

canada's #1 movie magazine in canada's #1 theatres

Famous

march 2005
| volume 6 | number 3

Sigourney
Weaver
on *IMAGINARY
HEROES*

MEET
BE COOL'S
MOB

Clean up nice
with tips
from our
**style
experts**

THE LATEST
**VIDEO
& DVD**
PAGE 42

Sahara's
PENÉLOPE CRUZ
gets dirty

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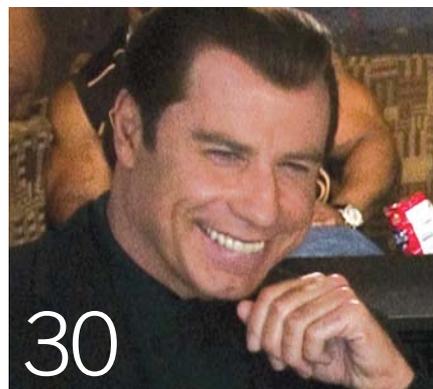
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Still...Lady of Spain



We ran our first interview with this month's cover girl **Penélope Cruz** in 2001, when *Vanilla Sky* was being released. She played the intoxicating female lead, Sofia...again. This was, after all, a Hollywood remake of the Spanish film *Abra los ojos*, in which she had also starred.

Cruz had just started a relationship with Tom Cruise and had made five English-language films in two years — *Woman on Top*, *All the Pretty Horses*, *Blow* and *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, so you couldn't really fault her Spanish fanbase (she'd been making films there for 10

years before most of us had heard of her) for getting worried. But she promised she wouldn't abandon them.

"The Spanish press always ask me, 'Are you leaving us?'" she'd said then. "I don't think it's good for my career, here and there, if I'm in only one place all the time."

Yet Penélope was on an A-list trajectory, and as we'd learned from her non-American peers like Antonio Banderas, Olivier Martinez and Salma Hayek, once you break through in Hollywood it's tough to go back to making films in your native tongue.

But Cruz stuck to her word, spending the past four years moving back and forth between Hollywood pics like the Halle Berry thriller *Gothika* and international fare like the Spanish drama *Non ti muovere*.

Next month, Cruz stars in her first Hollywood blockbuster, the \$130-million (U.S.) adventure flick *Sahara* opposite her apparent new squeeze Matthew McConaughey. So, will anchoring such a mainstream movie make Penélope finally turn her back on the culture and cachet of European cinema for the big bucks and bright lights of Hollywood?

Apparently not. Her next four projects are the Spanish films *Tu vida en 65 minutos* and *Volver*, the British drama *Chromophobia* and *Bandidas*, a French/Mexican/U.S. co-production co-starring Hayek.

Read our interview with Cruz, "Penélope, Queen of the Desert," page 34, to find out what the intercontinental actor thought of making her first American action flick.

Also in this issue, on page 26 we have "Desperate Housewife," an interview with **Sigourney Weaver** about her new suburban dramedy *Imaginary Heroes*. Then on page 30 you'll find "Gangster Rap," in which **John Travolta**, **Uma Thurman** and **Vince Vaughn** weigh in on making the *Get Shorty* sequel, *Be Cool*.

And don't miss our special **Style Section** that starts on page 14. Malls are finally being flooded with new spring stock and we feel it's our duty to help you wade through it.

—MARNI WEISZ





64 seating configurations, wipe-down utility floors and a built-in MP3/digital media jack. Where will it take you? The multifunctional Element from Honda.



Being Robin Williams

As every Québécois voice actor well knows, dubbing an animated feature from English to French is not easy at the best of times.

For every word spoken in English, there are often two needed in French. And since characters' faces are animated precisely to fit the English-speaking actors' mouth movements, there's almost zero wiggle room.



Benoît Brière tries to keep up

But those difficulties go from bad to worse when you're voicing a character originated by manic improv comedian Robin Williams. Benoît Brière learned that lesson only too well when he was asked to translate the role of Fender, Williams' rusty ragtag tinman in the new Fox animated feature *Robots*.

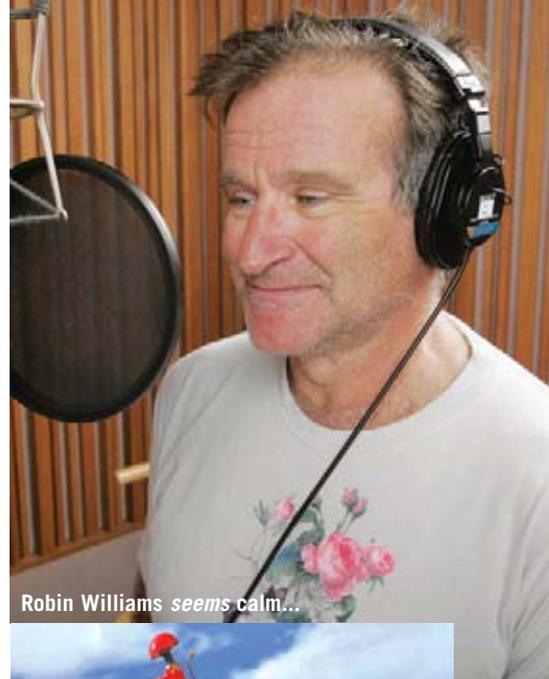
"This guy's totally crazy! Especially in this kind of movie where they give him incredible freedom," says Brière, one of Québec's most popular actors having appeared in two of the province's biggest recent hits — *La Grande séduction* and *Séraphin: un homme et son péché*. "I'm convinced they gave him carte blanche and told him to have fun, improvise."

And, just as he did with his Blue Genie in 1992's *Aladdin*, Williams experiments with different accents and impressions while playing Fender — none of which work in French.

"Sometimes Robin Williams was talking with a British accent, then a Latino accent, then at the end his character said something in a very Irish accent," recalls Brière. "In French, what was I supposed to do?"

"That's where the creative part came for me," continues Brière. "I had to find something that worked with the image, but would also have connotations for the public."

—MW, with files from Marie Labrecque



Robin Williams seems calm...



Robots star Fender

MARCH BREAK BREAK

When you think of the *Rough Guide* books, you probably think of backpacking through Europe with huge hopes and a tiny budget. The practical but funky guides first published in 1982 helped a generation of young travellers find its way down cobblestone streets and up narrow mountain passes.

But that generation is all grown up, and many of its members have even spawned a child or two. And with their offspring clamouring for something to do this March Break, the realization slowly sets in that vacations are now more about finding ways to entertain the kids than to entertain themselves.

At least parents can return to that faithful old series from their carefree youths for counsel, but this time it's *The Rough Guide to Kids' Movies*.

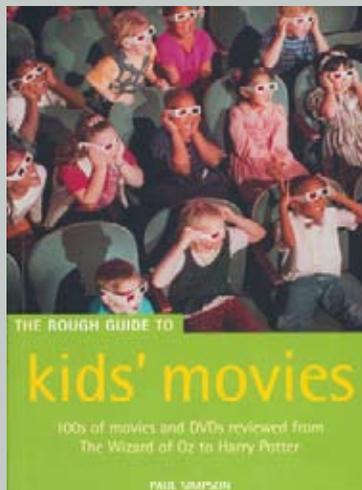
Author Paul Simpson uses the same practical, detailed, and dare we say cynical, advice

on which young travellers relied to guide parents toward the best videos and DVDs for their children. And although older kids, say 12- or 13-year-olds, might get something out of this book, it's really written for grown-ups.

Pop culture references like, "Lady and the Tramp have more

chemistry than most real movie stars — certainly more than Harrison Ford and Kate Capshaw in *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*," or sarcastic gems like, "On its release, children flocked to see *My Girl* to cry over Macauley Culkin's character's death, whilst parents were happy to watch the brat croak," were clearly not written with minors in mind.

And hey, doesn't knowing you're plopping your kids down in front of the *best quality* movies for a couple of hours make you feel a bit less guilty? While they're soaking up *Cinderella*, you can always pull out your tattered old *Rough Guides* and photo albums, have a glass of wine, and take a trip of your own...—MW



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Congratulations to all the **Genie** nominees!

The 25th annual Genie Awards air on CHUM and ASN television stations across Canada on March 21st. Check local listings for channels and times.

And the nominees in the major categories are...

Best Motion Picture

- Being Julia** – Robert Lantos
Love, Sex & Eating the Bones
 – Jennifer Holness
Ma vie en cinémascope
 – Denise Robert, Daniel Louis
Mémoires affectives (Looking for Alexander)
 – Barbara Shrier
Les Triplettes de Belleville
(The Triplets of Belleville) – Paul Cadieux

Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role

- Isabelle Blais** – *Les Aiments (Love and Magnets)*
Céline Bonnier
 – *Monica la mitraille (Machine Gun Molly)*
Pascales Bussières – *Ma vie en cinémascope*
Emily Hampshire – *Blood*
Jacinthe Lagüe
 – *Elles étaient cinq (The Five of Us)*

Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role

- Michel Côté** – *Le Dernier Tunnel (The Last Tunnel)*
Roy Dupuis
 – *Mémoires affectives (Looking for Alexander)*
David La Haye – *Nouvelle-France*
Ian McKellen – *Emile*
Nick Stahl – *Twist*

Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role

- Juliette Gosselin** – *Nouvelle-France*
Jennifer Jason Leigh – *Childstar*
Sylvie Moreau – *Les Aiments (Love and Magnets)*
Ellen Page – *Wilby Wonderful*
Susana Salazar – *A Silent Love*

Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role

- Gary Farmer** – *Twist*
Brendan Fehr – *Sugar*
Bruce Greenwood – *Being Julia*
Jean Lapointe
 – *Le Dernier Tunnel (The Last Tunnel)*
Kyle MacLachlan – *A Touch of Pink*

Achievement in Direction

- Denise Filiatrault** – *Ma vie en cinémascope*
Pierre Houle
 – *Monica la mitraille (Machine Gun Molly)*
Bronwen Hughes – *Stander*
Francis Leclerc
 – *Mémoires affectives (Looking for Alexander)*
David "Sudz" Sutherland
 – *Love, Sex & Eating the Bones*

Original Screenplay

- Denise Filiatrault** – *Ma vie en cinémascope*
Federico Hidalgo, Paulina Robles
 – *A Silent Love*
Francis Leclerc, Marcel Beaulieu
 – *Mémoires affectives (Looking for Alexander)*
Don McKellar, Michael Goldbach – *Childstar*
David "Sudz" Sutherland
 – *Love, Sex & Eating the Bones*

Adapted Screenplay

- Joël Champetier, Daniel Roby**
 – *La Peau blanche (White Skin)*
Jerry Ciccoritti – *Blood*
Luc Dionne, Sylvain Guy
 – *Monica la mitraille (Machine Gun Molly)*
Todd Klinck, Jaie Laplante, John Palmer
 – *Sugar*
Jacob Tierney – *Twist*

Best Documentary

- The Corporation**
 – Mark Achbar, Jennifer Abbott, Bart Simpson
Mr. Mergler's Gift
 – Beverly Shaffer, Germaine Ying-Gee Wong
What Remains of Us – François Prévost, Yves
 Bisailon, Hugo Latulippe

Achievement in Cinematography

- Louis Ernsted** – *Nouvelle-France*
Bernard Couture
 – *Le Dernier Tunnel (The Last Tunnel)*
Pierre Mignot – *Ma vie en cinémascope*
Paul Sarossy – *Head in the Clouds*
André Turpin – *Childstar*



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It's all in the **TECHNIQUE**

What are you wearing right now,” Sergio Di Zio asks me over the phone.

“A black sweater,” I say, feeling a bit self-conscious.

“So I’d say, ‘You’re wearing a black sweater,’” he explains. “And you’d repeat, ‘I’m wearing a black sweater.’”

“I’m wearing a black sweater,” I repeat, trying not to laugh.

This is not the world’s worst 1-800 chatline conversation. Really.

Sergio Di Zio is an actor, and he’s attempting to illustrate the Meisner Technique. It would probably have worked better if we’d actually been in the same room, but hindsight’s 20/20.

The technique is an offshoot of Method acting, Di Zio explains, and he swears by it. The repetition exercise we were just doing (albeit very poorly) is one of its central devices.

“It’s all very basic,” Di Zio says, “it just teaches you to observe the other person and you’ll be fascinated. And because you’re fascinated you’ll be fascinating.”

Other offshoots of Method don’t seem very practical to Di Zio. They might work well in the classroom, but once you’re on a set surrounded by crew and cameras, everything you learned goes out the window, he says. “With Meisner it just gets simplified down to a point where all you have to

do is trust yourself and listen to the other person,” he explains.

The 32-year-old Toronto native has been studying the theories of Sanford Meisner (who was himself a student of the great Russian acting teacher Konstantin Stanislavsky) for about three years, and all the work is paying off. He’s snagged roles in the critically acclaimed Canadian films *19 Months* and *Luck*, and this season he appears on CBC’s courtroom drama *This is Wonderland* as newbie lawyer Marcus Weekes.

“I get on judges nerves a bit. I’m new and don’t really know what I’m doing, and I don’t really care yet. I’m in my own little world, very aware of the moment,” Di Zio says of his character, and then suddenly realizes, “He’s like this perfect Meisner actor!”

