

YOUR MOVIE GUIDE

# Famous

JUNE 2009 » VOLUME 10 » NUMBER 6

THE KID  
WITH THE  
EXPLODING  
CAREER.

# SHTA LABEOUF

ON BLOWING  
STUFF UP IN  
TRANSFORMERS:  
REVENGE OF  
THE FALLEN

## TEEN SECTION

PARTYING WITH  
NEW MOON'S CAST,  
STYLE TIPS, AND  
EMMA WATSON  
TALKS HP6

WILL  
FERRELL  
GETS LOST

EVERYONE  
WANTS TO MARRY  
RYAN  
REYNOLDS

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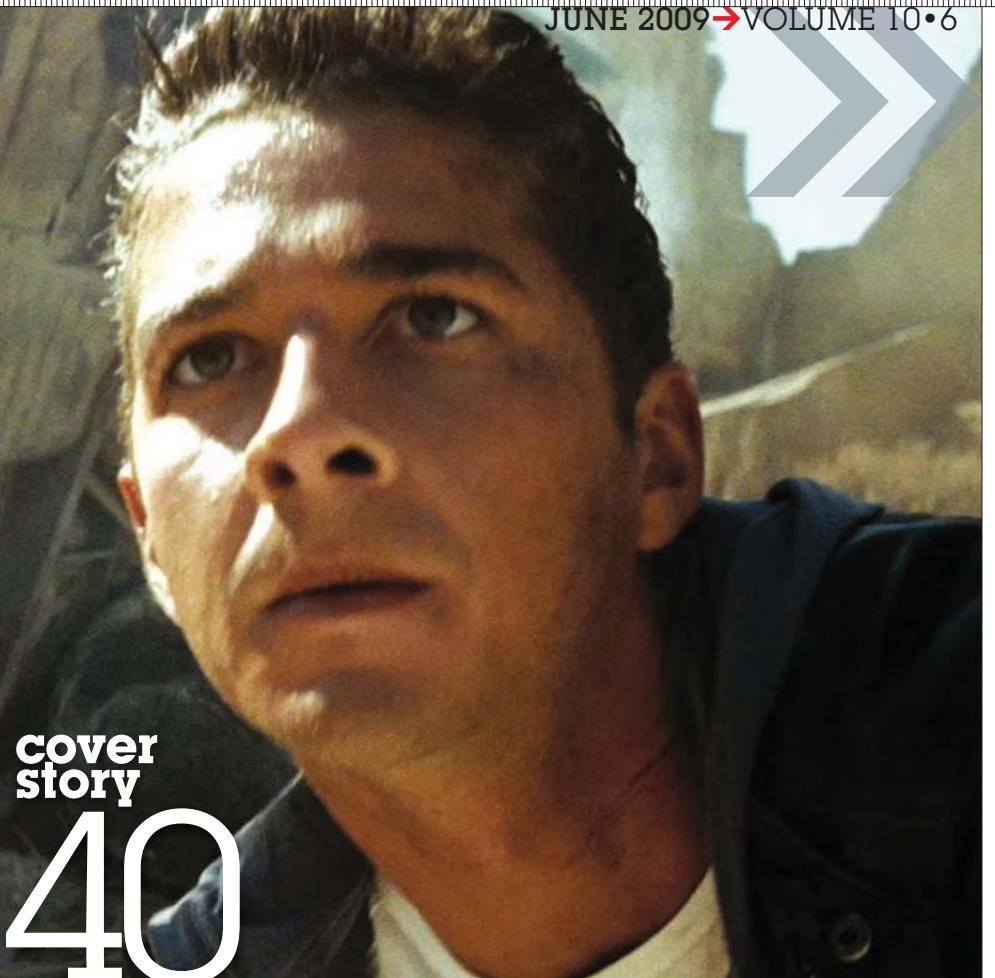
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# Famous Inside

JUNE 2009 → VOLUME 10•6



cover  
story  
**40**

**FALLEN HERO** ➤ *Transformers* turned teen actor **Shia LaBeouf** into a Hollywood star and, like many teen stars before him, he got into his fair share of off-screen trouble. Now, with the release of *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*, we check in with the young actor, who tells us that he's learned to appreciate life beyond the glare of the showbiz spotlight • *By Bob Strauss*



4 FAMOUS ➤ JUNE 2009

## regulars

- EDITOR'S NOTE ➔ 6
- CAUGHT ON FILM ➔ 8
- ENTERTAINMENT IN BRIEF ➔ 10
- SPOTLIGHT ➔ 12
- IN THEATRES ➔ 14
- MUSIC MAKERS ➔ 44
- HOT PLAY ➔ 45
- DVD RELEASES ➔ 46
- HOROSCOPE ➔ 48
- FAMOUS LAST WORDS ➔ 50

## features

### WARPED HUMOUR ➔ 18

**Will Ferrell** reveals the secret to success is never growing up, which is why he jumped at the chance to star in the time-warp flick *Land of the Lost*, a new take on one of his favourite childhood TV shows

• *By Prairie Miller*

### DUAL CITIZENSHIP ➔ 22

*The Proposal* casts Canadian **Ryan Reynolds** as an American blackmailed into marrying his Canadian boss (American Sandra Bullock). And the irony of the cross-border casting isn't lost on Reynolds, who says Canadians could learn some things from their U.S. neighbours

• *By Kevin Williamson*

### FAMOUS TEENS ➔ 27

Read interviews with *HPG*'s **Emma Watson** and *Year One*'s **Christopher Mintz-Plasse**; check out pics of *New Moon*'s cast hitting Vancouver hot spots; and take a quiz to find out which young celeb would be your BFF. **Plus:** Pastel style

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'THE NOTEBOOK'

cameron diaz

abigail breslin

# my sister's keeper

alec Baldwin jason patric sofia vassilieva and joan cusack

NEW LINE CINEMA PRESENTS A MARK JOHNSON/CURMUDGEON/SCOTT L. GOLDMAN PRODUCTION A NICK CASSAVETES FILM  
CAMERON DIAZ ABIGAIL BRESLIN IN "MY SISTER'S KEEPER" ALEC BALDWIN JASON PATRIC SOFIA VASSILIEVA AND JOAN CUSACK  
CASTING BY MATTHEW BARRY AND NANCY GREENE/EYES COSTUME SHAY CUNLIFFE MUSIC BY AARON ZIGMAN PRODUCERS HILLARY SHERMAN  
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SCREENPLAY BY JEREMY LEVEN AND NICK CASSAVETES PRODUCED BY MARK JOHNSON CHUCK PACHECO SCOTT L. GOLDMAN DIRECTED BY NICK CASSAVETES

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## THE STRIKE ZONE

Remember that episode of *Friends* where Joey gets fired from his cushy soap opera gig for telling a reporter he comes up with a lot of his own lines? A few episodes later the writers have their revenge when Joey's character, Dr. Drake Ramorey, falls down an elevator shaft.

I wonder if that's how Ehren Kruger, Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman — the officially credited writers of *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen* — felt when, during the 2007/2008 writers' strike, director Michael Bay told reporters, "I've been writing *Transformers 2*. We've got our characters all designed. I always write all my scripts, my movies anyway so at least I've got something to give the writers.... We had to because I want to make my date. I'm not going to let the strike take me down."

Bay, director of such big-bang movies as *Pearl Harbor*, *Armageddon*, *The Rock* and *Bad Boys*, has never been known for subtlety — in his movies or, apparently, his interviews.

Moreover, it's a reminder of a period that may feel like ancient history, yet is anything but. This summer, the big films most affected by those 100 days of protest hit movie screens.

Last month's *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, *Angels & Demons*, *Terminator Salvation* and *Star Trek* are all strike babies, with their conceptions, gestations or births all somehow delayed or complicated by the vacuum of guild writers during that stretch. This month, the *Transformers* sequel and *Land of the Lost* are the films coming out of that period. Later in the summer it's *G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra*.

Whether the strike had much effect on the final products is something to be judged on a case-by-case basis. The reviews for *Star Trek* couldn't have been better; the reaction to *Wolverine* on the other hand, well, maybe having a good writer on set would have helped.

In our interview with *Transformers* star **Shia LaBeouf**, the actor gives Bay major props for his maturation on set (the director is known for being as explosive in person as are some of his special effects). In fact, we got a big kick out of the 23-year-old, sometimes troubled, LaBeouf's assessment of his 44-year-old director. "It's wild to watch Mike grow up and to acknowledge it," reports LaBeouf. "Every filmmaker, every movie out, something changes. You either gain something or you lose something, and I think this time Mike has gained a lot." For more on the film's nuanced relationship between actor, director and script, turn to "We're Blowing Everything Up," page 40.

In "Let's do the Time Warp Again," page 18, we talk to **Will Ferrell**, star of the aforementioned *Land of the Lost*, about revisiting the campy 1970s TV show.

**Ryan Reynolds** talks about making *The Proposal* with his bud Sandra Bullock in "Canadian-American Relations," page 22. It's the first time they've worked together, despite being friends for years.

And on page 36 you'll find "Working Her Magic," our interview with **Emma Watson** on the eve of next month's *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. The piece anchors **Famous Teens**, our section devoted to our younger, hipper readers. That means you, giggling girls who stopped reading this editor's note four paragraphs ago and are already cooing over our *New Moon* photo spread.

Marni Weisz, editor

# Famous

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Sacha Baron Cohen

# brüno

Borat was so 2006



july 10

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JULY 10  
UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

# CAUGHT ON FILM

BRADLEY COOPER  
PATRICIA CLARKSON  
KEANU REEVES  
ADRIEN BRODY  
REESE WITHERSPOON  
JULIA ROBERTS  
LINDSAY LOHAN



1



2



3



5

**1** The Beard Brothers, Keanu Reeves and Adrien Brody, compare facial hair at the practice session for the Long Beach Celebrity Grand Prix. Reeves went on to win the race, but we think Brody wins the battle of the beards.

□ PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

**2** Reese Witherspoon is delighted with the selection of healthy treats she purchased at the Coachella Music Festival in Indio, California. Witherspoon shared the food with boyfriend Jake Gyllenhaal.

□ PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

**3** Julia Roberts and one of her many children opt for the wide brims on a sunny day during their Hawaiian vacation.

□ PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

**4** Lindsay Lohan was in Montreal last month for an appearance at Tribe Hyperclub. But before heading out for the night she gave the snappers a little somethin'-somethin' by staging a photo shoot at her hotel.

□ PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

**5** Easy boy. Bradley Cooper gets a little handsy with Patricia Clarkson at the Tribeca Film Festival's after-party for Clarkson's *Whatever Works*. That's Mary-Kate Olsen pondering something serious in the background.

□ PHOTO BY STEPHEN LOVEKIN/GETTY

# ENTERTAINMENT IN BRIEF

A tough ride on *Pelham 1 2 3; Year One*'s little works of art; Woody Allen goes with *Whatever Works*



**The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3's** John Travolta Inset: Denzel Washington

## STRESSFUL COMMUTE

**R**emaking the revered Hollywood thriller *The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3* was stressful enough, but that didn't stop director Tony Scott and stars Denzel Washington and John Travolta from keeping the tension on high while shooting.

The movie, which focuses on bad guy Travolta holding a subway car full of passengers ransom while beleaguered train dispatcher Washington attempts to defuse the situation, was filmed in New York using the Big Apple's subway system. (The title refers to the station, Pelham Bay Park, where the train begins its run, and the time of its first run, 1:23 p.m. After the release of the first film in 1974 the New York City Transit Authority changed the route's starting time.)

To ensure the cast and crew knew how dangerous it was to work around live subway rails — the system's electrified third rail houses 800 volts — they were required to take an eight-hour safety course, which included squeezing along the side of the tracks while trains rumbled by.

And since most of the film finds Washington and Travolta sparring over the phone while negotiating the release of the hostages, Washington decided he and Travolta shouldn't meet until near the end of the shoot. He felt the distance would fuel their antagonism towards one another.

