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Famous

march 2004 | volume 5 | number 3

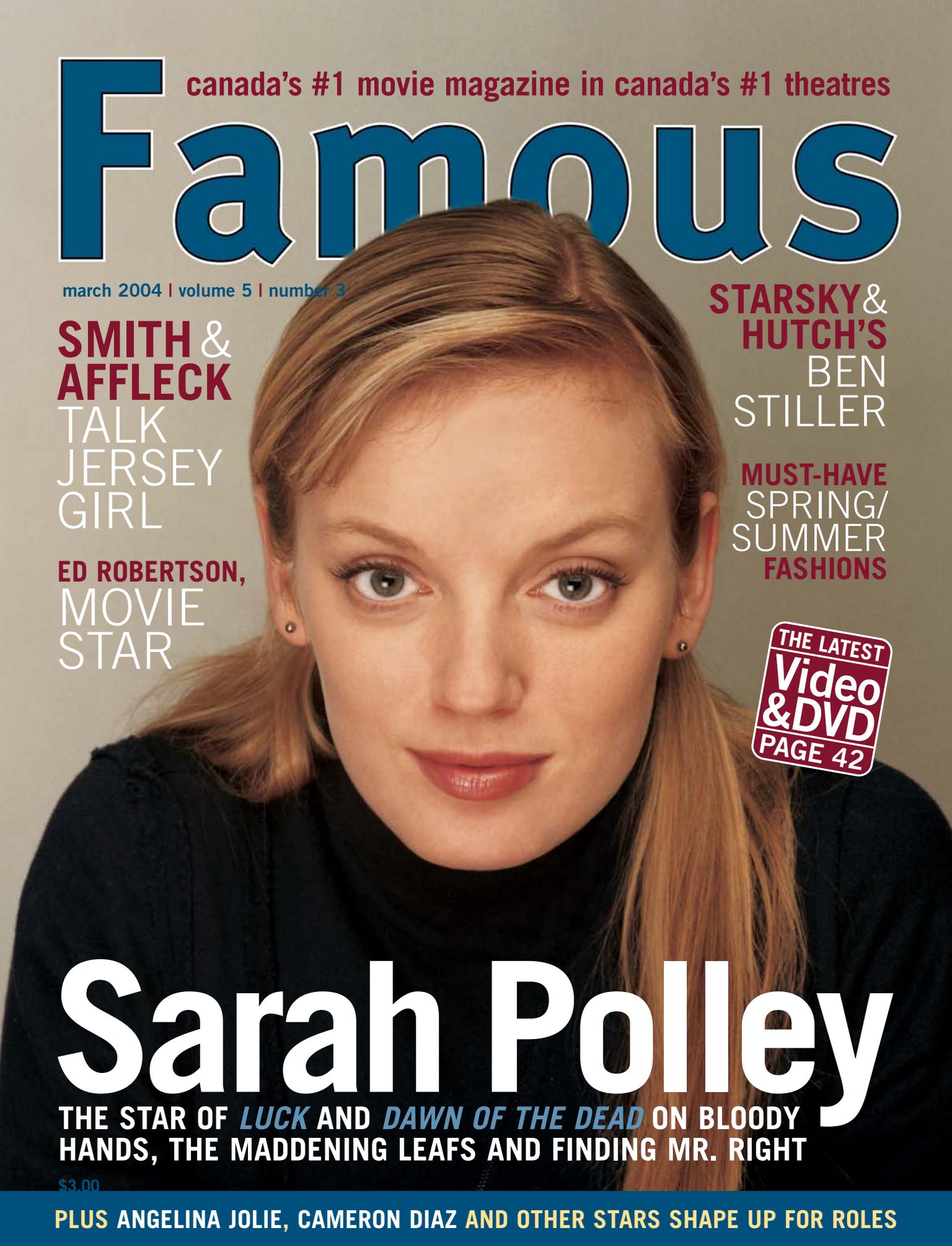
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JERSEY
GIRL

ED ROBERTSON,
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STAR

**STARSKY &
HUTCH'S**
BEN
STILLER

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THE LATEST
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PAGE 42



Sarah Polley

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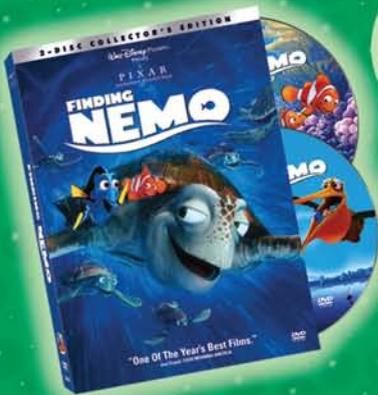
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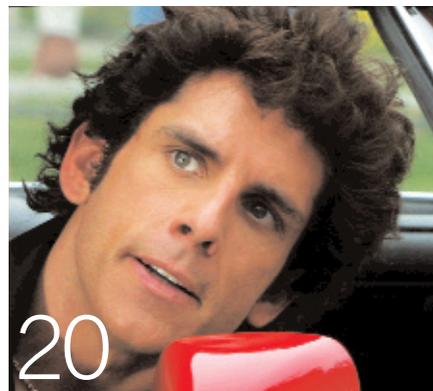


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| By Ingrid Randoja

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SIZING UP SARAH



How much do you know about Sarah Polley?

That's a question we had to ask ourselves when putting together this month's cover story. Not how much *we* know about the 25-year-old Toronto native — how much *you* know about her.

It would seem this country's split into two very different groups. You have the Canadian film aficionados who feel they're already intimately acquainted with Polley — she got her first big break as the star of CBC's *The Road to Avonlea*, is an Atom Egoyan favourite, and was once expected to be Canada's next big export to Hollywood.

And you have those people who, if they're lucky, have a vague idea that Polley's some young actor who had something to do with *Anne of Green Gables* and might be from Toronto, or is it the East Coast?

It's not easy to write about someone who's so well known to some, so little known to others.

Fortunately, this is a time when there are enough fresh and interesting things to write about Polley to satisfy both groups. Since a period a few years ago when it seemed she was on the cover of every Canadian publication, Polley's been relatively absent from the spotlight. That absence might have something to do with the time it took to shoot the two very different films she has coming out this month, *Luck* and *Dawn of the Dead*. Or it might have more to do with an attitude change. As Polley says in "Same Old Sarah?," page 30, "At some point you realize that you're not the centre of the world, nobody cares, and there are very few people tracking what you're doing."

Wouldn't you know it? Right after we finished our interview with director **Kevin Smith**, where he talks all about the enduring relationship between his two *Jersey Girl* stars, Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez, they go and break up. Oh well, there probably isn't anything the pair can do — including split — that wouldn't be good publicity for Smith's first post-Jay and Silent Bob flick. In "Surviving Bennifer," page 24, Smith describes how the public revelation about Ben and Jen's canoodling changed everything on set. Plus, on page 25 **Ben Affleck** himself explains why *Jersey Girl* is no *Gigli*.

Can you believe that, for a time, the producers of the big-screen adaptation of *Starsky & Hutch* were thinking of setting it in the present day? *That* would have been a big mistake. What's the point, other than the few bucks you'd save by not having to round up a bunch of bellbottoms and a 1974 Gran Torino? In "Here Comes the Fuzz," page 20, star **Ben Stiller** fills you in on the direction the filmmakers decided to go.

And on page 28 you'll find "Rock and Role," our question and answer session with Barenaked Ladies' singer/guitarist **Ed Robertson**. Why is there a feature interview with a musician in a movie magazine? Because Robertson's appearing in a film, of course. He plays a goofy security guard in *Love, Sex and Eating the Bones*, or as Robertson describes him, "a caricature of every white, slovenly Scarborough-ite. He's all the people I grew up with."

—Marni Weisz

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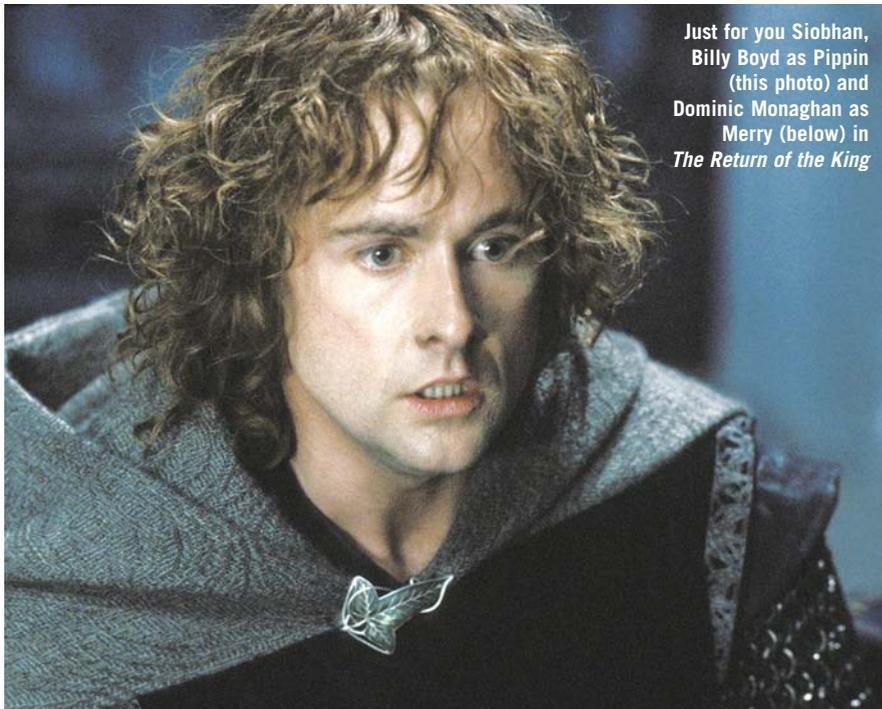
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Just for you Siobhan, Billy Boyd as Pippin (this photo) and Dominic Monaghan as Merry (below) in *The Return of the King*

ASK AND YE SHALL RECEIVE...

I love your magazine, and I was especially pleased to see that your December issue was a tribute to *The Lord of the Rings*. I love the books and movies, but was disappointed to see that you didn't include any pictures of Billy Boyd (Peregrin Took, or Pippin) and Dominic Monaghan (Meriadoc Brandybuck, or Merry). In your next issue, could you please put in some pictures of them? After all, they are respected members of the Fellowship.

Siobhan O'Mahony — Toronto, Ont.

THE WRONG SMOKE SIGNALS

As someone who has a habit of arriving early for movies, I always find it entertaining to read your magazine and catch up with the latest in show biz. Your profile of Scarlett Johansson [February 2004] was appreciated, as I believe her to be one of the most talented young actresses of our times. However, I do think your editorial team suffered a

lapse in judgment when it included "Smokes Capris cigarettes" under the Trivia section of the page. Honestly, was there nothing more interesting that you could've included? I think such tidbits send the wrong message to younger readers, especially since Johansson is barely of the legal age to buy cigarettes. Bad form, in my opinion.

Edward Weiss — Toronto, Ont.

WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT OY?

I usually love to read your magazine each time I go to the movies, but was shocked to read how you started your [blurb] for *The Passion of the Christ* ["Oy. Do you think Mel Gibson knew what he was getting himself into...," January 2004]. Was there any need to start it off with a stereotype of the way Jewish people speak? I think that you should watch how you present other races, especially when talking about a movie which is causing such controversy. Stick to writing about movies, which you are good at, and leave out any negative connotations to other races behind — where they belong.

Elyssa L. Blayne — Montreal, Que.

TOO LATE FOR CALENDAR

I have just seen *Calendar Girls*. Loved it!!! Is there any place, store, etc. where I could purchase their calendar? I went to the website, but it seems that the calendar is only for U.K. delivery. Can you help me with this?

Gail Kelsall — Dollard des Ormeaux, Que.

Sorry Gail, but unfortunately our friends over at Disney tell us that the calendar is no longer in print. However, on the day we checked there were at least a couple of copies (still in their shrink wrap, no less) up for grabs on eBay. If you rush, they might still be available.



FAMOUS WELCOMES YOUR COMMENTS

Address them to: **Letters to the Editor, Famous magazine, 102 Atlantic Ave., Suite 100, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1X9; or fax us at 416.539.8511; or drop us an email at editor@fmedia.ca.**

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CAUGHT ON FILM

THE STARS WORK, PLAY AND PROMOTE THEIR MOVIES



◀◀ Hey Charlize, stop looking at the camera — look to your right! See that magazine some fan is holding? It's really worth all your attention. Charlize Theron and a copy of the January issue of *Famous* share the red carpet at a Toronto screening of *Monster*.

∨ Yes, we know it looks like Ashton Kutcher's scowling because he's been caught in an intimate moment with fellow actor Amy Smart. But by all accounts everything between he and Demi is just fine. Kutcher and Smart were at the Sundance Film Festival together to promote their latest, *The Butterfly Effect*.