Di Zio will also have a wee role in the upcoming Russell Crowe boxing movie *Cinderella Man*, which was shot in Toronto last year. “My character’s name is ‘Young Reporter,’” he says with a self-effacing laugh.

But his time on screen won’t reflect how much time he spent on set — an impressive 30 days. It seems the film’s casting director was a fan, so hired Di Zio to read opposite other actors auditioning for parts. That meant a lot of time spent with director Ron Howard,

who Di Zio says was “the warmest person in the world.”

“He’d call my name sometimes when we were on set and I’d almost want to pretend that I didn’t hear him the first time, just to hear him go ‘Sergio’ again,” Di Zio recalls, punching the “Sergio” with an unmistakable Richie Cunningham inflection.

It’s a bit early for impressions, just 10 a.m. after a crazy day spent running from audition to audition — commercials in the morning, an American pilot in the afternoon, and a play reading at night. That’s where things got heated.

“I had a big argument with another actor about Meisner last night,” Di Zio admits. “There’s a lot of bad Meisner actors out there so it’s misunderstood sometimes.” But he swears it didn’t come to blows, quashing my fantasies of an actor slapfest like the one Colin Firth and Hugh Grant had in *Bridget Jones’s Diary*.

“Sometimes people have crappy teachers and they might even be abused by them in the name of Method acting, and this guy wanted to throw it all away because of this crappy teacher,” Di Zio says.

Then, after a thoughtful pause, he concludes, “In the end, if you’re a good actor, who cares how you got there?”

—Marni Weisz



“I had a big argument with another actor about Meisner last night.... There’s a lot of bad Meisner actors out there so it’s misunderstood sometimes”

now in theatres



THE PACIFIER

WHO'S IN IT? Vin Diesel, Brad Garrett
WHO DIRECTED? Adam Shankman (*Bringing Down the House*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? He's just like Mary Poppins, that is if Mary was trained in subaquatic combat and knew how to read a GPS unit. Diesel stars as Navy SEAL Shane Wolf, who gets a crash course in carpooling and diaper changing when he's assigned to protect the children of a murdered American scientist.

• HITS THEATRES MARCH 4

MARCH 4

BE COOL

WHO'S IN IT? John Travolta, Uma Thurman
WHO DIRECTED? F. Gary Gray (*The Italian Job*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? This sequel to *Get Shorty* sees smooth-talking enforcer Chili Palmer (Travolta) move out of the movie business and muscle into record producing. Since this comedy is based on an Elmore Leonard book, expect a cast of colourful characters to talk tough, carry big sticks and look cool doing both. **See John Travolta, Uma Thurman, Vince Vaughn interview, page 30.**

DANIEL AND THE SUPERDOGS

WHO'S IN IT? Matthew Harbour, Claire Bloom
WHO DIRECTED? André Melançon (*Nénette*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? After the death of his mother, Daniel finds solace training his pooch for the upcoming Superdogs show.

THE JACKET

WHO'S IN IT? Adrien Brody, Keira Knightley
WHO DIRECTED? John Maybury (*Love is the Devil*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? This trippy thriller stars Brody as a returning soldier who winds up in an asylum where a gnarly doc (Kris Kristofferson) pumps him full of a drug that enables him to see into the future. That future includes his death, and he's got four days in which to prevent it from happening.

MARCH 11

ROBOTS

VOICES: Ewan McGregor, Robin Williams
WHO DIRECTED? Chris Wedge and Carlos Saldanha (*Ice Age*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? In a world made up entirely of robots, idealistic inventor Rodney Copperbottom (McGregor) travels to Robot City where he discovers an underclass of ragtag 'bots that need his help.

PHIL THE ALIEN

WHO'S IN IT? Rob Stefaniuk, Nicole de Boer
WHO DIRECTED? Rob Stefaniuk (debut)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? This Canadian comedy stars writer/director Stefaniuk as Phil the Alien, whose spaceship crashes near a small Northern Ontario town. Left to his own devices Phil develops a drinking

problem, gets tossed in jail, becomes a Christian and eventually the lead singer for the local bar band.

MARCH 18

ICE PRINCESS

WHO'S IN IT? Michelle Trachtenberg, Kim Cattrall
WHO DIRECTED? Tim Fywell (*Hear the Silence*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Brainy Casey Carlyle (Trachtenberg) throws everyone for a loop by going from geek to figure skating star.

THE UPSIDE OF ANGER

WHO'S IN IT? Kevin Costner, Joan Allen
WHO DIRECTED? Mike Binder (*Blankman*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A woman (Allen) who is abandoned by her husband turns to her old friend (Costner) for comfort.



HOSTAGE

WHO'S IN IT? Bruce Willis, Kevin Pollak
WHO DIRECTED? Florent Emilio Siri (debut)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Willis plays a disgraced Los Angeles hostage negotiator who moves to the suburbs where, surprise, he winds up trying to diffuse a hostage situation. But then his wife and kid are kidnapped by the bad guys, meaning he's got two families to save.

• HITS THEATRES MARCH 11

THE RING TWO

WHO'S IN IT? Naomi Watts, David Dorfman
WHO DIRECTED? Hideo Nakata (*Ringu*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Six months after Rachel Keller (Watts) and her son escaped the clutches of the creepy girl with the tragically bad hair, they discover the gal and the deadly VHS tape are still at large.

DEAR FRANKIE

WHO'S IN IT? Emily Mortimer, Gerard Butler
WHO DIRECTED? Shona Auerbach (debut)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Mortimer plays a mom who hires a man (Butler) to pretend to be her deaf son Frankie's long-lost father.

DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN

WHO'S IN IT? Kimberly Elise, Shemar Moore
WHO DIRECTED? Darren Grant (debut)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? When her husband of 20 years leaves her, Helen McCarter (Elise) is left shattered and angry. But things heat up when a young hunk (*The Young and the Restless*' Moore) enters her life.

IMAGINARY HEROES

WHO'S IN IT? Sigourney Weaver, Emile Hirsch
WHO DIRECTED? Dan Harris (debut)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Weaver gives a stellar



MISS CONGENIALITY 2: ARMED AND FABULOUS

WHO'S IN IT? Sandra Bullock, Regina King
WHO DIRECTED? John Pasquin (*Joe Somebody*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? In this sequel to *Miss Congeniality*, star FBI agent Gracie Hart (Bullock) teams up with nonplussed agent Sam Fuller (King) to help save Gracie's beauty pageant pals (Heather Burns and William Shatner).

• HITS THEATRES MARCH 25

performance as a sarcastic suburban wife and mother desperately trying to hold her dysfunctional family together. **See Sigourney Weaver interview, page 26.**

MARCH 25

GUESS WHO

WHO'S IN IT? Bernie Mac, Ashton Kutcher
WHO DIRECTED? Kevin Rodney Sullivan (*Barbershop 2: Back in Business*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The seminal '60s civil

rights drama *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* gets a 21st-century makeover when race roles are reversed and it's a black father (Mac) who is concerned his daughter is marrying a white man (Kutcher).

THE KARATE DOG

WHO'S IN IT? Jon Voight, Simon Rex
WHO DIRECTED? Bob Clark (*Baby Geniuses*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Cho Cho the karate-kicking dog teams up with an L.A. cop to find the men who killed his master.

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

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Look to the stars

Spring's around the corner and it's time to freshen up your winter-ravaged look. In order to inspire, we enlisted three beauty professionals to pick apart four of Hollywood's most interesting fashion icons. Behold, be creative and, most importantly, be yourself

FASHION: Maha

Most recently the host of Prime TV's makeover show *Diva on a Dime*, Maha has dressed celebrities from urban-chic chanteuse Nelly Furtado to classic Canuck Bruce McCulloch of Kids in the Hall fame.

MAKEUP: Trinidad

A one-time model himself, Trinidad has transformed Quebec faves Mitsou and Karine Vanasse and Berkeley, California, rockers Green Day. Now he's teaching his craft at Montreal's College Inter-DEC and is part of the avant-garde makeup team Kröm Productions.

HAIR: Adam Pardy

Now working in Beverly Hills at the B2V Salon, Adam originally hails from New York but spent five years working in Toronto. He has performed fabulous hair makeovers on CityTV's *Cityline* and MuchMusic and is currently working for ABC's *Extreme Makeover*.

MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL

FASHION: MAHA

FULL METAL JACKET

A fashion phenom, Gyllenhaal exemplifies polished ease, a dichotomy of lax and luxe, which just happens to be the exact mood of Spring '05.

A Marc Jacobs loyalist, she's

on point with fashion's newest obsession, metallic mania. Gyllenhaal is a pro at taking a classic evening fabric and pairing it with daytime denim, personifying

the idea of uptown lady meets downtown diva.

She's a perfect example of the power wielded by the up-and-coming quirky actresses of today, even being chosen to star in the Fall '04 Louis Vuitton campaign, an honour usually reserved for heavy-hitting actresses and supermodels. Wanna get this look? Grab a pair of Rock & Republic jeans, combine with a satin camisole and a vintage blazer.

MAKEUP: TRINIDAD

LESS IS MORE

Maggie understands that subtle, pretty looks make a big impact. To achieve this style follow the make-under essentials for this spring and summer.



Winners' satin camisole



To start, use some Yves Saint Laurent Touche Éclat Highlighter to highlight the centre of the face. Apply light mascara by choosing a lengthening (not thickening) formula to avoid clumps. Use the Christian Dior Powder Eyebrow Pencil which allows you to draw tiny flicks of colour to simulate actual brow hairs. Softly blend your eye liner only on the outside corner of the eye. Then use a pencil like Chanel Precision Eye Definer, which goes on relatively quickly and blends easily.

Finally, match your lip liner with the colour of your lips and not the gloss or lipstick. Add some Delux Beauty Lip Gloss in "Hank." It's a formula that's sheer and moist and has just a hint of colour. Don't forget that modern makeup is meant to enhance what you already have, not fake what you don't!



PHOTO BY KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE

HAIR: ADAM

SHORT AND SEXY

It's about time a star in Hollywood realized hair doesn't have to be long and blond to be sexy. Maggie Gyllenhaal's cropped mop may be adventurous but it is quite easily achieved. Apply a curl lotion like Aveda's Be Curly to damp hair, then blow dry using fingers to get those kicks and flips. Finish with TIGI Shine Junkie for shine and a piece-y look.



ROSARIO DAWSON

FASHION: MAHA

MISSONI IMPOSSIBLE

This hip-hop hippie just may have a personality disorder. She juggles an eclectic mix of urban duds and retro chic. The star of *Josie and the Pussycats* eschews the pop diva look in favour of vintage Missoni and funky Baby Phat. She's a saucy chick with a penchant for sexy glamour.

Steal Rosario's style by pairing a vintage Diane von Furstenberg wrap dress with a killer pair of Manolo Blahnik stilettos. Or, play to her other personality: the street savvy siren. Baggy jeans, a tight tank top and phat kicks will do the trick. But don't forget the bling.



Diane von Furstenberg wrap dress

MAKEUP: TRINIDAD

SUBLIME SKIN

Rosario Dawson is living, glowing proof that taking good care of your complexion truly pays off in the form of healthy, radiant skin. If you're blessed like her, you have a complexion so smooth and poreless that makeup is almost an afterthought. Indeed, you only need to apply concealer or foundation where necessary (under the eyes, on the chin and over blemishes).

To start, having good habits always helps! Wear sunscreen every single day.

Origins' Have a Nice Day Super-Charged Moisture Lotion with SPF15 will absorb oil in the T-zone (the nose and forehead) and hydrate dry areas. Then add some M.A.C. Studio Fix powder and foundation in one, which, used with a brush gives a sheer veil of foundation and applied with a sponge gives a flawless finish. Spray some Vichy Thermal Spa Water to give a dewy finish to your complexion, then add some Stila Lip Glaze to keep your lip glossier longer.



HAIR: ADAM

THE THICK OF IT

Exotic beauty, killer body, and perfect hair...well, two outta three ain't bad. Rosario Dawson gives hope to those with thin and fine hair. To put some life into your locks start with a thickening shampoo like Bumble and Bumble Thickening Shampoo followed by Bumble and Bumble Leave In (Rinse Out) Conditioner. Be careful the conditioner does not get on your roots. Use a volumizer like Phytovolume Actif on roots. Smooth using a round brush and finish with a big barrel curling iron on front layers.



PHOTO BY KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE





coloured, ribbed tank tops, grab a frilly mini skirt and top it off with a customized jean jacket.

MAKEUP: TRINIDAD

GIRL NEXT DOOR

Scarlett's simple, fresh and modern look is perfect for spring and summer.

She shows that as long as your brows are in great shape, you need almost no other makeup to look polished and pulled together. However, if you covet this look, you might want to add some NARS Multiple Cream-to-Powder makeup in "Mustique" to your brows to keep from washing out your skin tone. Just use your fingers.



Revlon Colorstay in Copper Spice

Make your eyes glow in soft, contoured layers of brown and beige with Revlon Colorstay 12 Hour Eye Shadow Quad in Copper Spice. The velvety powders are packed with tenacious micropigments that won't slip away (or cause creases) by happy hour. Tired of gloss? Try a satin-finish lipstick in a pale shade. Apply the lipstick straight from the tube, dabbing (not rubbing) it on.

