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Famous

march 2003 | volume 4 | number 3



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GWYNETH PALTROW
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VIEW FROM THE TOP

SPIDER

**DAVID CRONENBERG TALKS ABOUT AWARDS, SCHIZOPHRENIA
AND DIRECTING RALPH FIENNES IN HIS NEW DRAMA**

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contents

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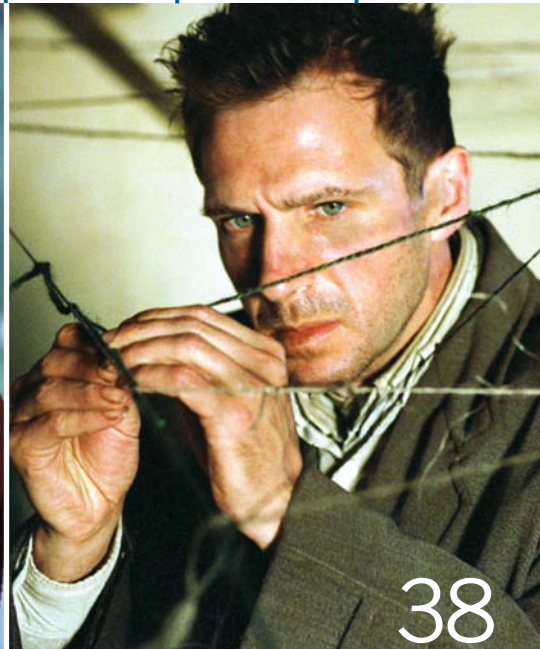
34



20



38



FEATURES

22 OSCAR PREVIEW

It's, once again, time to fill out your office pool, gather around the TV and try to scrape the sound of Joan Rivers from your ears. To get you in the mood, here's a heap of Oscar trivia, the year's other top award winners, fashion advice for the stars and this year's nominees

34 SHE'S GOT ALTITUDE

View *From the Top* star Gwyneth Paltrow on why flight attendants are so much more than waiters in the sky | **By Earl Dittman**

COVER STORY

38 WORLDWIDE WEB

David Cronenberg's *Spider* has already played festivals in France, the U.S., Hungary and Iceland — and, so far, the reviews are good. As the film is finally released in Cronenberg's home country, the director chats about its contentious theme and star Ralph Fiennes

| By Salah Bachir

ON THE COVER: Ralph Fiennes as Spider. Oscar image, © A.M.P.A.S.®

DEPARTMENTS

10 EDITORIAL

12 SHORTS

Valerie Buhagiar's bigger than ever

14 SNAPS

Nic Cage takes a holiday

16 THE BIG PICTURE

Tears of the Sun, *The Hunted*, *Agent Cody Banks* and *Piglet's Big Movie* land in theatres

20 SPOTLIGHT

Queen Latifah's story

42 NAME OF THE GAME

This is what you've been waiting for gamers — *The Legend of Zelda* continues

46 VIDEO AND DVD

White Oleander, *8 Mile* and *Auto Focus* come home

48 HOROSCOPE

Pisces is going places

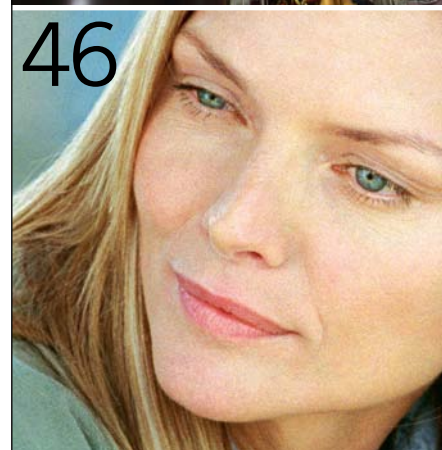
50 FAMOUS LAST WORDS

What does Woody Allen think about the tabloids? And how about Katharine Hepburn?

22



46



ralph
fiennes

miranda
richardson

gabriel
byrne

the only
thing worse
than losing
your mind,

is finding
it again.

Spider

a david cronenberg film

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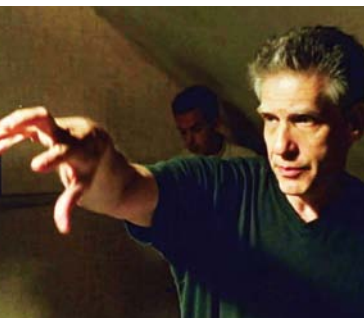
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SPIDER CREEPS OUT



One of the odd things about the Canadian film industry is that even with the biggest, most eagerly awaited, star-studded projects this country can produce, there's often a huge gap between when the film is finished and when it lands in theatres. Take, for instance, **David Cronenberg's** *Spider*. Although the atmospheric drama debuted at

Cannes in May 2002 — and has since appeared at festivals in Cork, Cambridge, the U.S., Turkey, the Netherlands and Toronto — the majority of Canadian film fans are still waiting for their first glimpse.

Often, it has to do with the infrastructure for distributing smaller movies out across this big country. And it can be frustrating for those — like the legions of devout Cronenberg fans — dying to see the film.

But, on the plus side, if the movie is good, the process can slowly build buzz. With Britain's *The Guardian* calling *Spider* "an intensely controlled, beautifully designed and fascinatingly acted account of Patrick McGrath's original novel," and the *L.A. Times* declaring, "Cronenberg has pulled off a richly visual feat of the imagination that ranks among his finest achievements," you have to think the drawn-out homecoming might turn out to be a good thing. In "Spider's Man," page 38, Cronenberg revels in those good reviews, and tells us why he thinks they're bang on.

Filmed more than two years ago, **Gwyneth Paltrow's** new comedy about an ambitious flight attendant has had just as drawn-out a trip to theatres — but for completely different reasons. In "Fly Girl," page 34, Paltrow tells you how the events of September 11th effected *View From the Top's* release date, as producers were forced to wait until we could, once again, find humour in air travel.

And you can expect the bells and whistles to be turned up a few decibels as the Academy celebrates Oscar's 75th anniversary on March 23rd. Steve Martin returns for his second go-around as host, and 2002's abundance of unusually successful small films bodes well for lots of surprises. Starting on page 22, you'll find our special Oscar section, with tons of trivia, fashion tips for the stars, a rundown of who won the year's other top movie awards and your complete list of this year's nominees.

—Marni Weisz

Famous

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labour intensive

When it comes to method acting, *Expecting* star Valerie Buhagiar could teach Robert De Niro a thing or two. When Buhagiar signed on to play Stephanie, a free spirit who invites her friends and relatives to the homebirth of her first baby, she was not pregnant.

By the time shooting began, she was eight months along.

It was a trip to Cuba with partner Steve Andrews that did the trick for the 39-year-old Toronto actor. "But I didn't tell anyone about it. The day after I came back from Cuba I went to Saskatoon and did theatre for three months," she says. "I found out through Shoppers Drug Mart that I was pregnant."

Buhagiar, who's best known for her roles in the quirky Bruce McDonald films *Roadkill* (1989) and *Highway 61* (1991), wanted to wait until the end of her first trimester to share the news with *Expecting's* central figures, including director Deborah Day and executive producer Thomas Walden.

"I specifically remember this one meeting we had, all the producers were there. We were all talking about prosthetics, or they were, and I was just quiet, my heart was pounding, I wanted to say something but I wasn't at three months yet."

At their next meeting Buhagiar was forced to tell her secret when November 2001 — the month she was due — was suggested as the start date. "Everyone was thrilled, obviously," she recalls. The good news for Buhagiar meant a bit of a rush job for the rest of the crew, but they managed to get everything in place for a September shoot.

There is, however, an inherent problem with a movie about a woman in labour. After things begin to roll, there's often a long lull before the contractions begin in earnest. That's where Stephanie's friends and family — including her husband (Tom Melissis), hangdog lover (Colin Mochrie), control freak sister (Debra McGrath), promiscuous friend (Barbara Radecki) and earthy midwife (Angela Gei) — come in to fill the downtime. Add a birthing tub and some bongos, and you've got an admirable number of laughs for a low-budget (under \$1-million) Canadian film.

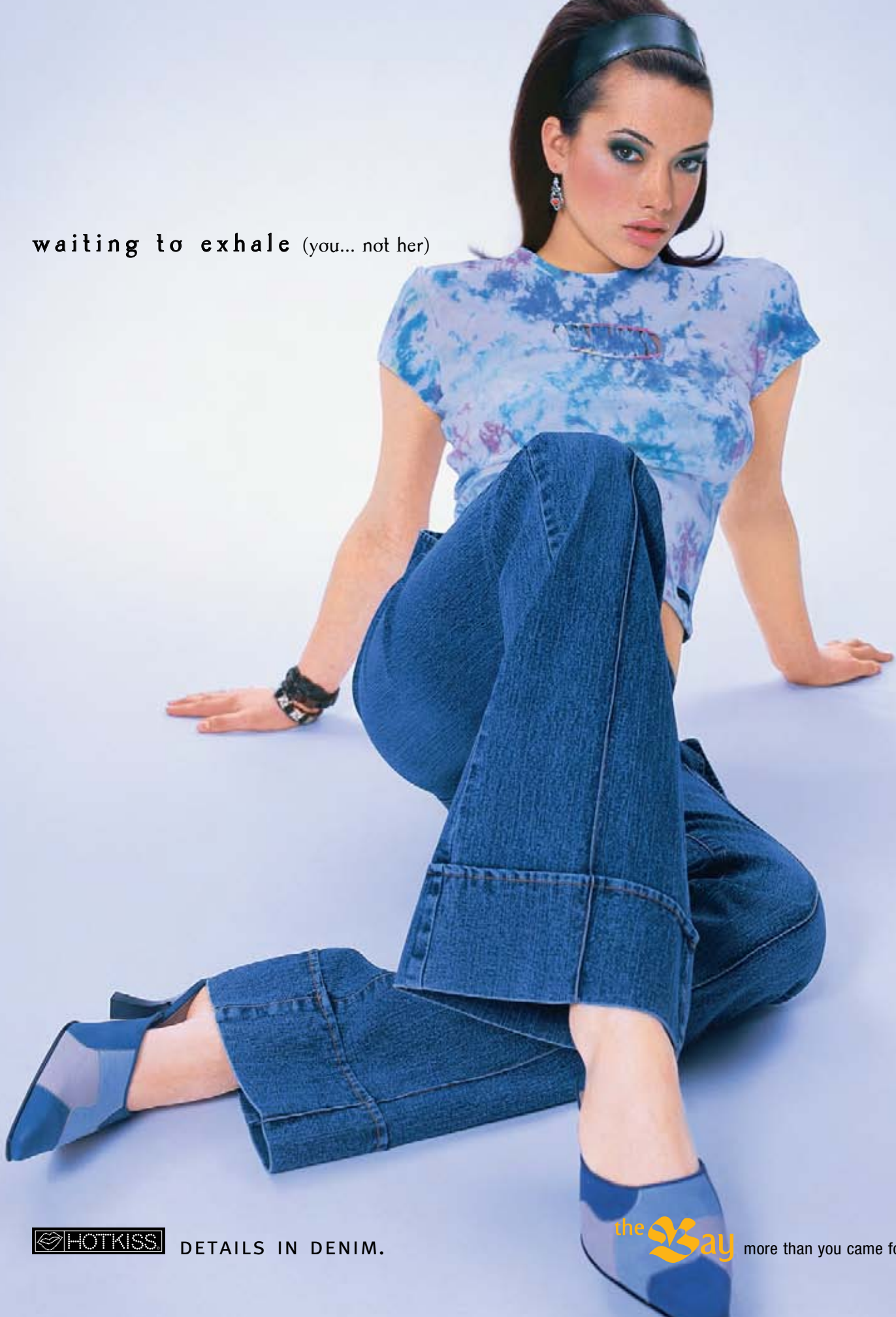
The experience swayed Buhagiar from her planned traditional hospital birth to a homebirth with a midwife and even a birthing tub. "But after 40 hours of labour I had to go to the hospital," she says. "I had to have a C-section. They tried inducing, nothing was happening." Little Nazareno finally weighed in at 10 pounds.

