against the star of two of the top-grossing movies of all time. That suits the polite, punk music-loving actor just fine.

“I’m glad I don’t have to roam the streets of New York in disguise,” Radcliffe says. “I’d stay in my hotel if I had to do something like that. I would hate it. I mean, when the first two films came out, I had to have bodyguards because I created such a ruckus everywhere I went.”

The British teen just hopes this month’s release of the third Harry Potter movie doesn’t completely change his newfound status as one of the most unrecognized superstars in the world.

“I really pray *The Prisoner of Azkaban* doesn’t make me really famous again, because I love being completely anonymous and I’ve felt like that for almost two years,” a now deeper-voiced Radcliffe admits later in the day during lunch in his Central Park hotel suite.

“I mean, when I’m on the streets of a big city like New York and no one really recognizes me, it reminds me that I’m just a normal teenager. And that’s all I am. I know how to deal with everything that goes with that. Being famous is a little different. I still don’t understand how to deal with being treated like a celebrity. Being Harry Potter is just my job when I’m not at school. Any time I have on glasses, wear a tie or have my hair cut like Harry Potter, though, I

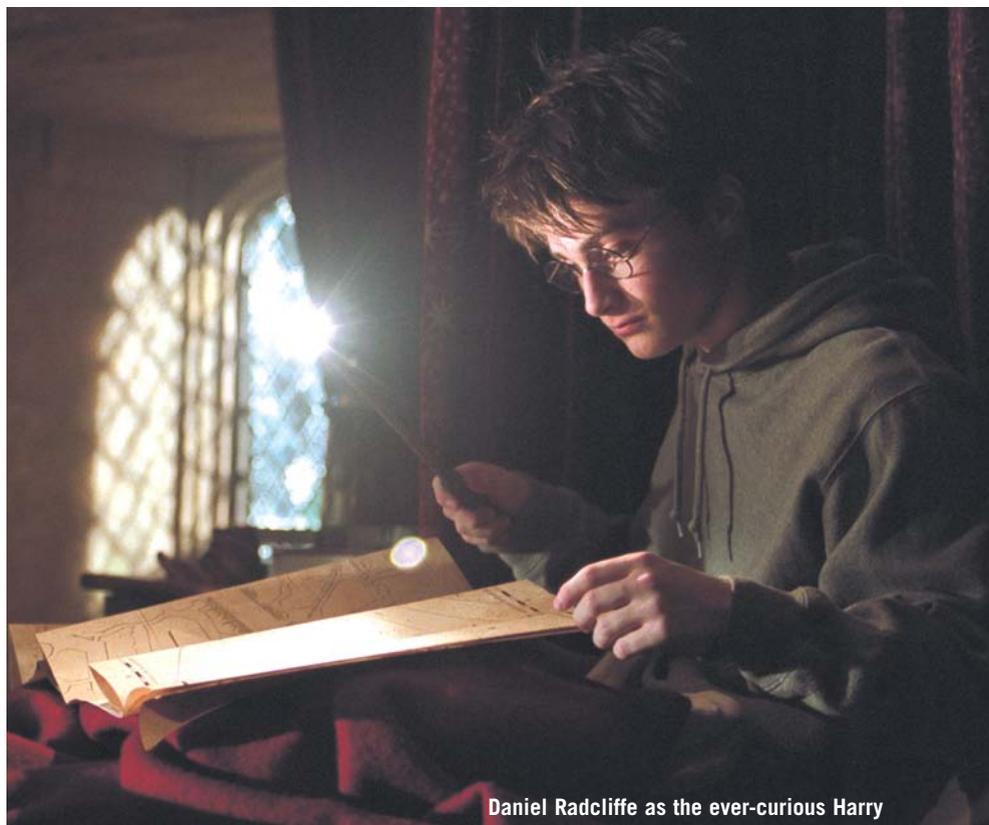
absolutely get mugged. I could be in the middle of the desert and people would recognize me and think of me as Harry Potter. It’s maddening.

“Don’t get me wrong, though, I love the fact that [director] Chris Columbus gave me the chance to portray Harry Potter,” Radcliffe says of the filmmaker behind the first two Potter pictures. “I mean, even J.K. Rowling, Harry’s creator, personally thanked me for playing the role. After the London premiere of *The Chamber of Secrets*, she gave me a little hug and said, ‘Thanks for bringing Harry Potter to life — you’re the best.’ That was the greatest thing anyone could have told me, because she made me feel like all the hard work — and the craziness — had been worth it.... Mentally, what she said really helped me, because I felt *The Prisoner of Azkaban* was going to be tougher to

make than the other two.”

One reason Radcliffe thought *Prisoner of Azkaban* would be harder, was that Chris Columbus had handed the director’s reins over to Mexican moviemaker Alfonso Cuarón (who helmed the sexually explicit *Y Tu Mamá También*). The news came as a jolt to the trio of actors at the core of the Harry Potter films.

“Initially, I think Rupert [Grint], Emma [Watson] and myself felt *Azkaban* was going to be more difficult and laborious, because we had grown to depend so much on Chris,” says Radcliffe. “To be honest, I was simply disappointed. I was going to miss him. He had taught me how to be Harry. But when Chris told us he wanted to spend more time with his children, because he was missing out on their childhood, I began to understand his decision. I realized we were being selfish and childish. But ▶▶



Daniel Radcliffe as the ever-curious Harry

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▶▶ when he promised all of us that he would still be on the set, as a producer, and that he wasn't completely abandoning us, I know I felt a lot better. I thought to myself, 'Thank goodness I won't be an orphan in the movie and on the set, too.' And once we started working with Alfonso and got to know him, we instantly felt like there was nothing to worry about. In fact, it was great having both of them around because *The Prisoner of Azkaban* is such a different Harry Potter film."

In his latest screen adventure, Harry returns to Hogwarts for his third year of wizard training where he once again teams up with his trusty friends Ron (Grint) and Hermione (Watson). Beloved headmaster Albus Dumbledore (Michael Gambon, replacing the late Richard Harris) immediately warns his students that mass murderer Sirius Black (Gary Oldman) has broken out of Azkaban prison and is headed for Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry for unknown, but surely deadly, reasons. While keeping a watchful eye over the safety of his friends, Potter is also dealing with the horrifying changes that accompany puberty.

"Harry's learning what it's like to be a teenager, and it's not always fun. I know that from experience," Radcliffe says with a laugh. "At times, I think he finds teenage life more frightening than this mass murderer. However, he has to be strong to protect his friends and fellow students. So, he soon begins to confront his own fears and becomes more confident in the process. Basically,

Harry is becoming a young man."

While many critics are predicting *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* may be too frightening and edgy for younger viewers, Radcliffe insists the film isn't excessively bloody for sheer shock value. "It does have a darker feel than the first two films," Radcliffe admits. "But that's the tone of the book. Harry is growing up. I just think Alfonso has made a Harry Potter film that is interesting to kids, teenagers and adults. The appeal is more diverse with this film, and I think that's a good thing."

But will the adolescent girls, from London to Los Angeles, who have posters of Radcliffe on their walls have any problem with the film's edge and intensity? These millions of prepubescent female fans not only helped make the first two movies into huge hits, they also transformed Radcliffe into a bona fide sex symbol — a fact that still perplexes the young Brit.

"Personally, I can't actually see this heartthrob stuff," Radcliffe says coyly. "If other people can, then that's great. I do understand people going, 'Wow, it's that Harry kid' or 'Has anyone ever told you that you look a lot like Harry Potter?' But I definitely don't feel like a sex symbol, that's for sure. Someone is certainly pulling the wool over a lot of people's eyes when it comes to me being a hunk. I don't think there's enough magic in the world to ever make that come true." **F**

Earl Dittman is a freelance entertainment writer based in Houston, Texas.