Director Scott told the *L.A. Times*, "That was Denzel's idea. A dynamic tension came out of that where you can see both guys springboard off each other on the phone. They were on separate sides of the studio for the entire shoot." —IR



## Artifact

THIS MONTH'S OBJET DE FILM ➤ **YEAR ONE IDOLS**

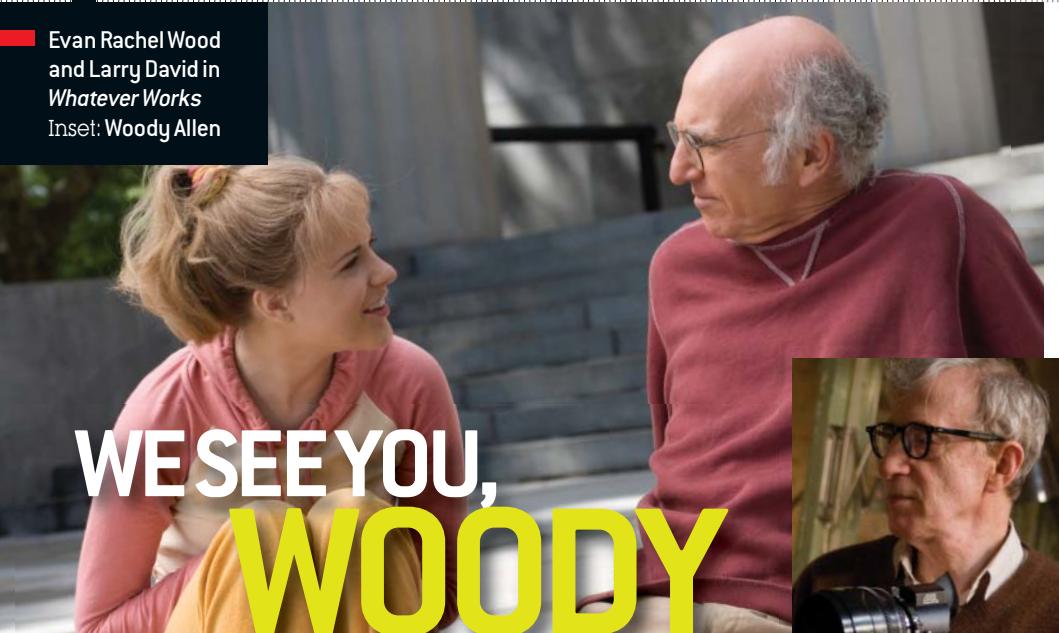
Sodom came to Louisiana last year, and surprisingly it had nothing to do with Mardi Gras.

The re-emergence of the Old Testament's Sin City came courtesy of Jack Black and Michael Cera's Biblical comedy *Year One*, which was shot in Louisiana in early 2008. When the set decorators needed clay idols to fill a Sodom marketplace they turned to Matt DeFord, sculptor and assistant art professor at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

DeFord, an award-winning fine artist, was paid \$20 each for the little fellas, which were fashioned after Mesopotamian altarpieces. He made 50 of them, none of which he'll ever see again. "I was told the cast and crew usually grab souvenirs," says DeFord, "and they will probably end up in 50 different houses." —MW



Evan Rachel Wood and Larry David in *Whatever Works*  
Inset: Woody Allen



## WE SEE YOU, WOODY

**A**s a game, picking the Woody Allen character out of a Woody Allen movie is about as difficult as playing hide-and-seek with a four-year-old. Diane Keaton, John Cusack and Mia Farrow are among those who've stepped in as Allen's surrogate, playing neurotic intellectuals looking for love, often in unexpected places.

But Allen's latest, *Whatever Works*, knocks the game down from hide-and-seek with a four-year-old to peekaboo with a four-month-old.

*Curb Your Enthusiasm's* Larry David plays Boris, a misanthrope who marries a young runaway played by 21-year-old Evan Rachel Wood.

And before you fear drawing parallels to Allen's marriage to the younger Soon-Yi Previn is simplistic, know Allen makes no attempt to distance himself from the character. "I wrote the script, so of course it is the way I see things," he says in the film's production notes, adding, "As you go through life it's a tough struggle and whatever works that doesn't hurt

anybody is fine. So however bizarre a romantic relationship may be: if it works, it works."

Famous for exploring May-December relationships since his middle-aged character dated Mariel Hemingway's high-school student in 1979's *Manhattan*, Allen further commented in the *New York Observer*, "My philosophy has been consistent over the years, and it appears either persuasive or idiotic depending on how good the film is. If I make a film and the film itself works, then I feel people come away saying, 'Gee, the philosophy here makes sense.' And if I make a film where I've struck out and I've made bad artistic choices and the film is not good, then they think, 'His ideas are stupid and narcissistic and irrelevant.'"

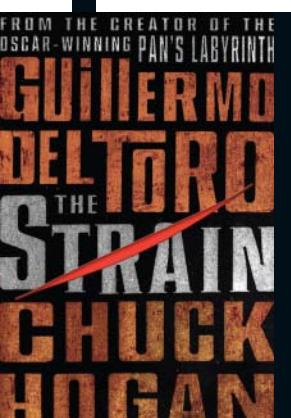
Yet, if you think the story was inspired by Allen's experience with Previn, you are wrong. Allen wrote the script in the 1970s for the late Zero Mostel. When he decided to return to his beloved New York after making his last four films in Europe, he dusted off the script. —MW

ON HOME TURF  
FILMS SHOOTING ACROSS CANADA THIS MONTH



If you're in Toronto, keep an eye out for **Kevin Spacey** who's in town shooting the Jack Abramoff story, *Casino Jack*.

Abramoff, you may remember, was the most hated high roller with a name ending in "off" until Bernie Madoff stole that crown earlier this year. After a booming career as a Washington lobbyist, Abramoff quickly went from beloved friend of political movers and shakers to toxic pariah when allegations of fraud and corruption involving a casino deal emerged. In 2006, Abramoff pled guilty to those charges. He's currently serving a four-year sentence at a Maryland prison where, word is, Spacey visited him to prepare for the role. —MW



## Del Toro's Re-Strain-t

Mexican director Guillermo del Toro is known for filling his movies with outlandish creatures. His last two films, *Pan's Labyrinth* and *Hellboy II: The Golden Army*, starred beings with clusters of arms, tusks, horns and confusing orifices.

So the first description of the blood-sucking vampire at the centre of his new novel, *The Strain* (released June 2nd), caught us a little off guard. "A thin, black shadow appeared before his eyes. A vertical slash of darkest black." What? No bulbous eyes? No fangs like razor blades? Such uncharacteristic restraint.

The book, which del Toro co-wrote with horror author Chuck Hogan, is the filmmaker's first novel (although he has published collections of short stories), and is expected to be the first of a trilogy. —MW

## SPOTLIGHT



Victoria Day hits  
theatres June 19th

## MARK RENDALL'S ON CALL

**M**ark Rendall was in Brooklyn, on his way to play pool, when he answered three questions that earned him the lead in director David Bezmogzis's *Victoria Day*.

"The first question was 'How long is your hair?' The second question was 'Can you skate?' And the third question was 'Can you play hacky sack?'" Rendall recalls of his utterly chance phone conversation/audition with Bezmogzis.

Rendall, a 20-year-old Toronto actor (*Childstar*, *Charlie Bartlett*) had just finished shooting director Bradley Rust Grey's *The Exploding Girl* and was heading out to shoot pool with Grey when the director got a call from his pal Bezmogzis, in a panic. *Victoria Day* was set to shoot in two weeks and Bezmogzis was still without a lead actor. "Brad just handed me the phone and was like, 'Here, talk to David.'"

Those three questions were relevant to *Victoria Day*'s central character, Ben Spektor, the 16-year-old son of Russian immigrants who

comes of age in the spring of 1988 (coincidentally, the year Rendall was born). The first and third questions had to do with the film's era, and the skating question was because Ben plays AAA hockey. Rendall's answer? "I used to, but I'd probably have to practice a little bit."

The script was written by Bezmogzis, based on his own experiences, which is why Rendall had to look no further than his director for inspiration. "There were certain mannerisms that David had," says Rendall. "Being very reserved in what he says and what he doesn't say.... There was just a timbre in the voice, a sort of fluidity that I think comes from speaking Russian."

Playing a version of your boss could be stressful, but it didn't seem to faze Rendall, who says, "I didn't fully realize that I was mimicking him until after the film."

Marni Weisz

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# IN THEATRES

YOUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO NEW RELEASES

BY INGRID RANDOJA

5  
june



*The Hangover's* partiers (from left) Zack Galifianakis, Bradley Cooper and Ed Helms

## The Hangover

It's not really a Las Vegas bachelor party until you wake up hung over and find a tiger in the bathroom, a baby in the closet, a hospital ID bracelet on your wrist and the groom-to-be M.I.A. That's the scene facing three buddies (**Zach Galifianakis**, **Ed Helms** and **Bradley Cooper**) the morning after Doug's (**Justin Bartha**) party, and now the guys have to retrace their steps to find out

what happened, and locate the groom so he can walk down the aisle later that same day.

## Land of the Lost

The original *Land of the Lost* was a cheesy, '70s Saturday morning TV show that became must-see viewing for kids. This big-screen adaptation changes the premise from a father and his two kids being stranded in a prehistoric land, to a dopey scientist

(**Will Ferrell**) and two other adults (**Anna Friel** and **Danny McBride**) who find themselves thrown back in time. See **Will Ferrell interview, page 18.**

## O'Horten

Train conductor Odd Horten (**Bard Owe**) retires after 40 years on the job. But what does an unmarried man who only cared about his job do after he stops working? This heartfelt

Norwegian film takes a comic, sometimes absurd, look at aging, and suggests it's never too late to find a purpose for living.

## The English Surgeon

For the past 15 years British neurosurgeon **Henry Marsh** has visited the Ukraine to help colleague **Igor Kurilets** treat patients despite limited resources and outdated

equipment. This award-winning documentary, shot over two weeks, examines the sorry state of the Ukrainian health care system and Marsh's valiant work treating one particular man dying of a brain tumour.

## Waterlife

Canadian filmmaker **Kevin McMahon** takes viewers on a trip through the Great Lakes, beginning from their starting place at the mouth of the

Nipigon River all the way to the Atlantic Ocean.

## My Life in Ruins

Is it a case of going to the well once too often, or capitalizing on your assets? *My Big Fat Greek Wedding's* **Nia Vardalos** stars as Georgia, a depressed Greek-American who moves to Greece and becomes a tour guide. Her Tilley hat-wearing clients aren't exactly romantic candidates, but what about the sexy bus driver Poupi (**Alexis Georgoulis**)?



*My Life in Ruins'* Nia Vardalos and Alexis Georgoulis

12  
june



Child's Play: Eddie Murphy and Yara Shahidi in *Imagine That*

## Departures

Winner of 2008's Best Foreign Film Oscar, this Japanese drama finds an out-of-work cellist returning to his hometown and taking a job in a funeral parlour, where he learns the art of prepping corpses for burial.

## Imagine That

Parents hear all about their kids' imaginary friends (who it seems are always to blame when something gets broken), but Evan's (**Eddie Murphy**) daughter Olivia's (**Yara Shahidi**) see-through pals are special; they're plugged into the business world

and offer Evan career-building tips. It's up to Evan to keep Olivia happy and interested in her friends, or risk losing his invisible corporate spies.

## The Taking of Pelham 123

A grimy, down-and-out New York

was the real star of the original 1974 thriller about a gang of criminals who hold a subway car and its passengers for ransom. In the remake, N.Y.C. still provides the setting, but the attraction is really actors **John Travolta**, playing the gang leader Ryder, **continued** →

## ON SCREEN

→→ and Denzel Washington as the subway dispatcher Walter Garber. Garber uses his knowledge of the underground tracks and tunnels as a weapon against the well-organized criminals.

### Away We Go

*Revolutionary Road* director Sam Mendes shakes off his romantic despair with this much more optimistic love story starring Maya Rudolph and John Krasinski as an unconventional couple who

discover they're going to have a baby so hit the road to visit friends and family in the hopes of finding the perfect place to settle down and raise their kid. This film was included in a pilot project looking at eco-friendly filmmaking. So, for example, craft services purchased local and organic food and used ceramic dishes instead of plastic, all location vehicles and generators ran on biodiesel fuels and the entire cast and crew was given reusable aluminum water bottles.