HAIR: ADAM

SWEPT AWAY

Scarlett Johansson has proven once again that she can wear any style and look great. Even with this simple ponytail Scarlett shows effortless beauty. To keep blond tresses looking their best rotate your favourite shampoo with Pantene Pro-V Blonde Expressions, which keeps coloured hair brighter longer. And blond hair looks best when it is bright and shiny, so try working in Phyto Pro Ultra Gloss wax.



PHOTO BY VERA ANDERSON/WIREIMAGE

SCARLETT JOHANSSON

FASHION: MAHA

GIRL WITH A PEARL NECKLACE

Catapulted to fame thanks to her quietly powerful performance in *Lost in Translation*, Johansson's fashion sense was only perpetuated by the movie's fabulous Marc Jacobs wardrobe. The current new face of Calvin Klein Eternity Moment, Scarlett never fails to



True Religion jacket from Toronto's Over the Rainbow

dazzle the critics on the red carpet. She wowed the crowds at the 2004 Oscars in an emerald green gown by Alberta Ferretti, and stole the show at last year's Costume Institute Ball in a lemon yellow Calvin Klein dress.

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LINDSAY LOHAN



FASHION: MAHA

MEAN STYLE

Hollywood's latest It-Girl, Lindsay Lohan is the embodiment of boho chic. Her favourite after-hours look is True Religion jeans, a sexy jersey tank and lots of bling. Vintage boots are her

weakness, only offset by her bevy of designer handbags. Lindsay puts the slick in city slicker, always toting around a much-used cellphone and wearing a fabulous pair of sunglasses.

Lohan's style is a dangerous mix of vintage and couture, putting this starlet in a league of her own. If you like this look, try pairing Juicy Couture jeans with vintage distressed boots (or moccasins) and a L.A.M.B. handbag. Meow.



L.A.M.B.'s "Over the Top Hobo" handbag

MAKEUP: TRINIDAD

LASH OUT

Lindsay's doe-eyed look simply glows. She makes her eyes stand out by doing her lips in pale tones, and a fresh peach blush brightens her complexion.

To achieve such a glamorous look, get some fake lash on! First, draw a thin black line above the eye using the Make Up For Ever Color Liner in black, one of the most precise and long-lasting liners, with the sharpest, most defined look. Dab eyelash glue on faux lashes and use tweezers to place them against your lash line. Finish with a coat of non-smudging L'Oréal Voluminous Waterproof Mascara.

Complete this glam look by applying some liquid Benefit Benetint rosetinted lip and cheek stain. It will add dimension to your face and reflect light.



HAIR: ADAM

EXTEND YOURSELF

I swear Lindsay carries around a stylist in her Marc Jacobs bag. Even after an all-nighter on the Sunset Strip Lindsay



PHOTO BY STEPHEN LOVEKIN/WIREIMAGE

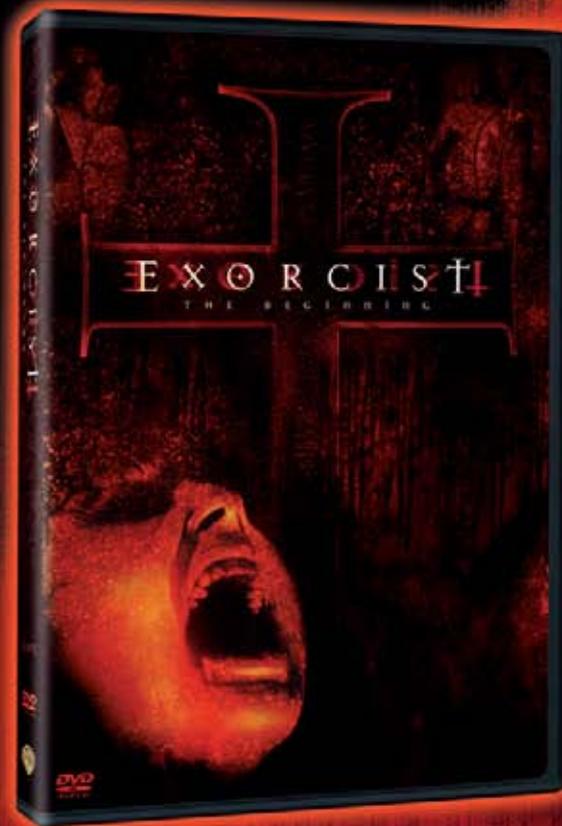


looks great. To get her look, find a salon that features Hollywood's hottest trend, Great Lengths Extensions. To maintain hair extensions use a moisture rich shampoo and conditioner like Redkin Smooth Down. Don't scrub too hard when shampooing extensions, it will tangle the bonded area. And whether or not your red locks are your own, you might want to try John Frieda's Radiant Red Colour Lust Daily Colour Sealer to protect and prolong your ginger hue.

Lightly blow dry, scrunching your hair with your fingers to bring out the natural body. Use a round brush to smooth the waves and finish with a big barrel curling iron on the top layers and around the face. Spray with a light spray like Sebastian Shaper. ☺

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Happy's the stuff:

Colour and optimism rule for spring

BY LIZA HERZ

Last fall's ladylike look, all tweed suits and boxy handbags, promised elegance but delivered a heavy lashing of frump — a librarians' convention run amok.

The intention was admirable. Women craved an antidote to all the runway and tabloid sleaze (yes, Britney you *are* to blame) and an end to the idea that a pair of Juicy sweatpants, a hoodie and some Ugg Boots were the zenith of taste. Women wanted prettiness, but granny-style overkill just wasn't the way to get it done.

Fashion designers, to put it mildly, were bored gormless. "If I see another tweed pencil skirt," designer Lazaro Hernandez of Proenza Schouler told the *New York Times* recently, "I'm going to . . ."

Instead, Proenza Schouler and its fashion brethren responded with the most exuberant spring lines in recent memory. Colour was everywhere, riotous colour, fruits and foliage, palm fronds, huge impressionistic flowers, floaty tops with embroidered detail — flirty and girly but executed in luxurious fabrics. And most of it's dazzlingly wearable: a fuller skirt (the evolution of the dread pencil skirt) but with a shrunken jacket or girly cardigan which considerably lightens the effect.

Even Milan's doyenne of "cerebral chic," Miuccia Prada, continued her love affair with whimsy over irony, whipping up a palpably fun-loving profusion of peacock feathers, gold fish scales and crocheted details — all in one outfit.

Everywhere fabrics are fluid again, colours are true and everything is utterly covetable, because really, do we want fashion to offer mordant commentary on the "culture" or to stimulate dreams and reflect the exhilaration of spring? That's not really a choice at all, is it?

Floaty tops and chunky bangles ruled Christian Dior's runway



PHOTO BY PETRE BUZOIANU/KEystone



Clinique's new fragrance **Happy to Be** (50 ml. for \$49.50, department stores) induces giddy spring-like feelings with its delicious scent juiced with pear and hibiscus.

Spring 2005



L'Oréal Happy Derm moisturizer (\$15, drugstores), in its cheery Creamsicle orange bottle, will smooth out rough skin as if winter never happened.

Fruits and flowers - From watercolour impressionist silk chiffon at Roberto Cavalli and Dior to palm frond prints at Dolce & Gabbana to cherries adorning Vuitton's classic logo'd bags, the effect is to coax a smile from even the most jaded urbanite.

Organic Accessories - A stack of chunky wooden bangles, a wide leather belt to accent the waist and oversized necklaces made from shells, wood and leather all say spring. Earthy also meets luxe in handbags from wicker or canvas totes to Marni's turquoise-trimmed clutch in *burlap*.

Baggy pants - After years of creeping southward past the human equator, waistbands are rising again as pant legs become looser in fluid fabrics like silk charmeuse. Wear them with a fitted top or a shrunken jacket so the effect is modern, not Michelin Man.

Soft suits - Start with a cardigan or shrunken jacket then add a soft printed top and a Grecian draped skirt for a look that's pretty and pulled together. Proenza Schouler, Zac Posen, Marc Jacobs and Oscar de la Renta are all apostles of "soft."

Shoes - You can give those *Sex and the City* sky-high stilettos a rest and instead choose retro wedges for day or sleek (and comfortable) flats at night.



Prada's peacock feathers

PHOTO BY WOOD BOISIERE/SIPA



The soft touch of Marc Jacobs

PHOTO BY RANDY BROOKE/WIREIMAGE

FISH for compliments

Antioxidants and omega-3 fatty acids in this healthy fish dish help you look your best | **BY MARNI WEISZ**

Just as healthy foods keep your bones strong, your organs humming and your energy high, the right foods can also make you more beautiful.

Now, don't get the wrong idea. We're not going to tell you that if you go eat a bowl of X your skin will suddenly glow and you'll look 10 years younger. It's all about eating right and realizing that your skin is an organ just like any other — put simply, when your skin is well nourished, it will look better.

With that in mind, we asked Dr. Lisa Hark, a registered dietician and author of the new book *Nutrition for Life*, to recommend a recipe that's good for your skin. It won't surprise anyone who's been reading about omega-3 fatty acids lately, that she chose a fish dish, since fish is crammed full of omega-3s.

"Omega-3 reduces inflammation.... We usually think about it in the blood system, it has to do with circulation and it's good to get a lot of circulation to the skin," explains Dr. Hark over the phone from her home in Philadelphia where she serves as director of the Nutrition Education and Prevention Program for the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine.

But there's another, even simpler, reason why omega-3 fatty acids are good for the skin. "If you don't eat fat your skin gets very dry and scaly. We know that the right oils and the right fats can help promote healthy skin," says Dr. Hark. Aside from the fats you'll find in fish, Dr. Hark says olive oil and canola oil are also good choices.

This particular recipe is also beneficial because of the tomatoes and peppers,

which provide vitamin C to help heal bruises, and vitamin A, which corrects dry, flaky or scaly skin.

Vitamins A and C are also considered to be antioxidants, which neutralize free radicals, chemicals in the body that do damage to our cells and are caused by smoking, spending too much time in the sun or exposure to pollution.

Dr. Hark suggests that these free radicals contribute to the formation of age spots (those brown patches that appear on the body as we get older), and that consuming antioxidants will help prevent them.

That doesn't mean you can spend all the time you want chain-smoking on the beach, then eat a tomato and you'll be fine. "What we're saying is that these antioxidants probably minimize [the damage]," says Dr. Hark.

The recipe will work with many types of fish, so just pick your favourite. But keep in mind that fatty fish like mackerel, bluefin tuna, salmon and halibut are higher in omega-3s than white fish like sea trout, sea bass, cod or haddock.



PHOTO COURTESY NUTRITION FOR LIFE © 2005 DK PUBLISHING

Antioxidant-Rich Fish with Salsa (SERVES 4)

Ingredients

- 2 lemons
- 4 pieces of fish (your choice, see above guidelines)
- 1 yellow bell pepper
- 1 stalk celery
- 4 plum tomatoes
- 1 onion
- 2 chili peppers
- 1 garlic clove
- black pepper
- olive oil
- fresh flat-leaf parsley

Method:

- Grate the zest of one lemon into a shallow dish, add the juice of both lemons and ground black pepper to taste.
- Add the fish and marinate for 30 minutes, turning once and keeping refrigerated.
- De-seed the pepper and chop finely along with the celery, tomatoes, onions, chilis and some parsley. Crush garlic and add to other ingredients, mixing together to make salsa.
- Preheat oven to 220 degrees C (425 degrees F). Lightly brush a baking dish with olive oil and arrange the fish steaks in it. Cover each steak with a few spoonfuls of salsa. Pour the marinade over the salsa and add a bit more olive oil on top.
- Bake for 20 minutes, until cooked through.
- Garnish with the remaining parsley. Dr. Hark recommends serving the fish with a green salad, green beans, broccoli or spinach for an antioxidant-rich meal.

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PHOTO BY DAVID AGUILERA/PHOTOGRAPHER SHOWCASE

▲ Oooh...we like it Selma. But we really
▲ think you should try on that pink coat too.
▲ Pencil-thin fashionista Selma Blair admires
a floral-print skirt at a Rodeo Drive boutique.

▼ Yeah, that *would* be a bit hard to wear, wouldn't
▼ it? Jamie Lee Curtis looks disapprovingly at a
▼ fuchsia feather cocktail dress in a boutique
along West Hollywood's Melrose Avenue.



PHOTO BY PHOTOGRAPHER SHOWCASE

▲ So now we know. Even gorgeous, svelte Katie Holmes worries how her butt looks in a
▲ pair of pants. Holmes tried on a bunch of outfits in the Vionnet store on Beverly Hills'
▲ trendy Robertson Boulevard.



>>> If the boot scares you that much Andie, you shouldn't buy it. Andie MacDowell considers an unreasonably high-heeled pair of boots during a day of shoe-shopping on Beverly Hills' Rodeo Drive.

<<< You know it's a nice handbag store when the bag they give you to put your handbag in is almost nicer than the bag you just bought. Jennifer Love Hewitt spends some cash on Robertson Blvd. in Beverly Hills.