Radcliffe and director Alfonso Cuarón bond on set

famous TRIVIA

- 1 Which *Star Wars* character is voiced by Frank Oz, director of the new Nicole Kidman movie *The Stepford Wives*?
- 2 Who wrote the novel on which the new adventure movie *Around the World in 80 Days* is based?
- 3 *The Terminal* marks the third time Steven Spielberg has directed Tom Hanks for the big screen. Can you name the other two?
- 4 Bill Murray is the voice of Garfield the cat in the cartoon *Garfield: The Movie*. Name the 1984 movie that was supposed to turn Murray into a serious dramatic actor, but flopped.
- 5 Which star of the goofy *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story* made his big-screen debut in the six-time Oscar-nominated historical drama *Empire of the Sun*?
- 6 The Wayans brothers (director Keenan, actors Shawn and Marlon) team up for this month's *White Chicks*. Which brother was set to play Robin in *Batman Returns* before the character was cut?

answers

1. Yoda
2. Jules Verne
3. *Saving Private Ryan* and *Catch Me if You Can*
4. *The Razor's Edge*
5. Ben Stiller
6. Marlon

BEFORE RETURNING TO HOGWARTS

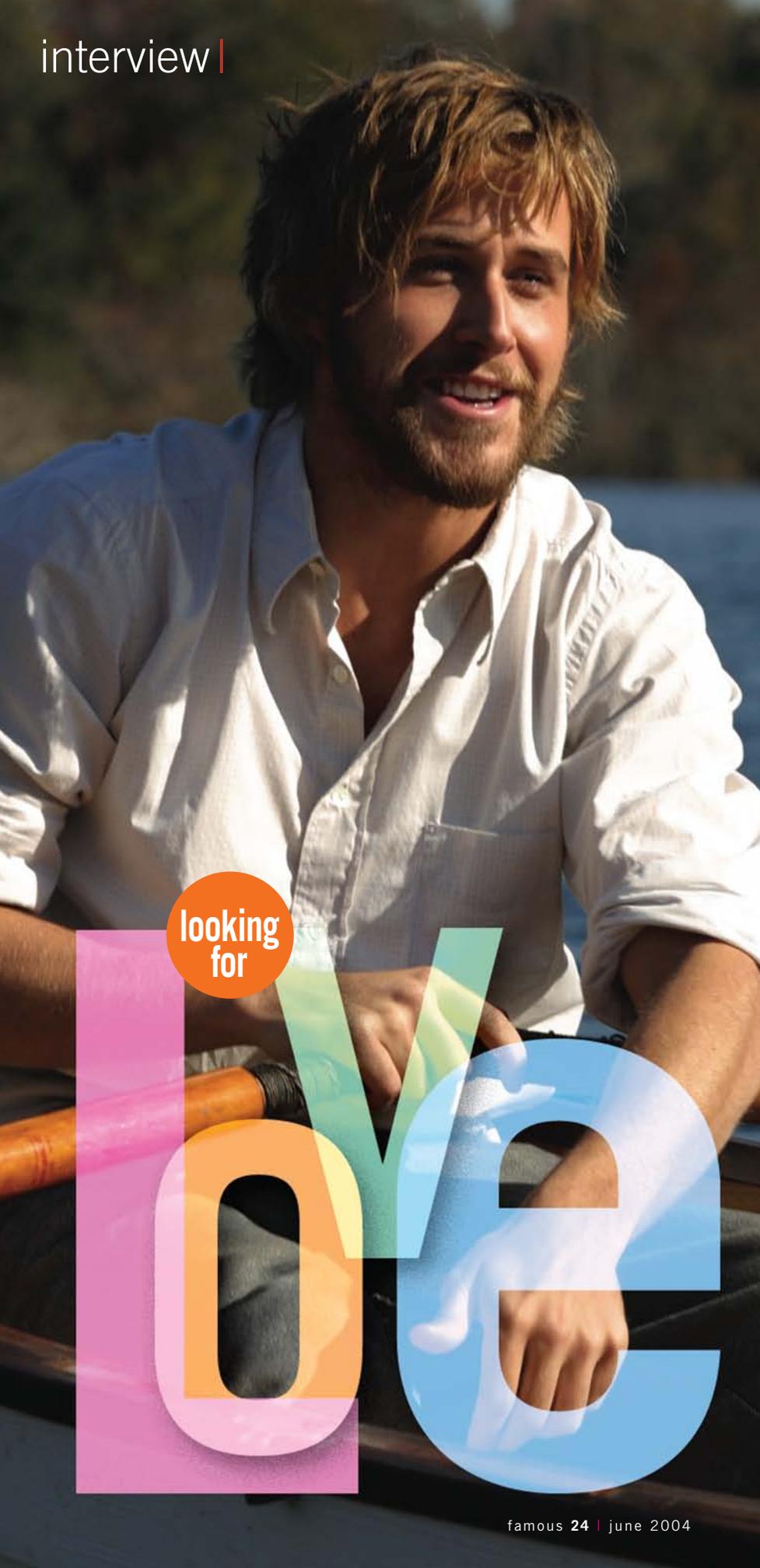


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Canadian **Ryan Gosling** has wowed critics and filmmakers with a string of intense, disturbing characters. Now, with his first romantic lead, he tries to prove he's as good a lover as a fighter | **BY EARL DITTMAN**

Although he has yet to become a one-name icon like Britney, Justin and Christina — his former cast mates from *The New Mickey Mouse Club* — many in Hollywood predict 23-year-old Ryan Gosling will have a solid acting career long after his former cohorts have been reduced to Trivial Pursuit questions.

From his shocking performance as a teen neo-Nazi in *The Believer* to a sociopathic killer in *Murder by Numbers* to his horrifying portrayal of a teen who kills a disabled youngster in *The United States of Leland*, the Cornwall, Ontario-born Gosling is becoming known as one of the most talented young actors working today. He's even nabbed a role in the long-in-production *Che*, a historical drama about Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara with a screenplay by reclusive filmmaker Terrence Malick and directed by Steven Soderbergh. And he was named the Male Star of Tomorrow at this year's ShoWest movie industry conference in Las Vegas.

But, aside from a two-year stint on TV's cheesy action series *Young Hercules*, Gosling has mostly played intense and disturbed characters. So the question was, could he deliver in a romance or comedy? When he received the screenplay for the Nick Cassavetes-directed love story *The Notebook*, Gosling felt it was his chance to prove he could play a lover. "Although people may not believe it, I am a real romantic at heart," he says.

In *The Notebook*, James Garner plays a senior at an old folks' home in the American deep south who helps an Alzheimer's patient (Gena Rowlands) by reading her the same love story — *The Notebook* — over and over again. In that story, rough-around-the-edges farm boy Noah (Gosling) falls for rich city girl Allie (*Mean Girls'* Rachel McAdams, who coincidentally also hails from southwestern Ontario) at a carnival. She's visiting his small town for the summer and, although she resists at

first, he slowly wins her over with his persistence and charm. But Allie's mother (Joan Allen) is against the union and does everything she can to break it up. But is the story true? And were Garner's and Rowlands' characters involved in the romance?

Gosling spoke with *Famous* by phone from L.A. where he was in the middle of a day of meetings with various directors about upcoming projects.

Did you do *The Notebook* because it was directed by Nick Cassavetes, son of one of your favourite directors, John Cassavetes?

"Maybe subconsciously, but Nick was actually the one who wanted me in the movie. That blew me away. I didn't think I would have a chance to be picked for it, especially by Nick Cassavetes. When Nick came up to me and asked me to do it, I said to him, 'This is not the face of a romantic lead [laughs].' He was like, 'Yeah, I know, that's why I want you to do it. Because, that way, when she says she loves you, it's for the right reasons.'"

Was *The New Mickey Mouse Club* your start in acting?

"I really don't think of that time as acting on my part. I just went to the set and operated on some survival instinct [laughs]. I was just being 11 and doing what I was told."

When did you first feel like an actor?

"When I worked on a film set for the first time. I was an extra for *Remember the Titans*, and it made me feel like there might be a place for me in acting

somewhere. Then I got *Young Hercules*, which was a great training ground for me. I went to New Zealand for about two years and learned what it was like to act in front of a camera. It was incredible. I also loved the country, because it's so similar to Canada in a lot of ways. It's just the most beautiful place that I've ever been to."

Do you wish you had never been on the *Mickey Mouse* show?

"Not at all, because I owe everything to *The Mickey Mouse Club*. We all do."

How did you get the job?

"I'm from Cornwall, Ontario, and it's just not an option to be in movies in Cornwall. My family works in paper mills, and I think I was expected to work there when I got old enough. But I wanted to be an actor. One day, someone told me about an ad for this audition, for this show, in our local newspaper. So I went to the audition in Montreal and got really lucky. I got the part. I had to move to Florida for two years, where we did it, but it was good for me."

Did you have a sense that your co-stars would become so famous?

"Well, I mean, I knew that they were all prodigies. I mean, they were all like special, special kids, and you can tell that.... To be honest, the whole Britney thing was a surprise, I have to tell you, and not because of her talent, but just because she was little Britney when I knew her. She was 11 years old, and she wore like big, baggy T-shirts and a ball cap and was one of the boys, and then,

all of a sudden, she's singing 'Hit Me Baby One More Time' in a school girl uniform and everyone's drooling over her. It just felt wrong, because she was a kid [laughs]."

Do you keep in touch with any of them?

"They're famous, don't you know? When you're a superstar you don't have time to call old acquaintances."

But you're getting awfully famous yourself.

"I don't have my own jet plane yet. I still have a ways to go before we are in the same tax bracket."

Life sure has changed for you since you were a kid, hasn't it?