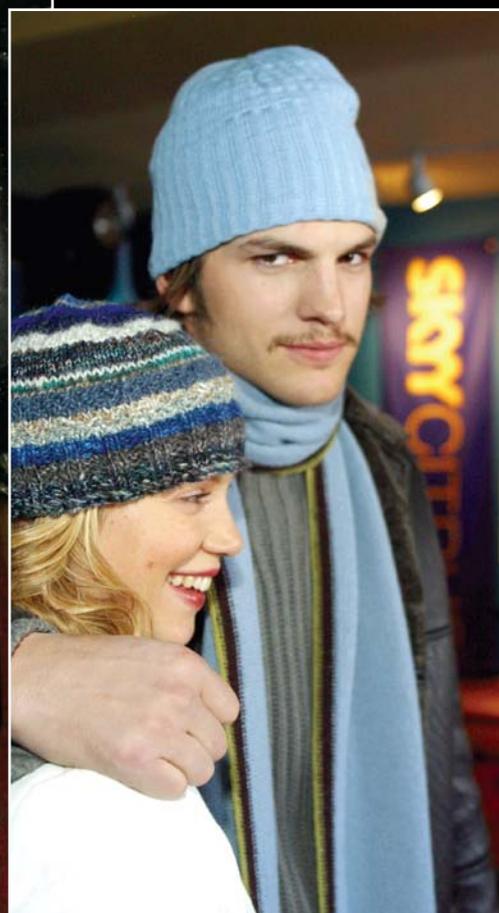


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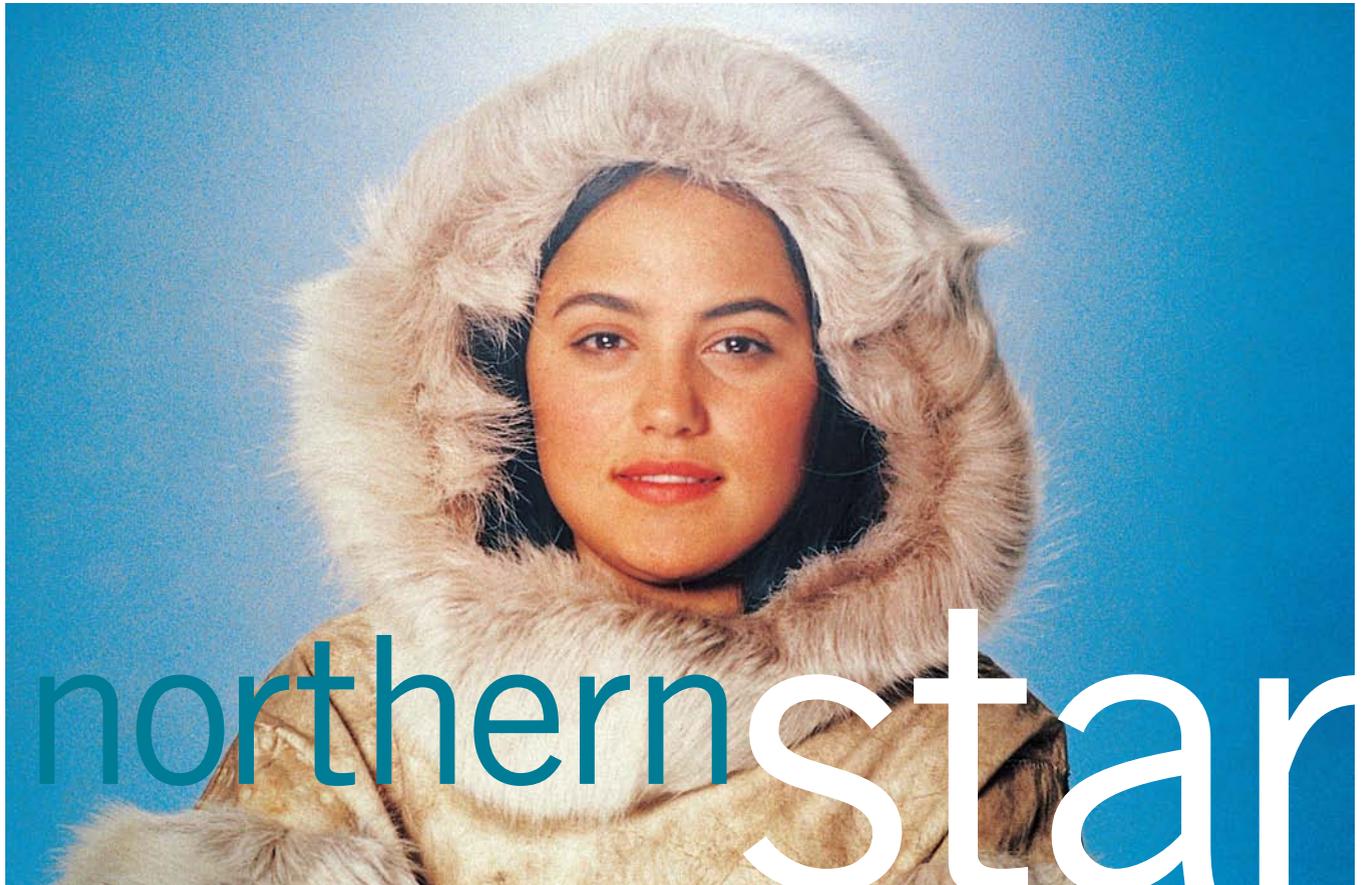


^ That's Penélope Cruz doing some nifty camel riding on the set of her upcoming adventure flick *Sahara*. Cruz and co-star Matthew McConaughey were in Morocco to shoot the film, which is based on one of author's Clive Cussler's Dirk Pitt books. Expect the film to hit theatres next fall.

√ Thank God for actors like Drew Barrymore who think movie premieres can actually be fun events, unlike most celebrities who need every bit of their energy to squeeze out a pseudo-smile for the cameras. Barrymore joined in with a couple of hula dancers at the Hollywood premiere of *50 First Dates*.

√ Faye Dunaway looks as though she could be Claudia Schiffer's sister —
√ okay, her mother, her sister, her mother, her sister, her mother (apologies to anyone under 30, it's a *Chinatown* reference) — at the opening night of the Berlin Film Festival. The lovely pair cuddled together as they waited for a screening of *Cold Mountain* to begin.





One night, 19-year-old Annabella Piugattuk was goofing around with her friends at a dance in Igloolik, Nunavut, when she was approached by a casting agent to star in a movie. That's just not the kind of thing that happens to an Inuit teenager living in Canada's high arctic, some 2,500 miles north of Hollywood.

"We were dancing and the music stopped, and we went to the lobby to buy chips and pop," says Piugattuk during an interview at last fall's Toronto International Film Festival. "We saw this guy standing in the corner looking like a white snowman, all bulked up. He asked if we wanted to audition for the movie *The Snow Walker*. I said, 'Let me think about...Yeah! I want to do it.'"

The Snow Walker, based on Farley Mowat's short story *Walk Well My Brother*, stars Barry Pepper (*25th Hour*) as Charlie Halliday, a bush pilot whose plane crashes into the arctic tundra in the summer of 1953. His passenger is a teenage Inuit girl named Kanaalaq (Piugattuk), who is suffering from tuberculosis. While Charlie panics at the thought of dying in the barren

lands, Kanaalaq calmly takes charge, hunting, gathering and giving Charlie a lesson in Inuit culture. It's a wonderful performance, especially coming from someone who had previously only acted in school plays.

The diminutive Piugattuk (she stands 4'9") is a little nervous at the thought of talking with a journalist. But she stops fidgeting and relaxes when she starts chatting about growing up in Igloolik, a village of about 1,600 people.

You see, what made *The Snow Walker*'s director, Charles Martin Smith, choose Piugattuk over the 100 other actors he saw was the fact that she really does possess the same skills as her movie character. She's an accomplished throat singer, she fishes, hunts seal and walrus and can make an entire parka out of a caribou hide.

"My favourite things are ice fishing and seal hunting," she says. "You get to lie on your stomach on the ice and get to watch fish, big and small. You have to have a certain rhythm with your hand, and you must be patient, it will come."

"The most intense thing is when you kill a seal," she continues. "When you're

waiting for it to happen you're not feeling anything, you're not thinking anything, you're as solid as a rock 'cause even if you wiggle your toes inside your boots they're going to hear it and they won't come."

I guess seal hunting is a little like acting — a lot of waiting around before anything happens.

"Yeah," she laughs, "I guess so."

Since starring in *The Snow Walker*, Piugattuk has left Igloolik and moved to Vancouver where she's living with a crew member she became involved with while making the film. She's studying to get her Grade 12 diploma and still auditioning for parts.

"I think acting may be my calling," she says with confidence. "Since I've been at this film festival I've done a lot of auditions and I've been rejected after every one of the them [laughs]."

"I say, 'Hey, I think I'm better than that and if they don't need me I'll go for another one.' I don't feel like, 'Oh, I wasn't so good,' I just do my best. Sometimes I'm shy and nervous, but I try to keep positive about the rejection because there will be another role out there for me."

—INGRID RANDOJA

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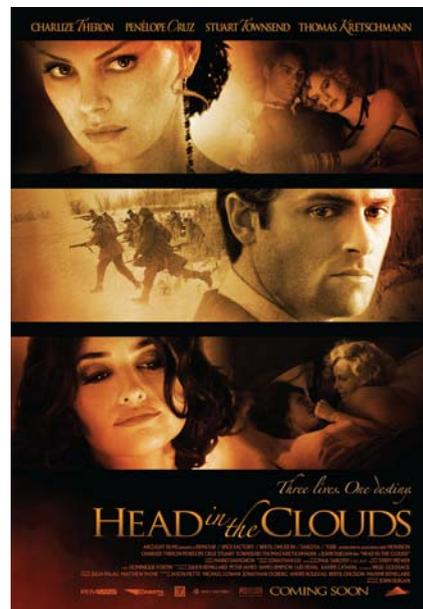
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Double Double take

Do you think it's a case of weird creative coincidence, or uninspired creative mooching? The poster for the soon-to-be-released costume drama *Head in the Clouds* looks almost identical (give or take a few fonts) to the poster for the 2002 costume drama *The Four Feathers*. The publicity types associated with both movies must be choking on their lattés.



Christina Applegate was called to sit on the Robert Blake jury

SITTING IN JUDGMENT

Now, we would never suggest that it's okay for people to shirk their civic obligations, like, say, fulfilling jury duty. But how many of us haven't found a reason to get out of that irksome responsibility?

Celebrities are no different than the unwashed masses, and since hordes of them live in L.A. you'd expect a few of them to be called to serve in la-la land's justice system — and probably be no happier about it than the rest of us.

Believe it or not, both former *Married...with Children* bombshell Christina Applegate and *This is Spinal Tap* alumnus Harry Shearer were tagged as potential jurors for the murder trial of another sort-of celeb, Robert Blake. Shearer explained he was under contract to do various voices on TV's *The Simpsons* and was excused. But poor Christina — there's no TV series or movie hinging on her return, so she'll continue on to the second round of jury selection where the lawyers decide whether she's good or bad for their case. According to *The New York Daily News*, Shearer said Applegate “was not overjoyed to be called back.”

Meanwhile, in Miami, potential juror #17 — a.k.a. singer Gloria Estefan — brought along a bodyguard and signed some two-dozen autographs while waiting to find out if she'd be selected for a trial involving cops accused of beating a suspect. And while the defense attorneys gave her a thumbs up, the prosecutors thought her presence would be too distracting. She was, not surprisingly, sent home. —IR

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THE GIRL NEXT DOOR

WHO'S IN IT? Emile Hirsch, Elisha Cuthbert

WHO DIRECTED? Luke Greenfield (*The Animal*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A well-mannered high school senior falls in love with the girl next door, who turns out to be a former porn star. Bet he has to go over there and tell her to turn down the "bowk chika bown bown" tunes.

HITS THEATRES MARCH 12

MARCH 5

HIDALGO

WHO'S IN IT? Viggo Mortensen, Omar Sharif

WHO DIRECTED? Joe Johnston (*Jumanji*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A 19th-century Pony Express courier (Mortensen) and his horse, *Hidalgo*, head to Saudi Arabia to compete in a dangerous cross-country race.

THE BLUE BUTTERFLY

WHO'S IN IT? Marc Donato, William Hurt

WHO DIRECTED? Léa Pool (*Empart-moi*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Based on a true story, this family drama stars Donato as a boy suffering from terminal cancer whose last wish is to travel from his home in Montreal to the rain forests of Costa Rica to catch a rare blue butterfly.

STARSKY & HUTCH

WHO'S IN IT? Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson

WHO DIRECTED? Todd Phillips (*Old School*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Our mood ring tells us the movie version of the '70s TV show about two foxy cops (Stiller and Wilson, wearing pants so tight you can see their clackers) is going to be humongous fun. See Ben Stiller interview, page 20

THE SNOW WALKER

WHO'S IN IT? Barry Pepper, Annabella Piugattuk

WHO DIRECTED? Charles Martin Smith (*Air Bud*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? When his plane crashes in the arctic, pilot Charlie Halliday (Pepper) and his passenger, an ill Inuit teen (Piugattuk), must team up to survive. See Annabella Piugattuk interview, page 12.

MARCH 12

SPARTAN

WHO'S IN IT? Val Kilmer, Derek Luke

WHO DIRECTED? David Mamet (*Heist*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The daughter of the U.S. president is kidnapped and a rogue government agent (Kilmer) is sent to find her. What is it with this recent pop culture fascination with the female progeny of America's head honcho (*Chasing Liberty*, *First Daughter*)? And, more importantly, why doesn't someone here at home kidnap Ben Mulrone?

AGENT CODY BANKS 2: DESTINATION LONDON

WHO'S IN IT? Frankie Muniz, Keith Allen

WHO DIRECTED? Kevin Allen (*Twin Town*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Teen spy Cody Banks poses as a foreign exchange student at a posh English boarding school while secretly searching for a stolen mind control device.

SECRET WINDOW

WHO'S IN IT? Johnny Depp, John Turturro

WHO DIRECTED? David Koepp (*Stir of Echoes*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? This adaptation of the Stephen King short story *Secret Window*, *Secret Garden* stars Depp as writer Mort Rainey, who is being stalked by a psycho named Shooter (Turturo) who claims Rainey stole his story and, crime of all crimes, changed his ending.

MARCH 19

TAKING LIVES

WHO'S IN IT? Angelina Jolie, Ethan Hawke

WHO DIRECTED? D.J. Caruso

(*The Salton Sea*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? An FBI profiler (Jolie) helps the Montreal police force search for a serial killer who assumes the identities of those he murders. At one time Gwyneth Paltrow, Cate Blanchett and Jennifer Lopez were all interested in playing the smarty-pants female hero.

JERSEY GIRL

WHO'S IN IT? Ben Affleck, Liv Tyler

WHO DIRECTED? Kevin Smith (*Dogma*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Director Smith goes from potty mouths to potty training with this sentimental dramedy. Affleck stars as a suave Manhattan publicist who returns to his home town in New Jersey to raise his

precocious daughter. See interviews with Ben Affleck and Kevin Smith, page 24.