✓ It's never too early to seed a love of good boots. Madonna treats eight-year-old daughter Lourdes to some shopping in Paris. Ahhh...Paris.



Desperate housewife

Known for playing prim, proper and in control characters, **SIGOURNEY WEAVER** comes undone to portray an unhappy suburbanite in the indie drama *Imaginary Heroes* | **BY INGRID RANDOJA**

Sigourney Weaver's onscreen battles have shifted from aliens to alienation.

The woman whose portrayal of Ellen Ripley in the *Alien* films became the gold standard by which all other female action heroes would be judged has, for now, hung up her blaster. And except for her laugh-out-loud turn as a space bimbo in the comedy *Galaxy Quest*, her most recent movie characters haven't left Earth.

Weaver has shifted between starring in offbeat comedies (*Company Men*, *Heartbreakers*, *Tadpole*) to playing women dealing with tragedy: the death of a child in *A Map of the World*, 9/11 in *The Guys* and now a disintegrating family in *Imaginary Heroes*.

The film is directed by writing wunderkind Dan Harris (the 25-year-old penned *X2: X-Men United* when he was just 22, and is currently writing the upcoming *Superman Returns* and *Logan's Run* remake) and tells the story of the Travis family.

Weaver plays sarcastic, seething wife and mother Sandy Travis, who is dealing with the suicide of her oldest son, a husband (Jeff Daniels) who has pulled away from her emotionally and physically,

and her depressed teenage son Tim (Emile Hirsch), who hates his dad, takes drugs and is harbouring a terrible secret.

It's a black comedy which is anchored by Weaver's incredible performance as Sandy, a woman whose dry wit and unflinching honesty comes across as both comic and sad, especially when she is dealing with Tim, who she unwittingly uses as a sounding board throughout the movie.

"She usually tells [Tim] more than I think she should," says Weaver during a day of press at last year's Toronto International Film Festival. "But I think she adores Tim and I love their relationship. I think, like all mothers, you have little stop signals that tell you [that you] are about to almost burden your kids with too much responsibility by asking them about a decision you might make. You are kind of passing the buck a little bit, and I do think she sometimes does it, but I think it is forgivable under the circumstances, and luckily for her Tim says, 'That's more than I want to hear.'"

Weaver is herself the mother of a teenage daughter, 15-year-old Charlotte, born when the actor was 40. If you do the math you realize Sigourney Weaver is 55 years old, which is hard to believe



Weaver takes instructions from 25-year-old director Dan Harris

when you're sitting next to her and she's wearing low-riding pants and a crop top that exposes her belly and looks like it might have been stolen from her daughter's closet. Her trademark trim figure is intact and her fair, freckled skin glows. Fifty really is the new 40 when you're talking about Sigourney Weaver.

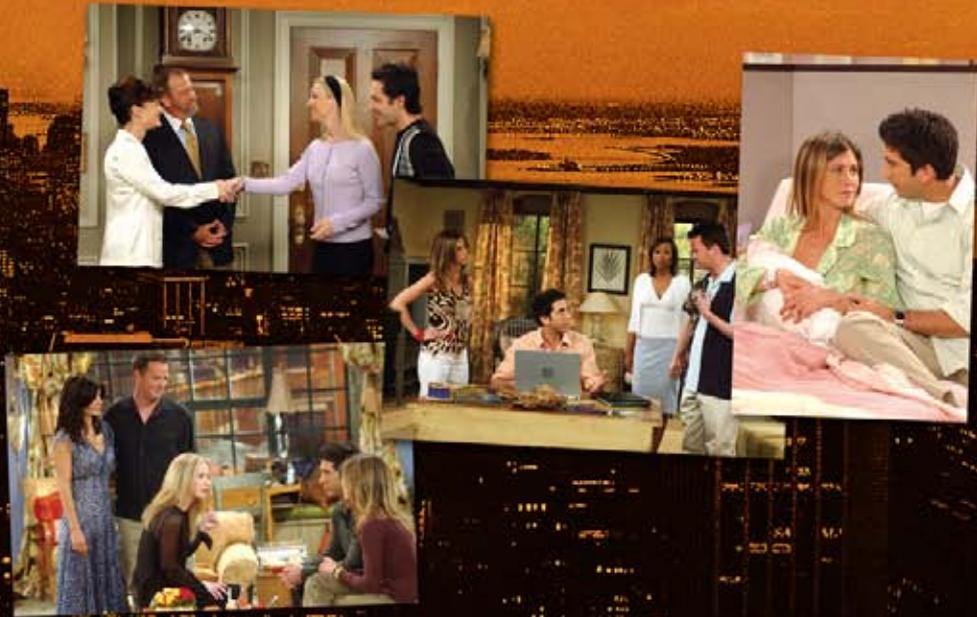
But when it comes to her onscreen character, Sandy Travis, Weaver opts to play her without much makeup, sporting long hair and unflattering flannel shirts.

"I like the idea she might be frozen, looking the way she might have looked when she was last happy," says Weaver. "I don't know if you watch *What Not To Wear*, but my daughter and I always ►►



Who's your mama? Sigourney Weaver as Sandy Travis

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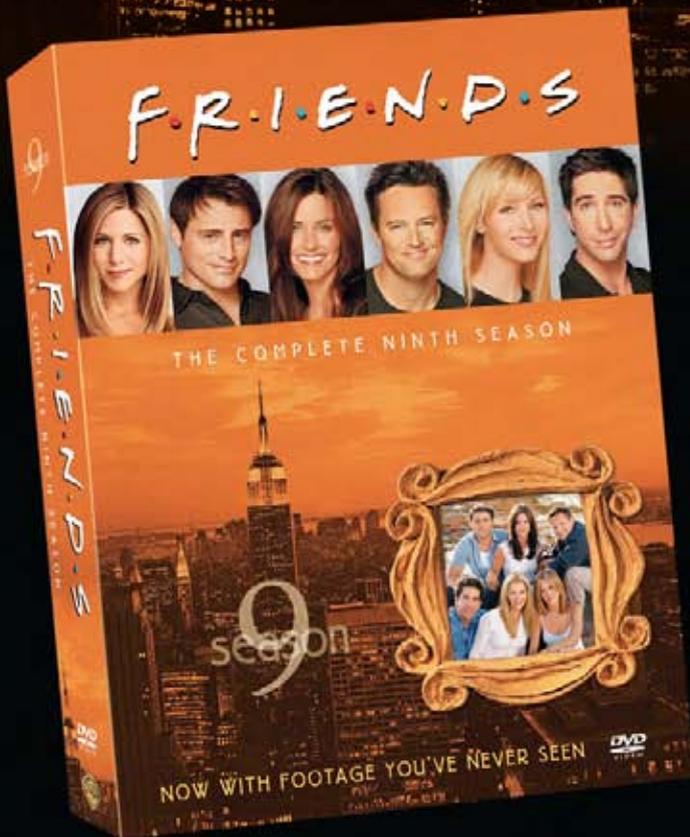
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- Robert Bianco, USA Today

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- Gag Reel
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► watch it and you see these people who are just frozen when they were in college or something. I just find all that stuff fascinating, and I just felt she had not evolved since everything had started to close down around her.”

Weaver clearly relished playing Sandy, but convincing producers and directors to allow her to play “regular” women has been the greatest challenge of her career. Standing almost six-feet tall and with the bearing of an East Coast blueblood — she grew up wealthy in New York City and Connecticut, the daughter of former English stage and screen actress Elizabeth Inglis and NBC TV executive Sylvester L. Weaver Jr. — the classically trained actor has battled short-sighted filmmakers.

In a September 1997 *Movieline* interview she explained she’s “not the average producer’s sexual fantasy. I am tall. When I come into a room wearing platforms, they go, ‘She’s not my type of woman,’ because what they’re looking for is the petite blonde who looks up to them.”

She’s managed to carve out a stellar career despite heightism, although she admits that there have been some directors who have been intimidated by her stature and composure.

“I have had a couple of experiences

“People think that just because I’ve done 40 films I know what I’m doing. I don’t. It’s all brail and I can’t see it”

where I realized later on the director was intimidated by me and the other actors,” reveals the performer, “and it’s like, ‘Oh, what a waste of time. We need you to tell us things!’ People think that just because I’ve done 40 films I know what I’m doing. I don’t. It’s all brail and I can’t see it, so I love to be supported and encouraged. And boy, give me a narrow target to hit, and I love to hit it.”

What about working with *Imaginary Heroes*’ puppyish, 25-year-old director Harris?

“He’s a young man with an old soul,” she says. “I always had complete confidence in him. I really like working with first-time directors. You’re not working

with some jaded, hackneyed guy for whom it’s just a job. I just think the passion you get with a first-time director is better than anything. I never really worried about it.”

Weaver’s admission that she needs to be directed turns into a discussion of her craft. How did she transform herself into such women as Dian Fossey in *Gorillas in the Mist*, a torture victim looking for revenge in *Death and the Maiden* and a disillusioned ’70s wife in *The Ice Storm*.

“I work exactly the same way whether it’s a play or a movie,” she says. “I still need to do a lot of work ahead of time. I don’t know exactly what I do, it’s sort of like packing a suitcase [she mimes picking up a piece of clothing, looking at it and folding it into an imaginary suitcase]. Without thinking too much, you kind of throw everything in and then you don’t even open it until you need it. You’ll have a scene, you open it, and it’s all there because you brought it with you.

“It’s a very wild, exciting, kind of scary process. You can’t decide ahead of time what’s appropriate for a scene. You’ve got to see what happens to you and kind of get out of the way.”

The action in *Imaginary Heroes* takes place in the suburbs, a place completely alien to city girl Weaver.

“There seems to be more pressure in the suburbs to appear as if nothing is wrong. I grew up in New York City, that’s where I live, and I just automatically assume I’m surrounded by crazy people who are doing God knows what behind closed doors,” she says with a grin. “In the suburbs, I guess, there’s a kind of pressure to feel more normal, which I think would be really, really hard if you were unconventional.”

And when it came time to raise a child, Weaver was adamant it wouldn’t be in any place except the big city.

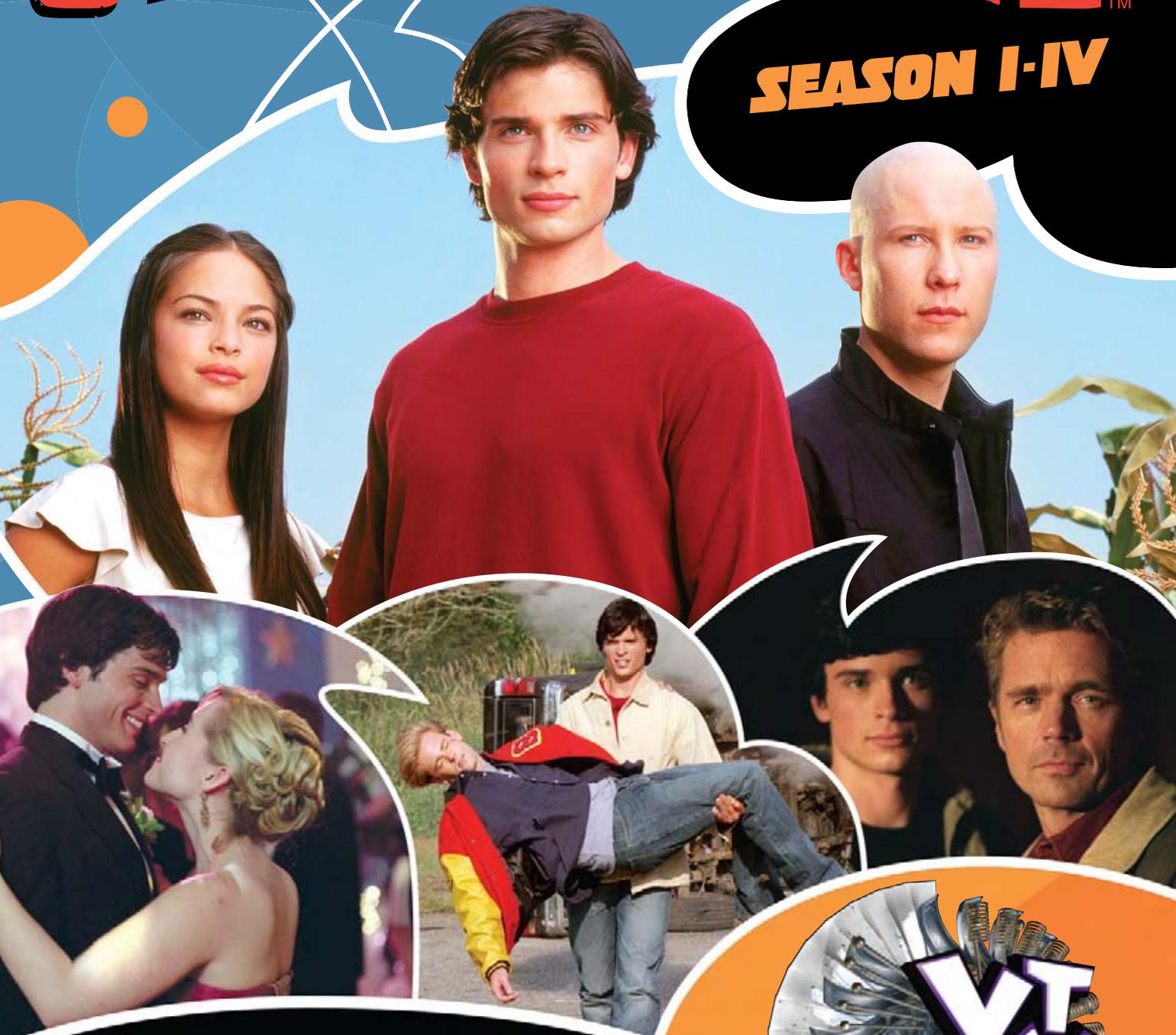
“I thought, as a parent, it would be dangerous to bring my kid up in the suburbs because I don’t want her to think of our world as a place of white, middle-class people. That’s not our world, and that’s not what makes the world interesting. When my daughter was a baby we would travel around the city and she’d say hi to everybody, and if the homeless guy on the corner wouldn’t say hello back she’d go ‘hello, hello, HELLO!’ She was like the little mayor of New York. I think that is such an advantage for her, to live in the world as it is.” **F**



Weaver shares too much with Emile Hirsch in *Imaginary Heroes*

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Gangsterrap

Get ready for a second helping of Chili. Writer **BOB THOMPSON** interrogates **JOHN TRAVOLTA**, **VINCE VAUGHN** and **UMA THURMAN** about the *Get Shorty* sequel, *Be Cool*

Round about the time crime writer Elmore Leonard was trying to make sense of things, he became even more confused than usual. As he tells it, he was almost overwhelmed with confusion back in 1994. And here's why.