John Krasinski and Maya Rudolph in *Away We Go*



Year One's Michael Cera (left) and Jack Black

19  
june

### Year One

Judd Apatow produces and Harold Ramis directs this Biblical-era comedy starring Jack Black and Michael Cera as two lazy hunter-gatherers who are tossed out of their village and forced to survive in the ancient world. Along the way they meet various Biblical figures, including Adam (Ramis), Abraham (Hank Azaria) and his doomed son Isaac (Christopher Mintz-Plasse). See Christopher Mintz-Plasse interview, page 29.

### The Proposal

It's the rom-com, XY chromosome version of *The Devil Wears Prada*, with Ryan Reynolds playing Andrew, the harried assistant to shrewish boss Margaret (Sandra Bullock). When the Canadian Margaret loses her work visa, she convinces Andrew to marry her, and together they head up to Andrew's Alaskan home to meet his family and say their "I dos". See Ryan Reynolds interview, page 22.

### Surveillance

Jennifer Lynch (daughter of David Lynch) directs her first film since her 1993 debut *Boxing Helena*.



This gruesome thriller (shot outside Regina, Saskatchewan) focuses on three people — a cop (French Stewart), a junkie (Pell James) and a little girl (Ryan Simpkins) — who all witnessed a series of murders along a lonely stretch of highway, but each of them tells FBI agents (Julia Ormond and Bill Pullman) a different version of what went down.

### Three Blind Mice

Three Royal Australian Naval officers — Ewen Leslie, Toby Schmitz and the film's director, Matthew Newton — spend a last bawdy night in Sydney before shipping out to war the next day.



24  
june



Fox and LaBeouf in *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*

### Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen

Shia LaBeouf and Megan Fox return in this *Transformers* sequel that's being touted as bigger, better and a lot louder than the first film. The war between the Decepticons and Autobots heats up as Sam Witwicky (LaBeouf) discovers the secret origins of the huge robots, a secret the nasty Decepticon 'bots will do anything to learn. See **Shia LaBeouf interview**, page 40.

## SPECIAL EVENTS on the Big Screen

### WWE-PAY-PER-VIEW

EXTREME RULES  
Sun., June 7, 8 p.m. ET

### PHEDRE

Helen Mirren stars in this production of the Jean Racine tragedy mounted by the National Theatre U.K. Thurs., June 25, 7 p.m. local time

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Encore: Sat., June 15, 7 p.m. local time

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her parents over the rights to her own body, since she was conceived by her parents (Cameron Diaz, Jason Patric) to act as donor material for her cancer-stricken sister (Sofia Vassilieva).



26  
june



Whatever Works lovers Larry David and Evan Rachel Wood

### Whatever Works

After spending five years working in Europe, Woody Allen returns to the streets of New York to direct this May-December romance (no, really?) about a misanthropic

physicist (Larry David)

who marries a pretty young thing (Evan Rachel Wood) from Tennessee. Sparks fly when her mom (Patricia Clarkson) and dad (Ed Begley Jr.) come north to meet their son-in-law.

### My Sister's Keeper

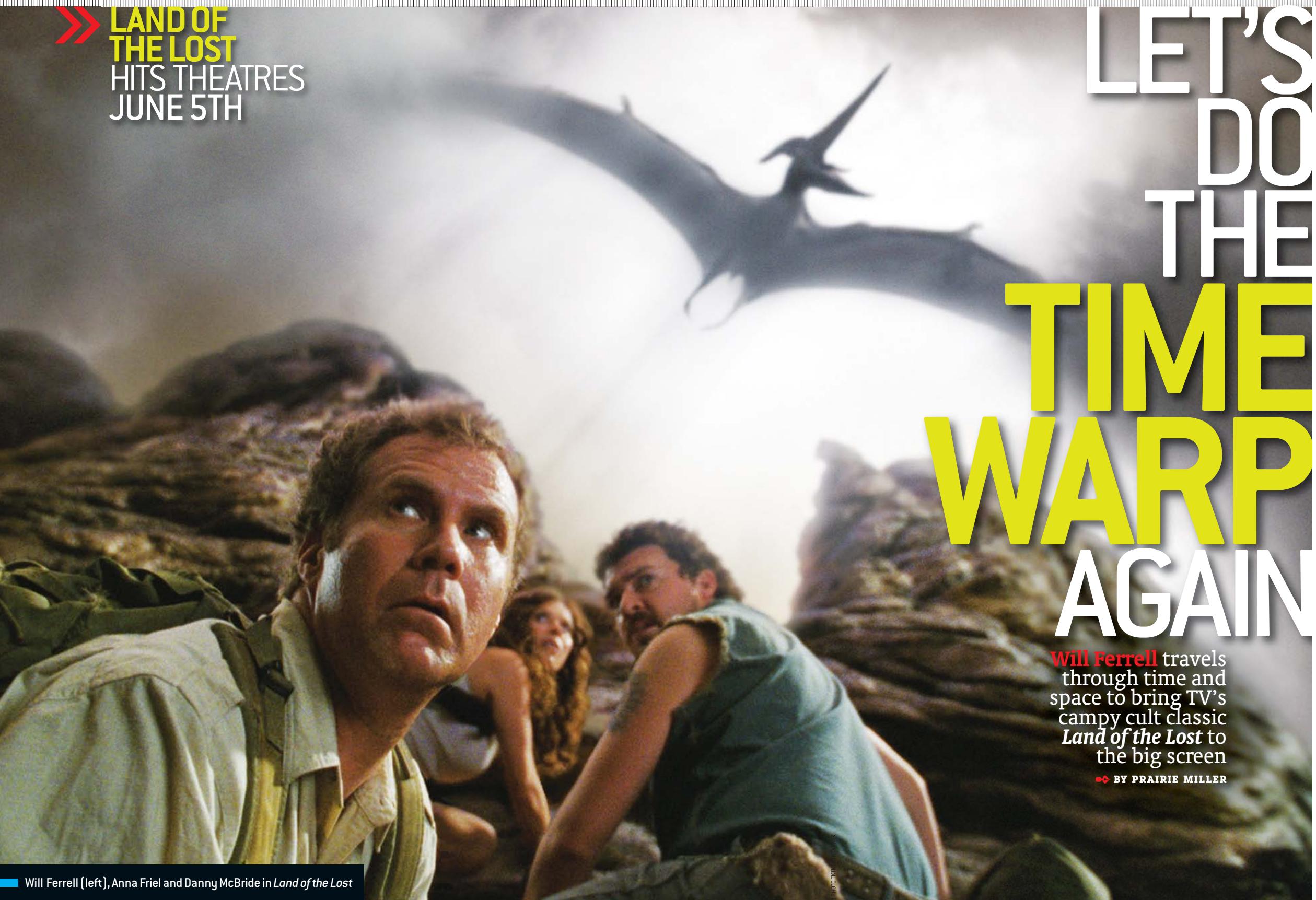
Nick Cassavetes directs this tearjerker based on Jodi Picoult's best-seller about Anna Fitzgerald (Abigail Breslin), a girl who hires a high-profile lawyer (Alec Baldwin) to sue

» **LAND OF  
THE LOST**  
HITS THEATRES  
JUNE 5TH

LET'S  
DO  
THE  
**TIME  
WARP  
AGAIN**

**Will Ferrell** travels through time and space to bring TV's campy cult classic *Land of the Lost* to the big screen

• BY PRAIRIE MILLER



Will Ferrell (left), Anna Friel and Danny McBride in *Land of the Lost*

**Will** Ferrell is stuck in the past. At least, he is in his new movie, the campy sci-fi time-warp adventure comedy *Land of the Lost*.

A time-warp project in more ways than one, the 1970s Saturday morning kids show turned family flick has been on the back burner for more than a decade, with Ferrell attached since 2005.

It's actually the second *Land of the Lost* homage from Ferrell, who's been a fan of the show since childhood. In 2001's *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back* the actor played Federal Wildlife Marshal Willenholly; the name being a collage of the main characters from the old Sid and Marty Krofft-produced TV show: park ranger Rick Marshall, and his kids, Will and Holly.

Now Ferrell has the lead role in director Brad Silberling's big-screen update, in which accidental tourist Rick Marshall gets a major makeover, morphing from a park ranger into a paleontologist who's been scorned by the scientific community for his unorthodox theories. And his kids have been replaced with two new sidekicks, macho survivalist Will (Danny McBride) and Holly, a brainy research assistant played by *Pushing Daisies'* Anna Friel. But there won't be any high-tech tampering with those devilish Sleestaks — they remain all natural and undigitalized, wearing kooky rubber lizard pyjamas similar to those from the TV show.

When asked for a little insight into other changes, Ferrell complicates rather than clarifies matters. "It is very serious, it's kind of on the tone of *The English Patient*. But with dinosaurs, horribly, frighteningly realistic dinosaurs," he teases, *continued* →

## INTERVIEW > WILL FERRELL



"It was a whole lot of new stuff for me," says Ferrell. "But like anything else, you just learn to adapt. Luckily, we built these amazing, beautiful sets. We did claymation. A lot of tin foil"

→→→ pokerfaced, during a recent New York interview. "In fact we only survive for 12 minutes in the movie. The rest is mostly just action shots of dinosaurs communicating through the Sleestaks."

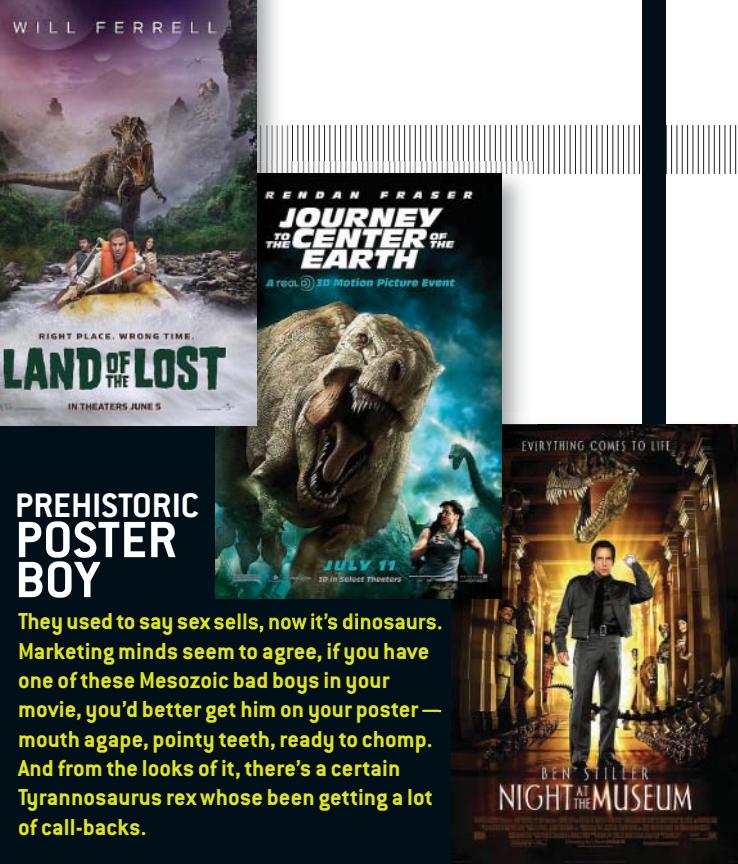
Not exactly a travel junkie in real life — trips down memory lane and time warps aside — Ferrell says he considers a journey to "the scenic part of Flint" to be an ideal getaway. Though, last year, he did travel to Ireland with his brother and his dad Lee, the latter of whom once played keyboard and saxophone for The Righteous Brothers. The Ferrell boys wanted to get in touch with their Irishness, and during a stopover in Dublin Will was presented with the James Joyce Award, named after Ireland's famed author. The comedian says the whole thing "just kinda happened."

"They were thrilled when I said, 'Yeah sure,' regardless of the fact that there's no reason why I should receive that award," says Ferrell.

At least he had heard of Joyce, or so he says. "I had! I've always been a fan of...his films! I loved what he did with *Titanic*. And *The Terminator*. All that stuff. They're always too long, though!"

Big screen travels, on the other hand, are a different matter, at least when it comes to the otherworldly trip he takes in *Land of the Lost*. "This is going to be more like a nature documentary. It's going to be kind of hopefully like *Jurassic Park*," Ferrell says. "But it is not a spoof in terms of the look. It's as real as possible, and hopefully funny."