Where 15 years ago labour footage was reserved for Lamaze classes, and was often enough to make grown men faint, today's proliferation of birth shows on networks like Life and TLC makes it hard to turn on the tube without catching some infant's head making its painful entrance.

And with the addition of this first labour movie, it seems birth stories are downright trendy. "Could it be because we need balance," Buhagiar muses. "We've got how many cop shows out there? And it's violence, violence, violence. Human nature is defined by hope as well." —MW



waiting to exhale (you... not her)



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CAUGHT ON FILM



PHOTO BY STEVE GRANITZ/WIREIMAGE

This is the kind of dress that requires double-sided tape. Kate Hudson and husband Chris Robinson looking fabulous at the Hollywood premiere of *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*.



PHOTO BY JEAN-PAUL AUSSENAUD/WIREIMAGE

Say cheese...or ooo, ooo, ooo, depending on the phonic abilities evolution has allowed. Jane Seymour is groped by Angel the chimp at Malibu's City Hearts fundraiser for children at risk.

There's not much some Bahamas sun won't heal. Following his split from Lisa Marie Presley, Nicolas Cage takes a much-needed break at the exclusive Ocean Club resort.



PHOTO BY LEIGH GREENSPASH NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS
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Best Motion Picture: Robert Lantos, Atom Egoyan (*Ararat*)

Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role: Luc Picard (*Savage Messiah*)

Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role: Arsinée Khanjian (*Ararat*)

Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role: Elias Koteas (*Ararat*)

Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role: Pascale Montpetit (*Savage Messiah*)

Achievement in Direction: David Cronenberg (*Spider*)

Best Documentary: Ingrid Veninger, Peter Mettler, Alexandra Rockingham Gill, Cornelia Seitler (*Gambling, Gods and LSD*)

Golden Reel Award: Christian Larouche, Richard Goudreau (*Les Boys III*)

Claude Jutra Award: Keith Behrman (*Flower & Garnet*)

Original Screenplay: Deepa Mehta (*Bollywood Hollywood*)

Adapted Screenplay: Sharon Riis (*Savage Messiah*)

Best Animated Short: Marcy Page, John Weldon (*The Hungry Squid*)

Best Live-Action Short Drama: Meredith Caplan, Sarah Polley, Jennifer Weiss (*I Shout Love*)

Achievement in Cinematography: Paul Sarossy (*Perfect Pie*)

Achievement in Music — Original Song: Carlos Lopes, "Com Estas Asas" (*Saint Monica*)

Achievement in Music — Original Score: Mychael Danna (*Ararat*)

Achievement in Sound Editing: Fred Brennan, Roderick Deogrades, Barry Gilmore, Goro Koyama, Andy Malcolm, David McCallum, Jane Tattersall (*Max*)

Achievement in Overall Sound: Tom Hidderley, Todd Beckett, Keith Elliott, Mark Zsifkovitz (*Between Strangers*)

Achievement in Costume Design: Beth Pasternak (*Ararat*)

Achievement in Art Direction/Production Design: Francois Seguin (*Almost America*)

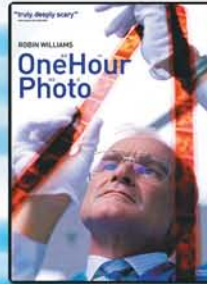
Achievement in Editing: Lara Mazur (*Suddenly Naked*)

Special Award: Robert Daudelin

Special Award: Sheila Copps



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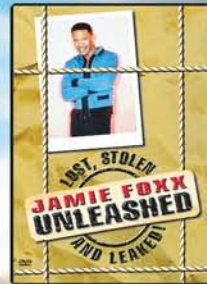
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Bruce Willis in *Tears of the Sun*



FEBRUARY 28

SPIDER

Who's In It? Ralph Fiennes, Miranda Richardson

Who's Directed? David Cronenberg (*Crash*)

Who's It About? Fiennes does a 180 from his turn as a dapper senatorial candidate in the romantic comedy *Maid in Manhattan*, to play a disturbed man who's just been released from a psych ward into the East London neighbourhood where he grew up.

See David Cronenberg interview, page 38.

MARCH 7

BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE

Who's In It? Queen Latifah, Steve Martin

Who Directed? Adam Shankman (*The Wedding Planner*)

What's It About? A woman (Latifah) wreaks havoc in the life of a lonely man (Martin) when she breaks out of prison to be with him after meeting online.

TEARS OF THE SUN

Who's In It? Bruce Willis, Monica Bellucci

Who Directed? Antoine Fuqua (*Training Day*)

What's It About? Willis and a team of U.S. Navy SEALs head into the jungle to search for a missing doctor (Bellucci). They find her, but she refuses to leave unless she can bring 70 refugees (and probably more than two carry-on items) with her.

EXPECTING

Who's In It? Valerie Buhagiar, Colin Mochrie

Who Directed? Deborah Day (*Blind*)

What's It About? An eccentric woman (Buhagiar) invites her friends and family to the homebirth of her baby. See Valerie Buhagiar interview, page 12.

MARCH 14

WILLARD

Who's In It? Crispin Glover, Laura Harring

Who Directed? Glen Morgan (debut)

What's It About? Oddball Crispin Glover

(remember that bizarre appearance on *Letterman* where he tried to kick Dave in the head?) seems to have found his perfect role: Willard, a social misfit who has only rats for friends. In this remake of the 1971 horror film, Willard's rat pals unite to exact revenge on the bullies who killed another of their master's rodents.

AGENT CODY BANKS

Who's In It? Frankie Muniz, Angie Harmon

Who Directed? Harald Zwart (*One Night at McCool's*)

What's It About? A teen (Muniz) is recruited by the CIA to befriend a girl (Hilary Duff) whose father is developing deadly nanobots for an evil organization. But all the training and spy gadgets can't help him with the art of woo, so a sexy agent (Harmon) is called in to help. This action comedy was shot in Vancouver, where Simon Fraser University stood in for CIA headquarters.





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What's It About? Travolta plays a Drug Enforcement Agency officer who is enlisted by a pal (Andy Garcia) to investigate the disappearance of several Army Ranger cadets and their drill instructor (Jackson) in Panama. Harry Connick Jr. and Giovanni Ribisi also star.

HEAD OF STATE

Who's In It? Chris Rock, Bernie Mac
Who Directed? Chris Rock (debut)
What's It About? Rock once again finds himself playing a guy who is chosen to replace someone else (à la *Down to Earth* and *Bad Company*) in this comedy about a Washington, D.C. counsellor who is picked to fill in for a deceased presidential candidate. Mac plays his somewhat unsophisticated brother and running mate.

THE CORE

Who's In It? Aaron Eckhart, Hilary Swank
Who Directed? Jon Amiel (*Entrapment*)
What's It About? A Montreal company was hired to improve the special effects in this flick, originally scheduled for theatres last fall. Shot in Vancouver, it's about a group of "terrabouts," led by a geophysics expert (Eckhart), who must travel to the earth's core and set off a nuclear blast to keep the planet spinning. Swank plays the pilot of the experimental ship that will take them down.

THE HUNTED

Who's In It? Tommy Lee Jones, Benicio Del Toro
Who Directed? William Friedkin (*Rules of Engagement*)
What's It About? A nutcase who hunts down deer hunters in the woods of Portland (Del Toro) is pursued by the FBI tracker (Jones) who trained him. Filming for this one was delayed six months after Del Toro broke his wrist while rehearsing a fight scene with Jones.

DREAMCATCHER

Who's In It? Morgan Freeman, Jason Lee
Who Directed? Lawrence Kasdan (*Mumford*)
What's It About? Based on the Stephen King novel, this is the story of four long-time friends who go on a hunting trip in northern Maine (um, it's actually Prince George, B.C., but use your imagination). The guys soon find themselves fighting off an alien force, prompting a military official (Freeman) and a soldier (Tom Sizemore) to come figure it all out.

MARCH 21

MARCH 28

PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE

Who's In It? Piglet, Winnie-the-Pooh
Who Directed? Francis Glebas (*Fantasia 2000*)
What's It About? When Pooh and his friends tell little Piglet that he's too small to take part in the honey harvest, the tiniest member of the Hundred Acre Wood gang gets upset and takes off. Funny thing is, when everyone else gets in trouble, wee Piglet may be the only one who can save them.

BASIC

Who's In It? John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson
Who Directed? John McTiernan (*Rollerball*)

All release dates are subject to change. Some films play only in major markets.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

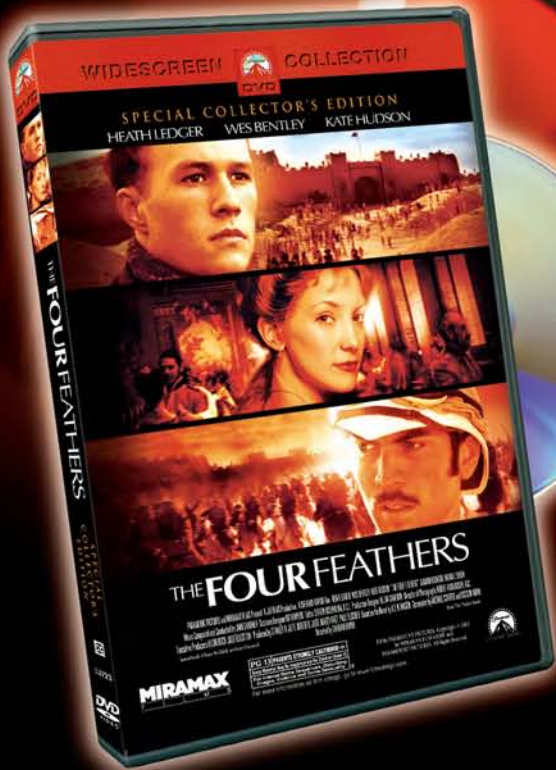
Who's In It? Gwyneth Paltrow, Christina Applegate
Who Directed? Bruno Barreto (*Carried Away*)
What's It About? A young woman (Paltrow) sees working as a flight attendant as her ticket to travel the world. Applegate plays her flight attendant school friend and Candice Bergen is a veteran flight attendant who inspires her. **See Gwyneth Paltrow interview, page 34.**



Chris Rock (left) with Bernie Mac in *Head of State*

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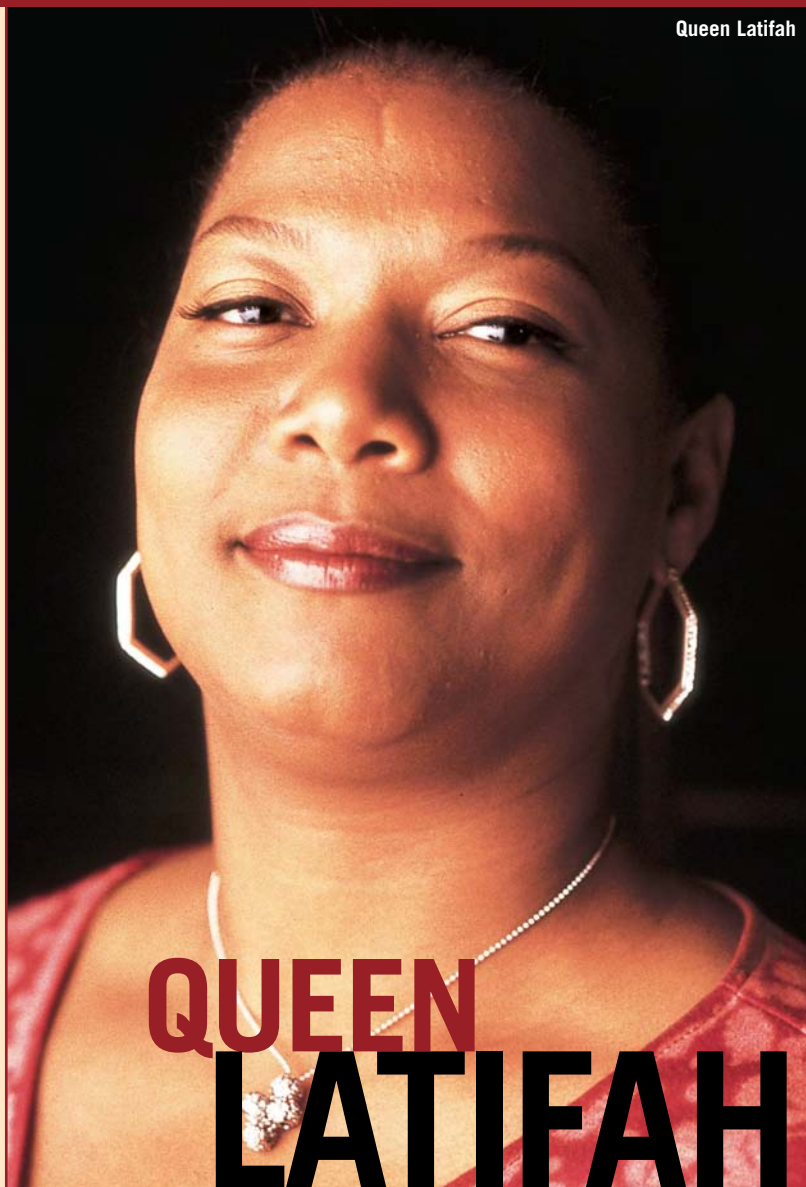
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Queen Latifah



NOW APPEARING IN... *Bringing Down the House* as Charlene Morton, an incarcerated woman who meets a man (Steve Martin) on the internet and breaks out of prison to be with him.