He had been invited onto the L.A. set of *Get Shorty*, the movie version of his popular crime novel, and not only were the directions to the set correct, the cast and crew actually talked to him when he got there.

Even more shocking for the veteran writer was this impossible dream: The *Get Shorty* movie, a wise and wicked satire of Hollywood's whims and ways,

was full of Leonard's dry wit and droll dialogue from his book, an astounding first. Previously, Leonard had more than 30 novels optioned or made into films over his long 50-year career. And not one of them captured the unique Leonard style, although, as Leonard recalls, he almost sat through *Hombre* with Paul Newman.

No, Leonard had been worked over pretty good by the Hollywood studios, his scripts butchered, his books altered beyond recognition, his ideas stolen. An entire novel, *The Switch*, was made into a movie called *Ruthless People*, where Bette Midler gets ransomed, but

the husband doesn't want her back. Remember?

Elmore Leonard does. He didn't get credit for it or paid — got nothing. Leonard shrugged it off. So things, you understand, were looking pretty good when the movie folks started talking to Leonard about a *Get Shorty* sequel.

A sequel, huh? Leonard thought he better write a book first, another Chili Palmer misadventure. So he did.

He called his follow-up *Be Cool*, and had his main character, the loan-shark-turned-movie-producer Chili Palmer (John Travolta), slide sideways from the movie industry into the West Coast



From left: John Travolta, Uma Thurman and Cedric the Entertainer in *Be Cool*

music business as the co-owner of a record label.

The *Be Cool* book more or less wrote itself after a few years of research, and rewriting, and the usual fine tuning. The movie, *Be Cool*, on the other hand, got bogged down in all kinds of developments, including Travolta's people negotiating a proper paycheque for the resurrected star. That got settled two years ago, but nobody would say how much Travolta was getting, a \$25-million rumour never confirmed.

Money, sure, was a big factor in persuading Travolta to resurrect smooth tough-guy Palmer, but don't underestimate the power of Leonard's words, the ones that Travolta demanded be injected from the novel into the *Get Shorty* script way back when, the same sardonic bits Travolta made sure made it from the *Be Cool* novel into the film which opens March 4th.

"I mean it's wonderful to return to Chili's world," says Travolta, all smiles, during a day spent meeting the press in Boston. "But I don't think I would have revisited it had it not been for Elmore Leonard writing the second book. He really gave me permission to do a sequel, because normally I wouldn't be attracted to sequels."

The two sequels to *Look Who's Talking* would be exceptions. *Saturday Night Fever's* follow-up, *Staying Alive*, would be another.

But Chili Palmer is special to Travolta, since the movie was released the year after his Oscar-nominated, ultraviolent portrayal of Vinny in *Pulp Fiction*. As Travolta says, Chili was the in-control street thug to Vinny's drug-addled, out-of-control contract killer. *Get Shorty* told the film industry and moviegoers there was more to Travolta's comeback than Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* script, which, ironically, imitated many of Elmore Leonard's poetic losers featured in previous crime concoctions, including *Get Shorty*.

So yeah, *Be Cool*. Great opportunity. But was Travolta a little nervous about returning to Chili Palmer's world?

"A little bit," he says.

Fear of, like, repeating himself?

"Exactly," he says, confirming his fear with a big grin.

"Okay, it was kind of like I've said these kind of lines before," admits Travolta, "but the difference is the music industry, and the music industry



Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson (left) and Vince Vaughn in *Be Cool*

is funnier than the movie industry. The music industry has all sorts of gangsters, and, you know, wild scenarios going on."

And get this. Travolta has the added bonus of playing off of his *Pulp Fiction* buddy, Uma Thurman, who doesn't do the gun moll thing in *Be Cool*, but instead portrays music business opportunist, Edie, who hooks up with Chili as a partner at an independent record label with a promising pop-star wannabe (Christina Milian) on its roster.

That's when things get complicated. Chili has to handle the pop star's slimy manager (Vince Vaughn), his gay, quasi-actor bodyguard (Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson), some Russian mobsters, and a mouthy music producer (Cedric the Entertainer) to save the label. He also has to duck a hitman while trying to get his negotiating done.

Cameos come from Andre 3000 of OutKast who plays a rapper, and Steve Tyler of Aerosmith who plays himself. Returning from *Get Shorty* are Danny DeVito as the height-challenged actor Martin Weir and James Gandolfini as the stuntman turned bad guy, turned good guy, Bear. Managing the whole circus is director F. Gary Gray, who has some decent credits, like *The Italian Job*, *The Negotiator* and *Friday*.

Circus? Vince Vaughn confirms that *Be Cool* is circus-like in so many ways, but especially in the so-called scene-stealing moments he has with macho-man wrestler The Rock, who plays his bodyguard.

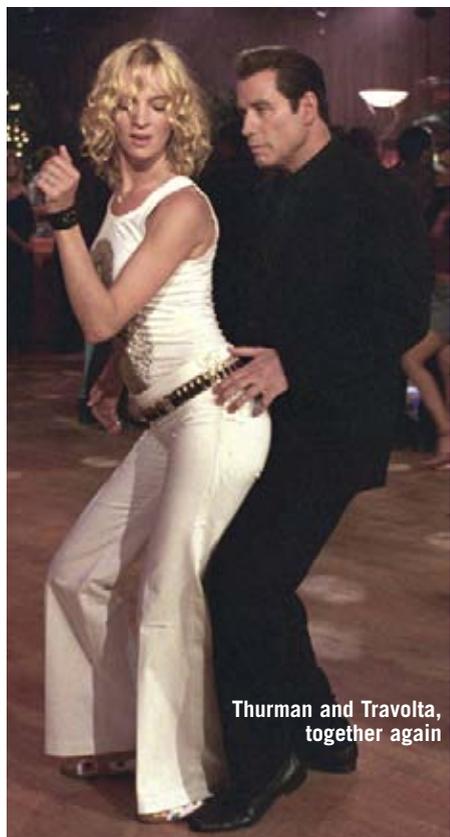
"He's hilarious," says Vaughn. "He really does have a good time, getting into the guy on the make, trying to make it, but who is trying to hide a few of his more obvious secrets."

Thurman isn't as gushy on the *Be Cool* subject, but she confirms an important

rumour, that one about her and Travolta doing a dance number together, recalling their kitschy twist routine from *Pulp Fiction*. "We do," she says, but doesn't elaborate much except to say the bit is done to The Black Eyed Peas singing "Sexy."

So, has Travolta changed? "He has," she says, this time deciding to explain herself a little more. "Oh yeah, he's very different. He's expanding his horizons."

Travolta couldn't agree more. "I think that this year [2004] is a very good example of the differentiation of characters," he says. "I did *The Punisher*, a bad guy. *Ladder 49*, definitely the good-guy firefighter." And Chili Palmer. He's in-between, and maybe that's why Travolta likes him so much. ▶▶



Thurman and Travolta, together again

►► “I try to lead the honest life of the actor, meaning I’m always trying to be true to the characters,” Travolta says, earnest now, trying to get his point across. “I can put my stardom on hold in order to do a character correctly, that way I’ll last a long time. Chili is one of those guys where I just get out of the way.”

Travolta’s into his fourth decade, evolving each time or recovering from a slump, depending on how you want to look at it. “You have to reinvent yourself,” he says. “And the best way to reinvent yourself is to do different characters as often as possible, because then the audience gets used to you doing different things, and it’s not a surprise, it’s kind of like okay for me to be Chili Palmer and have a good time being a little bad.

“That’s a good thing,” Travolta continues. “I think it means longevity, not unlike when I would watch Gene Hackman or Robert Duvall in movies with me. They are, and I hope I am, like a musician, who has the same issues, where it’s important to be original each time out.”

Which is what Leonard says he tries to do, although the same problem keeps cropping up, whether it’s *Be Cool* or *Get Shorty*. Endings, man, aren’t as easy as they look. **F**

Bob Thompson writes about movies for the National Post.



More Elmore

Hollywood just can’t get enough of Elmore Leonard’s quirky crime capers. The 79-year-old author can look forward to at least four more movie adaptations of his works. The book-to-film lineup includes:

Book: *Tishomingo Blues* (2003). A professional high diver, a Detroit gangster looking to avenge his grandfather’s lynching, a crooked sheriff and an honest cop cross paths in Mississippi.
Hollywood players: Don Cheadle makes his directorial debut with this off-beat dramedy. He’ll also star alongside the suddenly hot Matthew McConaughey.

Book: *Killshot* (1989). A woman and her husband become the targets of two determined hitmen.
Hollywood players: Miramax Films has signed John Madden (*Shakespeare in Love*) to helm the thriller. Currently casting.

Book: *Pagan Babies* (2000). Set against the backdrop of the Rwandan genocide, a priest and a female ex-con join forces to pull a fast one on a Detroit gangster.
Hollywood players: Danny DeVito’s production company, Jersey Films, bought the rights to the book and Universal Films is distributing. No word yet on the director or cast.

Book: *Cuba Libre* (1998). An American gunrunner gets caught up in the Spanish-American War of 1898.
Hollywood players: The Coen Brothers wrote the screenplay a few years ago, but it is not, as often reported, a film they’ll direct. The project is presently stuck in limbo. —IR

coming soon

VALIANT (April)

Voices: Ewan McGregor, Ben Kingsley

Director: Gary Chapman (debut)

Story: If you’re an actor with a British accent and you didn’t get a voice role in Disney’s latest animated feature, you should probably get a new agent. Ewan McGregor, Ben Kingsley, Jim Broadbent, John Cleese, Tim Curry, Rupert Everett and John Hurt are all among the thespians lending their pipes to this story of a clumsy pigeon named Valiant (McGregor) who sneaks his way into the Allied Forces’ Royal Pigeon Service during World War Two. Don’t laugh (although this is a comedy), the Pigeon Service was a very real resource used to transfer messages between England and the troops overseas. Valiant’s mission is to bring an important note to the Allied forces just before they storm the beach at Normandy.

THE LONGEST YARD (April)

Stars: Adam Sandler, Burt Reynolds

Director: Peter Segal (*50 First Dates*)

Story: Having just spoofed his role in 1972’s *Deliverance* for last year’s *Without a Paddle*, Reynolds once again takes advantage of one of his old classics to get a role in a new movie. While Sandler plays the part made famous by Reynolds in the 1974 version of *The Longest Yard* — an incarcerated football player enlisted by the prison warden to put together a team of convicts — Reynolds steps in as veteran coach Nate Scarborough (played in the original by Michael Conrad) who lends some old-time expertise.

FEVER PITCH (April)

Stars: Drew Barrymore, Jimmy Fallon

Directors: Bobby and Peter Farrelly (*Stuck on You*)

Story: This romantic comedy is based on the autobiographical book by Nick Hornby (*About a Boy*) which was already made into a film back in 1997 with Colin Firth as a guy whose relationship is jeopardized by his obsession with the Arsenal soccer team. In the American re-do it’s Fallon’s obsession with those lovable losers the Boston Red Sox that threatens his relationship with Barrymore. Funny thing is, while they were shooting this movie last fall those crazy Red Sox actually won the World Series. Will they change the American ending to reflect the Bo Sox win? Well, we did see Fallon and Barrymore on the field partying with the players after the big victory at Busch Stadium.

WAR OF THE WORLDS (June)

Stars: Tom Cruise, Miranda Otto

Director: Steven Spielberg (*The Terminal*)

Story: Orson Welles’ crack at this H.G. Wells sci-fi tale was so authentic that listeners (this was a radio production) actually thought Earth was being invaded by aliens. So where does Spielberg go from there? He casts the world’s biggest star — Tom Cruise — as alien-fighting hero Ray Ferrier of course. Strangely, the trailer seems much more M. Night Shyamalan than Spielberg.