After being ostracized for his claims about space-time vortexes



They used to say sex sells, now it's dinosaurs. Marketing minds seem to agree, if you have one of these Mesozoic bad boys in your movie, you'd better get him on your poster — mouth agape, pointy teeth, ready to chomp. And from the looks of it, there's a certain Tyrannosaurus rex whose been getting a lot of call-backs.

(including an uncomfortable appearance on *The Today Show* with Matt Lauer), Marshall is exiled to a day job at the La Brea Tar Pits where he tries to enlighten kids (who couldn't care less) about the wonders of science. That is, until he and his two friends are sucked through a space-time vortex into a parallel, primitive universe.

And though it may not be so easy to think of Ferrell as an adventure hero, the little bit he does know about facing down baddies can also be traced back to his childhood, albeit learned from a different retro TV show.

"I used to have a *Star Trek* tracer gun that shot actual tracers," boasts Ferrell. "And my mom let me have a little dart gun and said, 'You can have it, but don't ever shoot anyone close to the face.' But one kid was really giving it to me, and I was like, I can't hold back."

"So I shot him in the head with the dart gun. Or maybe it whizzed by his head. And my mom either saw it or heard about it, and took it away," Ferrell gripes. "But I remember thinking, that was well worth it. He won't be bothering me again!"

Time travel wasn't the only challenge for the man voted one of the 50 Smartest People in Hollywood by *Entertainment Weekly* not so long ago. Just getting his head reoriented for an effects-driven family flick after a string of sophomore comedies (*Step Brothers*, *Semi-Pro*, *Blades of Glory*) was no small feat. "It was a whole lot of new stuff for me," says Ferrell. "But like anything else, you just learn to adapt. Luckily, we built these amazing, beautiful sets. We did claymation. A lot of tin foil. And we didn't have to imagine everything [like] in a movie that's just [computer generated]. So we had these amazing sets that we got to play around in."

A sense of "play" is certainly a huge part of what has made Ferrell so successful for so long. "One of the things about being an actor is that we don't have to fully grow up, in a way. Or at least I don't! I think it's the secret to success in life, to not grow up." ■

Prairie Miller is a freelance writer based in New York City where she covers film for WBAI Radio.



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## CANADIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS

Vancouver's **Ryan Reynolds** finally makes a movie about being Canadian. Strangely, he's not the one playing the Canuck

• KEVIN WILLIAMSON

alk about a role reversal, eh? In the romantic-comedy *The Proposal*, Sandra Bullock is a transplanted Canadian who, when faced with the possibility of being deported from her adopted American home, arm-twists her bullied assistant, Ryan Reynolds, into marrying her.

Off-screen, of course, Reynolds is the Canuck who last September wed a famous American: actor Scarlett Johansson, although we presume that union was entirely voluntary and Reynolds was never in danger of being booted back across the border.

After all, even in Hollywood, a town teeming with Canadians, he remains one of the Great White North's most sought-after exports. Having repeatedly shown his versatility — his varied résumé runs the gamut from action to comedy to drama — he has thus far avoided being typecast. Or under-worked. In addition to

*continued* ➔



PHOTO BY NANCY KASZERMAN/KEYSTONE

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## INTERVIEW >> RYAN REYNOLDS



From left to right: Andrew (Ryan Reynolds) has his boss Margaret (Sandra Bullock) at his mercy; the couple gets its paperwork in order



→→→ *The Proposal*, Reynolds has had two other films released since April: *Adventureland* (he plays an amusement park mechanic) and *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* (as mercenary Deadpool). And next month should see the release of *Fireflies in the Garden*, a dysfunctional-family drama that stars Reynolds as Julia Roberts' son Michael, or at least the adult version of Roberts' son — the film jumps back and forth in time while trying to unravel the family's troubles.

"It's not work. It's just what I do, I love it," Reynolds says during a recent interview at a Beverly Hills hotel. "[But] I was working 15 months straight, so I'm happy not to be shooting a movie right now."

It turns out the pairing of Reynolds and Bullock, if not inevitable, was at least probable. The two stars, whose greatest successes have come with lighter romantic fare, have known each other for the better part of a decade.

"Sandra, I've been friends with for almost eight years. Her best friend runs my company and before he ran my company, he and I were very good friends. So we met that way and have been friends ever since," he says. "It was amazing to work with her and bring eight years of chemistry to the table and have this unbelievable, unspoken bond that works so well for our movie. It's this real kind of love-hate relationship between the two of them that is so fluid. We had times where it was just one or two takes and we're moving on, which is unheard of in a romantic-comedy because there's so much over-tweaking with everything."

Elaborating on the similarities between rom-com queens Bullock and Roberts, he adds, "I don't think you can reach the level of success they've reached without having an enormous amount of class and integrity. Because even Hollywood will weed out the a-holes and bastards eventually.... They're both incomparable talents."

Reynolds, who was born and raised in Vancouver, first came to

» THE PROPOSAL  
HITS THEATRES  
JUNE 19TH

Hollywood's attention in the early 1990s when the Canadian drama in which he starred, *Hillside*, was picked up by Nickelodeon in the U.S.

A few years later, he landed a starring role on the sitcom *Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place*, followed by the big-screen's *National Lampoon's Van Wilder*. In the decade since, his credits have included *Just Friends* with Anna Faris and Amy Smart; *Definitely, Maybe* with Isla Fisher and Elizabeth Banks; the vampire sequel *Blade: Trinity*, the rehash of *The Amityville Horror* and the testosterone-fuelled action-thriller *Smokin' Aces*.

But it is his marriage to Johansson that has made Reynolds the tabloid target he is today.

The 32-year-old, who guards his privacy and declines to discuss his personal life, says he hopes he can continue to maintain a low profile. "To a certain degree, that kind of exposure is something that you court and I've never been one to court it. You probably don't see

a lot of photos of me running around between different clubs. If you don't want to be photographed, you know the places where it's more likely you won't be."

Besides, if need be, he can always head home to Canada for a breather from prying eyes. "I retreat. I have a place up in Vancouver that I've always had. My family's up there, and life is a little more subdued up there so I like that."

Maybe so, but he also acknowledges he sometimes wishes we Canadians were just a little less subdued.

"In America, there's a huge sense of entitlement, which for a Canadian can be refreshing because you know the culture in Canada is that of reservation.... I almost wish you could fuse the two countries — the mentalities — together." ■

Kevin Williamson is a Calgary-based movie columnist for Sun Media.

SIDE BAR PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

## INTO THE WILD

Much of *The Proposal*'s rom-com action is set in Alaska, where Andrew (Ryan Reynolds) takes his boss/fake fiancée (Sandra Bullock) to meet his family. Perhaps it was the thought of the Alaskan wilderness — and we do mean thought since *The Proposal* wasn't filmed in the northern state but rather in Massachusetts and Rhode Island — that spurred Reynolds to plan a summer road trip to Alaska.

An avid motorcyclist, Reynolds told *Men's Health* magazine that he, his brother and a friend will ride their bikes along the Top of the World Highway, the 105-kilometre stretch of pavement that runs from Dawson City in the Yukon to Alaska, where it joins with Taylor Highway (Alaska Route 5). Reynolds will make the journey on his spiffy Paul Smart Ducati seen here as he rides through the streets of West Hollywood.

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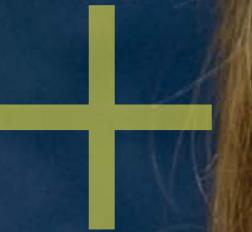
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SPECIAL SECTION

# Famous Teens



**NEW MOON**  
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WHO'S YOUR  
CELEBRITY  
BFF?

ON THE SET OF  
*HARRY POTTER AND  
THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE*  
WITH

**EMMA  
WATSON**

# Young & FAMOUS

Bleu's a model; Conrad's a novelist; and Cera and Yi are in love

## BEAUTIFUL BLEU

You loved him as Zac Efron's basketball-playing best friend in the *High School Musical* movies, but will you fall for him as an aspiring model with a drug problem in *A Beautiful Life*?

**Corbin Bleu** will star in the new Ashton Kutcher-produced TV series about a group of models sharing a co-ed residence in New York City. Bleu plays Isaac, a model with a taste for illegal substances, while Sara Paxton stars as up-and-coming runway babe Reina. Mischa Barton is the very bitchy Sonya and Canadian actor Ben Hollingsworth plays cute catalogue model Chris. Look for *A Beautiful Life* to hit the airwaves this fall. —IR



### CANDY IS DANDY

If there's one girl who knows what it's like to move to L.A., land a part in a reality TV show and learn that fame doesn't necessarily bring happiness, it's Lauren Conrad. *The Hills* star put her experience to good use penning her debut novel, *L.A. Candy*, the first book in a planned trilogy. The story focuses on 19-year-old Jane Roberts and her BFF Scarlett, who've moved to L.A. to party hard and hang out with hot guys. They land roles in a reality TV version of *Sex and the City* and become VIPs. Sounds great, right? Think again. Everybody wants a piece of them and they're not sure who they can trust. *L.A. Candy* hits shelves on June 20th. —IR

LAUREN CONRAD  
*L.A. Candy*



INSET PHOTO BY ASH KNOTEK/KEYSTONE

### YOUNG LOVE?

No doubt about it, our favourite celeb couple right now is Michael Cera and Charlyne Yi. Unconventional? Maybe. Adorable. We think so.

You may remember Yi as Jodi, Martin's stoner girlfriend in *Knocked Up*. She's also a stand-up comedian, performance artist and musician, so it's no wonder Cera was drawn to her, despite what may be a rather large age gap. Cera is just 21, while Yi claims to be 37 on her MySpace page. We have trouble believing that, though, and at least one article in *Variety* magazine claims she's in her early 20s. Maybe lying about her age is part of Yi's performance art.

Anyway, this August you can catch both halves of the happy couple in *Paper Heart*, an indie pic in which Yi (playing a sort-of version of herself) meets, and falls for, Cera (playing a sort-of version of himself) while working on a documentary about the meaning of love. —MW



**C**hristopher Mintz-Plasse,

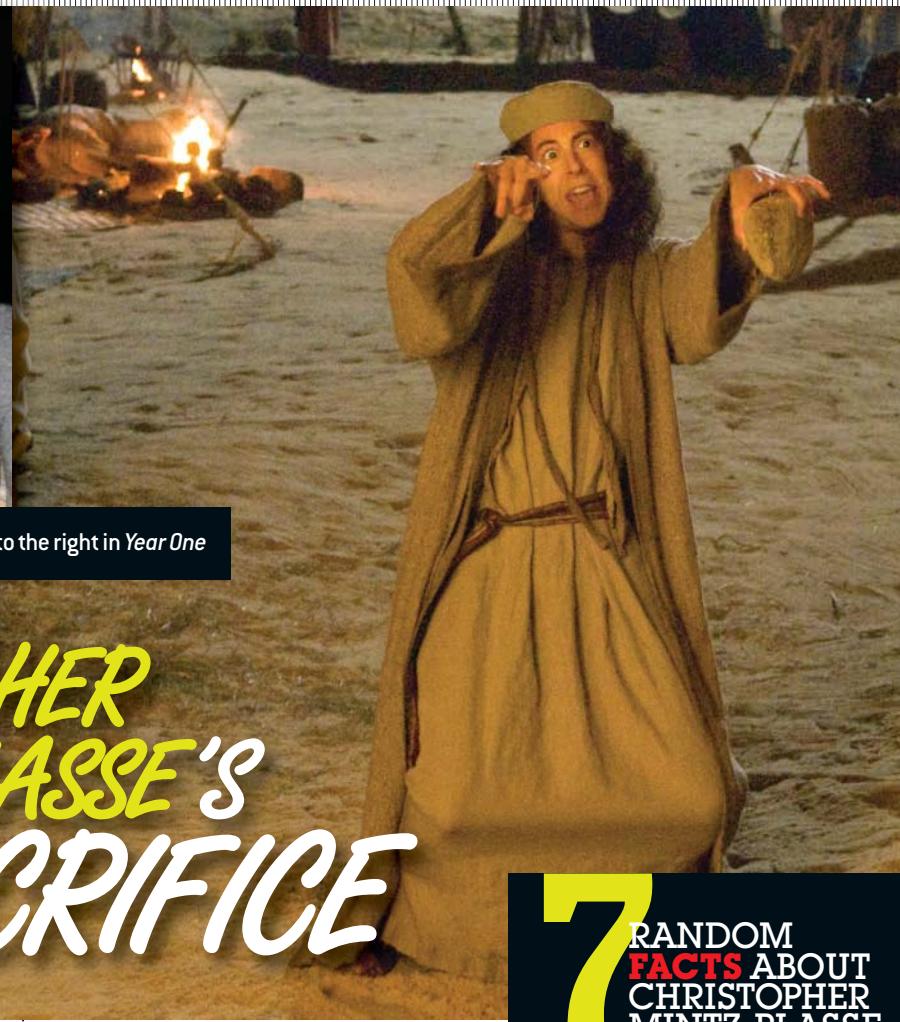
who played what may be the most memorable high school dork of the decade in *Superbad*, appears in *Year One* as the most troubled kid in religious history.