DAWN OF THE DEAD

WHO'S IN IT? Ving Rhames, Sarah Polley
WHO DIRECTED? Zack Snyder (debut)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? This remake of the 1979 horror stars Polley and Rhames — now there's a visually striking couple — as the leaders of a band of humans holed up in a mall battling an army of zombies. We don't know about you, but we can't wait to see former *Avonlea* cutie-pie Polley blow the brains out of stinking undead! See Sarah Polley interview, page 30.

MARCH 26

THE LADYKILLERS

WHO'S IN IT? Tom Hanks, Marlon Wayans
WHO DIRECTED? Joel Coen (*Fargo*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? In this remake of the 1955 British comedy, Hanks plays a southern criminal mastermind — think Colonel Sanders meets Lex Luthor — whose elaborate plan to rob a riverboat casino is thwarted by his landlady, meaning she's gotta be "eliminated."

SCOOBY-DOO 2: MONSTERS UNLEASHED

WHO'S IN IT? Freddie Prinze Jr., Sarah Michelle Gellar
WHO DIRECTED? Raja Gosnell (*Scooby-Doo*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The gang at Mystery Inc. have their hands full trying to shut down the Monster Machine, which spits out a collection of their greatest foes including The Creeper and The 10,000 Volt Ghost.

LUCK

WHO'S IN IT? Luke Kirby, Sarah Polley
WHO DIRECTED? Peter Wellington (*Joe's So Mean to Josephine*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? It's 1972, the Canada-Russia hockey series is in full swing, and Shane's life is unraveling (*Mambo Italiano*'s Kirby). Not only has he lost the girl he secretly loves (Polley), he's in debt to a bookie, leaving him with only one option: bet on Russia to win the series and save his skin. See Sarah Polley interview, page 30.

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PHOTO BY BOB RIHA, JR./WIREIMAGE

Olivier MARTINEZ

NOW APPEARING IN... *Taking Lives* as a brooding Montreal cop working with FBI profiler Angelina Jolie to catch a serial killer.

BIO BITS: He's been tagged "The French Brad Pitt," but you won't see Mr. Martinez settling down with a French sitcom star anytime in the near future. No, Olivier Martinez is a prototypical French hunk who loves the ladies, as well as his freedom, which he finds riding through the streets of Paris on his motorcycle.

He was born January 12, 1966, in a working-class suburb of Paris. Martinez's secretary mother is French, while his mechanic father hails from Morocco, where he was a professional boxer in his youth and won the North African championship. It seems the knack for boxing and mechanics runs in Martinez's family, as both dad and granddad were pro boxers who later worked as mechanics.

Martinez was planning to follow the same career path. He left school as a teen, took a series of jobs — selling jeans, working in various shops — and trained. He fought as a welterweight for

three years until, at age 23, he sustained injuries in a serious car accident that left him unable to fight.

Not knowing what to do with his life, he decided to try acting and was accepted into the Conservatoire Supérieur d'Art Dramatique, France's leading acting school. He was spotted by a producer who saw him do a scene at the end of his first year and offered him a co-starring role with Yves Montand in the 1992 film *IP5*. His performance earned him a César nomination (the French Oscar) for Most Promising Actor. Three years later he became a bona fide French star when he starred in the epic adventure/love story *The Horseman on the Roof* with Juliette Binoche.

The two became an item and the French press hounded the unnaturally attractive couple. It became so bad the twosome threatened to sue a magazine that claimed Binoche was pregnant with his child.

After *Horseman*, Martinez continued to star in French films, but he also began to branch out into Spanish and American productions. He made his mark with North American audiences, especially women, in 2002 when he played Diane Lane's sexy, roguish lover in the acclaimed drama *Unfaithful*. Although he only went as far as taking off his shirt in that film (he doesn't do nude scenes), Martinez firmly established himself as an international sex symbol. Who needs Brad Pitt anyway.

SAMPLE ROLES: Alex in *S.W.A.T.* (2003), Paul in *Unfaithful* (2002), Jack in *Bullfighter* (2000), Lázaro in *Before Night Falls* (2000), Angelo in *The Horseman on the Roof* (1995)

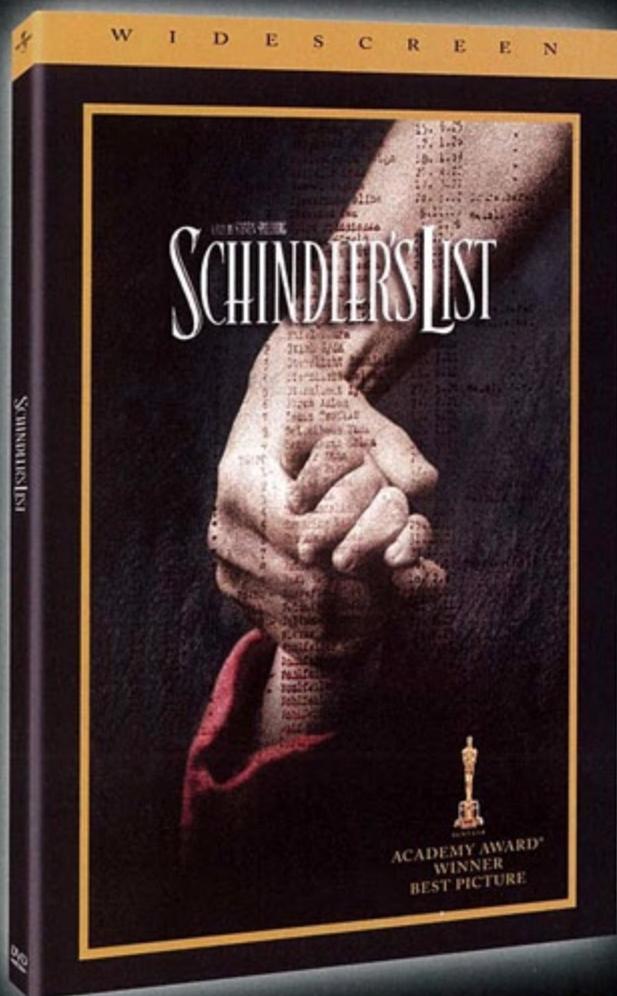
LOVE LIFE: Lived with Juliette Binoche for three years. • Dated Mira Sorvino for almost five years. • Is currently paired with Aussie pop star Kylie Minogue.

TRIVIA: His younger brother Vincent is also an actor. • His pet dog is a Rhodesian ridgeback named Sheba. • He stands a diminutive 5' 7". • He rides a Honda 1000 CBX motorcycle.

ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FRENCH AND AMERICAN WOMEN: "When you kiss a guy in France, it means that you want to make love with him — not, obviously, [in America]. I learned this by myself." [*romanticmovies.com*, May, 2002] —IR

Martinez with Angelina Jolie in *Taking Lives*

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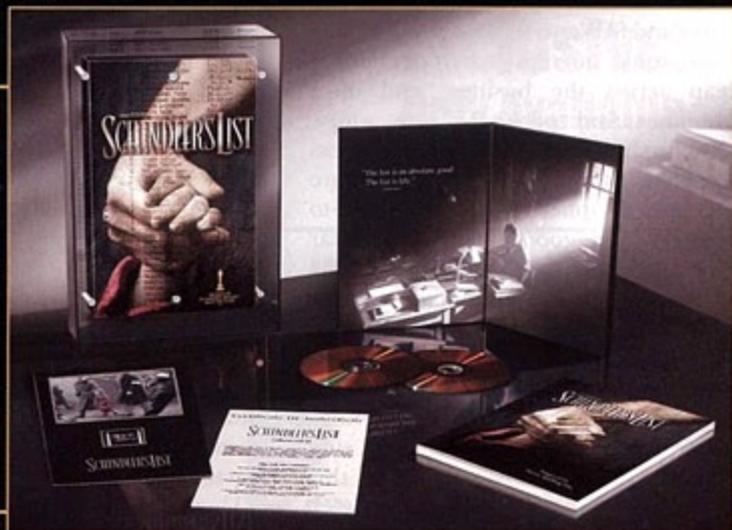
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AND WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT **BEN STILLER'S** WIG. THE TIGHTLY WOUND COMEDIAN GETS INTO POLYESTER AND SIDEBURNS TO PLAY ONE OF TV'S FUNKIEST COPS | BY BARRETT HOOPER



“**N**obody does the hood slide anymore.” Ben Stiller, the actor and director who will always be remembered as the dweeb who very publicly got his privates caught in his zipper in *There’s Something About Mary*, is lamenting what he calls a “lost art” among Hollywood’s hotrodding men of action.

It seems that cars have become too curvy and SUVs, well, not even the Duke boys would attempt a bumper-buffing leap across the business end of a Hummer. And today’s TV cops, whose ’70s forebears scratched a path across the hoods of America’s mean streets, are too busy deciphering DNA evidence to engage in a good old-fashioned car chase. No, the last true proponent of the hood slide, Stiller points out, drove a talking Trans-Am and was really big in Germany — back in the ’80s.

That’s about to change, though, as a familiar tomato-red muscle car with a white Nike-like swoosh on the side squeals across movie screens this month with Stiller behind the wheel. Stiller plays Bay City detective Dave Starsky in *Starsky & Hutch*, a prequel of sorts to the hit TV series that starred Paul Michael Glaser (a.k.a. the brunet)



Owen Wilson (left) and Ben Stiller as Starsky and Hutch

and Tiger Beat coverboy David Soul (a.k.a. the blond).

Riding shotgun as his more soulful partner, Ken “Hutch” Hutchinson, is Owen Wilson, who previously teamed with Stiller in *Zoolander*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Meet the Parents*, *Permanent Midnight* and *The Cable Guy*.

“We just really get along and really understand where each other is coming from, and have a really easy time together,” Stiller says with a shrug.

There’s a surprising sullen edginess about the 39-year-old hipster malcontent as he sits for an interview in Manhattan. Dressed all in black, there’s a certain simian handsomeness to Stiller that

recalls his Tom Cruise impersonations in the short spoofs *The Hustler of Money*, which briefly landed him on *Saturday Night Live*, and *Mission: Improbable*, in which he played Cruise’s crazed stunt double Tom Crooze for the 2000 MTV Movie Awards. That handsomeness quickly evaporates, though, when he flashes the Magnum (or is it Steel?), a combined look of intense concentration and smoldering stupidity that was the bread and butter of his really, really ridiculously good-looking alter-ego, male supermodel and superspy Derek Zoolander in *Zoolander*.

And that’s the thing about Stiller. His neurotic swagger and defensiveness belies a compulsive eagerness to please his audience, either with cerebral comedic commentaries like *Feel This Book: An Essential Guide to Self-Empowerment*, *Spiritual Supremacy*, and *Sexual Satisfaction*, the self-help book he co-authored with gal-pal and *Reality Bites* co-star Janeane Garofalo, or excruciatingly embarrassing gross-out stunts (the aforementioned *Mary* zipper mistake, for example, or the fat-man’s-hairy-belly-in-the-face routine in the recent *Along Came Polly*). As Starsky, Stiller throws himself into the role (and across hoods) ▶▶



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▶▶ by donning a curly black wig — “my own hair is, like, 60 percent grey,” he explains — and a turtleneck.

But portraying one of pop culture’s favourite crime fighters is not all fun and games, Stiller says. Because while the TV *Starsky and Hutch* paved the way for antagonistic but ultimately loyal cop buddies like Cagney and Lacey, Hunter and McCall, Crockett and Tubbs and T.J. Hooker and whatever Adrian Zmed’s character’s name was, Stiller sees more in common between his *Starsky and Hutch* and big-screen pairings like *Tango and Cash* or *Riggs and Murtaugh*.

“What we’re trying to do is update it in a way,” Stiller says of the ’70s-set feature. “I hope it’s a good buddy-cop movie, because I don’t think there’s been a good one since the *Lethal Weapons*.”

And unlike the over-the-top *Charlie’s Angels* movies, *Starsky & Hutch* takes more of a lo-fi approach, he continues.

The action-comedy focuses on how the bachelor cops, uptight Starsky and more mellow, yet equally tight-panted Hutch, first team up to crack a big case — uncovering a cocaine operation run by a drug dealer played by one-time Hutch wannabe Vince Vaughn, who also appears with Stiller in this year’s unlikely *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story*.

Former pro football player and Blaxploitation star Fred Williamson (*Black Caesar*, *Hell Up in Harlem*) plays the dynamic duo’s no-nonsense boss, Captain Doby, while jive-talking street informant Huggy Bear is played by — fo’ shizzle — rap star Snoop Dogg. The role of Starsky and Hutch’s car will, of course, be played by a red-and-white chunk of Detroit steel known as the Ford Gran Torino, just like in the original series. “That’s been the most fun,” Stiller says of his cherry ride. “Jumping across the hood, laying rubber, it’s so cool.”

Also cool has been playing Starsky, “a hero to all Jewish boys when I was growing up,” continues Stiller, the New York-born son of legendary comedians Anne Meara and Jerry Stiller (George Costanza’s dad on *Seinfeld*).

Growing up in a showbiz family, Stiller began making movies when he was 10, the plots of which invariably involved Stiller getting revenge on someone who had picked on him. Asked whether his family sat around making jokes when he was a kid, he answers sharply, “I don’t know what that weird fantasy is. People go, ‘Oh, you must have had a great childhood.’” Stiller rolls his eyes.

After dropping out of UCLA film school and a stint on stage in the Tony Award-winner *The House of Blue Leaves*, Stiller made his movie debut in Steven Spielberg’s *Empire of the Sun* in 1987. Small roles in *Fresh Horses*, *Stella* and the Patrick Swayze actioner *Next of Kin* followed, as did a turn on the small screen with his own Emmy-winning sketch-comedy show, *The Ben Stiller Show*, with Garofalo and Andy Dick.