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Penélope, Queen of the Desert

After years of delay and a strenuous shoot, *Sahara* finally hits theatres. Star **PENÉLOPE CRUZ** is sure hoping her sacrifices and hard work pay off

| BY EARL DITTMAN

Penélope Cruz is one of those actors whose face is instantly recognizable, whose love life we are all too well-acquainted with and whose name rings of A-list Hollywood. Yet, look at the films she's done over the past few years and there probably aren't many you've seen — *Head in the Clouds*, *Noel*, *Gothika*, *Fanfan la tulipe*, *Masked and Anonymous*, *Waking Up in Reno*.

In part, that's because she's an international star who is as likely to take a role in a European film as an American one. (Aside from the French period piece *Fanfan la tulipe*, she also did the Italian/Spanish drama *Non ti muovere* in that time.)

But another reason for her rather humble resumé of late is *Sahara* — the *Raiders of the Lost Ark* meets *National Treasure* adventure pic opening April 8th. The film was supposed to start shooting in the fall of 2001, but after September 11th the production was put on hold. While scads of other movies that were delayed by world events either got back on track or were simply cancelled, *Sahara* languished in limbo, and its leading lady languished along with it.

"I had this horrible nightmare that I would agree to do another movie that took months and months to make only for them to tell me, 'We have to begin *Sahara* next week, so I guess we are going to have to get someone else.' I would wake up in a sweat, screaming, 'Oh no, I'm doomed,'" Cruz recalls.

So, she stuck to films that wouldn't tie up too much of her time, including two that were shot in Montreal ("One of the most beautiful cities in North America," she gushes), the 1930s-set drama

Head in the Clouds and the psychological thriller *Gothika*, opposite Halle Berry.

Cruz's nightmare did come true for the actor who was supposed to play *Sahara's* leading man, Hugh Jackman. By the time filming got back on track, Jackman's commitments to the *X-Men* sequel, *X2: X-Men United*, and his year-long stint on Broadway in the Peter Allen bio-musical *The Boy From Oz* forced him to drop out of the movie.

"I wanted to work with Hugh Jackman but I can understand why he couldn't do it," says Cruz, looking sleek in a stylish Dolce & Gabbana suit as she meets press in a Manhattan hotel. "I mean, I would never miss a chance to be in my own Broadway show."

Matthew McConaughey ended up snagging the role that was meant for Jackman: Dirk Pitt, the treasure-hunting protagonist of 16 Clive Cussler novels. The movie is an adaptation of the 11th novel about Pitt's adventures. In this one, Pitt and his treasure-hunting crew from NUMA (National Underwater and Marine Agency) are in the African desert searching for a long-lost Civil War battleship (yes, the American Civil War) full of gold coins. The locals think the ship is cursed, and have dubbed it "The Ship of Death."

Meanwhile, a doctor working in the area, Eva Rojas (Cruz), has discovered there may be some truth to the locals' belief, and that the ship may be linked to a rash of mysterious deaths in the area. Saving the entire world from an environmental catastrophe just adds juice to Pitt's desire to find the buried vessel. Steve Zahn steps in as Pitt's wisecracking sidekick Al Giordino and Delroy Lindo plays a CIA agent.

This was Cruz's first out-and-out action movie, and it came with a definite physical price as the classically trained ballerina had to build up muscles she hadn't used in a while. "The working out and weight training and all that was useful for me so that I could do a lot of my own stunts," she says. "I've never really done a lot of action stunts before because I've done mostly dramas, comedies and love stories and they don't require a lot of stunt work."

Even after she'd prepared her body, the Moroccan desert — where much of the film was shot — took its toll. There were rumours that she'd collapsed during filming and that her then-boyfriend Tom Cruise (this was shortly

before their breakup) had flown to Morocco to see her. "I can now see why actors can't do a whole lot of action films in a row, because your body would be one big bruise, or you'd be stuck in bed recovering for months," she says.

There were still more rumours emanating from the *Sahara* set — these ones about a romantic relationship that was brewing between Cruz and McConaughey. Cruz has never been one to talk about her personal life in interviews, and is certainly even less inclined since her much-publicized split from Cruise.

Becoming a movie star in Spain while she was still a teenager — she won a Best Actress Goya at age 25 (the Spanish equivalent of the Oscar) for the Spanish film *The Girl of Your Dreams* — Cruz learned early on the valuable lesson of keeping your personal life private. While Cruise and Cruz were together for more than three years, and were reportedly on the verge of tying the knot at one point, they never spoke freely about their relationship to the press.

"Ever since I was 17, a lot of good things began to happen to me, but I also began to discover that being famous had its drawbacks, and they all had to do with these so-called reporters wanting to know about my personal life," she says, picking up some of the celebrity magazines scattered on her sofa table. "I really began to become concerned when it started to affect my

family and friends.

"Then, when people started asking me things like, 'Who are you dating?' I learned to deal with it by putting distance between work and my private life. I learned never to talk about my private life. I feel like part of my responsibility, as a person, is to protect it and I do.... Sometimes, though, I would love to talk about more personal things that make me happy, but you always end up regretting it, so I don't."

Although she reluctantly reveals she and Tom are still friends, Cruz refuses to even address the McConaughey rumours. But it's getting harder for them to deny their relationship, since they've been photographed together on vacation and holding hands.

"I think that all the attention happens to anyone who has a profession like this one," she admits. "But sometimes, I think that it goes too far, that's why I don't read the gossip papers.... Quite simply, you have to do your work as good as you can and try to learn as much as you can, and forget all the other stupidity."

An accomplished photographer ("I'd be taking pictures for a living if I didn't love acting so much," she says), Cruz confesses she has found a unique and enjoyable way to battle the paparazzi.

"I usually always have a camera with me, because I love taking pictures of the sky, people on the set and even people walking on the street," Cruz ▶▶



From left: Penélope Cruz, Matthew McConaughey and Steve Zahn in *Sahara*



Zahn, Cruz and McConaughey: Hot and bothered in *Sahara*

► explains, browsing through the hotel room menu, deciding what she'd like for a late-afternoon snack.

"And if a tabloid photographer is behind, taking pictures, I turn around and go, 'Can I take your picture? I'd really like to.' It really shocks them, they don't know what to do. If they say 'no,' I go, 'Well, you have been taking my picture all day, I think that's only fair, don't you?' They usually say something under their breath and walk away.

Cussler's Watermark

In a case of life imitating art, what was the fictional organization **NUMA (National Underwater & Marine Agency)** featured in author Clive Cussler's Dirk Pitt novels, has become a real-world entity.

In the books — the first Pitt adventure was published in 1973 — NUMA and Pitt stumble on far-fetched underwater sites such as Atlantis. However, the real-life NUMA, founded by Cussler and a bevy of volunteers in 1979, search for less renowned, albeit still fascinating, underwater wrecks. The mandate of the real NUMA (a non-profit organization funded almost entirely by the royalties from Cussler's books) is to find and preserve wreck sites, and educate the public about marine history.

NUMA has found more than 60 wrecks, including the remains of the *Carpathia*, the ship that rescued survivors of the Titanic, and the *Mary Celeste*, also known as the "Ghost Ship" because it was discovered drifting off the coast of the Azores without its captain or crew. You can find out more at www.numa.net. —IR

But I have had a few tell me, 'Sure, go ahead.' And I'll take a couple of pictures of them and they'll ask for a couple of me and they go away. It's actually worked out pretty good for me."

Cruz is realistic and knows that beauty is the biggest commodity for a woman in Hollywood, and that in a few years she may no longer be in demand. She's hopeful she'll be allowed to act far into her golden years, but is ready to become a full-time photographer — like her picture-taking idols Helmut Newton and Annie Leibovitz — if the movie roles dry up.

"When I was doing *Sahara*, I realized that there are so many parts of the world I would love to photograph," Cruz says. "I could spend the rest of my life travelling the world and never even get to shoot a tiny portion of it. So, there are definitely other things that I would like to do with my life.

"When I start to lose the freedom that I have now to choose the films I want to do and the directors I want to work with, I'll take up photography full-time," she continues. "Don't get me wrong, though, because I love acting and I would love to keep doing it until I'm old and gray. But more and more, I'm learning that it's a business for the young. I'm only 30, but my people keep telling me that I should lie about my age, that way I could do movies for longer. But I'm not going to lie about my age, I would never do that. I take pride in getting older because it means, hopefully, I'm getting wiser. At least, that's what they tell me." **F**

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

famous TRIVIA

- 1 For which 1999 animated feature did *The Pacifier* star Vin Diesel voice the title character?
- 2 Which former Canadian Prime Minister did Kim Cattrall, who stars in this month's *Ice Princess*, once date?
- 3 Bruce Willis' 15-year-old daughter has a role in his new thriller *Hostage*. The gossip is, she has an unusual name. What is it?
- 4 Robin Williams voices the robot Fender in the new animated feature *Robots*. One of his most famous performances came in another animated film released in 1992. Name it.
- 5 For which film did *The Ring Two* star Naomi Watts earn her only Oscar nomination?
- 6 William Shatner appears in the new comedy *Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous*. Which Canadian university attended by the actor boasts The Shatner Building, named in his honour?
- 7 The new Bernie Mac, Ashton Kutcher movie *Guess Who* is an update of which seminal 1960s civil rights drama?
- 8 Which star of the *X-Men* movies was originally supposed to play hero Dirk Pitt in *Sahara*?

answers

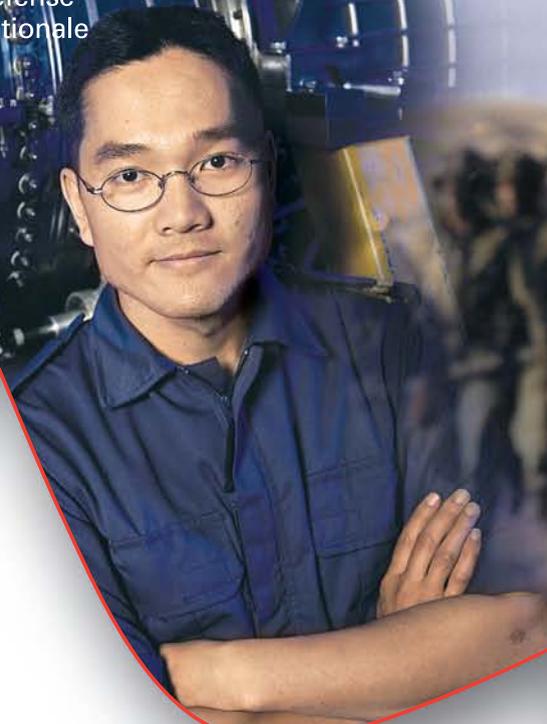
1. *The Iron Giant* 2. Pierre Trudeau
3. Runner 4. Aladdin 5. 21 Grams
6. McGill 7. *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* 8. Hugh Jackman



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KATHLEEN EDWARDS RISES ABOVE *FAILURE*, AND JUNO WEEK MAKES WINNIPEG IN APRIL SOUND BETTER | BY INGRID RANDOJA

Kathleen Edwards misses Ottawa

Kathleen Edwards admits the pressure of making the follow-up to her critically acclaimed debut album, 2002's *Failure*, ate at her a little bit. But the 26-year-old Ottawa native put on blinders and hunkered down to create *Back to Me*, an album that she knows outshines her first effort.

"Regardless of how it's received, I know it's a better record than *Failure*," says the singer/songwriter on the phone from her Toronto home. "I know I've made a really solid sophomore record. I feel I wrote really good songs, and I feel the arrangements really represent my sound. I'm certainly not reinventing the wheel, but considering a lot of women my age in this industry are not writing their own material and doing their own thing, well I feel really good about that."

While *Failure* was awash with alt-country twang, *Back to Me* offers slightly edgier, more abrasive melodies to accompany her smart-as-a-whip lyrics about failed relationships and coming to grips with loneliness.

For someone who's opened for Bob Dylan, appeared on *The Tonight Show*, *David Letterman* (twice) and was named one of the 10 artists to watch by *Rolling Stone* in 2003, you



Juno's Winnipeg weekend

The 34th annual Juno Awards will be handed out Sunday, April 3rd at Winnipeg's new MTS Centre, hosted by *Corner Gas* creator and star Brent Butt. The show will be broadcast live on CTV starting at 8 p.m. EST.

But the Juno experience extends beyond a single awards show. Hardy 'Peggars can enjoy an entire weekend of activities including JunoFest, for which nominees will perform live around town, the Songwriters' Circle, an intimate gathering where fans discover how musicians craft their tunes, and the Juno Cup, a charity hockey game anchored by speedy forward and Blue Rodeo front man, Jim Cuddy. Tickets for all events can be purchased through Ticketmaster.



have to wonder why such longing and feelings of incompleteness rise to the surface of her songs.

"I'm from Ottawa and I used to have a wonderful little place in the country outside Lakefield, Quebec, but I moved to Toronto to be with my partner and I really miss it," she explains. "Last year was pretty intense for me, not only was I on the road, but all this amazing stuff was happening. But as this amazing stuff was happening I knew I was never going home again, and I think a lot of the songs are about me struggling with that notion.