"Oh yeah, I was the one voted most likely to end up in an insane asylum by graduation time [laughs]. Of course, I'm in Hollywood now, so maybe they were right."

Is it true that you still couldn't perform the basic "Rs" — reading, writing and arithmetic — by sixth grade?

"That's absolutely correct. I don't know why, but I had never learned the basic skills. I'm sure it's the same with American educators, but my teachers in Canada just kept passing me because they really didn't want to deal with me being this kid who was basically an educational nightmare."

Did anything change when you went to high school in Burlington, Ontario?

"Yeah, it got worse. It was a total downward spiral. My teachers decided to label me 'the simple one.' You know, ▶▶



Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams in *The Notebook*



A bit of a method actor, Gosling actually made this rather handy table



▶▶ retarded. So they put me in Special Ed classes and said, 'Ryan, you're just not as smart as everyone else.' The other kids realized the teacher didn't give a crap about me and started calling me names, saying, 'You're stupid.' The bad part is, I believed it. And, like in any species of the animal kingdom, the alpha males attack who they perceive as the weakest. And I was thought of as easy prey for the bullies."

What kind of things did they do to you?

"The normal things, like calling me a freak to my face and harassing me. I was singled out as 'the stupid guy' and got beat up every single day. But there was one day that I'll never forget, where they were ready to kill me."

What happened?

"I just remember it being a really cold winter, even for Canada. And I was walking home from school. These jerks, who always beat me up, grabbed me and pushed me down to the ground. The boys pinned me down and that's when the beating began. They had collected huge ice chunks from the building outside of the schoolyard. Two guys held me while the other boys kept beating me in the face with the ice. Luckily, I think a teacher or parent saw what was happening and scared them away."

How were they punished?

"They weren't. No one at that school even cared that those boys beat me so severely. It made me so angry. It wasn't even the beating that made me so mad. It was the fact that no one did anything."

So what did your parents do?

"My mother pulled me out of public school, because she thought the administrators were either going to let me get killed or be an illiterate for the rest of my life. She convinced my dad that home schooling was the only thing that would work for me."

Do you ever run into those boys who beat you when you go home?

"Surprisingly, I do run into the guys who used to torture me in school. That's why it makes me feel bizarre when I go back to Canada. Of course, those guys don't remember any of it. They're like, 'Wow, you're in movies. Remember when we were really good friends in school?' It leaves me speechless. I think maybe I'll call them on it, but they would just deny it, remember it differently or claim it didn't happen."

The tabloids claim you were dating Sandra Bullock, your *Murder by Numbers* co-star. Is that true?

"I guess those rumours are to be expected when you are a superstar, Sandy not me [laughs]. I can just tell you that she's really cool, and we have remained the best of friends since doing the movie. But, to answer your question, I don't have a girlfriend and the tabloids seldom get anything right."

You are so open about your dismal childhood, but you're pretty tight-lipped about your personal life. Why is that?

"Talking about the bad things I went through as a kid could very well help other children out there who might be going through the same thing.... As for who I'm dating, I don't think divulging who I'm seeing or the secrets or my love life

will help cure cancer or contribute to world peace [laughs]."

Are you excited about working on *Che* with Terrence Malick?

"More than you can imagine. If I didn't admire Malick so much, I wouldn't have grown this horrible beard I'm stuck with [laughs]. I can't stand it, it drives me crazy. He's a very quiet man, but he's a genius filmmaker."

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

"Unless something bad happens, I'll still be sitting here talking about my new movie in 20 years, if you want to hear about it. And, personally, I just want to be happy with someone I really love, whether they are in this business or not. I mean, contrary to what the tabloids like to claim, two people who act in movies together can have meaningful, long-lasting relationships."

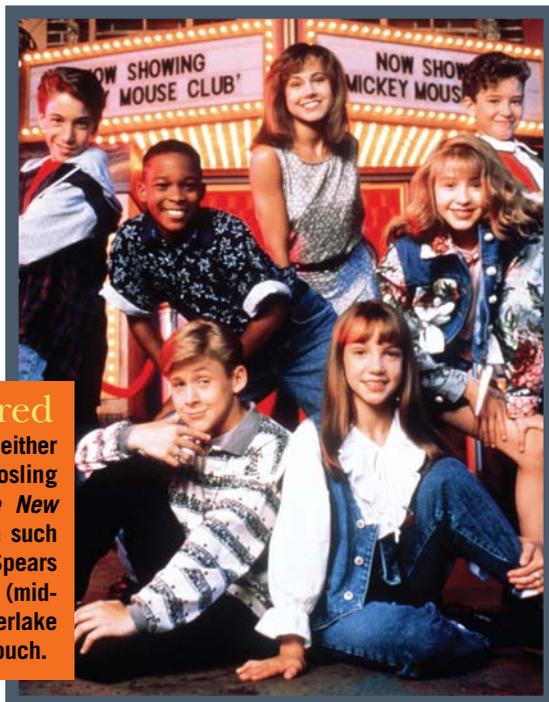
Did *The Notebook* bring out the romantic in you?

"Unbelievably so. I'm a hopeless romantic anyway, so doing the film has just made me a blubbering idiot ready to fall in love at the drop of a hat. Of course, by the time I finish *Che*, I'll be ready to start a revolution, so I better find the love of my life pretty quick." **F**

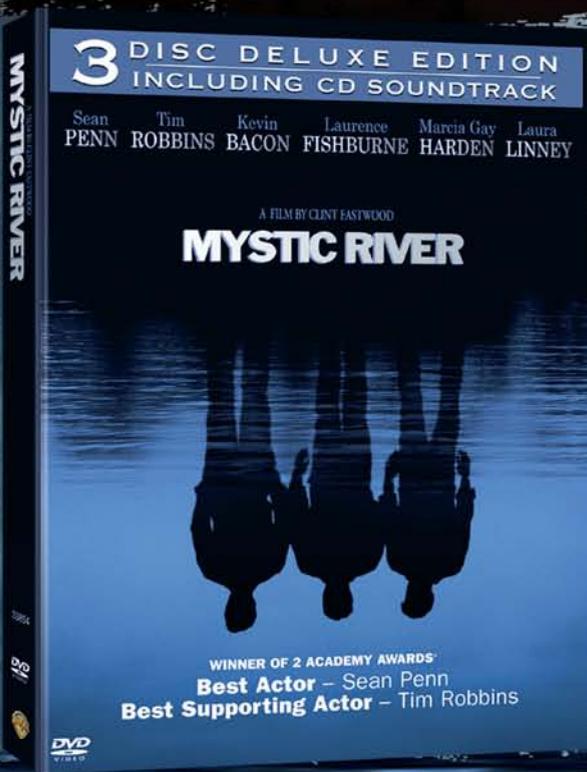
Earl Dittman is a freelance entertainment writer based in Houston, Texas.

The mice that roared

Despite a claim that he can neither sing nor dance, in 1993 Ryan Gosling (bottom left) was part of *The New Mickey Mouse Club* along with such future superstars as Britney Spears (front right), Christina Aguilera (middle row, right) and Justin Timberlake (top right). They don't keep in touch.



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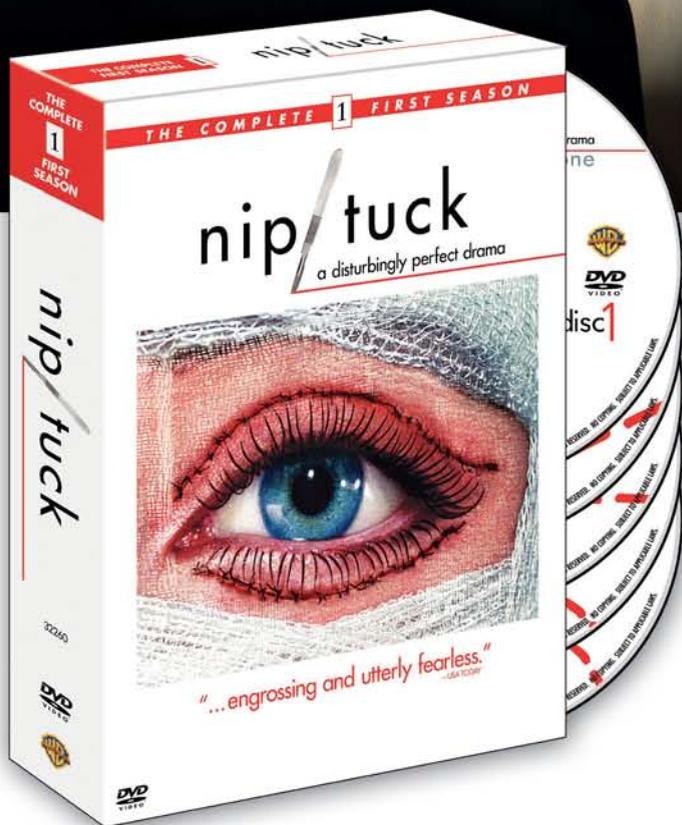
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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?"