BIO BITS: Rap star. Singer. Corporate executive. Talk show host. Author. Actor. Take your pick — they all apply to Queen Latifah.

Born Dana Elaine Owens 33 years ago this month in Newark, New Jersey, her parents (dad was a cop) separated when she was just a child. Nicknamed “Latifah” (Arabic for “delicate and sensitive”) at age eight by a Muslim cousin, she grew up with her mother Rita and older brother Lance in a housing project in East Newark.

Latifah’s mother, determined to make a better life for her children, worked two jobs while attending a community college, then landed a

job as a high school art teacher, allowing the family to move into their own house. There was just enough money to send Latifah — identified as a gifted student — to Saint Anne’s parochial school, where she got her first taste of show business by performing in a production of *The Wiz*.

Acting took a back seat to athletics in high school, where Latifah played on the basketball team. She also created an all-female rap group called Ladies Fresh and added “Queen” to her name.

Soon, Latifah was rapping on her own and one of her demo tapes found its way to New York City record company, Tommy Boy. She was quickly signed to a contract and by the time she was 18 had released her first single, “Wrath of My Madness.” Latifah’s debut album went platinum and gave her the opportunity to tour the U.S. and Europe.

By the time her second album was released in 1991, Latifah was investing in neighborhood businesses and building an acting résumé, starting with a part in Spike Lee’s *Jungle Fever*.

But what goes up must come down and Latifah soon found herself in a bitter dispute with her record company, eventually leaving in 1992. That same year, her brother was killed in an accident while riding the motorcycle she had bought for him.

In 1995, Latifah survived a carjacking in which her friend was shot. And the following year, the star was arrested for assaulting a photographer, and later on drug and weapons charges after police stopped her for speeding and found a loaded gun and marijuana in her car.

Latifah bounced back, though — signing a new record contract, founding her own label and management company (whose artists include L.L. Cool J and Naughty by Nature) and landing a starring role on the TV series *Living Single*. She later hosted a short-lived daytime talk show and wrote her autobiography and a book about developing self-esteem.

TRIVIA: Wears the key to her late brother’s motorcycle around her neck. • She was the only rap artist to perform at Equality Rocks, a concert in support of gay and lesbian rights. • One of her musical numbers in *Chicago* was cut from the film but will appear on the DVD.

SAMPLE ROLES: Matron Mama Morton in *Chicago* (2003), Francine in *Brown Sugar* (2002), Cha-Cha in *The Country Bears* (2002), Thelma in *The Bone Collector* (1999), Alice in *Sphere* (1998), Lashawn in *Jungle Fever* (1991)

ON THE PLOT OF CHICAGO: “I just thought that was really interesting: this idea of wanting to be famous and being willing to kill for it. It’s really not so far-fetched, is it?” [*Miami Herald*, January 2003] —JK



...with co-star Steve Martin

THE YEAR'S MOST COMPELLING THRILLER IS HITTING THE STREETS

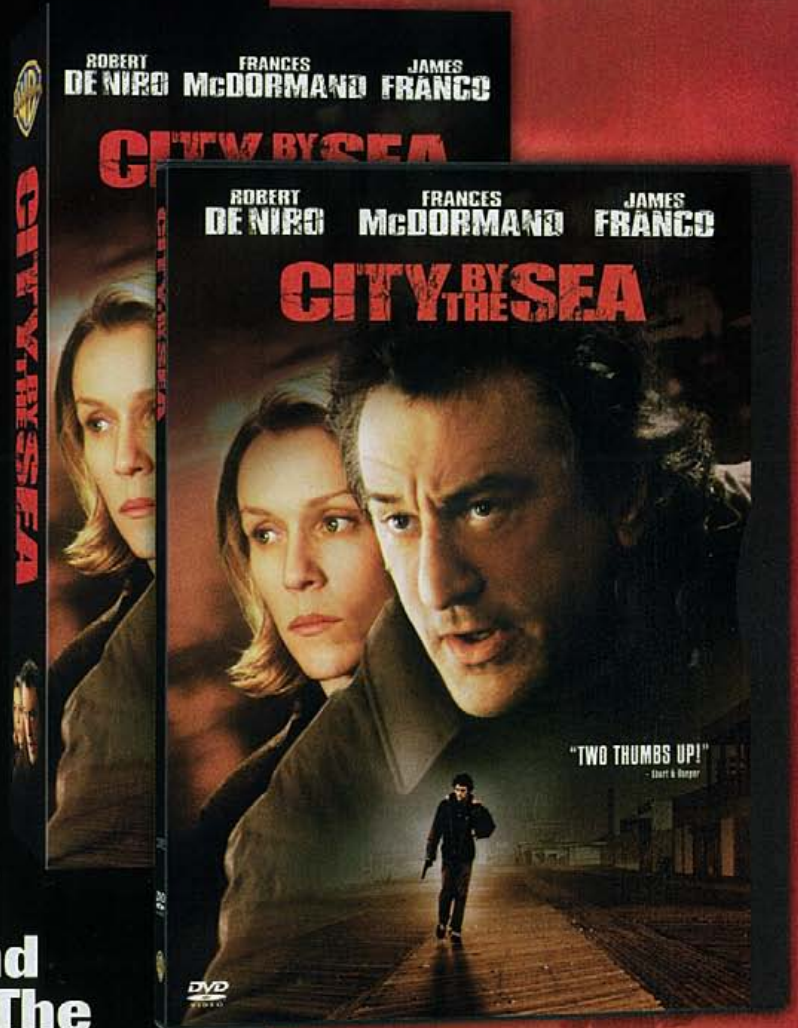
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75 YEARS of OSCAR

A SELECTION OF FUN FACTS ABOUT THE ACADEMY AWARDS



1 – Times Steve Martin, this year's emcee, has previously hosted



12 – Number of costumes worn by host Whoopi Goldberg during the 1998 show





33 – Height, in centimetres, of the Oscar statuette

1.6 – Approximate weight, in kilograms, of the statuette

12 – Number of statuettes given out at the first Oscar ceremony, in 1928

25 – Number of statuettes given out at last year's show

150 – Distance, in metres, of the red carpet from Highland Avenue to the Kodak Theatre

349 – Estimated steps a star must take to make it past the hordes of journalists and fans

3 – Number of ceremonies postponed or cancelled: In 1938 due to a flood, in 1968 for the funeral of Martin Luther King Jr. and in 1981 after the attempted assassination of Ronald Reagan

1 – Number of X-rated films awarded the Best Picture honour. *Midnight Cowboy* (1969) was later downgraded to an "R" rating

4 – Number of Oscars awarded to both Katharine Hepburn and Meryl Streep, who hold the record in acting categories. Walter Brennan, Ingrid Bergman and Jack Nicholson each have three

5 – Number of Best Director nominations for Alfred Hitchcock, who won none. He eventually received the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award

10 – Number of nominations for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2001), breaking the record for the most nominations for a foreign-language film, set by *Life is Beautiful* in 1999

5739 – Number of members in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

250 – Number of people invited to the first Oscar gala on May 16, 1929

10 – Price, in U.S. dollars, for a ticket to that first show



41.8 million – Estimated number of people who tuned in to the Academy Awards last year, down about a million from the year before

83 – Age of Groucho Marx when he received an honorary Oscar, making him the oldest recipient to accept an award

41 – Number of years between Henry Fonda's first nomination and his first win

21 – Number of people Halle Berry thanked in her acceptance speech last year. She didn't mention Billy Bob Thornton, her *Monster's Ball* co-star

257 – Duration, in minutes, of last year's ceremony — a record

20 – Number of minutes Jerry Lewis had to entertain viewers when the Oscar gala ran shorter than expected in 1958. He picked up the baton and began an impromptu number with the orchestra

18 – Number of ceremonies hosted by Bob Hope (who has done the most)

11 – Record number of Oscars awarded to one film: *Ben-Hur* (1959) and *Titanic* (1997)

3100

– Approximate number of people invited to this year's Oscar ceremony



45 – Time, in seconds, each winner is allotted for an acceptance speech



If we dressed the oscars

Over the past few decades, the red carpet has evolved into one of the most important and influential fashion shows of the year. It's the one time when designers have their works displayed not only to people who live and love fashion, but also to those who wouldn't otherwise care about the colour of the season or the latest neckline.

So what if some of our best Canadian designers got to play dress up with the stars? We asked four designers from our country's fashion hot-spot, Montreal, to come up with the perfect outfit for a star their choice. Versace should go back her drawing table...

BY EMILIE VILLENEUVE

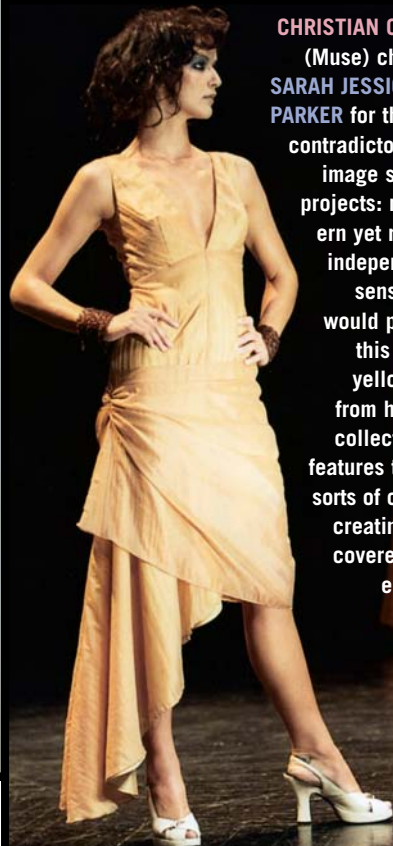
PHILIPPE DUBUC chose **JOSH HARTNETT** and recommends a structured, well-cut dress suit that would give Hartnett a modern look.



MARIE SAINT-PIERRE chose **JODIE FOSTER** because she inspires respect and has a style of her own. The designer sees Foster in a sober suit with edgy, asymmetrical lines.



CHRISTIAN CHENAIL (Muse) chose **SARAH JESSICA PARKER** for the contradictory image she projects: modern yet romantic, independent yet sensitive. He would put her in this stunning yellow dress, from his spring collection, that features the same sorts of contrasts, creating a sexy covered/uncovered look.

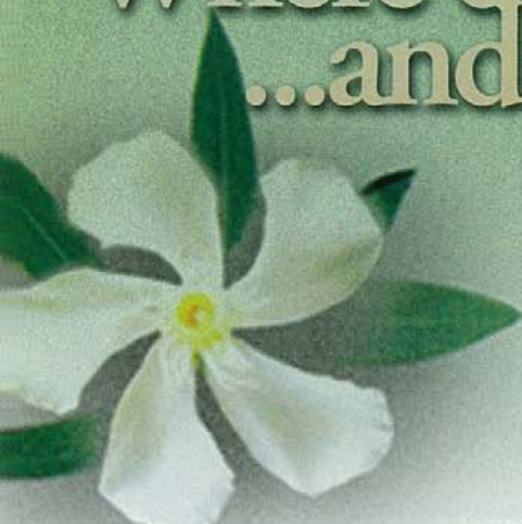


SIPHAY SOUTHIDARA (Yso) chose **JULIANNE MOORE** because of her strong, intense attitude. He suggests a shredded chiffon silk top and skirt from his fall 2003 collection. And it has to be pink, to set off her cinnamon hair.