In 1994, Stiller became a reluctant spokesperson for Generation X by directing and starring (as the corporate yuppie) in the teen-angst opus *Reality Bites*. Its success, both critically and commercially, opened the door to his first big-budget directing job, Jim Carrey’s underrated dark comedy *The Cable Guy*.

But it wasn’t until Stiller stepped back in front of the cameras, with the Farrelly brothers’ *There’s Something About Mary*, that he became one of Hollywood’s hottest comedic actors.

“I don’t really get how that happens,” says Stiller earnestly. “I mean, I appreciate it, I have a great life, but it still all seems very strange to me.” **E**

Barrett Hooper writes about movies for the National Post.

coming soon

THE ALAMO >> APRIL

Stars: Dennis Quaid, Billy Bob Thornton

Director: John Lee Hancock (*The Rookie*)

Story: Hasn’t Dennis Quaid already starred in a movie about the Alamo? Oh, no, wait — that was *Wyatt Earp*. In this retelling of the 1836 stand against the Mexican army at a Texan fort, Quaid plays historic figure General Sam Houston, while Jason Patric steps in as Jim Bowie and Thornton is legendary coonskin cap model Davy Crockett. Expect a lot more screen time to be devoted to the Mexican perspective than was in the 1960 John Wayne version.

MEAN GIRLS >> APRIL

Stars: Lindsay Lohan, Tina Fey

Director: Mark S. Waters (*Freaky Friday*)

Story: This edgy teen comedy answers the question: How many *Saturday Night Live* alumni can you fit into one film? At last count, aside from Fey (*SNL*’s current head writer and “Weekend Update” anchor), Tim Meadows, Ana Gasteyer and Amy Poehler all had parts in this Lorne Michaels-produced vehicle. Fey, who plays a guidance counsellor, wrote the script based on the *New York Times* article, “Girls Just Want to be Mean,” about the painful effects of high school cliques and snobbery. Lohan plays the new girl at school who, at first, is welcomed into a popular clique, but then becomes the target of their most vicious pranks when one of their ex-boyfriends develops a crush on her.

SHREK 2 >> MAY

Voices: Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz

Director: Andrew Adamson, Kelly Asbury and Conrad Vernon

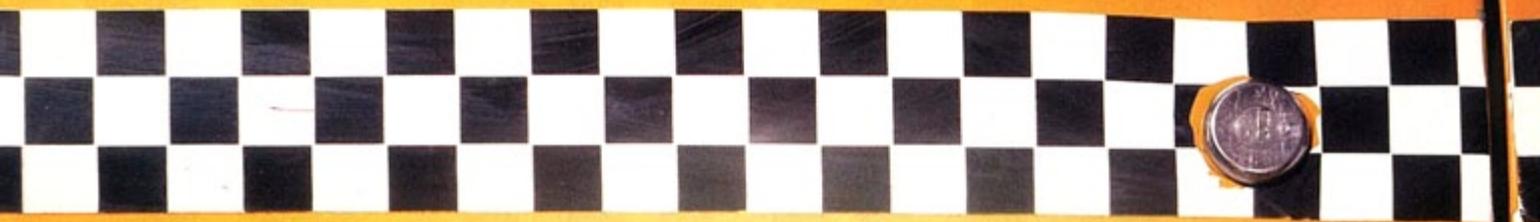
Story: The first *Shrek* worked on so many levels — cool animation, a hilarious script that turned fairy tales upside down and great voice work from Myers, Diaz, Eddie Murphy and John Lithgow. The sequel looks to up the ante with a truly eclectic cast, which includes Antonio Banderas as the raging musketeer kitty Puss-in-Boots, *AbFab*’s Jennifer Saunders as The Fairy Godmother and CNN’s Larry King as The Ugly Stepsister! For the record, the story follows newlyweds Shrek and Fiona back to her homeland, Far, Far Away, where her parents meet their big, green son-in-law for the first time.

VAN HELSING >> MAY

Stars: Hugh Jackman, Kate Beckinsale

Director: Stephen Sommers (*The Mummy*)

Story: The Transylvania tourist bureau takes another hit with this eerie flick about all the monstrous creatures who lurk there, and the one man — Abraham Van Helsing (Jackman) — who might be able to bring them down. There’s Count Dracula, of course (after all, it was in Bram Stoker’s 1897 book *Dracula* that Vampire-hunter Van Helsing was first created), then there’s Frankenstein’s Monster and the Wolf Man. By the way, if you like this kind of stuff and haven’t already read Stoker’s *Dracula*, you really should. Composed completely of diary entries written by the various characters, it’s fascinating — not at all the kind of cheesy pulp you might expect.



**MAKING FRIES
SINCE WAY BACK
WHEN WE STARTED
MAKING FRIES**

**AUTHENTICALLY NEW YORK
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SURVIVING Bennifer



KEVIN SMITH THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO MAKE A QUIET LITTLE MOVIE WITH HIS GOOD BUDDY BEN AFFLECK AND ACTOR/SINGER JENNIFER LOPEZ IN A CAMEO. BUT WHEN THE COUPLE FELL IN LOVE, *JERSEY GIRL* BECAME THE EPICENTER FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED MEDIA STORM | BY EARL DITTMAN

The interesting angle behind Kevin Smith's *Jersey Girl* was supposed to be that it marks the director's departure from the universe that made him famous.

That was the universe inhabited by Jay (a gutter-mouthed slacker played by Jason Mewes) and Silent Bob (Jay's nearly mute buddy, played by Smith himself). It was the universe in which all of Smith's low-fi suburban flicks — *Clerks*, *Chasing Amy*, *Dogma*, *Malrats*, *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back* — took place. And it was the universe that Smith — now 38, married, and the father of a four-year-old daughter, Harley — felt he was ready to leave in favour of directing this more mature picture.

In *Jersey Girl*, Smith favourite Ben Affleck (*Chasing Amy*, *Malrats*) plays Ollie, a New York ad exec and father of young Gertie, who moves back in with his dad in Jersey (not so coincidentally where Smith is from) when his wife (Lopez) dies, then starts a relationship with a videostore clerk (Liv Tyler).

That was supposed to be what everyone was writing about.

But it didn't turn out that way.

While shooting *Jersey Girl*, Smith's stars — Affleck and Jennifer Lopez — let their relationship become public. As if that weren't enough of a headline grabber, that other Ben and Jen film, *Gigli*, turned out to be the *Battlefield Earth* of romantic comedies, getting more press for being really, really bad than it probably would have gotten had it been really, really good.

PHOTO BY ROBERT HUGHES/KEYSTONE

A short time before Ben and Jen announced their breakup, *Famous* writer Earl Dittman sat down with Smith to talk about the director's attempt to move on, and the Bennifer-shaped wall that got in the way.

With *Jersey Girl*, are you waving goodbye to characters like Jay and Silent Bob?

"Probably. I did those films when I was younger and could get away with being outrageous. When I try to do that now, I think people look at me like I'm just a dirty old man."

Did the shoot become more complicated when Ben and Jennifer's relationship became public?

"When we first started shooting the movie, it was a pretty typical on-location set. You had a couple of photographers trying to get tabloid filler, but that's fairly normal with any movie you do. But, right as we were wrapping the film in New York City, the news came out about the two of them. That's when all hell broke loose. One day, we were shooting in Central Park and like 60 paparazzi jumped out of the bushes, onto the sidewalk, and they got right in Ben and Jen's face. It was weird, I had never seen anything like it. They just came out of the woodwork, they were like kamikaze photographers."

Ultimately, though, doesn't that media frenzy drum up free publicity for the movie?

"Yeah, definitely. While we were filming, though, it hindered production more than it helped it. I thought it was good publicity, but I thought it was going to be wasted because the film wasn't coming out for a year."

But it's still impossible to pass a newsstand without seeing Ben and Jen. So you got your free publicity after all.

"I know. I would have never believed it. It's amazing, and almost unprecedented, the kind of coverage their relationship has continued to receive. I think the unbreakable interest in their relationship will ultimately benefit *Jersey Girl*."

How damaging do you think *Gigli's* failure will be for *Jersey Girl*?

"Commercially, it's like any other film — it's one big crap shoot. I think about a dozen people saw *Gigli*, so I don't think most of the general movie-going public will hold its quality, or lack of, against *Jersey Girl* [laughs]. I love Ben and Jennifer, so it was sad to see the movie get crucified the way it did. But, artistically, it had a positive affect on *Jersey Girl*. I don't want to say I'm happy it took a nose dive, but it did allow me to make the kind of film I wanted *Jersey Girl* to be."

How did it do that?

"I always saw *Jersey Girl* as this lovable, charming little story between a single dad and his six-year-old daughter and how they deal with their life being drastically changed. Jennifer was cast as the mom, who passes away early on in the film. And everyone was cool with their roles. But when Ben and Jen's romance became bigger news than the war in Iraq, Miramax studio head Harvey Weinstein kept pushing me to make Jen's role bigger to capitalize on their affair. I didn't like the idea, but it's tough to say no to Harvey, especially when he's telling you, 'We paid her \$4-million, let's get our money's worth.' After *Gigli's* lousy opening weekend, though, ↵ ↵

BEN AFFLECK ON WHY *JERSEY GIRL* IS NO *GIGLI*

While Ben Affleck would love to blame the savagely negative reviews that greeted the release of *Gigli*, his first film with ex-fiancée Jennifer Lopez, solely on the "Bennifer" backlash, he knows the real reason the Martin Brest-directed comedy tallied an embarrassing \$4-million (U.S.) at the box office.

"*Gigli* was the *Ishtar* of our times because it didn't work and there was a lot of attention paid to it," confesses Affleck. "The first time I saw it, I knew that it was a dog and it wasn't going to pan out. The critics were right, it just sucked."

But the 31-year-old actor swears he feels very differently about *Jersey Girl*.

"It's a beautiful, grown-up, intelligent, classic Hollywood movie, and I love it," Affleck says, beaming. "Jennifer is in the first 15 minutes of the movie, and she's wonderful. I think that it's going to demonstrate that *Gigli* was about the movie not working and had nothing to do with any lack of chemistry between us. Everything about *Jersey Girl* works."

While Affleck seldom compliments his own acting, with *Jersey Girl* he is quick to praise his portrayal of single dad Ollie Trinke, saying, "I honestly feel like this is easily one of my best performances ever."

And Affleck giving a good performance will be key to the success of this movie, because, having starred in most of Smith's previous films, he'll be the one thing that ties the director's previous slate of think-y slacker pics to this more conventional relationship story.

"It's a movie where Kevin took the risk to go beyond his fan base. He's very comfortable with that teen genre because he knows how to make that audience laugh. He does really well touring colleges with his standup shtick. So he's really taking a step forward with *Jersey Girl*," says Affleck. "He's a little nervous about it, though. He's like, 'My fans are going to hate this movie,' and I'm like, 'Don't worry about it. You made a beautiful movie that's going to broaden your audience.' I think *Jersey Girl* is more honest, really, to where he is in life now than the Jay and Silent Bob thing. I certainly relate to it, and I think that everyone else will, too."—ED



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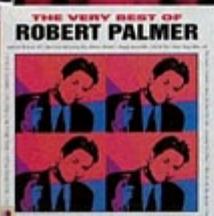
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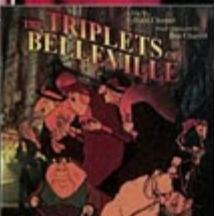
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Smith works with Liv Tyler
and Ben Affleck

▶▶ things completely changed. I was basically told, 'Go make the movie you wanted.' So Jen is only in about the first 15 minutes of the movie. Now, that has nothing to do with Jen's talents, because she's a great actress, but the story only worked with the dad and daughter as the focus of the movie."

You've cast your buddy Ben Affleck in several of your movies. Do you have a secret gay crush on him?

"No, but I do have a very hetero crush on Ben. In fact, I actually kissed Ben on MTV one time, in front of millions of people, and that was fun [laughs]. Seriously, I love Ben. He's an excellent, excellent guy, and a great friend. Not to the point, though, where I'm like, 'Let's really tongue kiss.'"

You wrote several issues of the *Spider-Man* comic book — why didn't you direct and/or write the screenplay for the big-screen *Spider-Man*?

"I would never make a comic book movie. Period. There's too much expectation. Those fans are terrible, and they'll tear you a new one. That's great, but you have to put up with a year of people dissecting it when it comes out."

Didn't producer Joel Silver ask you to turn the DC Comic *Green Arrow* into a movie?

"Yeah, Joel called and talked to my agent, but I just didn't get involved. I

like writing the comic books [Smith recently revived the dead series], but the difference between writing the comic books and writing the movie, is that with the movie you've got to tell an origin story and then tell your main story. With comic books, you can just start from the get-go and people know — whoever's buying the comic — knows his entire story. But as a movie? I wouldn't go near it."

Last year you worked with your idol, Marvel Comics artist Stan Lee, for the DVD *Stan Lee's Mutants, Monsters and Marvels*, in which the two of you discussed his work. That must have been a career highlight for you.

"It was incredible! It was like a lowly mortal sitting down and chit-chatting with God. I mean, he's a genius, and I'm basically the guy who made *Mallrats* [laughs].... There's not many times that you get the chance to work with someone who has inspired you your whole life. I guess it's just one of those great little things that making movies and being a minor celebrity affords you. It's not like I get an endless stream of chicks, booze or drugs out of the movie biz. So this is my big payoff, and it sure beats the hell out of the prostitutes and hangovers." **F**

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

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ROCK AND ROLE

It's not like **Ed Robertson's** going to leave the Barenaked Ladies for an acting career, but he sure had fun with a small part in *Love, Sex and Eating the Bones* | **BY MARNI WEISZ**

Ed Robertson has been appearing on stage as one of the Barenaked Ladies for more than 15 years. But this month he'll appear in a very different forum — movie theatres, as Kennedy, a chick-chasing security guard in director Sudz Sutherland's first feature film, *Love, Sex and Eating the Bones*. (Sutherland's former claim to fame was the award-winning short film *My Father's Hands*.)