"It has Jack Black, and I got to work again with Michael Cera, which was hilarious," says Mintz-Plasse. "I play Isaac from the Bible; it's a spoof with Michael and Jack's characters pretty much just wandering through Isaac's and other Biblical stories."

It required research, though. Despite growing up in a Jewish family in a land of many congregations — L.A.'s San Fernando Valley — Chris knew nothing about Isaac, whose dad Abraham famously agreed to sacrifice him upon God's request. (In the end, the Almighty let father and son off the hook and Isaac lived to the ripe old age of 180.)

"When you're over 18 you become an adult, right?" he says, frustration in his voice. "Except for drinking, which is a bummer. You can go to war but you can't drink a beer." ■

—Bob Strauss



## CHRISTOPHER MINTZ-PLASSE'S BIG SACRIFICE

### 7 RANDOM FACTS ABOUT CHRISTOPHER MINTZ-PLASSE

- Because he was only 17 when he did *Superbad*, his mom had to be there when he shot his sex scene. They haven't spoken about it since.
- He still lives with his parents in Woodland Hills, California, the L.A. suburb where he was born and raised.
- He was on the improv comedy team at El Camino Real High School.
- His mom is a school counsellor, his dad is a mailman.
- Led Zeppelin is one of his favourite bands.
- His next movie is the indie superhero film *Kick-Ass* starring Nicolas Cage. Mintz-Plasse plays Red Mist.
- He often shows up to big movie premieres wearing a plaid, flannel shirt.

# Your new BFF

Move over, Paris Hilton. It's your turn to find a new BFF. We all know the only reason your BFF isn't rich and famous is because **Ashley Tisdale**, **Blake Lively**, **Robert Pattinson** and **Zac Efron** haven't had the *privilege* of meeting you. The real question is which one would you pick as your new best friend forever? To figure out which star you should be hanging out with, we prepared a little quiz using Ashley, Blake, Robert and Zac's favourite things.

**1) THE MOVIE YOU  
WOULD WATCH OVER  
AND OVER AGAIN IS...**

- a) *My Best Friend's Wedding*
- b) *Dumb and Dumber*
- c) *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
- d) *Moulin Rouge!*

**2) THE COOLEST ACTOR  
IN HOLLYWOOD IS...**

- a) Brittany Murphy
- b) Jack Black
- c) Jack Nicholson
- d) Angelina Jolie

**3) THE YUMMIEST  
CEREAL IS...**

- a) Quaker Oats
- b) Honey Nut Cheerios
- c) Golden Grahams
- d) Cookie Crisp

**4) YOUR FAVE CAR IS A...**

- a) Range Rover
- b) Toyota Supra
- c) Porsche
- d) Hybrid

**5) YOUR DREAM  
JOB WOULD BE...**

- a) Interior Designer
- b) Poker Player or Videogame Tester
- c) Pianist
- d) Actor

**6) YOU COULD SPEND  
THE REST OF YOUR  
LIFE EATING...**

- a) Pizza
- b) Sushi and Orange Chicken
- c) Spaghetti with Meatballs
- d) Cupcakes

**7) THE TV SHOW YOU  
NEVER MISS IS...**

- a) *Laguna Beach*
- b) *American Idol*
- c) *The Office*
- d) *Gossip Girl*

**8) THE SPORT  
THAT GETS YOU  
OFF THE COUCH IS...**

- a) Horseback Riding
- b) Surfing
- c) Darts or Pool
- d) Cheerleading

**9) YOUR FIRST  
CELEBRITY CRUSH  
WAS ON...**

- a) Johnny Depp
- b) Tyra Banks
- c) Kristen Stewart
- d) Justin Timberlake

Now find out which star you have the most in common with. The letter you circled most often represents the star who should be (and is probably dying to be) your BFF:  
 a) Ashley Tisdale b) Zac Efron c) Robert Pattinson d) Blake Lively



ASHLEY TISDALE



ZAC EFRON



ROBERT PATTON



BLAKE LIVELY

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# NEW MOON SHINES ON B.C.

**Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart** and the rest of the *Twilight* cast are in the Vancouver area shooting the sequel, *New Moon*. And we know where they've been in their off time!



When Jackson Rathbone isn't playing part of the Cullen clan in the *Twilight* pics, he's the frontman for 100 Monkeys. His band scored a gig at The Backstage Lounge on Granville Island and his co-stars came out to watch.

PHOTO BY ALECIA GIBSON/SPLASH NEWS

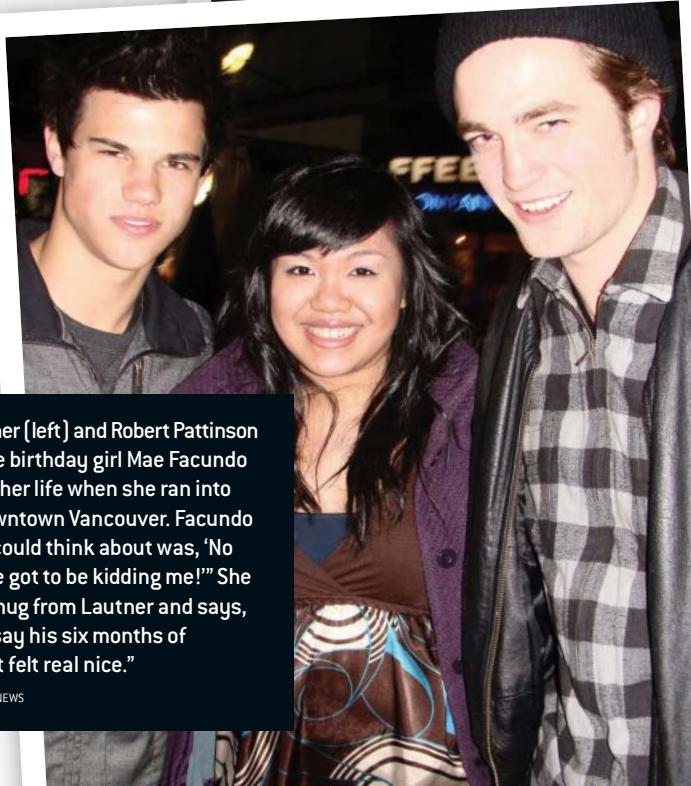
Kristen Stewart (left) and Nikki Reed (right) really do get along! The on-screen enemies give singer Sage Dill (centre) a big hug on the first night of Dill's two shows at Vancouver's The Metropole. Reed and Dill are friends from L.A., so the whole cast came out to support Dill and her band, Sage and the Dills.

PHOTO BY R. CHIANG/SPLASH NEWS



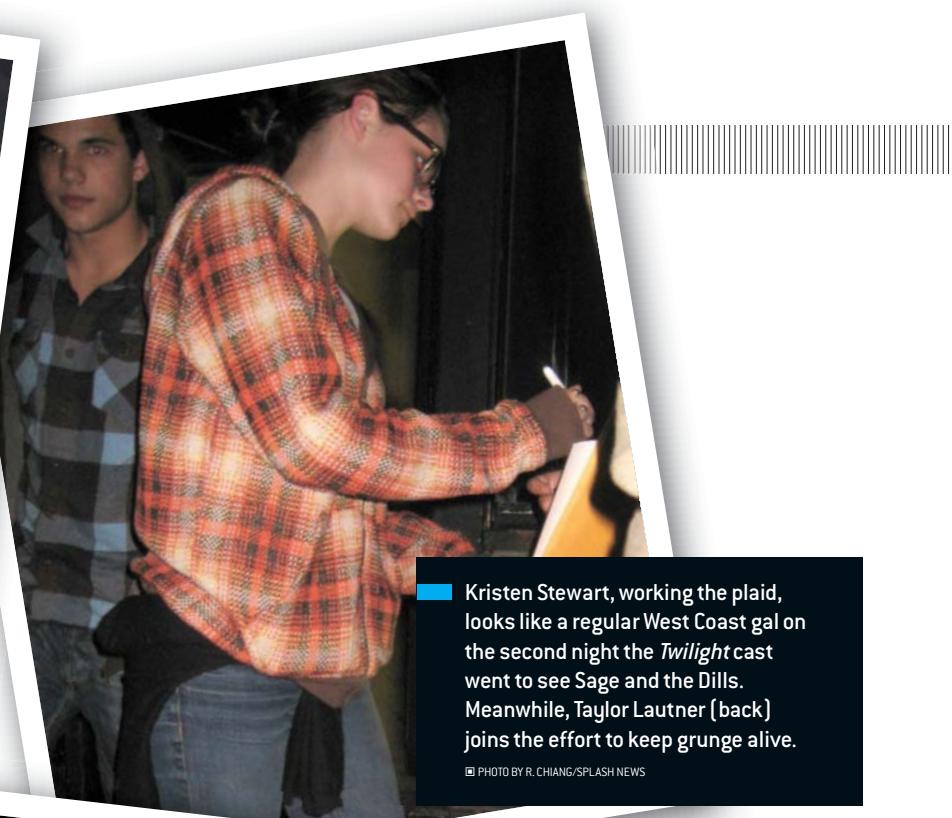
No limos for this crew. A hooded Robert Pattinson gives the thumbs up as he leaves Chill Winston in a cab. He was at the Vancouver restaurant/lounge for a private party in honour of Kristen Stewart's birthday.

PHOTO BY DOLPH CHIANG/SPLASH NEWS



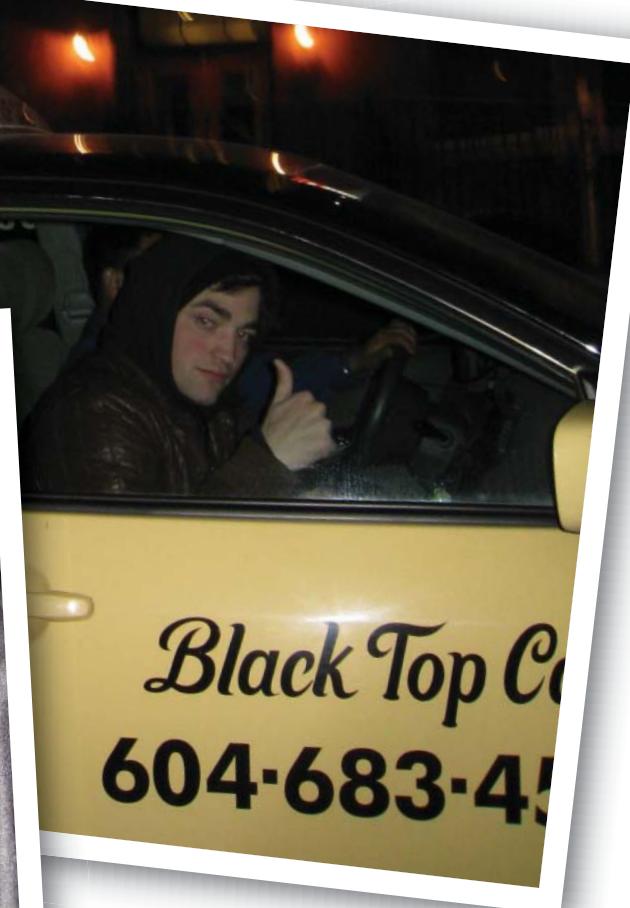
Taylor Lautner (left) and Robert Pattinson (right) gave birthday girl Mae Facundo the thrill of her life when she ran into them in downtown Vancouver. Facundo says, "All I could think about was, 'No way, you've got to be kidding me!'" She even got a hug from Lautner and says, "Let's just say his six months of working out felt real nice."