JOHN CHO
HAROLD & KUMAR
KAL PENN
GO TO
White Castle

Fast Food. High Times.



NEW LINE CINEMA PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH SENATOR INTERNATIONAL A SENATOR INTERNATIONAL/KINGSGATE PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH ENDGAME ENTERTAINMENT A FILM BY DANNY LEINER
"HAROLD & KUMAR GO TO WHITE CASTLE" JOHN CHO KAL PENN NEIL PATRICK HARRIS ANTHONY ANDERSON FRED WILLARD CASTING BY CASSANDRA KULUKUNDIS MUSIC BY DAVID KITAY EDITOR JEFF BETANCOURT
PRODUCTION DESIGNER STEVE ROSENZWEIG DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY BRUCE DOUGLAS JOHNSON CO-PRODUCER J. MILES DALE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOE DRAKE CARSTEN LORENZ HANNO HUTH J. DAVID BREWINGTON, JR. LUKE RYAN
PRODUCED BY GREG SHAPIRO NATHAN KAHANE WRITTEN BY JON HURWITZ & HAYDEN SCHLOSSBERG DIRECTED BY DANNY LEINER

SUBJECT TO CLASSIFICATION



AOL KEYWORD: HAROLD AND KUMAR

IN THEATRES JULY 30TH

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It's a Wonderful wife



Not happy with the woman you married? Replace her with a subservient robot. That's the world **Nicole Kidman** explores in the remake of the creepy '70s book *The Stepford Wives*. Here Kidman talks about why the premise is actually pretty funny, her own infamous marriage, and how she's raising her kids

BY EARL DITTMAN

After dancing herself to death in *Moulin Rouge!*, literally drowning her sorrows in *The Hours*, surviving the Civil War in *Cold Mountain*, and sleeping with the entire male population of a tiny township in the grim *Dogville*, Nicole Kidman began to wonder if it wasn't time to let moviegoers have a good time at one of her films.

"One day, a friend of mine joked that we'd have to pass out free razor blades at a film festival of Nicole Kidman's latest work," the 37-year-old, Hawaiian-born, Australian-raised actor recalls over the phone from L.A. "I mean, I had been doing some great films, in my opinion, but they were all a bit depressing. Even *Moulin Rouge!* — it's this gorgeous, ornate musical that could have been done in the Golden Age of Hollywood, but my character, Satine, dies at the end."

Fortunately, just before she left for Transylvania to shoot *Cold Mountain* Kidman started to get some funny scripts. "That was a blessing in disguise because there wasn't much to do in Transylvania except go through these wonderful screenplays.... Surprisingly, the comedies that really appealed to me were the remakes, particularly *Bewitched* and *The Stepford Wives*."

A cult classic since its release in 1975, the original Bryan Forbes version of

I, Robot: Nicole Kidman in *The Stepford Wives*

The Stepford Wives (based on the novel by Ira Levin) was a dark, cautionary tale about the misuse of technology. When a husband in the upper-crust town of Stepford becomes dissatisfied with his wife's desire for independence, or her refusal to fulfill her "wifely duties," he surreptitiously replaces her with an identical-looking robot who appears to be the perfect spouse.

"Originally, it had a scary, Big Brother-like premise, but when you look at it now, it's seems very campy and funny," Kidman says.

In this update (directed by Frank Oz and co-starring Matthew Broderick, Bette Midler, Jon Lovitz and Glenn Close), the married men of The Stepford Country Club greet all new male members with the option to create a perfect wife for the perfect family that will fit neatly in their perfect tiny town. Broderick's character, however, is happy with his mate (Kidman) and, at first, resists. The hubby played by Jon Lovitz, however, can't wait to trade in his loud-mouthed, ex-hippy wife (Midler) for a sweeter, gentler model.

This movie is based on a book that was written in 1972, is it still fresh?

"With cloning, robotics and all these advances in technology happening in this new millennium, it's a bit weird Ira Levin predicted all these things three decades ago. Our film says to watch out for the dangers of technology, but we don't do it in a *Terminator* or *Matrix* kind of way. We do it in a much campier, funnier way. Honestly, I laughed every day we filmed this movie. And it felt good. It certainly put me in the mood to do more comedies."

Do you remember going to see the first version of *The Stepford Wives*?

"I do, but I think I saw it a couple of years after it had been released. Maybe I even saw it on television. But I remember it gave me nightmares. I thought, 'If I get married, will my husband want to turn me into a Stepford Wife?'"

And did your husband want you to be a Stepford Wife?

"You're not going to trick me that easily [laughs]. In a way, I think that's what makes our movie so funny, the fact that most married men want these perfect, obedient, model-looking spouses. Personally, I wouldn't want to be with



someone who was perfect. Would you? What's the fun in that? Life is about great surprises from spontaneous people. I'd get bored, very quickly, with someone who was perfect. Or thought they were, if you know what I mean [laughs]."

You may not have been the perfect wife for one man, but don't you think you've become inspirational for women who are under pressure?

"I don't know, but my mother would be proud of that [laughs]. I'm going to tell her you said that tonight on the phone. She's always sort of given me good advice, she's so defined me in terms of who I am, and through good times and bad times, I've had a mother who has been very, very strong and hard on me at times, but still with love."

Are you the same way with your daughter?

"No, I'm a little softer."

Is that a reaction to how you were raised?

"My parents never got divorced. My children, who are adopted, have now gone through a divorce, and I think once your children have been through that they need to be treated with kid gloves."

Many people have speculated that the long, drawn-out process of making *Eyes Wide Shut* contributed to the breakup of your marriage. Any truth to that?

"I can absolutely say with confidence that doing *Eyes Wide Shut* didn't have any affect on what went on to end our marriage. Maybe in the future, after some time has passed, I can talk about what really happened to cause its demise."

Now that you are no longer the wife of Tom Cruise, you've been linked to men from Jude Law to Lenny Kravitz. Is it tough for a woman of your stature to date?

"Very much so. For example, if I just talked to a guy or was sort of affectionate with a male friend, then suddenly, I'm *with* them. I think that's daunting for the men as well. But, at the moment, I'm so occupied with my two children, I have a totally different life from a lot of women my age, actually, because Tom and I had children at a young age. So I now have a pre-teen and a teenager who both require an enormous amount of work and an enormous amount of love."

Do you keep them out of the public eye?

"I don't take them to premieres, and I've never willingly had them photographed. Of course, the paparazzi have photographed them.... I once took my son to a Lakers game and he got photographed, but he loves the Lakers, so what am I going to do? I don't hold them back from going to things, but I really try to give them the most together, normal, if you want to call it that, life that I can."



Tea for three: From left, Glenn Close, Nicole Kidman and Bette Midler

►► **Director Baz Luhrmann said he's thinking about bringing *Moulin Rouge!* to Broadway.**

"Did he? I'll ask Bazzy about that. I like what he did with *La Boheme*. I flew to San Francisco to see it when it was first playing. I got on a plane, went up there and saw it. You've got to stick by your friends."

So would you like to do *Moulin Rouge!* on Broadway?

"I don't think that he'd ask me. But, if he did, I don't think I could play Satine again. I loved it, but it was hard, hard work. I think I'm getting too old to do a musical for eight shows a week. I'm getting old, babe."

What's happening with *Bewitched*?

"They're polishing up the script, and I should be starting it sometime soon. Since I'm playing Samantha, though, I still have a lot of practice to do. I haven't gotten the nose twinkle down yet, but I'm determined that they won't have to use CGI for it."

If you had magical powers like Samantha, what would you do?

"Oh gosh, there are so many things I'd want to do. Of course, I would have to say world peace and tolerance. If I had magical powers, I would do away with all the hate that created 9/11 and the killing that goes on in every part of the world. And I would get everyone to love one another, regardless of their differences. But you don't need magical powers to make those things happen. You can start by teaching your children and everyone you know tolerance, love and understanding."

Do you think you are as enthusiastic about your work as you were when you first started acting?

"Enthusiastic? I think that I would say passionate. I love to act and I am committed to it.... But as you get older, you start to choose projects less frequently. You get tired more easily, but you realize there is so much more to life. If I am 85, and I'm on my death bed, I want to be able to look back and say, 'I didn't just act, I lived. I traveled the world. I learned to speak Italian fluently. I'm a great cook and I'm a great mother.' There are so many things that I want to be able to say that I did with my life, but one of them would be to say, 'I worked with the greatest directors in the world.' And I will remain passionate and committed to that for the rest of my life." **E**

Earl Dittman is a freelance entertainment writer based in Houston, Texas.