The film is a rare *Canadian*, black, urban romantic comedy that follows a talented photographer (Hill Harper) who pays the bills with a day job as a security guard, and whose love for pornography is getting in the way of having a healthy sexual relationship with his new girlfriend (Marlyne N. Afflack). His two work buddies are played by Robertson and Mark Taylor.

Movie acting is relatively new to Robertson, who previously had only a small part as a cop in the 1997 Dave Foley clunker *The Wrong Guy*, and a cameo as himself in *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*. But, as Robertson will explain, it was actually another acting gig about 15 years ago, when he was at high school with his old friend Sudz, a.k.a. Dave Sutherland (Robertson often refers to him as Dave), that led to his getting a part in this movie.

The 33-year-old actor/singer was in Toronto, where he lives with his wife and three children (an eight-year-old girl, and two boys — four years and 17 months), when he spoke with *Famous*.

Who is Sudz Sutherland?

"I've known Sudz since the fourth grade. He's the first guy that ever got me on stage acting. I think it was the 12th grade when he came to me in English class and said, 'I got a play into the drama festival.' And I said, 'Oh congratulations, that's great!' And he said, 'You're in it, and rehearsals start on Tuesday.'"

What was that play about?

"It was called *Coming of Age in Suburbia*, and it was about Dave growing up and everything he faced as a young, lanky, black man in suburban Toronto. I played all the male roles other than the lead — his best friend, his father, his guidance counsellor, whatever. We entered it in the Sears Drama Festival and the organizers kind of took us aside and said, 'This is a little out of the festival's league.' They encouraged us to tour the play around high schools to promote drama and the festival in general, so we ended up doing several performances of it around Scarborough [a Toronto suburb] high schools."

How did you end up in *Love, Sex and Eating the Bones*?

"[Dave and I] kept in touch through the years and it was actually kind of like grade 12 English all over again. Dave came up to me and said, 'Hey, I got funding together for my first feature film.' And I said, 'That's amazing!' And he said, 'You're in it!' [Laughs.] It wasn't that simple, actually. I said 'Is there anything I can do? Can I give you some music, or is there any way I can help out?' And he said, 'Well, actually, I kind of had you in mind for one of the roles.'"

Your character is kind of a jerk.

"Well, I'm kind of a jerk too [laughs]."

Were you worried about playing a jerk in one of your first roles — that it might make it harder to get other roles?

"No, not at all. It is no aspiration of mine to be an actor. The character, Kennedy, he's just kind of a caricature of every white, slovenly Scarborough-ite. He's all the people I grew up with."



What was your reaction when you saw yourself on screen?

"I was relieved because I found it quite difficult to act. Enjoyable but very challenging, you just never know if you're going to pull it off. The thing about playing music is the reaction is immediate, you know right away whether people like what you're doing or not. And when you're acting there's a whole bunch of people just quietly concerned about their own sh-t, making sure their lights are working and the camera's focused. And when you're finished they just go back to their stuff and set everything up. You know, there isn't this burst of applause."

Were you second-guessing your decision to be in the movie?

"I just wanted to come across as that character, not as that guy from Barenaked Ladies. I think what was really exciting for me was how the chemistry of the three guys comes across. I was just worried it was going to look like two actors and a musician."

You keep a very candid blog, or online diary, on the Barenaked Ladies' official website (bnlmusic.com). What's your motivation for that?

"I find it kind of cathartic. For me it is like a public diary. It's honest about the things that I can be honest about. Those are the things that I would talk about in an interview. It's the things I want to say, and want people to know, but don't get a chance to say directly to them, or even in the press because I'm busy telling people why my band's called Barenaked Ladies."

I was surprised to read on there how the band still sort of roughs it on tour. I guess everybody has this impression that after the big peak of a few years back you guys are just bathing in tubs of money.

"Well, money's actually very dirty [laughs]."

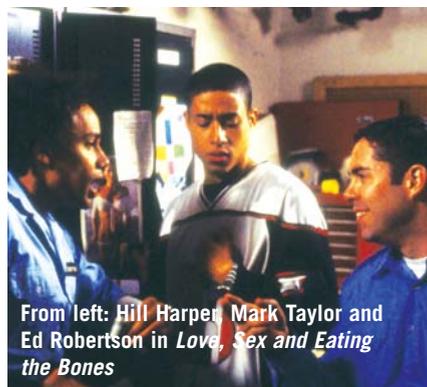
Describe what touring is like these days.

"We always have great shows and we're lucky we have that to fall back on. But, you know, the whole band's back on one bus, where at times we've

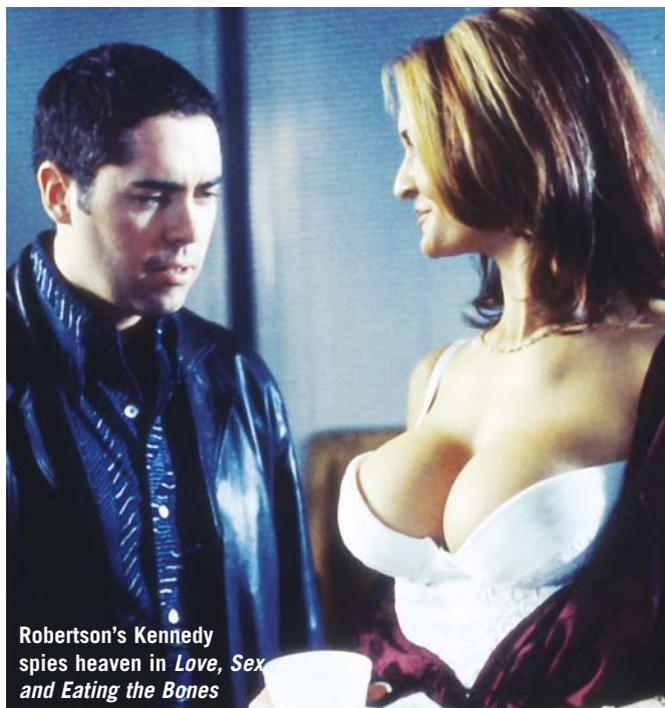
been split on two or three buses.... I dunno, it still kind of feels the same. We'll have to see how this year plays out and what we'll do in the summer. I think we're just a very realistic group of people and we don't like throwing our money away. We could be touring a lot more luxuriously right now, it would just mean we'd be making less money. The industry has had a huge shock lately, and we're just trying to deal with it in the most responsible way that we can."

You also write on the blog about the less-than-stellar reaction to your last album, *Everything to Everyone*.

"You know, as an artist you think you're making your best work each time or you wouldn't put it out, you know? So it's tough the way the industry functions right now. We sold six-million copies of *Stunt*. We'd be lucky to sell half-a-million



From left: Hill Harper, Mark Taylor and Ed Robertson in *Love, Sex and Eating the Bones*



Robertson's Kennedy spies heaven in *Love, Sex and Eating the Bones*

copies of this record, just because music seems to be free now, downloading is just killing everybody."

Where do you fall on that?

"I'm totally fine with people downloading music, as long as they steal everything that they want. If you want pants, go steal them. If you need gas in your car, you should steal it, because you can. As long as people are consistent I don't have a problem. As long as they see themselves as thieves in general then I don't mind if they steal everything that they like. But it irks me that it's only okay to steal music."

Is it true that you're working on a kids' book?

"I *am* working on a kids book. Actually I was just speaking with the illustrator [Matt Reed, Robertson's tattoo artist, who lives in Portland, Oregon]. The outline is totally done and we're just putting together a presentation to hopefully get a publishing deal."

Is this something that you've wanted to do for a long time?

"Well, I love great kids books. I love illustration and, you know, when you get tattooed with the number of tattoos that I've got, I've spent 40 hours just sitting and talking to Matt. We both have three kids who are roughly the same ages, and we got talking about it one day and thought it would be really cool to do something with me writing and him illustrating."

Did you always know that you wanted to have kids?

"Yes. I wanted kids really early on, like, I was thinking I was ready to have kids when I was 18. I just have always liked kids. I had aspirations to maybe be a teacher if I hadn't become a musician. I was a camp counsellor all through high school. I just like it."

When are you happiest?

"When I'm with my family at the cottage. My wife and I have a cottage about three hours from here and it's where we like to spend as much time as we possibly can." **F**

SAME OLD SARAH?

IT DEPENDS. ARE YOU GOING TO SEE HER IN THE QUIRKY CANADIAN COMEDY *LUCK* OR THE GRUESOME HOLLYWOOD HORROR *DAWN OF THE DEAD*? HERE MS. POLLEY TALKS ABOUT MARRIAGE, HER IMAGE AND GETTING BLOOD OFF HER HANDS | BY INGRID RANDOJA

Hmmm, which Sarah Polley movie should you see this month? Your choices are: Sarah playing one of her patented ultra-cool smart chicks (the girl every guy with an IQ over 100 years for) in the refreshing Canuck comedy *Luck*, or Sarah covered in blood, firing off rounds and offing zombies in the remake of *Dawn of the Dead*.

Welcome to Sarah Polley's ever-changing world. She's gone from child star (*Road to Avonlea*) to political activist, from being Hollywood's next big waifish star (*Go*) to settling down and getting married last year at the ripe old age of 24. She's a bona fide indie star who just happens to also be one hell of a writer/director (check out any one of her four short films and you'll know she's got the right stuff).

But the constant state of flux that always seems to surround Polley is lessening, and that's because she is simply more comfortable in her own skin, and has come to a few important conclusions about how she wants to live her life.

"I feel like I've spent so much time not having an image, and then that becomes an image in itself, and then you're grappling with that," says Polley. "All I can say is that image has nothing to do with my life, 'cause who gives a sh-t? At some point you realize you're not the centre of the world, nobody cares, and there are very few people tracking what you're doing. Unless you're Julia Roberts no one is watching every career move you make, so all you can do is what feels right."

The petite Polley, who even in her mid-20s could pass for a pre-teen if she made the slightest effort, is sitting in the sparse living room/studio of a Toronto photographer. Her legs are tucked under her in a comfy chair and she's peeling a clementine, which stands



in for breakfast on this freezing cold morning.

Polley has ventured out of her Toronto digs, which she shares with her film editor husband David Wharnsby, to chat about her two new, and very different, movies.

In *Luck*, which is set against the backdrop of the 1972 Canada-Russia hockey series, she plays Margaret, the best friend to hero Shane (*Mambo Italiano*'s Luke Kirby). Shane is in love with the quirky Margaret, but he doesn't have the guts to tell her. When she leaves town on a trip with her ex-boyfriend, Shane goes into a gambling tailspin that leaves him in debt to a bookie, which ultimately leads him to bet on Russia to win the series and save his skin.

It's a fast-paced comedy bursting with that oops-I-screwed-up male energy, and Polley serves as a perfect love interest.

"[Margaret's] tough, she's eccentric and she's smart. It's interesting that with women in films there is *still* this archaic choice between making them either bookish or flirty, and it's nice that she's both."

Get Polley talking about hockey and you'll discover the girl knows her stuff.

"I'm a huge hockey fan," she says, "my dad is a huge Leafs fan and my husband is possibly the biggest Leaf fan I've ever met. But I'm also a really angry

"I spent June, July and a lot of August in seafoam green pajamas, drenched in blood, on a cellphone organizing a wedding. It was the weirdest thing in the world"

hockey fan. I think Leafs fans are fairly angry people and that's sort of the joy I get out of it, I find it really cathartic," she says with a big laugh.

"There's this strange kind of love that comes out of our belligerence with the Leafs and I think it's really interesting and endearing. People get angry because they love them so much and are desperate for them not to fail. God, it's a terrifying prospect if they ever do win, 'cause then what is there to hope for? So much of our lives is consumed by hoping for the impossible."

While *Luck* has Polley playing an unrequited love interest, *Dawn of the Dead* has her kicking ass. This Hollywood remake of director George Romero's

1979 horror flick stars Ving Rhames and Polley as the leaders of a small group of humans shackled up in a mall fighting off hordes of zombies. Polley and Rhames? There's got to be almost two feet and 200 pounds separating this odd duo.

"I have to say, it's the coolest thing. I'm in a movie with Ving Rhames and it's a buddy movie," says Polley with obvious glee. "He's like a saucy little girl and we had this rapport where we were kind of pushing each other as far as we possibly could. What's great about him is that he takes no prisoners, and the fact that I'm a small female matters nothing to him. He will be as abusive as he can."

However, our peace-lovin' Canadian gal didn't initially take to the notion of packing — that is, toting a gun.

"I have to admit I was a complete pussy about learning how to use the guns," she says. "The guy who taught me to use the shotgun was a gun nut. I asked, 'Is the safety on when it's to the right, or off when it's to the right?' And he said, 'The way I like to remember it is right is safe, like the government, and left is unsafe, like the people we are shooting at.' And I'm thinking, 'I'm in a room with my worst nightmare who's teaching me how to shoot a shotgun. How did this happen to me?'"

"And then at some point I thought, ►►

REBEL YELL

Sarah Polley may have settled down personally, but she hasn't lost an ounce of her political outspokenness. Although she was a newlywed, she took time last fall to help campaign for Toronto's future mayor, David Miller.