PHOTO: MARTIN RONDEAU

Where does a mother end... ...and a daughter begin



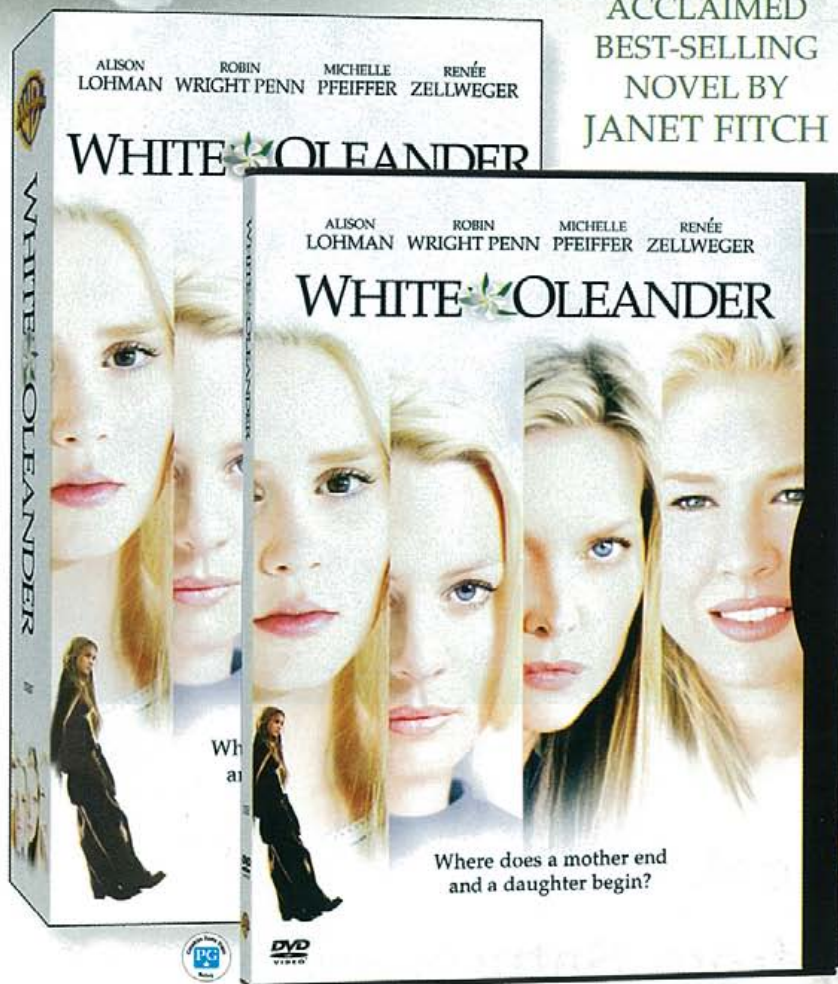
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-Thelma Adams, US WEEKLY

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YOU PICK THE OSCARS

HAVING AN OSCAR POOL WITH YOUR FRIENDS OR CO-WORKERS?
HERE'S A HANDY-DANDY LIST OF THE NOMINEES TO PHOTOCOPY AND PASS AROUND:

BEST PICTURE

- Chicago*
- Gangs of New York*
- The Hours*
- The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*
- The Pianist*

BEST ACTOR

- Adrien Brody (*The Pianist*)
- Nicolas Cage (*Adaptation*)
- Michael Gaine (*The Quiet American*)
- Daniel Day-Lewis (*Gangs of New York*)
- Jack Nicholson (*About Schmidt*)

BEST ACTRESS

- Salma Hayek (*Frida*)
- Nicole Kidman (*The Hours*)
- Diane Lane (*Unfaithful*)
- Julianne Moore (*Far From Heaven*)
- Renée Zellweger (*Chicago*)

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

- Chris Cooper (*Adaptation*)
- Ed Harris (*The Hours*)
- Paul Newman (*Road to Perdition*)
- John C. Reilly (*Chicago*)
- Christopher Walken (*Catch Me if You Can*)

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- Kathy Bates (*About Schmidt*)
- Julianne Moore (*The Hours*)
- Queen Latifah (*Chicago*)
- Meryl Streep (*Adaptation*)
- Catherine Zeta-Jones (*Chicago*)

ACHIEVEMENT IN DIRECTING

- Rob Marshall (*Chicago*)
- Martin Scorsese (*Gangs of New York*)
- Stephen Daldry (*The Hours*)
- Roman Polanski (*The Pianist*)
- Pedro Almodóvar (*Talk to Her*)

BEST ANIMATED FEATURE

- Ice Age*
- Lilo & Stitch*
- Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron*
- Spirited Away*
- Treasure Planet*

ACHIEVEMENT IN MAKEUP

- Frida*
- The Time Machine*

ACHIEVEMENT IN ART DIRECTION

- Chicago*
- Far From Heaven*
- Gangs of New York*
- The Pianist*
- Road to Perdition*

ACHIEVEMENT IN CINEMATOGRAPHY

- Chicago*
- Far From Heaven*
- Gangs of New York*
- The Pianist*
- Road to Perdition*

ACHIEVEMENT IN COSTUME DESIGN

- Chicago*
- Frida*
- Gangs of New York*
- The Hours*
- The Pianist*

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

- Bowling for Columbine*
- Daughter from Danang*
- Prisoner of Paradise*
- Spellbound*
- Winged Migration*

BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT SUBJECT

- The Collector of Bedford Street*
- Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*
- Twin Towers*
- Why Can't We be a Family Again?*

ACHIEVEMENT IN FILM EDITING

- Chicago*
- Gangs of New York*
- The Hours*
- The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*
- The Pianist*

ACHIEVEMENT IN SOUND

- Chicago*
- Gangs of New York*
- The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*
- Road to Perdition*
- Spider-Man*

ACHIEVEMENT IN SOUND EDITING

- The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*
- Minority Report*
- Road to Perdition*

BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM

- El Crimen del Padre Amaro*
- Hero*
- The Man Without a Past*
- Nowhere in Africa*
- Zus & Zo*

BEST ORIGINAL SCORE

- Catch Me if You Can*
- Far From Heaven*
- Frida*
- The Hours*
- Road to Perdition*

BEST ORIGINAL SONG

- "I Move On" (*Chicago*)
- "Lose Yourself" (*8 Mile*)
- "Burn it Blue" (*Frida*)
- "The Hands that Built America" (*Gangs of New York*)
- "Father and Daughter" (*The Wild Thornberrys Movie*)

BEST ANIMATED SHORT FILM

- The Cathedral*
- The Chubbchubbs!*
- Das Rad*
- Mike's New Car*
- Mt. Head*

BEST LIVE-ACTION SHORT FILM

- Fait d'Hiver*
- I'll Wait for the Next One*
- Inja*
- Johnny Flynton*
- This Charming Man*

ACHIEVEMENT IN VISUAL EFFECTS

- The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*
- Spider-Man*
- Stars Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones*

BEST SCREENPLAY BASED ON MATERIAL PREVIOUSLY PRODUCED OR PUBLISHED

- About a Boy*
- Adaptation*
- Chicago*
- The Hours*
- The Pianist*

BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

- Far From Heaven*
- Gangs of New York*
- My Big Fat Greek Wedding*
- Talk to Her*
- Y Tu Mamà También*

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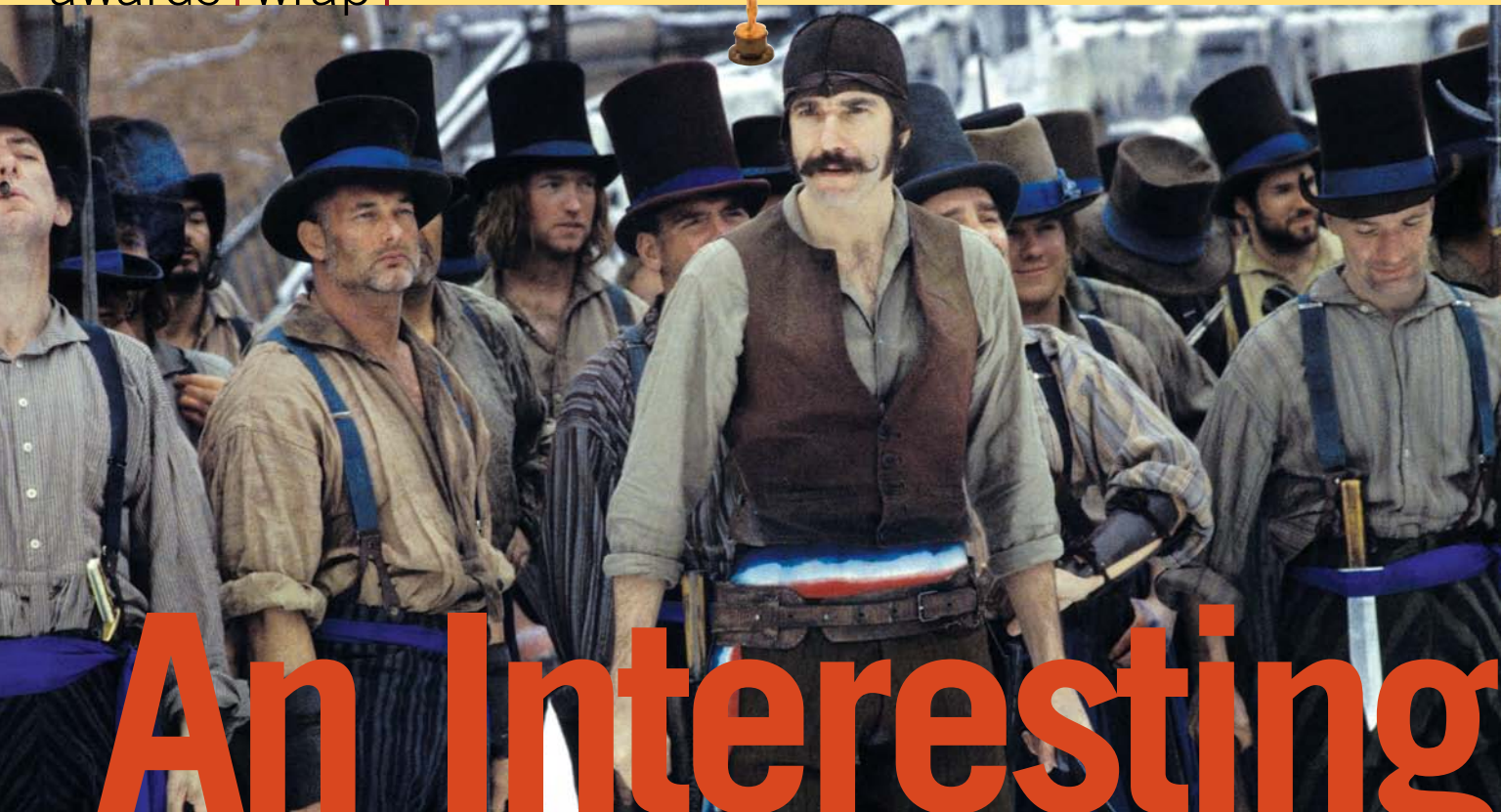
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Year

You can usually get a good idea of who'll do well at the Oscars by looking at who won the year's other top honours. But, so far, 2002 has been a strange year for movie awards with a wide-ranging list of smaller films quashing their big Hollywood competitors. Here are the victors to date:

GOLDEN GLOBES

- Best Picture (Drama):** *The Hours*
- Best Picture (Comedy/Musical):** *Chicago*
- Best Director:** Martin Scorsese (*Gangs of New York*)
- Best Actor (Drama):** Jack Nicholson (*About Schmidt*)
- Best Actor (Comedy or Musical):** Richard Gere (*Chicago*)
- Best Actress (Drama):** Nicole Kidman (*The Hours*)
- Best Actress (Comedy or Musical):** Renée Zellweger (*Chicago*)
- Best Supporting Actor:** Chris Cooper (*Adaptation*)
- Best Supporting Actress:** Meryl Streep (*Adaptation*)

TORONTO FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

- Best Picture:** *Adaptation*
- Best Director:** Paul Thomas Anderson (*Punch-Drunk Love*)
- Best Performance, Male:** Nicolas Cage (*Adaptation*)
- Best Performance, Female:** Julianne Moore (*Far From Heaven*)
- Best Supporting Performance, Male:** Chris Cooper (*Adaptation*)
- Best Supporting Performance, Female:** Emily Watson (*Punch-Drunk Love*)

LOS ANGELES FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

- Best Picture:** *About Schmidt*
- Best Director:** Pedro Almodóvar (*Hable con ella*)
- Best Actor:** Jack Nicholson (*About Schmidt*) and Daniel Day-Lewis (*Gangs of New York*)
- Best Actress:** Julianne Moore (*Far From Heaven*)
- Best Supporting Actor:** Chris Cooper (*Adaptation*)
- Best Supporting Actress:** Edie Falco (*Sunshine State*)





NEW YORK FILM CRITICS CIRCLE AWARDS

- Best Film: *Far From Heaven*
- Best Director: Todd Haynes (*Far From Heaven*)
- Best Actor: Daniel Day-Lewis (*Gangs of New York*)
- Best Actress: Diane Lane (*Unfaithful*)
- Best Supporting Actor: Dennis Quaid (*Far From Heaven*)
- Best Supporting Actress: Patricia Clarkson (*Far From Heaven*)

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF FILM CRITICS AWARDS

- Best Film: *The Pianist*
- Best Director: Roman Polanski (*The Pianist*)
- Best Actor: Adrien Brody (*The Pianist*)
- Best Actress: Diane Lane (*Unfaithful*)
- Best Supporting Actor: Christopher Walken (*Catch Me if You Can*)
- Best Supporting Actress: Patricia Clarkson (*Far From Heaven*)

SAN FRANCISCO FILM CRITICS CIRCLE

- Best Picture: *The Pianist*
- Best Director: Todd Haynes (*Far From Heaven*)
- Best Actor: Michael Caine (*The Quiet American*)
- Best Actress: Isabelle Huppert (*The Pianist*)
- Best Supporting Actor: Chris Cooper (*Adaptation*)
- Best Supporting Actress: Miranda Richardson (*Spider*)

NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW

- Best Picture: *The Hours*
- Best Director: Phillip Noyce (*The Quiet American*)
- Best Actor: Campbell Scott (*Roger Dodger*)
- Best Actress: Julianne Moore (*Far From Heaven*)
- Best Supporting Actor: Chris Cooper (*Adaptation*)
- Best Supporting Actress: Kathy Bates (*About Schmidt*)

Clockwise from top left:
Daniel Day-Lewis in *Gangs of New York*; Nicolas Cage and
Nicolas Cage in *Adaptation*;
Nicole Kidman in *The Hours*;
Jack Nicholson in *About Schmidt*
and Adrien Brody in *The Pianist*



Win the OSCAR!

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- Ben-Hur

Universal Studios Home Video:

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- Born on the 4th of July
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- The Sting

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ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN APRIL 18, 2003.

1. Who has hosted the Oscar ceremony the most times?

2. Who won Best Actor at last year's Academy Awards?

3. In what year was the first Oscar gala held?

Send this entry form to: Oscar Contest, c/o Famous magazine, 102 Atlantic Ave., Suite 100, Toronto, Ont., M6K 1X9.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

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Official rules of the contest:

No purchase required. The contest begins at midnight on February 18, 2003 (EST) and ends at midnight on April 18, 2003 (EST). To participate, fill out the entry form in the March 2003 issue of *Famous*. In order to win, you must respond correctly to the three questions and have your ballot chosen at random. Submit the form to: Oscar Contest, c/o Famous magazine, 102 Atlantic Ave., Suite 100, Toronto, Ont. M6K 1X9.

The prize, the set of DVDs mentioned above, must be accepted as is and cannot be substituted for another prize or cash.

1. To participate, you must be a resident of Canada and at least 18 years of age on April 18, 2003. 2. The contest is not open to employees of Famous Players Inc., Famous Players Media, Warner Home Video, Universal Studios Home Video, Paramount Home Entertainment, Famous magazine, their representatives, agents, advertising agencies, promotional and contractual partners and persons with whom any of the above are domiciled. 3. Contest entrants agree to abide by the terms of these Official Rules and by the decisions of the judging organization, which are final on all matters pertaining to the contest. By entering, participants release and hold harmless Famous Players Inc., Famous magazine, Paramount Home Entertainment, Warner Home Video, Universal Studios Home Video and their respective parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, directors, sponsors, officers, employees and agents from any and all liability for any injuries, loss or damage of any kind arising from or in connection with the contest or any prizes won. 4. Contest void in Quebec.



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GWYNETH PALTROW SAYS HER NEW COMEDY *VIEW FROM THE TOP* DOESN'T MAKE FUN OF STEWARDESSES. IT'S THE STORY THAT'S FUNNY — THE STEWARDESSES ARE JUST ALONG FOR THE 30,000-FOOT RIDE | BY EARL DITTMAN

Having spent much of last year in London, Gwyneth Paltrow is happy to be back home in the Big Apple. It's not that the Oscar-winning actress didn't enjoy her time in England, where she was performing in a West End production of Broadway's *Proof*. "I loved living in London, I just love the city," she insists. According to several British and American tabloids, Paltrow was even planning to abandon her Hollywood career and home in New York for a new life in Great Britain.

"As usual, my words had been twisted by the press — all lies, lies, lies," Paltrow says with a sigh. "What I actually said was that I loved working there because of their approach to making art, whether

it be film or theatre. It seems to come from a very organic place where the goal is to be expressive and to push your own boundaries as an artist, and there is a lot of respect for all different areas of every field. On the other hand, in Hollywood, people are just trying to make profitable product.

"But I don't live in Hollywood, I just work for companies located there," she continues, taking a sip from a bottle of mineral water. "I live here in New York, and I love it here. London is sort of my second home, I certainly prefer it to Los Angeles. When I say something like that, though, it's completely blown out of proportion and changed to something like, 'Gwyneth hates Hollywood!' It's ridiculous, the kind of things the

press come up with."

Like claiming the 30-year-old didn't want to work with *Possession* co-star Aaron Eckhart because he was smelly?

"What tabloids do you read?" Paltrow asks. "That is so absurd. Aaron is fantastic, he is incredibly talented and we had a very good time working together. It was fine. It still shocks me, sometimes, to know that people are reporting these kind of lies."

But even though press scrutiny has been blamed for playing a part in her breakups from both Brad Pitt and Ben Affleck, Paltrow insists she feels little anger toward most members of the media, and has come up with a simple way to cope.

"I don't read or watch anything that

has to do with show business — that's the only reason I'm still sane," she says. "I think that it is really deleterious to your growth as a person to engage in that kind of thing or to think about or care about how people who don't know you are perceiving you and what you do. It just doesn't help me in my art, in my life, in any way."

However, while Paltrow may be able to ignore the untruths, some fans believe every word they read or hear. Like the flight attendants who approached Paltrow concerned about her role as an airline stewardess in the new film *View From the Top*. A couple of media outlets had reported that the movie, directed by Brazilian filmmaker Bruno Baretto, pokes fun at women who fly the friendly skies for a living. Paltrow was quick to calm their fears.

"I've had so many flight attendants come up and say to me, 'Is it true that you made a comedy about flight attendants?' A lot of them are worried that I am going to make a joke out of them, which I am not at all," she insists. "It is not that kind of movie. It is very funny, but we revere our flight attendants in

View From the Top. Once I explain the actual story and assure them anything they might have read or heard about the film making them look silly is wrong, they seem to be very pleased that flight attendants are getting their due time on the silver screen.

"You see, in my line of work, you learn how to do damage control, even when it's not your fault."

Also featuring Christina Applegate, Mark Ruffalo, Candice Bergen, Kelly Preston, Rob Lowe and Mike Myers, *View From the Top* centres on Donna (Paltrow), a small-town woman who dreams of becoming a first-class international flight attendant. Her ascent, however, is anything but smooth, as she

**"YOU SEE,"
SAYS PALTROW,
"IN MY LINE OF WORK,
YOU LEARN HOW TO DO
DAMAGE CONTROL,
EVEN WHEN IT'S NOT
YOUR FAULT."**

starts at a comically cut-rate airline. But soon enough Donna moves on to a larger carrier where she's trained by John Whitney (Myers), the kind, but goofy, head of the flight attendant trainee program.

"It is an all-out comedy, but it has some dark aspects to it," Paltrow explains. "It's really kind of quirky, but realistic at the same time. It's more of a story about a woman living out her desires and the comic consequences she has to endure. She just happens to be a flight attendant."

Although the film's producers suggested Paltrow throw on a flight attendant's uniform and pretend to be a stewardess on a commercial airline, U.S. government regulations made that impossible. Paltrow understood.

"I think you have to have a lot of intensive training to be a flight attendant, it's not at all a kind of waitress experience," she explains. "You have to be trained in safety and all kinds of important duties. They take tons of tests. It is very rigorous, you cannot just walk in and be a flight attendant. But I had a chance to talk with many nice and helpful attendants who



Christina Applegate (left)
with Gwyneth Paltrow
in *View From the Top*



From left: Kelly Preston, Christina Applegate and Gwyneth Paltrow

▶▶ taught me how to go through the safety procedures on the ground. I think I would have been a little scared to have tried to do it for real. You just don't go out and pretend with a serious, lifesaving job like that — even if it is for a movie.”

That sentiment is one of the reasons *View From the Top* was pulled from its original release date in April 2002 — a bit too close to the September 11th tragedy.

“It wasn't like the film was incredibly offensive or anything like that,” she says. “All of us just felt that there needed to be some time for people to get their emotional bearings in order to be able to laugh along with a movie about flying and flight attendants again. It just seemed like the right thing to do.”

In the time between that original release date and the film eventually landing in theatres this month, Paltrow had a much more personal tragedy to deal with when her father, director Bruce Paltrow, died of throat cancer last October.

After spending the holidays recovering with her family, Gwyneth set off for New Zealand to start work on the film *Ted and Sylvia*, about the true-life relationship between poets Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath. Having just completed the project, Paltrow says playing Plath was cathartic.

“In some ways, I can really relate to Sylvia Plath. She was somebody who was trying to live one life outwardly and had a completely different set of things going on privately, in her own brain. As private a person as I am, I know what that's like. But I think she was a very complex person. I think that she saw things and felt things that other people didn't feel. She was incredibly sensitive in that way and absorbed things and images and then translated them very easily into words. She was a very tortured soul, but at the same time very brilliant with a great capacity for life and love. I think I needed to play a character like that at this point in my life, and I think people will be really surprised by what they see in the film.”

Having gone from comedy to drama to the sci-fi *The World of Tomorrow*, which she's currently shooting with Jude Law, Paltrow seems to be in little danger of being typecast. “I just turned 30, and I have my whole life ahead of me, so I am open to whatever comes my way,” she says. And, regardless of what is written or said about her, she refuses to let it overshadow the good fortune she has enjoyed.

“I'm a very lucky person. Period,” she says. “I feel very fortunate that I have achieved success and the choices that it affords me. If having to deal with tabloids that go through my garbage for information or members of the paparazzi that follow me from dawn to dusk is the trade-off, I'm fine with it. If it gets to be too much, I can always quit.” ☐

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

coming soon

RIPLEY'S GAME >> APRIL

Stars: John Malkovich, Dougray Scott

Director: Liliana Cavani (*The Night Porter*)

Story: It's been only four years since *The Talented Mr. Ripley* creeped out movie fans and proved Jude Law's acting chops, but in next month's *Ripley's Game*, the title character has been recast from cherubic little Matt Damon to demonic old John Malkovich. Based on the Tom Ripley series by novelist Patricia Highsmith, this one skips book number two — *Ripley Under Ground* — and goes directly to the third book, in which Tom, now living in Italy, is scorned at a social function so plots to kill the offending party.