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



Kristen Stewart, working the plaid, looks like a regular West Coast gal on the second night the *Twilight* cast went to see Sage and the Dills. Meanwhile, Taylor Lautner (back) joins the effort to keep grunge alive.

PHOTO BY R. CHIANG/SPLASH NEWS



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# BEYOND THE PASTEL



How to wear the season's soft pastels without fading away

BY LIZA HERZ

**I**n fiction, if not in life, we love the conflicts. Who wants to see everyone getting along? We ask you: What's more fun? Heidi and Spencer all kissy and blissful or Heidi shouting and Spencer glowering? No contest.

And what would *Twilight*'s Bella and Edward be without the "will he turn her into a vampire" tension?

In fashion too, tension creates appeal. An unexpected element throws everything off kilter (like multi-buckled biker boots with a demure dress) and keeps things from looking too styled, too perfect.

Take, for example, the current trend for pastels or pinks. Avoid wearing them head-to-toe or risk looking like you took your fashion inspiration from *My Little Pony*. Instead, think contrast. Our model might be wearing pink jeans, but any cuteness is offset by the casual rope belt, soft grey T-shirt and the added punch of chunky

platforms with wide, buckled straps.

Another high-contrast look pairs loose-fitting boyfriend jeans with a soft, floaty top. White crochet or delicate embroidery are super-feminine counterpoints to oversized, hole-in-the-knee pants.

Keep makeup supersoft too. Our multi-hued rosy blush from Physician's Formula lets you choose the intensity of colour you want and (bonus!) you can use the lightest shade on your inner eyelid and brow bone as a highlighter. Add a subtly tinted lip gloss and you're done.

Just don't forget to protect that glowy skin. Neutrogena's new Pure and Free Sunscreen (the baby version is great for delicate skin) protects without causing that ghostly white face so often associated with sunscreen. Because, although we love pale, that's NOT the look we're going for.

Vibrant pink skinny jeans and low-key hair and makeup are a perfect spring into summer look (flutter tee \$26, tank \$24, denim \$60, shoes \$98, all Gap.)



Covergirl Wetslicks Fruit Spritzers Lip Gloss (\$7, drugstores) in **Berry Splash** gives a hint of soft colour and shine for a perfect pout.



Pantene Pro-V Nature Fusion Smoothing Crème (\$6, London Drugs) uses cassia seed and avocado to give hair shine and protect from frizz.



Gutsy, oversized grommets and all-over fringe give the **Mogush Bag** (\$40, Aldo) the right mix of tough and tender.



Even if you're not the flowery type, we defy you to resist the subtle crocheted daisy detail on the **Slow Breeze Top** (\$117, anthropologie.com).



Use **Physician's Formula Shimmer Strips Custom Blush and Highlighter** in **Rosy Glow** for colour and subtle shimmer (\$18, Shoppers Drug Mart).



Neutrogena Pure & Free Baby Sunscreen Lotion (\$13, drugstores) is the perfect way to protect sensitive skin from the sun's aging rays.



The embroidered detailing at the neckline of this **Esprit Cotton Top** (\$50, Esprit) means you can forego jewellery.



With a low-slung waist, roomy cut through the legs, and a soft pale wash, **Levi's Boyfriend Jeans** (\$98, levi.ca for stores) epitomize slouchy style.



We catch up with  
**Emma Watson**  
on the set of  
*Harry Potter and the  
Half-Blood Prince*

# WORKING HER MAGIC

BY BRUCE KIRKLAND

**T**here's a spot in the English countryside near London where you'll find a dingy-looking old factory that used to make Rolls Royce airplane engines. But that ugly exterior hides magic brewing inside. The factory is now Leavesden Studios, which has been home to the Harry Potter movies since the beginning, and where on this day *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* is being transformed from words on a page to a big-screen reality.

All the familiar Hogwarts rooms remain permanently dressed from year to year. Workers age the props from one movie to the next so that the place looks like it is being well used, especially after bad things

take a toll on poor Hogwarts. The rooms are huge, and gorgeous. But if you step outside one of them, the exterior is just wood framing and plywood. Step back in, and the magic of the movies returns.

It's here that I sat down with Emma Watson to discuss playing Hermione Granger, a role that has defined the actor since she was just 10 years old. "It's funny," Watson says about winning the role, "because it happened to me when I was so young. You barely notice yourself growing up when it's happening, but I guess that's what has happened, really."

By the time the series is over, Watson, who turned 19 in April, will have spent most of her life involved with Harry Potter. **continued →**

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## >> HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE HITS THEATRES JULY 15TH



Professor Slughorn (Jim Broadbent) instructs Hermione (Emma Watson) in potions class. Below: Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) and Hermione



Horcruxes, because as long as just one remains, Voldemort cannot be killed.

As for Hermione, her main role is to be a friend to Harry so he doesn't feel alone in his fight. "I think Hermione has a massive part to play in Harry's success," says Watson. "She teaches him that the only way to defeat Voldemort is through having his friends, and trusting his friends."

**→→→** Befitting the age of the stars and their characters, the new movie will have some funny romantic moments to offset the series' increasingly darker tone. Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) falls in love with Ginny Weasley (Bonnie Wright), Ron's sister, and Ron (Rupert Grint) pursues his romance with Lavender Brown (Jessie Cave).

But, inevitably, the story churns toward its heavy climax as Harry looks into the suspicious activities of Draco Malfoy (Tom Felton) and Severus Snape (Alan Rickman) and investigates the meaning of an old potions textbook that belonged to the mysterious Half-Blood Prince. Eventually, it becomes clear that Lord Voldemort is leading another wizard war, violent enough that even Muggles are seeing evidence of it in their world. Meanwhile, Professor Dumbledore (Michael Gambon) and Harry search for the six splinters of Voldemort's soul, a.k.a. the

In real life, like in the movie, Watson, Radcliffe and Grint are now young adults with real lives. Radcliffe is doing other movies and starred in a major play in London and on Broadway. Grint is branching out with other movies, too. And on the personal front, Watson just went public with her first serious boyfriend. Jay Barrymore is a 27-year-old British businessman. They have been dating for a year. "It's very peculiar looking back on [the films] and seeing how much I've changed and how much I've grown and what I looked like before all this happened," Watson says. She even jokes that, in those first movies, she looked "like a chipmunk" with her baby face. Then she started maturing, along with Radcliffe and Grint. "In a way, that's what people really identify with. It makes it a real journey, a very real journey, because we literally are growing up with the characters."

WATSON/BARRYMORE PHOTO BY KEystone

Watson had never acted professionally before being cast in the original Harry Potter movie by American director Chris Columbus. Her only experience was in school plays.

She is not even originally from England. Watson was born in Paris, France, and lived there with her parents until she was five. Her maternal grandmother is French and Emma still speaks a bit of the language. Both parents, now divorced and remarried, are English lawyers. After the divorce, Watson went back to England with her mother, Jacqueline Luesby, and her brother Alex.

In her new life, Watson soon became interested in acting. Part-time, she started attending the Stagecoach Theatre Arts school and studying singing, dancing and acting. Her theatre teacher there recommended Watson to the Harry Potter casting directors and she earned the role after eight auditions.

With her young-adult perspective, Watson now realizes what she is part of. And it amazes her because she thinks the fantasy world created by Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling is so sophisticated. "For such mainstream entertainment, it has such depth. It is very complex and I think that is why I wouldn't just call it a kids' book," says Watson.

"Everything about the book, everything about J.K. Rowling's world, is thought down to the very last detail. You can pull apart the spells and they're Latin and they actually mean what they are doing. And all

the names are so interesting and so unique and different and everyone has their own history. And how she's come up with all of this is just so amazing. At the end of each book, it's almost like an Aesop's Fable. Every time, every year, there is a lesson that Harry learns."

Speaking of lessons, two years ago Watson created a fuss by speculating that she might quit acting completely and just go to school, where she is a straight-A student. Neither she nor her co-stars were originally signed to the Potter series past number four. She somewhat reluctantly agreed to film number five.

Then, in the summer of 2007, Watson shot her first non-Potter project, a movie called *Ballet Shoes* for Britain's BBC television.

"Having an experience outside of Harry Potter really helped me," Watson says. "I think it really convinced me that this is where I belong and this is what I am meant to be doing, that I do want to be an actress. But I think I needed to have an experience outside of Harry Potter because, in a way, I was just plucked from obscurity and given this role. I mean, I really wanted it but I never felt that it was a decision I made. It just happened to me. I felt I won the lottery."

Bruce Kirkland writes about movies for the Toronto Sun and Sun Media.



In the Harry Potter movies, Emma Watson's character is torn between two loves — Bulgarian Quidditch star Viktor Krum and long-time pal Ron Weasley. But in real life Watson has quietly made it clear that Jay Barrymore, a former child actor [he appeared on a few British TV shows] turned banker is her man. Nineteen-year-old Watson has been dating Barrymore — whose age ranges from 26 to 28, depending on who you believe — for more than a year.

Although she has yet to speak publicly about their relationship, Watson and Barrymore have been photographed frolicking poolside on the Spanish party island of Ibiza and, more recently, kissing on the set of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. In this shot the happy couple leaves London's Mahiki Nightclub. —MW

# "WE'RE BLOWING EVERYTHING UP!"

And with that, **Shia LaBeouf** tells you everything you need to know about the explosive sequel *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*

◆ BY BOB STRAUSS

S

hia LaBeouf has survived another one.

Another *Transformers* movie, anyway. One that promises, in the delicate language of a studio promotional campaign, "even bigger giant f---ing robots" from outer space. (Seriously. That's what it said on promotional T-shirts given out at Comic-Con.)

LaBeouf's back in *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen* as Sam Witwicky, misunderstood kid turned friend of the good alien Autobots and target of their enemies the Decepticons, mechanical beings that can turn themselves into cars, helicopters and, in a film that climaxes at the ancient pyramids of Giza, probably the most high-tech chariots you've ever seen.

LaBeouf is also back in the hands of volatile director Michael Bay, who made quite an impact with the first *Transformers* by, among

other skills, yelling a lot. Of course, standing between the director's temper and the young, sometimes trouble-prone actor is the formidable figure of producer Steven Spielberg, who's been a mentor to LaBeouf through such star-making hits as *Disturbia*, *Eagle Eye* and, most conspicuously, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, which Spielberg directed while giving Shia the plum role of Indy's son.

"Mike has been better this time, he's more comfortable and he's doing different stuff," says LaBeouf, looking buff but for the cast on his broken hand, during an interview in Los Angeles last autumn. "It's wild to watch Mike grow up and to acknowledge it. Every filmmaker, every movie out, something changes. You either gain something or you lose something, and I think this time Mike has gained a lot. I also think working with Steven is really transforming Mike. His preparation is very different on this one than it was on the first one."

Maybe. But one still can't imagine the soft-spoken Spielberg ordering *Transformers* co-star Megan Fox, when she arrived on the set of *Revenge of the Fallen* too skinny for the director's taste, to go eat some cheeseburgers.

"Megan Fox is gorgeous, still," LaBeouf gallantly affirms. "And no, I didn't think she was too skinny when she came back to do this. Megan has never looked bad. There's always something that Michael says, but he's been good."

LaBeouf has been on his best behaviour for a while, too. Over a nine-month period in 2007 and 2008, the just-turned-legal actor had some run-ins with the law, culminating in the late-night summer car crash that damaged his hand and led to the loss of his license when he refused to take a Breathalyzer test (as with the earlier arrest and bench warrant for unlawful smoking, no charges were ever filed

against LaBeouf). Many were ready to chalk the incidents up to a child actor losing control when unimaginable success coincided with becoming an adult (he turns 23 this month).