"As someone who's always been obsessed with Toronto, probably in an unhealthy way, electing David Miller made me twice as proud to live here as I've ever been. I had no idea this was a city of so many forward-thinking people who had the courage to do something like this," she told *Famous*. Here are a couple more Polley positions:

[ON HER REACTION TO THE FIRST GULF WAR AT AGE 11]

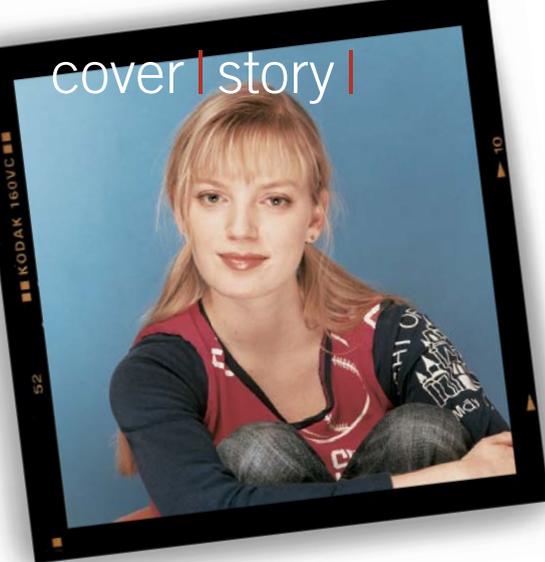
"When I was 11, I was at an event in Washington during the Gulf War and there were senators sitting at the same table. I was wearing a peace symbol and I started talking about the war and how I thought it was atrocious and disgusting. And later I received a phone call from a Disney executive wanting to know if I was a communist! I was 11! I didn't hear from them for a while after that, though I had been hearing a lot from them previously." (*Interview*, September 1999)

[ON GETTING HER TEETH BROKEN AT A 1995 ANTI-ONTARIO GOVERNMENT RALLY]

"There were single mothers on welfare, with, like, their heads gashed in and nine stitches and they're talking about this little 16-year-old with a couple of broken teeth. It then becomes this big sob story that everyone can glom onto, when the real issue is that there's, like, poor people and homeless people there getting their heads kicked in." (*Halifax Herald*, July 1999)



Polley and Ving Rhames in *Dawn of the Dead*



▶▶ ‘No, I’m going to blow the heads off these zombies and I’m going to enjoy, and no right-wing zealot is going to get in my way!’”

While Polley was filming *Dawn* last summer she was also planning her wedding to long-time partner Wharnsby.

“I spent June, July and a lot of August in seafoam green pajamas, drenched in blood, on a cellphone organizing a wedding. It was the weirdest thing in the world,” she says laughing.

“The wedding was seamless, but it was hilarious because the stuff they use for movie blood stains. It didn’t fully

come out, so I literally had blood-stained hands for my wedding. They were covered up with makeup...actually, the guy who did my makeup for *Dawn of the Dead* also did my makeup for my wedding.”

Polley has always guarded her privacy and treats her marriage with a kind of reverence you rarely see with other actors. And yet, there’s also a newfound openness that seems to stem from the fact she’s tied the knot. And although she’s young, you mustn’t forget that Polley has been on her own since she was 14, and all that “innate” wisdom we credit her with having has also been earned through tough life experiences, including the death of her mother when she was 11.

“My relationship is the thing I’m proudest of in my life,” she says. “I had a lot of opportunities to end up in some pretty bad situations, and despite all my faults I had the sense to find someone like him and make the decision to be with him. You spend a lot of your life wanting to be with the wrong person and I just feel incredibly lucky because I’ve succeeding at that one thing. I figured that out.” **E**

Polley plays *Luck*’s sexy and smart Margaret



famous trivia

1 In which of the following Oscar-nominated movies did *Hidalgo*’s Viggo Mortensen make his big-screen debut in 1985 — *Out of Africa*, *Witness*, *Prizzi’s Honour* or *The Color Purple*?

2 The filmic update of the ’70s series *Starsky and Hutch* comes out this month. What two colours were the pair’s famous car?

3 Miranda Richardson plays the Queen of Denmark in the upcoming *The Prince and Me*. On which British TV series did she play Queen Elizabeth I?

4 This month, 18-year-old Frankie Muniz stars in *Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London*. How much do you think he made for the first *Cody Banks* film — \$600,000, \$1-million or \$2-million?

5 Tom Hanks plays a crooked professor in the new Coen Brothers movie, *The Ladykillers*, which is a remake of a 1955 crime caper. Name the knighted British actor who played Hanks’ role in the original.

6 The political thriller *Spartan* marks the 10th time actor William H. Macy and writer/director David Mamet have worked on the same film. Can you name the last one? Clue: It was in 2000.

A N S W E R S

1. *Witness*
2. red and white
3. *Blackadder* 4. \$2-million
5. Sir Alec Guinness
6. *State and Main*

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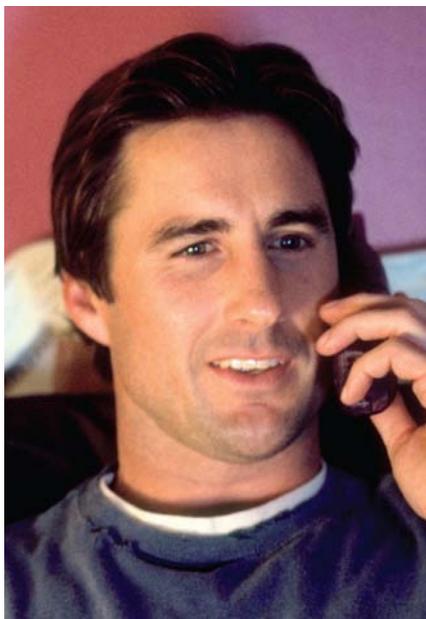
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JOHANSSON SCREAMS BLOODY MURDER, WILSON TAKES A NAP, AND BERRY SEEKS JUSTICE | BY INGRID RANDOJA



LUKE MAKES HIS MOVE

Owen Wilson may be the family media darling, but look for younger brother Luke (*Legally Blonde*, *Alex and Emma*) to step into the limelight with his upcoming comedy *3001*. Directed by Mike Judge (who gave us the hilarious work-is-a-joke comedy *Office Space*), *3001* casts Wilson as an average guy who is frozen for 1,000 years as part of an experiment. When he wakes up he discovers the world's population has severely dumbed-down, making him the smartest man alive. Production is supposed to get underway next month.

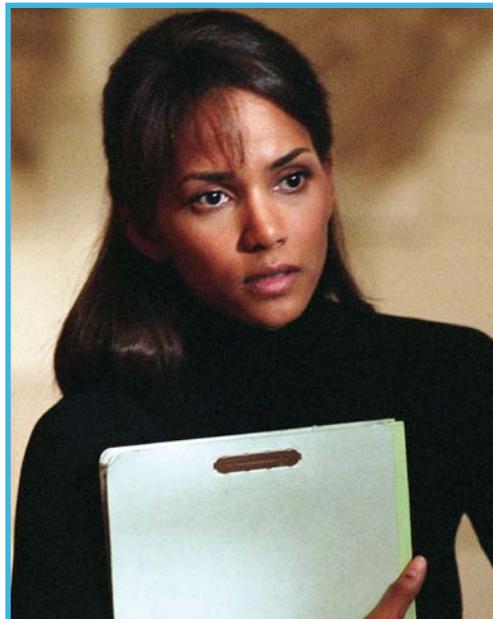
BRIEFLY

■ Ashton Kutcher and Amanda Peet hook up as fated lovers in the romantic comedy *A Lot Like Love*. ■ Paul Newman will voice a race car in the Pixar feature *Cars*, due out in 2005. ■ Naomi Watts will play the monkey's love interest in Peter Jackson's remake of *King Kong*. ■ Peter Sarsgaard has signed on to star as Kate Hudson's boyfriend in the thriller *Skeleton Key*, which begins shooting in April.



SCARLETT IN THE BLACK

Reigning "It" girl Scarlett Johansson (*Lost in Translation*) continues to pick smart and edgy film projects. She recently signed on to star in *The Black Dahlia*, which recounts the still-unsolved 1947 murder of 22-year-old wannabe actor Elizabeth Short. Short's body, cut in half with a butcher's knife, was found in a Hollywood ditch, and the public interest in the grisly case was unprecedented (50 people actually came forward and claimed they were the killer). Johansson is set to play the woman who catches the attention of the two L.A. cops (Josh Hartnett and Mark Wahlberg) investigating the murder. The film, based on James Ellroy's book, will be directed by thrillmeister Brian De Palma and will hit theatres next year.



HEROIC HALLE

Halle Berry has signed on to play an NAACP lawyer investigating a bogus drug bust in *Tulia*. The drama is based on a 1999 incident that took place in Tulia, Texas, and saw 49 people, 46 of them African-Americans, arrested for selling drugs. Although there was no physical evidence, no fingerprints, no wire taps and no notes (the cop who made the arrests says he wrote info on his leg!), all those arrested were found guilty. Many of the charges have been overturned, but there are still at least 10 people serving time. No news on when production is slated to begin.

Two salads, please

THE OLSEN TWINS STOP BY TORONTO'S BLOOR STREET DINER FOR SOME WARM GOAT CHEESE SALAD AND A ROUND OF POOL

| BY MARNI WEISZ

When you spot a celebrity on the street or in a restaurant, your first reaction is often that you've seen them somewhere before, realizing it's because they're famous usually takes a few more seconds.

But if you see two identical familiar faces — like when the Olsen twins showed up at Toronto's Bloor Street Diner — the recognition is immediate.

"They might as well be holding a sign over their heads saying, 'This is who we are,'" jokes the restaurant's owner, Sebastien Centner. "They really stand out."

The young pair (they'll be 18 this June) were in town shooting the new adventure-comedy *New York Minute*, which is due out this May. And, yes, despite the film's title much of the shoot took place in T.O.

"They're not snotty, they're very nice, very friendly," Centner says of the actors who got their starts at nine months old, splitting the role of Michelle Tanner on TV's *Full House*. "A lot of celebrities we get are very difficult. They're not difficult at all, just very sweet."

The Bloor Street Diner is a hotspot for celebrity watching — especially during the Toronto International Film Festival each September. Rob Lowe, Robert Duvall and Francis Ford Coppola are just a few of the famous faces that have been spotted there recently.

"The nice thing is that it's not like going to [exclusive restaurants like] Centro or Prego," says Centner. "People don't call ahead, they don't reserve, they just sort of show up incognito. It's a very casual atmosphere."

Both girls started their meal with one of the diner's staples — the Warm Goat Cheese Salad. Although it sounds like a simple dish, Centner says it's so good that his wife refuses to order a goat cheese salad anywhere else.

"It's an herbed goat cheese, but it's not overly herbed," Centner says. "It's wrapped in phyllo pastry on top of mesclun greens. We have a grower who makes the mix, which is specifically ours — it has radicchio lettuce, dandelion leaves, the frisée [endive] and regular lettuce."

Centner says the salad — which is topped with a raspberry vinaigrette — is a trendy choice these days because it conforms with many diets (the only carbs come from the bit of phyllo), and can be eaten as either a starter or a main course. The Olsen twins both followed the salad with the Rotisserie Chicken, which comes with Yukon gold mashed potatoes, market vegetables and a Provençale rouille (sort of a sun-dried tomato mayonnaise).

The twins also spent some time battling with one of the restaurant's pool tables. "They always jam up and people lose their loonies.... So, as I would with any other customer, I said, 'Hey, we'll fix it for you and give you back a couple of loonies,'" recalls Centner.

The thought was surely appreciated, despite the fact that the twins are the richest teens in Hollywood with an estimated worth of \$40-million (U.S.) a piece. Most of that money comes from their company, which produces Olsen-themed fragrances, makeup, books, CDs, videos and even home furnishings.



WARM GOAT CHEESE SALAD

SALAD INGREDIENTS:

2 oz mesclun greens (radicchio, dandelion leaves, endive, lettuce)
1 tbsp pine nuts, toasted in the oven until golden brown
1 sheet phyllo pastry
2 oz goat cheese (Bloor Street Diner uses Woolwich's herbed goat cheese)
1 tsp chopped thyme
1 tsp butter

DRESSING INGREDIENTS:

2 oz raspberry vinegar
6 oz canola oil
.5 tsp sugar
1 tsp salt
1 shallot, finely diced
1 tsp Dijon mustard

METHOD:

1. Lay the sheet of phyllo on the table, brush with melted butter and sprinkle with chopped thyme.
2. Cut the phyllo in quarters, lay each piece on top of the other, alternating the corners.
3. Place the goat cheese in the centre of the phyllo.
4. Bring the corners of the phyllo together to form a bundle.
5. Bake the phyllo and cheese in the oven until golden brown (about 10 minutes at 350 degrees Fahrenheit or 175 degrees Celsius).
6. To prepare the dressing, combine the vinegar, shallots, mustard, salt and sugar in a small bowl. Whisk the oil in slowly or use a hand blender until emulsified.
7. Assemble the salad by mixing 1 oz of the finished vinaigrette with the mesclun greens. Place the warm cheese bundle on top and sprinkle with toasted pine nuts.

Feminine Charms

WITH NODS TO FLAPPERS, LIBRARIANS, SCREEN GODDESSES AND POSTWAR-ERA LADIES, THE SPRING 2004 RUNWAY COLLECTIONS ARE SET TO BRING OUT THE WOMAN IN YOU

BY ZENYA SIRANT

While looking to the past for inspiration is nothing new for designers, this spring, vintage-inspired looks run rampant but are far from old-fashioned. What's the freshest stab at retro? The collective return to feminine dressing. From bejewelled goddess gowns to flirty florals, belted or dropped waists and lingerie details, the tides of fashion are turning — away from late '90s minimalism and towards enlivening colour, floaty chiffon, dazzling shine and all things femme.

Before we break it down, know this: Today's maxim of style revolves around the individual. Matchy-match ensembles need not apply. So take a chance with a new silhouette, risk drawing attention in a bold print, show some leg in platform sandals, throw on a sweater (the season's biggest news) and don't forget to channel the über-woman within — if you can't pull it off, she will.

Sweater Girl

From belted, baggy cardigans (a huge trend at Miu Miu and Marc Jacobs) to preppy boyfriend-type pullovers at Calvin Klein and Michael Kors, the sweater is a must-have. For up-to-the-minute styling, push up your sleeves and throw on a belt. While you might initially think belting your cardigan, well, a little odd, get over it — this is a major trend and probably the easiest way to tell the world you know what's up (or down) in the extremely fickle world of fashion. Draw inspiration from Frankie Rayder (seen right) in Marc Jacobs, simultaneously wearing several of this season's hottest trends.