ANGER MANAGEMENT >> APRIL

Stars: Jack Nicholson, Adam Sandler

Director: Peter Segal (*Tommy Boy*)

Story: So we start with two megastars known for being glib and immature who recently turned in surprisingly nuanced performances — Sandler in *Punch-Drunk Love*, Nicholson in *About Schmidt*. The question is, which of their personas will show up for this comedy about a normally mild-mannered guy (Sandler) who is ordered to take anger management therapy from a considerably less mild-mannered therapist (Nicholson)? The answer may lie in director Segal's past credits which include *Nutty Professor II: The Klumps* and *Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult*.

THE MATRIX: RELOADED >> MAY

Stars: Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss

Directors: Andy and Larry Wachowski (*The Matrix*)

Story: Plot details about this one are few and far between, but we do know that it's set six months after the first film ends. We also know that Neo (Reeves) learns more about his superhero abilities, and that Trinity (Moss) and rebel leader Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) manage to kidnap the Keymaker, who has access to all the doors in the Machine world. The third movie, *The Matrix: Revolutions*, comes out in November.

BRUCE ALMIGHTY >> MAY

Stars: Jim Carrey, Morgan Freeman

Director: Tom Shadyac (*Liar Liar*)

Story: Carrey plays Bruce, a Buffalo TV reporter who rails against God because he's unhappy with his life. So God, who looks a whole lot like Morgan Freeman, challenges him to do His job for a week. Bruce responds by making his girlfriend's (Jennifer Aniston) breasts bigger and getting his dog to pee in the toilet.

THE HULK >> JUNE

Stars: Eric Bana, Jennifer Connelly

Director: Ang Lee (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*)

Story: Sounds like Ang Lee has decided to concentrate on the contradictions inherent in the Hulk mythology for this adaptation of the Marvel comic book — superhero vs. monster, wish fulfillment vs. nightmare, romance vs. tragedy. Australian actor Eric Bana (who you may recognize as professional soldier Hoot Gibson from *Black Hawk Down*) gets his big break as the scientist who transforms into the oversized green guy when an experiment goes terribly wrong.

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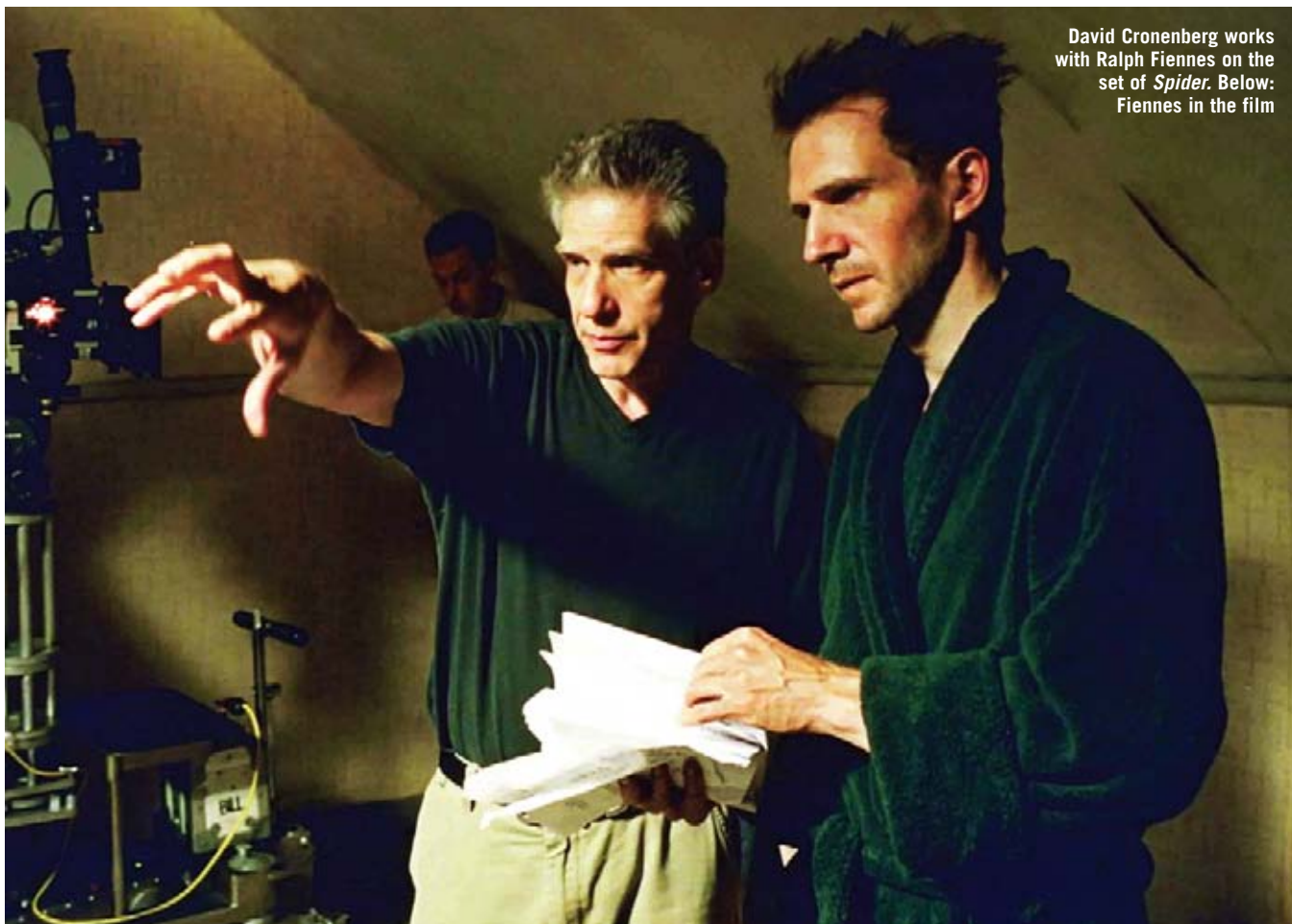
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David Cronenberg works with Ralph Fiennes on the set of *Spider*. Below: Fiennes in the film

SPIDER'S MAN

DAVID CRONENBERG, DIRECTOR OF SUCH ACCLAIMED FARE AS *eXistenZ*, *CRASH*, *DEAD RINGERS* AND *NAKED LUNCH*, IS SET TO UNLEASH HIS LATEST, *SPIDER*. THIS TIME, RALPH FIENNES STARS AS A JUST-RELEASED PSYCH PATIENT WHO RETURNS TO THE EAST LONDON STREETS OF HIS BOYHOOD ONLY TO CONFRONT RETURNING MEMORIES OF HIS DISTURBING CHILDHOOD. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH *FAMOUS* PUBLISHER **SALAH BACHIR**, CRONENBERG SAID HE THINKS IT'S THE BEST MOVIE OUT THERE



[Q] Were you attracted to this project because all filmmakers are schizophrenic, reinventing themselves with each film?

[a] It was really the script and Ralph, the combination, thinking of Ralph in that role that made me want to do it. You know it's odd, because I didn't really think of it as a movie about a schizophrenic. And you notice the word is never used in the movie. It's kind of interesting because [screenwriter] Patrick [McGrath] asked me if he could meet schizophrenics and psychiatrists and go to these asylums and I said, "Yeah, sure, but I want you to remember

that I'm not really interested in doing a clinical study of a schizophrenic where we have a list of symptoms that we check off.

[Q] Did you want it to be more about the human condition?

[a] Yeah. Well that's the thing. I'm saying, here's a man stripped down to the bare essentials of humanness. He's got just the clothes on his back and his little suitcase. And he has no friends, he has no job, he seems to have no religion, he doesn't have a network of anything to support him. So he's on his own. This is an existential man, you know, and therefore his confusion, the confusion with his own identity, his memories, his confusion about the way things work and how people relate to each other — who doesn't have that?

[Q] The movie has already played at the Toronto International Film Festival, Cannes and other festivals. How have the reviews been?

[a] Maybe the best I've had actually.... I think this is the first time that I've had a movie that the American distributors have bothered about doing any kind of Oscar release.... So that's kind of a thrill.

[Q] Do you really care about awards?

[a] Even though everybody knows the Oscars is more like a popularity contest — will they give it to Jack Nicholson because it would be fun to see Jack win again — people take it very seriously. Billions of people around the world, if you win an Oscar they think it means something. Meaning is only created by what people think. Weirdly enough, the Oscars suddenly have meaning, even though if you try to remember who won what years ago most people can't. And if you win an Oscar, when you die they say, "Oscar-winning so-and-so just died," and I'd hate to have that happen to me as if that was the most important thing I'd ever done in my life. So in terms of my obituary it's probably better that I don't win an Oscar. [Surrealist Spanish director] Luis Buñuel said he'd rather commit suicide than win an Oscar.

[Q] Which new films do you like?

[a] I think *Spider's* the best film out there. That's my completely modest objective [opinion]. Of course, it's impossible for me to watch *Spider* as though I've never seen it before, so I am

prejudiced. I'm very susceptible to being swept away by something that's great, for example Michael Haneke's *La Pianiste*, I thought that was a great film. Very tough, very dark, no compromises whatsoever. But I haven't seen anything that's being nominated or awarded that comes close to that. And I think *Spider* comes close to that in its own way.

[Q] How did you choose your cast?

[a] Well, this was unusual because the script arrived with a letter from Ralph Fiennes expressing his interest, and I don't know that I've ever done a project that already had an actor attached.

[Q] Did anyone worry that he was too good-looking for this role?

[a] Actually, somebody said "How can Ralph play this role if you read the novel? He's too good-looking." And I said, "We'll kind of mess him up so

homeless guy, and angry, very angry. And I asked someone who that guy was and he said, "He comes in and uses the bathroom. He just walks in."

[Q] It's very superficial to make these people have hunchbacks.

[a] Because it's very medieval. It's a very medieval thing to say that your face is a direct reflection of your soul. So if you were handsome you were a noble person. And if you were ugly, you were an ignoble person, just automatically. That was an understanding of psychology. We know that not to be true.

[Q] Why did you choose Miranda Richardson to play Spider's mother?

[a] After I met Ralph they said, okay, well who do you think the lead woman should be? And I said Miranda Richardson. They said, "Well, that's amazing because we had a reading of



when people review it they'll say he's pretty creepy," which is also not quite what I was after, creepy. I mentioned that when I was screening the film at Innis College, I was hanging out alone in the hallways until the movie was over, and this guy slammed in — it was a very snowy day, big black beard and carrying plastic shopping bags. He looks at me, walks through, banging doors, and he sees it says "Enter Here for Screening." So he opens the door and slams in, right in the middle of *Spider*, and he goes into the washroom. He was totally beautiful. But he was obviously a nuts

the script" — you know that's often done when the producers or actors are frustrated and they can't get the movie made, they have a reading in a restaurant or a pub, and I think this was at somebody's home and they got a bunch of actors to sit around and read — and they said, "We asked Miranda to do that. So it's amazing that you're mentioning her." So I said, "Well is she any good?" And they said, "Yeah, she was great." So I said, "Let's get her."

[Q] She's just amazing in this film.

[a] She's a brilliant actor, very wacky ▶▶

▶ and fun to work with. A lot of fun. And that's the other thing. The cast was, not to mention Lynn Redgrave, they're just delightful. It was a love-fest. We had a great time.

[Q] Was it filmed here?

[A] It was five weeks in Toronto and three weeks in and around London [England]. We actually shot some scenes in Eton where the boy's school is because they have that great railway.

[Q] What do you think about everything going on in the world today Mr. Cronenberg?

[A] Everything? It's a mess, isn't it! A total mess. The Americans are out of control. I was just in New York getting a Fangoria Lifetime Achievement Award. *Fangoria* [the horror movie magazine] has been a big supporter of mine.... But I was very interested to see there are now Americans speaking out against Bush, which for a while no one was allowed to do. And they're speaking out in great detail about Iraq and why this is insane.... Bush is not my favourite guy really. Talk about not wanting to have a beer with somebody, that is one guy I wouldn't. And talk about voting and giving awards, you know. How did he ever get to be President? I don't know.