Nicole Kidman: the wife of the party

coming soon

THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE >> (June)

Stars: Denzel Washington, Meryl Streep
Director: Jonathan Demme (*Philadelphia*)
Story: Paranoids everywhere will rejoice at the revival of one of the all-time great conspiracy movies. In fact, if you've seen the 1962 version, just reading that title a few lines back sent shivers down your spine. A bunch of American soldiers are taken hostage (in the original it was during the Korean War, now it's the first Gulf War) and brainwashed (by the Chinese in '62's version, filmmakers are being cagey about who the exact enemy is this time) to kill the U.S. president. Streep takes over the role that was so frighteningly played by Angela Lansbury in the original, Washington takes on Sinatra's part and *Scream*'s Liev Schreiber is the mind-swept assassin first played by Laurence Harvey.

THE VILLAGE >> (July)

Stars: William Hurt, Joaquin Phoenix
Director: M. Night Shyamalan (*Signs*)
Story: First ghosts (*The Sixth Sense*), then comic book characters (*Unbreakable*), then aliens (*Signs*), and now? Well, that's a good question. So far, the mysterious element in M. Night Shyamalan's newest film has only been described as "creatures" who live just beyond the borders of a remote Pennsylvania village circa 1897. For years these creatures and the villagers have been co-existing without any direct contact. But, for some reason, it looks like that fragile arrangement is coming to a violent end. The trailer has a Salem meets the Blair Witch kind of feel, spooky with log-cabin ambiance.

COLLATERAL >> (August)

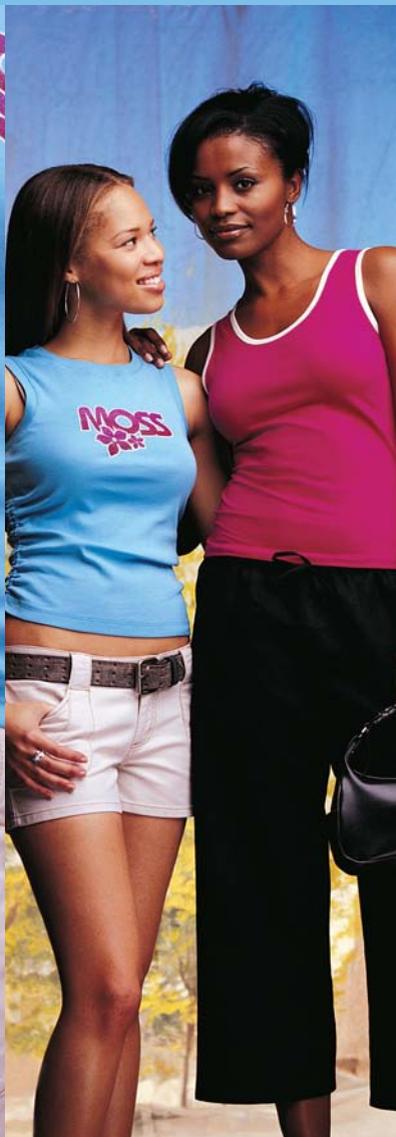
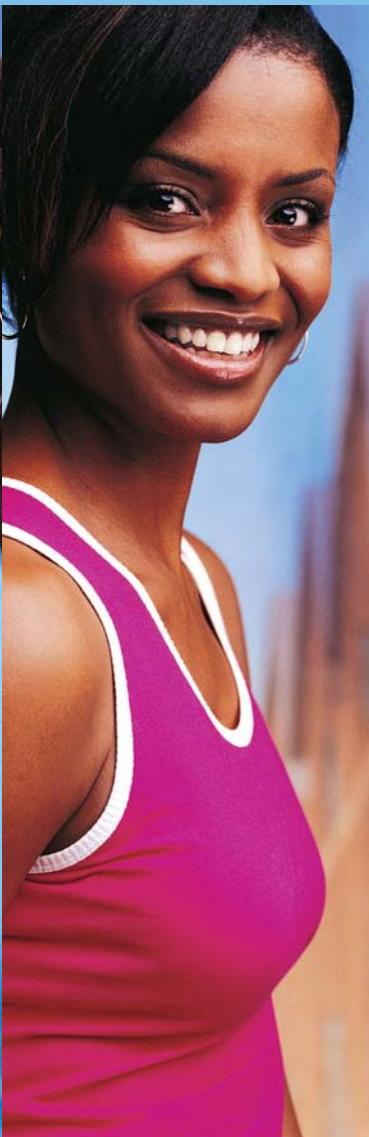
Stars: Tom Cruise, Jamie Foxx
Director: Michael Mann (*Ali*)
Story: A contract killer (Cruise) hails a taxi driven by a bored cabbie (Foxx) who then becomes an unwilling chauffeur for a night of knocking off would-be drug-investigation witnesses. This was the first script screenwriter Stuart Beattie ever wrote, having come up with the idea when he was just 18 on a cab ride from the airport in Sydney, Australia. Speaking of firsts, not only is this Cruise's first all-out bad guy role, it's also the first time he's had gray hair throughout an entire movie. Fear not, he still looks pretty.

PAPARAZZI >> (September)

Stars: Cole Hauser, Tom Sizemore
Director: Paul Abascal (debut)
Story: There has to be some element of wish fulfillment for all the actors involved with this one. When the wife (Robin Tunney) of a famous actor (Hauser) is injured in a car accident caused by chasing paparazzi he plans his revenge. Sizemore plays one of the photogs in this film that was shot last spring, just as his legal troubles involving his assault on girlfriend Heidi Fleiss were becoming public. Another interesting fact — director Abascal began his career in Hollywood as a hair dresser, doing the dos for the first two *Diehard* movies and the first three *Lethal Weapon* pics.



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THERON IN *FLUX*, FORD SEEMS RIGHT FOR *WRONG*, AND SMITH IS A MARKED MAN | BY INGRID RANDOJA



SMITH MAKES HIS MARK

Seven years ago **Will Smith** was gung-ho to play a superhero named *The Mark*, but he was coming off his star-making turn in *Independence Day* and his dance card was filled. Now, he has not only agreed to star in *The Mark*, but his production company will co-produce the film. Smith's character discovers a strange mark has been transferred onto his body from the corpse of a Confederate Soldier. The mark keeps moving around his body, giving him various powers. The problem is, our hero starts to feel the urge to use his powers for evil. No word when production will begin.

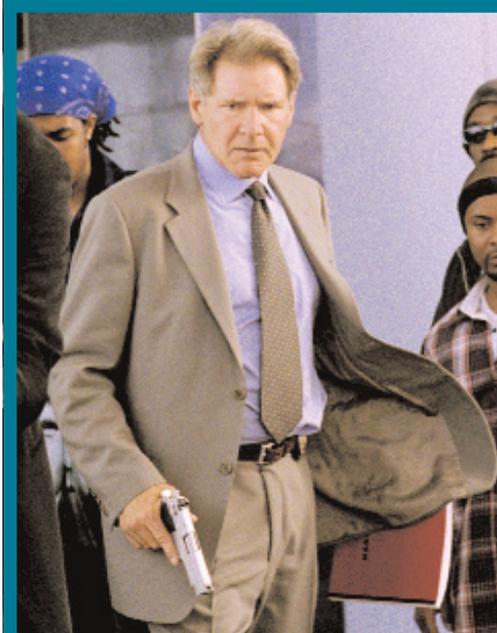


THERON SLAYS 'EM

Playing a murderer didn't exactly hurt **Charlize Theron's** career — she scooped up an Oscar for her turn as *Monster's* doomed serial killer Aileen Wuornos. So why, then, shouldn't the talented South African continue her ruthless ways? Theron has signed on to play a 25th-century assassin in the big-screen adaptation of the animated TV show *Aeon Flux*, which aired on MTV in the early '90s. If you've seen the show you know the harness-wearing Aeon looks like an angry porn star, is amoral, and actually isn't that great at her job (she tends to die or mess up assignments). Theron is pocketing a cool \$10-million to star in the futuristic action pic, which is being helmed by *Girlfight* director **Karyn Kusama**. Shooting gets underway in Berlin later this summer.