PHOTO COURTESY MARC JACOBS



Model Frankie Rayder at Marc Jacobs' spring/summer show combines several of the season's big trends



Ombre colour bleeds were all the rage at Stella McCartney

PHOTO BY PETRE BUZOIANU/KEYSTONE

In the Trenches

Luckily for us Canadians, the trench coat is a huge trend. Now you can wear chiffon with ease, knowing that a smart trench — extra fresh when cut above the knee — will protect you from the elements. Chanel, Dior, and Costume National showed timeless versions that will serve you well in the years to come.

Sheer madness

Not only for evening, chiffon shows up on daytime staples such as blouses and full skirts (at Alberta Ferretti and Jil Sander). Jagged hems, as seen at

Gucci, Marc Jacobs and Fendi keep this old-fashioned fabric looking ultimately modern.

While budget constraints are very real, and designer duds are for the few, inspiration is free and belongs to us all. So look to the runways for ideas to update your spring wardrobe, and don't forget to let your woman's intuition be the guide.

Zenya Sirant is a Toronto-based writer and editor.

Colour me happy

After a gruelling white winter, rainbow brights couldn't be more eagerly anticipated. On all runways, vivid colour stepped in as the new black. Think grass green, icy blue, grape, hot pink and citrus yellow. If wearing dense saturated colour isn't your thing, choose monochromatic ombres (colours that bleed into one another), which were hot at Prada and Stella McCartney.

Glam Glimmer

Kick your wardrobe up a notch with the addition of shiny, metallic accessories, seen on everything from shoes to belts to bags. We give gold stars to Gucci's gold handbag with fringe benefits and Louis Vuitton's tortoise and gold wedgies.



Floral Forum

Prints are hot in any shape and form. Whether it be a demure, delicate floral or a big, bold chintz, flowers are a spring mainstay in wardrobes everywhere. Designers such as Dolce & Gabbana, Jean Paul Gaultier, Ungaro and Versace provide stellar examples of botanical bliss.

Dolce & Gabbana showed bold florals in bright colours. Inset: A metallic purse by Toronto's Jeanne Lottie



PHOTO BY PETRE BUZOIANU/KEYSTONE

POP THE NORWAY WAY, MCFARLANE FINALLY MAKES HIS MINI-ELVIS

| BY INGRID RANDOJA



NORWEGIAN GOOD

Name Norway's last big pop import. If you said the band A-ha then make yourself a herring sandwich. Now Norway has a new pop star on the horizon, and he goes by the name of Sondre Lerche (pronounced Son-dra Lar-kay).

He's only 21, but check out his *second* CD, *Two-Way Monologue* (in stores March 9), and you'll be amazed at how someone so young can churn out such refined and beautiful pop music.

Lerche started playing the guitar at the age of eight, by 14 he was writing songs, and by 16 was performing in clubs in his hometown of Bergen. At 18 he released his first CD, *Faces Down*, which made *Rolling Stone's* list of the top 50 albums of 2002. Lerche will tell you he's been obsessed with music since he was four, when he first heard his mom's Dionne Warwick/Burt Bacharach albums, and an array of '80s pop music.

"As their '80s tapes became unpopular, my older siblings handed them over to me," says Lerche on the line from the Norwegian capital of Oslo. "I was basically listening to all this unfashionable pop music from the '80s and that was my door into music."

Lerche also credits a family rule for inspiring him to play music at such a young age.

"When my sister was 14 and I was 10 we shared a CD/tape player. The rule was that we would each have it every other month. So I'd go for one month without music and then have a whole month of joy. The good thing was that all through those months without music I would really be into playing my guitar. It really helped stimulate my creativity."

You can hear Lerche's bubbly enthusiasm for music even over a transatlantic phone line, and his English is remarkably good. Lerche writes and sings only in English, which has upset some at home.

"Some people criticize people like myself saying, 'Hey, you're Norwegian, why aren't you singing in Norwegian?' I enjoy speaking Norwegian, but I just don't like singing it, and I don't like how unmusical it sounds in pop songs. And, more importantly, I can't see why I should exclude the rest of the world from my music when it feels perfectly natural for me to sing in English."

OUT THIS MONTH

JOE JACKSON

Afterlife >> MARCH 16

Eighties music survivor Joe Jackson keeps humming along, and this live album brings fans the highlights from his 2003 world tour.

THE VINES

Winning Days >> MARCH 23

The Aussie quartet's follow-up to their popular debut disc, *Highly Evolved*, offers both primal rock rants and warmer pop songs.

AEROSMITH

Honking on Bobo >> MARCH 30

The weird title for this collection of rawkin' blues tunes comes courtesy of front man Steve Tyler, who uttered the phrase — no one is quite sure what it means — and it stuck.

PLAY WITH ELVIS



Renowned toy maker Todd McFarlane's take on musical icons already includes The Beatles, KISS and AC/DC, and soon you'll be able to add Elvis to that list. The **Elvis Presley Super Stage** action figure (available in May) is based on Elvis's famous '68 Comeback Special, which was filmed June 27, 1968, and aired on December 3rd. The figure comes with stage, chair, guitar, mic and backdrop.

McFarlane, an Alberta-born comic book creator, started the company after he contacted toy manufacturers to replicate his demonic comic book creation Spawn and realized they would simply cookie cut an action figure instead of starting from scratch and sculpting an original piece.

McFarlane action figures now include athletes, actors and videogame characters, and have become industry leaders, thanks to their meticulous detail, whether it be the correct angle of Nomar Garciaparra's bat swing, or the creases in Spawn's cape.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Find out, with a bevy of addictive online movie quizzes | BY MARNI WEISZ



Do you know Jack?

WHY VENTURE OUT to a pub to challenge your friends to a night of movie trivia, when you can stay at home and challenge yourself via the closest web hookup? After all, it might be snowing. And cold. And windy. And you don't really like your friends that much anyway.

There are tons of places you can go online to test your film smarts — some force you to prove your mettle with wide-ranging, general questions, others let you pick a specialty.

After an exhaustive search of the internet (we almost got to the last page), we decided that the **Huge Movie Quiz** (at hugemoviequiz.com) was our favourite place to play. Why? Because you've got so many options all in one spot.

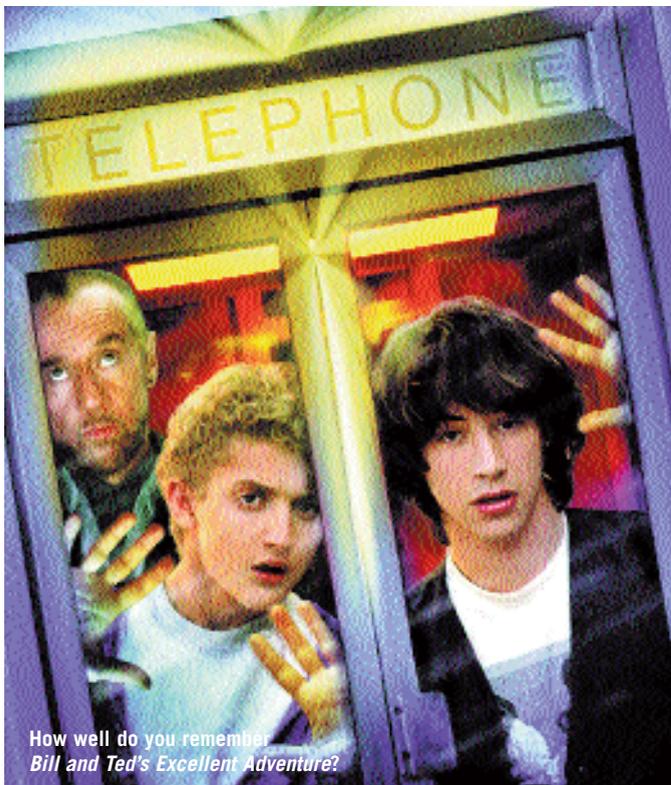
Get your feet wet in the "10 Random Movie Questions" category — which tests your knowledge by utilizing quotes, audio clips, actor portraits and movie stills. For instance, you might be asked to name the movie that "Ties with the *Color Purple* (1985) with most Oscar nominations, 11, without a single win." Did you get it? The answer is *The Turning Point*, the 1977 film about regret and lost opportunity starring Anne Bancroft and

Shirley MacLaine. Or, you might be asked to identify the movie in which someone said, "Excuse me. Do you know where there are any personages of historical significance around here?" Which, of course, is 1989's *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*.

Now, if you think that being expected to know about both a 1970s melodrama and a late-'80s slacker comedy is expecting too much, then you can pick a narrower category — a specific decade perhaps, or genre or movie star.

For example, in the Jack Nicholson category you might be asked which of Jack's gal pals fits this description: "Had a 17-year relationship with Jack Nicholson which ended in 1990 after she found out another woman was carrying his child." The answer? Anjelica Huston. She was too good for him anyway.

When you're done you get a score, and if it's good enough you'll be ranked online for the world to see...and bow down...perhaps throw an effusive compliment or two your way. That's what makes the game so addictive. It'll take you a couple of minutes to get used to the on-screen keyboard used to enter your answers, but once you get the hang of it, it's all fun and games.



How well do you remember *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*?

THE TEST MARKET

ORANGE MOVIE QUIZ

(<http://lcgwww.uia.ac.be/%7Eerikt/quiz/movies.en.html>)

If you're good with visuals you'll have a lot of fun at this simple quiz site. Pick between "Movies," "Actors," or "Actresses" and then try your luck identifying 10 images. The quizzes should change every day, so make it part of your morning ritual.

QUIZ-ZONE (<http://www.quiz-zone.co.uk/>)

There are more than 5,000 questions at this U.K.-based quiz site, and not all the challenges test your knowledge of movies — there are sports, music and news tests too. But if it's flicks that interest you, go straight to the "Browse Quizzes" section where you'll find plenty to keep you occupied. Hint: You can't type in your answers at this site, so just keep track of them on a piece of paper and then click on "View Answers" at the top of the screen when you're done.

COOL MOVIE TRIVIA (<http://www.cool-movie-trivia.com>)

Quizzes here are on the weirder side, like "You've Got a Big Mouth," where you'll be shown a close-up of a character's oral orifice and be asked to name the movie in which it appeared. But the most interesting thing about this site is that you can join a league and play against other trivia nuts in weekly challenges.

WHAT WOULD JAMES BOND DO?

Silver screen secret agents take on evil corporate conspiracies | BY SCOTT GARDNER

JAMES BOND 007: EVERYTHING OR NOTHING

[GC, PS2, XB]

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - OPERATION SURMA

[GBA, GC, PS2, XB]

As the fate of the free world hangs in the balance, two secret agents — one an all-time great and one riding a recent revival — are back to battle sinister schemes and supervillains.

In *James Bond 007: Everything or Nothing*, the world's most famous (and now not-so-secret) secret agent returns for his fifth EA Games adventure. Players will have to use espionage, tactical skills and nifty gadgets from Q's spy lab/playroom, plus all of Bond's physical skills and smooth charms, to complete the mission.

Specifically, 007 wannabes will need to polish up their high-speed driving, stealth moves, high-tech weapons skills and hand-to-hand combat. The payoff: earning rewards for completing objectives with style rather than brute force. Oh, and of course saving the world.

The game's third-person

perspective also shows off the likenesses of its Hollywood cast — Pierce Brosnan as Bond, Willem Dafoe as his new super-nemesis, John Cleese as Q, Shannon Elizabeth as Bond girl Serena St. Germaine and Heidi Klum as the mysterious Katya Nadanova, each of whom recorded their character's voice.

In *Mission: Impossible - Operation Surma*, Ethan Hunt and his IMF team travel to exotic locales to prevent the evil Surma Corporation from unleashing the ICEWorm microchip — a little silicon devil that will take down every major security system on the planet.

In this stealth-action adventure, Hunt's mission — should he choose to accept it — will require sneakiness and secrecy, plus classic IMF gadgets and disguises, to infiltrate enemy fortifications and take out the baddies.



James Bond 007: Everything or Nothing



Mission: Impossible - Operation Surma

THE SUFFERING [GC, XB, PS2]

Sensitive gamers prone to nightmares might want to take a pass on *The Suffering*, an all-new third-person horror-fest set in a maximum-security prison...that just happens to be haunted.

Players control the prisoner Torque, a hardened inmate sentenced to die for a murder he may or may not have committed. Torque is next in line for execution when apparitions besiege the prison and inadvertently free him.

Now Torque must battle both the jail-house ghouls and the demons of his own forgotten past. Yep, poor Torque has flashbacks to the crime that landed him in the slammer and blackouts where he transforms into a massive monster hell-bent on destruction.

Get ready for blood and gore — dripping, pooling and splattering at every level of our hero's fright-filled journey. Players can unleash the power of Torque's primal fury while battling 12 horrific creatures and trying to unlock the game's deadly secrets. And, depending how the game unfolds,

there are three distinct endings.

Stan Winston, the renowned big-screen creature designer responsible for the dinosaurs of *Jurassic Park*, the hellish ETs of *Aliens* and the fanciful Edward Scissorhands, created the disturbing character artwork featured in the game.

URBAN FREESTYLE SOCCER

[PS2, XB]

There's no need for a referee to pull a red card during a heated match in Acclaim's *Urban Freestyle Soccer* — the latest entry in the exploding genre of "street"-style sports games.

This time, the world's most popular sport heads downtown with rough-and-tumble teams competing to lay claim to their home turf. With the first-ever four-on-four, arcade-style street soccer gameplay, style, attitude and aggression are just as valuable as skill. Throw in limited boundaries, toss out the off-side rule and the result is fast, fierce matches.

Urban Freestyle Soccer features special player moves, power-ups and a two-layered

combo system for earning team points. And 10 gang-style teams, each with their own unique playing field, gives new meaning to "home field advantage."