[Q] Would you do a documentary?

[A] I don't think so, although when I was at Telluride [Film Festival] there was a seminar on documentary filmmaking outside with the mountains, quite beautiful, and Michael Moore was there and some great documentary filmmakers who were speaking about the nature of truth and documentary. Some of them approach their documentaries as fiction, others as propaganda pieces, so it's sort of up for grabs. I'd rather just make it all up and say these are not real characters and therefore I'm free to do with them what I please.

[Q] Even with fiction, though, do people take issue with how you choose to portray things?

[A] I got a nasty letter from somebody who had read something that I had said [in an interview] on the web, and was taking me to task for what she thought was my suggestion that schizophrenia was — the party line right now is that schizophrenia is a neurological disease, so it's not amenable to psychoanalysis, it's not because you did something bad.



Fiennes as Spider

“IT WAS REALLY THE SCRIPT AND RALPH, THE COMBINATION, THINKING OF RALPH IN THAT ROLE THAT MADE ME WANT TO DO IT,” SAYS CRONENBERG

And I said, well, I didn't actually say that they did, but it's all this sort of politically correct worrying about assigning blame and labeling people as schizophrenic.... So I wrote her a very angry letter back because I really thought what she was saying was ignorant.... It's probably the nastiest, angriest letter I've written in my life.

[Q] What did your letter say?

[A] She said, “You describe schizophrenia as a derangement of the metabolism. You must know that this is not congruent with current theory about schizophrenia

which is that schizophrenia is a brain disease.” So I said, “Well, what do you think derangement of the metabolism means? Have you looked these words up? Because that means that it's an organic disease, not a psychological one.” Of course she'd taken it completely out of context because that was the end of what I had said about the history of schizophrenia. I said it's still a touchstone disease which has gone through many interpretations. In the Middle Ages it was thought of as possession by demons. And then it was considered a psychoanalytical problem, something that had to do with the way you were raised as a child that pushed you into multiple personalities. Now it's considered more of a derangement of metabolism and metabolism simply means the chemical balance within cells. And I said, who knows? In the future there might be some other interpretation.

[Q] Is that the only negative letter?

[A] No, actually I got two. One letter was from a woman in London, Ontario. I really do want to answer her back because in that same interview I was putting down the movie *A Beautiful Mind*. Now see, this is the danger of putting down other movies in public, because she's living with someone who is schizophrenic. And she said that the movie *A Beautiful Mind* did more for the image of people with schizophrenia than years of promotion by things like the Canadian Schizophrenia Society. And so she hopes that I wasn't really putting the movie down. Well, of course I was putting the movie down, for many reasons. But I would write her back and I would say, look, are you serious? [In *A Beautiful Mind*] you've got a movie where the guy's schizophrenia involves having Ed Harris hang around and be kind of entertaining. He still manages to have a long-term relationship with a beautiful, intelligent woman. He still manages to do his work to the extent that he wins the Nobel Prize. And he gets a movie made about himself where he's played by Russell Crowe. Most people watching that movie would say, hey, if that's schizophrenia, come on, I'm ready.... But of course in a movie like *Spider*, if you consider *Spider* to be a schizophrenic, you see that it basically destroys you. It destroys your life, it destroys the people around you, and that's normally what it does. **E**



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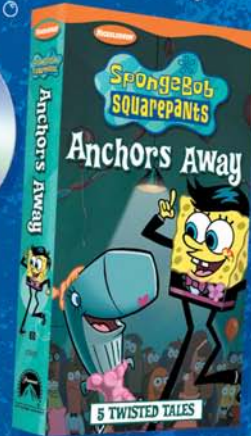
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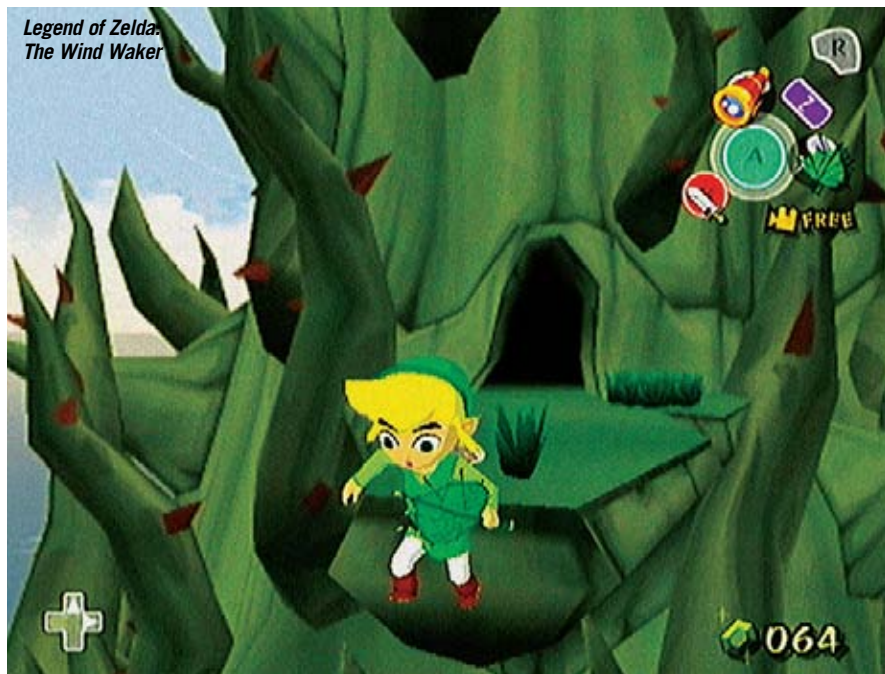


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LINK SETS SAIL

The Legend of Zelda's hero takes to the high seas in *The Wind Waker* | BY MARK MAGEE



The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker >> GAMECUBE

Ever since a little guy named Link went looking for the elusive Triforce back on the old-school NES, the *Zelda* series has set the standard for addictive gameplay. Now, the beloved franchise returns for its first outing on the GameCube, and the new offering more than lives up to its prestigious pedigree.

This time, Link's story (the titular *Zelda* hasn't been a leading character in years) begins on a tiny island, where his peaceful existence is shattered when a huge bird kidnaps his sister. Being the plucky little hero that he is, Link sets off to rescue his sibling.

The adventure that follows is set primarily on and around an immense ocean that Link navigates with the help of his snazzy new boat. There are innumerable islands and port towns you can visit, and you'll quickly find that simply cruising the high seas is one of the game's many high points.

Obviously, much of the game centres around wind. You have to master sea breezes in order to sail properly, but there are also plenty of side quests and mini-games that involve gusty gales. So to help you along, you get your very own "wind waker" — a baton-like instrument that lets you control the weather through song.

Kung Fu Chaos >> XBOX

Inspired by the wave of chop-socky kung fu films that invaded cinemas back in the '70s (*Enter the Dragon*, *Black Belt Jones*, etc.), this wacky beat-'em-up brawler takes place on a series of interactive movie sets. Filled with fast punches, clever film references and goofball characters — including an amorous monkey and a shotgun-toting blaxploitation babe — this is a silly, easy-to-learn party game that's ideal for multiple players.

Def Jam Vendetta

>> GAMECUBE, PS2

Sure, you love wrestling, but wouldn't it be better if hip-hop recording stars were somehow involved? That way, instead of being body slammed by the Undertaker, you could give that uppity Redman a really nasty clothesline. Well, your dreams have been answered with this, the first ever rap-themed wrestling game. Now if only Cyndi Lauper and Captain Lou had a game...

Knights of the Old Republic

>> XBOX

Set 4,000 years before *The Phantom Menace*, this epic role-playing adventure puts you in charge of a gang of customizable *Star Wars* characters — including humans, droids, Wookies — who get caught up in a battle between the Jedi and the Sith.

The King of Route 66 >> PS2

Finally, a game for everyone who's ever wanted to drive a tricked-out 18-wheeler across the country while trying to pick up trashy dames along the way! In this truck-driving simulation, you hop behind the wheel of a big rig and use your lead foot to get the cargo delivered on time, while winning the hearts of the "Queens" of Route 66.

Jurassic Park: Operation Genesis >> XBOX

This well-designed world-builder/tycoon game puts you at the helm of your very own dino-filled theme park. Research DNA in your lab, hatch dinosaur eggs, construct enclosures and then wait for the tourists to roll in. Just make sure you keep the ranger stations well-stocked with tranquilizers, or your guests might end up as lunch for the raptors.

GAMEBOY ADVANCE SP

Nintendo has long ruled the handheld gaming roost, but they really dropped the ball back when they introduced the GameBoy Advance. You see, while the GBA's graphics looked simply fantastic, the glare off the screen made them almost impossible to see except under perfect lighting conditions.

Fortunately, Nintendo realized the error of their ways, and have made amends with the new GameBoy Advance SP. The GBA SP's slick flip-top design (when closed, it measures a scant 3" by 3") and stylish design make this a handheld system that will appeal to non-kiddy gamers.

But the real selling point here is the vastly improved LCD screen, which has the same display size, resolution and colours as the original GBA, but now features integrated front lights that completely cut down the glare. Which means you can actually see the game you're playing. What a crazy concept.



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new RELEASES

MOONLIGHT MILE, AUTO FOCUS AND 8 MILE COME HOME

MARCH 4

THE RING

Stars: Naomi Watts, Martin Henderson
Director: Gore Verbinski (*The Mexican*)
Story: In this remake of the cult Japanese film, a reporter discovers a creepy videotape that's so scary, it kills everyone who views it. Turns out it's the outtake reel from *The Adventures of Pluto Nash*.

MARCH 11

MOONLIGHT MILE

Stars: Jake Gyllenhaal, Dustin Hoffman
Director: Brad Silberling (*City of Angels*)
Story: After his fiancée's sudden death, a young man (Gyllenhaal) moves in with his pseudo in-laws (Hoffman and Susan Sarandon). But things get sticky when he falls for a new girl.

WHITE OLEANDER

Stars: Michelle Pfeiffer, Alison Lohman
Director: Peter Kosminsky (*Wuthering Heights*)
Story: A young girl is dumped into the foster care system after her mother offs a jerky boyfriend with poison. And wouldn't you know it — her adventures and hardships help her become a better person!

MARCH 18

AUTO FOCUS

Stars: Greg Kinnear, Willem Dafoe
Director: Paul Schrader (*Affliction*)
Story: Based on the true story of *Hogan's Heroes* star Bob Crane, this biopic follows Crane as he sinks deeper and deeper into a world of sexual hijinks and voyeurism — a path that eventually led to his still-unsolved murder.

8 MILE

Stars: Eminem, Brittany Murphy
Director: Curtis Hanson (*Wonder Boys*)

Story: Foul-mouthed rapper Eminem stars as a po' white boy who just wants to rap, in this thinly disguised retelling of his rise to fame. Stay tuned for the sequel, *9 Mile*, in which Eminem teams up with an uptight black cop (Dr. Dre) and goes undercover to bust MP3 pirates.

MARCH 25

FEMME FATALE

Stars: Rebecca Romijn-Stamos, Antonio Banderas
Director: Brian De Palma (*Mission to Mars*)
Story: De Palma plunders Hitchcock's grave once again for this twisty-turny tale about a former con artist who's struggling to keep her identity a secret from a dopey photographer.

JACKASS: THE MOVIE

Stars: Johnny Knoxville, Steve-O
Director: Jeff Tremain (debut)



Michelle Pfeiffer in *White Oleander*

Story: The gang from MTV's gross-out stunt show *Jackass* manage to stretch out their moronic antics and pain-inducing pranks for a whopping 87 minutes. Perfect for anyone who thinks comedy begins and ends with anal invasions.