BRIEFLY

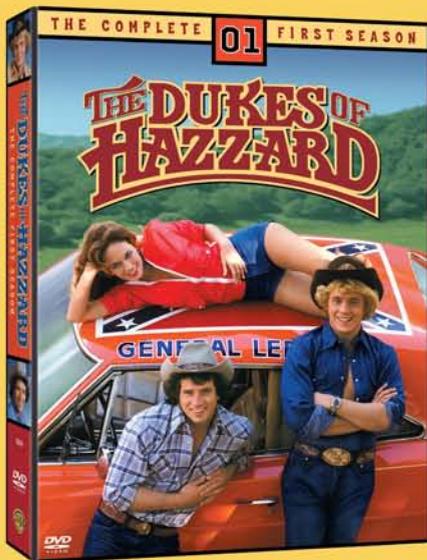
■ Model **Rachel Hunter** and **Burt Reynolds** are teaming up for *Cloud Nine*, a movie about a volleyball team composed of strippers. ■ Footie star **David Beckham** will play a footie star in *The Birth of the Pink Panther*. ■ **Matthew McConaughey** plays a former NASCAR driver turned heist driver in *Hammer Down*. ■ **Hugh Jackman** has replaced Brad Pitt in the elixir of life flick, *The Fountain*.



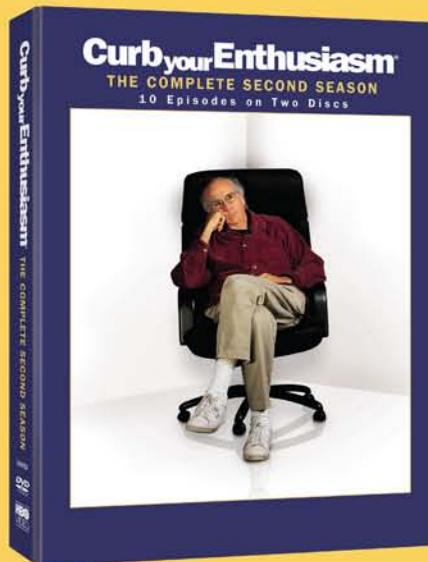
FORD CASHES IN

Harrison Ford isn't getting any younger (he's nudging 62), which is why it's im-per-a-tive that **George Lucas** and **Steven Spielberg** take a collective breath and push the fourth *Indiana Jones* script through the birth canal. Since *Indy 4* is still on hold, Ford has signed on to another project. The gruff action hero will star in *The Wrong Element*, a thriller that casts Ford as a security guru for an international bank. When his family is kidnapped by baddies, Ford is forced to break into his own bank, make a tidy withdrawal of \$37-million, pay off the criminals and then try to catch them before the bank catches him.

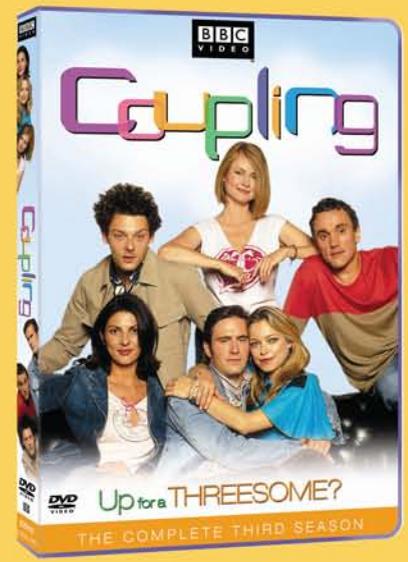
Laugh out Loud any time you want



own it june 1



own it june 15



own it june 1



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The Heel Deal

Paint your toes a fruity hue, throw on a flirty dress and be cool as ice as you step into summer wearing these sizzling shoes | **BY ZENYA SIRANT**

Call it the Cinderella complex, but this season the glass — okay, plastic — slipper rules. From chunky Lucite platform sandals to lady-like spectator pumps with just the tips and heels covered, it's clear: transparent is the best way to show off your tootsies.

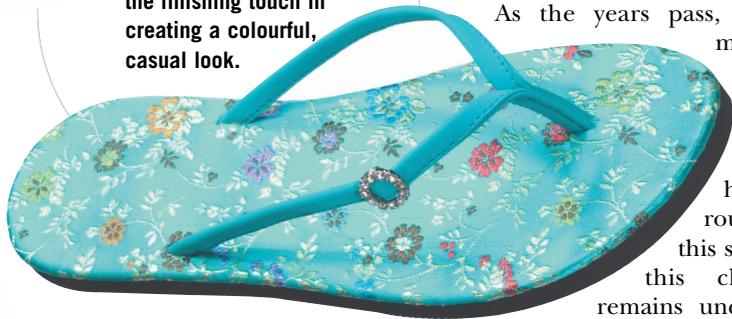
Another must-have footwear silhouette is the platform shoe. Thanks to the delicate fashions dominating the spring 2004 runways, a heavier shoe was needed to provide a modern balance to otherwise traditionally feminine pieces. This is why platforms — from brightly patterned wedgies to chunky sandals — are back...again. Ever since renaissance It-girl Catherine de Medici started wearing chopines (stilt-like overshoes) in the 1600s, the elevated shoe has had several popular incarnations — most notably in the 1940s, when designers such as Salvatore Ferragamo went post-war wild with their designs after rationing ended; and in the 1970s when glam rock and disco were the “in” aesthetic.

While platforms and wedgies are stealing the spotlight in 2004, stiletto (“little dagger”) heels are still one of the more popular styles, and have remained true to their form since they were created in Italy in the early '50s.

As the years pass, toe shapes morph from pointy to round and back again — notice how red hot round toes are this season — yet this classic heel remains unchanged. In pump or sandal form, what's new about this year's stiletto is that it's brightly coloured and often embellished with girly bows, pretty prints and contrasting trim.

If you prefer keeping your feet on the ground, the classic flip-flop or thong is a staple whether you're baking on the beach or strutting your stuff on the street. And with such inexpensive price tags, and such a wide choice of colours, flip-flops prove that variety is definitely the spice of life.

Hate wearing heels? **Oriental print thongs (\$6.98)** from Wal-Mart are the finishing touch in creating a colourful, casual look.



You're all girl in these **pretty-in-pink sandals** with bow and peek-a-boo toe from Aldo (**\$79.99**).



Zesty yellow **Alia** pumps from Nine West (\$125) heat up your feet.



Strut your stuff in the **Bonnie** shoe with ankle strap and round toe from Fornarina (\$215). Visit www.fornarina.com for availability.



Dollhouse silver t-strap sandals with clear platform soles from Browns (\$118) are the height of fashion.

PREPARE FOR ALIEN WARFARE

StarCraft: Ghost puts you in the skin of a sexy spy bred for destruction | BY SCOTT GARDNER

STARCRRAFT: GHOST (GC, PS2, XBOX)

Word on the street — well, actually, in online discussion forums since we ARE talking about gamers here — is that the console crews are particularly excited about *StarCraft: Ghost*, an all-new third person adventure.

Set in the gritty real-time universe first seen in the groundbreaking strategy games *StarCraft* and *StarCraft: Brood War*, this stealth-action title casts players as the “ghost” operative Nova — a genetically engineered mistress of spying and sabotage.

Players get to slip into Nova’s electronically camouflaged catsuit and take up the Terran cause in this time of three-way alien warfare. Guide Nova through more than 25 story-driven missions, ranging from stealthy infiltrations to all-out survival combat to planetary battles fought with help from your allies. Nova’s missions feature a combination of third person action, platforming and puzzle elements, and involve making tactical decisions, employing combat skills and mastering complex weaponry.

Plus, a new graphics engine lets you duck, roll, jump, hang, sidle, sneak, hang upside down while sniping and more. This high degree of interactivity also extends to Nova’s environments and enemies — for example, she can make single-shot instant kills by hitting enemies’ faces before they snap their protective visors down. Or, if she sees a grenade hanging from an enemy’s belt, shooting the ammo will cause more grievous damage to her foe and its surroundings than any single bullet could have. And you thought Shannen Doherty was a badass!



FULL SPECTRUM WARRIOR (PC, XBOX)

If you crave a highly tactical game that still lets you do some running and gunning, then Pandemic’s new *Full Spectrum Warrior* might be right up your dusty, bullet-pocked alley. The game is

actually based on a U.S. Army simulator that’s used to train light infantry troops in urban combat situations.

Players act as the squad leader, providing direction to Alpha and Bravo fire teams. The successful squad leader effectively uses objects in the environment for cover, and moves his teams in a coordinated fashion so they can protect themselves from possible attacks that could come from any direction.

But fair warning: sensitive souls might find the game’s images of grimy American-looking soldiers under fire in a ruined desert city awful creepy given the similar images on the TV news these days.

PSI-OPS: THE MINDGATE CONSPIRACY

(PS2, XBOX)

As the shadowy Nick Scryer, your mind is the ultimate weapon in *Psi-Ops: The Mindgate Conspiracy*, an action/adventure game melding psi (mind) powers with traditional weapons combat.