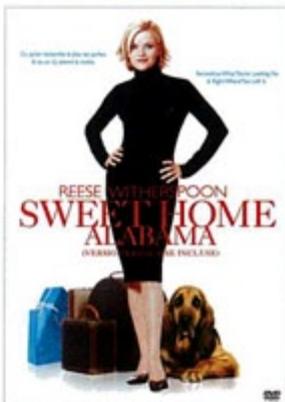
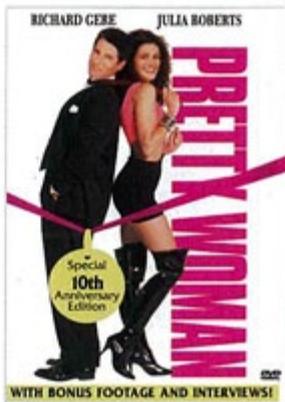
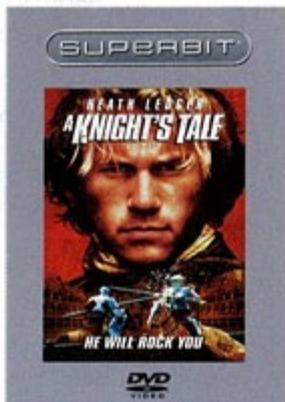
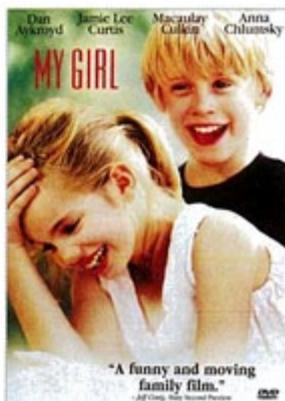
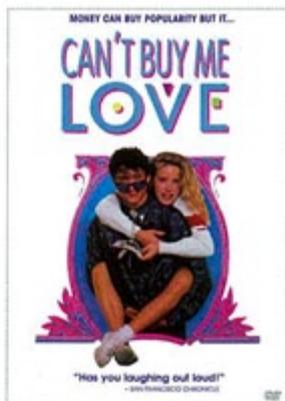
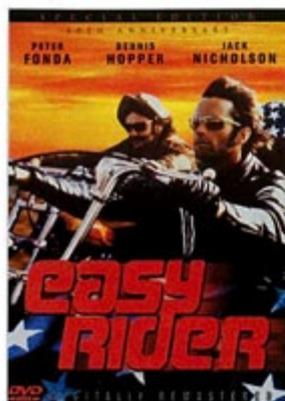
The Suffering



Urban Freestyle Soccer

HIS

HERS



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Make It a **BLOCKBUSTER** Night

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new RELEASES

GO HOME WITH VERONICA GUERIN,
LOONEY TUNES OR THE CAT IN THE HAT

MARCH 2

SCHOOL OF ROCK

Stars: Jack Black, Joan Cusack
Director: Richard Linklater (*Waking Life*)
Story: Volcanic comedian-musician Black strikes just the right power chord as he teaches sheltered rich kids how to R-A-W-K! **DVD Extras:** Black's commentary, the featurettes "Dewey Finn's History of Rock" and "Jack Black's Pitch to Led Zeppelin"

LOONEY TUNES: BACK IN ACTION

Stars: Brendan Fraser, Jenna Elfman
Director: Joe Dante (*Small Soldiers*)
Story: Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and a menagerie of irreverent animated characters mix it up with live actors in a madcap adventure that careens all around the world.

MARCH 9

MONA LISA SMILE

Stars: Julia Roberts, Julia Stiles
Director: Mike Newell (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*)
Story: In this cozy and conventional drama about breaking rules, a feminist teacher — she's single, she likes abstract art! — shakes up the husband-hunting students at a 1950s women's college. **DVD Extras:** Three featurettes, trailers, Elton John music video

MARCH 16

VERONICA GUERIN

Stars: Cate Blanchett, Ciarán Hines
Director: Joel Schumacher (*8MM*)
Story: A bio-pic about the courageous Dublin journalist who became an Irish folk heroine by taking on the U.K.'s most dangerous drug lords. **DVD Extras:** Footage of a speech by the real Guerin

DR. SUESS'S THE CAT IN THE HAT

Stars: Mike Myers, Dakota Fanning
Director: Bo Welch (debut)
Story: Let's be kind and just say it's an...um...non-traditional, extremely 21st-century view of the classic children's story about a wily talking cat.

21 GRAMS

Stars: Sean Penn, Naomi Watts
Director: Alejandro González Iñárritu (*Amores Perros*)
Story: They say 21 grams is the weight we lose when we die. Is this the weight of a human soul? A tragic accident shatters three diverse couples in this difficult but brilliantly acted drama.

MARCH 23

THE RUNDOWN

Stars: The Rock, Seann William Scott
Director: Peter Berg (*Very Bad Things*)
Story: The Rock is sent to the Amazon to run down the missing Scott. Obstacles include an unhinged tyrant (Christopher Walken, naturally), horny monkeys and hallucinogenic fruit. **DVD Extras:** Six featurettes, deleted scenes, ROM goodies



School of Rock

SHATTERED GLASS

Stars: Hayden Christensen, Peter Sarsgaard
Director: Billy Ray (debut)
Story: The real-life saga of Stephen Glass, a young magazine journalist who implodes when his editors realize his real talent lies in fiction...or just lies.

MARCH 30

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

Stars: Jessica Biel, Eric Balfour
Director: Marcus Nispel (debut)
Story: The buzz is back as unstoppable psycho-killer Leatherface returns to chop up a new generation of screaming teens. **DVD Extras:** Two full-length docs, deleted scenes, alternate opening and ending and (ick) "crime scene" photos

SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE

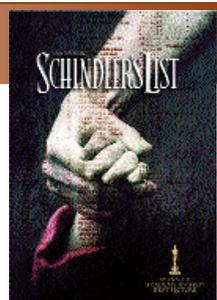
Stars: Jack Nicholson, Diane Keaton
Director: Nancy Meyers (*The Parent Trap*)
Story: A 63-year-old playboy who likes 'em young, finds that love can hit like a heart attack when he falls for his girlfriend's mother. Looks like something's gotta give. **DVD Extras:** Director's commentary, deleted scenes, trailers

new to DVD

Schindler's List, Steven Spielberg's masterpiece and one of the most honoured films of all time, is finally available on DVD. Winner of seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director, the film presents the unforgettable true story of the enigmatic Oskar Schindler (Liam Neeson), a member of the Nazi party, womanizer and war profiteer who saved the lives of more than 1,000 Jews during the Holocaust.

Bonus materials on Side Two of this dual-layer DVD include cast and filmmakers bios, plus the docs "The Shoah Foundation Behind the Scenes," "Between the Lines of the List: True Stories of Schindler's Jews," and "About Oskar Schindler."

As a companion piece, look for *Broken Silence*, five historical films about human courage, heroism and triumph among the deepest of adversity during World War II, presented by Spielberg and the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation.



GO TO WWW.BLOCKBUSTER.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

WHERE IT ALL BEGINS...
AGAIN



WRESTLEMANIA
XX

Sunday, March 14, 2004

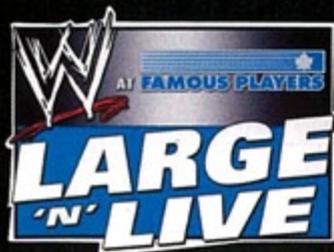
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march



KATIA SMIRNOVA

HOROSCOPE | BY DAN LIEBMAN

Pisces

February 20 >>> March 20

Your eagerness to assist others is commendable, but now it's time to concentrate on your own goals and desires. It's also a good month for making a bold design or fashion statement. You find that you can draw strength from the words of a favourite poem or song.

Aries

March 21 >>> April 20

Whether it's interpersonal relationships or work-related activities, concentrate on the things you do best. Only in creative areas does experimentation really pay off. A shy family member may seek your approval or advice, which means more than you realize.

Taurus

April 21 >>> May 22

Look forward to reuniting with someone you've been thinking about lately. The reunion could be planned or accidental. You tend to be vulnerable around the 20th. Be careful not to sign any long-term arrangement without checking it out and thinking it through.

Gemini

May 23 >>> June 21

Because you are sentimental, you're going to find March to be particularly satisfying. Look forward to meaningful correspondence and spontaneous gestures. Be observant around the 19th — you could find a lost treasure. Avoid procrastination in health matters.

Cancer

June 22 >>> July 22

With some friends away and others distracted, you're spending much of the month with a different cast of characters. One member of the new group may help you broaden your interests; another may provide some of the laughter that's recently been in short supply.

Leo

July 23 >>> August 22

Just when you're ready to give up on them, friends show their appreciation, prove their loyalty, and brighten your world. You could find yourself involved in scientific studies and, toward the end of the month, you may join some kind of club.

Virgo

August 23 >>> September 22

Tap into your support system, and you'll find it easier to make adjustments. You may be entering into a shared arrangement, but be extra sure that you and your partner are headed in the same direction. Exercise, even in its mildest forms, should be a very high priority.

Libra

September 23 >>> October 22

Your gutsy side emerges. It's a good month to take some sensible risks in professional dealings. But when it comes to entertaining, decorating or dressing, avoid being showy. Look forward to impromptu travel to unusual destinations, likely after the 20th.

Scorpio

October 23 >>> November 21

This is a high-energy month. Whether you're trying to get a relationship back together or you're starting a new venture, this is a good time to give it your best shot. Negotiations require a more thorough approach. Family members are eager to help you after the 17th.

Sagittarius

November 22 >>> December 22

You're out of character in early March. First, a possessive streak emerges. Next, you're unusually stubborn. But by the 15th you're more like your old self: excelling in tasks involving communication, looking after a family situation and being totally charming.

Capricorn

December 23 >>> January 20

Your sign is associated with ambition and hard work. If you've been thinking about starting a business, March is an excellent time to devise a plan. Late in the month you can be highly persuasive. You may also become involved in a humanitarian project.

Aquarius

January 21 >>> February 19

March is a month of transition, and it offers an opportunity for growth. There may be some bumps in the road, but by the 31st you're feeling more secure about your position. There's a playful side to the month, too, with kids or pets making you laugh a lot.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



1st	Ron Howard
2nd	Jon Bon Jovi
3rd	Jessica Biel
4th	Patricia Heaton
5th	Jake Lloyd
6th	Rob Reiner
7th	Peter Sarsgaard
8th	James Van Der Beek
9th	Juliette Binoche
10th	Sharon Stone
11th	Thora Birch
12th	Liza Minnelli
13th	William H. Macy

14th	Billy Crystal
15th	Judd Hirsch
16th	Jerry Lewis
17th	Rob Lowe
18th	Queen Latifah
19th	Glenn Close
20th	Holly Hunter
21st	Matthew Broderick
22nd	Reese Witherspoon
23rd	Keri Russell
24th	Alyson Hannigan
25th	Sarah Jessica Parker
26th	Martin Short
27th	Quentin Tarantino



28th	Reba McEntire
29th	Lucy Lawless
30th	Norah Jones
31st	Colin Farrell

Things to do on March 25:

SPRING
FOR LIFE

A day in support of AIDS
awareness and research.



- Go Shopping
- Dine out
- See a movie
- Help find a cure for AIDS

Visit www.canfar.com to find out which businesses in your city are taking part in Spring for Life.

« Budding. A recent study reports that more than 1/2 of ninth grade Canadian students believe that AIDS doesn't kill you. The reality is that our youth are in the highest risk group for contraction, the average age of which has dropped to 23. Help your kids make well informed choices by talking to them. »

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10 female STARS ON HOW THEY GET IN SHAPE FOR ROLES

| BY SUSAN GRANGER

ANGELINA JOLIE "I made *Original Sin* right before I did *Tomb Raider*, so I only had 10 weeks to get into shape for Lara Croft. I worked out with a trainer in London three to four times a week, starting on a treadmill and then doing lunges, squats and resistance training.... I drank lots of water and ate six small meals a day, each containing one portion of protein and one portion of carbohydrates."

JENNIFER LOPEZ "I've always been into sports. I did gymnastics, competed nationally in track and was on the school softball team. Now I work out with a trainer doing aerobic and weight exercises. I don't believe in beating yourself up. I have egg whites in the morning, carbs for lunch and a salad for dinner. I keep fit and look after myself but I'm not going to be anorexic, ever."

CHARLIZE THERON "I have always been very athletic. I studied ballet for years, but I used to sneak out to do ice skating, squash, running, everything. I still love exercise and dance. I love red meat. Barbecue is a big part of my life. For breakfast, it's steak and eggs. But I will not mix sugar and salt, like the American breakfast of pancakes, eggs and bacon. That's gross."

JENNA ELFMAN "I take ballet lessons at home three times a week and do yoga. I drink about 100 oz of water every day and try to avoid sugar."

CAMERON DIAZ "I do Pilates for stretching and flexibility and work out with a trainer. I drink tons of water. I think women's bodies are beautiful no matter what the shape — and I'm not afraid of gaining weight."

BRITNEY SPEARS "I love stretching and sit-ups but if I exercise too much my legs get bigger. Dancing makes me leaner, and I do yoga every day. When I'm working I go for high-energy foods, like cereal, Caesar salads and soup."

DENISE RICHARDS "I go to a nutritionist that Neve Campbell recommended and get my food delivered — lunch and dinner, five days a week. Just nuke it in the microwave. It's very convenient."

ELIZABETH HURLEY "I do not like to exercise and I do not belong to a gym. This is the way I look naturally."

CATHERINE ZETA-JONES "I ate for Wales when I was pregnant. I weighed, like, 180 pounds. I gained 50 pounds. But then I went on a diet in which I cut carbohydrates out of my diet. I did a lot of walking and got a lot of sleep. Now, I never eat carbs after five o'clock. And I have this frenetic energy that's unbelievable."

RENÉE ZELLWEGER "I put on 20 pounds for *Bridget Jones's Diary*. I ate pizzas and three candy bars a day, plus fettuccini Alfredo and peanut-butter sandwiches. I think I was the only actress in Hollywood with weight-gain powder on her kitchen counter."



PHOTO BY JEFF KRAVITZ/FILMMAGIC



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