"It's more about nostalgia, I'm so nostalgic for my wonderful hometown and the people who were part of my life there."

OUT THIS MONTH

50 CENT

The Massacre >> March 8

The bad boy rapper with the heavily inked guns will have cash registers dingling with this follow-up to his hugely popular debut disc, *Get Rich or Die Tryin*.

ATHLETE

Tourist >> March 15

They've been called Coldplay Jr., but this awesome quartet from South London should lose that tag when this CD blows up and their songs full of beautiful melodies and stark lyrics hit the mainstream.

QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE

Lullabies to Paralyze >> March 22

Hard rock's reigning royalty — who somehow manage to succeed despite a revolving-door lineup — drop this bomb that should please, and probably challenge, their fans.



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THEY WANT TO SUCK YOUR BLOOD, PARD'NER

Darkwatch mixes the fun of vampire hunting with the ambiance of the frontier | BY SCOTT GARDNER

DARKWATCH PS2, XBOX

Polish your six-shooter, put on your 10-gallon hat, grab a string of garlic and you're ready for *Darkwatch* — a vampire-themed first-person shooter set in the Old West.

The Darkwatch, it seems, are a mysterious group that have protected humanity from evil for millennia. You're their newest and most deadly agent: Jericho Cross, an outlaw gunslinger pulled into their ranks after a close encounter with a powerful vampire.

To regain his stolen humanity, Jericho must pursue the vampire lord through a frontier overrun by the undead. Along the way he relies on a mix of deadly gunfighting skills and advanced weapons created by the Darkwatch.

And it turns out that suddenly becoming part vamp ain't so bad. Now Jericho can leap to surprising heights, see in the dark and withstand physical punishment that would shred a mortal. He can also summon his demon horse from the very ground on which he's standing or blaze across the prairie in a sorcery-powered buggy.

Since good and evil in the Old West were sometimes relative, *Darkwatch* also includes a "reputation" feature. No — not the kind of reputation your sister got after that ninth-grade dance, but a system borrowed from role-playing games that allows players to adopt a certain code of conduct. So interactions with the non-player characters in the game will, in part, depend on the reputation you've created.

For example, if the locals see you bravely taking down demons they might decide to join in the fight themselves. On the other hand, if your Jericho feels a mite peckish and decides to quench his strange new thirst for blood on the townspeople, reputation goes down and you might end up on a Wanted poster.

It seems like a durn long while since there's been a good Western-style console game, and *Darkwatch's* vampiric twist is doubly fresh.



DEVIL MAY CRY 3: DANTE'S AWAKENING PS2

After 2003's disappointing *Devil May Cry 2*, this once-great supernatural action title received a major overhaul. Now the third installment has resurfaced as one of PlayStation 2's most anticipated games of the year.

As a prequel to the original, *Dante's Awakening* reveals an earlier chapter in the demon-slayer's history — a fateful clash with his evil twin brother, Virgil. And, of course, there's a fresh batch of enormous, grotesque and very pissed-off Hell-beasts that need to be sliced and diced.

And slice you will, with an all-new gameplay fighting system that lets you customize Dante's abilities for short-range, long-range, defensive or evasive play styles. There are also collectible weapons galore, including blades, pistols and a tricked-out guitar. Gives new meaning to the term "guitar god."

STAR WARS: REPUBLIC COMMANDO PC, XBOX

The latest title from the *Star Wars* universe is a dark and intense first-person shooter where you control an elite four-person squad of the Republic's Special Operations unit.

The game is set at the start of the Clone Wars and features Republic Troopers and Jedi fighting side-by-side against an alien-droid army. The three major locations are the *Episode II* planet Geonosis, a large Republic ship, and the wookiee home

planet of Kashyyyk.

The gameplay is a hybrid of *Halo*-style blasting 'n' dodging, and efficiently deploying your squad members using a simple "one touch" control system. That means no fiddly micromanaging — simply set modes like "search and destroy" for aggressive advances or "form up" for cautious play.



GOD OF WAR PS2

God of War begins with Kratos — a once-mighty Spartan warrior — throwing himself off a cliff. But before he hits the jagged rocks below, the story flashes back in time. Kratos once served the will of the gods — gods who endowed him with superhuman powers

— but his quest to kill Ares, the god of war, left him tortured by a dark secret.

The story now involves figuring out how and why Kratos meets his death. Unraveling the mystery means fighting fierce enemies, swinging on ropes, scaling mountain cliffs, swimming through rivers and solving puzzles.

Using an innovative — and incredibly rich — combat system, Kratos fights with a pair of sword-like chain weapons that he uses to grab enemies, perform multi-hit combos and pull off a variety of aerial attacks. And in a brutally fun twist, fallen enemies can become weapons — for example, after defeating Medusa, Kratos can tote her severed head around and use it to turn new foes to stone.

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GO HOME WITH **ALFIE**, **VERA DRAKE** OR **THE INCREDIBLES**

MARCH 1



FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

Stars: Dennis Quaid, Giovanni Ribisi
Director: John Moore (*Behind Enemy Lines*)
Story: When a plane crashes in the Gobi desert, the desperate survivors attempt to build a new plane from the wreckage of the old one. The result: a manly adventure yarn of endurance and ingenuity.

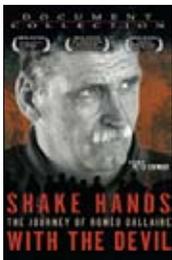


EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

Stars: Stellan Skarsgård, Izabella Scorupco
Director: Renny Harlin (*Deep Blue Sea*)
Story: This prequel to 1973's *The Exorcist*

features Father Merrin's first encounter with the Devil in post-WWII Africa.

SHAKE HANDS WITH THE DEVIL: THE JOURNEY OF ROMÉO DALLAIRE



Stars: Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire
Director: Peter Raymont (*The World Stopped Watching*)
Story: This powerful

documentary follows Canadian Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire's return to Rwanda where, in 1994, he commanded a small U.N. force. Abandoned by the global community, Dallaire helplessly watched the slaughter of 800,000 people in 100 days, but became a true hero by tirelessly telling the story of his — and the world's — failure. **DVD Extras:** Commentaries by

Dallaire and Raymont, extended interviews, photo gallery, maps



THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE

Voices: Tom Kenny, Alec Baldwin
Director: Stephen Hillenburg (debut)
Story: The flexible and absorbent SpongeBob SquarePants and his oceanic oddball pal Gary go on an epic adventure to recover King Neptune's stolen crown. Surreal, goofy fun for kids and, um, distorted adults. **DVD Extras:** four featurettes, trailers, DVD-ROM game

MARCH 8

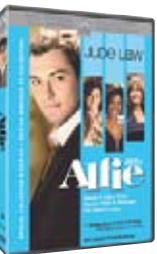


LADDER 49

Stars: Joaquin Phoenix, John Travolta
Director: Jay Russell (*My Dog Skip*)
Story: Trapped in a

blazing high-rise and quickly running out of time, a veteran firefighter (Phoenix) reflects on the things he holds most important — family, duty and courage. **DVD Extras:** director's commentary, deleted scenes, making-of and "Everyday Heroes" featurettes

MARCH 15



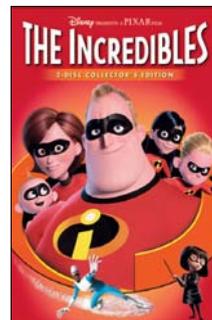
ALFIE

Stars: Jude Law, Marisa Tomei
Director: Charles Shyer (*Father of the Bride*)
Story: This remake of the 1966 British counterculture classic stars Jude Law as a sweet-talking

limo driver who seduces many of New York's loveliest ladies, but then has

doubts about his ring-a-ding lifestyle.

DVD Extras: two commentary tracks, eight deleted scenes, five behind-the-scenes featurettes, script, production and storyboard galleries



THE INCREDIBLES

Voices: Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter
Director: Brad Bird (*The Iron Giant*)
Story: Once a great superhero, Bob Parr is now a bored suburban

drone...until a mysterious message summons him back into action as "Mr. Incedible." Too bad it's a trap. Now it's up to his superpowered family to rescue him. **DVD Extras:** the all-new animated short "Jack-Jack Attack," an alternate opening, deleted scenes, behind-the-scenes featurettes, "Incredi-blunders"

MARCH 22

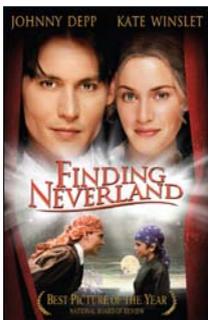


BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON

Stars: Renée Zellweger, Hugh Grant
Director: Beeban Kidron (*Swept from the Sea*)
Story: The heroine of working

women and "singletons" everywhere, our dear Bridg careens through an embarrassing suite of self-doubt, romantic misunderstandings and zany escapades as she tries to hold on to her man.

DVD Extras: "Fight Scene" featurette, deleted scenes, alternate opening, interviews with Zellweger and Colin Firth



FINDING NEVERLAND

Stars: Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet
Director: Marc Forster (*Monster's Ball*)

Story: In this magical drama, a lovely widow (Winslet) and her four high-spirited boys inspire playwright J.M. Barrie (Depp) to pen his timeless masterwork *Peter Pan*. **DVD Extras:** "The Magic of Finding Neverland," "Creating Neverland," deleted scenes, outtakes

MARCH 29

CLOSER

Stars: Julia Roberts, Clive Owen
Director: Mike Nichols (*The Birdcage*)
Story: This raw, not-for-kids drama follows the tangled web of sex, lies and betrayal created by two photogenic but troubled couples — Anna (Roberts) and Larry (Owen), and Dan (Jude Law) and Alice (Natalie Portman).



AFTER THE SUNSET

Stars: Pierce Brosnan, Salma Hayek
Director: Brett Ratner (*Rush Hour*)
Story: A pair of retired master thieves (Brosnan, Hayek) are settling

down on "Paradise Island" until their FBI nemesis (Woody Harrelson) tracks them down, convinced they're planning one more heist. Comic capers ensue against a backdrop of palm trees, blue skies and Hayek's bikini.



BEING JULIA

Stars: Annette Bening, Jeremy Irons
Director: Istvan Szabo (*Sunshine*)
Story: As she enters her early 40s, London theatre actress Julia Lambert

(Bening) starts having a nervous breakdown. Julia still rules the West End of the 1930s, but she's growing too old for ingenue parts. Enter an adoring lad half her age...



VERA DRAKE

Stars: Imelda Staunton, Philip Davis
Director: Mike Leigh (*Topsy-Turvy*)
Story: In 1950s working-class England, Vera Drake (Staunton) is

a selflessly devoted wife and mother. But she also secretly performs abortions for "girls in trouble." When the authorities find out, Vera's world and family life rapidly unravel.

NEW to DVD

BAMBI (1942)

In Disney's spectacularly animated forest fable, a fawn named Bambi, destined to become "Prince of the Forest," befriends other woodland creatures including his playful pal Thumper, the lovable skunk Flower and wise friend Owl.

As the seasons pass, they endure valuable life lessons in the woods, including the (Gasp! Tears!) death of Bambi's mother. Eventually, Bambi comes of age, completing the cycle of life.



By the way, naturalists say the incredible popularity of this movie is responsible for rehabilitating the deer's image from "crop-munching pest" to "wide-eyed cutie-pie that only a barbarian would shoot."

First released in 1942, Bambi has been digitally restored and is presented in its original 1.33:1 full-screen aspect, with a second disc of extras. Goodies include the "Walt's Annotated Bambi" documentary, the "Disneypedia" and "Disney Time Capsule" featurettes, never-before-seen deleted scenes, an all-new "Thumper's Storytime" short and eight games for the kiddies.—SG

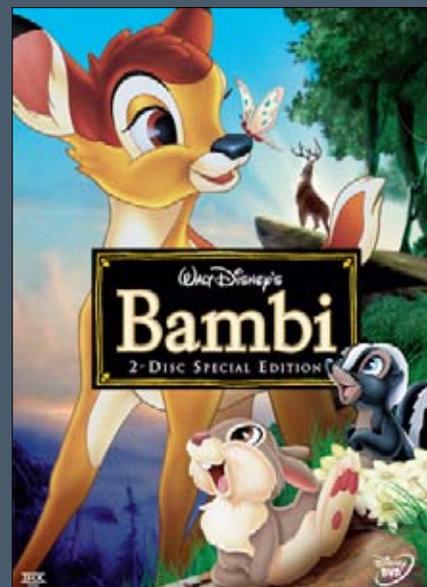
TV on DVD

Just how enduring is the popularity of *The Brady Bunch*? Walk into a room and sing:

"Here's the story...of a lovely lady, who was bringing up three very lovely girls," and in 10 seconds you're guaranteed to have a feel-good sing-along. No one is really sure why this show became such an enduring pop-culture touchstone, but whatever the reason, you can take home all 25 episodes from the 1969-'70 season on March 1st. One potentially interesting extra: creator and sitcom

god Sherwood Schwartz (*Gilligan's Island*) provides commentary on the pilot ep.