MAID IN MANHATTAN

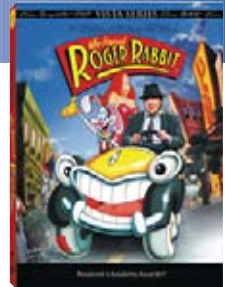
Stars: Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes
Director: Wayne Wang (*Anywhere But Here*)
Story: J.Lo picks up the J.Cloths and gets down and dirty as a maid in a high-end Manhattan hotel who falls for a senatorial candidate (Fiennes). A lot like *Pretty Woman*, but without any oral sex or prostitutes.

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

new to DVD

WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT?

The groundbreaking animation/live-action film comes to DVD with a raft of special features, including a commentary track by director Robert Zemeckis, three *Roger Rabbit* shorts, a handful of games and an in-depth look behind the scenes at the film's complex production. A real treat for anyone interested in the ongoing history of animation.



THREE COLOURS TRILOGY: BLUE, WHITE & RED

Director Krzysztof Kieslowski (*The Double Life of Veronique*, *The Decalogue*) based these three films on the ideals represented by the French flag — liberty, equality and fraternity. Filled with philosophy, humanity and beauty, they represent the very best of what cinema can be. A must-own for any serious fan of film art.

TOUR OF DUTY

No, it's not the 1980s TV series about a motley U.S. Army platoon serving in Vietnam. It's a DVD version of the reunion tour *The Kids in the Hall* took across Canada and the States last spring. Look for all your old faves — Chicken Lady, Gavin, Buddy Cole, Sir Simon Miligan and Hecubus — to pop up.

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march

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pisces

February 20 >>> March 20

It's hard to stay still. You might be invited on a friend's trip, as your optimistic nature makes you an ideal companion. It's also a good month for planning a move.

aries

March 21 >>> April 20

March is the perfect time for doing all those superficial things, like buffing your image and upgrading your wardrobe. It's also an excellent month for exploring new areas of interest or looking after a pet.

taurus

April 21 >>> May 22

You have a tough schedule: a family reunion, a last-minute trip and a public-speaking or theatrical gig. You're also in some sort of competition late in the month — and it could prove a surprisingly close race.

gemini

May 23 >>> June 21

Your letters and emails carry more weight than usual, and a stubborn friend is now willing to follow your advice. Watch out, however, for a late-month urge to spend impulsively.

cancer

June 22 >>> July 22

It's a good month for exploring new territory. This may mean getting in touch with your

psyche or changing your career path. You should also start reading your mail again. Some surprisingly bright family or financial news may arrive after the 21st.

leo

July 23 >>> August 22

Reflection and meditation help you reach a key decision. At the same time, behind-the-scenes activities can lead to some kind of a late-month award. Motivating others is one of your special talents.

virgo

August 23 >>> September 22

The month is all about friends' achievements — something not always easy for you to handle. But your encouragement brings a couple of successes your own way by the 31st.

libra

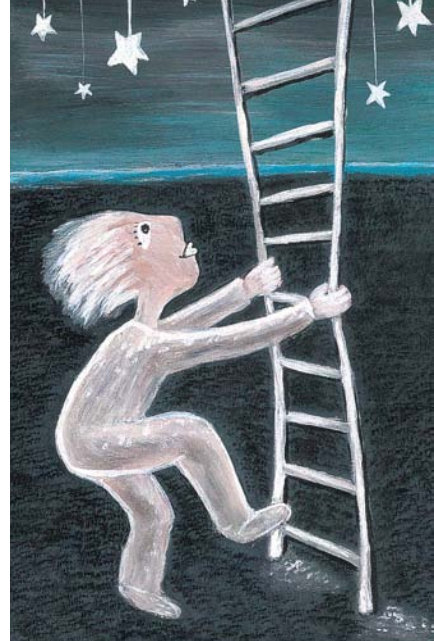
September 23 >>> October 22

March sees you taking chances and expanding your interests. Business-minded Librans become more creative; artsy types are drawn to practical areas. It's also a good time for resuming a health or fitness program.

scorpio

October 23 >>> November 21

You can accomplish what you set out to achieve — but don't try to do everything alone or at once. Be more willing to let friends help you out of a personal slump.



KATTIA SMIRNOVA

Late-month sees you forming an offbeat — but rather clever — alliance.

sagittarius

November 22 >>> December 22

An overdue debt or an important document arrives before the first day of spring. You need time for solitude, so be sure not to overload your calendar. Whiny friends or relatives show signs of maturity.

capricorn

December 23 >>> January 20

Your romantic partner seems harder to please. Work on a new approach, and the situation should be reversed by the 31st. Hide credit cards after the 20th, when an impulsive streak can lead to out-of-control shopping.

aquarius

January 21 >>> February 19

Stay clear of confrontation, especially through the first half of March. You're finally thinking more logically about money. High-maintenance friends are more independent; now it's time to concentrate on your own interests.

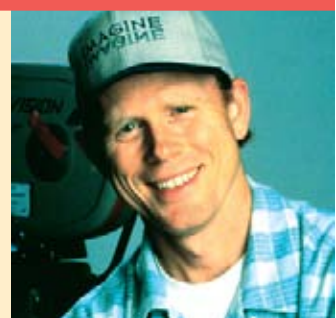
MARCH BIRTHDAYS



1st **Ron Howard**
2nd **Jon Bon Jovi**
3rd **Jessica Biel**
4th **Patricia Heaton**

5th **Jake Lloyd**
6th **Rob Reiner**
7th **Rachel Weisz**
8th **Aidan Quinn**
9th **Emmanuel Lewis**
10th **Sharon Stone**
11th **Thora Birch**
12th **Liza Minnelli**
13th **William H. Macy**
14th **Billy Crystal**
15th **Judd Hirsch**
16th **Jerry Lewis**

17th **Gary Sinise**
18th **Vanessa Williams**
19th **Bruce Willis**
20th **William Hurt**
21st **Rosie O'Donnell**
22nd **Reese Witherspoon**
23rd **Amanda Plummer**
24th **Lara Flynn Boyle**
25th **Elton John**
26th **Martin Short**
27th **Mariah Carey**
28th **Dianne Wiest**
29th **Lucy Lawless**



30th **Celine Dion**
31st **Ewan McGregor**

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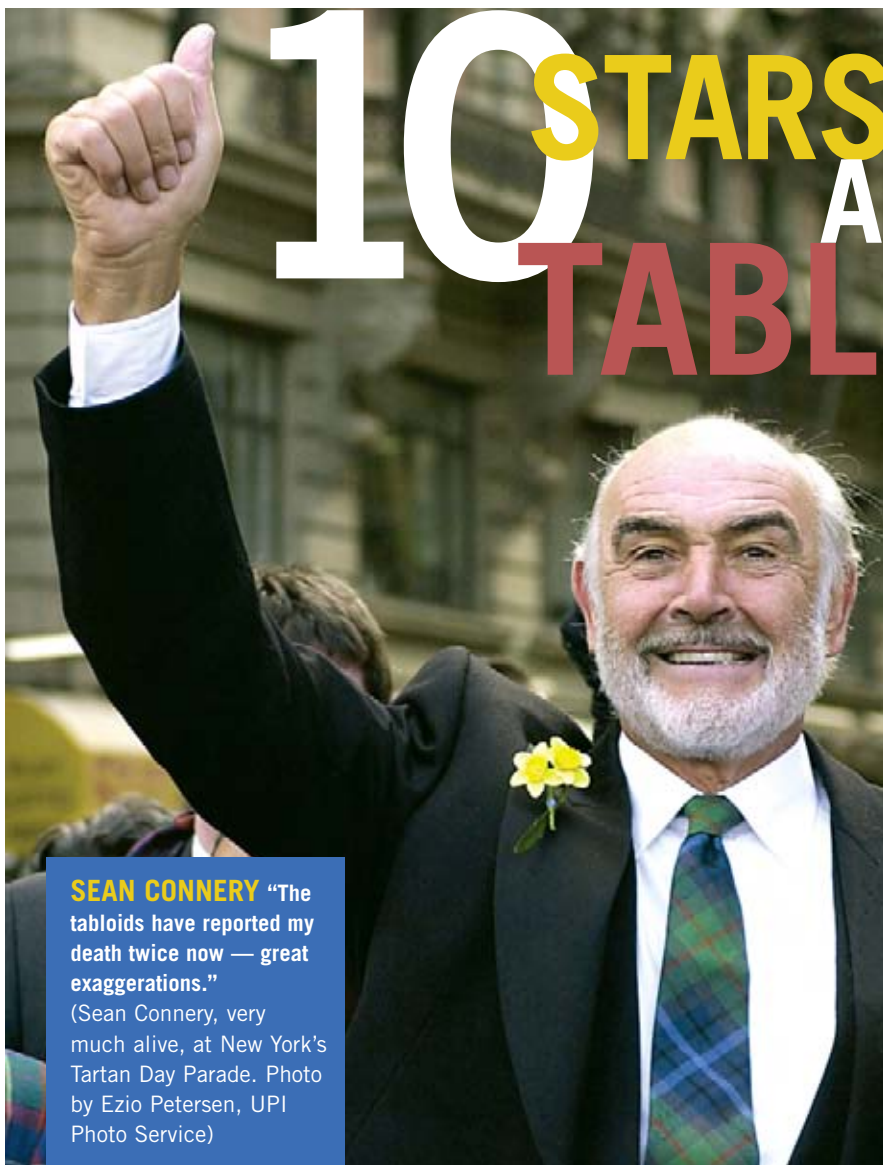
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Hot lunch to go.

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10 STARS TALK ABOUT THE TABLOIDS

SEAN CONNERY “The tabloids have reported my death twice now — great exaggerations.”

(Sean Connery, very much alive, at New York’s Tartan Day Parade. Photo by Ezio Petersen, UPI Photo Service)

BY SUSAN GRANGER

ALLY SHEEDY “There’s not a single person I know who doesn’t look at the *National Enquirer* headlines in the supermarket. It’s natural. You’re nosy. Everybody likes to gossip. But it can be a little scary to have people knowing secrets about me when I don’t know anything about them. It’s not exactly a two-way street.”

WILL SMITH “The *Enquirer* printed that I slept with [*The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* co-star] Karyn Parsons on my wedding night. I can laugh it off but my newlywed wife didn’t need to see that.”

KATHARINE HEPBURN “I never care about anything that’s written about me as long as it’s not true.”

ROSEANNE “I buy the *National Enquirer* every week. I think all the tabloids have totally impacted on the rest of the media, influencing everything. You don’t know whether you read it in *Time* or the *Enquirer*. *Time* and *Newsweek* have absolutely no more credibility to me than the *National Enquirer*. Neither does the *New York Times*. They’re all the same now. Society gets the television and the news we deserve. I love tabloids. I read every single one of them.”

MELANIE GRIFFITH “I don’t read the tabloids, only because they’re not accurate. It’s a bad dream. People have no scruples anymore. It’s really nobody’s business. That’s why I don’t read the tabloids, because then it doesn’t hurt.”

JULIA ORMOND “The British are the worst! The British are appalling! I’ve really been shocked by the behaviour of the British press. Richard Gere went out to dinner with Uma Thurman, who is an old friend. Uma left the restaurant and she got shoved up against a railing by journalists trying to get her photograph. She got a cut above her eye that needed stitches. And his driver got stabbed in the stomach trying to get them out. What’s going on? For what?”

LIZA MINELLI “I know my mother’s [Judy Garland] death wasn’t suicide. I’ve seen the coroner’s report, but it doesn’t matter. The tabloids wrote what they wanted to write at the time. I remember once she said, ‘They don’t care about what really happened. They like the drama.’ Let ’em take the drama.”

WOODY ALLEN “There are things that are written about you that are based on truth but nasty, and there are things that are written about you that are exaggerations, but what amazes me is that there are things that are written about you that are so silly that you can’t begin to fathom where to begin tracing them. Like I bought a palazzo in Venice. That story was everywhere! Sotheby’s called me saying, ‘We know engineers who can help you with the way your home is sinking.’ I never had any intention of owning a palazzo in Venice, nor do I own, nor could I afford one, nor do I want one, nor did I ever.”

MARLEE MATLIN “According to the *Enquirer*, I’m a lesbian. This is not true. My lawyers demanded a retraction but they said, ‘It’s true. We have three witnesses who confirm that you are. They took lie detector tests.’ I feel sorry for these people.”

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