Although elite psi-operative soldier Scryer has conventional pistols and assault rifles, his real edge comes from his vast array

of mental abilities, including mind drain (good-bye bad guy IQ points), remote vision (peek around corners), pyrokinesis (burn stuff!), mind control (“Walk this way!”) and telekinesis (chuck stuff!). Scryer’s mission is to seek out and destroy “The Movement,” a psi-terrorist organization consisting of an army of brainwashed supersoldiers and powerful psi-agents trying to overthrow world order.

MTV MUSIC GENERATOR 3: THIS IS THE REMIX (XBOX, PS2)

Although the song remains the same (using your game console to create and edit pop music mixes and remixes) the third generation of *MTV Music Generator* is definitely not playing the same old tune.

This is the Remix lets you make beats, take samples and remix songs, but the big news is its inclusion of 10 licensed tunes to play around with, including “The Way U Move” from OutKast, Snoop Dogg’s “From Tha Chuuch To Da Palace,” and “Get Busy” from reggae star Sean Paul. This means that instead of creating everything totally from scratch, you can easily cook up something that sounds half-decent right from the beginning.

There’s only one buzz-kill with using licensed songs: unlike most newer start-from-scratch music-making programs, there’s no built-in online mode to share your tiny symphonies. But that’s hardly surprising given the current hoopla (especially south of the border) over MP3 file sharing.



THE COWBOY JUNKIES TAKE A DARK TURN, POP STARS POPULATE *DE-LOVELY* | BY INGRID RANDOJA

HEAD JUNKIE EXPERIMENTS

It's been 16 years since the Cowboy Junkies hunkered down inside a Toronto Church and produced the enduringly luminous album *The Trinity Session*. And while the band, composed of bassist Alan Alton and a trio of Timmins siblings — writer/guitarist Michael, drummer Pete and singer Margo — will always be associated with that work, they're also responsible for eight other thought-provoking albums, including their latest, *One Soul Now* (in stores June 8th).

It's a haunting album, awash with Michael Timmins' trademark bittersweet lyrics and elegantly unencumbered arrangements.

"I think this album is really dark, which sounds laughable because we have always been dark," says Margo Timmins. "But we're darker than dark now [laughs]."

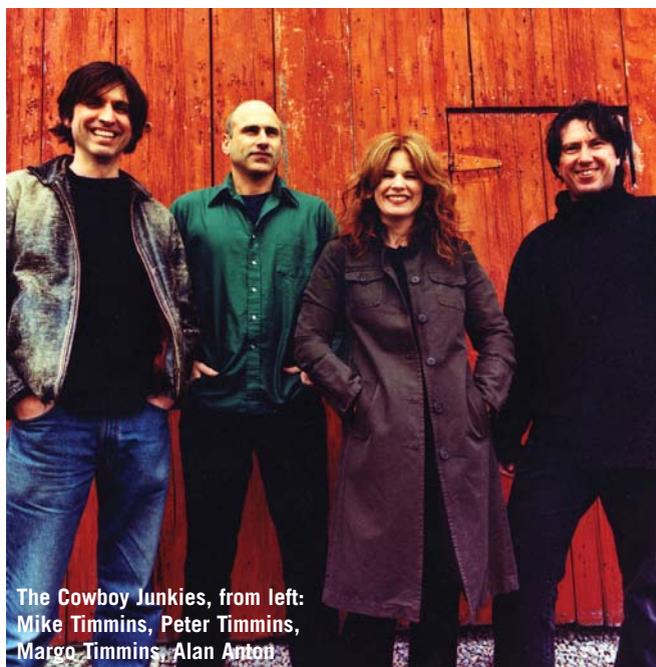
Timmins, on the line from the Toronto home she shares with husband and Cowboy Junkies lawyer, Graham Henderson, has been stricken with a wicked head cold that's turned her usually smoky voice into a nasal murmur.

Asked how *One Soul Now* fits into the Junkies' discography of melodiously melancholic albums, Timmins is brutally honest.

"I think on our other albums the characters in the songs had hope, there was another day and they'd rise from their troubles," she says. "That's why I think this album is darker than dark because when I was singing these songs about these characters, I thought, 'You're just not going to make it, sorry,'" she says with a small laugh. "There are more and more people out there not making it."

You'll hear a tad more sassiness, and definitely more experimentation, in Timmins' singing on this new album. She, by no means, changes her languid style, but is singing with more of an edge.

"I think my voice is stronger, with more of an attitude, but that,



The Cowboy Junkies, from left: Mike Timmins, Peter Timmins, Margo Timmins, Alan Alton

again, comes from the material that was given me. And with every album you're hopefully a little more skilled and you have the confidence to try this or that. My voice, well, people make of it what they will, I don't pay that much attention. I often get questions like, 'Don't you ever want to sing loud?' Well, I do. I might not sing like Janis Joplin, but I do," she says laughing. "I think people associate my voice with being quiet and whispery and that's the way it will always be."

DE-RISKY

De-Lovely, the musical about the complicated life of legendary composer Cole Porter, opens June 25th and features a litany of pop stars performing Porter chestnuts. **Alanis Morissette** (pictured below) sings and dances her way through "Let's Do It, Let's Fall in Love," **Robbie Williams** warbles the title ditty, "De-Lovely," **Sheryl Crow** chimes in with "Begin the Beguine," and **Elvis Costello** cruises through "Let's Misbehave."



But will fans of either Porter or this pop brigade buy it? After all, there are enough examples of pop stars struggling with standards in other musicals — Madonna mewed her way through Steven Sondheim's sophisticated songs in *Dick Tracy* and Kris Kristofferson butchered (oh boy, did he ever) his ballads in *A Star is Born*.

At least we can be grateful producers shied away from the likes of Britney, Jessica or Christina.

OUT THIS MONTH

BEASTIE BOYS

To the 5 Boroughs >> June 15

It's been six years since this hip-hop institution released an album and the boys from New York promise a return to old-school beats and rhymes.

ANGIE STONE

Stone Love >> June 22

Sensational soul singer Stone returns to form with a new album that showcases her stunning voice.

WILCO

A Ghost is Born >> June 22

When a fan of the "alt.country" band downloaded this album in April from the internet, he felt so guilty that he contacted the band and set up a website that asked other *Ghost is Born* downloaders to contribute to Wilco's chosen charity, Doctors Without Borders. In less than a day, just by word of mouth, more than \$1,500 was raised.

new releases

GO HOME WITH **MONSTER**, **BAD SANTA** OR **THE SNOW WALKER**

JUNE 1



EUROTRIP

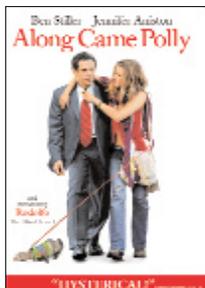
Stars: Scott Mechlowicz, Michelle Trachtenberg
Director: Jeff Schaffer (debut)
Story: Four midwestern high schoolers "expose themselves"

to, heh heh, "foreign relations" on a raunchy trip across Europe. They discover that it's a large land mass far to the east of America, where people talk, dress and act very oddly. **DVD Extras:** The "Unrated Edition" promises "party" cast commentary, gag reel, unrated deleted scenes, the "Making of Nude Beach" featurette

MONSTER

Stars: Charlize Theron, Christina Ricci
Director: Patty Jenkins (debut)
Story: Theron won an Oscar for her beauty-to-beast transformation in this shocking, brutal drama. Come to see her as the U.S.'s first female serial killer; stay for the unlikely love story between two misfits. Also new to DVD, the acclaimed documentary that started it all — *Aileen: Life and Death of a Serial Killer*.

JUNE 8

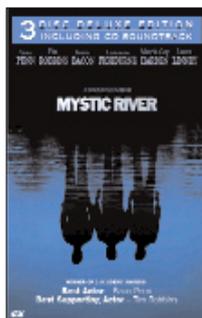


ALONG CAME POLLY

Stars: Ben Stiller, Jennifer Aniston
Director: John Hamburg (*Safe Men*)

Story: In this month's zany Ben Stiller comedy, the *Busiest Man in Showbiz* plays a risk-averse insurance nerd who is stunned,

humiliated and in the grip of acute indigestion after getting dumped on his honeymoon. Then along comes Polly (Aniston) who sucks him into a whirlwind of extreme sports, spicy foods, ferrets and salsa dancing. **DVD Extras:** Alternate opening, deleted scenes, outtakes, commentary with Aniston, featurettes



MYSTIC RIVER

Stars: Sean Penn, Tim Robbins
Director: Clint Eastwood (*Unforgiven*)
Story: It was Oscars for the fellas in this cheery tale of

childhood sexual abuse, murder, poverty and despair. Actually it's really good, but also a downer in that "Arrgh — life has no meaning!" kind of way. Famous Tip #1: Take Kleenex and don't expect a second date. **DVD Extras:** Commentary by Robbins, Penn, Kevin Bacon, Laurence Fishburne and novelist Dennis Lehane, featurettes, Bravo TV Special

JUNE 15



50 FIRST DATES

Stars: Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore
Director: Peter Segal (*Anger Management*)
Story: In this year's zany Adam

Sandler romantic comedy, dude is a player who falls hard for a lovely lady (Barrymore) with no short-term memory — every night she falls asleep and forgets him. If we were mean we'd make

a Tom Green joke right about here. **DVD Extras:** Five deleted scenes, gag reel, commentary by Barrymore, featurette on Hawaiian slang



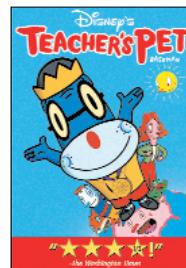
THE SNOW WALKER

Stars: Barry Pepper, Annabella Piugattuk
Director: Charles Martin Smith (*Air Bud*)

Story: While flying a sick Inuit girl (Piugattuk), bush pilot Charlie Halliday (Pepper) crash lands in the Arctic. Lost in the endless tundra, the two must overcome language barriers and survive the extreme elements. Based on a book by grizzled Canadian icon Farley Mowat.