Other nostalgia-worthy TV on DVD debuts this month include the first seasons of *Kojak* and *Doogie Howser, M.D.* (March 8th), *Hogan's Heroes: The Complete First Season* (March 15th) and *Murder, She Wrote: Season One* (March 29th).—SG



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March 2005

HOROSCOPE | BY DAN LIEBMAN

Pisces

February 20 >> March 20

Pisces is, as usual, responding to the needs of others. But this month, don't hesitate to get a little help from *your* friends — they're eager to offer ideas and assistance. Late-month is a good time to brush up on technical skills and spend some money on yourself.

Aries

March 21 >> April 20

A new friendship reaches a critical point, and by the 20th you should have a good idea of where things are — or aren't — heading. Make sure you receive proper credit for recent suggestions. And watch out for a late-month tendency to overcommit yourself.

Taurus

April 21 >> May 22

March is filled with opportunities for growth; it's an especially good time to start a job or tackle a new hobby. It's fine to question the motives of others — everyone from health professionals to meddling relatives. Just don't become confrontational.

Gemini

May 23 >> June 21

It's a good month to reach out to others. You can persuade someone to make a choice or a change. And, especially after the 21st, you connect with some interesting people. Try to promote your unique skills, but don't expect any kind of instant recognition.

Cancer

June 22 >> July 22

Continue to concentrate on long-range financial planning. Travel, with an emphasis on adventure, is likely. Your excellent memory plays tricks, so don't rely on it for everything. But your intuitive nature is reliable.

Leo

July 23 >> August 22

Friends are still full of surprises. Either they're hard to please or they open up — revealing more than you want to know. The 20th marks the start of a period of productivity. You're also highly persuasive. The last two weeks are especially good for making requests.

Virgo

August 23 >> September 22

You and a neighbour discover that you complement each other in terms of personality or interests. Mid-March is a good time to work on your appearance and update your wardrobe. A relative may be unusually sensitive to criticism, so proceed cautiously.

Libra

September 23 >> October 22

March sees you dealing with a mix of people — stimulating guests, eccentric neighbours, high-maintenance relatives. Throughout the month, you're able to recognize people who are genuinely decent. Good financial news may arrive around the full moon of the 25th.

Scorpio

October 23 >> November 21

After making recent sacrifices for others, you're now able to chase your own dreams. You may be offered an important opportunity between the 14th and the 24th. It's a good month for long-distance friendships. Shared financial arrangements need clarification.

Sagittarius

November 22 >> December 22

You may be faced with some challenges, and the way in which you respond — intensely or casually — is critical. Your closest friends and relatives can be utterly unpredictable. Late March finds you in a good position to ask for a favour, or even a raise.

Capricorn

December 23 >> January 20

You're making headway in a personal or professional relationship, but don't blow things by being too critical. The entertaining side of your personality emerges near the 17th, making late March a choice time to audition, do standup, or just make people feel happy.

Aquarius

January 21 >> February 19

The month could hardly suit you better. An abundance of parties appeals to your gregarious side, while your idealistic nature finds you involved in several humanitarian causes. Experiment in the arts, but not in health or finance.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



1st: Ron Howard
2nd: Jon Bon Jovi
3rd: Jessica Biel
4th: Patricia Heaton
5th: Eva Mendes
6th: Rob Reiner
7th: Rachel Weisz
8th: Aidan Quinn
9th: Juliette Binoche
10th: Sharon Stone
11th: Thora Birch

12th: Liza Minnelli
13th: William H. Macy
14th: Michael Caine
15th: Judd Hirsch
16th: Jerry Lewis
17th: Gary Sinise
18th: Queen Latifah
19th: Glenn Close
20th: Holly Hunter
21st: Matthew Broderick

22nd: Reese Witherspoon
23rd: Keri Russell
24th: Lara Flynn Boyle
25th: Sarah Jessica Parker
26th: Martin Short
27th: Quentin Tarantino
28th: Dianne Wiest
29th: Lucy Lawless
30th: Norah Jones
31st: Ewan McGregor



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WWE® JUDGMENT DAY®

Sunday May 22, 2005

WWE® TO BE ANNOUNCED

Sunday June 12, 2005

WWE® VENGEANCE™

Sunday July 24, 2005

WWE® SUMMERSLAM®

Sunday August 21, 2005

WWE® UNFORGIVEN®

Sunday September 18, 2005

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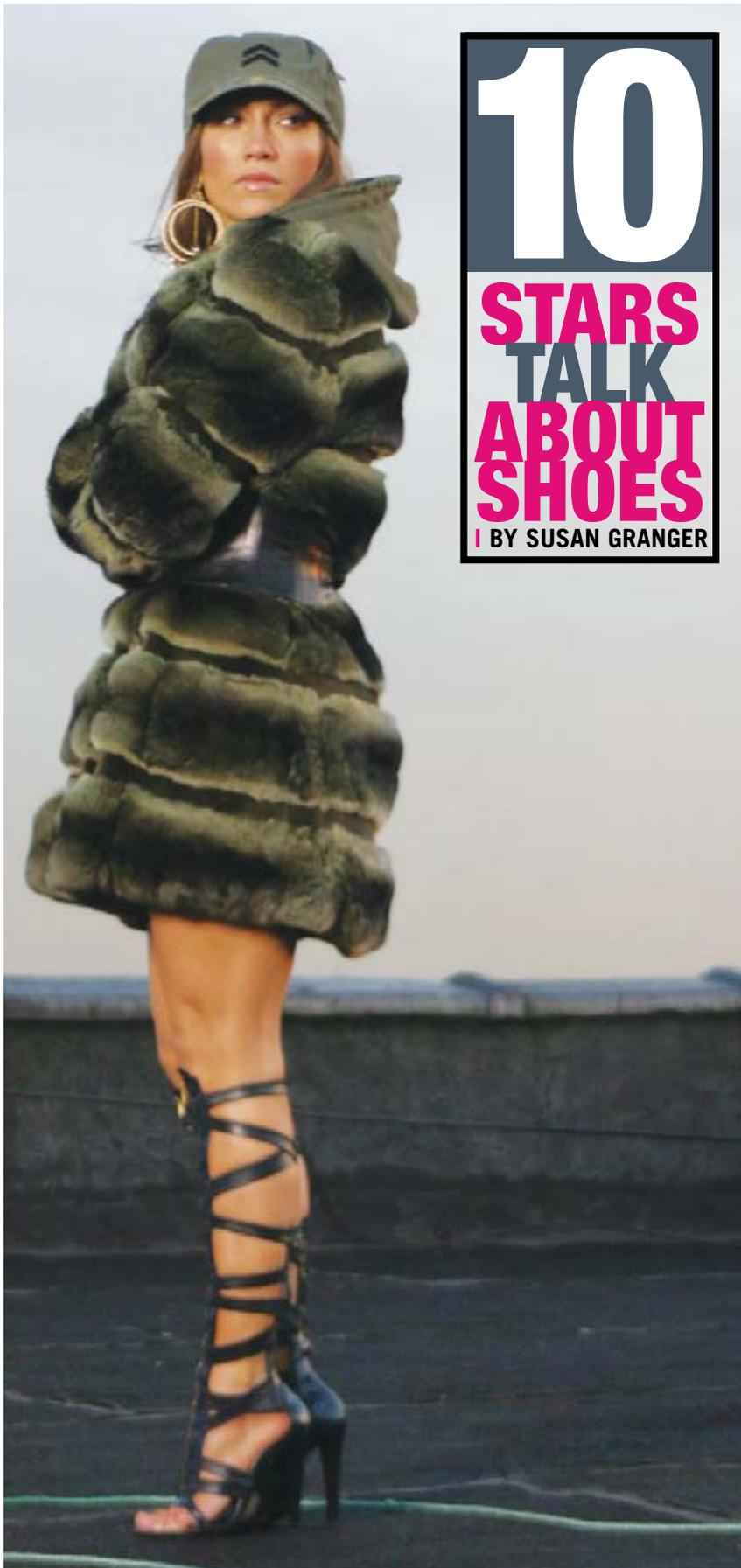


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10
STARS
TALK
ABOUT
SHOES
 | BY SUSAN GRANGER

JENNIFER LOPEZ PHOTO BY SHAREIF ZIYADATI/FILMMAGIC

SARAH JESSICA PARKER “I have a passion for Manolo Blahniks. I own well over 100 pairs of his shoes. Some I got on sale and some I’ve even bought used. I have every pair I’ve ever owned. I don’t care if the heel looks silly or not. They’re art.”

MENA SUVARI “I’m into platform shoes. I own at least 30 pairs. What can I say? I’m bad.”

JULIANNE MOORE “I have a real problem with buying shoes. My feet look funny and are a weird shape. It’s hard to find shoes that fit properly. There’s this amazing cobbler in Italy who makes my shoes for movies like *The End of the Affair* and *Far From Heaven*.”

MELANIE GRIFFITH “I love high heels. My favourites are three inches high with pointed toes, very sexy.”

JENNIFER ANISTON “High heels are my nightmare! They make me break into a sweat. I pray for lawn events, so I can wear flats. I’m happiest in sneakers.”

BRITTANY MURPHY “You’ll rarely see me in flat shoes, maybe sneakers occasionally, but I’m too short for them. At 5’3” I’m much more comfortable in heels.”

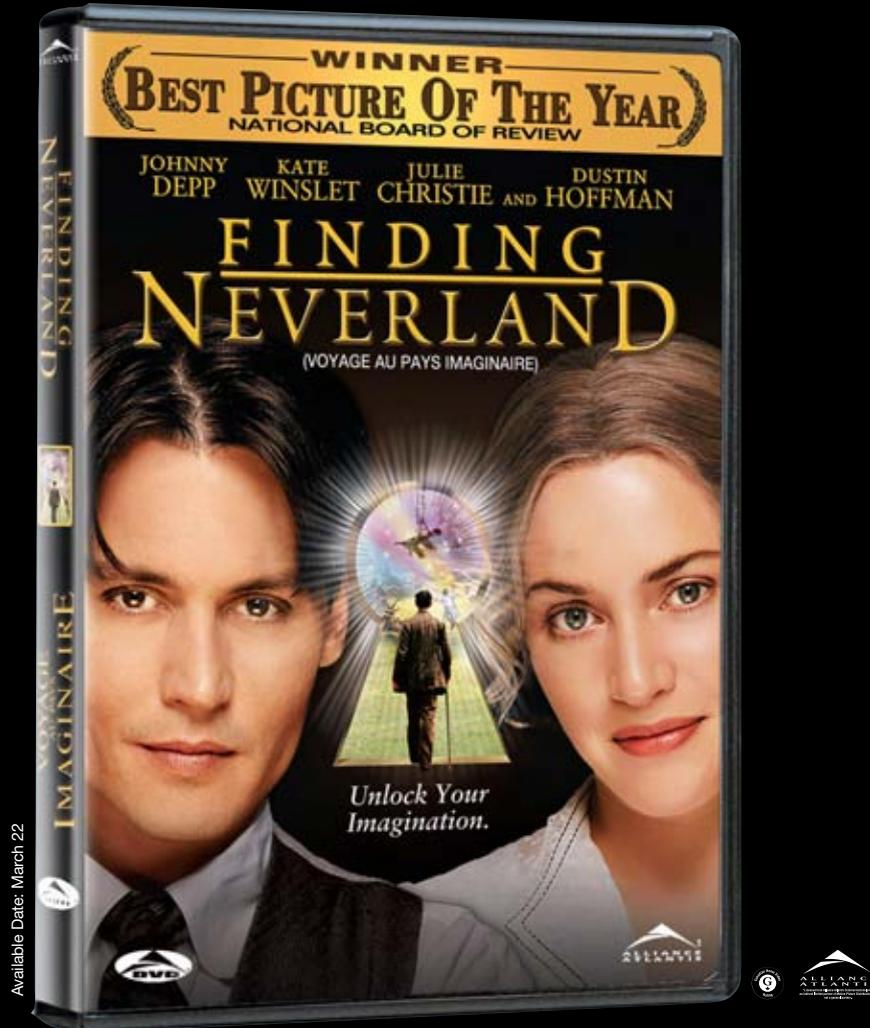
JEWEL “I love boots. I bought a pair of cowgirl boots with the American flag up the side — they’re really tacky and great.”

JENNIFER LOPEZ “My cousin gave me great advice when I was younger. He told me to be sure I always wore pretty shoes because the man I was dancing with would be looking down and if he saw beautiful feet and shoes, he’d probably fall in love with me. I love to buy shoes. I graduated from \$100 to \$200 to \$300 and \$400 a pair. The day you buy your \$500 pair of Dolce and Gabbanas, you’re like [sighs].”

HELENA BONHAM CARTER “I buy millions of pairs of shoes but I always end up wearing these great clumpy, comfy things.”

LARA FLYNN BOYLE “I love high heels. I’m an actress and I have a Napoleon complex. Who needs a StairMaster if you’ve got a great pair of Jimmy Choos? They are *the* shoe, even though they don’t give me a big enough discount. Jimmy Choo really does a fancy hooker shoe. There are certain shoes that are mission shoes — you don’t care how they feel, you’ve just got to wear them.”

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