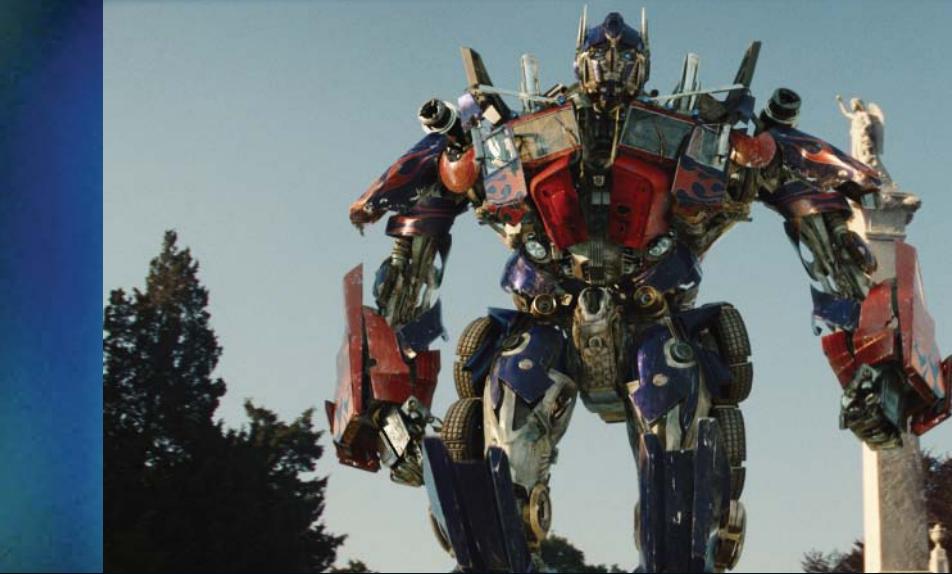
But LaBeouf appeared earnest and sober when we spoke. If he was high on anything, it was enthusiasm for his latest movie, where the injury was written into Sam's part of the story.

"It's bigger, faster and stronger than what we did the first time," he says. "We're blowing everything up. I was just at Holloman Air Force Base, where we blew up an entire town! There are new characters that are interesting. Our banter is fast and it's fun, it's table tennis."

And what of average-teen-turned-world-saviour Sam Witwicky? "There's cool stuff that happens to Sam. Sam starts to lose his mind. He starts having visions of his grandfather, Archibald Witwicky, and that's fun to play around with. And recess time with *continued* ➤



➤ **TRANSFORMERS:  
REVENGE OF  
THE FALLEN**  
HITS THEATRES  
JUNE 24TH



Clockwise from left: Shia LaBeouf as Sam Witwicky; Starscream opens up to Sam; Optimus Prime



Don't Look Back: Megan Fox and Shia LaBeouf make a run for it in *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*



## TROPICAL PUNCHLINE

It's been just six years since Shia LaBeouf — battler of 'bots, saviour of the world — was wearing a pineapple on his head.

LaBeouf got his big break playing pesky Louis Stevens on the Disney Channel's *Even Stevens* (2000-2003). This shot is from the series finale, also known as *The Even Stevens Movie*, in which the Stevens family travels to a tropical island for what they think is a vacation, but is tricked into starring in a reality-TV show called *Family Fake Out*.

May look silly, but the role earned LaBeouf the Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Performer in a Children's Series, and the show quickly led to a whack of movie roles. The year *Even Stevens* was laid to rest, LaBeouf appeared in four movies — *Holes*, *Dumb and Dumberer*, *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle* and *The Battle of Shaker Heights*. —MW

→ John Turturro [who plays the addled fed constantly at odds with Sam] is always fun.... It's like Groundlings Theater," LaBeouf says, referencing the L.A. comedy troupe whose alumni include Will Ferrell and Lisa Kudrow. "You're ad libbing all day long. One of the beautiful things about Mike is that he'll allow it. You can do free-form thought the whole day."

Despite his hard-earned success — born into a cash-strapped family of L.A. hippie artists, Shia invented a career as a foul-mouthed child stand-up comic before taking the Disney TV kid route — there's not a hint of arrogance in LaBeouf. Indeed, he still seems more surprised than anyone that he's become the highest-profile action hero of his generation.

"Something's obviously off; nobody expects Garry Shandling to save the world," he half-jokes, convinced he's no more attractive nor masculine than the prune-faced comedian.

That noted, LaBeouf otherwise feels at home in the world of high-stakes filmmaking. Working with many of the same people over and over again has brought a sense of belonging that was hard to come by in the rough neighbourhoods and broken homes of his childhood.

Of course, he realizes that finding a nurturing work "family" on the sets of nine-figure megaproductions is about as rarefied as it gets, and LaBeouf certainly appreciates it.

"I, personally, don't think there is a better job on the planet," he says. "And there is no better way to do it than to make movies with friends. You can bounce ideas and be able to collaborate and not feel threatened for having an idea. And it's great to be around people who have full existences.... They still have time to make movies, but show me that there's a cut-off point when life starts."

After going at TV and movies non-stop for 10 years, LaBeouf is enjoying a little cut-off time himself. He hasn't worked since *Revenge of the Fallen* wrapped, and for the first time has shifted the drive that got him to the top (but may also have been steering him toward destruction) into neutral.

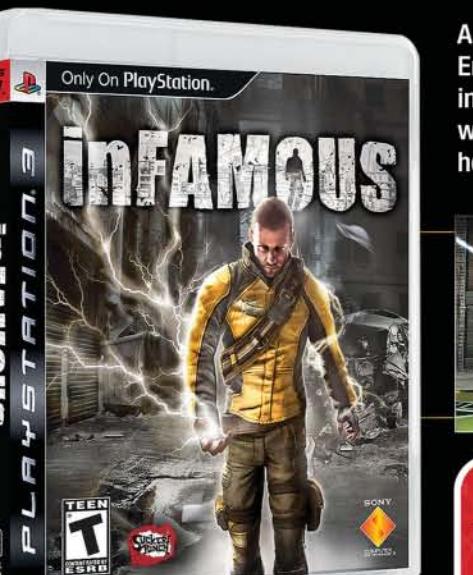
"I'll just play it by ear for a while," he says. "I could use a little break. I don't feel any pressure to do anything, really. I mean, we've just been goin'. If anything, I feel pressure to slow down." ■

Bob Strauss lives in L.A. where he writes about movies and filmmakers.

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# MUSIC MAKERS

The Lovely Feathers return to fantasyland. Plus, will *Away We Go* be the soundtrack of the summer? 



## FEATHERS FLOCK TOGETHER

**K**eeping a young band together is like trying to juggle jello. That's what Montreal's The Lovely Feathers discovered in 2006 when their debut CD, *Hind Hind Legs*, garnered so much attention that the group lost its focus and disintegrated.

"Our lives were basically falling apart," says The Lovely Feathers founder and lead singer Mark Kupfert on the line from Montreal. "We loved making music, but there were so many issues that we forgot why we loved making music in the first place. But now that we're

more stable we're ready to f-k up our lives again."

Kupfert and bandmates Richard Yanofsky, Mark Shortt and Ted Suss decided to give the group another go, and their second album, which is available June 2nd, proves once again this quartet has a knack for producing poppy electro gems.

And the CD's title, *Fantasy of the Lot*, acts as a reminder to Kupfert that rock star ambitions come with a price.

"Music is my fantasy," he says, "and I keep pursuing it even though it keeps hurting me, and a lot of us choose things because they

are our fantasies, and they screw us over. I'm interested in the people who feel they have to choose these fantasies.

"Like, I'm amazed I'm doing music again — it really screwed up my life — but I have to do it again. It's this strange thing and hopefully it won't hurt me as much this time."

### YOUR SUMMER SOUNDTRACK

*Away We Go* director Sam Mendes was so wowed by the stripped-down songs of soulful British singer-songwriter Alexi Murdoch (right) that he handpicked his tunes for the film's soundtrack. It's an inspired choice, and we predict the *Juno*-esque soundtrack will be playing in cars, backyards and cottages all summer long.

### OUT THIS MONTH

- JUNE 2 → Jets Overhead - No Nations → Ryan Star - 11:59
- JUNE 9 → Black Eyed Peas - The E.N.D. → Sonic Youth - *The Eternal*
- JUNE 16 → Jonas Brothers - *Lines, Vines and Trying Times* → Twista - *Category F5*
- JUNE 23 → Alexisonfire - *Old Crows/Young Cardinals* → Regina Spektor - *Far*

Go to [HMV.ca](#) for more information

THE LOVELY FEATHERS PHOTO BY SHANNON HANSEN

# HOT PLAY

We ain't afraid of no ghosts 

### Ghostbusters: The Video Game DS, PS2, PS3, PC, WII, XBOX 360

**T**wenty-five years ago this month, the action-comedy *Ghostbusters*, starring Dan Aykroyd, Harold Ramis and Bill Murray as oddball paranormal-psychologists-turned-ghost-exterminators, exploded onto the big screen. Lodging in the #1 box-office spot for a now-incredible seven weeks, it earned a zillion dollars, and launched a mini-industry of ghostly products, including five videogames.

Well, make that six. And this long-gestating game has — like the movie itself — spared no production expense. As well as impressive visuals and realistic physical interactions, it features the voices and likenesses of all four original Ghostbusters, in a story penned by original writers Aykroyd and Ramis.

Set two years after 1989's *Ghostbusters II* (meaning cast members glory in full heads of hair and trim waistlines), New York is once again experiencing a spike in paranormal activity, including return visits from old foes like Stay Puft and the Library Lady. You play as the overwhelmed team's newest recruit, hired as a somewhat expendable "experimental equipment technician."

That equipment includes the classic proton-stream weapon, still powered by an unlicensed nuclear accelerator on your back (don't cross the streams!), plus an even more unstable dark matter stasis beam. Third-person action includes chasing, wrangling and trapping slime-spewing spooks, environmental puzzles and multiplayer modes.

For a little sex appeal, Alyssa Milano voices a comely antiquities expert at the centre of the otherworldly weirdness, who just might be able to help the Ghostbusters save the city — if they can keep Venkman (Murray) from hitting on her every three minutes.

→ RELEASE DATE: JUNE 16



### Call of Juarez: Bound in Blood

PC, PS3, XBOX 360

With too many guns and too little law, the Wild West is a pretty great place to set a first-person shooter. Blending gritty realism and over-the-top action, this prequel to 2007's fine *Call of Juarez* sees the McCall brothers searching for Aztec gold in Mexico, armed with rifles, lassos, dynamite and a distinct attitude problem. → RELEASE DATE: JUNE 9



### Prototype

PC, PS3, XBOX 360

In this open-world action title, Alex Mercer wakes up with amnesia to find he can climb or wall-run across any surface, jump 30 storeys high, mutate his hands into claws, knives or tentacles, and grow body armour. Now he's trying to unravel a sinister conspiracy and find out what happened to him. Our guess: something bad. → RELEASE DATE: JUNE 9

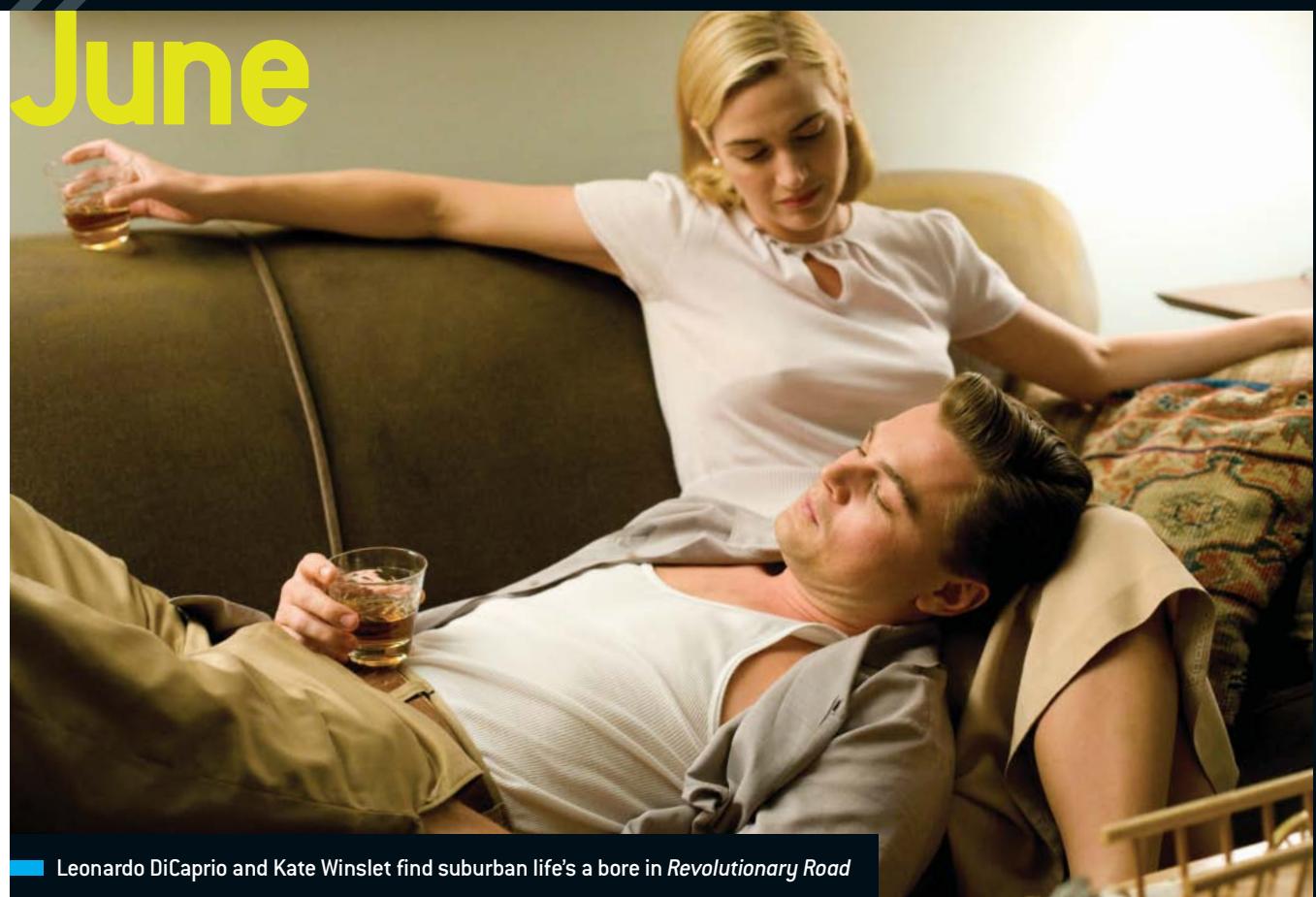
THE GOODS »