THE STATION AGENT

Stars: Peter Dinklage, Patricia Clarkson
Director: Thomas McCarthy (debut)
Story: In this critically acclaimed comedy-drama, a man born with dwarfism (Dinklage) moves to rural New Jersey to live a life of solitude, only to meet a woman struggling with a personal tragedy and an overly friendly hot dog vendor. **DVD Extras:** Deleted scenes, director's commentary



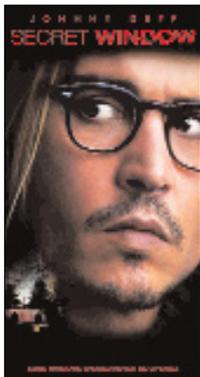
TEACHER'S PET

Voices: Nathan Lane, Kelsey Grammar
Director: Timothy Björklund (debut)
Story: Spot the talking dog (Lane) dresses up as a boy

and goes to school with his owner, Leonard, in a Disney-made musical take on the semi-popular TV series. But family dinners get a bit awkward when Spot gets himself transformed into a human and Leonard's mom falls in love with him.

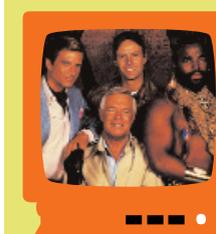
BAD SANTA

Stars: Billy Bob Thornton, Bernie Mac
Director: Terry Zwigoff (*Ghost World*)
Story: This totally twisted take on feel-good holiday flicks follows the travails of intoxicated wise-ass Willie T. Stokes (Thornton), a less-than-upstanding citizen who gets himself hired as a department store Santa. His plan: crack the store safe and make off with the Christmas Eve loot.



SECRET WINDOW

Stars: Johnny Depp, John Turturro
Director: David Koepp (*Stir of Echoes*)
Story: A burned-out writer with bad hair (Depp) is working at his remote cabin when a crazed stranger (Turturro) shows up, claiming the writer stole his idea for his latest book. Famous Tip #2: When at your remote cabin, do NOT open the door for angry, drawling, bug-eyed strangers wearing wide-brimmed hats and homespun clothing. **DVD Extras:** Four deleted scenes, three featurettes, storyboards



TV on DVD

The avalanche of TV on DVD this month falls into two very distinct neighbourhoods. On one side of town are the sorta trendy, high-end, first-run, Emmy-bait shows, and on the other side of the tracks are long-gone '70s and '80s extravaganzas now fondly remembered for their kitschy quaintness.

- Chic titles of note include **Monk: Season One**, with Tony Shalhoub as a seriously twitchy detective, and Larry David's hilarious but often squirm-inducing **Curb Your Enthusiasm: The Complete Second Season**. Also, fans of cutting-edge plastic surgery dramedy (who were a bit slow hitting "record" when it played on CTV this year) can now pick up **Nip/Tuck: The Complete First Season**. All three sets arrive on June 15.
- For couch potatoes who favour less cerebral fare, it's time to relive the magic of early-'80s action TV with **The Dukes of Hazzard: The Complete First Season** (June 8), and **The A-Team: Season 1** (June 1). Look back and marvel that we all grew up as well-adjusted as we did after watching that many car crashes and machine-gun fights.
- Finally, rounding out the TV-that-you-never-quite-understood-why-your-dad-loved-it-until-you-got-to-be-about-14-years-old category is **Wonder Woman: The Complete First Season**, starring bullet-proof, blue-eyed '70s beauty Lynda Carter (June 29).

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BARBERSHOP 2: BACK IN BUSINESS

Stars: Ice Cube, Queen Latifah
Director: Kevin Rodney Sullivan (*How Stella Got Her Groove Back*)
Story: Customers still come into Calvin's barbershop on Chicago's South Side to get a haircut and walk out with an earful of opinions from Eddie (Cedric the Entertainer). But now Calvin (Cube) must save the neighbourhood from a money-hungry corporation and "Nappy Cuts" — a big-name haircut chain. **DVD Extras:** Deleted scenes, outtakes, four music videos

COLD MOUNTAIN

Stars: Jude Law, Nicole Kidman
Director: Anthony Minghella (*The English Patient*)
Story: In the waning days of the American Civil War, a wounded soldier (Law) takes a perilous journey home to Cold Mountain to reunite with his sweetheart, Ada (Kidman). Meanwhile, the delicate Ada learns basic survival skills from no-nonsense Ruby (the stompin', spittin', drawlin', Oscar-winnin' Renée Zellweger). **DVD Extras:** Commentary with Minghella, Law and Nicole Kidman, feature documentary, deleted scenes

NEW to DVD

BLAZING SADDLES: 30TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION (June 29)



The railroad's got to run through the town of Rock Ridge, but how do you drive out the townfolk in order to steal their land? Send in the roughest, toughest gang of outlaws you can find...and name a new sheriff who the townies just might kill first.

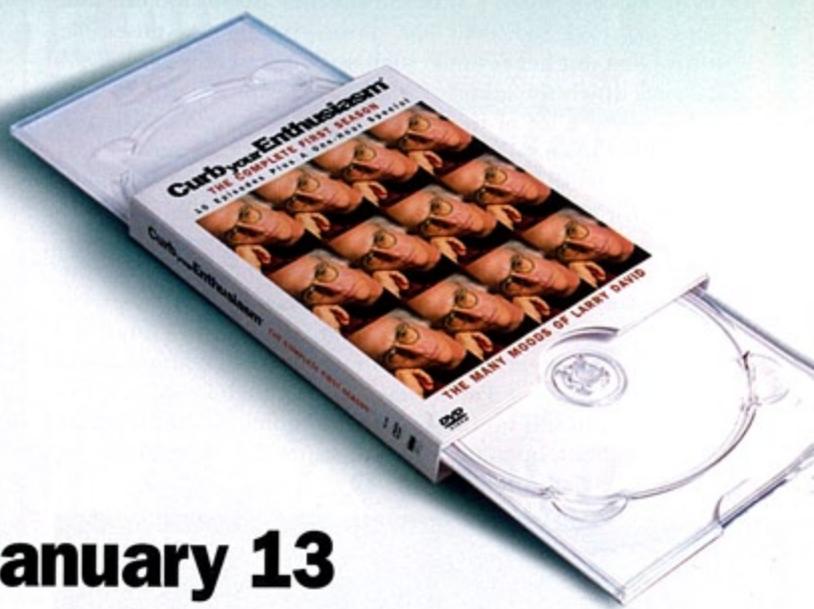
But that's not really the plot of 1974's *Blazing Saddles* — it's just the pretext for writer-director-lunatic Mel Brooks to set off a stampede of gags, jokes, quips, puns, howlers, growlers and general assaults upon good taste.

Cleavon Little as the new lawman, Gene Wilder as the wacko Waco Kid and Madeline Kahn — in the Marlene Dietrich send-up that earned her an Academy Award nomination — all give career highlight performances in this silly saga of the sagebrush.

And many cite the finale as the zenith of post-modern reaction to the classical elements in the Hollywood Western, over-ripe with dada-esque intertextual references. Or just really zany.

Plentiful extras on the dual-layer DVD include a newly remastered anamorphic widescreen transfer, Dolby Digital 5.1 surround track, additional scenes, commentary by Brooks, the "Back in the Saddle" reunion documentary and more.

Take Two And Call It An Evening



Available on DVD January 13

CURB Your ENTHUSIASM. Own the complete first season of HBO's award-winning comedy series from Larry David, co-creator of Seinfeld. Includes all 10 episodes, plus the original pilot and a 30-minute interview with Larry himself.



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