# DVD RELEASES

BIG MOVIES COMING TO THE SMALL SCREEN

BY MARNI WEISZ

## June



Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet find suburban life's a bore in *Revolutionary Road*

JUNE 2

**Defiance**

**STARS:** Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber  
**DIRECTOR:** Edward Zwick

**STORY:** During the Holocaust, three brothers (Craig, Schreiber, Jamie Bell) in Eastern Europe organize a forest encampment to shelter Jews fleeing the Nazis. Based on the true story of Tuvia, Zus and Asael Bielski.

**DVD Extras:** "Return to the Forest: The Making of *Defiance*," "Children of the Otriad: The Families Speak," "Bielski Partisan Survivors"

**Revolutionary Road**

**STARS:** Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio  
**DIRECTOR:** Sam Mendes (*American Beauty*)

**STORY:** The suburbs of 1950s Connecticut are taking their toll on once-idealistic Frank (DiCaprio) and April (Winslet) Wheeler. The dreams they had when they married have fizzled, and unless they can make good on a plan to move to Paris and live like Bohemians, all may be lost.

**DVD Extras:** "Lives of Quiet Desperation: The Making of *Revolutionary Road*," deleted scenes, "4 Fanboys & 1 Fangirl"

**Fanboys**

**STARS:** Jay Baruchel, Kristen Bell  
**DIRECTOR:** Kyle Newman (debut)

**STORY:** The drama surrounding the release of this long-on-the-shelf comedy (made as an indie/bought by Weinstein/Weinstein wanted to change script/internet-based revolt) may, in the end, have been a better story than the movie itself. But *Star Wars* nerds should find some giggles in this account of a group of friends who trek to Skywalker Ranch to steal an early copy of *Phantom Menace* for their dying friend. **DVD Extras:** deleted scenes, "4 Fanboys & 1 Fangirl"

**He's Just Not That Into You**

**STARS:** Justin Long, Ginnifer Goodwin  
**DIRECTOR:** Ken Kwapis (*License to Wed*)

**STORY:** Spun loosely from the self-help book of the same name, this ensemble comedy stars Goodwin as an unlucky-in-love singleton who starts taking romance advice from a brutally honest bar owner (Long). Other plotlines involve lovelorn characters played by Jennifer Aniston, Ben Affleck and Scarlett Johansson. **DVD Extras:** deleted scenes



Bee Vang (left) and Clint Eastwood in *Gran Torino*

JUNE 9

**The International**

**STARS:** Clive Owen, Naomi Watts  
**DIRECTOR:** Tom Tykwer

(*Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*)

**STORY:** Just as the economy

collapses at the hands of the world's banks, we get this thriller featuring a bank as the arch villain. It's the International Bank of Business and Credit, to be precise, and Interpol Agent Louis Salinger (Owen) has

just discovered it's using your money to finance war, murder and general malevolence.

**DVD Extras:** deleted scenes,

"Shooting at the Guggenheim,"

"The Autostadt"

Asian neighbours after a gang tries to recruit their son (Vang) and steal Walt's precious 1972 Gran Torino. **DVD Extras:** "Manning the Wheel: American Car Culture and Manhood," "Gran Torino: More Than a Car," "The Eastwood Way: His Filmmaking Process Up Close"

JUNE 23

**Confessions of a Shopaholic**

**STARS:** Isla Fisher, Hugh Dancy  
**DIRECTOR:** P.J. Hogan (*Peter Pan*)

**STORY:** Shoes. Handbags. Cute summer dresses. If your pulse just quickened you may enjoy this light romantic laugher about shop-happy Rebecca Bloomwood (Fisher) who — against all odds

— gets a job working for a financial management magazine. **DVD Extras:** bloopers, deleted scenes, music video

**Gran Torino**

**STARS:** Clint Eastwood, Bee Vang  
**DIRECTOR:** Clint Eastwood (*Changeling*)

**STORY:** Walt (Eastwood), a retired Detroit auto worker and unabashed racist, reluctantly gets to know his

uses animation to illustrate his fragmented recollection of a tragedy he witnessed during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. A Lebanese Christian militia massacred victims in a Palestinian refugee camp, but Folman, who was in the Israeli army, tries to figure out why his own government didn't step in.

**Inkheart**

**STARS:** Brendan Fraser, Helen Mirren  
**DIRECTOR:** Iain Softley (*K-PAX*)

**STORY:** There are lots of ways single fathers lose their wives; the strangest may be how Mo (Fraser) ended up alone. When Mo reads a book out loud, the characters magically pop out of the fictional world and into ours. But to keep the balance, someone from our world is sent to the fictional world, which is how Mo's wife disappeared into the pages of a book called *Inkheart*. Now Mo and his daughter Meggie (Eliza Bennett) have to get her back. **DVD Extras:** "Eliza Reads to Us"

JUNE 30

**Stone of Destiny**

**STARS:** Charlie Cox, Kate Mara  
**DIRECTOR:** Charles Martin Smith (*The Snow Walker*)

**STORY:** In this based-on-a-true-story thriller, Cox plays Ian Hamilton, a young Scottish nationalist who, in the 1950s, caused a furor by stealing the Stone of Scone from England and bringing it back to Scotland. For centuries, the stone was a part of Scottish coronation ceremonies, then in 1296 it was seized by the Brits and taken to Westminster Abbey where it was used in their coronations.

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# STARGAZING

HOROSCOPE FOR JUNE 2009 BY DAN LIEBMAN



## Angelina Jolie

**SIGN:** Gemini  
**BORN:** June 4, 1975  
**WHERE:** Los Angeles, California

### Gemini

May 23 ★ June 21

Recent misunderstandings become unnecessarily complicated. Clear the air before the 20th. A platonic relationship moves in a romantic direction. You need to decide quickly where you want it to go. Late June is ideal for putting new systems into place.

### Cancer

June 22 ★ July 22

You tend to be overly suspicious of someone's motives. Ask frank questions rather than continuing to stew. Money has been tight but your approach to spending is becoming highly sensible. Your recent kindness to a stranger is repaid after the 20th.

### Leo

July 23 ★ August 22

You're uncharacteristically passive during the first part of June, but by the 17th you're back to your alpha role. Be skeptical about financial promises, even from reliable sources. It may be easy to give up on someone you're helping, but try one more time.

### Virgo

August 23 ★ September 22

Obstacles are removed as you proceed toward a career goal. Someone expresses surprisingly warm feelings toward you. You can be a tad too spontaneous after the 16th. More planning is key.

### Libra

September 23 ★ October 22

This is a perfect time to become proficient in a new skill or language. You absorb information like a sponge. Informal settings, such as a casual lunch, are great for networking.

### Scorpio

October 23 ★ November 21

Use the first half of June to gather opinions, then spend the second half mapping out goals for the next three months. Rather than dwelling on the past, correct something that irritates you.

### Sagittarius

November 22 ★ December 22

Someone you assisted years ago is in a position to help you in a significant way. And someone you take a shine to is not as out of your league as you think.

### Capricorn

December 23 ★ January 20

A mildly jealous streak surfaces early on this month. You're convinced someone is getting special treatment. Hold your tongue till the 16th and you'll realize that you're the one being rewarded. The last week of the month is ideal for bartering items and exchanging information.

### Aquarius

January 21 ★ February 19

You feel neglected, but don't blow anything out of proportion. You're also vulnerable to criticism that is, in fact, highly valuable. If you were on a quiz show, your top categories would be finance and foreign affairs. You show a real aptitude in both areas.

### Pisces

February 20 ★ March 20

A promotion is on the horizon, so go the extra mile at work—and don't complain. Speak out, directly, if someone's health or appearance concerns you. You have a tendency to overindulge.

### Aries

March 21 ★ April 20

Your own temperament evens out, but plan to deal with erratic individuals, especially after the 8th. The air clears when you receive an apology for something that took place last year. Take small risks in romance.

### Taurus

April 21 ★ May 22

People try to trick you into doing their work. For example, you may wind up making arrangements for someone else's celebration. Satisfy your curious nature by looking into new travel destinations. Seek out new friends who are upfront and independent.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1st: Alanis Morissette

2nd: Dana Carvey

3rd: Tom Arnold

4th: Angelina Jolie

5th: Mark Wahlberg

6th: Sandra Bernhard

7th: Liam Neeson

8th: Kanye West

9th: Johnny Depp

10th: Elizabeth Hurley

11th: Hugh Laurie

12th: Ally Sheedy

13th: Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen

14th: Donald Trump

15th: Helen Hunt

16th: John Cho

17th: Will Forte

18th: Isabella Rossellini

19th: Kathleen Turner

20th: Nicole Kidman

21st: Juliette Lewis

22nd: Meryl Streep

23rd: Frances McDormand

24th: Petra Nemcova

25th: Busy Philipps

26th: Chris O'Donnell

27th: Tobe Maguire

28th: Kathy Bates

29th: Gary Busey

30th: Vincent D'Onofrio

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# FAMOUS LAST WORDS

OUR READERS HAVE THEIR SAY

**“I Know Who Killed Me is so, so bad but so much fun — Lindsay Lohan has a robot foot! ”**

—Kate Dickson, Toronto, ON

We asked you...

Sometimes a terrible movie is so bad it's good. What's your favourite bad movie?



## You told us...

**“Silent Night, Deadly Night: Part 2.** It's the funniest movie I've ever seen. The main actor, Eric Freeman, acts with his eyebrows. It makes for some hilarious lines and scenes. Everyone should see it. ”

—Sonia Mortensen, London, ON

**“Killer Klowns From Outer Space.** Who could forget the Big Top UFO? And the cotton-candy machine guns? And of course the freaky clowns and their aluminium jumpsuits? Great bad movies like that only come around once in a blue moon. ”

—Ethan Towns, Peterborough, ON

**“Gigli.** Am I the only one that found this movie extremely hilarious??! I was laughing from the opening credits. Seriously! I'm STILL trying to get people to watch this flick.

—Susan Nugent, Ottawa, ON

**“That would definitely be Sam Raimi's The Evil Dead.** It's so low budget but it's so much fun. The multicoloured fake blood and Bruce Campbell totally make that movie!

—Chantal Larochele, Sudbury, ON

**NEXT QUESTION:** Which movie can you watch over and over and over again?



**ANSWER ONLINE** at [Cineplex.com/famouslastwords](http://Cineplex.com/famouslastwords)

All responses must be entered by June 30th. Look for the answers to this question in the August issue. Responses may be edited for length and clarity.

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